



HUMAN DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS BRIDGING INEQUALITIES PROJECT



2nd National Steering Committee Meeting
24 August 2012, 11 am at Planning Commission, New Delhi

*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

Subject: Summary record 2nd National Steering Committee Meeting held on 24th August, 2012 at Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi

1. The second meeting of the National Steering Committee (NSC) was held under the Chairmanship of Shri. T K Pandey, Joint Secretary, (State Plans) and National Project Director (NPD), on 24th August 2012 at Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi to monitor and evaluate the progress of project "Human Development towards Bridging Inequalities (HDBI)". The list of participants is at Annexure I.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING REMARKS BY CHAIR & NATIONAL PROJECT DIRECTOR

2. The National Project Director welcomed the participants and introduced the HDBI project. Reiterating the partnership between Planning Commission and UNDP on human development, the NPD stressed on the significance of the HDBI project and the need to reach out to a larger audience. He also stated that this project dovetails with the Planning Commission's objective of inclusive growth. States are an integral part of the project, and the active participation from the States will further strengthen the project.

3. NPD mentioned that though the initial startup of the project has been a bit slow, but the project will pick up the momentum as soon as the States get involved and the teams at the state level would be in place. He emphasized on the continuous and active involvement of the State Governments for effective and efficient implementation of the project objectives.

4. For the successful implementation of the HD project, the NPD also emphasized on the fundamental point of capacity building at a larger scale, spreading into the Panchayats, Blocks and Districts. Therefore, the HDBI project is essentially a catalyst to start capacity building on HD on a larger scale. He mentioned that the HDBI project provides a platform for the State to have a vision of HD and share best practices, and develop action plans of their own. The Manav Vikas awards have been setup for recognizing the good work undertaken by States at the local level. The NPD concluded that the HDBI project should be able to build institutions at the State level and advocate HD across the various sectors.

AGENDA ITEM 2: Inaugural Remarks by Country Director, UNDP

5. Ms. Caitlin Wiesen, Country Director, UNDP in her inaugural remarks stated that the HDBI is more than a project – it is the flagship programme for UNDP and the Planning Commission. It links to the issues of inequality and the country's 12th Five Year Plan (2012-2017), which is focused on more inclusive growth. She also stated that there is urgency to report in a decentralized manner.

6. The Country Director, UNDP informed the participants about the signing of an agreement between UNDP & Government of India regarding setting up of the International Centre on Human

Development in India. She mentioned that this would provide an opportunity to showcase the leading work undertaken in India. Manav Vikas awards have become a model and many countries have expressed interest in it.

7. Stressing on the importance of the HDBI project, the Country Director mentioned that timing and utilization of resources is very important. It is also important to deliver and funds need to be utilized before the end of 2012. Outreach and engagement with States needs to be increased so that project delivery and funds utilization could be reported in time, un-utilised resources will lapse that will impact the future funds allocation for the project.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ACTION TAKEN ON THE DECISIONS OF PREVIOUS NSC HELD ON 23 JAN 2012

8. The minutes of the Stakeholder consultation and First Project Steering Committee meeting, held on 23 January 2012, at New Delhi was approved and endorsed by the NSC. It was decided that the Project Manager to circulate the Minutes of the meeting to all State Planning Secretaries, along with the project brief in time.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PROGRESS REVIEW OF THE HDBI PROJECT

i. Overview of the State proposals

9. NSC was briefed on the progress on State proposals. Proposals have been received from States of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Assam & Tamil Nadu; the proposal from Karnataka has been approved while the others are in various stages of consideration. The State of Bihar is in the process of finalization of the State HDR. State Government of Odisha has been briefed on the project but is yet to submit a proposal. State Governments of West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh have shown interest in being a part of the project. It was suggested that the in order to assist States to submit proposals in accordance with the project brief, a proposal template may be prepared.

10. NSC members were of the opinion that proposals may be solicited from the interested States and State Governments of Odisha may be pursued to submit a proposal. The following decisions were taken in this regard:

- a. Proposal template to be prepared and shared with States. Draft template to be prepared by the Project Manager by 31 August 2012.
- b. Project Manager to write to all State Planning Secretaries informing them about the project and solicit proposals on the proposal template.
- c. Correspondence to be initiated with the State Governments of West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh.
- d. Project Manager to have correspondence with the Government of Odisha to expedite the sending of proposal for consideration under the project.

ii. Presentations from the States on progress of projects:

11. Nodal officers from the States of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Assam and Bihar participated in the NSC meeting and presented on the progress made under the project at the State level.

12. **Karnataka** – Dr. H. Shashidar, State level Consultant & Coordinator, HD Division, Planning Dept, Govt of Karnataka acknowledged the contribution of Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Principal Secretary

(Planning) in formalizing the project and the state's vision on HD. He mentioned that the Government of Karnataka brought out State Human Development Reports during 1999 and 2005. With the assistance of UNDP/Planning Commission, four DHDRs for Udupi, Bijapur, Gulbarga and Mysore districts, were prepared and released during 2010. The first ever "Manava-Vikas Award" was given to DHDR of Udupi district for 'focus on innovation in measurement'. He further mentioned that the HDI project is being implemented by **Karnataka Evaluation Authority (KEA), an agency registered under Society's act**. The Principal Secretary, Govt. of Karnataka is the President of Governing Body, KEA. The DHDRs of all the 30 Districts are being taken up simultaneously and will be completed before December 2013, so that the indicators are comparable both in time and across districts. The third KHDR is proposed to be taken up immediately and the report will be released by December 2013. Estimated expenditure to be undertaken by Dec 2012 would be Rs. 30.15 lakhs. As the project is handled with KEA, therefore, the funds need to be transferred to KEA.

13. The NPD & Country Director, UNDP, both stressed on the urgency on signing of LOA and release of funds at the earliest. Dr. Seeta Prabhu, Advisor, UNDP said that as the preparation of DHDRs may take longer time, the State project may consider prioritizing and give special attention to the backward districts; data collection format may be similar across the districts, but specificity may be considered; and an Advisory Board may be constituted at the State level to guide preparation of DHDRs. Experts from the KHDR may be included in the Advisory Board.

14. Dr. Shashidar informed that 20-25 agencies will be engaged to prepare the DHDRs and that a common training manual has been developed; specific studies for each district will take into account specificity of the area. An Advisory Committee at the State level has been set up to guide the process of preparation of the SHDR and will also guide the DHDRs. Data will be collected and indices will be calculated at a workshop in the presence of experts.

15. NSC endorsed the proposal from Government of Karnataka and advised that the LOA be signed immediately and funds may be released at the earliest.

16. **Maharashtra** – Shri. Amol Khandare, OSD, Planning Division, Government of Maharashtra presented on the project objectives and mentioned that about 350 crores have been set aside annually for the HD initiative. The proposal under consideration aims at Block level reports. A Centre on HD is being institutionalized at YAHSADA and a workshop has already been organised. There is a need for data collection at the Block & the District level, therefore capacity building for data collection, HD advocacy and training programmes for the Collectors/District administrations is included in the project proposal.

17. Discussions and deliberations ensued on making data consistent by using the available methodology. It was agreed that the HDI indices will be used across, including the Block level. These indexes will enable comparisons and analysis should be realistic and reflect the actual state of affairs. The NPD emphasized that the HDRs should be easily understood by the common people. Success of the project should be measured by 'people centric' approach and not just be index oriented. Sometimes, indexes hide the critical information that can lead to glaring result/information which may determine programmes / projects at a larger scale. Since the state is attempting calculation of HD indices at block level, it is essential to ensure that MOSPI validates the methodology.

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18. **NSC endorsed the draft proposal from Government of Maharashtra and advised that the State proposal may be finalized by end of August, 2012 so that the LOA can be signed and funds may be released by 15 September 2012.**
19. **Assam** – Shri. Hitesh Sarmah, Joint Director, HD Department, Government of Assam informed the NSC that RFP has been floated to engage agency to implement the project in the State, and shortlisting is in process. Advisory committee at the State level has already been constituted. A sensitization workshop is being planned and the PMU will be kept informed in this regard.
20. **NSC advised on finalization of the proposal preferably by the end of August 2012 so that the LOA can be signed and funds may be released by 15 September 2012.**
21. **Bihar** – Dr. Suresh Swapnil, Deputy Director, Planning Department, Government of Bihar briefed the NSC on the workshop held for getting feedback on the draft SHDR prepared for the State. He stressed on the need to build the capacity of administrators at the local levels on HD and the importance of strengthening the statistical systems.
22. **NSC complimented the Government of Bihar on the progress made on the SHDR and advised the State Government to consider submitting a proposal under HDBI project.**
23. **It was decided that the**
- a. Indicative budgets allocation per components of the HDBI project needs to be mentioned, which can have a bit of flexibility depending on the size of State.
 - b. Each State to have a State Advisory Committee and MOSPI to be member of the committee. MOSPI should validate the methodologies for calculating indices at the district and block levels.
 - c. **LOA for the States of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Assam to be signed and funds released at the earliest.** (Project Manager & UNDP)
- iii. **Strengthening of Statistical Systems**
24. **OECD 4th World Forum “Measuring Well-Being for Development and Policy Making”** from 16-19 October 2012 at New Delhi. The four-day Forum will include a combination of keynote speeches, round tables, and themed sessions on material conditions; quality of life; gender, minorities & life course perspectives; and sustainability. Around 1,000 participants from all over the world, including policy-makers as well as representatives from international organisations, national statistical offices, government agencies, academia and civil society, will be participating in the deliberations.
25. NSC was informed that MOSPI may provide one exhibition stall to display work on HD, however, one of the forum activities relating to this conference (like providing conference kit etc. to delegates) needs to be sponsored. Further a list of Principal Secretary (Planning) of States and UTs and a list from Planning Commission is to be sent to MOSPI to extend invitation for the forum.
26. **NSC approved sponsoring of the Resource kit and setting up the stall on HD at the 4th World Forum. NSC advised on including the names of the Nodal officers from the States in the list of Invitees to the Forum.**

27. **It was decided** that the Project Manager will communicate to MOSPI regarding the list of Invitees and get details for sponsoring of the Resource kit and setting up of the HD stall at the Forum, in consultation with UNDP.

iv. **Research papers**

28. NSC recognised the challenge in evaluating the proposals received and agreed to have a format for inviting and screening of Research proposals. NSC agreed that Research papers on HD will be invited by floating a 'call for proposals' or RFP on the websites and solution exchange networks, with broader themes indicated. A format/ guidelines could be developed to solicit the research proposals. A proposal screening committee may be constituted, comprising of members from Planning Commission, MOSPI, UNDP and independent experts to evaluate the research proposals on technical and financial criteria.

29. **Following decisions were taken in this regard:**

- a. Research proposal template, selection criteria, proposed themes and deadlines to be prepared and finalised
- b. Call for Proposals/RFP to be advertised
- c. Research Proposal Screening Committee to be constituted under the Planning Commission

v. **DHDR AWARDS – 'Manav Vikas' awards**

30. NSC recognised the importance of the 'Manav Vikas' awards and expressed the need to institutionalize the same. NSC endorsed the cost incurred for the awards in 2012.

31. NSC was informed about the 2013 Global HD awards and agreed that information may be shared with all the States and UTs immediately. **Project Manager to inform all the States and UTs about the 2013 Global HD awards on a priority.**

vi. **Administrative & Financial**

32. NSC took note of the progress made on hiring of personnel under the project and advised the UNDP to expedite and complete the process of hiring by the end of September, 2012.

33. NSC also took note of the financial status of the project and recognised that many of the activities proposed could not be completed due to slow start of the project, and mentioned that project should now pick up as the PMU has been setup.

34. **It was decided that:** UNDP to complete the process of hiring of staff by 30 September 2012 and activities should be initiated by 15 October 2012

AGENDA ITEM 5: DISCUSSION ON PROJECT COMPONENTS
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i. **HD Advocacy for Academic Institutions**

35. NSC deliberated on the need to create a wider base and understanding on Human Development concepts. It was suggested that Refreshers course on HD for teachers through UGC could be conducted and States could incorporate these workshops into State proposal. Nodal officer from Government of Assam informed about workshops on HD which were held at the Universities and mentioned about the course on human development at the Guwahati University. NPD suggested that the States should connect with the Universities and UNDP could assist in preparation of the

content and the workshops/seminars could be organised in the college/university campus itself so that the PG students can support the State activities on HD including data collection. NSC was of the opinion that this initiative could lead to '**Young Scholars Programme on HD**'. UNDP mentioned about a similar work undertaken in collaboration with PRATHAM.

36. NSC agreed that in order to have a cascading effect, an agency may be engaged at the national level to develop the HD training material and further conduct TOTs. NSC mentioned that such workshops and trainings have been previously done in partnership with PRATHAM, and therefore, a proposal may be solicited in this context.

a. *At least 40-50 colleges and Universities may be targeted per year under this proposal, over 5 years of the project period. Accordingly budget may be earmarked between Rs. 20-25 lakhs per year.*

b. *A 'Roster of Experts', may be created and cadre of 'Student Volunteers' may be established to support the HD initiatives at the local and national level.*

ii. Capacity Development for HD

37. NSC agreed that in order to strengthen the State Planning Departments and associated institutes dealing with HD issues on project related activities like preparing call for proposals, developing RFPs, tendering, preparing research proposal formats, reports, etc, training programme is required.

38. NSC agreed that an agency/institute may be engaged to conduct the training workshops. RFP could be floated to engage the agency/institute. The number and frequency of workshops could be decided depending on consultation. The workshops could be planned with approximately Rs. 20-25 lakhs per year.

AGENDA ITEM 6: CONCEPT PAPERS FOR COMMISSIONING

39. NSC discussed and endorsed the 4 Concepts papers: (i) Budelkhand HDR (ii) Tribal HDR (iii) HD Atlas and (iv) Handbook On Good Practices On Service Delivery Or Good Practices In Service Delivery: A Sourcebook for Practitioners; and agreed that these 4 need to be undertaken on a priority basis. NSC also agreed that the studies on Good Practices should be a regular activity and documentation should be updated regularly.

40. **It was agreed that** UNDP will float RFPs to commission these studies by 15 September 2012 as per UNDP procurement procedures.

AGENDA ITEM 7: UPDATES AND INFORMATION

i. UGC – UNDP Mainstreaming In Curriculum Development & The Way Forward

41. NSC was informed about the dialogue with UGC and recognized that developing curriculum in consultation with UGC will be a good way forward.

ii. Financial Flows & Funds Release Procedure

42. NSC was informed on the financial flow and funds release through the LoA modality with state governments. The LoA will be a bi-partite agreement between UNDP and the States and will be signed after the approval/advise/recommendation of Planning Commission. The installments for release of payments and reporting arrangements will be as per the LoA.

43. NSC endorsed the financial flow and funds release through the LoA modality. NSC advised that the LoA be signed with the Government of Karnataka, Government of Maharashtra, Government of Assam, and Government of Tamil Nadu after approval of respective proposal.

44. UNDP Democratic Governance Programme (2013-17), Consultation Workshop, 12-13 July 2012, New Delhi and Conference of State Planning Boards and Planning Departments, organized By Planning Commission, 6 July 2012, IHC, New Delhi : NSC took note of the proceeding of the above meetings/workshop.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ANY OTHER ITEM WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

i. **Human Development Knowledge Fair (HDKF)**

45. NSC was updated on the HDKF and UNDP mentioned that it will be organized in February 2013 in New Delhi. A number of UN organisations are involved and it would be ideal if some contribution could be made from under HDBI project.

46. NSC agreed that some contribution could be made from the project, but the components have to be identified. NSC advised that UNDP to submit a budget for the HDKF that can be supported under the HDBI project.

AGENDA ITEM 9: CLOSING REMARKS

47. In the closing remarks Ms Alexandra Solovieva, Deputy Country Director, UNDP, recaptured the need to have deliverables on the project before the end of December 2012 and stated that project funds have been underutilized. She emphasized that other project activities should commenced immediately and funds should be released at the earliest.

48. She thanked Planning Commission, MOSPI and the State Government representatives and all participants for their valuable contribution to the project and making the discussion fruitful.

49. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair.

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