

Technical Meeting with MDTF DPs

December 20, Thursday

Meeting Minutes

Agenda:

1. Update on Sutra roll-out and DFID/USAID cooperation [DFID/USAID]

DFID started the meeting by giving an update on SUTRA. While DFID is responsible for development and further enhancement of SUTRA at local level, USAID is responsible for its roll out, training of people etc. both may fund different phases, but their objective remains same which is for SUTRA to be effectively implemented and used at the local level. DFID hired an independent reviewer to check GoN ToRs and plans and the recommendations provided were well received by the both FCGO and DFID. One of the major recommendations was to retain the current developer of SUTRA for at least for some time. It is still not clear SUTRA will be rolled out to provincial and federal level. In this regard DFID is planning to conduct a workshop with WB, FCGO and USAID to agree on a broader strategic plan and work on timelines. It was also agreed that a meeting with Sushil ji in PEFA will be organized before the planned workshop in January end. Both DFID and USAID contractors have met and are of the same understanding. USAID informed that the GoN wants the local GoNs to use improved version of SUTRA before the next budget cycle. They have also asked for USAID support to set up Helpdesk in all seven provinces. Currently USAID is supporting the GoN in following:

- Support in LMBIS to upgrade to the GFS standard, this is at a preparatory phase
- Training to federal and provincial level staff before next budget cycle (USAID to coordinate this with the PFM TC and invite them, make these training inclusive)
- Help GoN in system integration of TABUCS, LMBIS, CGAS etc
- USAID will share workplan with description and timeline of these with donors.

Franck mentioned that it is important for us to understand what enhancement of SUTRA means as the timeline will depend on it? He also suggested that the current package with a tax module would be a good one to start with. Also, he emphasized that we need to start thinking of the sustainability and strengthen the training of trainer's component of the work.

2. Update on December 19 workshop with PEFA Secretariat (Bank only) [Franck]

A workshop between World Bank and PEFA Secretariat was organized to mainly follow up on the agreed actions of the previous mission of IPFMRP which was held in October. This was a technical discussion and was very useful to expedite the planned activities. The next mission is tentatively planned for the 18 of February 2019. Some of the major outcomes of the workshop were:

- GoN will submit workplan next week
- PEFA will hire Procurement Specialist consultant to help them and another consultant to review numerous ToRs
- These updated agreed actions will be shared with Donors
- Training of PEFA core staff was also discussed. They will submit a coherent training plan for PEFA next week.

3. Preparation of PCC Meeting:

The PCC meeting is being organized on January 10 at 11 AM at the world bank office. Franck is meeting with IECCD chief, Mr. Shreekrishna Nepal ahead of PCC meeting. GoN is planning to present a list of additional reforms that they need support for. The donors are very keen to showcase this to their Heads of Agencies to secure future commitments. For this, Franck will also add a table to the PFM Support Note which will show MDTF related support to PFM along with timeline of delivery.

Agreed Steps:

1. DFID has requested all donors to send their comments on VFM framework by email to Dharana before holidays.
2. Norway informed about a possible Tax for Development program in Nepal.

Attached: Attendance sheet