

Inception Workshop – Development Account Project

Strengthening capacities in countries with special needs to accelerate progress towards achieving the MDGs

15-16 May 2014 Bangkok, Thailand

DRAFT TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Thursday, 15 May 2014	
08:30 – 09:00 hrs	Registration
09:00 – 09:15 hrs	Opening session
	 Welcome remarks by: Mr. Anis Chowdhury, Director, Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division, ESCAP
09:15 – 09:45 hrs	Session 1: Introduction to the project
	 Presentation by: Mr. Syed Nurruzaman, Chief, Countries with Special Needs Section, Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division, ESCAP
	This session will briefly discuss the current status of MDGs implementation in Least Developed Countries of the ESCAP region and the latest thinking on optimal strategies to accelerate the achievement of MDGs.
	The session will cover the main objectives, activities, timeframe, and expected results of the United Nations Development Account project on "Strengthening capacities in countries with special needs on designing and implementing economic and social development policies to accelerate progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals".
	§ Q&A and discussion § Summary by the Chair
09:45 – 10:00 hrs	Coffee break

10:00 - 12:00 hrs

Session 2: Sectoral case studies

Chair: Mr. Md. Monirul Islam, Senior Assistant Chief, General Economics Division, Planning Commission, Bangladesh

Presentations:

- "Physical accessibility and financial affordability to education in rural areas in Bhutan by Mr. Ugyen Pelgen"
- "Improvement of water and sanitation in rural areas in Cambodia" by Mr. Keo Sothea
- "Physical accessibility to income earning activities in rural areas in Lao PDR" by Mr. Saygnasak Sengaloun
- "Linkage of health services and road access in rural areas in Nepal" by Dr. Binjwala Shrestha
- "Improvement of farm and market logistics and agricultural trade in Timor-Leste" (TBC)

While some countries in Asia and the Pacific have good prospects of reaching the MDGs, there are many countries which are either making slow progress or regressing. These development gaps or development deficits are most pronounced in the case of the least developed countries (LDCs). Experiences in MDG acceleration indicates that inadequate institutional capacities for planning, monitoring and delivery of services is a key bottleneck in scaling up services delivery. Moreover, lack of inter-sectoral coordination may forego opportunities to effectively and efficiently utilize resources for higher impact.

In order to promote a deeper understanding about the potential for inter-sectoral collaboration and effective implementation, the project, will commission five indepth sectoral case studies on the aforementioned sectors in the respective countries.

Sectoral experts will be invited to make a brief presentation (of not more than 15 minutes) which outlines the main issues affecting the achievement of the specific MDG in their country; identifies other relevant sectors which are related to this MDG; and describes the experience of government initiatives which are being implemented on that MDG, including those which have actively promoted inter-sectoral coordination and cooperation.

§ Q&A and discussion

§ Summary by the Chair

12:00 – 13:30 hrs

Lunch break

13:30 - 15:00 hrs

Session 3: Country case studies

Chair: Mr. Norbu Wangchuk, Deputy Chief Planning Officer, Gross National Commission Secretariat, Bhutan

Presentations:

- "Cross-sectoral policy making in Bhutan" (TBC)
- "Cross-sectoral policy making in Cambodia" by H.E. Theng Pagnathun
- "Cross-sectoral policy making in Lao People's Democratic Republic" by Mr. Syviengxai Oraboune
- "Cross-sectoral policy making in Nepal" by Mr. Rabi Shanker Sainju
- "Cross-sectoral policy making in Timor-Leste" (TBC)

Facilitating cross-sectoral collaborations backed by strong national ownership is a key approach in accelerating MDGs progress. That requires national development strategies and plans executed by planning ministries / departments to promote sectoral coordination and facilitate inter-sectoral linkages in designing MDGs-based development policies and programmes.

In order to understand what types of coordination mechanisms currently exist within national governments for implementation of the MDGs, selected experts from national government agencies will be invited to make brief presentations (of not more than 15 minutes) on existing institutional frameworks for MDG coordination in their countries, including the strengths and weaknesses of these frameworks in terms of promoting inter-sectoral coordination on MDG-related projects, programmes and initiatives.

- § Q&A and discussion
- § Summary by the Chair

15:00 – 15:15 hrs

Coffee break

15:15 - 17:00 hrs

Session 4: Review of draft outlines of sectoral studies and country studies

Chair: Mr. Aung Myat Kyaw, Assistant Director, Budget Department, Ministry of Finance, Myanmar

Presentation by:

• Clovis Freire, Economic Affairs Officer, MPDD, ESCAP

Following the discussions on the sectoral and country studies, the session will discuss the draft outlines for the case studies. The meeting will review these outlines and make recommendations on the analytical framework for the studies, as well as any common themes and cross-cutting issues for further consideration by the experts when they conduct the studies.

- § Q&A and discussion
- § Summary by the Chair

17:00 hrs

Close of Day 1

Friday, 16 May 2014

09:00 - 10:00 hrs

<u>Session 5</u>: Regional workshop to exchange information and experiences in crosscountry and cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination in achieving the MDGs in selected LDCs **Chair: Mr. Math Sounmala**, Director General of Department of Planning and Cooperation, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Lao People's Democratic Republic

Presentation by:

• Jenny Yamamoto, Transport Division, ESCAP

The meeting will discuss the draft agenda of the regional workshop planned for November 2014, where the main findings of the various studies will be presented. Given the emphasis on inter-sectoral collaboration, the meeting will also identify key stakeholders who may be invited to that meeting.

The meeting will also consider the implications of the ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda for future national government development and financing strategies.

§ Q&A and discussion

§ Summary by the Chair

10:00 – 10:15 hrs 10:15 – 12:00 hrs Coffee break

Session 6: National/Regional training workshops

Chair: H.E. Theng Pagnathun, Director General, Ministry of Planning, Cambodia

Presentation by:

• Clovis Freire, Economic Affairs Officer, MPDD, ESCAP

The meeting will discuss the optimal approach to raising the capacity of policy-makers and government officials in designing and implementing economic and social development policies and measures to accelerate progress towards achieving the MDGs, with a focus on how to facilitate inter-sectoral collaboration. In this regard, the meeting will also discuss what types of training materials could be developed in support of the national and regional training workshops.

- § Q&A and discussion
- § Summary by the Chair

预览已结束,完整报告链接和二维码如下:

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