

Minutes of
the 4th Provincial Steering Committee Meeting
GJTMAP-Sindh held on 28th November 2006 at 1100hrs under the
chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary Local Govt. Mr. Mirza
Karim Baig in the Committee Room LG Deptt Sindh.

Participants: List attached

Proceedings:

The ACS LGD welcomed the participants to the 4th PSC meeting, followed by introduction of the participants. He then asked the Provincial Project Director (PPD) GJTMAP to proceed as per the agenda. The Provincial Project Director (PPD) GJTMAP highlighted the objectives/ agenda of the meeting and gave a detail presentation in two parts about the;

- Progress and achievements during the year 2006 till date (copy attached at annex. 1)
- GJTMAP Up-scale Project (2007-2011)-Salient features and commitments on part of PPMU Sindh (copy attached at annex 2)

The agenda items were taken up thereafter and the following business was transacted (copy attached).

Endorsements and Approvals:

- Three newly Selected districts for the up-scale phase of the project.
- Annual work plan/ budget for year 2007
- Re-notification of PSC
- Re-notification of MASS
- Notifications of Musalihat Anjuman Justice Advocates (MAJA) for three additional districts
- Standard Annual Progress Report 2006
- Notification of LGSOs as District Focal Persons

Agenda item one: The newly selected districts of Nawab Shah, Mirpur Khas and Jacobabad were endorsed as the additional districts for the upscale phase of the project till 2011. The preliminary information about Talukas, UCs and population of the concerned districts are attached at annex. 3

Agenda item Two: Annual work Plan/ budget for year 2007 was presented and dully endorsed by all PSC members (copy attached at Annex. 4).

Agenda item Three: Re-notification of PSC and MASS endorsed and approved.

Agenda item Four: The process of Notification of MAJA to be carried out in the newly selected districts endorsed. The ACS LGD asked the PPMU to share the procedure adopted in the selection of MAJA in the two pilot districts of Dadu and Shikarpur. The PPD updated the audience that PPMU and District Governments actively participated in the formation of MAJA. The PPM added that MASS consortium partners were taken on board while constituting MAJA in the respective districts and they have been asked again to submit their proposed organization (NGOs/CBOs) for formation of MAJA in the newly selected districts. The ACS strongly recommended including more female members in MAJA as the theme of the project is Gender Justice.

Agenda item Five: Standard Annual Progress Report 2006 to be submitted at the end of the year gets endorsed.

Agenda item Six: Notification of District Focal Person (DFPs) in the newly selected districts approved with the emphasis to make it strengthen to effectively play their due role in project implementation.

Additional items and Open Discussion:

a) Additional Support Staff for the project were discussed in detail. The PPD suggested having project staff at both the district and provincial level. In response, the Secretary Women Development Sindh, Mr. Subhan Memon appreciated the idea that there should be at least one additional Project Staff. Commenting upon, Mr. Sajid Baloch, Coordinator GSP explained UNDP stance on the matter which will support the idea of an additional staff at the provincial level only. Adding to it, The NPD, Mr Riaz Akhter emphasized on the institutionalization and sustainability of MAs in LGD system. The Secretary WDD Sindh was also of the view to take necessary steps leading to sustainability and institutionalization of MAs. He suggested to strengthen the infra structure of the offices of LGSOs being the District Focal Persons for the project. The National Project Manager, Mr. Hamid Raza Afridi updated the audience that the project already included the provision office equipments (computers, scanner, photocopier, fax etc) and operation and maintenance cost of Rs. 5000/ month for DFPS. He added that a token money of Rs. 1000/ will be given to Secretaries UCs on performance basis in order to encourage them to play their due role as per Musalihat Anjuman Rules 2006. The PPM pointed out that the project was also providing printed reporting formats/ registers and furniture to the offices of MAs. Special Secretary LGD, Mr. Ghulam Arif fully endorsed the recommendations and suggestions of NPD/ NPM and Secretary WDD. DCO Shikarpur, Khwaja Shafiq Ahmad appreciated the steps desired by the project for strengthening LGSOs offices. He offered that district government will provide a computer data operator to LGSO office if required.

Outcome: Additional Staff at the provincial level may be appointed while the offices of DFPS (LGSO) at district level should be strengthened for institutionalization and sustainability. Rs. 5000-8000 operational and maintenance cost will be provided by the

project to LGSO office. A Computer data operator if needed will be provided by the office of DCO.

b) Delays in the Release of Quarterly funds often led to the saturation of activities towards the end of the quarter which put extra pressure on PPMU, MASS and MAJA to meet the deadlines. This was shared by PPD Sindh further suggesting to release the funds bi-annually or to adopt some other appropriate way. NPM GJTMAP Islamabad in response explained that the release of the PLEA advance request for the new quarter is subjected to the timely submission of Financial and quarterly progress reports of the previous quarter. Such delayed submission led to delay in releases which was often the case with Sindh. The PPD further explained that we compile our reports in the light of the reports submitted by MASS and MAJA. Due to the delayed fund release on our part, the MASS and MAJA usually remained busy in the field till the last day of the quarter which results in delayed report submission. Commenting upon the issue Mr. Sajid Baloch briefed the audience that this is a policy matter with EAD related projects which says releases shall be made on quarterly basis. So it was almost impossible to make the fund releases bi-annually for GJTMA project only. The ACS LGD highlighted that this is a two way process and to expedite the early releases of quarterly funds, the accumulation of activities till the last day should be avoided. It was also discussed that being partner in the project, the MASS consortium partners should bear the expenses within their respective organization budgets till the project funds were released. In response the consortium partners showed their limitations however they assured for compliance if possible within their own budgets.

c) MASS consortium partners in capacity building of MAs/ LG functionaries and police was appreciated by the PPMU. The PPD GJTMAP raised the point that due to other engagements of the NGO consortium partners, sometimes it became difficult for them to comply fully with the schedule of workshops set forth for the quarter. So in such cases the PPMU may be permitted to involve within or out of the consortium partners an NGO to complete the task as per schedule. Mr. Suleman G Abro from SAFWCO proposed that in such situations, preference should be given within the consortium partners to accomplish the task as they were well versed with the project and training modules. Otherwise the Task may be assigned to an NGO fulfilling the criteria as per project document. PPM Sindh asked the consortium partners to further increase the number of Trainers within their respective organization to meet the requirements of the project. The PSC members in net shell endorsed that in such circumstances, preference should be given within the consortium partners to do the needful; otherwise an NGO or civil society organization having a sound track record on gender related issues may be involved for the purpose.

c) The support of district government to the project: The Secretary WDD highly appreciated the support of district governments in project implementation. He personally requested the provincial LGD and UNDP to officially acknowledge the support of DCOs and to send letter of thanks to them for their active support. Special Secretary Mr. Ghulam Arif, PPD Sindh and Mr. Sajid Baloch extended their gratitude and thanks to DCO Shikarpur for ownership of the project at the district level.

d) **Experience Sharing by Convener MA:** The Convener from District Dadu shared settlements so far being done through MA. Most of the decisions narrated were related to property, matrimonial disputes.

e) **Invitation of PSC members to Judicial Workshop Larkana:** PPD GJTMAP Sindh invited all the PSC members to the judicial workshop at larkana to be held on 3rd December 2006.

The meeting was officially closed by 1330 hours with vote of thanks from Special Secretary LGD.