Inception Report

Monday, January 24, 2011

**Consultant:**

Nedal Swehli

nswehli@gmail.com

092-6196466

## Introduction

Project “ ***Millennium Development Goals Reporting and introduction in the Libyan Monitoring and Planning Processes***” aims to produce Libya’s first MDG report as a monitoring, planning and advocacy tool for the Government and the UN System in Libya. In doing so, the project plans to achieve the following outputs:

* + **Output 1**: Production of the “The Millennium Development Report for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya”
	+ **Output 2**: Prepare the establishment of Dev-INFO online data base
	+ **Output 3** MDGs advocacy and transparency increased through communication and dialogue
	+ **Output 4**: Action plan for the establishment and use of DEV\_INFO and MDGs as a tool in national planning and monitoring process

As stated in the Preparatory Assistance Document, the project was scheduled to start in April 2004 with the original budget US$ 68,480. UNDP Libya and the General Information Authority (GIA) signed the Preparatory Assistance (PA) in 2004.

As an integral part of the project implementation cycle, and in line with the country office evaluation plan, the proposed evaluation will analyze the achievements of the project against its original objectives. The evaluation will review technical and managerial aspects and consider issues of effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, impact and sustainability. The evaluation will identify factors that have facilitated and/or impeded the achievement of objectives and should result in recommendations and lessons learned that will help in re-orienting and re-prioritizing project activities and managerial arrangements as needed.

The scope of the evaluation is the entire project duration and all activities implemented. The Evaluation will also place a specific focus on the role of UNDP constituents in the implementation of the project, gender mainstreaming and capacity development. The evaluation will also assess the extent to which the implementation of the project has involved relevant stakeholders and to which degree it has been able to create collaboration between different partners.

**The evaluation questions provided in the Terms of Reference are the following:**

* + ***Assess both the direct and indirect effects of the in-country MDG reporting initiatives on how MDGs are now measured and monitored*:**
		- Have data collection and storage systems been improved, or new systems been developed?
		- Have linkages to existing national development processes been established and have MDG indicators been integrated into National Development Strategies?
		- Have MDG strategies been articulated at sectoral and sub-national levels.
		- Has an M & E framework been developed? Are MDG indicators being monitored through transparent, participatory processes?
	+ ***Assess implementation and ownership of the MDG Reporting Process:***
		- Does the process have high level political commitment?
		- Are the MDG Reports effective platforms for policy dialogue? Have MDG strategies been incorporated in key government policy papers?
		- Were National MDG Reports discussed in bilateral programme and /or UN programme consultations?
		- Is there strong coordination among government partners?
		- Is the process inclusive – are civil society and the private sector actively involved? Is the community at large aware of the MDGs?
		- Has the MDG Report been nationally endorsed? If not, why?
		- How is UNDPs role viewed and how could it be strengthened?
	+ ***Assess the impact of the MDG Reporting Process on Capacity Development:***
		- Has the reporting process supported the building of national MDG coordination capacity?
		- Has the role of task force members influence their own internal processes in terms of the sectors they represent (government) or their role in MDG dialogue (civil society)?
		- Has the task force ever met outside the context of the reporting process?
		- Did the reporting process build capacity in statistical capacity for data collection, quality, validation, analysis and policy development. What gaps were identified?
		- Did the reporting process strengthen national capacity to monitor and evaluate the progress of MDG achievement?
	+ ***Assess if Gender perspectives are adequately mainstreamed into the National MDG Reports:***
		- Are gender issues incorporated under goals other than Goal 3?
		- Is there mention/recognition of women’s issues under goals other than Goal 3 and Goal 5?
		- Is the content of gender issues under each goal adequate?
		- Is sex-disaggregated data available for key indicators
	+ ***Identify key factors that have contributed to the success or failure of the national MDG reporting process:***
		- Document lessons learned / best practices;
		- Document specific processes and mechanisms that have been institutionalized as a result of the MDG reporting process;
		- Document risks, challenges and constraints and how these were mitigated.
	+ ***Identify key outputs and activities for future work to support MDG Reporting:***
		- What “value added” can UNDP and the UNCT bring to the process so that future MDGRs can become valuable and credible instruments for tracking and monitoring progress towards achieving MDG targets.

## Evaluation Framework

* The objective of this evaluation is not to highlight any shortcomings or achievements but the process will be oriented to reaching constructive conclusions that will enable the project team to increase the effectiveness of future interventions.
* The main end user of this evaluation is the project management staff at the CO and GIA to support their project implementation activities.

## Evaluation Methodology

Under the above framework, it is necessary to regroup the evaluation questions suggested in the TOR under the following questions.

Evaluation Questions:

1. **How efficient was the implementation of the Project?**

This is an important question to assess the project implementation activities and understand the underlying factors that lead to the project being active for 5 years beyond its original work plan. The approach to measure the efficiency of the project implementation will be highly objective.

Three aspects of the project implementation will be measured;

1. ***Delivery*** of the outputs as mentioned in the Preparatory Assistance (PA): the actual deliverables will be reviewed against the planned outputs.
2. ***Timing*** of the deliverables as mentioned in the PA: the timing of the actual deliverables will be compared to the original work plan
3. ***Cost*** as listed in the budget section of the Preparatory Assistance (PA): the cost of the actual deliverables will be reviewed against the planned budget. It will *not* be part of this evaluation to review procurements processes, methods of funds disbursement or any form of financial management.

The measurement of the above aspects will be complemented with an understanding of the project management processes (project planning, quality management, change management…etc) that were utilized to deliver the planned outputs.

The sources of data will be the following:

* **Primary sources**: Interviews with the project management staff at UNDP and GIA, the Information Centers at different GPCs and Authorities ,and former staff of UNDP project management
* **Secondary sources**: monitoring and evaluation systems currently being implemented in UNDP Libya Office
1. **How sustainable is the MDG reporting initiatives?**

This question aims to evaluate to what extent the project has built sustainability to the MDG reporting process. This will studied through the following two aspects:

* 1. **National ownership**

For the MDG reporting initiative to be sustainable it must enjoy a high level of national ownership of the process and its policy implications. This will be assessed by looking at the following:

* political commitment,
* national policy debates
* level of coordination among government partners
* inclusivity of the process,
* national awareness of the MDGs
	1. **Capacity building**

Capacity building is an important component to ensure sustainability of MDG reporting. It is stated in the project document that the development objective of this initiative is to “improve national competencies in the production and use of statistics and other tools for reporting and planning on socio-economic issues”. Also, part of the immediate objective is to “…ensure a capacity building participative process”.

This will be assessed by examining to what extent the reporting process supported the building of national MDG coordination capacity, build statistical capacity and strengthened national capacity to monitor and evaluate the progress of MDG achievement.

As the process of reporting progress towards the MDGs is equally important to the produced MDG report, this question will asses both the process and the product in achieving the following:

1. Improvement of data collection and storage systems been improved, or development of new systems
2. Establishment of linkages to existing national development processes and integration of MDG indicators into National Development Strategies
3. Articulation of MDG strategies been at sectoral and sub-national levels
4. Monitoring the MDG indicators through transparent and participatory processes

The sources of data will be the following:

* **Primary sources**: Interviews with the project management staff at UNDP and GIA and other government stakeholders including the Information Centers at different GPCs and Authorities.
* **Secondary sources**: monitoring and evaluation systems currently being implemented in UNDP Libya Office, local media, and national development reports.
1. **How effective was the MDGR in achieving its purposes?**

As the MDGR is not a product in itself but as a tool to support the country’s national efforts to meet its MDG targets. Therefore it is essential to review if the MDGR achieved its main purposes:

1. Public information
2. Social Mobilization

Through increasing the public information about the progress towards the MDGs and their bottlenecks and through mobilizing the general public, GPCs, local media, and social leaders, the MDGR should induce tangible steps towards the MDGs.

The sources of data will be the following:

* **Primary sources**: Interviews with the project management staff at UNDP and GIA and other government stakeholders including the Information Centers at different GPCs and Authorities.
* **Secondary sources**: monitoring and evaluation systems currently being implemented in UNDP Libya Office, local media, and national development reports.

An assessment of gender perspectives will not be addressed as a separate question as suggested in the TOR, but will be integrated in the evaluation process whenever applicable to mainstream gender perspectives throughout the project life cycle including the evaluation process.

## Evaluation Planning Matrix

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Evaluation Question**  | * **Indicator(s)**
 | **Data Collection method(s)**  | **Data Source**  |
| **How efficient was the implementation of the Project?** | * Delivery
* Timing
* Cost
 | Desk research and interviews | UNDP progress reports, evaluation reports, interviews |
| **How sustainable is the MDG reporting initiatives?** | * Assessment of national ownership
* Capacity building activities
 | Desk research and interviews | **Primary sources:** Interviews with the project management staff at UNDP and GIA and other government stakeholders.**Secondary sources:** monitoring and evaluation systems currently being implemented in UNDP Libya Office, local media, and national development reports. |
| **How effective was the MDGR in achieving its purposes?** | 1. Activities to increase public information
2. Activities for social mobilization towards the MDG targets
 | Desk research and interviews | **Primary sources:** Interviews with the project management staff at UNDP and GIA and other government stakeholders.**Secondary sources:** monitoring and evaluation systems currently being implemented in UNDP Libya Office, local media, and national development reports. |

## Work Plan

* Deadline to submit final draft of the evaluation report: **February 24th, 2011**

## Logistics

UNDP Libya is expected to provide the following:

* Working place with access to printer and internet
* Logistical support in arranging appointments with government partners
* Access to all documents and correspondence related to the project and to the monitoring and evaluation systems currently being implemented in UNDP Libya

## Appendixes

* Append the Terms of Reference.