

MINUTES OF THE PEA RWANDA Q 4, 2018 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Venue: UMUBANO HOTEL

DATE: 08th January 2019

PARTICIPANTS: See ANNEX I

AGENDA:

- Review of last Steering Committee Minutes / Actions
- PEA Project Overview
- PEA Q4, 2018 activities implementation status
- PEA Work plan, budget January – December 2019
- Challenges, Recommendations/Proposed solutions

1. Welcome and Introduction:

The meeting started at 9:00 am with the welcoming remarks by the Deputy Director General of REMA who was also the chairperson of the meeting. The Chairperson thanked everyone for honoring the invitation and thanked the UNDP Resident Representative a.i., for the continued support. The Chairperson requested to start with PEA presentation and requested the PEA Program Manager to take the participants through the presentation.

2. Presentation of the Review of last Steering Committee Minutes / Actions

- The PEA program manager should make sure that the PEA project is included in the IFMIS national project Management module; **This was done**
- Positions of interns that were supposed to be recruited under PEA project be upgraded to officer level and recruit two permanent officers that would be stable on the project in order to be able to achieve project's objectives within the period of the project that was planned; **This was done**
- PEA project should prioritize the recruitment of at least two (2) officers using the available budget and prioritize appointment of the current available qualified staff under SPIU who have been working on other projects in REMA that are ending this December 2018 and then recruit other remaining through normal recruitment process in order to speed up the process and avoid delays in project implementation; **One officer was appointed to PEA from SPIU and the recruitment process for the second officer is ongoing.**

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In her presentation, the Program Manager outlined the outputs for the PEA for SDGs which were;

- (i) Output 1: Strengthened national planning and budgeting capacity and frameworks to sustainably implement poverty-environment actions.
- (ii) Output 2: Capacity for programming, budgeting and action that eliminates poverty and delivers sustainable ENR management at district-level
- (iii) Increased investments with enhanced impacts on poverty elimination and ENR sustainability
- (iv) Knowledge, Monitoring, Evaluation, Quality Assurance and Management Support

The presentation continued by highlighting that build on the previous work done such as; phases of the UNDP-UNEP (PEI), support the efforts made to mainstream poverty-environment (P-E) linkages into development plans and budgets at all levels, national progress made towards sustainable ENR management and the reduction of poverty, improve sustainability of ENR use that contributes to national development goals, including poverty alleviation and aligned with SDGs, and addresses remaining P-E challenges within the context of the SDGs. PEA will also catalyse and increase P-E investments at all levels as well as supporting priorities under NST1, SSPs, DDSs, CPD, UNDAP.

The project's organisation structure was also presented to the Steering Committee Meetings and the progress on the implementation of quarter 4, 2018.

4. PEA 2019 (Quarter 1) work plan and budget

The Program Manager presented the annual 2019 work plan and budget. The activities to be implemented in 2019 especially those to be implemented in Quarter 1 include; Review on the inclusion of ENR indicators in the submitted 2019-2020 plans for Agriculture and Industry sectors, Validation of assessment report of implementation ENR indicators in 2017-2018 report, Consultation meeting with relevant institutions and organizations (MIGEPROF, GMO, UN Women), and Recruitment of the Officer and the Technical Advisor for Districts.

After the discussions, members present approved the quarter four 2018 progress report and quarter 1 2019 work plan and budget.

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5. Challenges

- The challenge that was raised was the EU-non funds use restrictions that prohibits disbursement of funds to implementing agency.

Recommendations/Proposed solutions

- It was recommended that UNDP Country Office writes officially to UNDP Global Office highlighting some of the foreseen challenges that will be in PEA implementation if there will be no flexibility of the non-EU funds.
- To have one work plan with all outputs, activities, indicators, targets and budget. The difference in the Gov and UNDP quarters are understandable and does not matter for the purpose of monitoring. The information can be added to the global template.
- Engaging the ministry of Gender and GMO, through developing a MoU with them so they can be partners from the beginning.
- The EICV5 can be a baseline for the multidimensional poverty report.
- To organize the SCM better; circulate reports and presentations in advance and have concise (15 min) presentation so that we can use most of the time on meaningful discussions. Also focus discussions and reporting on the changes / impacts we are making rather than just actions.
- 'Poverty reduction' 'environmental protection' may not be appealing for investment. Consider other economic reasons or phrasings. PEA will focus more on the EIA implementation and monitoring.
- Try to analyze what impact the increase in public expenditure is making on the ground, and to analyze the actual expenditure (not budget allocation).
- It was recommended not to focus only on conducting trainings, but also think of good ways of measuring their impact.
- We would like to see stronger explanations of capacity building that are planned and its effect on the existing system (eg. Training, district budget planning process). To consider system level interventions, including the use of scorecards etc.

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- One good practice from Mozambique was to code more specific environmental expenditures (eg. biodiversity, cc). To consider if a SSC will be useful.
- UNDP RR a.i, will communicate with the managing team on the possibility of having flexibility on the non-EU fund in the basket. As interim action, SCM approved the technical team to reduce the procedure of training preparation request letters, and sending one letter per quarter based on the work plan.

5. Adjournment

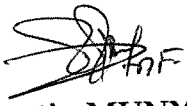
The chairperson thanked the participants for their participation and engagement, and requested the PEA Rwanda team to consider all comments given. The meeting proceeded with the presentation of the BIOFIN project.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Rapporteur of the meeting

For 
Janet UMUGWANEZA
PEA Program Manager

Chaired By:

MUNYAZIKWIYE Faustin
DDG REMA

Faustin MUNYAZIKWIYE
Deputy Director General

