

Minutes of the Sida and UNDP Annual Meeting for

The Strengthening Governance of Climate Change Finance to enhance gender equality

Asia-Pacific regional project

11 March 2022 at 10.00 – 12.00 hrs (Bangkok time)

The annual meeting between Sida and the UNDP team was held to discuss the overall progress for 2021 and the work plan for 2022. The key takeaways and actions are summarized below:

1) GCCF Progress in 2021

Key highlights:

- UNDP informed Sida about the new team members that have joined the team in 2021 and that now full team is in place for 2022.
- The revised Theory of Change, which had been earlier shared with Sida in November 21, was presented and discussed during the amendment of Cost-sharing agreement no. 2 and 3. This was duly agreed upon by Sida. The UNDP team also mentioned that in view of the MTR the project had started to do some work around advocacy and increased focus on scaling up the pilots.

Emerging Results and Impact:

- The project highlighted the key achievements in terms of impact and advocacy were highlighted with evidence showing tools and methodologies gradually taken on board by decision-makers. This included for the engagement in Cambodia leading to uptake of climate change in national strategy, the increase in climate related budgets in Bangladesh and Cambodia and influencing the sector budgets through inclusion of CC in the Medium Term Expenditure Framework for Bangladesh.
- Evidence of impact on the ground at country level on gender-responsive outcome was in progress. It would take some time for the tools to be fully institutionalized and documented. The readiness and capacity across all countries varies. Some specific examples included the work with Ministry on budget tagging with gender component and guidelines were developed in Indonesia and various research conducted such as Climate Change Cost-benefit incorporating Gender and Inclusion.
- UNDP project team shared some specific evidence of synergies across UNDP's portfolios and impact in some specific counties. For example in the Pacific, the linkage and leverage of GCCF were deemed very useful but Gender and Inclusion remained challenging issue. Specific high-level results from the Pacific included: Partnerships with the Ministry of Finance – the three country offices (Tonga, Solomon islands and Fiji) came up with the revised strategic plan with CCBT; The Resilience Climate Change Focal points were in place in the three countries providing an opportunity to linking G&I down to the community; GCCF provided technical support and worked closely with the local government Focal point (the post was fully funded by the government showing ownership and commitment) ensuring Climate Change was mainstreamed in the budget in order to ensure more resilient community projects. The project was now working bottom up to produce risk-informed approach with the other three donors who also came on board (New Zealand, Great Britain - FCDO and Korea).

Partnerships:

- The Pacific office also briefed on the work with UNCDF that was now very active in the Pacific region with the LOCAL initiatives were set up in three countries (Solomon Islands, Fiji and Vanuatu). This was a grant mechanism at local level allowing the lower level Government administration to apply funding for Climate change resilient projects. GCCF already partnered with UNCDF in Solomon Islands.
- UNDP project team also elaborated on the synergies between GCCF and other donor programmes (such as FCDO and ADB etc.). To name a few specific examples:
 - the 7-year Climate Change Finance (CFN) with FCDO having the six workstreams as the core of the project which were developed from the lessons learned from GCCF project; part of the 15 beneficiary countries were also countries supported by GCCF.
 - There were various partnerships with other stakeholders such as UN WOMEN, partner coalition 2020 roundtable for OECD that the World Bank arranged with the support by UNDP on the developing guidance on Budget Tagging which was built on the work that UNDP had done.
 - The project has also co-hosted with IMF on the knowledge management event to take forward the work at the Country level.
 - With regard to the Blue Finance, ADB focused on creating the platform for matchmaking on the blue economy while UNDP aimed to do more by influencing enabling environment for the Government and also to have add-value on the impact on small enterprises at the local level.
 - The project team within the UNDP is working with the Nature, Climate and Energy team for integrated support to countries.

Way forward:

- Strengthening the documentation of advocacy for investment in Climate Change work.
- Deepen focus on Private sector engagement.
- Continuous engagement with the Ministries of Finance and sector ministries to influence the development budgets.

1.2) Financial report:

- UNDP explained about commitments, and it was clear that the commitments were not part of the budget planning in order to avoid the risk of duplicating activities and budget between the current and the following year.
- As 2022 was the final year of implementation of the project, the final delivery (expenses and carry-over commitments from 2021) would be higher than the budget.
- UNDP will indicate to Sida any changes in cash available in July 2022 based on reconciliation of expenditures.
- There were no specific requirements or compliance required from Sida. Best practices on project closure should be followed (budget utilization and reporting, asset and knowledge products transfer etc.).

1) GCCF Workplan 2022

- Due to time constraint, the team provided a quick snapshot on priorities in 2022. The presentation will be shared for a detailed focus of the work.
- Sida requested UNDP team to share information about the opportunity for field missions or events (that would be conducted in English). This was well acknowledged, and UNDP would revert back. There might be options for the field mission for an event in Cambodia and Indonesia, especially the latter on the UNDP work with the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Environment and Forest in supporting the work feeding into the G20. In addition, there will be a workshop on stocktaking on Climate Finance reform foreseen in mid-April, a few regional sessions on Innovative Finance and CBT, and the Lessons Learned workshop in the second half of the year.

Project closure and transition to CFN:

- All activities are expected to be finalized by the end of September 2022. UNDP will report on assets and knowledge products to Sida in due course. Sida may consider a no cost extension to the GCCF project till the end of first quarter 2023 to ensure that there is no break in support to the countries.
- The implementation of the sister project CFN will start after the Inception workshop in March 2022. The Country Offices will submit the detailed Workplan and Budget for Year 1, by that time the transitional costs between GCCF and CFN will be clear. The project team will make efforts for the CFN to pick up on the GCCF work for the reforms to sustain.

Way forward:

- Sida emphasized the importance of stocktaking of on-going works such as joint application from UNCDF. It was mutually agreed that the value of GCCF at national and sub-national and the momentum should not be lost and synergies would be good to explore.
- The UNDP will engage Sida strategically to stay abreast with CFN and when appropriate feed into the planning of new applications to Sida.
- Despite CFN is being in full swing, the resources spread across 15 countries and are thin and there could be opportunities to provide more comprehensive support to the countries.

Next steps:

- UNDP will share the minute of meeting and presentations.
- ***Financial:*** 1) UNDP will revert to Sida on the cash roll-over from 2021 to 2022 when the reconciled figures are available at the end of quarter 2 (UNDP's final Certified financial report – CFR, is issued in June on annual basis); 2) UNDP team and Sida's finance team will follow up on the different amounts of revised AWP 2021 in November 2021 via email correspondence.
- ***2022 Workplan:*** UNDP will coordinate with Sida on the opportunity for the field missions/participations at country level or workshop/seminar to be held in 2022.
- ***Strategic Planning in 2022:*** Depending on identified gaps and opportunities and synergies with CFN project, UNDP and Sida will continue a discussion on the window opportunity for new funding. UNDP team will look into the Regional Strategy that Sida has already shared and hold discussions with Sida on potential next phase of the project with the aim to conclude

consultations on the project scope and budget by end of 2022 and the assessment by Sida in the first quarter of 2023.

END

Annex: Presentations on GCCF Progress 2021 and Workplan 2022