



# Gender Justice Through Musalihat Anjuman Project



## Note for Record

### **4<sup>th</sup> GJTMAP National Steering Committee (NSC) Meeting**

Committee Room, MoLG&RD Building Complex, Islamabad  
30<sup>th</sup> January 2008

#### **Background:**

Gender Justice Through Musalihat Anjuman Project (GJTMAP) institutional framework envisages a multi-stakeholder Project National Steering Committee at the Federal level which is required to monitor and guide the Project implementation. It is mandated to approve and monitor the Project's annual work plan and perform overall coordination functions between Federal/Provincial Governments and UNDP. The NSC is required to meet at least once a year and/or when the need arises. Therefore, the 4<sup>th</sup> NSC meeting was convened to seek endorsement of re-notified Project districts by the Provincial Governments for Up-scaled period, consolidated Annual Work Plan 2008 and Budget 2008. Provincial Steering Committees would follow NSC meeting for approval of respective budgets and work plans.

#### **Objectives:**

To review and endorse the following:

- Project progress during 2007;
- Project Work Plan & Budgets for 2008;
- Endorsement of newly selected districts by Provincial Governments for Project Up scaling/Extension (2007 – 2011);
- Review findings of GSP's Benchmarking study.

#### **Agenda:**

A copy of the meeting agenda and working paper for the 4<sup>th</sup> NSC meeting are attached at Annexure – I & II, respectively.

#### **Date, Time & Venue:**

The 4<sup>th</sup> NSC meeting was held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at 1145 hrs in the Committee Room, MoLG&RD Building Complex, Islamabad.

#### **Participants:**

A list of participants is attached at Annexure – III.

#### **Proceedings:**

The meeting started as scheduled and was chaired by Mr. Muhammad Saleem Khan, Secretary, MoLG&RD, GoP. The meeting formally commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran by the Chairperson himself. The participants were asked to introduce themselves after the recitation.

#### **Opening Remarks by the Chairperson**

After brief introductions, Mr. Riaz Akhtar, National Project Director (NPD), GJTMAP (Secretary NSC) invited the Chairperson to make his introductory remarks and welcome the participants. The Chairperson opened the house by welcoming all the members and participants of the meeting and shared his personal involvement and interest with the Project since its inception. He informed that he had a meeting with

Governor Punjab and he is planning to meet with other Provincial heads to seek further support for the Project.

Mr. Saleem Khan said that monitoring of the Project had been undertaken on priority basis and expressed satisfaction on the overall progress of PMU-Punjab, Balochistan and NWFP while showed concerns over the performance of Sindh. He also took notice of the absence of Sindh LG and Project staff's from the meeting. He asked Mr. Riaz Akhtar to present a consolidated report of Project progress during 2007.

### **Presentation on Project Progress 2007 and issues requiring endorsement**

Mr. Riaz Akhtar NPD gave a detailed presentation about the Project goal, its objectives, outputs, funding / resources, its extension from Pilot Phase and progress / achievements in the year 2007.

Mr. Akhtar said that after the achievement of tangible results in its Pilot Phase (2005-2006), the Project was extended for five more years (2007-2011). In continuation of the work started in 08 Project Districts in the Pilot Phase, 12 more districts have been added (three in each Province), making a total of 20 Project Districts. Meanwhile, the NPD thanked UNDP and other donors for the extension of the Project after the 3<sup>rd</sup> party evaluation.

He said that there was a serious resource crunch, which amounted to almost 60% of the Project Budget for the year 2007. Therefore, the activities were carefully prioritized, in consultation with UNDP and implemented. He shed light on the efforts made by the Project for securing funds from different donors. He also mentioned various budgetary allocations made by the District Administrations in Balochistan, Punjab and Sindh for operation and maintenance cost of Musalihat Anjumans. A copy of the presentation attached at annexure - IV.

The major areas covered in the presentation were as follows:

- Project background and implementation framework
- Up-scaled Project details and Districts selected by the Provincial Government
- Progress during 2007 against each outputs/activities and achievements
- Challenges faced during 2007
- Resource crunch during 2007
- Work Plan & Budgets for 2008

The NPD also placed the following for approval and endorsement:

- Annual Work Plan for the year 2008;
- Project budget for the year 2008;
- Endorsement of re-notified Project districts by Provincial Governments for Up scaled Phase (2007 – 2011).

Ms. Faiza Effendi ARR / Chief PRG&U, UNDP, was of the view that the number of disputes/cases received by MAs were not encouraging. She cited the performance of PPMU Sindh where only 405 disputes have been received. She, however, appreciated the performance of PPMU Punjab, which was encouraging. She opined that in the extended phase we should not be satisfied only with the establishment of certain number of MAs in Project Districts, rather, we should be more concerned about the number of disputes received and resolved. Therefore, the targets for the year 2008 should be set in terms of the number of disputes.

Ms. Effendi underlined the importance of data quality, that a system of data entry should be institutionalized right from the UC Secretary level to FPMU level. There should also be a mechanism of cross checking the data. In the area of cases settled, the quality of settlement of cases needs to be ascertained.

She was of the view that the role of women members of MAs/MJs is not very encouraging in some areas. She gave an example from her personal interaction with one of the female MA member in Quetta, Balochistan. She felt that the presence of the latter in an MA's proceedings was merely decorative. The female MA member was not aware of her role in the MA, hence she was not practically involved in the whole process. Ms. Effendi stressed upon the need of making the role of female members more practical and effective, instead of being superficial.

For the purpose of awareness raising of the rights of women, the role of MenEngage needs to be clarified, Ms. Effendi observed;

Mr. Riaz Khan, Member NRB observed that district-wise disputes/cases received and resolved are not shown in the presentation. Replying to an observation regarding dispute resolution data of new districts, Mr. Shahid Aslam Mohar, PPM Punjab explained that capacity building and mobilization activities could not be carried out in the new Project Districts due to resource crunch and after that we should expect receiving disputes in the new Districts;

Capt (r) Javed, PPM Balochistan described the problems in making women as MA members. He said that in a conservative social set up like Balochistan we cannot change things overnight. According to him, things are improving gradually. He cited example of how they have been able to include women in the first place in MAs and later on trained them while abiding by the cultural norms and tradition.

Mr. Maqbool Ahmad Lehri, District NAzim Quetta observed that the UNDP did not inform them during their visits to Quetta. He said that if the District NAzim is informed about any visit from Islamabad, his office will be in a better position to interact with them for explaining any queries and concerns to avoid any probable misunderstanding. He emphasized that Judiciary and Police should be actively involved in the whole process for authenticity and acceptability of the Project in the masses. He recommended that necessary legislation should be made in this regard, whereby the area SHO should be bound to send all petty disputes/issues to the concerned MA for amicable settlement. Police should only be involved in grave disputes/cases and where MAs cannot resolve them amicably.

Mr. Riaz Akhtar (NPD) maintained that there is no need of new legislation as respective Provincial LGOs already cover that Police and Judiciary may refer all petty disputes/issues to MAs/MJs. Regarding interaction with the judiciary, he said that the Judicial Committee and respective judges of High Courts have issued necessary instruction to all the lower judiciary. The NPD explained the question raised by the chairperson regarding composition of Judicial Committee, that it was headed by a Supreme Court judge and four Provincial High Courts judges with its members. PPM Punjab and PPM Balochistan said that Judiciary is being actively involved and the higher judiciary has already issued necessary instructions in this regard.

Later, the Chair asked the Committee to discuss Annual Work Plan 2008. Ms. Effendi was of the view that budget is required to be looked into afresh and that Government should share at least 50% of the funding. The Chair responded that they have been working with all the Provincial governments, and that recently in the meeting with Governor Punjab, he has assured of his full support. Similarly, meeting with Governor Sindh has also been scheduled to seek Sindh Government support. The

Chairperson further informed that he is in constant liaison with other Provincial governments to extend financial support. PPM Balochistan said case is under process for allocation of RS.28 million for the Project.

On the issue of approval of Annual Work Plan 2008, Ms. Effendi said that we agree in principle on the Work Plan, however, the budget could be approved later after proposed activities had been reconsidered. The Chair directed that all the PPMUs should work out activities along with the budget with a view to confine it to activities inevitable for the Project. The same would be circulated to all the members of NSC. The NSC authorized the Chairperson to approve revised budget without calling for the meeting.

The Committee unanimously approved the new Project Districts viz, Nowshera (NWFP) and Sanghar (Sindh), replacing Swat and Mirpurkhas.

#### **Presentations by Consultant**

Mr. Tariq Hussain, consultant on Benchmarking Exercise initiated by Gender Support Programme (GSP)/UNDP Co, gave a presentation on the Benchmarking Exercise and highlighted the following areas (a copy of the presentation is attached at annexure V):

- Inputs: delivered on time & in place
- Support from provincial departments, district-level & UC: timely & highly useful
- Feedback: positive at all levels
- Usage: increasing consistently
- Operations: often improvised; generally user-friendly & efficient; sometimes tough on female musaleheen (because of travel, work load)
- Referrals: low but increasing
- Cost: courts at least 10-20 times more expensive
- Awareness: could be better, across the board

#### **Conclusion:**

The meeting concluded at 1345 hours and the Chairperson NSC/Secretary MoLG&RD, Mr. Muhammad Saleem Khan thanked all the participants for their valuable comments and participation.

Approved by:



Mr. Muhammad Saleem Khan  
Chairperson NSC/Secretary  
MoLG&RD, Islamabad

Date: 08 February 2008

cc.:

- All members of GJTMAP – NSC, Islamabad
- File/GJTMAP – NSC Meetings