

## **An Update on Where We Are With The Africa-Latin America Peer To Peer Mutual Learning Initiative**

Let me start this update by taking this opportunity on behalf of the World Bank and Municipal Development Partnership for Eastern and Southern Africa (MDP-ESA) to extend our sincere thanks to all of you who participated in the Africa Regional Seminar on Participatory Budgeting in March in Durban, South Africa, for your valuable and insightful contributions that allowed the free sharing of ideas and experiences which went a long way in helping to make this important Seminar a very rich, informative and inspiring event. Thank you again for your continued unwavering support and commitment to the promotion of participatory budgeting in Africa and showing great enthusiasm in the Africa-Latin America Peer to Peer Mutual Learning Initiative we also launched together in Durban.

Although the implementation of the above initiative started a little late than we anticipated we would like all teams to know that the screening process of the project proposals was very rigorous and of particular importance for you to know is that in the World Bank this Initiative is seen as something innovative and unique, very promising and with great potential for scaling-up. We therefore also want thank you for your patience and persistence and also encourage you to aim at implementing the project well because many people are keenly waiting to see the results from this Initiative. The stages that your project proposals have passed through, including where we are now and the next steps to be followed are described below.

### ***Submission and selection of proposals:***

At the launch of the Africa-Latin America Peer to Peer Mutual Learning Initiative in Durban, 12 joint Africa-Latin America project proposals were submitted for funding. Using the guidelines/template provided the initiative's promoters and after incorporating comments from the World Bank and MDP-ESA, teams revised their preliminary proposals to make them full proposals. 9 of the 12 teams comprising of local and national governments and CSOs from Sub-Sahara Africa and Latin America submitted their final proposals. The World Bank and MDP-ESA provided the 9 teams with another set of detailed comments, which the teams further incorporated and re-submitted their revised final proposals. Of the 9 re-submitted project proposals, 7 proposals were selected by the donors to be considered for funding. 4 of these 7, after further going through a rigorous screening process, secured funding. The other 3 proposals are currently being screened by another donor who has shown a strong interest in funding them,

### ***Revenue Generation and Participatory Budgeting Research Project Completed:***

Of the 4 project proposals that secured funding, the team working on the *Revenue Generation and Participatory Budgeting Research project* began its implementation right away because they had a deadline to complete its implementation by June 30, 2008. The team contracted a consultant who directed the fieldwork, conducted data analysis and drafted the report.

### ***Where we are with the Other 3 Funded Proposals:***

A different route, however, was taken for the other 3 funded proposals. Instead of proceeding straight to their implementation, a partially completed Terms of Reference (ToRs) template was created by the promoters of the initiative and sent to each team for its inputs. The ToRs, CVs for each team member, and vendor number for the team was recently submitted to the World Bank for processing of the project contracts. This is the stage where the Initiative is at now. Once the contracts are issued and a proportion of the total budget is disbursed the teams are expected to immediately begin with the implementation of their project.

### ***Next Steps for Projects that Have Secured Funding:***

For the Peer to Peer Mutual Learning Initiative the next steps are comprised of several activities. These include on the one hand more administrative tasks like the processing of contracts, disbursements of funds; and on the other hand activities that focus more on the content side of the project, like implementation plan, and dissemination of outcomes from the project.

### ***Frequently Asked Questions for “Next Steps”***

#### ***Where are we with issuance of Contract?***

For the 3 teams that have already secured funding we have received all necessary information (for example, vendor number, inputs to ToRs, CVs of team members) and the World Bank is currently processing the contracts. Each team will be informed individually once the contract has been issued, if not yet done by the time of the Video Conference meeting.

#### ***How will the funds be disbursed?***

The disbursement of funds will follow the schedule described within each proposal. 10% of the funds will be disbursed upfront to get the project off the ground. All future disbursements, which will be not more than 3, will be pegged to deliverables that are identified by the team in their proposals. Please refer to your project ToRs for detailed information on the disbursement schedule and the deliverables they are pegged to.

#### ***What should our Implementation Strategy be? What does our team have latitude to do in terms of implementation of our project?***

Given the August-December timeframe each team is encouraged to take steps that will allow them to a) implement the project within the allotted timeframe b) implement the project well that produces concrete outcomes. These steps could include:

- (i) hire a consultant(s)
- (ii) streamline scope of work to include a shorter list of activities

Since the contracts are being made to an institution selected by your team your team will have the latitude to create an implementation plan that works for your project needs, schedules, time-line etc. For example, you have the latitude to hire a consultant (qualified for the task) to carry out specific tasks within the scope of the project.

#### ***How do team members communicate given that we are from different cities, countries and regions?***

Given the cross-regional and cross-country nature of this project this Initiative will use the internet as its primary platform and tool for communication. Different internet tools that will be used include:

- (i) individual webpage for each project
- (ii) blogs for each project, where team members and others can communicate, post comments, materials etc.
- (iii) Create email lists for each project
- (iv) Post project updates on the main page

- (v) Use the above tools to market the project, involve other practitioners who are working and/or interested in PB
- (vi) Organize VCs between teams, MDP-ESA and World Bank over the course of the next few months.

### ***What happens after we've implemented the project? Dissemination Activities***

Dissemination is a very strong component of this project and is one of the core activities at the end of the implementation of the project. Several dissemination activities will be planned for this Initiative, which will help a) market this initiative/pilot b) help build capacity of other institutions c) share outcomes and lessons learnt d) serve as a means for scaling up this Initiative. Currently, MDP-ESA/WB has brainstormed the following activities:

- Session at the PB Seminar that Belo Horizonte is hosting in December 2008
- Session at the World Urban Forum
- A series (one for each project) VC / lunch sessions towards the end of the project organized by the World Bank where the team members have an opportunity to disseminate their results, project outcomes, and lessons learnt

### ***What is the role of MDP-ESA?***

MDP-ESA will serve as a Mutual Learning Initiative Help Desk. As Help Desk MDP-ESA will facilitate the Mutual Learning by way of providing technical assistance to all projects as requested by teams, motivate the teams, connect teams to other practitioners interested in the Initiative and in PB in Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America, and facilitate communication within and between teams during the course of the project cycle, including the periodic provision of news updates of the initiative to the teams and other interested parties.

### ***What is the role of World Bank?***

World Bank will assist MDP-ESA in its different roles as needed and continue with the processing of contracts, management of disbursements of funds, and continue its efforts to secure additional funding to scale-up this Initiative.

### ***What are the "Next Steps" for Projects that are in the Pipeline for Funding?***

Once we hear back from the donor who has shown interest to fund the additional 3 projects currently in the pipeline for funding we will inform teams whether their project has been accepted for funding or not. Subsequently, we will request each selected team for specific information (e.g. inputs to ToRs, create a vendor number etc.) and will follow the same next steps activities described above for already funded projects

### ***Who do we contact with additional questions regarding this note, our project, funding and anything else?***

Please direct all questions to MDP-ESA as they are the central coordinating body for this Initiative. You may specifically email or call:

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