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Palau Local Governance Strengthening Project (LGSP)

The 3-years project aims to provide support to the Government of Palau (GoP) in strengthening governance capacities at local state government levels and national capacity within the Ministry of State's Bureau of Domestic Affairs in delivering services and maintaining relationships with state governments administrations (executive legislative).

The project will be providing technical expertise and undertake specialized training activities, produce and deliver relevant tools and guidance documents (such as standard operating procedures) to enable smooth operations around state finance, local governance, administration and human resources management. Additionally, the project will also support harmonization of national and state laws through strengthening legislative and record management capacities at both state and national government levels.

The project is directly implemented by UNDP and will be based within the Bureau of Domestic Affairs under the Ministry of State. The project will be piloted in four states: Aimeliik state, Kayangel state, Melekeok state, and Ngeremlengui state in Palau.

Relationship to the UNDP Strategic Plan (emerging areas) and the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2013-2017

The Project falls directly under the UNDP Strategic Plan 2013-2017 and responds to Outcome 2 "Citizen expectations for voice, development, the rule of law and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance". The project responds effectively to the emerging areas in the UNDP Strategic Plan around social protection by engaging citizens through local governance space and enabling them access to delivery of adequate services from their elected governments, eventually aimed at strengthening their access to greater social, political and economic protection. It also corresponds directly to the United Nations Development

Project Overview

- Project duration: 2016-2018
- Project location: Palau
- Total Budget: US\$800,000.00
- Funds: UNDP and Government of Palau
- Partnership: Ministry of State, Bureau of Domestic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Office of the Public Auditor, Office of the Attorney General, Traditional Leaders, CSOs, and ADB



Figure 1: LGSP Inception Workshop in Koror, Palau – Dec, 2016

Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2014-2017 directly under Focus Area 5 on Governance, i.e. "Regional, national, local and traditional governance systems are strengthened and exercise the principles of good governance, respecting and upholding human rights, especially women's rights, in line with international standards."

The Project Outputs

The project will deliver the following outputs, which are considered by the GoP as key priorities:

- Output 1: Four states (Executive and Legislative branches) have enhanced capacities to plan and manage public resources to deliver basic services to their constituencies.
- Output 2: The Ministry of State (Bureau of Domestic Affairs) has enhanced capacities to support state

governments and facilitates relations and operations between central administrations, the Senate, the House of Delegates and state governments.

- Output 3: Local residents from four states, including youth and women, have increased understanding of central and local governments' roles and responsibilities and participate more actively in local decision making and oversight.

Project Implementation Strategy

The project seeks to provide assistance to the GoP to improve local governance and service delivery through responsive and accountable governance at the local state level. The project will focus on capacity development of selected pilot states. It will also consider their role in implementing and supporting the 2030 Agenda and the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It will involve trainings, manuals and guiding documents, participatory planning, development needs assessment, Civil Society Organization (CSO) engagement, participatory budgeting (including women), and inclusive project planning and transparent execution. Technical assistance will also be extended to the Ministry of State (Bureau of States Affairs) as well as to relevant central administrations (incl. MoF, OAG), the House of Delegates and the Senate, in their capacity to interact with local states.

The project will also benefit from application of UNDP Local Governance Diagnostic Tool developed internally by UNDP which aims to support subnational governments to localize the SDGs at provincial and lower level. The tool has been piloted in Pakistan, Indonesia and expected to be piloted in Nepal as well.

Project Partnerships

The Project is expected to utilize, strengthen and at the same time build new partnerships with a range of stakeholders which are not limited to the GoP's various line ministries, particularly the Bureau for Domestic Affairs and the various State Governments, Ministry of Finance, Office of the Public Auditor, development partners for both funding, technical expertise and oversight on the Project; and CSOs (to be identified during implementation through a non-government organization (NGO) mapping exercise); women groups; traditional chiefs, and with individuals based on needs and during the implementation phase of the project.

Furthermore, close collaboration with other UNDP projects and programmes such as the SDGs Localization Project and Palau Climate Change and Biodiversity (CB2

Project) as well as with other UN agencies will be ensured during project implementation to enable effective engagement of all key actors in the local governance field of work and also to enable joint activities where possible to ensure greater economies of scale.



Graph: Partnerships that will be significant to enable successful implementation of the local governance strengthening project



Figure 2: Inside a traditional Bai House in Palau

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