



**Interoffice Memorandum**

To: Ms. Nileema Noble  
UN Resident Coordinator  
Philippines

Date: 19 January 2009

From: [Redacted]  
Assistant Administrator and Director, Partnerships Bureau  
UNDP- New York

Extension: 6005

Subject: "Enhancing Access to and Provision of Water Services with the  
Active Participation of the Poor "

File: MDGF-1919

**I. Approval Status**

On behalf of the MDG-F Steering Committee I am pleased to inform you that your Joint Programme Enhancing access to and Provision of Water Services with the Active Participation of the Poor in The Philippines is approved with an allocation of USD\$5,375,000 million over three years. This figure includes 7% for indirect costs incurred by UN Participating Organizations. Please note the 1% AA fee will be reimbursed directly to the MDTF Office and need not be included in your allocation.

**II. JP design comments**

No substantive changes are required **to the design** of your Joint Programme and you may proceed with signature of the Joint Programme document. In addition to the Government, the UN Resident Coordinator and Participating UN Organizations should each sign the Joint Programme document. We would encourage you to ensure some visibility for this event and for the launch of activities. For our records we would highly appreciate receiving a copy of the signed minutes of the National Steering Committee meetings.

We note the Joint Programme aims to improve efficiency, access, affordability and quality of water services provided by utilities at the local/community level through the establishing investment support mechanisms; and (2) to enhance local capacities to develop, operate and manage water utilities through the promotion inclusive participation in decisions relating to water service provision. Vulnerable populations are well targeted. The joint programme will be implemented by two leading National Institutions with the technical support of UNDP and UNICEF. During the course of its implementation, the joint programme will seek to develop strong linkages local authorities, civil society associations and other private sector entities.

The MDG-F Secretariat has reviewed the draft Joint Programme for the second time and considers it a faithful extension of the approved concept note. We recognize that an acceptable effort has been made to address the recommendations of the Technical Sub-Committee and of the Secretariat.

**Relevance and external coherence**

The Joint Programme is firmly integrated within the UNDAF, meets a number of the Fund's strategic goals and, in the framework of the Paris Declaration, is aligned with principles of national ownership and national priorities and the Medium term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) 2004-2010. The Joint Programme is built upon a sound evidence based analysis of the situation that includes relevant national



and provincial disaggregated socio-economic data and the maximum information on the targeted areas of intervention.

The Joint Programme appears to be highly strategic responding to clearly identified sector priorities and geographic areas of the country with a particular effort to support waterless communities in the poorest provinces. It builds on extensive lessons learnt and best practices, and draws in all relevant UN Agencies in their areas of expertise.

#### **Internal Coherence**

The program design is well developed, with a coherent approach that reflects a clear, logical results analysis framework. The National Steering Committee fully endorses the proposal.

#### **Sustainability**

The programme has a clearly defined capacity development strategy to reinforce existing local structures of the relevant institutions. By having a well defined strategy to involve communities in participating in the management and maintenance of water utilities, it is likely to contribute to the sustainability of expected results. It has the potential for scaling up best practices.

#### **Monitoring and evaluation**

The Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks are solid. In addition, The Secretariat plans to work with all approved programmes in the coming months to address their M&E frameworks and to develop a small number of common indicators relating to the MDGs, thematic windows, UN reform and the Paris Declaration.

### **III. JP re-design requirements and/or recommendations**

**N/A**

### **IV. Management arrangements and delegation of authority**

On receipt of a copy of the signed document, the Fund Secretariat will transfer the full three-year allocation to the custody of the Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) Office pending further instructions from you.

Please note the MDTF Office will pass-through funds to Participating Organizations on instruction from you as Resident Coordinator and Co-Chair of the National MDG-F Steering Committee.

As reflected in the Fund's Framework Document (Section 9 'Formulation Process & Release of Funds) and the global MoU with Participating Organizations (Article I, 2-c) the MDTF Office will release resources on an annual, advance basis. For the first advance, these funds will be transferred on the basis of receipt of the first year Annual Workplan and the signed Joint Programme document. Subsequent annual advances will be released on instructions from you and on the basis of a) receipt of the next annual work-plan approved by the National Steering Committee; b) evidence that a formal review of the programme's progress has been undertaken not more than three months earlier, either in the form of an annual progress report (if



the timing coincides) or through the minutes of a National Steering Committee where this has been discussed; and c) only when combined commitments against the existing advance have exceeded 70%. Please review the initial year budget requests carefully with participating organizations in order to ensure realistic delivery targets in this regard. The annual agency apportionment projected in the final budget attached to the signed Joint Programme document should also be reviewed and can be revised up to the time of your first funds-advance request. This is important for the reasons outlined below.

In order to allow the implementation team some flexibility to adapt the strategy to unexpected challenges and opportunities (most particularly delivery issues), and to empower Resident Coordinators in their oversight responsibilities, this memorandum also provides you with the authority over the three year duration of the programme in consultation with Participating Organizations and with the agreement of your National Steering Committee to (a) transfer up to \$1,000,000 or 20% of the total value of the project budget – whichever is lowest – *between Participating Organizations* identified in the original Joint Programme budget and (b) re-phase up to \$1,000,000 or 20% of the total value of the project budget – whichever is lowest - *between years*. The base-line against which these ceilings will be measured is the annual budget projection (by year and by participating organization) confirmed at the time of your first funds-advance request. The MDTF Office must be informed of any revisions of this kind, decided locally and is responsible for tracking these delegation ceilings for each programme. Any changes that fall outside these parameters will have to be referred back to the (Global) MDG-F Steering Committee for approval.

As you will appreciate, one of the MDG-F's express goals is to strengthen the role of Resident Coordinators as leaders of Country Teams. The success of the MDG-F activities will depend on your ongoing leadership and engagement. We count on you to exercise this leadership and to ensure this Joint Programme remains an ongoing, integrated effort by the UN system in support of national priorities. Please also use the National Steering Committee mechanism to help ensure national ownership by the Government in particular and involve it in important financial and programmatic oversight decisions.

The signed Joint Programme document and the completed Fund Release Form should be sent to the MDG-F Secretariat and MDTF Office within 30 days of the receipt of this memorandum. If this deadline is not possible, please inform the secretariat accordingly.

The Executive Coordinator of the MDTF Office, Bisrat Aklilu, will be in contact with any specific documentation requirements to ensure the programme meets compliance requirements for the Fund's pass-through arrangements.

With best wishes.

- cc. Mr. Bisrat Aklilu, Executive Coordinator, Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office  
Ms. Kori Udovicki, Assistant Administrator and Director Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, UNDP, New York  
H.E. Mr. D. Juan Antonio Yáñez-Barnuevo, Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations  
H.E. Mr. Baki Ilkin, Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations  
Mr. Juan López-Doriga, Director-General of Development Planning & Evaluation, MFAC Madrid  
Ms. Debbie Landey, Director, United Nations Development Operations Coordinator Office (DOCO)  
MDG-F Secretariat