



Interoffice Memorandum

To: Mr. Bruno Moro
UN Resident Coordinator
Colombia

Date: February 2009

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

Extension: 6005

Subject: "Strengthening local capacities for peace-building in the
Department of Nariño"

File: MDGF-1964

I. Approval Status

On behalf of the MDG-F Steering Committee I am pleased to inform you that your Joint Programme "Strengthening local capacities for peace-building in the Department of Nariño" is hereby approved with an allocation of USD\$7,000,000 for three years. This figure includes 7% (including coordination costs) 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

We have identified in section III below, some adjustments we recommend to the design of your Joint Programme. Once these adjustments have been reflected in the document, you may proceed with signature of the Joint Programme document. The UN Resident Coordinator and all Participating UN Organizations should each sign the Joint Programme document in addition to the Government (including primary national counterparts). We would encourage you to ensure some visibility for this event and for the launch of implementation.

The Joint Programme submitted incorporates the recommendations made by the Convenor. We value that these issues have been reflected in the current Joint Programme document and adequately explained in the cover letter sent by the Resident Coordinator.

The comments of our technical reviewer on the Joint Programme document are attached for reference. The review is very positive and includes some useful recommendations you may wish to consider in the finalization of the document or during the course of the programme's implementation. Please note that the changes recommended by the reviewer are not required by the Fund, unless specified under section III below.

External coherence

The Joint Programme fully meets the Fund's Strategic goals and is in line with the Terms of Reference of the Conflict Prevention and Peace Building Thematic Window. It is based on an excellent evidence based situation assessment. There is a good explanation of the various existing social conflicts. The relation between the Programme and the MDGs is clear though some MDG indicators could be further included. The Programme is anchored in the UNDAF as well as in the main national and local Plans on Development and Security. In terms of the Paris Declaration, the programme has good national ownership and seeks the complementarity with other donors in the area such as the AECID. It also shows a high level of participation of local governments and civil society organizations.



We very much appreciate that the Programme targets indigenous and afro descendant population as the main direct beneficiaries and promotes their engagement as active agents of change. We also see as very positive that the programme integrates the gender perspective while including affirmative actions to ensure women's participation in every stage of the programme implementation.

The Programme involves a cross-section of UN organizations and builds on previous experiences and lessons learned. The suggested coordination structure is sound. It is mentioned that the programme will coordinate with the Programme funded by the MDGF under the thematic window of gender. It would be useful carrying out an analysis of complementary interventions and common counterparts between both programmes.

We appreciate that a consultation process has been documented. We consider as very strategic that an implementing unit based in the area of intervention is foreseen. It would be advisable to specify where exactly will be placed (at the local or national counterpart or in a separate office).

Internal coherence

We feel that the Joint Programme is clearly laid-out and meets the design standards of the Fund. The problems identified and strategies proposed as well as the outcomes, outputs and activities are built and linked to each other in a logic manner. We consider as positive that the Programme will focus on 8 municipalities and in our view, the criteria for this is well justified. We also appreciate that it successfully incorporates a human rights based approach and a focus on social and economic recovery.

The budget is reasonable and is within the indicative budget approved by the Steering Committee.

Sustainability

We consider very useful that the Programme foresees the establishment of a local coordination mechanism and that there is a linkage of the proposed intervention with existing regional, national and community plan. We value that the programme aims at complementing other donor's interventions. We also like that it includes promoting the involvement of the national Government (Social Action and provincial Government) in the rehabilitation of public spaces. It would be advisable to formalize the commitment and provide more details in this regard. A remarkable gender mainstreaming strategy has been incorporated with specific budgetary allocation. The multicultural perspective has also been successfully incorporated in the design of this intervention.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Monitoring and Evaluation framework is good and includes process indicators. It is advisable to include further baseline data as well as impact and result indicators to measure the impact of interventions in the beneficiaries' lives. Nevertheless, the Secretariat plans to work with all approved programmes to address their M&E frameworks and to develop a small number of common indicators relating to the thematic windows, UN reform, Paris Declaration and the Millennium Declaration.

III. JP re-design requirements

The Secretariat **recommends** making the following changes prior to the signature:



- Include MDG indicators in the M&E plan;
- Carry out an analysis comparing the two JP funded by the MDG F (Gender and Conflict Prevention and Peace Building) in order to identify complementarities, overlaps, potential linkages and common counterpartsto maximize the full potential impact of the MDGF in improving the conditions of beneficiaries affected by gender based violence.
- Specify where will be placed the implementing unit (at the local or national counterpart or in a separate office);
- We understand that the government has expressed its intention of supporting the recuperation of public spaces. It would be advisable that, prior to the start up of the programme, those intentions are formalized in an agreement or alike document.
- Include further baseline data as well as impact and result indicators to measure the impact of interventions in the beneficiaries' lives.

When submitting the signed Joint programme, **please make sure you include a cover letter** from the Resident Coordinator indicating how the following recommendations have been taken into account.

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. Rebeca Grynspan , Assistant Administrator and Regional Director Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, UNDP, New York
H.E. Mr. D. Juan Antonio Yáñez-Barnuevo, Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations
H.E. Ms. Claudia Blum, Permanent Representative of Colombia 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