

29 June 2011

To: Mr. Peter Crowley
Resident Coordinator, a.i.
UNDP
Afghanistan

From: Sophie de Caen
Director
MDG-F Secretariat



Subject: No-cost extension request: **"Strengthen Approach for the Integration of Sustainable environmental Management in Afghanistan (SAISEM)"** – Environment and Climate Change Thematic Window

I. Approval Status

We are pleased to inform you that, as per your request, the MDG-F Secretariat has granted the Joint Programme SAISEM a no cost extension of one (1) year. Thus, the new end date of the Joint Programme is 6 July of 2012. Please note that this is a one-time only amendment intended to allow the Joint Programme to complete its activities and achieve its expected results. At this end date, the programme should be operationally closed, so that no new financial commitments are made, only outstanding payments. Any unspent funds within the agreed timeframe (6 July 2012) will have to be disbursed to the MDG-F.

II. Recommendations

We appreciate the effort made to revise the AWP with all involved partners, and hope the reorganizing steps taken in the past six months will improve the JPs implementation. We understand the need for the no cost extension, considering the significant delays, in great part due to security constraints but also due to high turnover and staffing issues. However, we remain concerned that staffing issues have not been resolved more proactively in the past 6 months. Therefore it is expected that:

- Since recruitment has already started, by the end of August 2011 the JP should have all envisioned UNDP staff in place (CTA, JP Coordinator and Environmental Specialist); and by the end of September 2011, FAO should have its national officer stationed in Badghis in place. Accordingly, UNDP and FAO should provide the MDG-F monthly updates with recruitment status for the next three months.
- Disbursement of third year funds will be contingent to fulfilling the staffing plans.
- UNDP and FAO should provide a monthly update report to their government counterparts on envisaged activities and quarterly progress report to RCO and MDG-F in addition to the standard reporting requirements outlined below.

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III. Monitoring and Reporting

Quarterly color-coded annual work plans, and biannual monitoring reports should continue to be prepared and submitted to the MDG-F Secretariat. Please be reminded that each Joint Programme is responsible for conducting its final evaluation prior to the closure of the programme and sharing the final report with the MDG-F Secretariat.

We would highly appreciate it if you could forward this memo to all participating UN agencies to the joint programme, and each participating UN agency should forward the memo to their corresponding HQs. Further information on the closure of programmes are available on the revised "MDG-F Joint Implementation Guidelines" uploaded on the MDG-F website (www.mdgfund.org).

With best wishes.

cc.:

Mr. Bisrat Aklilu, Executive Coordinator, Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office
Mr. Ajay Chhibber, Assistant Administrator and Director Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, UNDP New York
Ms. Sigrid Kaag, Assistant Administrator and Director Partnerships Bureau, UNDP New York
Mr. Deborah Landey, Director, United Nations Development Operations Coordinator Office (DOCO)
MDG-F Secretariat