

**[UN BHUTAN COUNTRY FUND]**

**ANNUAL programme[[1]](#footnote-1) NARRATIVE progress report**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 january – 31 December 2010**

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| Programme Title & Number |  | Country, Locality(s), Thematic Area(s)[[2]](#footnote-2) |
| Programme Title: Support to UNDAF Outcome 4: B*y 2012, institutional capacity and people’s participation strengthened to ensure good governance* Programme Number (*if applicable)*: MDTF Office Atlas No: 00073277 | Bhutan, nationwide, Governance |

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| Participating Organization(s) |  | Implementing Partners |
| UNDP, UNCDF | * Election Commission of Bhutan, Ministry of Information and Communications, National Commission for Women and Children, Gross National Happiness Commission |

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| Programme/Project Cost (US$) | |  | Programme Duration (months) | |
| MDTF Fund Contribution:   * *By Agency (if applicable): UNDP: $ 284,199; UNCDF: $ 20,000* |  |  | Overall Duration |  |
| Agency Contribution   * by Agency (if applicable) |  |  | Start Date[[3]](#footnote-3) | 16th December 2009 |
| Government Contribution  (if applicable) |  |  | End Date or Revised End Date,  (if applicable) | 31st December 2013 |
| Other Contribution (donor)  (if applicable) |  |  | Operational Closure Date[[4]](#footnote-4) |  |
| TOTAL: $ 304,199 |  |  | Expected Financial Closure Date |  |

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| Programme Assessments/Mid-Term Evaluation |  | Submitted By |
| Assessment Completed - if applicable please attach  Yes X No Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Mid-Evaluation Report – if applicable please attach  Yes X No Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | * Name: Pem Chuki Wangdi * Title: Head, Management Support Unit * Participating Organization (Lead): UNDP * Email address: pem.wangdi@undp.org |

# Purpose

The support from the UN Bhutan Country Fund (UNBCF) was to complement the ongoing programmes under the good governance outcome intervention within the areas of gender, local elections, e-governance and decentralization and local governance outputs. The support contributed to the UNDAF CT Outcome 4: *By 2012, institutional capacity and people’s participation strengthened to ensure good governance.*

Within this over all framework, the support was provided to;

* ***CT Output 4.1*** *Transparency, efficiency, effectiveness, participation and accountability strengthened at all levels.* ***CT Output 4.1.1*** *Increased access to services and information through promotion and implementation of e-governance and e-literacy.*
* ***CT Output 4.2*** *Strengthened national capacity and systems to formulate, review and implement national legislations in line with ratified international conventions.* ***CT Output 4.2.3*** *Strengthened capacity of relevant institutions to enhance knowledge and information on ratified conventions among partners and the public*
* ***CT output 4.3.2*** *Enhanced capacity of key organizations in conducting free & fair elections at national & local levels.* ***CT output 4.3.3*** *Enhanced public awareness on gender inclusive democratic governance, rights and duties through civic education.*
* ***CT 4.4 Local governance systems and capacity strengthened with increased participation of women.******CT 4.4.1*** *Strengthened capacity of local governments to plan, implement and monitor their development progress in pursuit of poverty reduction and MDGs.* ***CT 4.4.2.*** *Increased and effective participation of women in particular, and communities in general, in decision making and in development activities.* ***CT 4.4.3.*** *Local capacity for development & sound financial management enhanced through annual grants and integrated approach at gewog level.*

# Resources

*Budget Revisions:*

The UN Bhutan Country Fund Steering Committee on 29th July 2010 endorsed the following requests for re-allocation of funds and no-cost extensions from UNDP and UNFPA:

* Request from UNDP for reprogramming of unspent funds amounting to $24,745.04 under UNDAF Outcome# 4: Governance to cover over expenditures incurred by UNDP under UNDAF Outcome# 5: Environment ($ 3,742.35) and UNDAF Outcome# 1: Poverty ($ 21,002.69)
* Request from UNFPA for re-allocation of unspent funds amounting to $ 20,000 under UNDAF Outcome# 4: Governance to UNDAF Outcome# 2: Health.

*Good Practices and Constraints*

In line with the UN General Assembly Resolution 56/201 on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP (UNDG ExCom Agencies) adopted a common operational framework (known as the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) Framework) for transferring cash to government and non-government Implementing Partners. Its implementation is expected to significantly reduce transaction costs and lessen the burden that the multiplicity of UN procedures and rules creates for its partners. As a HACT compliant country since 2008, the UN System (namely UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP) in collaboration with the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) have taken the necessary steps to ensure the effective implementation of the Framework in the country.

With the goal of reducing transaction costs on part of the Government and to address the issues related to the fund request and release to and from the UN agencies to the Implementing Partners, the UN agencies with the Ministry of Finance and the Gross National Happiness Commission developed a guidance note on the Financial Procedures for UN Assisted Projects directed towards streamlining and shortening the fund request and release process between the UN agencies and the Implementing partners. In addition, in a move towards using existing government reporting procedures, the UN agencies have adopted the Standard Progress Report template used by the government as the standard reporting format for the UN. Furthermore, in a strategic move to address problems related to the non-matching of financial years between the UN and the Government, the UN agencies adopted the 18 month rolling work plan, covering the months of January through June of the following year. This allows the Implementing Partners to incorporate UN supported activities into their respective sector work plans which follows the Government’s fiscal year.

Yearly trainings are organized for both implementing partners and UN agencies to refresh and redress problems faced in financial transactions.

# Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

The UN in Bhutan operates in a National Implementation (NIM) environment. The Government implements the projects and accordingly handles almost all procurement related activities within their respective programmes. The UN agencies (namely UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP) conducts periodic monitoring through assurance activities required under the HACT Framework such as field visits and onsite reviews conducted by UN staff, and scheduled/HACT audits by the Royal Audit Authority, Bhutan’s Supreme Audit Institution. The financial report is reported through the FACE (Funding Authorization & Certification of Expenditure) form and the progress is reported through Standard progress reports quarterly. Joint mid-year and annual reviews are also conducted as part of monitoring and evaluation of progress and performance. These reporting formats are aligned to the Government’s planning and monitoring system. In addition joint field visits, where applicable, are conducted to the project sites.

**NOTE**: The support provided to the CT 4.4 outcome and its outputs for support to local governance and public financial management includes development partners outside the UN agencies because it is part of the joint sector support programme to local governance and decentralization.

*Evaluations/Assessments*

The E-Governance project was partially funded through the UN Trust Fund for Human Security (HSF). In 2010, an End of Project Evaluation was conducted by the UNDP as the coordinating agency for the project. The evaluation was required under the HSF project agreement.

During the period of 2009 a joint annual technical review was conducted with other development partners for the LGSP. In 2010, a Decentralization Outcome Evaluation was done by the UN agencies as required under the UNDAF review and this was done in coordination and consultation with the annual technical review of the LGSP.

# Results

The UN Bhutan Country Fund has contributed to select Outputs but covers all the four CT Outcomes under **UNDAF Outcome 4: *By 2012, institutional capacity and people’s participation strengthened to ensure good governance.***

The supportto National Commission for Women and Children (NCWC) has contributed to ***CT Output 4.2*** *Strengthened national capacity and systems to formulate, review and implement national legislations in line with ratified international conventions.* ***CT Output 4.2.3 d)*** *Government, parliamentarians, communities, and families have increased awareness on CRC and CEDAW and particularly on abuse, exploitation and violence against children and women*

The support to the localization of E-Governance and CICs has contributed to ***CT Output 4.1 Transparency, efficiency, effectiveness, participation and accountability strengthened at all levels. CT Output 4.1.1*** *Increased access to services and information through promotion and implementation of e-governance and e-literacy.*

Thesupport to the local elections and gender sensitization has contributed to the ***CT output 4.3.2*** *Enhanced capacity of key organizations in conducting free & fair elections at national & local levels.* ***CT output 4.3.3*** *Enhanced public awareness on gender inclusive democratic governance, rights and duties through civic education.*

The technical assistance provided to develop the national local government capacity development strategy has contributed to the ***CT Outcome 4.4 Local governance systems and capacity strengthened with increased participation of women.*** Therefore strengthening the support to the ***CT output******4.4.1*** *Strengthened capacity of local governments to plan, implement and monitor their development progress in pursuit of poverty reduction and MDGs. CT output* ***4.4.2.*** *Increased and effective participation of women in particular, and communities in general, in decision making and in development activities and CT output* ***4.4.3.*** *Local capacity for development & sound financial management enhanced through annual grants and integrated approach at gewog level.*

The specific achievements under UNDP include:

1. Through the NCWC, the Forensic Medicine Unit at the Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital (JDWNRH) in Thimphu had reported increasing number of domestic violence over the last six years. The number of reported cases for 2005 to 2010 was 81, 112, 237, 334, 389 and 310 respectively. The unit had been severely constrained by lack of human resource and infrastructure. With the support made possible by the UNBCF, capacity building as well as equipments was provided for the one stop crisis centre at JDWNRH. In total 36 health workers comprising of doctors, clinical officers and nurses were trained. The activities under this support included:

* Training for the health workers of the Forensic Medicine unit and JDWNRH on domestic violence and sexual assault management
* Sensitization on the medico-legal and ethical responsibilities when dealing with victims of violence and the need and the procedure for systematic documentation and referrals
* Equipments were provided for the one stop crisis centre

This training has increased the participants’ knowledge about the characteristics of violence against women including domestic violence and sexual assaults; and the concept of a multi-disciplinary approach to helping victims of violence. They are more sensitive about the victims needs and oriented with ethical and medico legal responsibilities and can also provide victim friendly health services.

1. To ensure that Community Information Centers (CIC) can continuously provide affordable services to rural communities, they need to self-sustain in the future. A UNV specialist was hired to assist the Ministry of Information and Communications to develop a sustainability framework- a business model for the CICs. In addition, operators of six CICs (in Mongar and Zhemgang districts) were trained by the UNV specialist on the usage of the business model and the delivery of services. The activities conducted under this support included:

* A business model and operations manual for CIC operators was developed by the UNV specialist and adopted by DIT
* Six CIC operators from Mongar and Zhemgang were trained on the usage of the manual and business model and delivery of services to the rural communities.

Surveys of 10 beneficiaries of the CICs were conducted; 5 farmers each at Challi and Yadi, in Mongar District. Users of the CICs noted that the lack of Xerox and fax facilities and access to information locally was having an impact on their livelihoods as time and money was lost traveling one day to Mongar simply to copy and fax one-page documents, often important government forms. The CICs have certainly responded to this need, as all 10 beneficiaries welcomed the improved access with one respondent using the money and time saved frequently traveling to Mongar to invest in agricultural production (Source: HSF End of Project Evaluation).

1. The results of the support to the Election Commission of Bhutan to support increased awareness and sensitization on gender has resulted in more targeted campaigns in their local elections advocacy posters targeting women as candidates. There are concerted efforts made in their briefings and information sharing with the public while educating them on the rules and regulations on the upcoming local elections. The activities conduced under this support included;

* Six election officials were trained in election management and inclusive electoral processes to enhance women’s participation in elections
* Support was provided to develop an asset and inventory management system. Two week long end-user training was conducted for 30 officials from the ECB to ensure that a functional, effective and transparent mechanism was established.
* A week long Training of Trainers was conducted using the BRIDGE module for gender sensitized voter education programmes to be conducted in four municipalities.
* 16 election officials participated in an Election mission to India to learn and observe gender inclusive local elections

The specific achievements under UNCDF include:

1. The support to the Local Governance Support Programme (LGSP) under the decentralization and local governance intervention was utilized to provide technical assistance to develop the Capacity Development Strategy. The capacity development for the local governments until now is supported through training and curriculum services to local governments on a need basis identified by the central agencies for planning, implementation and m and e skills. The achievements are-

* The current LGSP support enabled the Department of Local Governments (DLG) supported by the GNH Commission to assess and formulate an action plan for a Capacity Development Strategy and Vision.
* The Strategy will enable agencies and local governments to coordinate, train and identify the capacity needs for local governments to improve planning, budgeting and implementation of activities
* The action plan developed under the Strategy will be implemented under the LGSP with other subsequent funds and activities till the programme ends in 2013
* The strategy also looks at a more demand driven approach to capacity rather then the current supply driven approach and needs

**Future Work Plan (if applicable)**

Under the local governance and decentralizations LGSP which is a multi year support from 2008-2013, the annual work plan for 2011 indicates that about US $ 371,000 will be allocated from UN resources of the total US$ 1,342,264 committed in the LGSP work plan.

**VIII. INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT**

1. The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Priority Area for the Peacebuilding Fund; Sector for the UNDG ITF. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MDTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MDTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org/) (http://mdtf.undp.org). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. All activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MDTF programme have been completed. Agencies to advise the MDTF Office. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)