

**[UN BHUTAN COUNTRY FUND]**

**BI-ANNUAL PROJECT/PROGRAMME UPDATE**

**AS OF [31st December 2010]**

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| **Participating UN Organization(s)** | UNDP; UNICEF, UNCTAD, FAO |
| **MDTF Programme Number** | 00073261 |
| **Programme Title** | **Poverty and the MDGs** |
| **Approved Budget** **(by PO, if applicable)** | **UNDP: 129,649****UNICEF: 34,000****UNCTAD: 20,000****FAO: 25,743** |
| **Expenditure** **(by PO, if applicable)** | UNDP: 128,816UNICEF: 34,000UNCTAD: 18,505FAO: 25,743 | **% of Approved Budget****(by PO, if applicable)** | UNDP: 99%UNICEF: 100%UNCTAD: 93%FAO: 100% |
| **Forecast Final Date:**  | 31st December 2010 | **Delay****(if applicable)** | NA |

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| **Qualitative achievements:** |
| * The capacity building support provided through the trainings on home gardening, vegetable cultivation, compost making, integrated pest management and post harvest techniques; and distribution of improved seeds and small farm implements contributed to the establishment of home gardens in 588 households. These remote farming communities have become more aware of the importance of the production and consumption of vegetables for their health, and for income generation.
* The booklets on Gross National Happiness produced in the national language are being distributed to policy makers, students and local government officials and is anticipated to create greater awareness on GNH amongst Bhutanese people.
* The National Statistics Bureau was supported to implement the Bhutan Multiple Indicator Survey (BMIS 2010) which is UNICEF’s global Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) with add-on of UNFPA’s Demographic Health Survey (DHS). The survey covered over 15,000 households in all the 20 districts and will provide comprehensive data on some 21 MDG indicators and update the situation of women and children at district level. The survey will be critical for starting as well as scaling programmatic interventions.

200 enumerators were trained over two weeks in April 2010 on field data collection of the BMIS survey. All the enumerators were trained on important aspects of BMIS standards and protocols in gathering important data on social and economic indicators such as mortality, nutrition, child labour, disability, health and education of women and children in Bhutan. The enumerators after having acquired relevant skills formed 40 teams comprising of enumerators, measurers, editors and supervisors conducted the field survey covering even the remotest areas. The teams have successfully collected data from all the 20 districts during the period of mid-April 2010 to mid-July 2010. The NSB is now processing the data and the results/findings are expected to be released by late October 2010.* The Ministry of Economic Affairs was supported to organize the first investment road show in Dhaka, Kolkata, Mumbai, Singapore and Bangkok from 26th September to 9th October 2010. The 17 member delegation lead by Dasho Sonam Tshering, Secretary comprised of officials from the Ministry, DHI, BCCI and Private Sector. A similar road show was also organized in Austria and Norway. The primary objectives of the road show was to create awareness on Bhutan as new investment destination; highlight the types of incentives/opportunities offered to the investors by the Royal Government and sensitize various initiatives of the RGoB to facilitate investment in the country.

Attended by close to 500 prominent businessmen, the seminars were well received and the delegation was able to create awareness on the country as a new investment destination. The road show generated interest from investment perspective, trading or just as a tourist destination. There was appreciable interest to establish trade relations and invest in Bhutan. Interests were quite high in the hospitality sector, hydropower, export of consumer goods to Bhutan, agro processing, construction sector, wellness and cosmetics. The Ministry of Economic Affairs had also conducted business advocacy workshops through its six regional offices to advocate for entrepreneurial culture among the unemployed youths and women. The workshops were conducted in remotest Gewogs (Sakteng, Nubi, etc) since majority of the rural people are illiterate and lack confidence in taking up business opportunities. Through these workshops the Ministry was able to sensitize and generate interests among unemployed youths and women in taking up income generating activities and self employment.* 74 out of school youth (45F & 29M) were trained in tourism management. The training was conducted in view of the increasing of job seekers vis-a-vis a steady growth in the hotel industry and the increasing number of tourist arrivals every year. All trained candidates are expected to be absorbed by the hotel industry. An Employment Officer was also trained in the Management of the Employment Service System providing the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources with the capacity to improve its service delivery to the job seekers.
* The Ministry of Economic Affairs undertook number of activities in the area of Consumer protection and Competition Law and Policy. In the area of Consumer protection, two seminars to disseminate the findings of the Market Survey on the Status of Consumer Protection in Bhutanwere organized. The aim of the seminars was to raise awareness about the rights and responsibilities of consumers, traders, Police, local government and the Media and was attended by some 300 participants. The Market Survey collected information about (a) consumer goods and services items, in relation to their safety, quality and fairness to consumers in designated Dzongkhags of Bhutan (b) knowledge of consumers in relation to their rights on for instance the safety and quality characteristics of these consumer items and knowledge on consumer redress issues. The study identified the channels for consumer redress available to consumers in Bhutan per district, the extent to which consumers are aware of their rights and obligations as stipulated in the Consumer Protection Bill of Bhutan, the means available to them to exercise redress and the extent to which these rights and obligations and recourse to redress are exercised by consumers. The study made specific recommendations aimed at enhancing consumer protection in Bhutan as part of the consumer protection policy of the country.

A consultative meeting was also organized to discuss the objectives, scope and principles of a competition Policy that could be suitable to the economic and social conditions of Bhutan. One of the outcomes of the consultations was the decision to prepare a competition policy Framework paper which could assist the government in preparing a competition policy and law during 2011. This decision allowed UNCTAD to prepare the Terms of Reference for the Policy Paper. A consultant was recruited and has undertaken the first fact finding mission to Bhutan in January 2010. The first draft report of the Guidelines of the Competition Policy paper will be completed by Mid March 2010. |