



GIZ and LCAP session on SOPs development for Municipal Services and community engagement for LCA (Women centred) (Minutes)

Dated: 09-7-2020 | Thursday

Introduction

This session is a collaborative effort of GIZ and LCAP. Under GIZ Pakistan's project LoGo-II, this session was arranged to initiate talks to understand different perspectives in marginalized communities in geographical locations comprising outreach areas of public representation. Local councils association of Punjab (LCAP) arranged participants from Women Development Committee of LCA Punjab (WDLCAP) to attain grassroots situation.

After the introduction of the participants, **Mr Iftikhar Khan** transferred the speaker to

Mr Hamid Masood (GIZ)

Started with the objectives of the meeting while explaining the background. He briefed about SOPs Development and citizen engagement for improving municipal services (under LoGo II). Then proposed collaboration with LCAs identifying marginalized communities in different districts. He mentioned how women councillors can support in spreading RTI awareness. Lastly, the utilisation of community scorecard to reach out to respective communities by LCA members. He mentioned that GIZ will utilize support from LCAs and WDLCAP to attain their goals.

Mr Anwar Hussain (Executive Director, LCAP)

He started with the changing of LG structure, local government structure replaced by the government through legal amendments in law and dissolved the union councils and made town committees, the head of these committees are not from elected representatives rather bureaucracy took charge. Except for this change they dissolved local government before the expiration of their tenure and ignored the legal need of election in 100 days after the dissolution of local governments. So this is the first time in Pakistan that newly elected local governments are not replacing existing local governments. So the administrator is not from elected bodies yet.

Secondly, developing SOPs is necessary and it should be properly defined that how municipal services should be conducted. But, my concern is, whether there will be any implementation or the document will rest on the tables of government officials.

Currently, in the absence of the elected local government representatives, we could engage local government offices while asking them to demonstrate us the SOPs. Once the election will be



conducted in future, we will present these SOPs to newly elected members for their feasible operations.

I know that development organisations cannot go against the government, but we as an association support LGs at every avenue. Currently, we have a petition on hearing bench in Supreme Court about the dissolution of elected representatives against the government, scheduled of 13th of July.

We have a liaison with UNDP and focusing on SDGs to localize them for better community structure and welfare of our society. So, in this case, we tendered our comments to concerned people in government to focus on SDGs more rigorously even before 2030.

Research findings of previous elected local governments can be utilized, the participant women in this session are the face of their districts, currently, they are not elected but 80% proportion in the election will be repeated as local representatives of districts. We are building the capacity of these members through developing simplified Functions & Responsibilities indexed in LG Act 2019. So when they come into power they will start work from day one. They will be fully aware and known to the fact about what should they do about their districts.

Ms Um e Kalsom (Member DC, Muzzafargarh) Mr Iftikhar Hussain (Advisor, Communication and Outreach, GIZ) and Mr Umar Imtiaz Rana (Communications Coordinator) discussed effective tools to disseminate messages in identified communities, such as radio, and street theatre, furthermore the usage of the digital sphere has also been discussed.

Ms Maham (Gender Coordinator) provided input about the details of her work on simplifying law provisions for elected representatives so they can understand their functions and responsibilities in their specific domain.

Meeting ended with the remarks from Mr Iftikhar Khan to carry on the talks from here in the next session.

Participants

1. Mr Anwar Hussain (Executive Director LCAP)
2. Mr Iftikhar Alam Khan (Advisor, Communication & Outreach, GIZ)
3. Mr Hamid Mansoor (GIZ)
4. Ms Maham Ahmed (Gender Coordinator and Minority Inclusion Coordinator)
5. Mr Umar Imtiaz Rana (Communications & IT Coordinator)
6. Ms Zaib Un Nisa (Chairman WDLCAP, DC Kasur)
7. Ms Syeda Shahida (Member DC Jehlum - WDLCAP)
8. Ms Shugufta Hussain (Member DC, Leyyah - WDLCAP)
9. Ms Ume Kulsum Sial (Member DC Muzzafargarh - WDLCAP)
10. Ms Khalida Iqbal (Member DC Rahim Yar Khan - WDLCAP)
11. Ms Nasreen Anwar (Member MC Bahawalpur - WDLCAP)



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