
Annual Review 2008

Paramaribo, January 2009
Participation
Approximately 80 participants attended the Annual Review & Planning meeting on the 3rd & 4th of December 2008 in Lalla Rookh Conference Hall. Apart from the implementers who had submitted and executed projects in 2008, there were also new implementers who are interested to contribute to the key policy areas for 2009.

Welcome and Opening
The opening speech was delivered by Ms. Natasha Halfhuid (Coordinator of the UN – Desk) from the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation. The opening remark was done by Mr. Thomas Gittens from the UNDP on behalf of Dr. Marcia. de Castro, the UN Resident Coordinator.

Mr. Rene van Dongen, UNICEF Representative for Suriname and Mr. Thomas Gittens also addressed the participants. Mr. van Dongen gave a brief presentation on the process of the C-CPAP and laid out the main responsibilities of each partner within the framework of cooperation. Mr. T. Gittens addressed the implementation overview of the HACT procedures.

Review of projects implemented under the GOS/UN C-CPAP 2008
This was the first year of the implementation of the AWPs. The AWPs 2008 were signed on 23rd of July, which resulted in the late start to implementation of the projects. One of the reasons for the late signing included not only adjusting to the new programme cycle but also to the new process, by all relevant parties.

For 2008, a total of 8 AWPs were signed:
- AWP 1: Policy planning and monitoring
- AWP 3: Labour market initiatives
- AWP 4: Sustainable natural resource planning and management
- AWP 5: Human rights
- AWP 8 + 11: Health and HIV
- AWP 9: Education
- AWP 10: Social protection and services

The project coordinators of the lead ministries responsible for the different AWPs gave a brief presentation outlining the achievements; what was not achieved; the follow-up activities; the factors affecting implementation and the recommendations. See below for a summary of the review.

The overview of the GoS UN programme of cooperation was conducted in group sessions. Implementers were divided into eight working groups lead by the project coordinators and the UN task team leaders. Within these workgroups four main questions were necessary: ‘(1) List the 2 main obstacles that hampered implementation in 2008’; ‘(2) How can these obstacles be overcome?’; ‘(3) What linkages do you see between the different projects (AWPs)’ and ‘(4) How can they be strengthened?’.

Below is a summary of the outcomes of the main bottlenecks highlighted by the project coordinators and the implementers during the working group sessions and as outlined in the review presentations of the project coordinators and followed by the recommendations.

Main obstacles:
- The late signing of the AWPs hampered the implementation of the projects
- Lack of capacity within the ministries (limited human resources)
- Lack of clarity on procedures at the beginning of the process
- Lack of adequate coordination and monitoring
- Lack of unified formats for submitting project proposals and submitting progress reports (including financial data). With the implementation of the HACT, the current bottlenecks will be minimized.
- Lack of good communication. The communication between the UN, the lead ministries and the implementers needs to be improved. This can be done by referring to the monitoring & evaluation guidelines outlined in the C-CPAP.
- Some projects were placed under the wrong AWP
- The planning of some projects was unrealistic (referring to time period)

Possible linkages between the different projects (AWPs):
- Capacity problem is crosscutting
- Create the possibility for more collective planning meeting to exchange information
- The use of Dev Info by all relevant ministries. The ministry of Health, Education and Agriculture are interested in a follow – up training to implement this program within their ministry.

Recommendations:
- Early planning leads to early signing of the AWPs at the beginning of every year
- The need for improvement of collaboration between all relevant partners
- Qualified staff is needed
- Awareness on ownership/leadership of the AWPs
- During the planning process the achievement of the outputs and outcomes, as defined in the C-CPAP, should always be strictly followed to place projects within the AWPs
- Establishment of a Monitoring and evaluation unit within the ministries
- Clarification on M&E procedures
- Time table to map out M&E
- Procedures according to agreed guidelines of the C-CPAP
- Appoint a fixed period in which implementers should receive response after having submitted the proposals

General important feedback received during the review discussion:
Signing of the AWPs by the UN Resident Coordinator, Dr. Marcia. de Castro, on behalf of the UN agencies is not possible for the Unicef.
- It is preferable to ask the implementers to submit project ideas instead of project proposals in the month December 2008, considering the amount of time available before the signing of the AWPs.
- The implementers should send one pagers of their project ideas for discussion to the lead ministries and the UN representatives for the upcoming year.

Results achieved in terms of project implementation and finance (estimate)
Below is a general table which outlines the committed amounts per AWP, the total projects of the AWPs, what is executed or not and what will roll – over to 2009. Furthermore, the total amount of projects executed in 2008 is mentioned as well as in terms of percentages. Noteworthy is that this information is still in draft. Some of the implementers are still in the process of finalizing and liquidating of their projects. It is expected to receive the final information before the end of February 2009.
### General comments on the Review AWPs 2008

- The contribution of the Government specifically of the ministries should be made more visible for the upcoming years (starting in 2009). This can be done through contributing for the projects that the ministries wish to implement. These activities must be part of the national budget.
- Early planning of future projects should be made visible in the second quarter of the year. This will have to be an agreement between PLOS, the rest of the lead ministries and the UN because the contribution is one of the important factors for achieving the outputs and outcomes as defined in the C-CPAP.