Strategic Programmatic Engagement at the State Level

Background

Government of India (GOI) played a key role in shaping the global development agenda through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and is taking the lead in localizing the implementation of the SDGs. For the SDGs to be met in India, successful implementation in the states is imperative.

Supported by the enhanced devolution of untied funds to states by the 14th Finance Commission (from 32% to 42%), Indian states are increasingly pursuing innovative models of development customized to state specific conditions. While they now have greater room to exercise discretion and opportunities to invest in their development agenda, they are equally, grappling with challenges of implementation, reach and quality of service delivery to the ‘final mile’. The UNDP partnership with the government (both at the centre and in the states), presents an opportunity to help address the challenges in SDGs’ implementation and poverty reduction efforts of the states.
About the Project

The project on Strategic Programmatic Engagement at the State Level is positioned as an intervention to strengthen capacities and institutions of state governments to support the large and scalable programmes and projects they implement. The project specifically aims to a) strengthen technical, institutional and operational capacities in states in the implementation of key priorities under both centrally sponsored schemes and state funded programmes; b) support implementation of scalable ideas and integrated large scale projects for poverty reduction and ‘final mile’ impact using the Development Support Services (DSS) provision agreed in the GOI–UNDP Country Programme Action Plan 2013–17; c) make available a platform to the states for sharing good practices and innovative development solutions; d) forge new partnerships for development; and e) strengthen UNDP’s presence in and outreach to the states.

Developments so far

- Advocacy outreach on SDGs has been expanded to 18 states
- SDGs visioning and implementation support has been rolled out in three states and the North East Region
- State coordination mechanism has been put in place in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Odisha, Maharashtra and the North East. By end 2016, UNDP is expected to have coordination mechanisms in place in 15 states. This aims to strengthen state outreach, closer engagement and faster response to state development priorities
- All states have reached out for DSS
- Twenty-nine DSS agreements have been signed with seven central ministries and 12 state governments. The areas of partnership include energy efficiency, disaster risk reduction, rural and urban sanitation, rural livelihoods, health care, skilling and entrepreneurship development, financial literacy and inclusion, outreach and communication etc
- Technical assistance has been provided to and thematic consultations supported in seven states for proposal design, development and leveraging of resources
- Aggregated budget analysis of seven national flagship schemes has been undertaken and state profiles prepared for four states and the North East
- State fact sheets and information kits have been prepared for communications and advocacy purposes
- Results, innovation and stories of change have been documented from 12 UNDP projects through a series of web stories, photo blogs, videos and social media content. This has resulted in adding over 10,000 followers and 3 million impressions on twitter
- States specific innovations and best practices documentation is underway

Looking to the future

- Support SDGs visioning, planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring in as many states as possible
- Continue outreach to the states through DSS and make available targeted technical assistance for integrated and large scale proposal development
- Bring on board integrated development solutions, high impact scalable and sustainable solutions and innovations
- Fast track response to states’ emerging development priorities and roll out scalable, integrated and impactful projects through DSS
- Facilitate new partnerships, especially with the private sector
- Make available a robust platform for sharing state-wide best practices and innovations

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