

File Note: Meeting between TLO, AusAID, Netherlands Embassy

Date: 3 November 2011

Time: 10.00am

Location: Netherlands Embassy Kabul

Participants:

TLO: Masood Karokhail, Susanne Schmeidl, Tawab Stanikzai

Netherlands Embassy: s.33(a)(iii)

AusAID: Sophie Temby

- 1) **Research.** At the previous meeting (24/10/11) donors said they would like TLO to continue with the provincial updates on a quarterly basis. As discussed and minuted from the previous meeting, donors do not seek other research products to continue.
Action: Donors asked TLO to develop budget revision, reflecting the reduction in research activities, for discussion with donors
- 2) **Peace building.** Donors thanked TLO for the information TLO provided on peace building activities on 31/10/11. Donors said that overall they would not seek TLO to continue with peace building activities. TLO said that they disagreed with this, and said donors should conduct an evaluation of the peace building component of the contract. Donors said that their evaluation of peace building activities had been made in the context of TLO's underperformance for the overall contract. Netherlands further noted that while arguments for peace building activities were valid, interventions were still on a very exploratory level and not a priority for them.
 - TLO said to withdraw from peace building activities would require an exit strategy, as staff were employed and activities were ongoing. Donors agreed to be flexible with the timing of the exist strategy, noting that existing activities could continue (though new initiatives should not commence). Furthermore the Netherlands asked TLO to be upfront in communications with counterparts that peace building work would stop.
Action: Donors asked TLO to develop exit strategy and budget revision for peace building activities for discussion with donors
- 3) **M&E:** Donors agreed with TLO's preference to maintain a sectoral approach to M&E, noting that further discussions on scope and methods were required. AusAID said that while the information TLO had provided in the current draft M&E report was not sufficient as a baseline, it did provide some useful information. AusAID suggested TLO could finalise the report (including information on villages sampled and the number of questionnaires, on receipt of further written feedback from donors, and noting the limitations in the methodology). Donors and TLO then could then have further discussions (including with the new TLO project manager) on scope, methods and indicators. AusAID also noted that TLO's issues with M&E should have been raised with donors earlier and requested in any future instances, that issues that may impact on the timeliness of deliverables be raised in a more timely manner.
Action: Donors to provide feedback to TLO to finalise current M&E information in to a report

Action: TLO to provide revised questionnaires and email discussion points for M&E – to be discussed in meetings with donors (in either Kabul and/or Tarin Kowt)

4) Next steps

- Donors acknowledged TLO's email that any changes to the agreement would need to be agreed in writing by donors and TLO. Donors asked TLO to develop a revised budget proposal, based on the discussed revisions to the scope of services (i.e. reduction in research to provincial updates, an exit strategy and cessation of peacebuilding activities, a continuation of sectoral based M&E), for discussions with donors on 22 or 23 November

- ~~TLO said they would first like to discuss the option of completely ending the contract, which they will discuss and revert back to donors.~~

Action: TLO to advise donors of their decision (whether to end the contract, or negotiate a revision to the scope of services and budget).

5) Update on action items arising from 24/10/11 meeting

- TLO to attempt to submit missing reports ASAP (Revision of ALP, Revision of Transport, Revision of Tirin Kot Report); Deh Rawud and Chora District Profile, Annual report. – still outstanding
- TLO to ensure that future products are on time, and that quarterly updates do occur on a quarterly basis. – ongoing
- Better engagement on product content in the conceptual data where donor can outline their expectations clearly. – ongoing
- Donor to forward comments on last TLO update. – sent 25/10/2011
- TLO to improve clarity in reports of what is community perception, vs. TLO analysis/opinion (footnotes alone are not enough). – ongoing
- TLO to submit short paper outlining key lessons learned and why it wants to stay with current focus on sectoral monitoring. – received 30 October 2011
- TLO to submit changed questionnaires with note on which questions are too difficult to pursue. – ongoing
- TLO to submit short statement justifying the significance and value of their peacebuilding work, incl. demonstrating that they are not overlapping with other programs. – received 31/10/11
- Donor defers decision on TLO's peacebuilding program after reviewing statement, plus TLO's revised peacebuilding plan that was sent on the day of this meeting – discussed 3/11/11.