

DRAFT

Terms of Reference LCG Aid Effectiveness Working Group

Background

The Government of Bangladesh (GOB) and development partners meet regularly to discuss development issues in Bangladesh through the Local Consultative Group (LCG) mechanisms. The basis for the discussions is the national strategy for poverty reduction and other sectoral strategies and policies. The LCG structure include an annual high level Bangladesh Development Forum, GoB-DP LCG Plenary meetings plus around 20 LCG Working Groups in various sectors and priority areas.

GoB and partners have agreed to change the previous JCS Working Group into a new LCG Aid Effectiveness Working Group (LCG AE WG) to support the implementation of the JCS Action Plan and other related aid effectiveness tasks. The main thrust of the JCS is to implement the Paris and Accra commitments in country over the coming years.

Objectives

The objective of the LCG Aid Effectiveness Working Group is to contribute towards effective and coordinated implementation of national policies, strategies and plans on aid effectiveness in Bangladesh through joined up expected results and a monitoring framework. The main principles and actions, as outlined in the JCS 2010, are drawn from the Paris Declaration 2005 and the Accra Agenda for Action 2008.

Scope of Work

The specific scope of work includes:

- **support and monitor the implementation of the Joint Cooperation Strategy Action Plan**, under the supervision of the ERD Secretary and the DP LCG Excomm. The group provides a common platform for GoB-DPs to discuss how to make the Paris and Accra commitments real in Bangladesh. It will also take into account relevant international experiences on aid effectiveness and seek ways to move towards a more effective aid dialogue and coordination in Bangladesh.
- **promote harmonisation and alignment of activities** to enhance aid effectiveness, avoid duplication and encourage complementarity in programming; provide feedback to the government, concerned agencies, and the main LCG;
- **report to GoB and the LCG Excomm and Plenary** on progress and constraints in the achievement of goals set by GoB and DP's on aid effectiveness and outlined in a joined up JCS Action Plan,
- contribute to **ensuring mutual monitoring and accountability** with GoB and amongst development partners for their engagement on aid effectiveness and the specifically the JCS Action Plan ;

- **facilitate common understanding** and integration of aid effectiveness policies, approaches and efforts of development partners; this would include an inventory of GoB and donor activities in the sector to be updated regularly;
- **coordinate with relevant LCG Sub/Working Groups**, and,
- lead in **communication and disseminating best practice** in operational approaches/practices with demonstrable, measurable and effective impact.

Joint Cooperation Action Plan

The Aid Effectiveness WG's activities are steered by the JCS Action Plan. The key elements in the plan are based on Paris and Accra commitments and are framed with "expected outcomes/results, targets/indicators, milestones and planned actions". The JCS Action Plan will be monitored regularly and progress will be reported to ERD Secretary and LCG Excomm.

Membership

Members of the Aid Effectiveness Working Group are representatives of GoB and self-selected development partners with an interest to work towards improved aid effectiveness. In addition to the regular members, resource persons and consultants will be invited from relevant organisations/agencies as appropriate.

Organisational Set-Up

ERD's National Coordinator for the JCS leads the AE WG and the group is based within the ERD Aid Effectiveness Unit (AEU). The group is able to draw human and financial resources from the UN managed Aid Effectiveness Multi-Donor Fund, co-funded by Denmark, Sweden and the UK. The working group's Terms of Reference will be reviewed and revised as appropriate and at least every second year.

Functioning of the Aid Effectiveness Working Group

The working group will prepare and monitor **JCS Action Plan** with clear responsibilities, calendar and outputs. The working group will meet monthly or more often if required. Draft minutes will be circulated to all members after each meeting. The members that are not able to attend any or all of the meetings of the working group will be kept informed of the proceedings of the meetings and their inputs and suggestions will be solicited as feasible.

The working groups may adopt member(s) from outside the full member agencies where expertise and technical input is needed. Formal and informal activities to strengthen the functioning of the working group might be conducted.

The working group will have an action-oriented results character, and will utilise small thematic **task teams** to help achieve its objectives. These would be based on topics of relevance and may have short or long-term lives.

LCG AE WG Task Teams

Task Teams	Members	Comments
JCS Action Plan Core Team	ERD AEU, DFID plus some other interested donors.	Meets frequently to ensure all plans and activities are moving forward as plans. Communicates with ERD Sec and Excomm informally.
LCG Restructuring – Dev. Results Framework team	ERD AEU, WB, DFID, Sweden, EU plus other interested donors	Liaise with LCG WGs, ERD and GoB internally
GoB Aid Management Review and Policy Preparations	ERD AEU, FABA, IMED, GED and Finance Division plus DFID, EU	Ongoing
GoB internal JCS/Aid Effectiveness awareness	ERD AEU	Various workshops for GoB Focal Points planned
GoB Project Approval Process	ERD AEU	<i>Finalised</i> , with Planning for follow up
Bangladesh Development Forum Follow Up	ERD AEU, DFID UNRC/UNDP; supported by others as appropriate	BDF Action Points follow up
Civil Society Engagement – inclusive partnership team	ERD AEU, DFID, EU, USAID supported by others as appropriate	
Paris Dec. Evaluation - DAC Survey task team	ERD AEU, JICA, DFID, EU and Consultant	Close contact with PD Eval consultants and Core Team

Other Options?

- **Harmonisation/D/L? EU plus task team?**
- **PFM interface team? Link to SPEMP (WB)**