



An NGO Perspective:

Bidding for and Implementing an ADB-Financed Contract

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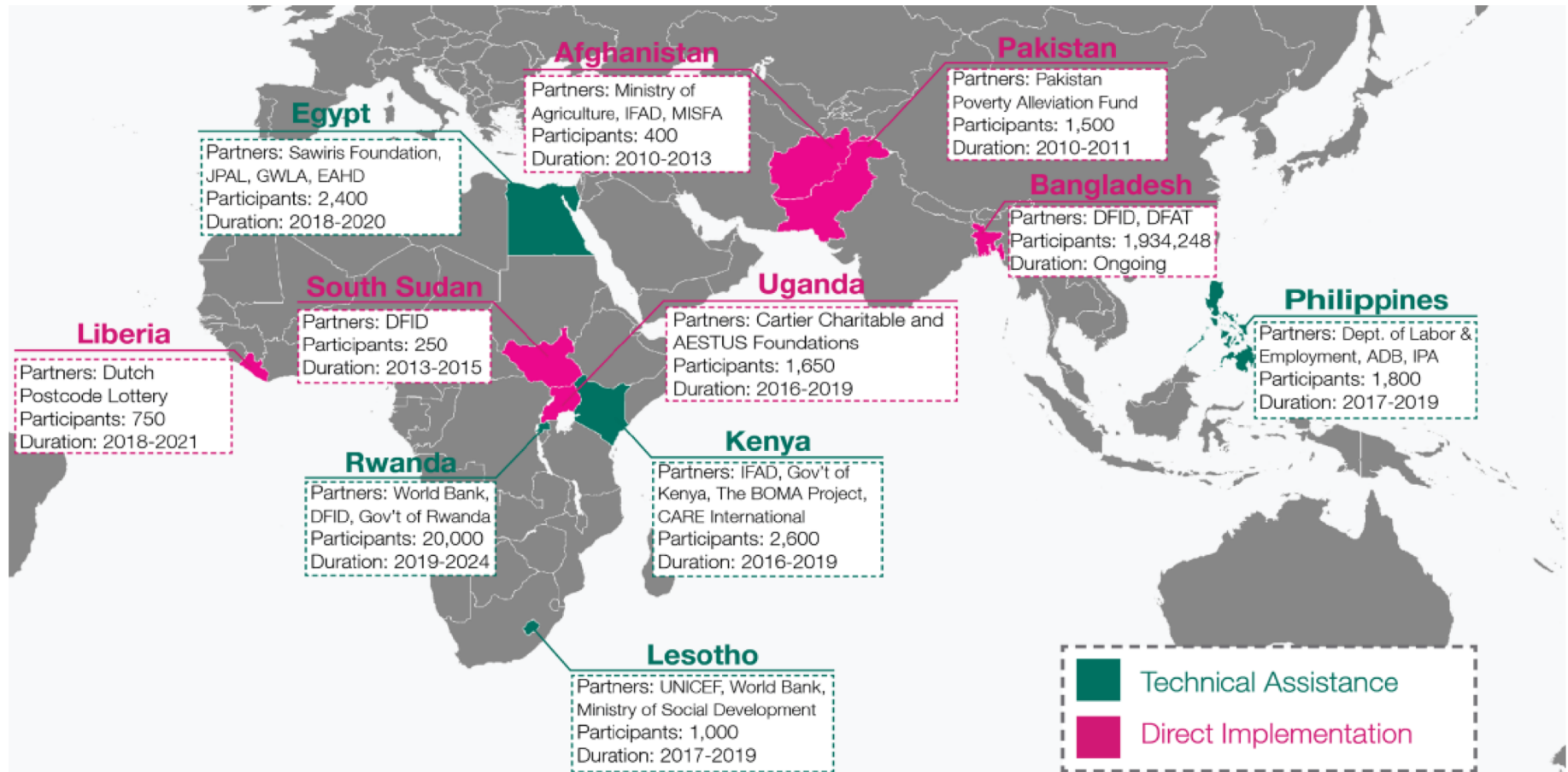
BRAC Ultra-Poor Graduation Initiative

ABOUT BRAC

Founded in Bangladesh in 1972, today BRAC reaches
120 million people in 11 countries worldwide.



BRAC ULTRA-POOR GRADUATION



DOLE GRADUATION PROGRAM

Program Details

Implementer: Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)

Partners:

- Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
- Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)
- Local Government Units of Victorias, EB Magalona, Silay, Talisay and Murcia

Timeline : 2018-2019

Location : 32 Barangays across 5 Municipalities in Negros Occidental

Target Population: 1800 participants

Objectives:

- Effectively target the poorest and most vulnerable households
- Apply coaching and mentorship to sustainable livelihoods model
- Strengthen monitoring systems within government programs
- Collaborate interministerially between DOLE and DSWD
- Test group coaching and livelihoods for relative trade-offs in cost and program impact



Engagement with Asian Development Bank

BENEFITS OF ENGAGEMENT WITH ADB

Poverty Reduction

- Strong commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals
- Shared mission to eradicate extreme poverty
- Regional footprint of an agent of scale in Asia

Government Capacity Building

- Investment in government social protection programs for poverty reduction
- Provision of technical assistance and capacity building to governments

Innovation

- Joint goal to implement the Graduation Approach in Philippines
- Desire to experiment with innovation in implementation

CURRENT ENGAGEMENT WITH ADB



Technical Assistance

- Expression of Interest
- Proposal Submission
- Contract Negotiation
- Inception Mission
- Contract Delays
- Contract Transition
- Contract Delivery

NGO & Civil Society Center

- Proposal Submission
- Contract Negotiation
- Contract Delivery

Contract Experience

OBSERVATIONS- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Strengths

- Capable technical team in ADB able to help forge strong partnership with government ministries
- Provided flexibility to shape and refine program design as needed
- Leveraging of resources across ADB funds to apply to project and research
- ADB staff responsive to needs during budgeting and contract processes



OBSERVATIONS- TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE



Challenges

- Frequency of budgetary submissions for disbursements and reimbursables
- Complexity of contract variations for normal adjustments in contract (e.g. change of personnel, flights, etc.)
- Static budget line items restrictive
- Advance approvals required for budget; time-consuming for routine requests
- Long processing time for disbursements
- More personnel time causes higher costs to engage

OBSERVATIONS- DIRECT IMPLEMENTATION

Strengths

- Relative speed of contract approval
- Use of online system reduces potential for misuse of funds.
- Greater control over usage of funds; no need for line item repeat approvals as lump-sum contract provided
- Quicker disbursement than government

Challenges

- CMS difficult to use for first time users
- Justification issues for typical management and admin overheads
- Need for contingency allowance
- Funds tightly earmarked for singular purpose not overall program execution
- Insufficient personnel to keep pace with ADB requirements and processes

Key Takeaways

KEY TAKEAWAYS & TIPS

1. Time consuming processes require greater dedication of personnel time, increasing costs of engagement in spite of constrained budgets. Factor in additional time and budget for management and administration needs at the outset to ensure compliance and timely submission of deliverables to trigger payments.
2. NGO systems typically not very compatible with TA consulting process at ADB which can make systems learning difficult. Submit inquiries early and often to revisit requirements with ADB compliance staff.

KEY TAKEAWAYS & TIPS

3. NGO systems slightly more compatible with NGOC processes and steps which can facilitate greater understanding of how to comply. Ensure project needs matching type of funding source accurately and sufficiently flexibly; support needed from ADB.
4. Build on existing technical expertise within ADB as support.
5. Leverage ADB relationships within government to strengthen program ties at central and local levels.

KEY TAKEAWAYS



Have patience to navigate through the ADB system and requirements to reap the considerable benefits of engaging towards poverty reduction!

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