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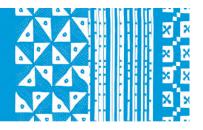
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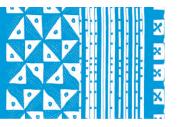31. MDG-Fund, "Joint Programme Monitoring Report: Gender Equality and Women

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A) Parallel fund management: This fund management option is likely to be the most effective and efficient when the interventions of participating UN organizations are aimed at common results, but with different national, sub-national and/or international partners. Under this option, each organization manages its own activities within the common work plan and the related budget, whether from Regular or Other Resources.

Pooled fund management: This fund management option is likely to be the most effective and efficient when participating UN organizations work for common results with a common national or sub-national partner (e.g. Department, provincial office, NGO) and/or in a common geographical area. Under this option, participating UN organizations pool funds together to one UN organization, called the Managing Agent, chosen jointly by the participating UN organizations in consultation with the (sub-national partner (elements to be considered in the selection of the MA are listed in Annex B, paragraph B.6).

B) The Managing Agent is accountable for supporting the (sub-)national partner in managing the joint programme in line with the common work plan, specifically for timely disbursement of funds, and supplies and for coordinating technical inputs by all participating UN organizations. The MA also follows up with the (sub-) national partner on implementation, and is accountable for narrative and financial reporting to the joint programme coordination mechanism. The MA may engage in resource mobilization for the joint programme, in consultation with government and participating UN organizations.

C) Pass-through fund management: Under this option, two or more organizations develop a joint programme,, identify funding gaps and submit a joint programme document to donor(s). If the donor(s) and participating UN organizations agree to channel the funds through one participating UN organization, then the pass-through modality applies. The UN organization channelling resources, hereinafter called the Administrative Agent (AA) will be selected jointly by all participating UN organizations in consultation with Government (elements to be considered in the selection of the AA are listed in Annex C, paragraph C.4). The common work plan would clearly indicate the activities to be supported by each of the participating UN organizations. The indirect costs to be charged by each organization would be reflected in the respective budgets. The programmatic and financial accountability will rest with the participating UN organizations and (sub-)national partners that would be managing their respective components of the joint programme.

The pass-through mechanism may also be used as a funding mechanism in broad national level planning and resource mobilization processes, most commonly for special Trust Funds approved for emergency purposes. In such cases, unless there is common work plan around specific results, the pass-through is used as a funding mechanism but is outside the framework of a joint programme.

Operational details on each of the fund management options are provided in self-standing Annexes A-C. Annexed are also Standard Letter of Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding to be used for the pooling and pass-through fund management options (Annexes F-H).

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[5] Adapted from UNDG Guidance Note on Joint Programming, 2003

Combination of options: Joint programmes may require a combination of fund management options. For example, participating UN organizations might decide to pool funds under a Managing Agent for those parts of a joint programme to be managed jointly, while other parts of the joint programme would be managed through parallel funding, within the overall framework of the joint programme. Where this occurs, it is especially important that participating UN organizations inform each other of source of funds allocated to the joint programme, independent of the fund management option, and conduct any resource mobilization efforts for the joint programme in a coordinated manner.

Under a combination of options, an aggregated/consolidated budget for a joint programme will include resources allocated under each fund management option used for the joint programme. Aggregated / consolidated reporting (both narrative and financial) will likewise include each of the fund management options used in the joint programme.