

Basic Service Delivery Group (BSDG) Performance Report during 2022/2023

The Basic Service Delivery Joint Working Group (BSD JWG) is composed of the Ministry of Finance and development partners providing support to decentralized basic service delivery in Ethiopia. The development partners under the BSD JWG provide substantial financial and technical assistance to basic service delivery in Ethiopia albeit with different sectoral focus and funding instruments.

Current members of the BSD JWG include the Ministry of Finance represented by COPCD, the African Development Bank, the Austrian Development Cooperation Agency, the European Union, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office of the UK, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and the World Bank. The group meets on a bi-monthly basis to follow up program implementation issues and agreed actions and discuss developments in basic services. The current co-chairs of the Group are Mr. Degu Lakew from COPCD/MoF, Ms. Chiara Biffi from the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and Mr. Yoseph Abdissa from the World Bank.

The key accomplishments of the working group in the period July 2022 – June 2023 include:

- **Contributed to the DPG reform processes engaging actively in the development and implementation of the 100 Day Joint Plan of Action:** The group participated in consultations and final workshop aimed at reviewing the functioning of the Development Partners Group which resulted in the development of the DPG 100 Day Joint Plan of Action that proposes a set of measures to improve coherence and building synergies amongs the different components of the framework, including through harmonizing the way of working of the Sector Working Groups. The group productively engaged with the DPG Secretariat in the group's reform processes adopting quickly a number of agreed actions for Sector Working Groups. One of the agreed reforms was the formal inclusion of government counterparts in already formed groups. Accordingly, the BSD group formalized the inclusion of its counterpart in the government, the Ministry of Finance Channel One Programs Coordination Department (CoPCD) into the group and updated the group name to BSDG Joint Working Group. The Working Group also updated its Terms of Reference in line with the template shared by the DPG and started prepared its Annual Work Plan for the EFY 2016, sharing these documents with the Human Development Pillar Coordination Teams.
- **Bi-Monthly BSD JWG meetings.** The group conducted bi-monthly meetings to discuss progress in basic service delivery and challenges in program implementation. The group also provided regular agency updates on priorities and financing/portfolio.
- **Bi-Annual Joint Review and Implementation Support (JRIS) missions.** The group conducted two joint review and implementation support missions with the Ministry of Finance and program implementing sector ministries, agencies and regional representatives in the reporting period. Two JRIS missions were conducted during the year: the first was during November 22-23, 2022 and the second was during June 1-2, 2023. This was preceded by regional workshops across all regions except Tigray and representatives from the BSD JWG participated in some of the regional workshops/pre-JRIS missions. Discussions at both missions focused on the challenges and opportunities of continuing delivering basic services amidst the concurrent challenges the country is facing. Education, health and agriculture sectors were highlighted during the discussions. Strengthening fiduciary issues, resuming service delivery in Tigray and conflict affected areas and the need to reverse the declining trend in the allocation share of basic

service were also among the topics discussed. At the end of the missions, discussions and agreed actions items were documented in Aid Memoires.

The group has faced different challenges in implementing its activities this year:

- The inability to conduct pre-JRIS missions to a number of regions and woredas due to conflict and insecurity limited the BSD JWG's ability to better monitor basic service delivery and the implementation of the Ethiopian Social Accountability program and providing implementation support to sub- national governments. The group was forced to mainly depend on regional government reports.
- Macroeconomic shocks especially inflation continue to exert pressure on program implementation and basic service delivery.
- Over the past three years the government was not able to maintain the commitment of 60% share of its budget to basic services.
- Internal displacement in many regions has affected the smooth delivery of basic services.