



Ministry of Innovation and Technology

Ethiopia Digital Foundation Project

Project No.: P171034

Summary Report on the Awareness Creation Workshop on Basic World Bank Procurement Procedures Organized for the PPC and Endorsing Committees

December 06, 2021

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Contents

Contents.....	2
1. Background	3
2. Prompting Factor for Arranging the Awareness Creation Program.....	3
3. Objectives of the Awareness Creation Program	3
4. Participants of the Awareness Creation	4
5. Presented Topics	4
5.1. Official Opening Remark	4
5.2. Background Information about the Ethiopian Digital Foundations Project (EDFP).....	4
5.3. Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements.....	5
5.4. Environmental and Social Safeguard Issues.	5
5.5. Financial Management Feature of the Project.....	5
5.6. Procurement Management.....	5
6. Discussion	6
6.1. Highlights of the Different Presentations Include:	6
6.2. Major Issues Raised and Discussion Points:	7
7. Major Achievements of the Training and Recommendations	7
8. Annex I. Workshop Schedule	9
9. Annex II. Picture of Some of the Participants	10
10. ANNEX III. List of Participants of the Awareness Creation Workshop.....	11

1. Background

The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Ministry of Finance (MoF), has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Ethiopia Digital Foundations Project. The Digital Foundations project will be financed through an SDR 138.9 million (US\$200 million equivalent) IDA credit that will involve a range of stakeholders through five components having as leading implementing partners the Ethiopian Communication Authority (ECA), Ethiopian Education and Research Network (EthERNet), the Ministry of Peace, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MInT) as the main coordinating and beneficiary institution.

The project is intended to lay the building blocks to develop Ethiopia's digital economy through support to the policy and regulatory environment, improving infrastructure and quality of broadband connectivity and supporting the digitalization of services, and promoting digital entrepreneurship. The project development objective is "to improve Ethiopia's competitiveness in the digital age through increased inclusiveness and affordability of digital services and through digital job creation".

2. Prompting Factor for Arranging the Awareness Creation Program

Since the effectiveness of the project, most of the project activities were delayed mainly due to procurement-related matters. The main factors for the delay of the procurement activities were;

- The late establishment of the Project procurement committee and absence of enthusiasm of the Endorsing Committee to handle the projects' procurement activities
- Lack of understanding on the overall project background and World Bank procurement process and their role of interventions.
- Lack of awareness on the difference between the Government procurement process and the World Bank procurement guideline

3. Objectives of the Awareness Creation Program

The main objective of the two days awareness creation program was to:

- Create understanding about the Project
- Create awareness on the basic World Bank procurement regulations, procedures and working documents

- Make clarity between the World Bank and Government procurement procedures
- Create clear understanding of the role and responsibility of the project procurement and Endorsing committees on the procurement process and underscore the significance of their contribution to the success of the project
- To speed-up the delayed procurement process

4. Participants of the Awareness Creation

The workshop is organized for the Ministry's procurement endorsing committee members, for the project procurement committee members, and other directorates that have direct and/or indirect work relationship with the PIU like finance, property administration, planning, etc. See the list of participants in the annex III.

5. Presented Topics

In this awareness creation workshop, the following topics were discussed. For further details see the annexed timeline of the two days' workshop. The major topics are discussed in brief in the below sub sections.

5.1. Official Opening Remark

The official opening remark was given by H.E. Mrs Huria Ali, State Minister of MInT leading the ICT and Digital Economy sector and chairwomen of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) of the EDFP. The speech focused on giving some background information about the project, the development objectives, the beneficiary institutions, the allocated budget, the role of MInT and the PIU. The state minister also briefed the participants about the aim of the two days training, the significant role of the invited procurement endorsing committee, the project procurement committee, and the responsible departments. She also underlined the necessity of cooperation and teamwork between all involved stakeholders, for the successful implementation of the project.

5.2. Background Information about the Ethiopian Digital Foundations Project (EDFP)

In this section project highlights, descriptions of components, subcomponents, allocated budget, and description of major project activities, Governance of the project, major

achievements made, current status of the Project Implementation and the way forward. Finalized documents such as (PAD, ESMF, POM, FMM, SEP, LMP, SA and PPSD) were also mentioned during the presentation.

5.3. Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements

In this section the main points presented and discussed were the 2014 Annual work plan and budget by Component, Beneficiary Institution, and by Expenditure category. The Project Development Objective Indicators and Targets, Intermediate Result Indicators and Targets and Data Sources for M&E of The Indicators were also the related areas of the presentation.

5.4. Environmental and Social Safeguard Issues.

In this section, the following main topics were presented and have been discussed among the training participants. These include: the anticipated environmental risks/impacts, and recommended mitigation measures, anticipated social risks/impacts and respective mitigation measures, roles, and responsibilities of the E & S specialist at the PIU and focal persons at the beneficiary institutions, the institutional arraignment for the implementation of ESMF and other E & S safeguard instruments.

5.5. Financial Management Feature of the Project

In this section the main points discussed includes the financial management guideline used in the project, objective of financial management, fund flow procedure, World bank disbursement procedure, organizational structure, and responsibility of PIU, budget preparation procedures, accounting arrangements, internal control procedures, financial reporting & auditing, and current financial status of the project.

5.6. Procurement Management

In this section the main points presented and discussed were:

- General principles, management, and procedures of procurement activities under World Bank financed projects.
- Procurement planning, cycle, category and methods, applicable documents & formats and Bank review and thresholds
- Market approach, International Competitive Bidding (ICB) and National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures, rejection of bids/proposals

- Role of different parties in procurement process. ,
- Major differences b/n the government and World Bank procurement procedures.

6. Discussion

As per the plan, a two-day awareness creation program was organized at Debrezait town for the Project Procurement and Endorsing Committees and other departments of the Ministry that have a direct role in the projects' procurement process. A total of 22 participants from the Administration and General Affairs Directorate ,Property, and General Service Directorate, project procurement committee, procurement endorsing Committee, and all PIU staff attended the program.

H.E Mrs Huria Ali, the state minister for the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, and chairman of the project steering committee, has delivered an opening remark and emphasized the significant role of the two committees for the successful achievements of the digital foundations project. In her address she urged each of the committee members to thoughtfully attend the program and play their role, cooperate, and work together with the project implementation unit throughout the implementation period of the project.

Dr. Mesfin Belachew, the director of the Project Implementation Unit, was managing the program and has also made a presentation on the project background. Subsequently, the PIU staff members Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, the Finance Management specialist, Environment and social safeguard specialist and the procurement management specialist delivered presentations on their respective subject areas where the procurement section took most of the time.

6.1. Highlights of the Different Presentations Include:

- Background information about the Ethiopian Digital Foundations Project
- Highlights to the 2014 EC planned activities, and Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements
- Environmental and social safeguard issues.
- Financial Management issues
- Procurement Management Aspect of the Digital Foundations Project
- The Role of the Endorsing Committee in the Digital Foundations Project

6.2. Major Issues Raised and Discussion Points:

- Similarities and differences between single stage and two stage envelopes
- Reasons for procurement process and contract cancellation
- The role of the endorsing committee during cancellation of procurement process and contract
- the inadequate number of procurement staff at the PIU (currently only one); considering the huge responsibility of the procurement specialists in assuring the quality of procurement activities,
- For the procurement activities categorized under prior review, how fast will the reaction of the World Bank be to the number of no objection requests
- The issue of marginal preference in the case of the world Bank procurements
- The issue of direct contracting in the of absence of suppliers after the advertisements for three times.
- The need for establishment of communication framework between the PIU and the procurement and endorsing committees.

7. Major Achievements of the Training and Recommendations

The participation of the attendees was so hot where much time has lapsed for the discussion and clarification. Based on the reaction and feedback of the participants, it is believed that the awareness creation event has achieved its intended purpose mainly:

- It has created clear understanding of the differences between Digital Foundations Project and other programs being implemented in the Ministry
- Clear understanding on the basic differences between the World Bank and the Government procurement process.
- It is also believed that the event has laid foundations for future collaborative works
- It is expected to improve the working relationship and enhance the efficiency of the procurement process.

The participants valued this awareness creation program and recommended the importance of organizing similar type of training with wider procurement concepts, and more training days allocated to it. There should also be a project familiarization workshop where other

departments within the Ministry and other stakeholders could also obtain better understanding of the Digital Foundations the project.

The upcoming training should also be more formal with elements of world Bank procurement on goods, works, consultancy services, non-consultancy services.

8. Annex I. Workshop Schedule

Time	Event	Presenter	Moderator
Day One Tuesday (30/11/2021)			
8:30 AM - 09:00 AM	Registration of Participants		PIU
9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	Official Opening Remark	HE Huria Ali, State Minister	Dr. Mesfin
09:15 AM –9:45 AM	Background information about the Ethiopian Digital Foundations Project	Dr. Mesfin Belachew	Ato Zelalem Tadesse
9:45 AM - 10:30 AM	Highlights to the 5 years project plan and the 2014 EC planned activities, Including Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements	Ato Abiy Tessema	Ato Zelalem Tadesse
10:30 AM – 11:00 AM	Tea Break	Hotel	Hotel
11:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Environmental and social safeguard issues.	W/ro Alemtsehai W/Ab	Ato Zelalem Tadesse
11:30 AM-12:00 PM	Financial Management issues	Ato Hailu Feyera	Ato Zelalem Tadesse
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Discussion	Participants	Dr. Mesfin Belachew
1:00 PM – 2:30 PM	Lunch	Hotel	Hotel
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM	Procurement Management Aspect of the Digital Foundations Project	Ato Zelalem Tadesse	Ato Abiy Tessema
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Tea Break	Hotel	Hotel
4:00 PM – 4:30PM	Discussion	Participants	Dr. Mesfin Belachew

Time	Event	Presenter	Moderator
Day Two, Wednesday (01/12/2021)			
9:00 AM – 9:30 AM	The Role of the Endorsing Committee in the Digital Foundations Project Procurement	Ato Zelalem Tadesse	Ato Abiy Tessema
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Discussion	Participants	Dr. Mesfin Belachew
10:30AM – 11:00 AM	Tea Break	Hotel	Hotel
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Discussion	Participants	Dr. Mesfin Belachew
12:15 PM - 12:30 PM	Closing Remarks	Dr. Mesfin Belachew	Ato Zelalem Tadesse
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM	Lunch	Hotel	Hotel

9. Annex II. Picture of Some of the Participants



10.ANNEX III. List of Participants of the Awareness Creation Workshop

S.N	Name	Postiion	Email
1.	HE Huria Ali	State Minster	huria.ali@mint.gov.et
2.	Abayneh Mulugeta	Director General of Administration Affairs	Abayneh.Mulugeta@mint.gov.et
3.	Mesfin Belachew	PIU Director	Mesfin.Belachew@mint.gov.et
4.	Tesfaye Wedajo	Property & General Service Director	tesfaye.wedajo@mint.gov.et
5.	Ashagre Alemu	Finance Director	Ashagre.Alemu@mint.gov.et
6.	Taye Estifanos	Chair of Endorsing Committee	Taye.Estifanos@mint.gov.et
7.	Seyoum Mengesha	Member of Endorsing Committee	Seyoum.Mengesha@mint.gov.et
8.	Bethelehem Bedilu	Member of Endorsing Committee	Bethelehem.Bedilu@mint.gov.et
9.	Adanech Tujo	Member of Endorsing Committee	Adanech.Tujo@mint.gov.et
10.	Azmach Desalegn	Member of Endorsing Committee	azmach.desalegn@mint.gov.et
11.	Mitiku Girma	Member of Project Procurement	mitiku.girma@mint.gov.et
12.	Fasika Akalemariam	Member of Project Procurement	Fasika.Akalemariam@mint.gov.et
13.	Medina Gashew	Member of Project Procurement	medina.gashew@mint.gov.et
14.	Hailu Feyera	PIU - FM	Hailu.Feyera@Mint.gov.et
15.	Zelalem Tadesse	PIU - PM	Zelalem.Tadesse@Mint.gov.et
16.	Alemtsehay Woldeab	PIU - Environmental	Alemtsehay.Woldeab@Mint.gov.et
17.	Abiy Tessema	PIU – M&E	Abiy.Tessema@Mint.gov.et
18.	Simret Akalu	PIU - Finance	Simret.Akalu@Mint.gov.et
19.	Addis Mekonnen	PR	addis.mekonnen@mint.gov.et
20.	Tirsit Woldegiorgis	Photographer	Trinanigist3@gmail.com
21.	Misrak Berhanu	Office Assistant	Misrak.Berhanu@mint.gov.et
22.	Eyerusalem Birhane	DTP- Finance	Eyerusalem.Birhane@mint.gov.et
23.	Birhanemeskel Chewaka	Driver	
24.	Besufekad Yadesa	Driver of the State Minster	

Ministry of Innovation and Technology (MinT) -Ethiopian Digital Foundation Project (EDFP)
 Awareness creation for Procurement endorsing committee & Shopping Committee at Bishoftu,
 From Nov.30-Dec.1,2021

Participants Attendance Sheet

No	Full Name	Position	Place	Mobile No	E-Mail	Signature
1	H.E. Huria Ali	State Minister	MinT		huriali2002@gmail.com	[Signature]
2	Abayneh Mulageta	Gen. Director	MinT	0911-95582	abaynehmulageta@gmail.com	[Signature]
3	Tesfaye Wadajo	P & GS Director	MinT	0902483653		[Signature]
4	Taye Endimes	Director	MinT	0912170578		[Signature]
5	Ashagre Alemu	Finance Director	MinT			[Signature]
6	Seyoum Mengesha	Director	MinT	091402222		[Signature]
7	Bethlehem Bedilu	Director	MinT	0911673473	bethlehem.bedilu@mint.gov.et	[Signature]
8	Adanech Tujo	Director	MinT	0911682946		[Signature]
9	Asmach Desalegn	Director	MinT	0913616282	Asmach.Desalegn@mint.gov.et	[Signature]
10	Milika Girma	Team Leader	MinT	0957624370	milika.girma@mint.gov.et	[Signature]
11	Facika Akalemariam	Proc. Expert	MinT	0912330951	facika.akalemariam@gmail.com	[Signature]
12	Medina Gashaw	Proc. Expert	MinT	092012323	medinagashaw@gmail.com	[Signature]
13	Dr. Mesfin Belachew	PIU-Director	MinT	0911291462	mesfin.belachew@gmail.com	[Signature]
14	Haile Feyera	PIU-PM	MinT	0921610227	haile.feyera@gmail.com	[Signature]
15	Zelalem Tadese	PIU-PM	MinT	090446582	zelalem.tadese@gmail.com	[Signature]
16	Alemtsehay Woldeah	PIU-E&S	MinT	0920322411	alemtsehay.woldeah@gmail.com	[Signature]
17	Abiy Tessema	PIU-M&E	MinT	0911715927	abiy.tessema@gmail.com	[Signature]
18	Simret Akalu	PIU-Finance	MinT	0911-03811	simret.akalu@gmail.com	[Signature]
19	Addis Mekonnen	FR	MinT	0910210281	addis.mekonnen@gmail.com	[Signature]
20	Tirfu Woldegiorgis	FR	MinT	0944738226	tirfu.woldegiorgis@gmail.com	[Signature]
21	Birhanemerkel Chewaka	Driver	MinT	0912421570	birhanemerkel@gmail.com	[Signature]
22	Misrak Berhanu	Office Assistant	MinT	0911223747	misrakberhanu@gmail.com	[Signature]
23	Eyerusalem Birhane	DTP-Finance	MinT	0911 89120	eyerusalem@gmail.com	[Signature]
24	Benzilekad Yadesa	Driver	MinT	0910503775		[Signature]