

## Evaluation of the Commission of the European Union's Co-operation with Nepal Country level evaluation

Recommendations	Responses of Services:	Follow-up (two years later)
<b>GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS: STRATEGY LEVEL</b>		
<p><b>1 – Thematic coverage: The EC should focus on key areas where it is recognised as having extensive experience and where it can provide added value.</b></p> <p>It needs to build on and strengthen the professional expertise which it has in-country in the areas of democracy (elections), human rights, public financial management, peace and stability, and education. It also needs to look in the future at areas where it can provide the highest added value. Potential key areas of focus where the EC has the benefit of global experience are: trade, environment and disaster preparedness.</p> <p>However, the above does not imply an extension of intervention areas. On the contrary, the EC should narrow down its Nepal portfolio, which currently covers a wide range of sub-sectors and includes too many individual interventions.</p>	<p><b><u>Agreed:</u></b></p> <p>In line with the Agenda for Change, the EUD intends to narrow down its intervention to three main focal sectors in the MIP 2014-2020.</p> <p>In <i>Education</i> the EUD has been very active, highly visible and appreciated for years and PFM-related reforms are addressed as a cross-cutting intervention.</p> <p><i>Trade and economic development</i> is a priority of the GON. The EU is seen as a strong and legitimate partner in this sector. Moreover, the sector has good potential to strengthen effective dialogue with the GoN and for strategic partnerships with other donors, including MS.</p> <p>Another potential area of continued intervention is <i>sustainable rural development</i>, linking up agriculture development, nutrition, food security and sustainable livelihoods, which would allow the EUD to provide critical support to the most vulnerable in the country while capitalising on the results and partnerships realised under the Food Facility and other related interventions through the FSTP (food security and nutrition). It will also allow the EUD to be both present at the central level through continued dialogue with the GoN as well as the district and community levels through concrete interventions.</p> <p><i>Governance</i>, including elections, human rights issues,</p>	<p>On the basis of a proposal by the EUD, the programming for the next MIP has narrowed down the EU's intervention to three focal areas where we can build on prior experience and have developed a comparative advantage: education, rural development and governance.</p> <p>The EUD is also using the thematic budget lines and NSA programme in particular more strategically to develop complementary activities in the three chosen focal areas.</p> <p>Trade and economic development, on which the EU is seen as a strong and legitimate partner, will be addressed under the regional programme.</p> <p>Other important issues such as environment, climate change, gender and disaster risk reduction are being mainstreamed in most areas of intervention.</p>

	<p>peace and stability are also important areas where the EU is present and has built internal capacity and international recognition.</p> <p>Some of these areas can continue to be tackled under the EIDHR as well as the remaining implementing period of the on-going support to the NPTF programme. Moreover, the EUD will use the thematic budget lines and programmes more strategically in the three key sectors selected for the MIP.</p> <p>Important issues such as environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction will be mainstreamed in most areas of intervention.</p>	
<p><b>2 - Productive sector: The EC should increase the support to productive sectors, particularly in rural areas so as to strengthen the economic impact of the EC interventions.</b></p> <p>There are untapped opportunities within the concentration areas to increase support to productive sectors, so as to strengthen the economic impact of the EC interventions. This could be done by the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consider funding and/or implementing specific interventions to increase food security and rural incomes.</li> <li>2. Support SMEs in Trade-Related Assistance, addressing supply constraints and increasing their competitiveness. Strengthen the linkages between trade and environment, as well as trade and poverty.</li> <li>3. Work with GoN on policies to strengthen the private sector and provide incentives to ensure that women, poor and excluded people benefit from their</li> </ol>	<p><b><u>Agreed:</u></b></p> <p>Under the Food Facility, support was provided to vulnerable communities in food insecure areas in the Mid and Far West. Income generating activities were the development of cash crops (mainly vegetables and spices), the provision of technical (agro-vets) and vocational training (sewing, carpentry, bicycle repairing, etc.), increased access to micro-funding as well as start up support (cash and in-kind). This strategy is being pursued under the on-going IDE project funded under the FSTP (see below section 13).</p> <p>The EUD is planning to link up trade and agriculture development to help the country capitalise better on the strong export potential of several agricultural products by strengthening the supply response through a value chain approach. This will be done namely through the forthcoming programme on trade and private sector development. This link could also be further supported under the future MIP, for instance at the community level targeting vulnerable, food insecure populations in remote areas. Finally, a EUR 10 million regional project to be implemented by ICIMOD in 8 countries in the Hindu-Kush Himalaya Region is being finalised. If approved, pilot activities will be carried out in a collaborative manner to strengthen the resilience of</p>	<p>A new project to support trade capacity and private sector development, including a value chain component, was launched in 2013 under the trade focal area of the ongoing MIP. The purpose of the programme is to enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Commerce and Supplies and related agencies in the formulation, implementation and coordination of trade policy (including through improved trade statistics), trade negotiations and trade promotion; to strengthen the system of quality infrastructure, particularly the institutional capacity for sanitary and phytosanitary standards and technical barriers to trade; and to support value chain development with a specific focus on coffee.</p> <p>Agriculture and food security have been included in the Rural Development focal sector for the upcoming MIP (2014-2020). Under this focal sector, the Delegation will support the implementation of the GoN Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) that is focusing heavily on productivity, commercialization and competitiveness. The Delegation also contributed to the TA that drafted the ADS.</p> <p>Specific interventions under the coming focal sector are under identification, but they will be directly contributing to food security and rural incomes, while linking private sector actors with smallholder farmers, including women, poor and excluded people.</p> <p>The 10 MEUR International Centre for Integrated Mountain</p>

<p>interventions.</p> <p>4. Work with GoN to develop policies that include tax incentives and systems to promote women-led businesses and enterprises.</p>	<p>mountain people in vulnerable areas through the delivery of services and products that will improve their livelihood opportunities and will ensure the sustainable management of natural resources. Evidence-based, good practices learnt from the project will naturally feed into future project design.</p>	<p>Development (ICIMOD) was launched in 2013.</p> <p>Furthermore, agriculture was included as one of the priorities for the NSA-LA call in 2013, with an allocation of 1.4 million EUR and prioritizing productivity and commercialization.</p>
<p><b>3 - Policy dialogue: The EC should increase the policy dialogue with national stakeholders, including both the GoN and Non State Actors.</b></p> <p>The EC needs to engage more confidently in policy dialogue with national stakeholders.</p> <p>It has the choice between providing the adequate human resources necessary to engage in effective dialogue in these areas and a closer working relationship with other DPs that are currently active in these areas. Of course, one option does not exclude the other.</p> <p>The EC should also further develop the dialogue mechanisms with the Non State Actors.</p>	<p><b>Agreed:</b></p> <p>Since end 2010 the Delegation plays an increasingly role on donor coordination. The EU now is the leading donor on PFM and elections, and since July 2012 it will also be the donor focal point on Education. On Peace and Stability we are also taking a central role in most discussions with the government and donors. The EU has also been actively participating in the International Development Partners Group, as well as in Local Donor meetings with the government. Furthermore, since January 2011 the Delegation has been chairing regular EU Development Counsellors meetings. The Delegation is also member of the group supporting civil society. The Delegation will take the local Presidency of the EU Council in July 2012.</p> <p>Dialogue with the NSA has also increased either in the form of specific consultations held with NSAs for setting priorities of the NSA and EIDHR calls, or through the consultations on the new programming cycle for Nepal. On 20 April 2012 the Delegation held a two-day consultation with civil society on a broad range of issues, including the priorities for next programming phase 2014-2020. Suggestions coming out of this consultation are already taken into account while working on the preliminary programme.</p>	<p>The Delegation continues to play an increasingly important role on donor coordination and policy dialogue with national stakeholders on a number of issues. Since mid-2013, the Delegation has taken the Chair of the Nepal Peace Trust Fund donor group and is also Cluster lead for the International Development Partners Group (IDPG) on issues of peace and stability. On elections, we are also taking a central role in discussions with government and donors and are chairing the Election Working Group since September 2012. The Delegation is also engaging increasingly with the government on issues such as migration and co-organised in December 2012 together with the government and IOM the first high-level consultation on migration in Kathmandu.</p> <p>The EU continues to actively participate in meetings of the IDPG, local donor meetings, and is chairing regular EU Development Counsellors meetings. The Delegation also took the local representation of the EU Council in July 2012 and is now organising regular EU Heads of Mission meetings.</p> <p>Dialogue with NSA is ongoing in the form of specific consultations held with civil society to set priorities for Call for proposals, or through consultations on the new programming cycle for Nepal. The Delegation also chairs the EU Working Group on Human Rights Defenders, which directly feeds into discussions and decisions on the EU human rights approach and activities in Nepal.</p>

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS: OPERATIONAL LEVEL		
<p><b>4 – Implementation modalities: The EC should develop the synergies between its various aid modalities and financing instruments and strengthen the role of Non State Actors.</b></p> <p>Complementarities should be sought between geographical thematic instruments.</p> <p>It is also important to consider how capacity building and/or institutional development projects can be financed to complement sector budget support and a sector-wide approach.</p> <p>There is also still room for making better use of the involvement of NSAs</p>	<p><b><u>Agreed:</u></b></p> <p>The EUD started to converge its geographic and thematic instruments. It is done effectively in the <i>education sector</i> (the EUD provides budget support coordinated with the NSA programme) and on <i>elections</i> (NSA programmes on voter education work in close complementarities with support provided to the Election Commission). The EUD also advocates to make the Nepal Peace Trust Fund accessible to the (D)NGOs, f.e. through parallel modalities. In addition, the EUD currently prepares a programme for Capacity Building of the Ministry of Peace for €1.9m, mainly to support the Peace Fund Secretariat Capacity Development Action Plan within the 3-year Capacity Development Strategy.</p> <p>The EUD contributed through a framework contract (DCI-ASIE/2012/ 014-636) to the on-going development of an Agriculture Development Strategy under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture Development (MoAD). Potentially this will pave the way for more structured interventions in this sector. Furthermore in the AAP2013, project on trade and private sector development, will include an important component of capacity building of the Ministry of Commerce and Supplies (MOCS), which should enhance implementation of the overall programme.</p>	<p>Regarding the complementarity between geographic instruments and thematic instruments, the NSA call 2013 was launched with the aim of complementing the education budget support intervention, the future support to agriculture development strategy and the PFM programme (enhancing NSA involvement in the budgetary process). Proposals are being assessed and contracts with NSA will be signed by end of this year.</p> <p>As a cross cutting issue the NSA call included capacity building activities of NSA.</p> <p>EIDHR call for 2013 has also asked implementing partners to make complementary contributions to other programmes at least in the areas of National Action Plan 1325 and 1820. Selection process of the proposals is underway.</p> <p>In 2013, the Nepal Peace Trust Fund has opened a parallel window to pilot funding to NGOs for projects that seek synergies between the Govt. and Non-Govt. initiatives.</p> <p>Regarding the capacity building complement to Budget support, the EU is providing long term TA services since March 2013 through the technical cooperation pool for capacity building of the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (NPTF).</p> <p>In the education sector the Delegation is actively working with other partners and the government on capacity building (see recommendation 11).</p>
<p><b>5 – Implementation capacity :</b> The EC, and particularly the EUD, should align its own capacity with the objectives set in its strategy, and thus continue to consolidate them.</p> <p>As soon as the political conditions improve and Nepal benefits from a stable and fully endorsed and accountable government, the EC should also give a greater role to national stakeholders in the design and implementation of its co-</p>	<p><b><u>Agreed:</u></b></p> <p>The three intervention areas in the next MIP should be aligned with the capacities of the Delegation.</p> <p>The EUD is prepared - in coordination with HQ - to consultations with the GoN, development partners/UN agencies and civil society respectively on the MIP 2014-2020. Moreover, significant efforts will continue to ensure full compliance between the latter and the National Development Plan, which is regarded by the EUD as the main reference policy document.</p>	<p>Reorganisation of the Delegation's limited resources is a gradual task as ongoing programmes reach their final stages and departing colleagues are replaced by profiles more adapted to the narrower focus on three future focal areas. The objective of the Delegation is to have by 2014 at least a permanent CA position, if possible working jointly with a LA, in each of the 3 focal areas of the future MIP. 2 CA positions on PFM and Private Sector Development/Trade have also been secured.</p> <p>The EUD in coordination with HQ – has undertaken consultations with the GoN, development partners/UN agencies and civil society respectively on the MIP 2014-2020.</p>

operation strategy.		<p>Consultations will be continued on the occasion of the second Programming visit by EEAS-DEVCO planned for January 2014.</p> <p>Moreover, we have ensured full alignment between the future MIP and the National Development Plan, which is regarded by the EUD as the main reference policy document.</p>
<b>SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS</b>		
<p><b>6 - Reduced social exclusion:</b> Continue community-level project interventions through local organisations, with increased resources for livelihood support and a stronger, more focused results-based approach.</p>	<p><b><u>Agreed:</u></b> The EIDHR call of 2012 has specifically prioritised: Combating discriminations based on caste, disability, ethnicity and gender and promoting economic, social and cultural rights. In order to continue community level project interventions the call is divided into 2 LOTs and the LOT-I has aimed at supporting community level actions. Livelihood support, initially proposed as one of the priorities of the EIDHR 2012 call, was not accepted by DEVCO HQs. We reformulated the proposed guidelines to include livelihood support as a means to rights promotion rather than as a goal in itself of the interventions. Future actions will be increasingly more results oriented.</p>	<p>A strong focus on livelihoods at community level will be undertaken through the Rural Development focal area in the upcoming MIP (2014-2020). Specific interventions under this focal area build on already ongoing interventions that directly or indirectly provide address livelihood support, such as a €4 million NGO project to improve food security and nutrition of some poor and vulnerable households.</p> <p>The EIDHR call of 2013 has also specifically prioritised combating discriminations. In line with last year and also in order to continue community level project interventions the call is divided into 2 LOTs and the LOT-I has aimed at supporting community level actions. For the EIDHR calls, specific livelihood support is not acceptable by DEVCO HQs. We have retained a formulation in the guidelines that includes livelihood support as a means to rights promotion rather than as a goal in itself of the interventions.</p>
<p><b>7 - Strategic framework (for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion):</b> The EUD should develop a strategic framework for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI), and GESI-related projects should take into account this in their intervention approach.</p>	<p><b><u>Disagreed:</u></b> The EUD does not agree on a strategic framework as these areas are sufficiently covered through numerous interventions, either as direct objectives or mainstreamed. EUD support is aligned with national priorities and plans (f.e. NAP on Gender, Law against caste discriminations). Although no Gender Coordination Mechanism/Group (GCS) has been established yet in Nepal, the EUD cooperates with UN-Women to mainstream GESI at all government levels: The EU supports the programme “Increasing Accountability in</p>	<p>GESI issues are still mainstreamed in all EUD new interventions.</p> <p>In the EIDHR call for 2013 GESI was prioritized, in particular women's political participation.</p> <p>EUD continues to participate actively in gender fora to coordinate activities with other donors.</p> <p>GESI issues are also being addressed by the EUD in various policy and political dialogues. In the context of ongoing political debate over the elections, the EU Delegation and EU HoMs have consistently expressed the view that the commendably high degree of inclusiveness of the first Constituent Assembly must set the standard for the second Constituent Assembly to ensure</p>

	<p>Financing for Gender Equality” (FfGE), implemented by UN Women in collaboration with ITC/ILO. In addition, the EUD is a member of the Peace Support Working Group that seeks to assist the government with the NAP implementations. Finally, CSO's are systematically consulted on Calls for Proposals, which already take into account GESI.</p> <p>The EIDHR call 2012 also addressed these issues. In April 2012 the Delegation organised an orientation to its project partners on cross-cutting issues. Partners are asked to present disaggregated data in the forthcoming reports.</p>	<p>the preservation of the gains in representation made by women. In political dialogues on the distribution of citizenship certificates and voter registration (including with the Election Commission and the Home Ministry), the EUD has consistently reiterated the importance of a gender-sensitive campaign in which women are not subject to additional obstacles as a result of discriminatory implementation regulations or bureaucratic practices.</p> <p>The MIP for the period 2014-2020 was adopted on 18 August 2014. The MIP does not include an explicit gender country profile but the analytical preparatory work included some analysis on gender issues in the social context. The EUD builds on the expertise and studies (GESI country/district analysis) of other Development Partners such as UN women.</p>
<p><b>8 - Electoral process:</b> The EC should seek opportunities to build capacities for electoral administration and election observation by CSOs for the consolidation of the national system of representative democracy.</p>	<p><b><u>Agreed:</u></b> The EU supports the Election Commission and other electoral stakeholders through the multi donor programme "support to the electoral cycle in Nepal" (implemented by UNDP) and through the Nepal Peace Trust Fund. Furthermore, 2 on-going projects from the NSA call of 2011 – implemented by NEOC and Jagaran Nepal – will address issues of election observation and voter education/outreach.</p>	<p>The multidonor (EU lead donor) capacity building project for elections (electoral support program) includes different capacity building actions for the election commission staff. During this year given the prospects of the election the project has focussed in providing electoral management training for Kathmandu and district based staff.</p> <p>The EUD has funded two projects to support voter education and national observation with two different national NGOs (Jagaran Nepal and NEOC) during the Constituent Assembly of November 2013 Jagaran Nepal has observed the elections in the remote area of Karnali while NEOC has done national wide observation deploying 2,000 short term observers and around 20 long term observers.</p>
<p><b>9 - Human rights:</b> The EC should continue to explore more long-term options for promoting the on-going democratisation process, especially for building accountability with regard to local governments.</p>	<p><b><u>Partially agreed:</u></b> The EIDHR call Guidelines in 2012 prioritises "inclusive democracy and accountability". Nevertheless local governance is unlikely to be included in the 3 areas of intervention. However, under the NSA call we have projects with the NGOs to enhance local governance and accountability. Furthermore, the PFM programme under the AAP2012 will include a component to enhance governance and PFM at the sub-national level, implemented by the ADB.</p>	<p>The EUD will include support to this area in the next MIP within the focal sector on Governance, which will aim to contribute to deepening democracy in Nepal by strengthening fundamental processes and institutions. This will include support for democratisation and domestic accountability through electoral assistance but also through support to legislative bodies and other key institutions for domestic accountability. Complementarily, the MIP should also provide support to Nepal's decentralisation and state restructuring in the context of a new federal state, to ensure quality service delivery to citizens</p>

		<p>at local level.</p> <p>As a complementary activity to the bilateral programme, the EIDHR call for 2013 has also included a lot to foster political participation and accountability at the community level.</p>
<p><b>10 - Judicial sector:</b></p> <p>The EC should consider a more balanced approach. As well as support to public sector institutions, the EC should engage in capacity building of informal justice providers and emerging transitional justice mechanisms.</p>	<p><b><u>Disagreed:</u></b></p> <p>EC support in the past focused on supporting public institutions like the Supreme Court, Nepal Human Rights Commission and the Nepal Bar Association. Given the constraint to focus on 3 sectors only it is not realistic to continue support to government judiciary institutions. However, a project through the NGO International Alert is supporting the capacity of informal justice mechanisms and their links with the formal justice system.</p>	<p>Given the need to limit the intervention sectors under the new CSP/MIP the EUD has decided not to include justice sector as an area of intervention under the geographic program. The sector is being well covered by other donors (namely Dfid, UNDP and Denmark).</p>
<p><b>11 - Capacity building, education sector:</b></p> <p>DPs, together with GoN, should carry out a thorough review of capacity development needs. More generally, DPs and GoN should review both where support is really needed and what sort of support is needed in order to improve education service delivery.</p>	<p><b><u>Agreed:</u></b></p> <p>The SSRP MTR highlighted the importance of Capacity Building. The actions of the MTR aide memoire includes:</p> <p>(i) A 4-year capacity development strategy based on the National CD Framework by November 2012. The strategy will focus on ‘Better Schools, Better Teaching, Better Learning.’</p> <p>(ii) Strengthening of professional support to teachers in schools identified by the DEOs in urgent need of such support in FY 2012/13. This will be enhanced through improved coordination between the schools, SSs/RPs and the NGOs.</p> <p>(iii) Identify jointly technical assistance needs.</p> <p>The joint working group on CD is active and the ADB is commissioning further technical assistance (international and national) to support a review of institutional CD needs and the development of the CD strategy.</p>	<p>(i) A National Capacity Development Framework (NCDF) and CD plan for three years has been prepared and approved. Based on the national CD framework, CD related activities are included in ASIP/AWPB 2012/13 and has been proposed in FY 2013/14</p> <p>(ii) A study was commissioned by MoE to look at Teacher Management and Development in Nepal. A Strategy and Policy Document has been prepared and approved by MoE and a 10-year action plan prepared based on the recommendations from the study. Clear actions are laid out including establishing a comprehensive job description and performance-based management system, introduce a requirement for all teachers to be qualified to B.Ed./BA level, improve the quality of pre-service and in-service training, professional development opportunities, implementation of continuous assessment and child-centred teaching methodologies, as well as more comprehensive in-service training for the RPs and strengthening the role of the resource centers.</p> <p>(iii) The MoE identified some TA needs in the updated CAP presented in the JAR 2013. These included IEMIS development, installation and capacity development on handling/use of program, School mapping, research studies on key issues, identification of individual OOSC on the basis of CBS provided</p>

		<p>data and Literacy assessment. A joint DP/MoE meeting is due to take place w/b 16/09/13 to identify priority TA needs.</p> <p>An Institutional Analysis related to CD was carried out by ADB and published in April 2013 and supports the NCDF.</p>
<p><b>12 - Focus on Trade-Related Assistance (TRA):</b></p> <p>The EC should provide a higher share of the budget to TRA and include the private sector as a direct beneficiary. At the same time, future EC support should be embedded in the multi-donor-supported Nepal Trade Integration Strategy (NTIS of 2010).</p>	<p><b><u>Agreed:</u></b></p> <p>Budget for upcoming project focusing on trade-related assistance set at EUR 8 mio represents an important increase compared to the last project on WTO (EUR 2mio). Furthermore the new project under AAP2013 specifically targets the private sector and capacity building of the Ministry of Commerce and Supplies (MOCS) entrusted by GON to implement NTIS. Trade and economic development might be considered as one of the three areas of the MIP 2014-2020.</p>	<p>The new project to support trade capacity and private sector development was launched in 2013 under the trade focal area of the ongoing MIP (the project was approved by DCI Committee before the summer and the Commission Decision is expected for Autumn). The purpose of the programme is to enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Commerce and Supplies and related agencies in the formulation, implementation and coordination of trade policy (including through improved trade statistics), trade negotiations and trade promotion; to strengthen the system of quality infrastructure, particularly the institutional capacity for sanitary and phytosanitary standards and technical barriers to trade; and to support value chain development with a specific focus on coffee.</p> <p>The project had to be downsized to € 6 million due to the budget cuts.</p>
<p><b>13 - Food Security:</b></p> <p>The EC should intensify the support given to GoN in the development of an overall policy and strategy for food insecure areas in various agro-ecological zones, to enable an integrated and focused intervention approach. The EC should consider financially supporting the strategy with the instruments available, and encourage other DPs and GoN in the scaling up of promising technologies that were applied or tested in the interventions funded by the Food Facility.</p>	<p><b><u>Agreed:</u></b></p> <p>The EUD contributed through a framework contract (DCI-ASIE/2012/ 014-636) to the development of an Agriculture Development Strategy under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture Development (MoAD). While paying attention to the development of commercial agriculture, this policy document will also address subsistence farming in the most vulnerable areas linking up with food security and nutrition-related issues. The EUD is also funding a regional project implemented by UNICEF to reduce maternal and infant malnutrition in 4 Asian countries including Nepal. By involving five sectors namely health, local development, education, agriculture and water/sanitation, the plan is addressing both the direct, health-related and the underlying causes of undernutrition thereby including food security-related issues. The project is also</p>	<p>Rural Development has been selected as a focal sector for the upcoming MIP (2014-2020). Under this focal sector, the Delegation will support the implementation of the GoN Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS).</p> <p>Specific interventions under the coming focal sector are under identification, but they will be building on the experiences of the Food Facility and Food Security Thematic Programme (FSI and ANEP projects) and contribute directly to food security.</p> <p>Under the focal sector, the Delegation is also planning to further support the implementation of the Multi-Sector Nutrition Plan, including both institutional support and direct nutrition specific and nutrition sensitive interventions.</p> <p>The EC has also launched a new 1.5 MEUR project in 2013 to strengthen the capacity of poor and marginalized farmers to advocate their rights for food security.</p>

	<p>supporting the piloting and scaling up of evidence-based interventions to address Nepal's high prevalence of both stunting and wasting. Finally, under the FSTP, one of the I/NGOs contracted under the FF, namely International Development Enterprises (IDE), was granted €4 million to improve the food security and nutrition of smallholders by promoting productive and environmentally sustainable agricultural technologies. This project is a direct follow up on several technologies rolled out under the FF. Sustainable rural development may be considered as one of the three focal areas for the next MIP.</p>	<p>Finally, it is likely that agriculture/food security will appear again as a priority in the future NSA-LA calls.</p>
<p><b>14 - Follow-up renewable energy:</b> The EC should ensure that the Alternative Energy Promotion Centre (AEPC), as the national implementing agency of the Renewable Energy Project (REP), takes the necessary measures to ensure support to the Community Energy Service Providers (CESPs). The EUD-Nepal and AEPC should be prudent in labelling the beneficiary Community Organisations (COs) as CESPs and wait to promote the model once it has proved to be successful.</p>	<p><b><u>Agreed:</u></b> So far the modality is functioning well. As a general rule, and in line with the agreement with the beneficiary, the AEPC needs to ensure and take necessary measures to provide continuous support to CESPs, and replicate the modality to other programmes and regions as well. The EC will continue to verify on a regular basis through field visits and ROM whether the necessary support has been provided and will provide feedback to AEPC on possible problems faced by the CESPs.</p>	<p>The project is under closure and the overall experience of the CESPs modality has been positive. The EU has continued to regularly monitor through field visits various sites of the project across the country and provided feedback to AEPC regarding the required follow up of issues encountered, where any.</p>