



**Program Support Unit
Sindh Devolved Social Services Program
Finance Department, Government of Sindh, Karachi**



Concept Note on Planning Convention

1. **Objective:**

To synchronize the Sector Planning exercise with budget making process.

2. **Experience:**

With the consultation of provincial and local government PSU-SDSSP prepared guidelines in Jan 2005. On the basis of experience gained and after further consultations with concerned stakeholders guidelines were revised in December 2005. Local government officials have since been repeatedly briefed on the sector guidelines. However, despite all the capacity building initiatives only 10 district governments have been able to access SDSSP funds. The experience gained is that despite the fact that participatory planning approach and need analysis is the hallmark of the Program, district government lacks dedicated forum that seriously encourage them in a meaningful discourse that results in a sector wide view and planning. In some districts the exercise remained confined to some low level of officials of district line departments and F&G Specialist of LSU-SDSSP. However political ownership in most of the districts remained high without concomitant technical support from administration.

3. **Concept:**

This has been a commitment of SDSSP to streamline the sector planning approach and strives to make it a permanent feature of budget process. The past experience shows quite vividly that “talking” through “paper” and individual meetings are not yielding the desired results. Therefore in order to initiate focused discussion on issues, to provide technical expertise right on the spot, to ensure the level of understanding and comprehension, and to expedite the planning process, so that we can meet the deadline of 1st July 2007, it is suggested that planning conventions may be organized. The theme of the planning conventions would be to prepare Sector Plans of education and health, including district ADP, provincial grants (SERP) and conditional grants.



**Program Support Unit
Sindh Devolved Social Services Program
Finance Department, Government of Sindh, Karachi**



4. Methodology:

Following procedure would be adopted in planning conventions

- a. District government would be intimated in detail about the planning conventions. Required data, in prescribed formats, be gathered and collated by the district government
- b. High level of ownership, at provincial level, would be ensured. Representatives of PLDs and expert human resource would be engaged to provide insight and technical input to delegates
- c. Following officers would be requested to attend the convention

a. Provincial	Relevant B-19 officer of PLDs (including P&DD) PD SDSSP/DPD Program Officers SDSSP Special invitees of repute
b. District	Nazim of concerned district Naib Nazim of concerned district DCO Concerned EDOs Chairman of Monitoring Committees LSU-SDSSP staff

- d. The quorum for the convention would be:
 - i. Nazim / DCO
 - a) Concerned EDOs and EDO (F&P)
 - b) Chairman of Monitoring Committees
 - c) SDSSP team
 - d) PLDs representatives
- e. The district government would make a detail presentation on:
 - a) Resource envelop of district government
 - i. District ADP
 - ii. Conditional grant
 - iii. Special programs
 - iv. Any other
 - b. Vertical programs (non A/c IV) program / projects
 - c. Program/Project/Grants in pipeline
 - d. Need Analysis (probably as done in previous two ASPs)
 - e. Vision and District Priorities-sub sector wise
 - f. Short term objectives



Program Support Unit
Sindh Devolved Social Services Program
Finance Department, Government of Sindh, Karachi



- g. Schemes proposed to meet the vision and the priorities
- f. The representative of PLDs and experts would then evaluate and guide the district government regarding their selection of priorities and resultant schemes. Issues relating to sustainability of schemes, community ownership, monitoring issues would be discussed.
- g. The Rapporteur would make a detail noting of all discussions. Decisions taken would be reproduced in the report and sector plan FY07-08 would be the reflective of these decisions.
- h. A follow up teams for weak districts would be formed (through TA resources) to ensure the completion of required activities in due time.
- i. Conditional grant funds would be released to district government on passing of their annual budgets, with ASPs, from district councils.
- j. Incentive package would be designed for representatives of PLDs for provision of their services.