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GSP II Reflection Learning Sharing

Public Procurement

Supply Chain Management Bid Committee System Streamlines Procurement

Supply chain management (SCM) and procurement reform is a key priority of the Government of South Africa. There is ample evidence from reports by the Auditor-General of South Africa that the SCM function in municipalities is performing poorly due to organisational, individual, and technological capacity challenges. To determine where the most significant impact could be made, a comprehensive SCM Review and Analysis research study was completed in each GSP II partner municipality to assess their respective organisational and individual capacity and to identify their challenges. Based on the results of this study, action plans were devised to address the challenges in each municipality. Within the broader objectives of the GSP II, the project aims to improve SCM in partner municipalities through organisational and individual capacity development.

Overview

The Bid Committee System (BCS) improvement process focused on addressing weaknesses identified within each municipality, with a focus on the BCS Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), the capacity of the Secretariat function, and the competency of the bid committee members.

The (BCS) serves as the fundamental and primary vehicle for developing bid specifications and evaluations, as well as adjudicating bid awards. Each committee has mandated responsibilities and activities, and flaws within the BCS have direct negative implications for procurement activities and service delivery.

A review of the BCS, aimed at determining the adequacy of the systems and processes governing the BCS and the effectiveness of the Secretariat function, was undertaken in partner municipalities in 2018. The review identified specific shortcomings and informed the development of municipal specific BCS improvement plans for implementation.





What was done

The intervention included the following activities:

- Appropriate BCS SOPs were developed with active participation at its core.
- The Secretariat function of all partner municipalities was supported through directed training to improve related performance.
- The competency of the bid committee members was addressed through the provision of focused training interventions.
- Bid Committee Chairpersons received training in support of their specific functions and responsibilities.

What was Achieved

The following outcomes have been identified:

- Officials providing Secretariat support to the BCS have indicated that they feel a greater sense of competence in respect

of their tasks and activities.

- BCS SOPs support the bid committees functioning in accordance with regulatory prescripts.
- Bid committee members as well as Chairpersons understand their roles and responsibilities.

Reflection – Lessons Learned

- It cannot be assumed that the Secretariat, bid committee Chairpersons and bid committee members will have a clear understanding of what is required of them.
- Clear and comprehensive systems need to be in place to guide processes as well as roles and responsibilities.
- Newly appointed bid committee and Secretariat members must be trained and onboarded in respect of the municipal SCM policy and BCS SOP.

The Governance Support Programme (GSP II) is a Technical Cooperation programme co-steered at national level in a partnership between the Department of Cooperative Governance (DCoG), the National Treasury (NT), the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA), the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the latter responsible for the implementation of the German development contributions on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The programme was co-financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID).

The GSP II provided technical, policy and process advice to support the South African public sector. The programme strengthened capacity for local government planning, financial management and oversight and was executed in the Provinces of Mpumalanga and Eastern Cape.

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