



## ***EU ETHIOPIA: Strengthening Decentralized Disaster Risk Reduction Management (EU DDRM) Program***

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### **EU DDRM PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**



**Date:** Friday, November 4, 2022

**Time:** 14:00 – 17.30 HRS

**Venue:** Inter Luxurious Hotel, Addis Ababa

## Present:

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Amb. Dr. Shefaraw T/Maraim  | The Chair and Commissioner, EDRMC.                                     |
| 2. H.E. W/ro Semerita Sewasew, | Co-Chair and State Minister, MoF                                       |
| 3. H.E.Dr.Fanta Mandefro,      | State minister, Ministry of Education                                  |
| 4. H.E. W/ro Ayelech Eshete,   | State minister, Ministry of Women and Social Affairs                   |
| 5. Mr. NESibu YAsin            | Deputy Commissioner, EDRMC.  |
| 6. Mr Berhanu Taye             | EU Delegation Ethiopia, Program Manager                                |
| 7. Mr Asnake Abera             | EU Delegation Ethiopia, Project Officer                                |
| 8. Roberto Schiliro            | EU Green Team Leader   |
| 9. Mr Wasye Hassen             | DRR and Rehabilitation Directorate Director, EDRMC                     |
| 10. Ayatam Fentahun Wubie      | National Project Manager, EU DDRM, EDRMC                               |
| 11. Mr Sheikh Yasin Abdi       | Head, Somali Region DRM Bureau   |
| 12. Mr. Abdifatah Mohamed Abdi | Deputy Head, Somali Region DRM Bureau                                  |
| 13. Mr Teferi                  | Oromia DRM Commission  |
| 14. Mr Worku Kebede            | Food Security Coordination Directorate Director, Amhara DRM Commission |
| 15. Mr Abera Willa             | Commissioner, Sidama DRM Commission                                    |
| 16. Mr Ganta Gemea             | Commissioner, SNNP DRM Commission                                      |
| 17. Mr Marko Lesukat           | Team Leader, Technical Assistance Team, DT Global                      |
| 18. Dr Derege Tsegaye Meshesha | GI/MIS Expert, Technical Assistance Team, DT Global                    |
| 19. Yirgalem Mohammed          | DRM Expert, Technical Assistance Team, DT Global                       |

## AGENDA:

**13:00 – 14:00**

### **Lunch**

14:00 -14:15

Opening remarks (Chair)

14:15 – 14:30

Presentation and adoption of PSC ToR (Roles and responsibilities) -

14:30 – 14:45

Discussion on TOR

14:45 – 15:30

Presentation of Project achievements, challenges, and keys asks from PSC - TA

15:30 – 16:10

Discussions

16:10 – 17:00

Summary resolutions (Chair)

**17:00 – 17:30**

**Coffee break and departure**

## SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS

### **Agenda 1: Opening and welcome remarks by the Chair, Amb. Dr. Shefaraw T/Mariam**

His Excellency Ambassador Dr **Shefaraw T/Mariam, the Commissioner, of the Ethiopia Disaster Risk Management Commission** welcomed the three State Ministers present, the regional DRM commissioners, the EU Delegation and Technical Assistance Team present to the national-level Project Steering Committee meeting for the Decentralized DRM Project in Ethiopia. He highlighted the direction of the government of Ethiopia towards a decentralized DRM approach where the decentralized way of doing disaster risk reduction and mainstreaming through sectors has been given due emphasis in the already prepared draft DRM policy submitted to the council of ministers for approval. He also stated that the EU decentralized DRM program project is instrumental in actualizing the Ethiopian government's strategic aspirations towards achieving practically the goal of the disaster risk management (DRM) policy framework.

The Commissioner further stated the importance of the approaches followed by of that the EU-funded DDRM project in terms of empowering the communities and strengthening the capacities of local administration. He noted that this is what the government of Ethiopia is looking forward to seeing in the upcoming refined DRM policy towards sustained investments in planning and implementing disaster risk reduction (DRR) interventions for building resilient communities, local authorities and as a whole the nation, in the short and long terms.

His Excellency Dr Shefaraw congratulated the EU Delegation in Ethiopia and the regional governments who jointly funded some aspects of the project (contingency fund), and owned the project, on what they have done so far, as they are supporting self-sustaining/rewarding activities to break the dependency of households. Moreover, he emphasized that the lessons learned from the implementation of the EU DRM project are important in putting for future policy directions and investments in disaster risk reduction at the national and regional state levels. This PSC would help to jointly review progress and the challenges and lessons learned and provide guidance to strengthen the overall implementation of the project. He thanked EU Delegation Ethiopia for the support and the project teams for their effort in achieving the project objectives.

## **Agenda 2: Presentation and adoption of PSC ToR (Roles and Responsibilities)**

The Chair requested that the summary of the ToR be presented before discussion and adoption of the same. The Technical Assistance Team Leader, Mr Marko Lesukat, presented the contexts for the development and contexts of the ToR (attached):

- ✓ The overview of the situation and EU DDRM program
- ✓ the process for the development of the ToR,
- ✓ the contents and all sections of the ToR
- ✓ the roles and responsibilities (functions) of PSC
- ✓ the composition and membership of the PSC
- ✓ the standing agenda
- ✓ the frequency of meetings
- ✓ among others

## **Matters arising:**

The members of the PSC had the following comments and proposed the following amendments to the ToR.

- ✓ Review the document and address all editorial errors.
- ✓ Section 3.1 (membership of PSC): DRMC Commissioner (Amhara) No. 12 & 17 is repeated and thus ~~strikeout~~ strike one out.
- ✓ Inclusion of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the membership of PSC
- ✓ Update section 6.2 on the functions of the PSC, to include among others *“Design ways of dissemination of project activities like through organizing experience sharing visits, publication, case studies etc”*
- ✓ Correction of repetition (Amhara region?)
- ✓ Revisit our approaches and structures to further our work

### Key actions on Agenda number 2: PSC ToR

- ✓ The Chair acknowledged the co-authors of the PSC ToR, Mr Marko Lesukat – TA Team Leader, and Mr Berhanu Taye – EUD for their exemplary work to draft the document.
- ✓ The chair cautioned that the ToR is a live document, and, if there are any further comments and proposed adjustments to the ToR, they will be accommodated and included
- ✓ in the upcoming successive PSC meetings.
- ✓ With those minor comments, *the ToR was unanimously endorsed by all the members of the PSC for adoption.*

### Agenda 3: Progress on Project Implementation: achievements, challenges, and keys asks from PSC

The TA Team Leader (Mr Lesukat) presented the progress on project implementation highlighting the achievements, challenges, opportunities for scale-up and key asks from the PSC to facilitate achieving overall objectives.

The presentation was based on the outcomes of the internal mid-term review meeting conducted in October 2022 where the EU DDRM TA team, Deputy Commissioner, EDRMC (Chair), EU DDRM project managers, and other stakeholders from UN and INGOs participated.

The overall project implementation progresses, achievements so far, problems and challenges as well as the way forwards from the MTR exercise presented by Marko, the EUDDRM TA team leader (attached).

The key elements of the presentation, in summary, are as follows: main

- The geographic scope of the project: over **355 woredas** benefiting from all project-implemented activities in five regions of Amhara, Oromia, Sidama, SNNP and Somalia.
- The project's grant contacts with EU signed (Dec 2019 – EDRMC, Oromia & Amhara) + 1 contract January 2021 for Sidama, and actual implementation started during March 2020, and the TA team deployed with some delay in August 2020.
- The EC ROM (Result Oriented Monitoring) mission to the projects was carried out in October 2022, and the MTR workshop was carried out during the same month in October 2022. The MTR was guided by the following six (6) sub-themes and focal areas

1. **Review of Result 1:** The capacities of regional and local (Woreda) administration have been strengthened to improve disaster risk management (DRM)
2. **Review of Result 2:** Effective DRR regional Contingency Funds (DRR-CF) are in place to reinforce preparedness and early response
3. **Cross-cutting:** Gender, conflict, and environment
4. **Project management:** Operational aspects
5. **M&E – Knowledge Management & Research:**
6. **Coordination:** Woreda, zonal, regions federal and international

Status of implementation of planned activities: **Result 1: The capacities of regional and local (Woreda) administration have been strengthened to improve disaster risk management (DRM):**

#### A: Key achievements: Result 1

- **Output 1.1:** Woreda Contingency Plans and Disaster Risk Profiles and Management Action Plans (WDMAP) in all target Woredas vulnerable completed
- ✓ The automation of the methodology for the development of the WDMAPs is now piloted & completed.
- ✓ Overall, this output is achieved (20%), as 40/120 WDRPs planning and 12/109 WDRPs developed.
  - **Output 1.2:** Early Warning System harmonized (between regions and federal), tested and functional

- ✓ While TA supported EDRMC and regions in conducting project-specific aspects to contribute towards the realization of a harmonized EWS, EDRMC preferred that EWS information be based on sectors as per the provisions of the current DRM policy. This complicated the progress in achieving this output. However, TA supported GIS training (4/18) planned

**Output 1.3** - Intervention packages to address the specific needs when climatic shocks occur while taking into account the gender aspects and the needs and interests of people living with disabilities as well as for conflict resolution mechanisms and the package of interventions for the integration of climate-induced IDPs in the host communities.

- ✓ TA highlighted that overall, there was no budget initially allocated to support the mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues in the project activity implementation i.e gender, conflict, and environment mainstreaming with the four contracts.

**Output 1.4** - Staff at Regional, zonal, Woreda, and community trained on DRR policies and practices

- ✓ Familiarization workshop conducted to all regions & EDRMC staff from all departments (100% achieved).
- ✓ The national and regional workshops were conducted on DRM policy mainstreaming, WDRP Methodologies, DRM & Humanitarian coordination, experiential learning, and GIS for over 1,790 experts.

**Output 1.5** - The project implementation is supported.

**Achievement:**

- ✓ Staff recruitment (22 Project managers/Accountants) completed for all contracts.
- ✓ IT and Office Equipment (printers, Laptops and tablets) and generators were purchased and supplied to all regions.
- ✓ 24 vehicles and 116 motorbikes and contributed to 5 regions: 2 for NDRMC, 7 for Oromia, 5 for Amhara, 4 for Somali, 4 for SNNPR and 2 for Sidama region); and, 30 for Somali, 24 for SNNPR, 6 for Sidama, 29 for Oromia and 27 for Amhara region, respectively

**Challenges:**

- ✓ There were significant delays by EDRMC to procure and distribute the vehicles and motorbikes for Sidama, Somali and SNNP regions.
- ✓ An overspent of **EUR 370,828.80** was incurred by EDRMC due to a delayed procurement process and currency exchange losses (related to inflation).
- ✓ Project staff indicated the inability to access the use of project vehicles in some regions for project implementation and monitoring.

- **Output 1.6** - The project implementation is supported.

**Achievement:**

- ✓ Oromia, Somali, and Amhara CF regulations, accounts, and match funds in place
- ✓ SNNP and Sidama have had the region's CF regulation approved by the respective regional cabinets, and, the requirements (CF accounts and match funds) are in progress and ready for utilization of the contingency funds to fund current crises.

## **B: Key emerging issues from the MTR exercise: Result 1**

1. **Selection of Woredas** – criteria, and review indicate deviation from original criteria (*There is no uniformity in using the selection criteria*).
2. **EWS established** (at Woreda level was not achieved) – focus on the woreda in the next reporting period.
3. **Relevance of the training** (process to identify training needs, participants, and topics) and Sustainability of training (*ToT*) – *to be addressed in the remaining period*).
4. **Project operational challenges** – *access to vehicles for project implementation major challenge*.
5. **Cross-cutting issues:** Adherence to standards related to cross-cutting issues (*Gender, environment, and conflict mitigation in planning DRM activities in all contexts*) – develop manuals to guide implementation modalities.

## **Result 2: The capacities of regional and local (Woreda) administration have been strengthened to improve disaster risk management (DRM):**

### **A: Key achievements: Result 1**

**Output 2.1:** Communities and resident IDPs living in areas at risk of climate disaster are better prepared to withstand future shocks.

- ✓ A total of 40 out of the planned 57 Woreda disaster risk reduction plans were activated and implementation is ongoing.
- ✓ A total of EUR 6,000,000 was disbursed to 40 woredas to implement DRR actions (each DRR is action worth (EUR 150,000), and overall 70% was achieved in this output

**Output 2.2 -** Communities in need when crises occur receive early support before humanitarian aid is mobilized

- ✓ A total of 7 CF actions were activated for emergency response worth a total of **EUR 6,720,000** (47 % of EUR 14,080,000) -
- ✓ This was 50%:50% by EUD and regional governments of Oromia, Amhara, and Somali. More CF actions are in pipeline to respond to the current drought or other predictable crises.
- ✓ The EUD has been flexible in the use of the match funds for livelihood restoration for the resource-based conflict-displaced populations.
- ✓ Sidama and SNNP will work with TA to speed up the access and use of the CF for their regions.

## **B: Key emerging issues from the MTR: Result 1**

1. **Relevance of activities to the DRM strategic objectives**
  - Livelihood-related actions (restocking, IGAs) not linked to DRM SPIF objectives
  - Community level – Strategic DRM interventions (were not justified)
2. **Contingency fund actions (when and for what?)**
  - Overall delay in activating the use of contingency funds, and Design, and preparation of proposals
  - The status and availability of matching funds (what is the source), and the need for Collating and reporting beneficiary contributions
3. Delayed disbursement of projects funds – due to lengthy costs verification processes from regions/EDRMC
4. Strengthen research to showcase scale-up and sustainability aspects of different activities

### **C: Key Results 1&2 recommendations - way forward:**

- A critical review of woreda EWS and capacity-building needs of experts to support information generation
- Review the Woreda selection criteria based on context to take note of regions/Woreda specificities for uniformity
- Need to enforce accountability in approving project activities and Woreda selection
- Development of guidelines and manuals to guide overall project implementations
- Adoption of ToTs in training for the sustainability of expertise at regions/Woreda levels
- A deliberate strategy to recruit women experts in positions and training opportunities
- Develop project-specific exit strategies at Woreda (MoUs with Woreda administration /other relevant Bureaus)
- Standardize integrated financial management and reporting systems
- Regions to immediately assign a project-specific vehicle to project managers.

### **D: M&E – Knowledge Management & Research:**

- As much as the project has achieved remarkable successes and emerging opportunities for scale-up, the Senior Management at EDRMC, TA, and Project managers all feel that more has to be done urgently to collate and communicate the evidence-based lessons from the project following the implementation of the EU DDRM project activities.
- The EDMRC as the national DRM coordinating agency has asked the TA to urgently convene second research, training, and knowledge management workshop to agree on research areas and define modalities for funding such as close collaboration with academia and other stakeholders.
- The regions and academic institutions have had MoUs signed for collaboration, some research areas identified and research conducted.
- TA and EDRMC will agree on the dates for the workshop at the earliest opportunity.

### **E: Link to other DRM Initiatives - Coordination, Collaboration and Synergies**

- The EU DDRM project has enhanced coordination, collaboration and synergies with other DRM projects in the country.
- The EU DDRM project facilitated the senior DRM leadership at a federal and regional visit to South Africa in July 2022 with notable success.

### **Agenda 3: Matters arising and planetary discussions/feedback on project implementation and progress from PSC (based on the results and emerging issues)**

#### **1. Results 1: DRR Planning and WDRPs development**

- ✓ The meeting noted all the components were progressing well; however, there is a need to expedite the implementation of DRM mainstreaming components.
- ✓ Advocate synergies of projects interventions that are being implemented in the disaster risk management sector
- ✓ The woreda selection was clarified by all regions as having been selected mainly based on the criteria set, but with some region-specific realities.
- ✓ WDRP development and DRR plan main challenge. For EDRMC-managed grants/contracts has been late disbursement of funds.

- ✓ The PSC members noted that WDRPs and DRR planning is the centre of Ethiopia's disaster risk management and thus, TA and regions were asked to expedite the completion of the DRR plans and WDRPs.

## **2. Result 2: DRR implementation and Contingency funds utilization**

- ✓ Sidama and SNNP CF regulations: clarified that the contingency fund legislation for both regions (SNNP and Sidama) was approved by the regional council, bank accounts were opened and matching funds were allocated.
- ✓ The SNNP-DRMC commissioner (Mr Ganta Gamma) highlighted that the continuous split of the region is affecting the sharing of limited resources and distribution of project facilities in the initially anticipated SNNP region. He further clarified that SNNP-DRMC transparently selected the beneficiary woreda; however, the delay of the budget release has become the main challenge, and he expects access to the contingency fund (CF) sooner when EDRMC and EU release the funds.
- ✓ The Sidama-DRMC commissioner (Mr Abera Wilia), also explained that CF (to be established from the government side) is approved last August 2022, thus, expect the second disbursement of funds to facilitate the DRR implementation and use of the contingency funds.
- ✓ The Somali DRM Deputy bureau (Mr Abdi Fatah) indicated that the DRR implementation activities in 6 woredas have been completed with communities benefiting already from the water points. However, there has been a significant delay in the EU DDRM program budget release that has affected the Bureau and the regional government. He further noted the need for the involvement of other bureaus in the implementation and handover of the completed projects.
- ✓ As such, In the Somali region, after the contractors completed the works, only 50% of the payment was made, while the 50% payment is pending. This has put the Somali regional DRM Bureau and government at loggerheads with contractors who moved to court.

## **3. Project management and operational issues**

- ✓ **Project fund and use of project resources:**
  - The EU will approve the second pre-financing request in the coming two weeks for EDRMC contract
  - On the use of the vehicle for the project activities, the PSC discussed and advised all project beneficiary regions should respect the contractual obligations and conditions of the agreement on the proper use of the vehicles for the project purpose.
  - Regions should use the vehicle's responsibility so that when the project team requests those vehicles they should be available to support project implementation
  - Regions should find ways to speed up the implementation process and accelerate the use of project resources to support people in need.
  - Each of the 5 project's contracts is to urgently work on the revised plan without extension beyond 2023, though there is a doubt to finish it within the remaining period from some regions
- ✓ **Clarity on the delayed release of funds:**
  - There was a general misconception that EUD was delaying the release of the project funds and/or subsequent disbursements. However, the EU said requests do not exceed 45 days considering all payments with all the requirements



- EU and Chair noted and clarified that all the grants beneficiary regions (Amhara and Oromia) and EDRMC/Regions (SNNP, Sidama and Somali) need to collect and collate all the required financial documents required by the finance department and submit them in time for review.
- The chair further requested that subsequent disbursement requests particularly for EDRMC/Regions (SNNP, Sidama and Somali) must be done in advance and tasked the TA and EDRMC project staff to expedite this.
- ✓ **Project internal communications (EU, TA, EDRMC, and Regions):**
  - Overall, thus far, EDRMC-managed contracts and regions observed that the vertical communication with federal/regions is limited and should be improved and worked out as we move through the project implementation period.
  - The regions noted the need for more structured and continuous communications by EDRMC (project and leadership) on project-related communications to strengthen project timely and proper implementation, and ownership, transparency, and accountability.
  - The EU project management team at the delegation should closely work with all project regions and EDRMC in terms of guidance to help accelerate and create more understanding of the financial rules and procedures and how the EU fund can timely be disbursed, managed and reported.
- ✓ **SNNP-specific challenge:** The split up of the SNNP region into 4 new regions will likely affect the project implementation.
- ✓ **Inflation and currency exchange losses related to vehicle and motorbike purchases:**
  - **EU clarified that the losses incurred** by beneficiaries (EDRMC and Region DRMCs) were purely administrative and related to proper management of the project fund. EUD provided two training sessions to financial experts from EDRMC and Amhara and Oromia, at the beginning of the project, on the EU financial rule and procedures, including the need to open hard currency accounts (EURO) to cushion such exchange rate losses. However, EDRMC, transferred the project fund in EUR account to the Birr account which should have been kept in hard currency for the procurement of the project vehicle & motorbike. This was against the backdrop of the advice by the EU to only do this at the tail end of the procurement process to avoid such losses.
  - **The 370K Euro variation** (exchange rate loss) from the purchase of vehicles and motorbikes was a result of this anomaly, delayed local procurement, and use of UNOPS for international procumbent, which was not originally considered. EU clarified that should the exchanges from Euro to Birr account was avoided the unit costs of the vehicles could have been the same.
  - The chair agreed on the **need for a smaller meeting and discussions** on the Euro 370k, between the EU, EDRMC, and MoF to settle this issue.

#### 4. Cross-cutting issues: Gender, Conflict and Environment:

- ✓ The State Minister for Women and Social Affairs requested an additional explanation about the performance and achievements of the project in the different regions related to Gender and recent progress.
- ✓ Women, youth, disability, elderly and other vulnerable groups addressed by the project should be included in the report

- ✓ Gender expert has been already recruited to support the project and disaggregated data will be available in the next reporting period

**5. Monitoring and Evaluation, Knowledge management and research:**

- ✓ EU DDRM project has highlighted some of the lessons learned and the possibility to scale such projects at the community and woreda levels. However, there is a need for evidence that this can be the case in different contexts and agroecological zones
- ✓ TA and EDRMC to support research and knowledge management efforts, compiling and circulation of good practices, and lessons learned at technical and strategic levels. In this regard, there is a need to work with academia.

**6. Coordination and Collaboration:**

- ✓ The EU DDRM project facilitated a visit to South Africa to collaborative agreements (technical and strategic) that need to be actualized (MoF State Minister). The learnings from these visits need to be implemented to support the decentralization efforts for Ethiopia in policy and practice
- ✓ There is a need to make the EU DDRM achievements visible by scaling up visibility and communications efforts.

**Agenda 4: Key asks from the project and response from PSC**

The following key asks were presented to the attention and direction of the PSC for action.

1. Guide on the **proper use of vehicles** – as per contractual agreement by regional leadership
  - a. It was noted that some project staff was unable to access project vehicles to facilitate the movements of staff and assets.
  - b. The EU task managers and TA cautioned the EDRMC and regions of possible ineligible costs if the vehicles are not used as per the contractual agreements.
  - c. All project vehicles have to have visibility and EU logos as required.
  - d. No project funds are to be used to fund non-project activities even if project vehicles are used. These costs will automatically be ineligible.
2. Approve the **review of project staff terms and conditions of service** (review salaries and benefits as provided in project documents)
  - a. Due to initial salary and terms of conditions, there has not been a review nor standardization of such terms with the short-term project-specific staff.
  - b. There is a need for a review of the same, as budgets do allow for such improvements in staff salaries and conditions of service.
- 3 Advise on the **reimbursement of the overspent** on vehicle and motorbike purchase (**EUR 370,828.80**)
  - a. The overspent was related to currency loss in the process of procurement of vehicles and motorbikes by EDRMC.
3. Advise on **SNNP specific Implementation challenges** related to the completion of planned activities, management of project staff and assets vs disintegration to more regions
  - a. SNNP will disintegrate into 4-5 regions
  - b. SNNP has experience in sharing resources throughout the integration process.
  - c. In case of any disputes, PSC will guide the settling of the disputes.
4. Approve the technical teams **to conduct region-based scenario planning** to review the planned activities and budgets (all contracts) for the remaining project period – Link all activities to Ethiopia DRM SPIF, relocation for new activities, and justification for a no-cost extension

- a. The TA to facilitate the four projects (EDRMC, Oromia, and Amhara) to conduct scenario-based planning to review the activities in line with the remaining project period and need to request **a no-cost extension** of up to 12 months and budget reallocations.

### Agenda 5: Meeting resolutions

The PSC on reviewing and deliberating all the issues presented made the following resolutions:

S/No	Key issue	PSC resolution
1	<b>Proper use of project vehicles</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PSC resolved that while recognizing the need to share the limited resources in the regions, the project staff needed to access the project vehicles as a priority, and assign one of the project vehicles for the project team only.</li> <li>- The project vehicles must be used as per the contractual agreement specified in the EU contracts and regulations to avoid ineligible costs.</li> </ul>
2	<b>Financial and EU regulation training to facilitate project management.</b> + <b>Release of funds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision of financial training for all implementing woredas financial management staff to acquire the EU financial regulations</li> <li>- EU and TA to support project managers to speed up the presentation of the required documents by the EU for the immediate release of the 2<sup>nd</sup> pre-financing payment for the EDRMC + SNNP, Sidama and Somali grants.</li> </ul>
3	<b>Review of staff salaries and conditions of service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Project staffing and salary harmonization, if there is a need for salary improvement this could be done at the national level</li> <li>- Ministry of finance to circulate a guideline that facilitates this process (and will be shared with EDRMC for execution).</li> </ul>
4	<b>Presentation on project progress</b> for PSC successive meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TA to review and develop a user-friendly and compact project review template to prepare a detailed matrix with up-to-date project progress (financial + physical performance) for the next PSC meeting.</li> </ul>
5	Progress on <b>improving gender equality and inclusion</b> in project implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TA to develop detailed progress on gender equity on project activities, staffing, and training with clear.</li> <li>- TA to finalize the development of a gender strategy to guide gender mainstreaming and inclusion.</li> </ul>
6	Urgently <b>conduct scenario-based planning</b> to review project activities and timelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The TA to facilitate the managers of the four projects (EDRMC, Oromia, and Amhara) to conduct scenario-based planning to review the activities in line with the remaining project period and need be, request for a no-cost extension of up to 12 months and if deem necessary budget reallocations.</li> </ul>

7	Advise on the <b>reimbursement of the overspent</b> on vehicle and motorbike purchase ( <b>EUR 370,828.80</b> )	- EDRMC, EU, TA and the Ministry of finance urgently convene a meeting to resolve the issue related to the overspending of EUR 370,828.80.
8	Frequency of PSC meeting	- The PSC meeting will be held every six (6) months – preceded by a technical review meeting.

#### Agenda 6: Closing remarks

**Excellence Dr Shefaraw** underlined the progress made in the implementation of the EU DDRM project, re-emphasizing the need for all involved (TA, Project managers and EU team) to speed up project implementations for the remaining period. He noted that the remaining period of the project is crucial and the PSC will have a close look at ensuring to provide the support needed to support technical teams to manage the project. He stressed that mainstreaming DRM is a priority for Ethiopia and that the EU DDRM has helped Ethiopia as a country to realize this ambition. Finally, he re-emphasized that, the fact that four-level state ministers were present in the PSC meant that this project is key for the country.

**Meeting ended at 17:30HRS**