

## 5<sup>th</sup> Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting of GLOF II Project Minutes of the Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**Timings:** 2:00 pm – 4:15 pm

**Venue:** Virtual meeting through Zoom

**Agenda:**

- Concurrence on Decisions of 4<sup>th</sup> PSC
- Progress update on AWP 2020
- Sharing of Mid-Term Review recommendations
- Endorsement of most vulnerable remaining 12 valleys
- AWP 2021
- Any other Business

**Opening Remarks:**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting of GLOF II project was held at 14:00 hours on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 virtually through Zoom to review progress under Annual Work Plan (AWP) 2020 and approve the activities of AWP 2021 as recommended by National Technical working Group. The meeting was **chaired by Ms. Naheed S. Durrani, Secretary Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC)**.

The Chair stressed the importance of this intervention and its expected impact. She further emphasized that funds were underutilized and there is a need to speed up the projects pace in order to achieve the delivery of targets. The Chair also highlighted the need for further community-based interventions for the year 2021 as the priority of the MoCC has focused on interventions which are in the interest of community resilience. She further stated that maximum funds should be allocated to community welfare and that unlike typical projects, GLOF II project has been doing far better work which is beneficial to the communities. Despite of COVID19 restrictions, Project managed to utilize the 48% of the approved budget by active participation of MoCC Senior Officials, UNDP Management and Provincial Government of KP and GB. As reported, project in close collaboration with Government of KP and GB has covered most of the important work to make the groundwork happens during 2021. Chair also expressed the importance of this project with reference that it is also presented to higher forums (i.e. at PM Secretariat) and also the progress is recorded in PM performance deliverables.

In support of the Chair's comments, the UNDP RR (a.i.) mentioned that this project advanced at a faster pace in the last 8 months as compared to progress made during 2018-2020. She further agreed that a lot more needs to be done such as the infrastructural activities, Early Warning System equipment and Revolving Funds, etc. The RR (a.i.) highlighted that the role and guidance provided by MoCC played a crucial role in paving a path to move forward.

Chair also asked National Project Director (NPD) to present his views regarding the project progress, NPD express his satisfaction over the project delivery considering the COVID situation. He further mentioned that Project made a substantial progress this year but we still need focus more on the delivery as most of the infrastructural activities and agreed tasks to be implemented by Provincial Government of GB and KP.

Chair asked National Project Manager (a.i.) to brief the members following the agenda of the meeting.

**Annexures:**

1. Agenda of 5<sup>th</sup> PSC meeting
2. Working Paper
3. 2<sup>nd</sup> Technical working group meeting
4. 4<sup>th</sup> PSC meeting Minutes
5. Attendance sheet

<b>Agenda Points</b>	<b>Action Points</b>	<b>Discussion/Comments</b>	<b>Decisions</b>
<b>Concurrence on Decisions of 4th PSC</b>		All decisions of the 4 <sup>th</sup> PSC Meeting were shared with the participants of the PSC and it was highlighted that they were achieved efficiently and effectively in close coordination with the MoCC and UNDP.	
<b>Progress on AWP 2020</b>		NPM (a.i.) presented Progress against activities for the AWP 2020. Each Output including Activities were thoroughly presented and discussed with members of the steering committee i.e. activity by activity progress was presented to participants.	At the end, OIC NPM presented that irrespective of the COVID-19 challenges, Project have achieved approximately 48% of the approved budget of AWP2020, which was highly appreciated by the Chair and UNDP Management. He mentioned that On Farm Water Management (OFWM) Directorate managed to initiate work on 13 number of irrigation channels repair and reconstruction work worth of approx. PKR 9.2 Million. Further he mentioned that all the initial assessments and ground work is completed by other line department i.e. PDMA (KP and GB), Forest Department (KP and GB), GBRSR and Directorate of Civil Defense (DoCD-KP). But due to above mentioned challenges, infrastructural activities and other planned

activities couldn't get materialized. He mentioned that this year MoCC Senior Officials and UNDP Representatives have actively participated in some of the activities. SAPM honored the handing over of District Emergency Response Cell (DERC) equipment and items held in Chitral-KP and Skardu-GB. NPM (a.i.) also mentioned that NPD of the project was actively involved in project activities and paid visits to communities and site in order to supervise and monitor some of the ongoing activities in KP and GB. He also briefed members that total of 12 Community Based Rehabilitation centre (CBDRMCs) approved in 2020 to be constructed in 12 notified valleys (5 KP and 7 GB). He mentioned that civil works on 05 CBDRMCs in KP is in progress and remaining 07 of GB are carry forward to 2021. Further, he briefed the participants that CBDRMCs are mobilized and registration process for 12 notified valleys are completed (as per Government Rules and Regulations) by GBRSP and DoCD-KP. Their accounts are also opened in order to receive the Revolving fund of USD 50,000 each, which will only be possible/done when SOPs and Guidelines are endorsed and approved by National Project Steering Committee members.

NPM (a.i.) also mentioned that this year project strengthened the Implementing Partners at Federal level and Provincial Level by provision of equipment. Further, he explained to the members that Project in close coordination with PMD and other line departments in GB and KP, have finalized the design and layout of the EWS equipment with includes the specifications of the equipment (AWS/Guages etc), GPS locations of each equipment where it will be installed, Valley design, communication and data transmission equipment and Telecommunication companies. He mentioned that project managed to complete the process and ready to do the procurement of equipment which can only be possible early next year. He also mentioned to members that cost estimates as calculated in 2015 during the project approval process may not be sufficient to procure the EWS Equipment for 24 valleys. It was clarified by the RR at UNDP that considering the time lapse of over two years, the international rates for technical equipment has risen. This means that keeping within the quality standards of equipment endorsed by the Met department the project will fall short of funds for which we will need to consult with the GCF.

The NPM (a.i.) shared the recommendations of the independent Evaluation that was part of AWP2020 as project according to donor is in 3rd year of implementation. After sharing the recommendations with members, NPM (a.i.) mentioned that all the recommendations are taken into account while preparing AWP2021 in close coordination and consultation with partners, stakeholders at provincial level and Management of UNDP and MoCC.

The NPD requested for clarification on the process and the maximum duration of extension permissible for a project extension for at least 2 years. He mentioned that, as per his understanding, a maximum of 18 months of extension can be provided and can only be requested in the final year for the project. To which ARR-UNDP replied that UNDP is in coordination with GCF regarding the provision of maximum extension to the project considering the project geographical location, which only allows project to work

**Sharing of Mid-Term Review Recommendations**

on ground for 09 months due to harsh weather conditions. Further, ARR-UNDP confirmed that a maximum extension of 18 months can be provided and can only be requested in the final year of the project. A request will be made once the project is in its last year.

One of the main concerns raised by the MTR, according to the NPD – GLOF-II project, was the delays in staff recruitment and project is still not able to get NPM on board. ARR provided an updates regarding staff recruitment, hiring for the NPM is currently in its final stages. The position for M&E Officer has been re-advertised for twice and is in the process of finalizing.

Moving on to next agenda point, NPM (a.i.) presented the list of valleys (as recommended by Government of GB and KP) ground-truthed by engaging multi-disciplinary teams comprising of technical experts from Pakistan Met. Department and Provincial Government relevant line departments. Government of KP and GB proposed total of 128 additional Glacial Lakes and sites for ground truthing activity. Out of 128 total of 74 were from Gilgit Baltistan and 54 were proposed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The list of 128 were forwarded to PMD for initial desk review and out of which total of 42 were selected for ground-truthed in consultation with Government of KP and GB and line departments.

NPM (a.i.) further mentioned that Total of 21 valleys in KP have been ground-truthed, out of which 03 were proposed as highly vulnerable and recommended based on the criteria agreed to Provincial project steering committee for review and endorsement. KP PSC endorsed the first three and forward to National Project Steering Committee for notification.

Similarly, in GB 21 number of valleys were ground truthed out of which initial 09 valleys are proposed and recommended by Provincial Steering Committee of GB for notification.

All the valleys were also presented and discussed in the National Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting, TWG endorsed the valleys presented and recommended to National Project Steering Committee for notification.

Chair endorsed the Valleys of KP and GB for notification. However, NPD GLOF-II Project registered his reservations on the valleys displayed for GB. He mentioned that the valleys as initially discussed and presented in National TWG are different then one displayed in National PSC. Chair asked GB Government Representative to explain their stance on the replacement of highly recommended valleys with recommended valleys. ARR UNDP also seconded the NPD comments on the valleys replacement and mentioned that the selection of valleys shall be purely merit based and the thorough process was adopted by the project including Government of KP and GB for prioritizing the valleys for notification. Chair asked the Government of Representative to explain the rationale and justification in writing taking full responsibility of replacing the Highly recommended valleys with recommended valleys. Chair directed NPD to write the explanation letter to GB Government and take their stance in writing for replacing of

**Endorsement of most vulnerable valleys**

	<p>valleys.</p> <p>Chair in her final remarks regarding notification of valleys mentioned that she endorse and notify the 03 valleys as endorsed and proposed by KP Government, however, she directed the GB Government, PMD, UNDP and GLOF-II Project to further discuss the replacement of highly recommended valleys with recommended valleys. The remaining valleys of GB need to be finalized within 14 days period in order to notify the remaining 09 valleys of GB.</p>
<p><b>Proposed AWP 2021</b></p>	<p>NPM (a.i) briefed the members regarding the overall project progress, he briefed the participants that project utilized more than 85% of USD 10.5 Million (1<sup>st</sup> Tranche) which enabled project to request GCF for the second tranche' which is approx. <b>US \$ 7.6 Million</b>. Further, he mentioned that project in 2020 achieved Approx. 48% (Approx. USD 6.6. Million) of the approved budget (i.e. <b>USD 13.92 Million</b>). He also mentioned that project managed to achieve 48% due to COVID19 Restrictions and lockdown and Monsoon Floods/ land sliding , which greatly influenced the 2020 planned activities such as Infra-structural activities, feasibility studies, workshops (Sensitization and awareness) and procurement activities.</p> <p>Moving forward to AWP2021 proposed activities, he presented and briefed the participants that all the activities were endorsed and recommended by Provincial Project Steering Committee of KP and GB followed by recommendation from National Technical Working Group to Project Steering Committee for approval. He mentioned that on the direction of NPD and in Consultation with Chair, project activities as recommended in AWP2021 are mostly focused on Community Based interventions (particularly infrastructural activities, community capacity building on disaster resilience and preparedness and alternate livelihood opportunities which will be mostly focused on women driven livelihood activities). The proportion of current years activities as described by NPM (a.i.) are placed as approximately <b>79%</b> of total proposed budget (<b>USD 13,298,306</b>) is allocated for infrastructural activities including community driven interventions, <b>14%</b> allocated for policy, strategies, strengthening and training/capacity building component, while remaining <b>8%</b> is allocated to Project Management Cost.</p> <p>Chair appreciate the efforts of all the members including the stakeholders and line departments of KP and GB in order to finalize the activities as proposed and recommended to PSC for approval. Chair mentioned that she principally and provisionally endorses the activities and proposed budget. She also mentioned that she would like the technical working group to review the budget allocated for EWS activities and Infrastructural activities. She also directed Government of GB representatives and PMD to workout the matter of valleys in consultation with UNDP And Project team.</p>

Chair praised the active participation of all the members in making project successful and asked the Government of GB and KP Representatives to provide their inputs (if any).

Chief Economist (P&DD KP) thanked chair for giving him opportunity to provide his inputs on behalf of Government of KP, he praised the project progress in 2020 and also mentioned that this year OFWM Directorate achieved their targets for which the appreciation letter is sent to them on their performance. He mentioned that Forest Department is slow on progress but P&DD is in contact with officials concerned to resolve their issue of designated project account, which will be done on priority in a day or two. PDMA have also done the ground work by engaging the relevant department for small scale infrastructure. Chief Economist further praised the KP Government efforts in progress made under AWP2020 and also ensured that KP Government will deliver to maximum in 2021. He also mentioned that all the activities in AWP2021 are endorsed and recommended by Provincial PSC.

Assistant Chief, P&DD GB, thanked chair for giving him opportunity to provide his inputs, he mentioned that GB Government is also actively involved in planning the activities for 2021. This year majorly due to delayed approval of AWP2020 and COVID, GB couldn't achieve its target but all the groundwork is completed and if AWP2021 is approved in time and funds are transferred, the planned activities will be implemented in full spirit. NPD also raised the issue of highly recommended valleys with recommended valleys and asked the representatives of GB to ask their officials concern to ensure their participation in high level meetings in future.

Representative of Federal Flood Commission (FFC) asked chair to allow him for his comments, he mentioned that Federal Flood Commission allocated Millions of rupees for small scale infrastructure to be constructed in maximum locations of Gilgit-Baltistan. He mentioned that he is afraid that FFC activities may duplicate the activities of GL OF-II Project, he requested that before finalizing the locations and sites for construction of infrastructural activities, FFC shall also be consulted to avoid duplication. Further, ARR-UNDP mentioned that It may be noted that the re-appropriation exercise that we should undertake next week may include the Federal Flood Commissions point of looking at the FFCs investment in GB and save on some of our civil works fund by considering this as government cost sharing and diverting those funds towards the shortfall in funds for AWS/EWS.

**Chair**, directed project to convene 3<sup>rd</sup> National Technical Working (TWG) at earliest and discuss the following matters. However, Chair provisionally approves the **USD 13,298,306 (USD 13.92 Million)** proposed AWP2021 and will finally approve it when the following points are reviewed by Technical Working Group, which are:

1. Review the budget allocated for infrastructural activities in consultation with FFC, Government of

	<p>GB and KP and GLOF-II Project.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>2. Cost estimates of EWS Equipment to be reviewed by PMD, UNDP and GLOF-II Project</li><li>3. Review the replacement of Highly recommended valleys with recommended valleys in GB by PMD, Government of GB and GLOF-II Project.</li></ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Meeting ended with vote of thanks.</b></p>	

*[Handwritten signature]*

**5<sup>th</sup> Project Steering Committee - GLOF II Project**  
**List of Participants**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Department</b>
1.	Naheed Shah Durrami	Secretary	MoCC
2.	Joudat Ayaz	Additional Secretary/NPD- GLOF II	MoCC
3	Aliona Niculita	RR a.i.	UNDP
4	Nouman Afridi	Chief Economist	P&DD, KP
5	Shafullah Khan	AS	Environment Dept., KP
6	Riaz Ahmad Khan	DG	PMD
7	Amanullah Khan	ARR	UNDP
8	Dr. Khalid	Director	PMD
9	Faisal Ali Baloch	Deputy Chief	PD&R
10	Mahmood Akhtar Cheema	Country Head	IUCN
11	Ahmad Kamal	Chairman	Federal Flood Commission
12	Muhammad Alam	Assistant Chief	P&DD GB
13	Shahzad Hasan Shigri	Director	EPA, GB
14	Imran Ahmad Jamal	Deputy Secretary	ALF, GB
15	Afsar Khan	DD – CC Cell	CC, KP
16		Representative	Finance Division
17	Sonia Nawaz	Representative	EAD
18	Neelofar Khan	Research Officer	P&DD GB
19	M. Sohail	Programme Officer	UNDP
20	Rana Naehm	Programme Assistant	UNDP
21	Fahad Bangash	NPM (a.i)	GLOF-II Project
22	Dr. Saeed Abbas	Programme Manager, CPEC	IUCN
23	Mahwish Bukhari	Communication and Reporting Officer	GLOF-II Project
24	Shams Afridi	Admin and Finance Assistant	GLOF-II Project
25	Hammad M. Baig	M&E Assistant KP	GLOF-II Project
26	Bushra Gul	Coordination and Reporting Expert	GLOF-II Project