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Meeting Minutes

LPAC Meeting – Project Initiation Document for the Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts Project Document

26 September 2016

Participants:

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| 1. Sudatta Chakma, MoCHTA | 9. AKM Mamunur Rashid, UNDP |
| 2. Mohammad Nazim Uddin, ERD | 10. Mahmuda Afroz, UNDP |
| 3. Nick Beresford, UNDP (Chair) | 11. Sarder Assaduzzaman, UNDP |
| 4. Sujala Pant, UNDP | 12. Fatematul Jannat, UNDP |
| 5. Shaila Khan, UNDP | 13. Prasenjit Chakma, UNDP/CHTDF |
| 6. Shaikh Munir Hossain, UNDP/HOPF/RRMC | 14. S.Y. Khan Mojlish, UNDP/CHTDF |
| 7. Sonia Mehzabeen, UNDP | 15. Md. Toufiqul Islam, UNDP/CHTDF |
| 8. Cathrine Tranberg Haarsaker, UNDP | |

Discussions:

Nick Beresford, UNDP Country Director *a.i.* in his introductory remarks highlighted that the Project Initiation Document/ Initiation Plan placed for discussion at this meeting is not related to the extension of the ongoing CHT project but refers to a new project titled “Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts” which will cover a period from October 2016 to September 2021. The 5-year long Strengthening Inclusive Development in the CHT project has been endorsed in an LPAC meeting held on 05 June 2016 where both ERD and MoCHTA representatives were present. Two inter-ministerial meetings were convened by ERD on the Project Document -- the first on 20 June 2016 and the second on 07 August 2016 – where different ministries including the PMO have provided their valuable comments. After incorporating all the comments together with MoCHTA, the Project Document has been re-submitted to ERD for signing. The Prodoc signing and the TPP approval is unlikely to be completed before 30 September 2016. Therefore, this Initiation Plan is prepared to avoid any gap in the programme activities in CHT. This Initiation Plan will ensure continuity of UNDP interventions in the CHT region, especially, the implementation of 8 million dollar USAID funded CHT Watershed Co-Management project and the 7.5 million dollar Danida funded AFSP II (Agriculture and Food Security II) project which have to be completed by August 2017 and June 2018, respectively. When the 5-yr long Strengthening Inclusive Development in the CHT project is approved and starts functioning this IP will be closed. This IP is proposed for three months – from 01 October to 31 December 2016.

The MoCHTA representative opined that MoCHTA agrees with the Initiation Plan in principle. He, however, suggested that if the budget can be reduced for the IP which is proposed to be more than 2 million US dollars for three months. He also suggested if the human resources can be reduced.



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The ERD representative opined that ERD agrees with the Project Initiation Document but requested UNDP to consider the suggestions made by MoCHTA.

CHTDF Programme Coordinator explained that UNDP's donor funded programme activities such as the 8 million dollar USAID funded CHT Watershed Co-Management project and the 7.5 million dollar Danida funded AFSP II (Agriculture and Food Security II) project which have to be completed by August 2017 and June 2018, respectively, must continue during the 3 months under the Initiation Plan otherwise it will not be possible to complete those programmes before the deadlines. He also explained that the current human resource of 49 staff is the bare minimum compared to the 200+ staff of CHTDF just a few years back. Moreover, one of the very purpose of the Initiation Plan is to retain the skills and expertise of the project.

The MoCHTA representative expressed that MoCHTA wants UNDP to be present in CHT and that he now understands the necessity of the budget and human resources. Therefore, he agreed with the Project Initiation Document.

The ERD representative also agreed with the Project Initiation Document.

UNDP CO Cluster representatives also agreed with the Project Initiation Document after pointing out a few minor typos in the document for correction before finalization.

Decisions:

The Project Initiation Document/ Initiation Plan for the project titled "Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts" is endorsed by all parties present in the LPAC.

Nick Beresford
Country Director, *a.i.*