

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs**  
**Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka**

**Subject: Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Steering Committee (NSC) of 'Strengthening Inclusive Development in CHT (SID-CHT)' Project.**

The **3<sup>rd</sup> National Steering Committee (NSC)** meeting on "Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts (SID-CHT)" project was held on 10 December 2019 in the conference room of the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA), Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka. **Mr. Bir Bahadur Ushwe Sing**, MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA), presided over the meeting.

**Mr. Md. Mesbahul Islam**, Secretary, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, Mr. Sudatta Chakma, Additional Secretary (Development) and National Project Director (NPD) of SID-CHT project, Mr. Khurshid Alam, Assistant Country Director, UNDP, representatives from USAID, Mr. Prasenjit Chakma, National Project Manager, representative from concerned ministries/Planning Commission, ERD, HDCs and UNDP officials from SID-CHT project were also present at the meeting. (Participants list attached as annex I).

**Agenda for discussion :**

1. Updates on the decisions of the 2nd NSC meeting;
2. Up-to date progress of SID-CHT Project:
  - A. Agriculture and Food Security sub-Project III (AFSP III);
  - B. Climate Change Resilience sub-Project (CCRP);
  - C. Support to Host Communities Affected by Rohingya Influx sub-Project (SHCARIP);
  - D. Sustainable Management of Community Development for CHT;
  - E. CHT Watershed Co-Management Activity (CHTWCA) and it's extension;
  - F. Women and Girls Empowerment through Education and Skills in the CHT;
3. GoB funded activities;
4. Activating Village Court II in CHT;
5. Revision of the TAPP;
6. Miscellaneous;

The meeting started with the introduction by the participants and a welcome speech from the Chair. Mr. Sudatta Chakma, Additional Secretary of MoCHTA and the National Project Director (NPD) of the SID-CHT Project highlighted the background information of the project. While stating the background of the project the NPD informed the meeting that the SID-CHT project was approved by the government on February 2017 with the objective of strengthening the capacity of the population in the Chittagong Hill Tracts to shape and make decisions that impact on their lives. He further said the specific objectives of the project are to strengthen community land, resource and livelihood management and to increase participation and influence on shape decision. The present project will end in September 2021. As per the agenda NPD requested the National Project Manager (NPM) of the project Mr. Prasenjit Chakma to present the powerpoint presentation on the updates on the decisions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> NSC meeting and progress of SID-CHT project.



## 1. Updates on the decisions of the 2nd NSC meeting:

The NPM informed the meeting about the updates of the decisions of last NSC meeting. He informed the meeting that the project has implemented all previous NSC decisions with consultation and guidance from the NPD.

## 2. Up-to date progress of SID-CHT project;

### Current funding situation of SID-CHT Project; Original budget US\$ 31.6 million;

During his presentation the NPM informed the meeting about the current funding situation of the project. He informed the meeting that the original budget was US\$ 31.6M. However, as of November 2019 the total budget has increased to US\$ 39.44M. The NPM also informed the meeting that Danida and USAID have agreed to provide additional funding. On the otherhand, USD 471,000 made available by ADB for SID-CHT for capacity development of the communities supported by ADB's CHTRDP II project. Furthermore, a funding agreement for 9.9 Million Canadian Dollar (US\$ 7.51M) was signed with Global Affairs of Canada (GAC) for Women and Girls Empowerment in CHT through education & skills up to 30 September 2022. In addition with that he informed the meeting that a number of other development partners have expressed interest to support UNDP's CHT activities. The current funding situation is as below:

Contributor	Contributions (in Million Taka)
UNDP-TRAC (US\$ 1.04 M)	87.74
DANIDA (US\$ 15.70 M)	1,330.62
USAID (US\$ 9.73 M)	824.69
ADB (US\$ 0.47 M)	39.93
CANADA (US\$ 7.51 M)	637.03
Total DPA (US\$ 34.44 M)	2,920.04
GoB contribution (US\$ 5.00 m)	423.88
Total Project AID with GoB (US\$ 39.44)	3,343.92

### A. Agriculture and Food Security sub-Project III (AFSP III);

The NPM informed the meeting that the Agriculture and Food Security sub-Project III (AFSP III) is continuation of AFSP Phase I (2009 -13) & Phase II (2013-17) implemented by UNDP in CHT. Development partner for AFSP III is Danida and the duration of the project is form January 2018 to June 2021. The NPM also informed the meeting that Danida have agreed to provide additional 7M DKK for agriculture and food security activities. The total agreed amount under this component is now DKK 37M (USD 5.4M). Target of this activities is 30,000 marginal and small farmers from 1,200 communities (138,000 people) in CHT.

### B. CHT Climate Resilience Project (CCRP);

The NPM informed the meeting that funding agreement has been signed with Danida with a total budget of DKK 20 million (USD 3.18M) for 3 years (March 2018 to June 2021) to carry out the Climate Resilience activities of the project. Objectives of this activity is to improve climate resiliency of the community, livelihoods and watersheds in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Target of the project is to improve 20 micro-watersheds in 10 Upazilas (out of 26 ) covering 10000 vulnerable people due to climate change.



### **C. Support to Host Community affected by Rohingya Influx;**

The NPM informed the meeting that the local communities living in the areas adjacent to Rohingya Camps are facing different challenges for the improvement of both livelihood and social harmony. Considering the situation, UNDP has signed a funding agreement of DKK 38M (USD 5.7 M) with Danida to support local communities in the Upazilas of Teknaf, Ukhia, Ramu in Cox's Bazar district and Naikhyongchari, Lama and Alikadam Upazilas in Bandarban Hill District from March 2019 to June 2021. It will cover 1200 communities in 6 Upazilas.

### **D. Technical Assistance for Sustainable Management of Community Development for CHT;**

The NPM informed the meeting that USD 471,000 made available by ADB for SID-CHT for capacity development of 300 Communities/PDCs supported by ADB's CHTRDP II project to maintain their community assets. ADB Board and ERD approval has been obtained. Administrative arrangement for fund transfer between ADB and UNDP was signed.

### **E. CHT Watershed Co-Management Activity (CHTWCA) and it's extension;**

USAID has agreed to extend the ongoing CHTWCA project for another four (4) years up to August 2023 with additional USD 6 million. The initial duration of the sub-project is from 30 August 2013 to 15 January 2020 with US\$ 8.0 million. Overall Objectives of the activity is to improve participatory management of Village Common Forests (VCFs) and Reserved Forests (RFs), improved livelihoods that are environmentally sustainable and resilient to climate change, enhanced capacity of key stakeholders, enhanced gender equality.

### **F. Women and Girls Empowerment Through Education and Skills in the CHT;**

A funding agreement for 9.9 Million Canadian Dollar (US\$ 7.51M) was signed with Global Affairs of Canada (GAC) for Women and Girls Empowerment in all upazilias of three Hill District through Education & Skills up to 30 September 2022.

### **3. GoB Funded Activities:**

The NPM informed the NSC that MoCHTA has contributed Taka 8 (eight) crore to support the project beneficiaries in the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Under this budget MoCHTA provided agricultural machineries i. e. 338 power tillers and 338 lifter pump (irrigation pump) machines to selected farmers to improve and modernize CHT agricultural practices for ensuring increased production and income of the farmers. The agricultural equipment's have been distributed in each of the 26 upazilas of three Hill Districts.

BDT 10 crore has been allocated for the 2019-20 fiscal year. The following activities will be done by the amount:

SL. No.	Implementation Modality	Unit	Unit cost	FY 2019-20
				Budget
1	Mini Cold Storage for fruits and vegetable	3	3,300,000	9,900,000
2	Market Collection Point	15	1,000,000	15,000,000
3	Freelance ICT Outsourcing Center (Rangamati)	1	5,000,000	5,000,000



4	GFS Water Supply Facilities in VCFs (Total 65, this year 30)	30	800,000	24,000,000
5	Water retention facilities (i.e. rain water harvesting system) for household and agricultural cultivation (lumpsum per district)	12	1,300,000	15,600,000
6	Support to the women traditional weavers (lumpsum per district)	3	1,000,000	3,000,000
7	Support for 400 famers for Honey Production in Khagrachari	400	25,000	10,000,000
8	Support to Honey Producer Association in Khagrachari	1	1,207,944	1,207,944
9	Model Village (Rangamati/Khagrachari)	1	5,000,000	5,000,000
10	Promotion of Organic Farming Zone (Bandarban)	1	1,000,000	1,000,000
11	Entrepreneurship skills development for youth (Total 300, this year 150)	150	25,000	3,750,000
	Sub Total			93,457,944
12	Monitoring and technical support by HDCs @ 7%			6,542,056
	Grand Total			100,000,000

#### 4. Activating Village Court II in CHT;

Capacity development of traditional institutions, local CSOs and local administration as well as judiciary, legal professions, and other relevant actors in CHT will be carried out through this component. Existing customary laws & practices will be reviewed and codified. Support will be provided to existing harmonization efforts of different justice systems in CHT. Awareness will be raised on existing legal systems and options for redress mechanisms in CHT with the support from ADB funded USD 5.3 million from September 2019 to December 2020.

#### 5. Revision of the TAPP;

The NPM informed the meeting that the ProDoc and TAPP revision with extension are needed for the following reasons:

To reflect the DANIDA funded Support to Host Communities Affected by the Rohingya Influx sub-project worth DKK 38 million (US\$ 5.7 million); to reflect the GAC (Canada) funded Women and Girls Empowerment in CHT through Education & Skills sub-project worth CAD 9.9 million (US\$ 7.5 million) which will continue till 30 September 2022; to reflect the ADB funded Sustainable Management of Community Development in CHT sub-project worth US\$ 0.47 million; to reflect the extension of USAID funded CHT Watershed Co-Management Activity (CHTWCA) sub-project with additional funding of US\$ 6 million which will continue till 29 August 2023; to reflect the support activities for the AVCBII CHT works; to incorporate all the new positions approved by PIC and NSC on condition of including those positions in the next revision of the TAPP. Moreover, DANIDA has already expressed their interest to support SID-CHT project substantially during their next cycle of July 2021 to June 2026; so provisions must be made for future DANIDA funded activities in the revised project document. Apart from the above-mentioned Development Partners (DPs) few other DPs are also showing interest to fund SID-CHT project.



## 6. Miscellaneous

The NPM informed the meeting that new development partners came up with new funding for implementation of new programmes on different times after the TAPP and Prodoc were approved. NPM also informed the meeting that 14 new positions (44 personnel) need to be created for recruitment for effective implementation of the project's components as per agreement signed with development partners. New DPs also made agreement with UNDP for implementation of the new programmes for a certain period of time and for that required personnel are to be recruited so that programmes can start as per schedule. In this connection, he also mentioned that approved TAPP envisages "Project Implementation Committee (PIC) will discuss and approve any new positions, if required, based on future funding situation and programme necessity" (TAPP page-23).

### Discussions:

Detailed discussions followed the presentation. Honorable Minister expressed his gratitude to the development partners and UNDP for the ongoing activities. Regarding Activating Village Court II in CHT part the Honorable Minister asked to review the existing customary laws & practices in written format. The NPM informed the NSC that consultants have been appointed to review the customary laws & practices of Chakma, Marma and Tripura community. The Minister opined that as Mro is the second largest community in Bandarban their customary laws & practices should also be reviewed. The Minister also said all ethnic community of CHT have their own customary laws & practices. UNDP should consult with Circle Chiefs, Headmen and Karbaries to implement the activities. He also opined that it should be identified which cases should be resolved by District Judge and which cases should be resolved by customary laws & practises. UNDP Assistant Resident Representative Mr. Khurshid Alam informed the meeting that UNDP is very much aware of the situation of CHT and want to implement the activities following the local customs, law, practices and culture.

Regarding karate and martial arts training, the Chairman of Bandarban Hill District Council opined that the training period should be extended to at least six months and Federation recognized coaches and dresses should be provided to the trainees.

Regarding new recruitment and newly planned activities, Assistant Resident Representative of UNDP mentioned that originally there was a funding gap of the approved TAPP. Considering the needs for implementing development programmes in CHT new development partners like Canada, ADB have come up to provide assistance in different new programmes in CHT and existig partners DANIDA and USAID hae expanded and extended their partnerships; therefore, 14 new positions (44 personnel) are to be recruited side by side the revision of TAPP and Prodoc so that delay in implementation of new programmes do not occur. Considering the new programmes implementation, 2nd PIC and 2nd NSC meetings have also recommended for such recruitment of the new positions earlier. He also opined that recruitment of personnel and revision of TAPP as well as Prodoc revision can go side by side.

The representative of Planning Commission opined that MoCHTA can revise the TAPP and Prodoc quickly so that recruitment of personnel as mentioned above can be done quickly. Proposed personel should be recruited following the government procedures.

ERD representative stated that they will quickly process and approve the revised Project Document (PRODOC) as and when sent to ERD.

Honorable Minister opined that Government rules and regulations should be kept in mind but smooth and timely implementation of project activities are also important. At the end of the meeting he thanked the development partners for providing assistance to CHT for the overall development of CHT as a team. He also mentioned that all concerned have to work a lot in this regard.

Finally, the Secretary, MoCHTA thanked the development partners for their contribution and hoped for continuous support to SID-CHT project for the development of CHT people.

**Decisions:**

1. SID-CHT project management will revise the PRODOC and TAPP urgently for approval by the concerned authority.
2. MoCHTA will write a letter to planning commission for their approval about implementation of new programs and activities funded by DPs including recruitment of staff under SID-CHT project
3. SID-CHT project will implement the AVC project phase -II CHT part activities as per guidelines provided by the honorable MoCHTA Minister as mentioned in the discussion.
4. GoB funded activities under SID-CHT project should be completed by June 2020 expeditiously.

There being no other agenda to discuss, the Chair concluded the meeting with a vote of thanks to all the participants.



**(Bir Bahadur Ushwe Sing, MP)**

Minister

Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs

and

Chairperson, NSC of SID-CHT Project