

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

Subject: Meeting Minutes of the 3rd Project Implementation Committee (PIC) of 'Strengthening Inclusive Development in CHT (SID-CHT)' Project

The 3rd Project Implementation Committee (PIC) Meeting on "Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts (SID-CHT)" project was held on 07 November 2019 in the conference room of the Ministry of CHT Affairs, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka. **Mr.Md. Mesbahul Islam, Secretary**, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs presided over the meeting.

Mr. Sudatta Chakma, Additional Secretary (Development) and National Project Director (NPD) of SID-CHT project, representative from concerned ministries/Planning Commission, Mr. Prasenjit Chakma, National Project Manager of SID-CHT project, representatives from HDCs and UNDP officials from SID-CHT Project were also present at the meeting. (Participants list attached as annex I).

Agenda for discussion:

1. 2nd PIC meeting decisions and updates;
2. Updates of project activities;
3. New activities for PIC endorsement;
4. Positions proposed for recruitment and will be included in the revised TPP
5. Miscellaneous

The meeting started with the introduction by the participants and a welcome speech from the chair followed by background remarks and information about the project made by Mr. Sudatta Chakma, Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA) and the National Project Director (NPD) of the SID-CHT Project. While stating the background of the project, NPD informed the meeting that the SID-CHT project was approved by the Planning Commission 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 to shape decision. He also said that this is a NEX modality project whereas the previous project in CHT of UNDP was DEX modality project. That means that MoCHTA will take the lead in implementing the project with active involvement of NPD. 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 of the SID-CHT project.

Highlights of the presentation by NPM are as follows:

Agenda 1: Decisions and updates of 2nd PIC Meeting held on 12 July 2018:

During presentation the NPM informed that all decisions of the 2nd PIC meeting were complied.

Agenda 2: Update of ongoing project activities:

The updates, achievements of project activities and additional resource mobilisation as of October 2019 were presented during powerpoint presentation. The NPM 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. Moreover, funding agreement has been signed with Danida with a total budget of DKK 20 million for 3 years to carry out the Climate Resilience activities of the project. In addition, fund of USD 640,000 received from USAID for scaling up CHT-WCA project in Naikhyongchari, Lama and Alikadam Upazilas – linking with Rohingya influx impact. USAID has expressed interest to extend the ongoing CHTWCA project for another four (4) years up to December 2023 with additional USD 6 million. 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. ADB Board and ERD approval has been obtained. Administrative arrangement for fund transfer between ADB and UNDP was signed. For Support to Host Communities Affected by Rohingya Influx, a funding agreement is signed with Danida with a total budget of DKK 38M which includes additional funding of DKK 24M to provide support to 1200 communities in 6 upazilas in Bandarban and Cox's bazar. Furthermore, a funding agreement for 9.9 Million Canadian Dollar 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.

Agenda 3: New activities for PIC endorsement:

I) Women and Girls Empowerment through education and skill in CHT (Canada funded project):

Awareness raising training and workshops will be organized for teachers and parents on eliminating gender-based discriminatory practices in schools. Formation of 300 active Mothers' clubs will be formed in schools to prevent discriminatory and harmful practices towards girls in schools. 1200 Reproductive Health Care Workers (RHCW) from across the region will be trained to provide reproductive health services to adolescent girls and women in under-served areas. Skill development courses, apprenticeship & Entrepreneurship on vocational and technical skills will be provided to 1,000 youth, especially adolescent girls and women. Single-sex toilets will be constructed in schools to ensure basic and menstrual hygiene management

ii) Activating Village Courts in Bangladesh Phase-II (CHT Part) (EU funded project)

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.

Agenda 4: Positions proposed for recruitment and will be included in the revised TPP

The NPM also informed the meeting that 14 new positions (40 personnel) need to be created for recruitment for effective implementation of the project's components as per the agreement with development partners. However, it will be included in the TPP when revised. These new positions are: 1. Natural resource management Governance Specialist (1 position), 2. Conflict mitigation/ Social Cohesion & Gender Specialist (1 position), 3. Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (1 position), 4. Geographic Information Specialist (1 position), 5. Private Sector and Livelihood Specialist (1 position), 6. Programme Officer (1 position), 7. Upazila Facilitators (4 positions), 8. Community Volunteer (30 positions), 9. NUNV Finance Specialist (1 position), 10. NUNV Admin and IT Specialist, (1 position), 11. NUNV Admin Specialist (1 position), 12. NUNV Programme Assistant for MoCHTA (1 position), 13. Advisor on Women and Youth Resilience in the CHT (International, 1 position), 14. Programme Associate (1 position).

Agenda 5. Miscellaneous

Following the updates presented by the NPM, the Chair wanted to know about the updates of GoB funded activities. NPM informed the meeting 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 modernizing CHT agricultural practices for ensuring increased production and income of the farmers. The agriculture equipment has been distributed in each 26 upazilas of three Hill District.

Discussions:

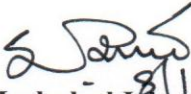
On the issue of recruitment of positions to be created and later to be included in the revised TPP, the Chair inquired whether it is possible to do so before the approval of the revised TPP. On this point, the NPM referred to the page 23 of the approved TPP which says "*Project Implementation Committee (PIC) will discuss and approve any new positions, if required, based on future funding situation and programme necessity.*"

However, representatives of Planning Commission opined that the MoCHTA may go for the revision of both Prodoc and TPP for smooth implementation of the project as per GoB system.

Decisions:

1. PIC recommended the proposed positions as mentioned in agenda 4 for inclusion in the revised TPP.
2. Immediate measures should be taken to revise both the Prodoc and the TAPP incorporating new fundings, new activities and all new positions.
3. HDCs will take necessary actions and measures to implement the GoB funded activities smoothly.

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


(Md. Mesbahul Islam)
8/12/2019
Secretary

Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs