

3rd National Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting of GLOF II Project

Minutes of the Meeting

Date: Tuesday, 22nd December 2020

Timings: 11:00 am – 12:45 pm

Venue: Committee Room, Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC)

Agenda:

1. Review of estimates for infrastructural activities under the AWP 2021.
 - I. Small scale infrastructure
 - II. Irrigation channels
 - III. Slope stabilization
2. Review of valleys as recommended by GB.
3. Review of estimates for EWS Equipment proposed under the AWP 2021.

Opening Remarks:

A 3rd National Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting for the GLOF II Project was held at 11:00 hours on 22nd December 2020 at the Committee Room of MoCC to review concerns raised at the 5th National Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting. The meeting was **chaired by National Project Director (NPD) /Additional Secretary MoCC, Joudat Ayaz.**

The Chair opened the meeting, thanking attendees from GB, KP and the Federal Government for their participation in the 3rd TWG meeting for the GLOF-II Project. He explained that during the 5th National PSC meeting held on the 15th of December 2020, Madam Secretary (Chair), MoCC proposed to the members of the PSC that a 3rd TWG meeting shall convene at earliest in order to discuss the following three agenda points:

1. The review and endorsement of cost estimates for infrastructural activities under the AWP 2021.
2. The review of valleys as recommended by GB.
3. The review of cost estimates for EWS Equipment proposed under the AWP 2021.

The Chair asked the National Project Manager (NPM) (a.i.) to brief the members following the agenda of the meeting. The NPM (a.i.) thanked the participants and with permission of chair, initiated the meeting with an overview of the project, followed by the agenda of

the meeting.

Annexures:

1. Agenda of 3rd National Technical Working Group meeting
2. Working Paper
3. 5th PSC Meeting Minutes
4. Attendance sheet

<i>Agenda Points</i>	<i>Action Points</i>	<i>Discussion/Comments</i>	<i>Decisions</i>
<p>Review of estimates for infrastructural activities under the AWP 2021.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Small scale infrastructure 2. Irrigation channels 3. Slope stabilization 4. Construction of safe havens 	<p>1. <u>Small Scale Infrastructures</u></p>	<p>The NPM (a.i.) provided an overview of the proposed budget allocated for the construction of 150 small scale infrastructures (70 in KP and 80 in GB), amounting to USD 10,000 per infrastructure (25 metres), totaling to USD 1.5 Million. He mentioned that this calculation is purely based on the cost estimated provided by Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMA's) of GB and KP.</p> <p>The NPD enquired about the activities that are included under the construction of small scale infrastructures. Deputy Director PDMA GB and KP responded explaining that this would include gabion walls, check dams, retaining walls, plum concrete walls and excavation work.</p> <p>A concern was raised by Deputy Director PDMA regarding the cost estimate being based on infrastructures of 25 meters, where he explained that the size of the infrastructure is determined on site. This was endorsed by GBDMA, where he explained that a variance of size requirements was seen on multiple sites.</p> <p>The Chairman for Federal Flood Commission (FFC) raised a point explaining that the National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF), Gilgit Baltistan Rural Support Programme (GBRSP) and FFC are all undertaking activities relating to flood protection infrastructures. In order to avoid duplication of activities, there should be greater clarity on each organizations' activities. A request was also made to ensure FFC was on board for infrastructure related activities for GLOF-II.</p> <p>GBDMA responded explaining that following consultation with C&W and GBRSP, cost estimates were provided determining that the GBRSP was most cost effective and that an MoU is in final stages with GBRSP.</p>	

The NPM responded to the FFC chairman explaining that before forwarding the budgeted amount to the provincial governments, a consultation meeting will be organized between FFC and the PDMA's for KP and GB to cross check planned GLOF-II infrastructural activities in order to avoid duplication. He further explained that at this stage, we are only approving the total budget allocation for the number of small scale infrastructures. The decision for selecting the implementing party shall be determined in a consultation meeting to be held before forwarding funds to respective Provincial Governments.

A PDMA-KP representative mentioned that all the sites are selected in close coordination with communities, irrigation and consultants. He also mentioned that the PC-1's are ready for the tender process, and once the budget is approved, PDMA-KP will begin executing the activities. He also mentioned that PDMA-KP have divided the small scale infrastructure activities into the following categories:

1. Flood Protection Walls/Gabion Walls,
2. Bridges, cross-ways
3. Culverts and plun-concretes

Decision:

The Chair approved the cost estimates for the small-scale infrastructures.

2. Irrigation Channels Repair and Reconstruction

The NPM (a.i.) briefed the participants regarding repair and reconstruction work for irrigation channels, explaining that **USD 1.3 million** is allocated for the repair and reconstruction of 150 irrigation channels i.e. 70 in KP and 80 in GB, and the cost estimate for the repair/reconstruction of a 25-meter irrigation channel is kept approximately to USD 9,000 each.

An On-Farm Water Management (OFWM) representative raised a point that the activity title should include 'construction of new schemes'. This was also seconded by the P&DD GB representative where he stated that some sites do not currently have any irrigation channels and may require the construction of a new irrigation channel. He further presented a scenario whereby one site for OFWM-GB requires a construction of a 10,000 feet long irrigation channel in order to supply water to the local community. The cost for this is estimated at PKR 10 Million, which technically utilizes the total amount allocated to one site. The NPM (a.i.) explained that we cannot undertake large infrastructures that drains our funds on one activity. He suggested that if 10,000 ft can be segmented into 10 channels (1,000 ft for 1 channel), we will

be able to achieve the target of 10 irrigation channels per valley and the demand can also be fulfilled.

ARR-UNDP added to this, clarifying that the activity shall be aligned with repair/reconstruction, explaining that the proposed irrigation channel seems to be for supplying drinking water for the community, and this is cannot be covered under this activity. However, he suggested that this activity can be taken up in livelihood activities as planned under the AWP 2021. The Chair also endorsed the views of the ARR-UNDP, explaining that such large schemes that utilize the entire amount allocated to 10 schemes shall not be undertaken and that the project's activities shall focus on repair and reconstruction, not the building of water supplies.

The Chair also directed the OFWM representatives that it is not necessary that each valley will require the repair for 10 channels. The allocation of the repair/reconstruction of 10 channels per valley can be reviewed again once actual work on site is initiated. If need be, re-adjustments can take place for the number of irrigation channels for repair and reconstruction. OFWM representatives from KP and GB agreed to the directions of the Chair and endorsed the budget allocated for the implementation of each site.

Decision:

The Chair approved the allocated amount for repair and reconstruction of 150 irrigation channels.

3. 350 hectares of Slope stabilization through Bio-Engineering Structures

The NPM (a.i.) briefed the participants on the slope stabilization activities that need to be undertaken by the Forest Department of KP and GB. He mentioned that approximately USD 1,300 is allocated for 1 hectare of slope stabilization. A total of 150 hectares of slope stabilization activities are to be implemented in KP, and similarly 200 hectares in GB through bio-engineering structures. Further, he explained that the World Bank is also funding similar activities in GB and KP through the Forest Department of KP and GB. To avoid duplication, Forest Department of KP and GB were already consulted with.

Decision

The Chair approved the allocated amount for slope stabilization of 350 hectares through bio-engineering structures.

4. 48 Safe Havens to be Constructed in 24 valleys (2 Safe Havens per Valley)

The NPM (a.i.) briefed the members that this activity is approved in the Project Document. He explained

that 02 sites will be established per valley, and will be declared as safe havens and registered with PDMA's and district administration for rescue and relief activities. To make full use of the space, the sites can also be utilized for recreational activities under normal circumstances. He further mentioned that approximately USD 5,000 is allocated for the establishment of each safe haven, totaling to USD 240,000 for 48 safe havens in 24 valleys.

Decision

The Chair approved the allocated amount.

Review of valleys as recommended by GB.

The Chief Meteorologist PMD highlighted that the assessment for any potential valley is carried out using a proper methodology, by a dedicated team of 10 skilled experts who compile and produce a thorough assessment using new and previously collected data. This provides a clear picture of the valleys that are most at risk of GLOF events. He further stated that the 9 valleys put forth were assessed to be most at risk, however, there has been a change in the recommended valleys by the GB Government. It was then requested by the Chief Meteorologist not to eliminate the highly recommended valleys by PMD, rather the two proposed valleys, Shagranthang and Minapin, can either be clubbed or adjusted with the other selected valleys.

The NPD inquired about the justification of changing the valleys, to which the EPA GB representative stated that the issue was discussed at both the GB TWG and the GB PPSC meeting. He further mentioned that the PMD neglected one parameter in their technical evaluation of selecting the valleys, the proximity with settlements along with the community and infrastructure at risk. The Chief Meteorologist clarified that the said parameter is also taken into consideration and it was proposed to hold a meeting between PMD and GB government to finalize the valleys. The Assistant Chief P&DD GB mentioned that out of the list of 30 vulnerable sites provided by PMD, 9 valleys had to be prioritized and that since PMD has the technical knowledge regarding the matter, the GB Government has no issue in going forward with their recommendations. The Deputy Chief P&DD mentioned that the issue is only concerning two valleys and that Shimshal and Sosat should be clubbed/adjusted together. To this, the Chief Meteorologist PMD stated that in order to club any two valleys, they need to be situated together sharing a geographical boundary.

Lastly, the ARR UNDP clarified that requests/discussion from provinces to raise the number of valleys should be avoided as this is causes delays in the project. Therefore, with consensus of both GB and KP representatives and the approval of the Chair, the list of valleys provided by PMD has been endorsed based on technical and scientific basis. The aspect of clubbing can be considered if feasible. Further if the project manages to secure more funds in the future, additional valleys can also be considered. Below are the endorsed list of valleys for Gilgit-Balistan.

S.No	Name of Valley	District	No of Lakes/Probability of lake formation	Comment
1	Shishper	Hunza	High Probability of Lake formation due to surge behavior of Shishper Glacier. Recently the lake was developed and 2 GLOF events have been occurred in 2019 & 2020 respectively.	Highly recommended
2	Muthat	Diamer	01	Highly recommended
3	Shimshal	Hunza	Multiple Supra glacier ponds and High Probability of Lake formation due to surge behavior of Khordopin Glacier. Recently the lake was developed and 2 GLOF events have been occurred in 2017 & 2018 respectively. Further there is a potential lake formation near the snout of yazdgil glacier & Malanguti Glacier.	Highly recommended Highly Recommended
4	Strangbut	Skardu	05	Highly Recommended
5	Hisper	Nagar	Supra glacier lakes	Highly Recommended
6	Haramosh		02	Highly Recommended
7	Sosat	Ghizer	06 Lakes	Highly Recommended
8	Parashing	Astore	01 Lake	Highly Recommended
9	Arindu	Shigar	02 Lakes	Highly Recommended

Figure 1: Endorsed list of valleys - GB

Decision

The Chair endorsed the valleys recommended by the PMD.

<p>Review of estimates for early warning system (EWS) Equipment proposed under AWP 2021.</p>	<p>The NPM (a.i.) presented the budget allocation for EWS' including: USD \$1.9 million for automatic weather stations (AWS), USD \$1.15 million for River Discharge Gauges, USD \$0.5 million for operation and maintenance of EWS equipment and USD \$0.36 million for communication and data transmission costs.</p> <p>As discussed with the donors, the budget allocation for EWS equipment was set as USD \$3.3 million. However, an RFQ for the proposed equipment was floated and the budget was estimated to be above USD \$6.0 million. The NPM (a.i.) mentioned that in order to move forward, the quotations received first need to be analyzed and discussed with GCF for re-appropriation.</p> <p>After the NPD inquired about the possibility of open tender, the Chief Meteorologist PMD agreed with this suggestion and stated that the long-term agreements (LTAs) are used for urgent situations, and can usually increase costs by around 30%. He then mentioned that the technical queries of the LTA holders were responded to by PMD, and it seemed as though the specifications were being downgraded. The Chief Meteorologist PMD stated that keeping the above in view, the quantity can be decreased but the quality cannot be compromised upon. The ARR UNDP reaffirmed not compromising on quality, and further stated that prices have risen since 2017 when the budget was initially allocated for the EWS equipment at USD \$3.3 million. He also stated that we are facing a shortfall as these are old estimates and now GCF has to be requested for re-appropriation of the budget for equipment. He added that we shall approach the KP Government for co-financing. The Chief Meteorologist PMD proposed to form a technical committee for the technical evaluation of equipment regardless of the method of procurement (LTA and tendering).</p> <p>Decision</p> <p>The Chair endorsed the formation of a technical committee for the technical evaluation of EWS equipment.</p> <p>The ARR UNDP stated that as per donor requirements, the activity consisting of the Revolving Fund of \$50,000 per valley cannot move forward as on granting is against GCF policy. It was further added that the GCF had to previously cancel an entire project that was based on on granting. The ARR UNDP further provided two options, open to further recommendations;</p>
<p>Any Other Business</p>	<p>(i) half the funds (\$25,000 per valley) can be spent on community infrastructure/livelihood and the remaining half can be spent on EWS equipment.</p> <p>(ii) all the funds can be allocated to the financing of EWS equipment. He further stated that the social mobilization will not go in vain, rather the committees formed will propose their priorities based on disaster vulnerabilities which will be taken into account for</p>

5

financing/budgeting if option (i) is opted for.

The NPD stated that there is another possibility that we should divert funding into community based interventions that can be monitored, in order to make them prepared, they can use this fund for recovery.


The GBDMA proposed that we should have at least USD 10,000 available in the accounts of the CBDRMCs. The GB EPA agreed to this.

The NPD responded explaining that it is a requirement of the donor that no fund amount can be left unutilized. Further, the NPD explained that in order to have this fund used in the most efficient manner, it may be useful to identify what activities are required on ground through the communities.

Decision

The Chair endorsed the recommendation of allocating half the funds (\$25,000 per valley) to necessary infrastructure/livelihood and the remaining half for EWS equipment.

Meeting ended with vote of thanks.






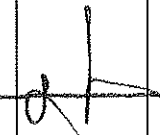
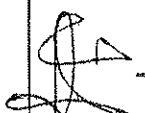






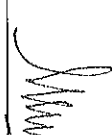

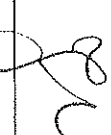



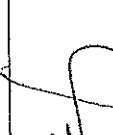
3rd National Technical Working Group





"Scaling Up of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Risk Reduction Project" (GLOF-II)
 22 December 2020, Committee Room, MoCC, Islamabad

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