



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives
Local Government Division

Strengthening Women's Ability for Productive New Opportunities (SWAPNO-II)

Minutes of 5th Project Implementation Committee (PIC) Meeting

Chair : Dr. Md. Monirul Islam, Joint Secretary, Local Government Division & National Project
Director, SWAPNO II

Venue : SWAPNO II Meeting Room, DPHE Bhaban, 8th Floor, Shahid Mansur Ali Sarani, Kakrail, Dhaka

Date & Time : 10 December 2025, Tuesday, 10:00 AM

Participants : Annex-A

Opening Remarks by the Chairperson Dr. Md. Monirul Islam, Joint Secretary of the Local Government Division and National Project Director (NPD) of SWAPNO-II, chaired the meeting. He warmly welcomed all participants attending both in person and virtually via Zoom link. He expressed his sincere appreciation for their presence and invited everyone to introduce themselves. Following the introductions, Dr. Md. Monirul Islam requested Mr. Ashish Kumar Bakshi, NPM of SWAPNO-II, to present a progress overview of the project.

Mr. Ashish Kumar Bakshi, NPM of SWAPNO-II, delivered a concise overview of the project. The presentation and subsequent discussions followed the meeting agenda, as detailed below:

1. Progress updates of the project: Key achievements and upcoming activities
2. Challenges in the formal sector training & job placement
3. Employment and job placement
4. Any Other Business (AoB)

Agenda Item 1: Progress Updates of the Project – Key Achievements:

Wages amounting to BDT 75.48 crore were disbursed to 10,188 beneficiaries, with an average of BDT 74,111 per participant. Wage savings were also distributed to all beneficiaries, averaging BDT 14,100 each. A total of 566 UDMC meetings were conducted to raise community awareness on gender-responsive disaster management.

Across 12 districts, 8,716 coconut trees were planted, covering 80% of beneficiaries' households and 283 Union Parishad (UP) premises, with a reported 92.67% survival rate. To institutionalize gender-responsive and pro-poor service delivery, one-day workshops were held in all 283 unions across 32 upazilas, leading to enhanced support from DAE, Livestock, Health, and Family Planning departments for all beneficiaries.

A total of 6,525 beneficiaries received training in various IGAs and were provided BDT 5,000 each in input support to strengthen their IGAs. A total 1,048 beneficiaries began apprenticeship training with designated mentors. Additionally, 314 potential entrepreneurs completed EDBM training, with BDT 40,000 start-up support provided in December 2025.

Under formal sector training initiatives, 728 beneficiaries completed Sewing Machine Operation training (out of 2,200), with 212 placed in formal jobs. Another 734 beneficiaries opted out of formal sector training but expressed interest in local-level skills training and IGAs.

Business Development Support (BDS) workshops were held in 32 upazilas to strengthen coordination with private-sector actors, MFIs, BSCIC, banks, and local BDS providers, improving beneficiaries' access to investment and services.

As of 4 December 2025, 1,682 insurance claims had been settled (including 134 cashless claims), 15 death claims processed, and 1,556 telemedicine consultations provided, enhancing resilience against health-related shocks. To establish climate-adaptive demonstration plots, 12 district-level workshops with DAE and DLO resulted in 283 demonstration plots being set up. Quarterly NNPC meetings were held in 283 unions across 12 districts, engaging approximately 11,320 participants from Union Parishads, NNPC, standing committees, and SWAPNO beneficiaries.

Financial Progress: The NPM shared the following financial progress, which has also been added to the working papers.

Project Financial Progress:							
Progress of DPP estimated cost: (Jul-23 to November-25)				Amount in BDT Crore			
Estimated cost of the project (BDT)		Cost in BDT		Financial Progress		Physical Progress	
Total	148.40	119.40		67%		80%	
GoB	71.61	71.61		100%		100%	
PA	76.79	47.80		36%		62%	
Progress of ADP/RADP (Jul-23 to November-25)				Amount in BDT Crore			
Financial Year	ADP/RADP Allocation			Progress of ADP			
	Total (BDT)	GoB (BDT)	PA (BDT)	Cost Total (BDT)	GoB (BDT)	PA (BDT)	%
2023-2024	37.49	23.23	14.26	17.82	11.23	6.59	17.57%
2024-2025	94.56	60.38	34.18	89.58	60.38	29.20	94.73%
2025-2026	28.84	-	28.84	12.01	-	12.01	41.63%
2026-2027	12.55	-	12.55	-	-	-	-
Total				119.40	71.61	47.80	
** The component-wise cost statement is attached in Annex-A							

Key upcoming activities:

- **Coconut tree plantation follow-up:** Regular monitoring and technical support to beneficiary households and UPs for proper maintenance, healthy growth, and high survival rates.
- **Climate-adaptive livelihood technologies:** Promote replication of 283 climate-resilient demonstration plots across 12 districts through cross-learning visits.
- **Market and government linkages for livelihoods beneficiaries:** Assist in updating IGA plans and facilitate access to government schemes, subsidies, and market opportunities.
- **Business growth support for 314 entrepreneurs:** Review business plans and start-up capital utilization; deliver targeted training on digital tools (mobile apps, ERP, financial/business literacy, e-commerce) to boost competitiveness and growth.
- **Coordination with BDS providers:** Strengthen partnerships with local Business Development Service (BDS) actors for ongoing technical, financial, and market-access support to entrepreneurs.
- **Completion of apprenticeship training:** Ensure all 1,200 apprentices complete training and receive guidance on self-employment or wage-employment opportunities.
- **Formal sector skills training and job placement:** Complete remaining trainings and provide continuous placement and retention support for sustainable wage employment.
- **Strengthening UDMCs:** Build capacity and engagement of 283 Union Disaster Management Committees (UDMCs) in disaster preparedness, response, and community resilience.
- **Documentation and dissemination of best practices:** Systematically capture success stories, innovations, and lessons learned.



Agenda-2: Challenges in the formal sector training & job placement & possible way forward:

- a) Around 800 beneficiaries are not willing to participate in the training because of various reasons like pregnancy, prolonged illness, permanent migration from the community, have husbands with disability that required the beneficiary to stay at home, engaged in Income Generating activities (IGAs) at local level, beneficiaries got married and some other reasons.

Possible solution: Beneficiaries who are unwilling to outside of their localities, alternative options like local level training or IGAs can be provided.

Agenda no 3: Any other Business (AOB): Updates on last PIC meeting discussion & decisions:

SL#	Discussion	Decision
1	Micro-Health Insurance: The present contract with Pragati Life Insurance will end in June,2026 and contract will be extended till December,2026	NPD will extend the contract upon the No-cost Extension of the project
2	No-cost Extension: The PSC meeting that took place on 3 rd November,2025, approved the no-cost extension from June to Dec,2026.	IMED will provide recommendations followed by the field visit
3	National Advocacy workshop: SWAPNO is going to conduct an impact study on the poverty graduation model for the project, which will be presented at the national-level multi-stakeholder workshop.	The Project documentation is ongoing, and the impact assessment will be conducted in the second quarter of 2026.

Followings are the key discussions and decisions of the 5th PIC meeting:

SL#	Decisions & discussion	Responsible
1	Submit and facilitate the no-cost extension file at the ministry between January and February 2026 to obtain formal approval.	NPD, UNDP and IMED
2	Conduct an impact study on the poverty graduation model in Q2 2026; present findings at a national-level multi-stakeholder seminar/workshop.	UNDP
3	Analyse reasons for beneficiaries unable to join formal sector training and explore alternative livelihood options; communicate challenges and proposed alternatives to the donor agency.	NPM & UNDP SWAPNO-II Team
4	LGD and UNDP to collaborate closely to design a probable new project. Inter-ministerial meeting needs to be organized to form working group in this regard.	NPD and NPM of SWAPNO-II
5	Based on progress up to December 2025, prepare a revised plan in January 2026 for the unspent USD 238,000 from the formal sector training & employment for the necessary approval of the Embassy of Sweden.	NPM of SWAPNO-II

Closing of the meeting: In the concluding remarks, Dr. Md Monirul Islam, the honourable NPD expressed profound appreciation to the representatives from various ministries & the UNDP for their active engagement and insightful contributions.


 Dr. Md. Monirul Islam
 Joint Secretary
 Local Government Division
 &
 National Project Director
 SWAPNO-II Project

Annexure A: Participant List

1. Dr. Md. Monirul Islam, Joint Secretary, LGD & NPD SWAPNO-II Project
2. Hasina Akter, Deputy Secretary (PS to the Senior Secretary), Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
3. Bijen Banerjee, Deputy Chief, Skyscraper Wing, Socio-Economic Infrastructure Division, Bangladesh Planning Commission
4. Deputy Chief, Planning Commission.
5. Mostafijur Rahman, Deputy Secretary, Planning-2, Local Government Division
6. Jesmin Parvin, Joint Secretary, ERD
7. ATM Farhad Chowdhury, Deputy Director, (Senior Assistant Director) IMED-Sector-3
8. Tanvir Mahmud, Senior Governance Specialist, DG Cluster, UNDP Bangladesh Country Office, Dhaka
9. Ashish Kumar Bakshi, National Project Manager, UNDP SWAPNO-II Project Dhaka
10. Mohammadul Haque, District Manager, SWAPNO-II (Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari)
11. Md. Mahmood Hossain, District Manager, SWAPNO-II (Bagerhat, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, & Gopalganj)
12. Mir Amir Ali, District Manager, SWAPNO-II (Jamalpur & Sherpur)
13. Mohammad Masum Miah, Financial Monitoring Assistant, SWAPNO-II (Comilla & Chandpur)
14. Rokibul Hoq Roki, Finance & Admin Associate, SWAPNO II
15. Mosle Uddin, Finance & Admin Assistant, SWAPNO II
16. Masud Ahmed Bhuiyan, Financial Monitoring Assistant, SWAPNO-II (Gaibandha)