

Meeting Minutes
Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC)
for IP of SWAPNO

Date: 18 April 2022

Venue: Meeting room, 18th floor, UNDP, IDB Bhaban, Agargoan, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

Chair: Prasenjit Chakma, Assistant Resident Representative (ARR), UNDP, Bangladesh

Participants : (Participant list is attached - annex I).

Agenda: Review and approve the Initiation plan to bridge the gap between SWAPNO present and the next phase-SWAPNO II

Discussions and decisions:


S.N.	Agenda	Discussion & Decision	Remarks
01	Welcome Address	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prasenjit Chakma, the Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), a.i. UNDP, Bangladesh, expressed his gratitude to the audience for their participation in the LPAC meeting. He specially thanked Mr. Masudul Haque, Joint Secretary of ERD and Mr. Habibur Rahman, NPD of SWAPNO for their participation. • After quick introduction and getting to know each other, the chair requested Kajal Chatterjee, National Project Manager of SWAPNO to present the project results and the proposed Initiation Plan (IP). 	The participant list is attached as annex I
02	Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kajal Chatterjee started with an animated video on SWAPNO before. After the show, he presented key results of SWAPNO achieved since 2015 in three phases. The NPM highlighted, SWAPNO has become a flagship project of Local Government Division for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reaching out to the hard core rural poor women (96% correct targeting) who are widowed, divorced, separated, abandoned or left with a physically or mentally challenged husband; • Fully digitized payment system and linking beneficiaries with e-commerce platforms to get better prices of their commodities; • Support above 12000 women to graduate from poverty, where 80% are sustainable graduates; • Employment creation at local levels by establishing SMEs, registered them with cooperative depart and/or BSCIC for sustainability and formal sector employment in the RMG and leather industries for 588 women; • Beneficiary household income and assets increased by 433% from the base line and three times higher than the control group. Monthly savings increased by four times compared to the control group (BIDS 2021-22) • Access to different government service delivery departments have increased significantly. Beneficiaries who never visited these offices, often go and demand required services, 	Detail presentation is attached as Annex II

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has piloted micro health insurance and want to extend this service in all the districts in the next phase. <p>Kajal Chatterjee then presented the IP and gave justifications to bridge the gap between SWAPNO present phase and SWAPNO II. He mentioned that the LGD is keen to extend the project in 17 impoverished and climate-vulnerable districts. However, the IP will start 10,000 beneficiaries from 10 districts with the Swedish Embassy, Marico, and UNDP's own funding. The IP is fully aligned with SDGs, Government's perspective plan 2041, 8th five-year plan and UNDP priority areas of development. He also informed the meeting that -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project Steering Committee (PSC), dated 7th November 2021, consented to develop a new proposal for SWAPNO-II with donor commitment • IMED has evaluated all three cycles of the project and strongly recommended a new SWAPNO phase in the report submitted to the MoLGRD&C • Embassy of Sweden (ES) and Marico have highly praised the project outcomes and have continued funding SEK 55,000,000 and 0.4 million USD by the ES and Marico respectively • To keep the continuity of the activities in the field, develop Prodoc and Development Project Proposal (DPP) – along with the ERD, LGD and UNDP to obtain government approval for SWAPNO-II in ECNEC, initiation the IP is inevitable. Kajal Chatterjee then requested the members to approve the IP along with the budget and activities mentioned in the document. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the end of the presentation, the Chair said that the project has accomplished many remarkable activities identified through several field visits and captured in the evaluation reports of BIDS. Since BIDS has done the end line report for all three phases, their findings are pragmatic and in-depth. The chair then opened the floor for discussion. 	
03	Discussion and Decision	<p><u>Open discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharmin Islam, Gender Analyst, UNDP, Bangladesh, stated that the Impact of SWAPNO project is remarkable for vulnerable rural women, particularly for the economic empowerment of rural women. It will be good to identify/measure the women decision-making status through the project intervention at the household and community levels. She suggested adding those social and political indicators of women empowerment in the upcoming Prodoc. On this point, the National Project Manager (NPM) of SWAPNO project assured that those indicators are identified in the BIDS final evaluation report. Due to time constraint women empowerment results are not given here. • Mamunur Rashid, Climate Change Specialist, UNDP, indicated two areas: (i) Local Government Division may think to institutionalize these graduated women under a program portfolio since they have similar 	

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		<p>kinds of projects (ii) In the future, SWAPNO needs to find out the potential adaptive livelihood options for specific geographical context/ vulnerable location and implement accordingly for the long-run sustainability of project benefit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sarder M Asaduzzaman, Head, Programme Management and Partnership Support Unit, UNDP, stated that SWAPNO is a flagship project of UNDP for extremely poor women graduating from poverty. SWAPNO has provided different soft skills and life skill training to women and created different entrepreneurship in the rural areas. In the new phase, the project may reflect how those entrepreneurs can fight in the competitive and open market for long run sustainability of their benefit. ● Arif Abdullah Khan, Programme Specialist, UNDP, stated that there is a huge demand for skilled manpower in the garments industry. The project may collect relevant information/mapping documents of industrial zone from the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA). ● Sheela Tasneem Haq, Senior Governance Specialist, UNDP, Bangladesh, highlights the leadership development of rural women. SWAPNO has planned to include Cox's Bazar, Gopalganj, and Kurigram District in the IPs which might create good partnership between SWAPNO and the SDG localization project in these districts. ● Mr. Md. Masudul Haque, Joint Secretary, Economic Relations Division (ERD) wanted to know the project's actual expenditure for women beneficiaries. He stated that the project must have faced many challenges and learnt many lessons in the last three cycles. The project should take these learnings in the future to overcome such kinds of challenges. He also pointed out the exit plan for this phase. Regarding this quarry, the National Project Director, Mr. Habibur Rahman stated that the Union Parishad is actively engaged with the implementation and closing process of the project intervention. UPs have been doing their regular monitoring and follow-up visits to the beneficiaries even after project cycle completion. Mr. Kajal added that the beneficiaries are closely linked with the government service delivery departments, registered with the Cooperative department and BSCIC, who will support beneficiaries beyond the project. ● Mr. Habib added that SWAPNO project set some specific criteria (i.e poverty rate, climate vulnerability, extreme poverty zone, etc.) to identify the geographic location (Upazila & District) for the next project intervention. ● Mr. Masudul Haque opined that he is not sure whether the Swedish Embassy funding committed for SWAPNO II could be used in IP. He wanted to check ERD's policy on this and advised to initiate the IP with UNDP funding and the unspent fund from the current phase of SWAPNO. ● At the end of the discussion, following decisions were taken unanimously: 	

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		<p><u>Decision:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. This IP is approved for 12 month bridging period while the full-blown Prodoc & DPP will be developed and submitted to ERD and LGD respectively to send for ECNEC approval. And to continue the field activities as planned; b. The IP will be financed by UNDP own and Marico funding; c. Mr. Md. Masudul Haque, Joint Secretary, Economic Relations Division (ERD) mentioned that since he is not sure about the inclusion of Swedish Embassy fund in the IP is allowable or not, he suggested not to consider this new fund in IP development until he confirms ERD's stand on this. Mr. Haque assured that in a couple of days' time he will inform ERD's decision to the LPAC Chair. If this is allowable by ERD then UNDP can use the fund in the IP. However, if the IP is funded only by UNDP's own resources and Marico funds, he does not have any problem. 	

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

DocuSigned by:

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Prasenjit Chakma
Deputy Resident Representative a.i.
UNDP, Bangladesh
 20-Apr-2022

Annex-1 : Participants List


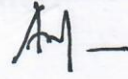

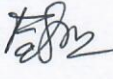
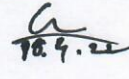
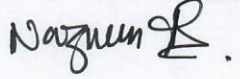

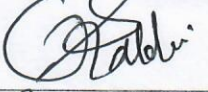
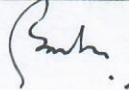
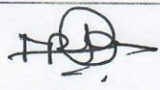
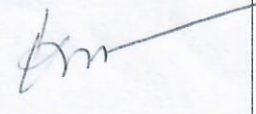
Annex-1 : Details presentation

Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting

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

Venue: Conference Room, 18th Floor, UNDP Bangladesh

Date: 18 April 2022 at 2:00pm




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Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) Meeting

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

Venue: Conference Room, 18th Floor, UNDP Bangladesh

Date: 18 April 2022 at 2:00pm

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