

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

**Subject: Minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> National Steering Committee (NSC) meeting of 'Strengthening Inclusive Development in CHT (SID-CHT)' Project.**

The 4<sup>th</sup> National Steering Committee (NSC) Meeting on "Strengthening Inclusive Development in Chittagong Hill Tracts (SID-CHT)" project was held on 24 June 2021 in the conference room of the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka. **Mr. Bir Bahadur Ushwe Sing**, MP, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA), presided over the meeting. **Mosammat Hamida Begum**, Secretary, Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, Mr. Satyendra Kumar Sarkar, Additional Secretary and National Project Director (NPD) of SID-CHT project, Mr. Khurshid Alam, Assistant Country Director, UNDP, relevant officials from MoCHTA, representative from concerned ministries/divisions/Planning Commission, HDCs and UNDP officials from SID-CHT Project were also present at the meeting. (Participants list attached as annex I).

**2. Agenda for discussion :**

1. Review of the implementation status of the 3rd NSC meeting decisions;
2. Progress of the Project;
3. Continuation of Agriculture & (CCRP) activities;
4. Discussion on Project Revision;
5. Any Other Business (AOB)

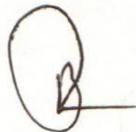
**3.** The meeting started with the introduction by the participants and a welcome speech from the chair followed by background remarks and information about the project made by Kazi Moklesur Rahman, Member Secretary of the NSC and Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA). While stating the background of the project the Member-Secretary informed the meeting that the SID-CHT project was approved by the government 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 also said that the present project will end in September 2021. Initiative to revise the project has already been taken. The 1<sup>st</sup> revision of Project Document (ProDoc) has been prepared and sent to ERD for approval. As per the agenda the NPD requested the National Project Manager (NPM) of the project Mr. Prasenjit Chakma to demonstrate a powerpoint presentation on the updates on the decisions of the 3rd NSC meeting and progress of SID-CHT project.

**3.1 Agenda 1 : Review of the implementation status of the 3rd NSC meeting decisions:**

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

**3.2 Agenda 2: Progress of the project;**

As per agenda the NPD requested NPM of the SID-CHT project Mr. Prasenjit Chakma to brief the updates of the project in the meeting. Highlights of the presentation by the NPM are as follows:



**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 from January 2018 to June 2021. The total agreed amount under this component is now DKK 37M (USD 5.4M). Major achievements of the AFSP III are a network of 3400+ communities (80,000 + poor and marginal farmers) have increased their knowledge on improved farming techniques through Integrated Farm Management. Market facilities, marketing linkage activities created favourable situation for the CHT farmers; however, market connectivity remains a continuous challenge. The NPM also informed the meeting that AFSP III is ending by June 2021 accomplishing all targets. Results will be captured properly through end evaluation.

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

The NPM informed the meeting that initial 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. Later on, it has been extended till November 2021. Major achievement till date are: a total Population of 24,000 came under this project against a target of 10,000 and 21,998 will be directly benefited; 20 Community Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) and 20 Local Resilience Plan (LRP) developed in 20 micro-watershed; 02 User guides for CCVA and LRP have been developed and printed; 75 LRP projects are being implemented in 20 CRC sites in 03 hill districts. Development of CHT Climate Resilience Framework and Climate Policy for CHT is underway.

**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 58M (USD 9.16 M) with Danida to support local communities in ten Upazilas of Bandarban and Cox's Bazar districts from July 2018 to December 2022. It will cover 1,800 communities (54,000 poor farmers); 987 communities in 7 Upazilas of Bandarban Hill District and 813 communities in 3 Upazilas of Cox's Bazar District. Major achievements of the project are: 912 Integrated Farm Management - Farmer Field Schools (IFM-FFS) have been established in 6 upazilas of Bandarban and Cox's Bazar comprising 27,360 farmers, 77% are women, 97% of the IFM-FFS farmers have increased their agricultural production, 82% of the IFM-FFS farmers have diversified their agricultural production by adding one or more farming components, Access to marketing has increased through establishment of 21 collection points, 243 Agroforestry Development Plans have been developed.

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

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 for January 2019 to December 2020 period. The NPM informed that the project ended successfully in December 2020 accomplishing all the planned activities and targets.



### **E. CHT Watershed Co-Management Activity (CHTWCA);**

USAID has agreed to extend the ongoing CHTWCA project for another four (4) years up to August 2023 with additional funding of USD 6 million. The initial duration of the sub-project is from 30 August 2013 to 15 January 2020 with US\$ 8.0 million. Major achievement under result one are: 174 Village Common Forests (VCFs) covered under participatory forest protection and management; 10,113 hectares of VCFs and headwater RFs brought under improved forest management by the 3 HDCs and BFD; 7,371 local people trained on climate change adaptation; 204 BFD technical staff trained in participatory watershed management; 177,084 local people received livelihood benefits; 51 new groups (including LVMFs, VCF management committees and youth clubs) formed and are in operation to resolve local conflicts (including forest resource related issues) in Bandarban Hill District.

### **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 Canada (GAC) for Women and Girls Empowerment in all upazilias of three Hill District through Education & Skills up to 30 September 2022. Major achievements are: school profiling, orientation of School Management Committees (SMC); mothers's Groups (MG) formation & orientation completed in 300 project schools in CHT; off-grid solar energy driven digital content playback multimedia classroom (MMC) solution provided for 100 schools in Khagrachari; 3 District Police published awareness raising educational materials on support of Victim Support Centers & GBV prevention.

### **G. GoB Funded Activities:**

The NPM informed the NSC that total budget for GoB activities under the project is 3950.00 Lakh Taka [Capital 255.96 Lakh Taka and Revenue (grants) 3696.04 Lakh Taka. Out of 3696.04 (revenue component) Lakh Taka, till date 1564.57 Lakh Taka has been spent through grants support. The major activities under revenue components are: cash grants have been provided to 4966 women beneficiaries of Village Common Forest (VCF) communities; Agent Banking has been introduced in the Mro community of Bandarban Sadar; 338 power tillers and 338 low lift pumps have been distributed among beneficiaries of the project. Out of 3 Two (2) mini cold storage have been established in Khagrachari and Bandarban Hill Districts. Out of 15, 10 Market collection points have been established in Rangamati and Bandarban Hill District. Out of 30 GFS Water Supply Facilities in VCFs, 9 GFS have been completed in Rangamati and 10 in Bandarban. Out of 12 Water retention facilities, 4 have been completed in Rangamati, 2 in Bandarban. Support has been given to the women traditional weavers group in Khagrachari Hill District. Support has been provided to the 400 farmers and Honey production association in Khagrachari. Establishing of a model village in Khagrachari is partially completed. Establishing and promoting Organic Farming Zone in Bandarban is ongoing.

### **H. Activating Village Court II in CHT;**

Awareness will be raised on existing legal systems and options for redress mechanisms in CHT with the support from EU funded USD 5.3 million from September 2019 to June 2022. Major achievement so far are: a compendium of laws and regulations of CHT & Customary laws (reviewed) of Chakma, Marma & Tripura communities are ready for publication; 2,870 traditional courts (2,615 Karbari and 255 Headmen) in Rangamati & Bandarban Hill Districts are equipped with logistics support (file cabinet, chair, table, and bench) for



documentation and to deliver justice; 1315 file cabinets have been distributed in Khagrachari; Circle Chief offices, Headmen & Karbari (including women headmen & karbari) Association offices are equipped with logistics & furniture; 90 traditional leaders are trained on Case Management & Documentation.

### 3.3 Agenda 3: Continuation of AFSP & CCRP activities:

The NPM informed the NSC that AFSP III activities will end on June 2021 and CCRP activities will end in November 2021. However, the new DANIDA country programme will start only from January 2023 where funding for these activities may take place. Both AFSP and CCRP are very successful and important projects for CHT. The NPM informed the NSC about the importance of continuation of AFSP & CCRP activities during the interim period. The Assistant Resident Representative of UNDP Mr. Khurshid Alam informed that UNDP would bear the admin and salary cost of the HDC based teams for these two sub-projects from their TRAC fund from July 2021 to December 2022 and proposed that the activities cost may supported by GoB funds. The tentative budgets for Continuation of AFSP & CCRP activities are as below:

| UNDP TRAC Fund Contribution for HDC LoA Staff Salary in USD |                  |                |                |                |           |
|---|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| Projects  | HDCs             | 2021           | 2022           | Total          | Remarks   |
| AFSP  | RHDC             | 45,422         | 90,844         | 136,266        | 18 staffs |
|   | KHDC             | 37,517         | 75,045         | 112,562        | 16 staffs |
|   | <b>Sub total</b> | <b>82,939</b>  | <b>165,889</b> | <b>248,828</b> |           |
| CCRP  | RHDC             | 10,395         | 41,580         | 51,975         | 12 staffs |
|   | KHDC             | 9,399          | 37,596         | 46,995         | 10 staffs |
|   | BHDC             | 9,399          | 37,596         | 46,995         | 10 staffs |
|   | <b>Sub total</b> | <b>29,193</b>  | <b>116,772</b> | <b>145,965</b> |           |
| <b>Grand Total</b>  |                  | <b>112,132</b> | <b>282,661</b> | <b>394,793</b> |           |

| Tentative Programme Budgets from GoBin USD |                  |                |                  |                  |
|--|------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Projects                                   | HDCs             | 2021           | 2022             | Total            |
| AFSP                                       | RHDC             | 172,382        | 344,764          | 517,146          |
|  | KHDC             | 224,185        | 448,369          | 672,554          |
|  | <b>Sub total</b> | <b>396,567</b> | <b>793,133</b>   | <b>1,189,700</b> |
| CCRP                                       | RHDC             | 50,000         | 150,000          | 200,000          |
|  | KHDC             | 50,000         | 150,000          | 200,000          |
|  | BHDC             | 50,000         | 150,000          | 200,000          |
|  | <b>Sub total</b> | <b>150,000</b> | <b>450,000</b>   | <b>600,000</b>   |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                         |                  | <b>546,567</b> | <b>1,243,133</b> | <b>1,789,700</b> |

### 3.4 Agenda 4 : Discussion on Project Revision;

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 58 million (US\$ 9.16 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, DANIDA has already expressed their interest to support SID-CHT project substantially during their next cycle of July 2021 to June 2026,

- to reflect the support activities for the AVCBII CHT works, to incorporate all the new positions approved by Planning commission on condition of inclusion of those positions in the next revised TAPP.
- To work together with ADB for further collaboration in their next phase of CHT project.

Moreover, the NPM informed the NSC that existing DPs (DANIDA, USAID, GAC) have expressed interest for longer term engagement and a number of other Development Partners are also showing interest to fund SID-CHT project. Considering all these a revised project document (ProDoc) was prepared and sent to MoCHTA for endorsement. An interministerial meeting chaired by MoCHTA Secretary was held on 31 May 2021 at MoCHTA to discuss about the revised ProDoc. After incorporating all the decisions of the said meeting MoCHTA endorsed the 1<sup>st</sup> Revision ProDoC with extension up to September 2026 and sent to ERD for approval. The funding arrangement of the revised Prodoc are as below:

|   |                   |                 |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Total resources required in USD</b>  | \$100,000,000.00  |                 |
| <b>Total resources allocated in USD</b> | \$54,671,591.43   |                 |
|   | <b>UNDP TRAC:</b> | \$2,000,000.00  |
|   | Denmark           | \$19,593,564.89 |
|   | Canada            | \$7,748,712.00  |
|   | USAID             | \$9,858,314.54  |
|   | Government        | \$15,000,000.00 |
|   | ADB               | \$471,000.00    |
| Unfunded:                               | \$45,328,408.57   |                 |

#### 4. Discussions:

4.1 The chair of the NSC Minister Mr. Bir Bahadur Ushwe Shing, MP expressed his gratitude to the development partners and UNDP for the ongoing activities. Honourable Minister for MoCHTA requested UNDP to focus on water resource management and tackling the water crisis in CHT. Water crisis is emerging as a great challenge for CHT people. He encouraged SID-CHT project to prioritize this issue and also asked Regional Council, HDCs and CHT Development Board to come up with initiatives to tackle the water crisis. The Honourable Minister advised to enhance media coverage of CHT success stories so that the mass people can realize what the Government is really doing for CHT people. The Chair also advised to enhance coordination between village court and District Judge Court so that District Judge Court can verify the case easily and send people to village court for small cases.

4.2 Mr. Khurshid Alam, ARR, UNDP showed interest to grant additional funding for HDCs on capacity development. He also mentioned that UNDP will help for resource mobilization from Green Climate Fund on water crisis project, which must be co-financed by GoB. Regarding continuation of AFSP and CCRP project, Mr. Khurshid Alam mentioned that funds

are likely to be available for these projects from January 2023 but before that there will be funding gap till December 2022. He confirmed that UNDP will bear the HDC-based staff salary to retain the current staffs and if MoCHTA bears the programme activities costs in order to continue the programmatic momentum. Mr. Khurshid Alam also mentioned that UNDP will provide additional 394,793 USD to SID-CHT project to cover the bridging period for the continuation of AFSP and CCRP activities. Total UNDP contribution to the SID-CHT project would be USD 2 millions.

4.3 The representative from Planning Commission asked question about the funding gap of the revised ProDoc. The NPM of SID-CHT clarified that there is nearly 55M USD fund available and unfunded portion of 45M USD which will be mobilised once SID-CHT project gets approval. The NPM also shared the previous experience where 12M USD was unfunded in initial ProDoc and TAPP and the project was able to manage the funding gap and exceeded the resource mobilisation target by 75%. Regarding the continuation of AFSP and CCRP project, the representative from Planning Commission opined that GoB could provide CCRP and AFSP programme activities cost of SID-CHT project once these activities have been mentioned in the revised TAPP and get approval of the revised TAPP.

4.4 The Secretary, MoCHTA thanked the development partners for their support and vowed for continuous support of MoCHTA to SID-CHT project for the development of CHT people.

#### **5. Decisions:**

- 1) SID-CHT project management and MoCHTA will follow-up with ERD regarding the approval of revised Project Document.
  - 2) SID-CHT project management will work simultaneously to prepare the revised TAPP for approval.
  - 3) UNDP will provide additional 394,793USD to SID-CHT project to cover the bridging period for the continuation of AFSP and CCRP activities. Total UNDP contribution to the SID-CHT project would be USD 2 million.
  - 4) GoB may provide CCRP and AFSP programme activities cost of SID-CHT project for the bridging period once these activities have been mentioned in the revised TAPP and get approval of revised TAPP from Planning Commission.
  - 5) The project will focus more on water resource management and tackling the water crisis in CHT.
6. There being no other agenda to discuss, the Chair concluded the meeting with a vote of thanks to all the participants.

**Signed**  
(01.08.2021)  
**(Bir Bahadur Ushwe Sing, MP)**  
Minister