

## United Nations Development Programme



29-Aug-2020

**Country: BANGLADESH**  
**Initiation Plan**

**Project Title:** COVID19 - PTIB H. Faruq Ahmed

**Project/Award ID:** 00086326 30-Aug-2020

**Covid-19 Output ID:** 00121478

**Expected UNDAF/CP Outcome(s):** No 2: Develop and implement improved social policies and programmes that focus on good governance, reduction of structural inequalities and advancement of vulnerable individuals and groups.

**Expected CPD Output(s):** Output 2.1: Civil society, interest groups, relevant government agencies and political parties have tools and knowledge to set agendas and to develop platforms for building consensus on national issues.

**Initiation Plan Start/End Dates:** 1 May 2020 to 31 December 2020

**Implementing Partner:** UNDP

#### Brief Description

PTIB COVID-19 Response is a three months initiative to expand Partnership for Tolerant, Inclusive Bangladesh-PTIB's monitoring, analysis and resilience activities to get insights and trends in social tension around the COVID pandemic and intervene through resilience activities.

Building on its key interventions and within its programmatic framework of PTIB, the IP aimed to addressing COVID-19 in an inclusive manner to mitigate sources of tensions; contribute to mainstream social cohesion and conflict sensitivity; help address issues pertaining to stigmatization and discrimination and enable society to maintain peace and tolerance with activities centered around common bonds shared values, and diverse Bangladeshi identity.

The IP will supplement the two key PTIB outputs of Research Facility and Citizen/Social Engagement.

*Output 1 RESEARCH FACILITY: Research data and analysis produced on violence, misinformation and social tension around COVID and COVID response*

*Output 2 CITIZEN/SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT: Inclusive awareness campaign to promote social cohesion and solidarity, and to counter discrimination and stigmatization related to COVID19 implemented.*

The COVID insights of output one will guide the national COVID response, and in particular used by the pillar on Risk Communication/ Awareness and Community Engagement (RCCE), and the pillar on Stability and Social Cohesion. The output two will be feeding into the other two pillars of the disinformation and hate speech response; strategic communications and building resilience through digital literacy.

Programme Period: May-November 2020

Atlas Project Number: 00086326

Covid-19 Output ID: 00121478

Gender Marker: 2

Total resources required: \$317,500

Total allocated resources: \$317,500

Regular (TRAC II): \$300,000

Other:

○ Donor- USAID \$17,500

○ Donor \_\_\_\_\_

○ Government \_\_\_\_\_

Unfunded budget: \_\_\_\_\_

In-kind Contributions \_\_\_\_\_

Agreed by UNDP: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Sudipto Mukerjee, Resident Representative)**

30-Aug-2020

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## I. PURPOSE AND EXPECTED OUTPUT

*A short description justifying the need for an Initiation Plan for this project and the expected output.*

### BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

PTIB is UNDP's initiative in Bangladesh on the Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE), started in 2016 shortly after the Holy Artisan Bakery attack. Over the years, PTIB has expanded its scope and is promoting tolerance and inclusivity beyond PVE. PTIB responds to both UNSG plan-of-action-to-prevent-violent-extremism, and United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech. In its response to hate speech and disinformation it has 3 pillars; (1) monitoring and analysis, (2) strategic communications to combat narratives used in hate speech and disinformation, (3) building resilience among social media users through building digital literacy. To address the crisis around COVID-19, PTIB immediately has expanded its monitoring, analysis and resilience activities to get insights and trends in social tension and intervene through resilience activities.

Historically, disaster like pandemics prompts new dimension of intolerance and social tension as these crises affect the normal human and social bonding. With devastating impact on public health, economy and growth, COVID-19 has also been appeared as a threat to disrupt the social cohesion, peace, tolerance and diversity of Bangladesh society, manifesting exclusionary appeals that underpin stigmatization and social tension. The country is experiencing social exclusion and stigmatization against people infected/suspected of being infected by the virus. Particularly, the returned migrant and people from affected districts are victim of stigmatization while denial of medical treatment, abandonment from family members, and denial to funeral is also wide-spreading. Even the essential service providers like police and health workers are getting harassed, forcefully evicted from their house, verbally bullied and physically tortured.

Consequential to the livelihood crisis from the COVID lockdown, growing incidents of public and labour unrest for food assistance, relief and unpaid wages fuelling the social instability. The co-existence of all these economic and social factors risks creating a 'perfect storm' that replaces the COVID-19 crisis with another: the spread of violent extremism. Violent extremist channels in Bangladesh cyber space responded fast to COVID. VE posts included that the government was under-reporting the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths to avoid criticism. A post, published on a Facebook channel that supports Al Qaeda, called on Muslims to deliberately spread the virus to non-Muslims. Stigmatization of Muslims spreading COVID in India, is also referred to and incite violence against Hindu minorities. Beyond VE, other fear mongering actors have started with hate speech and disinformation about COVID, which are threats to maintain social cohesion and peace during the COVID crisis.

### PTIB RESPONSE

Building on its key interventions and within its programmatic framework, PTIB is addressing COVID-19 in an inclusive manner to mitigate sources of tensions; contribute to mainstream social cohesion and conflict sensitivity; help address issues pertaining to stigmatization and discrimination and enable society to maintain peace and tolerance with activities centered around common bonds shared values, and diverse Bangladeshi identity.

PTIB has responded immediately to the COVID crisis, by adapting its monitoring and research capacity through the Bangladesh Peace Observatory (Dhaka University), an open access database on violence related incidents in Bangladesh. Moreover, partnership with SecDev on the monitoring of Violent Extremist (VE) narratives online has been utilized, and capacity of the Cox's Bazaar Analysis and Research Unit have been employed immediately, to monitor (social) media and analyze the effects of the COVID crisis and response on stability and social cohesion in Bangladesh. PTIB Digital Peace Movement, with an outreach of 1.9M among young Bangladeshis, immediately responded to disinformation and hate speech related to COVID. CSO partners under the Diversity for Peace fund, have responded to discrimination and advocated for inclusivity and respect for diversity in the COVID awareness raising.

## IP OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES

**Purpose** of the IP is to enable the society to maintain peace and tolerance through mitigate social tension, stigmatization and discrimination occurred around COVID pandemic.

The IP is built on two key PTIB outputs of Research Facility and Citizen/Social Engagement.

*Output 1 RESEARCH FACILITY: Research data and analysis produced on violence, misinformation and social tension around COVID and COVID response.*

*Output 2 CITIZEN/SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT: Inclusive awareness campaign to promote social cohesion and solidarity, and to counter discrimination and stigmatization related to COVID19 implemented.*

The COVID insights of output 1 will guide the national COVID response, and in particular used by the pillar on Risk Communication/ Awareness and Community Engagement (RCCE), and the pillar on Stability and Social Cohesion. The output 2 will be feeding into the other two pillars of the disinformation and hate speech response; strategic communications and building resilience through digital literacy.

Following is the details of the PTIB interventions that have started and will be employed in the coming three months. Interventions are part of the Bangladesh multi-partner action plan for COVID-19, under the pillars Risk communication and community engagement, and Preserving stability and addressing social tensions.

PTIB interventions	IP Objectives: COVID response	IP Activities: COVID response
<i>Output 1 RESEARCH FACILITY: Monitoring and analysis of violence, misinformation and social tension around COVID and COVID response.</i>		
Bangladesh Peace Observatory (BPO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insight in trends in social tension and social cohesion related to COVID and COVID response</li> <li>Identify geographical hotspots for social tension</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selection of priority violence categories, and establish baseline (pre-COVID)</li> <li>Increase update, from monthly to bi-weekly</li> <li>Produce bi-weekly maps and briefs</li> <li>Data analysis, identify geographical hotspots of social tension, comparative analysis of selected violence (pre and post COVID), produce weekly and monthly briefs</li> </ul>
VE online monitoring (SecDev)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insight in positive and negative influences and influencers online related to COVID and COVID response</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online monitoring and analysis of social media on COVID related posts</li> <li>Distribution of weekly briefs (trends and analysis), weekly one pager and monthly analysis report</li> </ul>
Coxs Bazaar Analysis and Research Unit (CARU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insight in incidents and trends in social tension, discrimination and stigmatization related to COVID and COVID response beyond CXB, covering whole of Bangladesh</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand (social) media monitoring on COVID related news beyond CXB to nation wide</li> <li>Date base on COVID related incidents and news</li> <li>Weekly COVID briefs</li> </ul>

PTIB interventions	IP Objectives: COVID response	IP Activities: COVID response
<i>Output 2 CITIZEN/SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT: Promoting social cohesion and solidarity, inclusive awareness campaigns to counter discrimination and stigmatization related to COVID19.</i>		
Digital Peace Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform, inspire and capacitate Bangladeshi youth to counter fake news and disinformation on COVID</li> <li>• Inform, inspire and capacitate Bangladeshi youth to promote social cohesion and solidarity online</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DKC clips on COVID awareness and social cohesion by Bitopi/mighty bite and DKC winners</li> <li>• DKC winners responding to fake news and disinformation</li> <li>• Online Peace Talk Café conferences on social media and COVID (every 2 weeks)</li> <li>• Online DKC, this may include training on how to produce informative and convincing video clips with mobile phone</li> </ul>
Diversity for Peace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to inclusive awareness campaigns to counter discrimination and stigmatization</li> <li>• Empower voices of minority/vulnerable groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID awareness video clip in for disabled in sign language and audio</li> <li>• COVID awareness in minority languages and their context</li> <li>• Clips and posts on success stories in diversity and response to COVID (inter religion, inter-ethnic, etc)</li> </ul>

## II. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

*A short description of the individuals, organisations, and/or team structure required to conduct the activities of the Initiation Plan. If the size and scope of the Initiation Plan requires the establishment of a project board, describe the structure here and include a diagram if needed, drawing from the standard diagram provided in the full project document template.*

The IP will operate under a Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) according to UNDP's rules and procedures. This initiative will be administered by UNDP Bangladesh under the direct leadership of Resident Representative, Deputy Resident Representative and Head of the Governance cluster. The project's technical implementation will be led by the PTIB Project Manager, supported by the existing project team consisting of national and international staff.

The Business Development and Partnership Unit of UNDP Country Office will support project quality assurance, including compliance with Initiation, Results reporting, liaising with donors and certifications of financial compliance.

## III. MONITORING

*A description of the monitoring requirements for the Initiation Plan.*

*Please refer to how the output and associated activity results shall be monitored, reviewed and assessed, depending on the scope and duration of the Initiation Plan (i.e. an Initiation Plan with a 9 months duration to start-up pilot activities shall require the combination of various monitoring tools*

*and mechanisms, as opposed to a short Initiation Plan established to hire a consultant for the finalization of the Project Document).*

*As minimum requirement, an Initiation Phase Report should be prepared at the end of the Initiation Plan, using the standard format available in the Executive Snapshot in addition to attaching the full project document if developed or an explanation if initiation failed to produce a full project.*

The Project Manager will submit a project M&E plan and timeline within the first week of the project. As part of this the PM is required to review milestones and targets integrating these into the project timeline.

Each month the PM is to submit a progress report for the previous month and action plan for the following months. These reports shall follow the format prescribed by the Cluster and/or the Quality Assurance team. Apart from the periodic report the result and resources framework, issues and risk log of the project will be updated periodically. At the end of the project, the PM will submit a Project Closure Report of the project detailing lessons learnt, successes and failures, ROAR and other documents as required by country office.

#### IV. WORK PLAN

Period<sup>1</sup>: 4 months May-August 2020

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Timeframe 2020				Responsible Party	Fund Code	Planned Budget			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			Donor	Budget Code	Budget Description	Amount (USD)
<i>And baseline, indicators including annual targets</i>	<i>List activity results and associated actions</i>										
<b>Output 1</b> <b>RESEARCH FACILITY:</b> <i>Research data and analysis produced on violence, misinformation and social tension around COVID and COVID response.</i>  <i>Baseline: 0</i> <i>Indicators: Number of analytics</i> <i>Targets:27</i>  <i>Amount to be used in support to</i>	<b>1.1 Activity Result:</b> <b>Bangladesh Peace Observatory</b>										
	<i>Action 1.1.1: Data collection on social tension and social cohesion related to COVID and COVID response from news media following BPO guideline on COVID 19 incidents mapping</i>		X	X	X	009597	04010	00012	72100	Contractual Services-LOA	5,000.00
	<i>Action 1.1.2: Data analysis with identifying geographical hotspots of social tension, comparative analysis of selected violence including <b>gender based violence</b> (pre and post COVID)</i>		X	X	X	009597	04010	00012	72100	Contractual Services-LOA	6,495.00
	<i>Action 1.1.3: Desktop publishing of the briefs with graphics presentation</i>		X	X	X	009597	04010	00012	72100	Contractual Services-LOA	-

<sup>1</sup> Maximum 18 months

<p>address women's specific needs: \$10,000</p> <p>Related CP outcome: Develop and implement improved social policies and programmes that focus on good governance, reduction of structural inequalities and advancement of vulnerable individuals and groups.</p>	<p>Action 1.1.4: Bi weekly online press conference/briefing on on social tension and social cohesion related to COVID and COVID response: honorarium for the presenters</p>		X	X	X	009597	04010	00012	72100	Contractual Services-LOA	1,200.00
	<b>Sub-total Activity 1.1</b>										<b>12,695.00</b>
	<b>1.2 Activity Result: Cox's Bazar Research and Analysis Unit (CARU)</b>										
	Action 1.2.1: Expand media monitoring on COVID related news beyond CXB to nation wide and weekly brief		X	X	X	001981	04010	00012	71200	International Consultant	16,000.00
			X	X	X	001981	04010	00012	71300	Local consultant	6,495.00
	Action 1.2.2: Date base on COVID related incidents and news		X	X	X	001981	04010	00012	71300	Local consultant: Data entry specialist	1,500.00
	<b>Sub-total Activity 1.2</b>										<b>23,995.00</b>
	<b>1.3 Activity Result: VE online monitoring (SecDev)</b>										
	Action 1.3.1: Online monitoring and analysis of social media on COVID related posts followed by weekly and monthly briefs		X	X	X	001981		00012	72100	Contractual service-Company	69,700.00
<b>Sub-total Activity 1.3</b>										<b>69,700.00</b>	
<p><b>Output 2</b> <b>CITIZEN/SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT:</b> Inclusive awareness campaign to promote social cohesion and solidarity, and to</p>	<b>1.4 Activity Result: Digital Peace Movement</b>										
	Action 1.4.1: Special Digital Khichuri Challenge (DKC) on social tension and social cohesion related to COVID-19			X		001981	04010	00012	72100	Contractual Services-Companies	16,000.00
				X		001981	30000	10480	72100	Contractual Services-Companies	9,259.00

<p>counter discrimination and stigmatization related to COVID19 implemented.</p> <p>Baseline: 0</p> <p><b>Indicators:</b></p> <p>1.Number of online and offline campaign</p> <p>2. Number of viewers reached online</p> <p><b>Targets:</b></p> <p>1.Number of online and offline campaign: 30</p> <p>2. Number of viewers reached online: 1 million</p> <p>Amount to be used in support to address women’s specific needs: \$35,000</p>				X		001981	30000	10480	75100	F&A	741.00	
	Action 1.4.2: Support DKC teams on promoting social cohesion		X	X	X	001981	04010	00012	72100	Contractual Services-Companies	23,000.00	
	Action 1.4.3: Digital Peace Talk Café- 6 episodes		X	X	X	001981	04010	00012	72100	Contractual Services-Companies	10,379.00	
	Action 1.4.4: Disinformation Monitor Communication Material- 50 social media posts of static, animated and video contents		X	X	X	001981	04010	00012	72100	Contractual Services-Companies	9,995.00	
	Action 1.4.5: Peace Quiz online- 4 episodes		X	X	X	001981	04010	00012	72100	Contractual Services-Companies	9,733.00	
	Action 1.4.6: Mentoring of DKC winners and fund management		X	X	X	001981	04010	00012	72100	Contractual Services-Companies	28,893.00	
	<b>Sub-total Activity 1.4</b>											<b>108,000.00</b>
	<b>1.5 Activity Result: Diversity for Peace: driven to promote the value of diversity, draw strength from the principles of inclusion &amp; tolerance</b>											
	Action 1.5.1: Inclusive awareness campaigns to counter discrimination/stigmatization and empower voices of minority/vulnerable groups (including disabled and transgender) in COVID response		X	X	X	001981	04010	00012	72600	Low value grants	90,000.00	
			X	X	X	001981	30000	10480	72600	Low value grants	6,944.00	
			X	X	X	001981	30000	10480	75100	F&A	556.00	
			X	X		001981	04010	00012	71300	Local consultant	5,610.00	
	<b>Sub-total Activity 1.5</b>											<b>103,110.00</b>
<b>Total Budget</b>											<b>317,500.00</b>	