

UNDP Bangladesh

Minutes of the Local Project Appraisal Committee Meeting

Date: March 11, 2018

Project Title: Partnerships for a Tolerant, Inclusive Bangladesh

Attendance

| Name | Title |
|------------------------|--|
| Mr. Sudipto Mukerjee | Country Director, UNDP-Bangladesh |
| Ms Kyoko Yokosuka | Deputy Country Director, UNDP-Bangladesh |
| Ms. Aparna Baidya | Senior Assistant Secretary, Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Finance |
| Md. Aminul Islam | Joint Commissioner, Counter Terrorism & Transnational Crime Unit (CTTC), Bangladesh Police |
| Mr. Abdul Mannan | Additional Deputy Commissioner, Counter Terrorism & Transnational Crime Unit (CTTC), Bangladesh Police |
| Ms. Shaila Khan | Assistant Country Director and Advisor–Business Development and Partnerships Cluster, UNDP-Bangladesh |
| Ms. Sumeeta Banerji | Assistant Country Director (Governance) a.i. UNDP-Bangladesh |
| Ms. Sheela Tasneem Haq | Advisor, Democratic Governance, UNDP-Bangladesh |
| Ms Mariam Rikta | Head of Procurement, UNDP-Bangladesh |
| Mr. Mozammel Haque | Policy and Coordination Specialist –Governance, UNDP-Bangladesh |
| Ms. Marina Ali | Project Officer – Responsive Justice, UNDP-Bangladesh |
| Mr. Arif M Faisal | Programme Specialist - Environment and Energy, UNDP-Bangladesh |
| Ms. Fatematul Jannat | Programme Associate – Planning and Reporting, UNDP-Bangladesh |
| Mr. Shidartho Goushami | Programme Associate, PTIB, UNDP-Bangladesh |
| Mr. Charles Ian Denhez | Research Analyst, Democratic Governance, UNDP-Bangladesh |
| Mr. Faisal Bin Majid | Project Support Expert, PTIB, UNDP-Bangladesh |

- **Chair:** The LPAC meeting was chaired by Kyoko Yokosuka, Deputy Country Director, UNDP-Bangladesh

Presentation of project: Project Proposal was presented by Sheela Tasneem Haq, Advisor, Democratic Governance, UNDP-Bangladesh(See annex2 for Presentation)

- **Summary of LPAC member comments:**

The LPAC meeting was held to discuss the proposed three year (2018-2020) project entitled “Partnerships for a Tolerant, Inclusive Bangladesh”. The meeting started with initial opening remarks from the UNDP Deputy Country Director and round of introductions by the members of the committee. At the onset of the meeting, the chair informed the meeting that representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) were unable to attend due to unexpected circumstances. However, MoFA accepted UNDP’s request to become the project’s focal point agency, and expressed satisfaction with the current project document, supporting its endorsement by the committee.

During the LPAC, the following comments were noted:

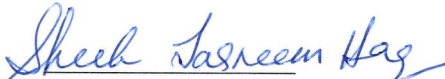
- Representatives from the Bangladesh Police’s Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime Unit (CTTCU) gave the following comments:
 - UNDP was recommended to consider intra-faith elements along with the inter-faith discussions;
 - UNDP was encouraged to further consider learning from Indonesia and other regional partners, but the project should never lose sight of the likelihood that the specific drivers of extremism in Bangladesh are context-specific;
 - UNDP was encouraged to promote national culture and themes, including the spirit of the Liberation War, as this could be useful in promoting effective counter-narratives;
 - UNDP is expected to engage a wide range of stakeholders and listen very carefully to consultations with government and civil society counterparts;
 - UNDP were commended for including activities focusing on migrant workers by the CTTCU, and they also expressed their interest to coordinate with UNDP;
 - UNDP was encouraged to give further thought to de-radicalization in prisons and whether the project might address this very serious issue. In this regard, MOFA advised UNDP to coordinate among UN entities (UNODC) to avoid any overlap or duplicity of efforts.
- The ERD representative gave the following comments:
 - ERD was interested in the details of the project’s DIM structure. In response, UNDP clarified that ERD is requested to provide a confirmation letter – no Memorandum of Understanding is required;
 - ERD requested to be invited to future project board meetings.
- UNDP colleagues also gave the following comments:

- It was recommended that the project consider a more active engagement with existing sports and cultural networks in Bangladesh, especially when rolling out a youth engagement strategy. After-school activities could be especially effective;
 - Justice sector partners should also be kept informed of the project's activities and approaches;
 - Collaboration with other regional counter-terrorism partners, including those in India, may be of use when addressing a problem with regional and cross-border elements.
- Concerning PVE and the Rohingya Crisis, the following comments were noted:
 - Recent agreements with government and humanitarian agencies in Cox's Bazar have made it more likely that UNDP become involved in developing PVE activities for Rohingya and host communities. UNDP wishes to consult and collaborate closely with MoFA to ensure any new Rohingya elements in the project are carefully developed;
 - In this regard, MOFA advised UNDP that while designing any PVE initiatives in Cox's Bazar, all the UN agencies should work with UNRC office within the scope of Joint Response Plan developed by the UN system.


- **Final LPAC recommendation(s):**

- UNDP will implement the project through DIM modality and keep government stakeholders regularly updated on its activities through the project board;
- Meeting minutes will be circulated to government counterparts;
- The Partnerships for a Tolerant, Inclusive Bangladesh project is endorsed for approval.

Prepared by:


 Sheela Tasneem Haq, Advisor-Democratic Governance, UNDP-Bangladesh
 March 11, 2018

Cleared by:


 Shaila Khan, Assistant Country Director and Advisor – Business Development and Partnerships Cluster, UNDP-Bangladesh
 March 11, 2018

LPAC minutes approved by:


 Kyoko Yokosuka, Deputy Country Director, UNDP-Bangladesh
 March 11, 2018