

## **Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. Background**

The new phase of the Char Development and Settlement Project (CDSP II) has a duration of five years: October 1, 1999 to September 30, 2004. The Technical Assistance part of the project has been divided into two periods: one of nine months from October 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000, and one of 51 months: from July 1, 2000 to September 30, 2004. This report refers to the nine months period. Article VI of the agreement between the RNE and the consultants stipulates that a Progress Report be submitted for the period between October 1, 1999 and March 31, 2000. The current report, the first Progress Report of CDSP II, fulfills that contractual obligation. The remaining part of three months (till June 30) will be covered in the Completion Report of the first nine months period.

The progress is reported in this document against the plans as described in the Implementation Document (Plan of Operations) for the first nine months of October 14, 1999 and approved by RNE with a letter of November 28.

### **1.2. Bottlenecks**

An overall impediment was the lack of a firm formal basis. The Project Concept Paper was approved in a pre-ECNEC meeting in February. Individual Project Proformas with the five Government agencies involved (see chapter 4) could not be prepared because the PCP was not yet accepted by ECNEC. Allocations for the ADP were therefore delayed. Similarly, the grant agreement between the Bangladesh and Netherlands Governments was not yet concluded.

This led, among other things, to a delay in the start of the implementation of nearly all planned construction works. It was possible to complete all the preparatory works for the construction of the embankment in Muhuri Accreted Area, including the tender process. However, one of the farmers started a court case because the construction of the embankment would hamper his shrimp culture, made possible by a government lease. An injunction order (*rule nisi*) prevented the BWDB to give the green light to the contractors to start their work. The excavation of khals and construction of rural roads in CDSP I areas and in unprotected areas (WFP and Dutch support) could still start due to flexibility of donors and implementing agencies alike.

This has led to a situation in which the emphasis during the six months reporting period was on surveys. Examples are the baseline survey in both old and new project areas, the plot to plot surveys preceding the land settlement process, the plot to plot survey with regard to agriculture and the soil salinity surveys.

The border dispute between Feni- and Chittagong District with regard to Muhuri Accreted Area hampered the start of the plot to plot survey for land settlement and to a certain extent the preparations for the alignment and detailed design of the embankment. During a visit of the Secretary, Ministry of Land on March 4 the issue was however resolved. The border was demarcated along the same line as it was gazetted in 1926.

The plot-to-plot surveys, the first step in the land settlement process, in Char Maradonna, Char Gangchill/Torap Ali and South Hatia/Nijhunm Dwip all had a smooth start. In the Torap Ali area however two farmers started a court case against the management of the District Administration and of the project, requesting an injunction against the surveys. This injunction was not obtained and work could continue without interruption. Hearings about this case will however still take place.

See annex 1 for a map of the project areas.

### **1.3. Publications**

In the reporting period one Technical Report was published (Gender in CDSP II activities) and the following Mission Reports: 1. Initiation of productive development activities in CDSP II areas 2. Sedimentation of drainage outfalls and remedial measures 3. Preparatory study South Hatia – Embankment alignment and main drainage system 4. Drainage Study of Polder 59/3B (Eastern part) and Preparatory Study on Nijhum Dwip. In addition one internal resource publication was completed on settlement patterns.

Agreement was reached with University Press Ltd. in Dhaka about publication of four Technical Reports from the CDSDP I period combined in one book. The core of the book will be the methodology report “Out of the periphery” (which will also be the title of the book).

## **Chapter 2 OUTLINE OF THE PROJECT**

### **2.1. Project objectives and project components**

The long term objective of the project is to bring about an improvement in the economic situation and in the living conditions of the population in the coastal areas of south eastern Bangladesh with special reference to the poorest segment of the population.

The project seeks to achieve this long term objective by realizing the following more short term project purposes:

1. promotion of an institutional environment that sustains CDSP II- and similar interventions
2. accumulation and dissemination of data and knowledge on the coastal areas
3. direct improvement of the economic and social situation of people in coastal char areas in a sustainable way.

The three project purposes have led to the three project components: capacity building of institutions; studies, measurements and monitoring; and concrete interventions at field level. The progress of the activities within these three components is described in chapter 3. Annex 2 gives the project components in the context of a Logical Framework (LF). The headings in chapter 3 of the sections on particular activities provide a reference to the Logical Framework.

### **2.2. Elementary institutional framework**

The basic framework consists of agreements between the Government of Bangladesh and the respective donors (Netherlands Government and World Food Programme). Within the Bangladesh administration, the project is described in a Project Concept Paper with the Ministry of Water Resources as the sponsoring agency. The PCP covers all project components and provides the overall budget. The project has five implementing agencies (BWDB, LGED, DPHE, Ministry of Land, DAE), each with their own Project Proforma, within the regime of the PCP. A team of advisers is contracted by the Netherlands Government. The supervision and support of the NGO involvement is the responsibility of BRAC under an agreement with the Netherlands Government.

### **2.3. Relations with other projects**

The project cooperates with the Danida supported DPHE Rural and Urban Water Supply project (this project will install tubewells in CDSP II areas on the basis of common planning). The Greater Noakhali Aquaculture Extension project is preparing a course on pond management for staff of NGO's in CDSP I and II areas. Regular contacts are maintained with the SDC supported Noakhali Rural Infrastructure Development and Maintenance Project, MES II and Second CERP.

CDSP has sub-contracts with the Surface Water Modeling Centre (SWMC), the Soil Resource Development Institute (SRDI) and EGIS. In addition surveys and studies are sub-contracted to DDC, BETS and Resource Development Centre.

## **Chapter 3 COMPONENT WISE PROGRESS**

### **3.1. Capacity building of institutions**

#### **3.1.1. Establishment of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management framework (LF 1.1.)**

Project staff was not invited during the reporting period to participate in any discussion on ICZM. It is not known to project staff what the progress of establishing an ICZM framework is, since no information was received on the subject. Contacts with EGIS have been established to make the databases in the project compatible with the national database on the coastal zone. The required programming work will be done in April and May by an EGIS programmer.

#### **3.1.2. Strengthening of land management bureaucracy at District- and Thana level (LF 1.2)**

In the last week of the reporting period the draft final report of the BETS-team on the strengthening of the of the offices of the Deputy Commissioner, the Thana Executive Officer (TNO) and the Assistant Commissioner (Land) was published. The report provides an analysis of the present situation, highlighted in a chapter on constraints in the settlement process, gives attention to the manpower situation and formulates recommendations for training. The proposals for modernization of the system of developing and maintaining systems of land records concentrate on computerization.

#### **3.1.3. Improvement of planning capability at District-, Thana- and Union level (LF 1.2)**

A proposal for the investigations preceding efforts to strengthen the local planning capacity was developed and agreed upon by the agencies that took the initiative in this respect (RNE and WFP). The proposal contains a pilot approach, starting in four Districts (Chittagong, Feni, Noakhali and Lakshimpur), in four Thanas (in each of the Districts one Thana) and four Unions (in each of the Thanas one Union). The first need assessment survey will start in May.

#### **3.1.4. Strengthening of NGOs (LF 1.3)**

Project staff facilitated an orientation session for staff of Upoma and Sagarika on the 1999-2000 activity plan (October 1999) and a workshop on developing rules for groups of beneficiaries (November 1999). In the reporting period BRAC did not start yet with training or other support activities for the NGOs working in the CDSP framework.

Sagarika and Upoma continued their community development work with the settlers in clustered villages in Char Majid and Char Baggar Dona respectively. Major activities were micro credit, vegetable cultivation, investments in fish ponds, use of latrines and tubewells. NGO staff was also involved with the vaccination of children programme.

### **3.1.5. Establishing and strengthening of field level institutions (LF 1.4, 3.1.a, 3.1.b, 3.3, 3.8)**

In the unprotected areas (Char Maradonna, Char Ganchill/Torap Ali, Char Lakshmi, Char Osman (Nijhum Dwip) and Bandar Tila (Nijhum Dwip)) the process of establishing Area Development Committees have been started. In the areas that will be protected by the project (Muhuri AA and South Hatia), (Sub) Polder Committees will be formed as soon as it is known who will be settled in the polders. The Guidelines for People's Participation in CDSP have been adapted to include ADCs. These Committees basically consist of one male and one female member for each mouza, plus the UP members from the area. The ADC is chaired by the UP Chairman.

Project staff initiated meetings with the Union Parishads in the project area just to inform the members about the activities planned under CDSP II.

## **3.2. Studies, measurements and monitoring**

### **3.2.1. Feasibility Study Baggar Dona river catchment area (LF 2.1, 3.10)**

In February the Feasibility Study for the catchment area of the Baggar Dona was commissioned after a tender procedure among Bangladeshi consulting firms. A combination of DDC and BETS (with the former as leading party) started the work in the same month. The Inception Report was submitted at the end of March.

### **3.2.2. Study on the sedimentation of outflows of drainage sluices (LF 2.1.)**

In October/November two expatriate consultants carried out a short assignment on this subject. The mission looked at three sets of problems: close to the sluices, in the outfall channels and in the receiving waters. It is best to refer to the Mission Report (no.2) for the results of their findings and for their recommendations. The study will certainly be used for a.o. the design of sluices in areas with heavy sedimentation, recommendations to the Water Management Committees and BWDB for treatment of outfall channels and in the ongoing discussions on the future of Baggar Dona- and Hatia rivers and of Noakhali khal.

### **3.2.3. Water related measurements (LF 2.2)**

At the following nine points water levels are measured: Muhuri, Bamni sluice gate, Char Bhatirtek, Char Majid, Buyer Hat, Char Baggar Dona I, Char Baggar Dona II, South Hatia and Nijhum Dwip. All measurements are supplied to SWMC for their model study. At seven of the nine locations water salinity is measured as well.

#### **3.2.4. Soil related measurements (LF 2.2)**

SRDI has been given the responsibility to carry out soil salinity measurements. In the CDSP I areas measurements continued following the existing pattern, while in the new areas samples (0-10 and 10-30 cm.) are taken according to a grid (400 x 500 m.). The areas concerned are Char Maradonna, Char Lakhi, Char Gangchill/TorapAli, Muhuri and South Hatia.

#### **3.2.5. Monitoring of developments in the project area (LF 2.2)**

A plan has been made for monitoring developments in the three CDSP I polders. Regular monitoring will be done for a. land settlement, b. agriculture, c. infrastructure and d. field level institutions. In addition special studies might be needed for specific subjects, as for instance the use and impact of tubewells and latrines. The frequency of the regular monitoring depends on the subject but will not be less than once a year (for instance land settlement) and not more than four times a year (for instance field level institutions). The average frequency for agriculture and infrastructure will be twice a year. Monitoring will be done by the consultant concerned with the subject in question, as much as possible in cooperation with the concerned government agency.

### **3.3. Concrete interventions at field level**

#### **3.3.1. Official settlement of households on *khas* land (LF 3.1.a, 3.1.b, 3.3, 3.5)**

In order to enhance the transparency of the whole process of land settlement, a series of information meetings were held in the new CDSP II areas. In each mouza one meeting for male participants and at least two meetings for female participants were held. A session guide was developed. The meetings aimed at explaining the procedures of the process and the first steps that will be taken. In the reporting period Char Maradonna, Char Ganchill/Torap Ali and South Hatia were covered. Char Lakshmi and Muhuri AA will follow later.

A number of activities were undertaken related to the organization of the plot to plot surveys, such as collection of mouza maps, collection of plot indexes, information about previous settlements.

##### **A. Muhuri AA**

The border issue and formal consent from the side of the DC Chittagong delayed the start of the plot to plot survey.

## B. Noakhali mainland

Plot to plot surveys in Char Maradona and Char Gangchill/Torap Ali were started in January. The land settlement process in the three CDSP I polders continued. The situation per April 1 was as follows: of the target of 4,697 cases, 4,521 were registered, while in 222 cases the *khatian* still had to be handed over to the concerned households.

## B. South Hatia and Nijhum Dwip

The plot to plot surveys in South Hatia and Nijhum Dwip (Char Osman) were prepared. Field work started in the third week of March.

### **3.3.2. Construction of infrastructure** (LF 3.1.a, 3.1.b, 3.3, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9)

#### A. Muhuri AA

Due to the uncertainties caused by the border issue and due to the fact that allocations for the ADP were only awarded at a late stage, infrastructural activities in Muhuri AA did not progress as planned in the Plan of Operations. The alignment, the detailed design and the tender process for the embankment were all completed. Contractors even mobilized equipment but could not start the work because of an injunction order on request of a farmer that felt harmed by the construction of the embankment. The construction would hamper his shrimp farming on a piece of land given to him in lease by the Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong.

Test tubewells were not installed due to the fact that no funds were allocated to DPHE. The design of the cyclone shelters was completed but not yet officially approved by LGED.

#### B. Noakhali mainland

The rehabilitation of sluices at the southeastern side of polder 59/3B did not start because the drainage situation was more complicated than anticipated. An elaborate plan was made, including improvement of the drainage network of the area, through (re) excavation of khals.

The reexcavation of khals in Char Bhatirtek (7 km., under WFP) and the construction of two box culverts and one pipe culvert (Char Baggar Dona) were started and will most probably be completed in the current season. The preparatory works of strengthening 780 houses in clustered villages in CDSP I polders were taken up. Tenders for the materials will be published in May.

In unprotected areas the construction of rural roads started with support from WFP. In cooperation with the Danida DPHE project the preparation of installment of five tubewells were completed. The tubewells will be installed this season.

### C. South Hatia and Nijhum Dwip

The polder in South Hatia was redesigned compared to the MES feasibility study. Based on up to date land levels the polder was extended to the south and west, while embankment at the eastern side was put along the forest line. The MES design which necessitated the cutting of a strip of about 700 m. into the forest was abandoned.

After additional investigations it was decided not to empolder Nijhum Dwip. Technical reasons (too low land, drainage problems) were the main factor, while the small size of the polder were a secondary reason.

With assistance from the Danida DPHE project 16 tubewells will be installed on South Hatia and four on the eastern side of Nijhum Dwip (Bandar Tila).

### **3.3.3. Improvement of agriculture (LF 3.2)**

#### A. Muhuri AA

A preliminary land class has been prepared on the basis of information on topography/elevation. Crop cuts have been taken of Aman 1999 crop to assess the current yield levels in Muhuri. A plot to plot survey in relation to land type, flooding characteristics and cropping patterns has been completed. The data still have to be processed and analyzed.

#### B. Noakhali mainland

Demonstration of rabi crops and multi crop tests have been established in Char Maradonna and Char Lakhi. A group of demo farmers in Char Maradonna has been given training. One Field Day on rabi demo crops was organized.

#### C. South Hatia and Nijhum Dwip

As in Muhuri, a preliminary land class map has been prepared. Plot to plot survey on agriculture will follow later.

## Chapter 4 PROJECT ORGANIZATION AND RESOURCES

### 4.1. Project organization

The basic institutional framework of the project has been given in paragraph 2.2. The pattern is similar to that in CDSP I, with the exception of the fact that more implementing agencies have a Project Proforma (five in CDSP II, three in CDSP I). It was the intention that the Department of Forest would be a party in CDSP II as well. Because of reasons beyond the project itself, the participation of that Department was not realized, though the Chief Conservator of Forests assured that the Department will cooperate with the project.

Four of the five PP holding agencies have appointed a Project Director for CDSP II; only the Department of Agricultural Extension still has to do so. It is not yet clear how many Project Management Committees will be established. The best solution would probably be two PMCs: one for Noakhali mainland and Hatia/Nijhum Dwip and one for Muhuri AA. During the reporting period only one PMC meeting was held (in Noakhali). No meetings of the National Steering Committee took place.

See annex 3 for an organizational chart of CDSP II.

### 4.2. Donor contributions

#### 4.2.1. Financial Assistance funds

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	5:(2)-(4)	6:(1)-(3)
	Original budget (Dfl.)	Contract amount (Tk.)	Contract amount (Dfl.)	Recomm. for reimb. (Tk.)	Pending reimb.	Balance of budget (Dfl.)
<b>BWDB</b>		98,920,689	4,121,694	95,291,598	3,629,091	
<b>LGED</b>		171,399,206	7,141,633	171,399,206	-	
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,563,500</b>	<b>270,319,895</b>	<b>11,263,327</b>	<b>266,690,804</b>	<b>3,629,091</b>	<b>300,173</b>

Based on Dfl./Taka rate of 24:1.

#### 4.2.2. Technical Assistance funds

In Dfl.

<b>DGIS Code</b>	<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Expenditure till 01-04-2000</b>	<b>Balance 01-04-2000</b>
300	Personnel	1,799,082	844,128	954,954
400	Investments	450,000	278,134	171,866
500	Operational Costs	270,000	194,877	75,123
600	Training	90,000	9,682	80,318
800	Contingencies	130,454	69,041	61,413
<b>Total :</b>		<b>2,739,536</b>	<b>1,395,862</b>	<b>1,343,674</b>

#### 4.2.3. NGO fund

In Dfl.

<b>DGIS Code</b>	<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Expenditure till 01-04-2000</b>	<b>Balance 01-04-2000</b>
300	Personnel	138,924	138,083	841
400	Investments	65,111	68,240	-3,129
500	Operational Costs	261,330	207,739	53,591
600	Training	20,387	23,634	-3,247
<b>Total :</b>		<b>485,752</b>	<b>437,696</b>	<b>48,056</b>

See annex 4 for more details.

#### 4.2.4. NGO fund

### 4.3. Staff

#### 4.3.1. Government of Bangladesh

Due to the lack of a formal basis of the project during the reporting period (no approved PCP, no individual PPs), it is not possible to provide a list of staff from the Government side involved with CDSP. The situation was compounded by the fact that for most of the period the situation with regard to the border in Muhuri AA was not clear.

#### **4.3.2. Consultant staff**

A contract was concluded in October 1999 between RNE and the consortium of CDP, Haskoning and Sheltech Consultants for their services for the period of nine months from October 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000.

The Team Leader (CDP) was absent from the project during seven days due to a short stay abroad. On short term consultancies of expatriate staff (CDP and Haskoning) a total of 112 days were spent. The following subjects were covered: project management (1), water management (61), civil engineering (36) and agriculture (14). An associate expert working for EGIS visited the project for about one week a month, starting from the beginning of December. The main purpose is to provide support to the establishment of a GIS-unit in CDSP.

Through Sheltech Consultants long term consultants and support staff were provided. Sub-contracted short term assignments included the baseline surveys carried out by Resource Development Centre, the Feasibility Study Baggar Dona catchment area (DDC/BETS combination), the study on the support of the land settlement bureaucracy (BETS) and a model study by the Surface Water Modeling Centre (in support of the Baggar Dona study).

For further information see annex 5.

#### **4.3.3. NGO staff**

The contract between CDSP and the two local NGOs engaged in community development work in clustered villages was extended to June 30, 2000. The list of staff of Upoma (Char Baggar Dona) and Sagarika (Char Majid) can be found in annex 5.

#### **4.4. Investments and materials**

The complete list of materials bought and investments done during the reporting period can be found in annex 6.

#### **Annexes:**

- 1. Map of project areas**
- 2. Logical Framework**
- 3. Organizational chart CDSP II**
- 4. Overview expenditures Technical Assistance**
- 5. List of project staff**
- 6. List of equipment and investments**