

INTRODUCTION

The duration of Char Development and Settlement Project II is five years: from October 1, 1999 to September 30, 2004. The Technical Assistance part has been divided into two periods: a period of nine months from October 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000 and a part covering the remaining 51 months. This report refers to the nine months, often referred to as the “bridging period”. Article VI of the agreement between the Netherlands embassy and the consultant stipulates that a six months Progress Report be published on the October/March period and a Completion Report on the full period, in which also the progress during the last three months would be covered. The Progress Report on the first six months was published in April (as Progress Report no. 1).

In part A of this report the progress during the last three months (April 1 to June 30, 2000) will be treated, while part B is the Completion Report proper, looking back at the full nine months period. Because the reporting period is so short, the report is rather modest in size. To keep the record straight, part A has been titled Progress Report no. 2. The intention is to make the report on the forthcoming period (July 1 to December 31, 2000) Progress Report no. 3.

A. PROGRESS REPORT APRIL 1 TO JUNE 30, 2000

Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

As was made clear in the general introduction, this part covers the last three months of the nine months bridging period. Because CDSP I finished on September 30 1999, after a three months extension, CDSP II took a beginning on October 1, 1999. So it is actually more an initiation period and a period of transition, than a *bridging* period.

The first six months have been covered in Progress Report nr.1. This part of the report does not follow the same (usual) format: chapters on project outline and on project organization are left out. In part B however, the Completion Report on the full nine months, these matters have been given attention.

1.2. Bottlenecks

A few of the bottlenecks mentioned in the previous Progress Report were lifted during the last three months. The Project Concept paper was approved by ECNEC on June 20. The grant agreement between the Governments of Bangladesh and The Netherlands was signed on June 25. Only the countersign of the NI Bank is still required to make the grant operational.

The early (pre-monsoon) rains, led to the decision to postpone the plot to plot survey in Muhuri Accreted Area to the dry season, because the area had become inaccessible. The rains hampered the construction works as well, causing delays and in some cases resulting in incomplete works at the start of the monsoon season .

1.3. Publications

During the three months reporting period two Mission Reports were published (on the agriculture program and the planning of infrastructure works respectively), as well as Progress Report no. 1. An internal resource report on monitoring the developments in the three CDSP I polders was published just after the reporting period.

BETS issued the draft final version of the report on land management bureaucracy and DDC the draft Inception Report on the Feasibility Study Baggar Dona catchment area. Sheltech submitted the draft final report on the groundwater survey in the coastal belt of the Greater Noakhali area. RDC published the first three Baseline Survey Reports in a series of nine: Char Majid, Char Bhatirtek and Chat Baggar Dona II. Reports on Muhuri Accreted Area, South Hatia and Nijhum Dwip became available in the first week of July. A map of the project area is taken up as annex 1. Annex 3 gives a list of publications.

Chapter 2 COMPONENTWISE PROGRESS

2.1. Capacity building of institutions

2.1.1. Establishment of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management framework (LF 1.1)

The Technical Committee of ICZM convened for the first time. The Team Leader CDSP II is member (observer status) of that committee. The decision was taken that in future the Technical Committee will also serve as Steering Committee for CDSP II and MES II. The Team Leader (PDO/ICZM) visited Noakhali for two days to become familiar with CDSP activities.

The programming work to make the CDSP database compatible with the national database on the coastal zone (which has yet to be established) is nearly completed. Remaining programming work will be done at the EGIS office.

2.1.2. Strengthening of land management bureaucracy at District- and Upazila level (LF 1.2)

BETS submitted the draft final report “Need assessment and Preparation of Proposal To Modernize Land Records and Processes For Strengthening Capacity of DC, TNO and AC(Land) Offices”. The report contains recommendations with regards to procedures, staffing (including training) and computerization of land records. A workshop will be held in the fourth week of July to discuss the findings and recommendations. After the workshop a decision will be taken which recommendations to implement and how to do it.

2.1.3. Improvement of planning capability at District-, Upazila- and Union level (LF 1.2)

The Need Assessment Survey (essentially to identify the needs for training) started in May and is expected to be completed mid-July. Three questionnaires are used: for government officials (especially members of the Development Coordination Councils at Upazila- and District level), for UP chairman and for UP members (with an adapted version for women members). The survey is held in the four pilot Upazilas and Unions: Chittagong District, Mirserai Upazila, Saher *Khali* Union; Feni District: Sonagazi Upazila, Char Sandia Union; Noakhali District: Hatia Upazila, Jahajmara union; Lakshimpur District: Ramgoti Upazila, Char Badam Union.

In August group discussions at community level in the four unions will be held on the findings of the survey. In September a meeting will be held with RNE and WFP on the next step.

2.1.4. Strengthening NGOs (LF 1.3)

The Danida supported Greater Noakhali Aquaculture Extension Project (GNAEP) organized a one week course for NGO staff (Sagarika and Upoma) on Carp Polyculture with Gaoldha in Ponds. CDSP staff assisted in preparing the training. A follow up of the course is planned for September.

BRAC selected the following five NGOs to work in the framework of CDSP II: YPSA (Muhuri); Sagarika (Char Majid, Char Maradona, Char Lakhi); UPOMA (Char Baggar Dona, Char Maradona); N-RAS (Char Bhatirtek); DUS (Hatia/Nijhum Dwip). An introductory meeting was held in Noakhali at the end of June, with two Deputy Directors of BRAC and representatives of all five NGOs present. The follow up will take place mid July through a workshop in Dhaka during which work plans will be drafted.

Sagarika and Upoma continued their work among inhabitants of the clustered villages in Char Majid and Char Baggar Dona II. NGO staff was also involved with the children vaccination program.

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

The formation of Area Development Committees (ADCs) for unprotected areas was completed in the reporting period. For Char Maradona, Char Lakhi and Char Gangchil/Torap Ali one male and one female member from each *mouza* were selected by the population of that *mouza*. For Nijhum Dwip (Char Osman and Bandar Tilla), which is one *mouza*, the two areas were divided into five parts. From each of the parts one male and one female representative was selected. The membership of the five ADCs is as follows:

Name of ADC	No. of ADC Members selected by people		UP representation to the ADCs		Total ADC Members	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Maradona	5	5	6	3	11	8
Char Lakhi	5	5	8	4	13	9
Gangchil-Torap Ali	2	2	5	2	7	4
Char Osman (ND)	5	5	2	1	7	6
Bandar Tilla	5	5	2	1	7	6
Total	22	22	23	11	55	33

Preparation started for a training for all ADC members. Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been contracted to carry out the training, scheduled for July.

A study tour was organized for members of the Water Management Committees in CDSP I polders to the Khulna/Jessore Drainage Rehabilitation Project. Fifty two members, including four women, of five WMCs participated. They shared their views and

exchanged ideas with the KJDRP Committees in solving the typical drainage – and siltation problems.

The Guidelines for Participatory Water Management of the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives were received. CDSP staff will meet shortly to see what the consequences of the guidelines are for CDSP's guidelines on the subject.

2.2. Studies, measurements and monitoring

2.2.1. Feasibility Study Baggar Dona catchment area (LF 2.1, 3.10)

In April comments (from CDSP consultants) on the draft Inception Report were submitted to the consultants (DDC/BETS). These comments, referring to a.o. the approach and the way the selection of the various options would take place, were discussed with the full Feasibility Study team during a meeting in Noakhali in May. The decision was taken to take the groundwater survey in the Baggar Dona area out of the Terms of Reference of the study and instead commission a study to make an inventory of the available data on groundwater in the coastal zone of the Greater Noakhali area. The draft Inception Report has been sent to the five implementing agencies of CDSP II, the Forest Department and the concerned District administrations. Several meetings with DDC/BETS and SWMC staff took place on the supply of data from SWMC to the Feasibility Study consultants and vice versa. To come to a more reliable assessment of the various options, data were needed on the monsoon period 2000. The contract with SWMC was expanded to accommodate this additional requirement.

The decision was taken to take references to groundwater out of the Terms of Reference of the Feasibility Study. Instead a separate assignment was commissioned regarding an inventory of the existing data on groundwater in Greater Noakhali. This study was completed in the beginning of July.

2.2.2. Study on sedimentation of outflows of drainage sluices (LF 2.1)

This study was carried out in October/November 1999, as mentioned in the previous Progress Report. Monthly measurements of cross sections in the outflow of the sluice in Char Majid continued (started in July 1999). The problems with sedimentation were not as severe as last year, presumably due to the relatively heavy pre-monsoon rains, to the reexcavation of a part of Bashkali *khal* inside the polder and to some dredging activity in the outflow channel (actually a test run of an excavator designed by BWDB).

2.2.3. Water related measurements (LF 2.2)

The water level measurements at the nine points and the salinity measurements (seven out of nine) mentioned in Progress Report no.1 continued. For collection of monsoon data for the SWMC model study (see 2.2.1) three new points in Ramgoti Upazila were added. For SWMC hourly gauge readings are done at five stations and three hourly at two stations.

The database on these measurements was changed from Excel to Access software to facilitate analysis and to make the data base compatible with the national coastal database being developed at EGIS (see 2.1.1).

2.2.4. Soil related measurements (LF 2.2)

Soil samples from three sites each in Char Majid, Char Bhatirtek and Char Baggar Dona II were taken in April and June to test salinity as continuation of the routine process.

In April SRDI took samples from two depths (0-20 and 20-40 cm.) from each cross section of a 400x500 m. grid in new project areas (Char Maradona, Char Lakhi, South Hatia and Muhuri). All samples are being analyzed for salinity while every tenth sample will be fully chemically analyzed to assess soil fertility.

Also the database on soils was transferred from Excel into Access software.

2.2.5. Monitoring of developments in CDSP I areas (LF 2.2)

The system of monitoring of developments in the three CDSP I polders was started for some parts while preparations for other parts continued during the reporting period. A report on the system was published as an internal resources report in the first week of July.

2.3. Concrete interventions at field level

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

The information meetings on the land settlement process continued. In the reporting period such meetings were held in Nijhum Dwip (Char Osman; three for males and four for females), Bandar Tilla (eastern side of Nijhum Dwip; five for men and women each) and Muhuri (three meetings only for males; meetings for women will follow later). All the new CDSP II areas where land settlement activities are planned have thus been completed, except a few meetings in Muhuri. The decision was taken not to undertake a land settlement program in Char Lakhi, mainly due to its small size.

Formal consent of the DC Chittagong for the plot to plot survey in Muhuri was only received at the end of May. The early rains prevented to start the plot to plot survey before the monsoon season. The start is now planned for late October.

The plot to plot surveys for Char Maradona and Char Gangchill/Torap Ali were completed by the end of April and are currently being processed and consolidated. The preparation of the list of *khas* land for Ganchill/Torap Ali was started in May and completed in the first week of June. The draft list for Gangchill *mouza* was published in

the first week of June. The lists for South Char Elahi and Torap Ali were handed over to officials of the Ministry of Land for publication at the end of June.

The plot to plot survey in the South Hatia area and on Nijhum Dwip (Char Osman) started in the third week of March. That of Nijhum Dwip was completed at the end of May, while at the end of June 80% of the work in South Hatia had been done.

The settlement process in the three CDSP I polders continued. The situation at the end of the reporting period was as follows: of the overall target of 4697 cases, 4530 were registered, while 141 *khatians* still have to be handed over to the beneficiaries.

The Ministry of Land has approved the proposal of issuing individual *khatians* to the households settled in Char Baggar Dona I under the Land Reclamation Project with cooperative documents. Preparatory works to this end started in the last week of June.

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

The whole planning and budgeting for infrastructure works under CDSP II was reviewed by CDSP consultants and subsequently discussed with the implementing agencies (BWDB, LGED and DPHE), RNE and WFP. Revised planning schedule has been distributed to all concerned in the second week of July.

In case of Muhuri Accreted Area, no progress can be reported after the previous Progress Report, other than some progress in the preparation of the detailed designs of sluices.

The plan for the rehabilitation of sluices and of the drainage network in the southeastern part of polder 59/3B was discussed with the BWDB officials and consensus has been reached about what has to be done. Preparations for the designs were set in motion.

The reexcavation of *khals* in Char Bhatirtek (5.3 km. with WFP assistance) was completed. The work was awarded to a Labour Contracting Society (2.9 km.) and to the Water Management Committee of Kolmi sluice (2.4 km.). The planned construction of two box culverts and one pipe culvert in Char Baggar Dona I was severely hampered by the early rains. Only the pipe culvert was built. The work for the box culverts will be resumed in the next dry season.

The preparatory works with regard to the strengthening of 780 houses in the cluster villages of CDSP I polders were taken up. An inventory of the required materials was made and the tender formalities for the procurement were completed. Work orders for all the works, except for the wood related work were given.

In unprotected areas a total of 6.7 km. of rural roads were completed (Gangchill/Torap Ali 0.5, Char Lakhi 3.0 and Char Maradonna 3.2 km.). The planned total of 10 km. could not be achieved because of heavy rains.

The changes in the design in the South Hatia polder were discussed with and accepted by BWDB (with some revision of the alignment of the embankment. Preparation for the designs of embankment and structures were taken up.

The preparation of the installment of tubewells in CDSP II areas by the Danida/DPHE urban and rural water supply project continued. Site selection and down payments by the beneficiaries were completed and work orders were issued. Actual installation is expected to start in July. Five tubewells will be installed in Char Maradonna, 16 in South Hatia and four in Bandar Tilla (eastern side of Nijhum Dwip island).

2.3.3. Improvement of agriculture (LF 3.2)

A plot to plot survey in relation to land type, flooding characteristics and cropping pattern (*rabi*) has been completed in Muhuri and South Hatia in March and April. The Muhuri data have been stored in a data base, data entry for South Hatia is going on. Preliminary maps have been prepared that show land types as classified by farmers and cropping patterns, using the GIS software. In May and June a survey was done in the same areas to assess the extent of *aus* cultivation. This survey completed the survey of cropping patterns.

Eighteen demonstration and four multi crop tests were established. However, one test plot in Char Lakhi and one demonstration in Char Maradona did not survive due to high salinity. During April and May the results of the demonstration- and test plots were collected. DAE organized a field day in Char Maradona, followed by distribution of seeds of some *rabi* crops. For awareness building about HYV rice cultivation 350 kg. of HYV varieties were distributed by DAE among farmers in Char Lakhi and Char Maradona in June. Till now no HYV *aman* was cultivated in these unprotected areas. On some of the higher parts however, HYV rice is a possibility.

A transect survey was done in the CDS DP I polders during *rabi* season to assess the adoption of *rabi* crops in the chars.

Chapter 3 RESOURCES

3.1. Technical Assistance funds

Code	Budget Item	Balance of budget 1-4-2000	Expenditure 1-4 / 1-7	Balance of budget 1-7-2000
300	Personnel	924,954	749,408	175,546
400	Investments	171,866	143,929	27,937
500	Operational costs	105,123	114,678	-9,555
600	Training	80,318	42,537	37,781
800	Contingencies	61,413	42,500	18,913
	Total	1,343,674	1,093,052	250,622

See also annex 4.

3.2. NGO fund

Code	Budget Item	Balance of budget 1-4-2000	Expenditure 1-4 / 1-7	Balance of budget 1-7-2000
300	Personnel	841		841
400	Investments	-3,129		-3,129
500	Operational costs	53,591	48,313	5,278
600	Training	-3,247		-3,247
	Total	48,056		-257

3.3. Financial Assistance and WFP contribution

No further reimbursements were approved with regard to the Financial Assistance funds. The CDSP I budget was closed. The situation can be found in paragraph 4.1 of Part B of this report.

A number of *khals* were reexcavated and rural roads built with support in wheat from WFP. The figures can be found in paragraph 4.2 of part B. The 30% cash component was paid out of Technical Assistance funds. This amounted to Dfl. for BWDB works and Dfl. for LGED works.

3.4. Staff

During the reporting period the number of Bangladeshi long term staff did not increase further and stayed at 72. The Team Leader was the only expatriate long term adviser. He was absent for 31 days in April/May (combined holiday and sick leave). Two missions of expatriate consultants took place for a total of 35 consultancy days: agriculture (16) and civil engineering (19).

3.5. Investments and equipment

Major expenditures in terms of investments were the construction of site offices in Muhuri and South Hatia. The one in Muhuri was completed at the end of June, the one in Hatia for 80%. Repairs were carried out on the roof of one of the office buildings in Sonapur and on the dormitories on the BWDB (Muhuri Irrigation Project) compound in Muhuri, Sonagazi.

Four 4WD cars were procured, while two older ones were discarded. A speedboat was procured to ferry staff and project goods between Noakhali Mainland (Bhuyer Hat) and North Hatia. Other items purchased in the reporting period were a portable computer, conductivity meters to measure salinity and simple laboratory equipment for soil- and water tests.

From the Compartmentalization Pilot Project (Tangail) a considerable amount of project goods were received. The complete list can be found in annex 6.

B. COMPLETION REPORT OCTOBER 1, 1999 TO JUNE 30, 2000

Chapter 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. The bridging period

More than anything else, the nine months between October 1999 and July 2000 can be characterized as a period of *transition*. CDSP II is different from CDSP I in a number of aspects. It has a different mandate in terms of kinds of interventions, it is designed in a different manner, it covers an expanded geographical area and has a broader funding base. These changes had to be identified, spelled out and internalized.

CDSP evolved from a project geared towards three specific polders with similar packages of activities in each of them to a (sub)regional program with different kinds of interventions in different areas. Institutional development and accumulation of knowledge were brought much more to the fore, while on the other hand the range of concrete interventions at field level was reduced (basically to land settlement, infrastructure and agricultural development). A significant addition compared to the old mandate was the inclusion of unprotected (and for the time being not to be embanked) areas. The project area now encompasses the coastal zone of Greater Noakhali from Mirsarai Upazila (Chittagong District) to Ramgoti Upazila in Lakshmipur District. It expanded southwards to the islands of Hatia and Nijhum Dwip. Concrete interventions are undertaken in parts of the aforementioned areas.

In order to address these changes, the internal project organization had to be adjusted, including the staffing pattern. Logistics had to be extended. An adapted network had to be developed including the new partners in CDSP. Especially the new brief of CDSP and the larger area made it necessary to spend much time on gathering data and information through surveys. At a different level, the formal basis for CDSP II in terms of official documents on the side of the Government of Bangladesh and on the side of the donors (Government of the Netherlands and World Food Program) and in terms of agreements between those parties had to be prepared.

The following pages will review the major aspects of this period of transition in three chapters. The current chapters will be concluded with the objectives and the design of CDSP II, while chapter 2 will briefly recapitulate the activities and achievements, as they were already reported in Progress Report no. 1 and in Part A of this report. Chapter 3 is devoted to the project organization and chapter 4 to financial aspects. The base document against which these developments should be considered is the Implementation Document/Plan of Operations for the nine months period dated October 14, 1999 and approved by the Netherlands embassy in a letter of November 28.

1.2. Objectives and design of CDSP II

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.

CDSP II tries to achieve this long term objective by realizing the following more short term 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 areas in a sustainable manner.

The three short term purposes determined the content wise design of CDSP II. The project has three components, each covering one of the purposes. See also annex 2 for the Logical Framework. The institutional design is very much the outcome of the third purpose. The project has five implementing agencies, each of them responsible for a particular part of the concrete interventions at field level (see paragraph 3.2 below). The other two purposes are very much inter sectoral and are related to each of the five agencies. A part of the project activities serving the first purpose (for instance local level planning) are however not clearly related to these five government agencies.

Under CDSP II a different institutional set up was chosen for the involvement of NGOs. While in CDSP I the support and monitoring of the work of local NGOs was done by CDSP consultants, in CDSP II this responsibility has been transferred to BRAC. BRAC operates under a separate agreement with RNE.

Chapter 2 ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2.1. Introduction

The activities in the nine months bridging period have been covered by two Progress Reports (no. 1 and no. 2, taken up as part A in this document). It seems superfluous to repeat all activities in this Completion Report, so short after the Progress Reports. In the paragraphs below a brief and at times impressionistic account is given of the results of the activities. Of course a period of nine months, and a transition period at that, is too brief to expect any significant results in terms of achievement of the long term objective or even the more short term purposes.

2.2. Capacity building of institutions

Institutional development has become a separate purpose (and component) in CDSP II. It is meant to be applied at different levels: contribution to the establishment of an ICZM framework, but at the same time establishment and/or strengthening of institutions at field-, Union-, Upazila- and District level.

The project contributed to ICZM by providing information (project reports, data base, discussions with ICZM/PDO Team Leader), by making its database compatible with the (future) national coastal data base and by participation in ICZM meetings (Team Leader CDSP is member/observer in technical Committee ICZM). The Memorandum of Understanding with EGIS on land use in the coastal belt, has certainly the potential to contribute to ICZM policy formulation.

The intention to improve the functioning of the government institutions dealing with land settlement has so far resulted in a report highlighting the current situation (in particular in terms of policies and procedures, staffing, equipment). After a workshop in the last week of July to discuss the contents, especially the recommendations, of the report, the project will identify interventions that will be undertaken under CDSP II. Most probably the interventions will be predominantly aimed at Upazila level.

The study itself already helped in making people aware of certain issues.

The efforts of improving the capability of planning at local level (Union, Upazila and District) only got underway during the last part of the bridging period. The survey to identify training needs among local level elected representatives and government officials is expected to be consolidated in August. The training program itself can probably start late September. Actual planning (for four pilot Unions) will be both a part of and a follow up of the training program. Also in this case it can be said that the survey itself is to a certain extent an awareness raising instrument.

The responsibility for strengthening of the capabilities of local NGOs has under CDSP II been shifted from the team of consultants to a national NGO: BRAC. After a slow start,

the involvement of BRAC is gathering pace. An agreement between BRAC and the Netherlands embassy has been concluded, five local NGOs were selected for the various project areas and initial meetings to draft work plans for each NGO have been held. The role of project advisers during the reporting period was to facilitate the BRAC/RNE contract and to assist BRAC staff in familiarizing itself with the project area and the activities of CDSP.

The biggest achievement regarding field level institutions has been the establishment of five Area Development Committees for unprotected areas. Training of these ADCs was taken up in the third week of July. This has very much been an effort of the consultants team, though government officers, especially from the five participating agencies, were regularly informed. Support for the Water Management Committees has been limited to technical advice, if so requested, and to the organization of a study tour to the Khulna/Jessore Drainage Rehabilitation project, which was highly appreciated by the participants. Monitoring the functioning of the WMCs and of the implementation of the Maintenance Plan is a key activity in CDSP II.

2.3. Accumulation and dissemination of knowledge

The emphasis in the nine months that are the subject of the Completion Report was on the gathering of data rather than on analysis, drawing conclusions and distribution of them. Much of the collection of data and information was geared towards future project interventions. The plot to plot surveys regarding land settlement and agriculture fall in this category, and so does the local level planning survey. The Feasibility Study on the Baggar Dona catchment area and the survey investigating the land settlement bureaucracy will probably result in future interventions.

The study on issues related to the sedimentation of outflow of sluices was carried out, but is likely that this subject, seen in a wider perspective, will continue to be on CDSP's (and ICZM's) agenda. Land use in coastal areas is the subject of the Memorandum of Understanding with EGIS to do common studies that will hopefully lead to useful knowledge for an ICZM policy.

The program of water related measurements was expanded to 12 points. The measurements of salinity and fertility of soils were put on a different footing in the new project areas (compared to the system in CDSP I areas), following grids of 400x500 m . The processing of all data was transferred to Access software to increase the possibilities of analysis and to make the database compatible with the national database on the coastal zone.

A significant achievement of the bridging period was the completion of Baseline Survey reports for six areas, and the completion of field work for another three areas. These reports can be of tremendous value for assessing the impact of CDSP interventions, if indeed a similar survey is repeated after a number of years. The project has a system of in

place for regular monitoring of developments in CDSP I polders that also will help in obtaining insight in the effectiveness of CDSP activities.

2.4. Concrete interventions at field level

Actual progress of field level activities can be found in Progress Reports no. 1 and no. 2 (part A). Measured against the Plan of Operations for the bridging period, significant delays have occurred in the infrastructure sector. Major factors causing the delays were the lack of formal documents (as PCP, grant agreement) leading to non or late allocation of funds, a court case (rule *nisi*) preventing the start of construction of the embankment in Muhuri and early heavy rains, hampering completion of WFP supported construction works.

Other activities were on the whole implemented as scheduled, though the land settlement in CDSP I areas is still not fully completed and the plot to plot survey in Muhuri had to be postponed due to late approval by DC Chittagong and early rains.

The question is whether the activities in the nine months period actually contributed to a direct improvement in the economic situation and in the living conditions of the population, the purpose of this project component. This was certainly the case in the construction of rural roads in unprotected areas, arguably opening up the area and making the m much more accessible, especially in the monsoon period. The same can be said of the reexcavation of *khals* in Char Bhatirtek. A number of additional households (192) were registered in the land settlement process in CDSP I areas, while 371 more households actually received their *khatian* compared to the situation on October 1, 1999. The period was too short to speak of any real improvement in the economic situation caused by an increase in agricultural production. The contradictory data with regard to adoption of HYV *aman* in Char Bhatirtek and Char Majid (DAE/CDSP results of transect surveys and data in the baseline survey reports contradict each other) and the apparent decline of HYV cultivation on Char Baggar Dona II, lead to the conclusion that additional surveys are required. These surveys might lead to a review of the agricultural program.

Chapter 3 PROJECT ORGANIZATION

3.1. Formal documents

Much progress was made with regard to the formalization of the project, the lack of which made the period a bridging one. The Project Concept Paper, with the Ministry of Water Resources as sponsoring agency, was approved in a pre-ECNEC meeting of the Planning Commission on February 6 and by ECNEC on June 20. Currently the five implementing agencies are preparing their own Project Proforma on the basis of the PCP. The PPs can be approved by the Secretary of the concerned parent Ministries.

The grant agreement between the governments of Bangladesh and The Netherlands was signed on June 25. RNE completed the tender procedure for selection of the consultant for the technical assistance part of the project (period of 51 months). A contract with CDP b.v. was signed on June 14.

3.2. The most important actors involved

3.2.1. Government agencies

Because the ECNEC approved the project only towards the end of the bridging period and because individual PPs are not yet completed, the participation of the five implementing agencies was not official. In practice however the agencies that were also involved in CDSP I (Ministry of Land, BWDB, LGED, DAE) all continued to work with the team of advisers, either in preparing plans for CDSP II, in continuing activities left over from CDSP I (land settlement, *khals* in Char Bhatir Tek) or in carrying out new activities (rural roads in unprotected areas, Feasibility Study Baggar Dona). In the DPHE sector nothing much happened, except cooperation with the Danida supported project for installation of tube wells in CDSP II areas.

The cooperation with other Departments that were involved in CDSP I (Health, Education, Fisheries, Livestock) was discontinued.

3.2.2. Non Government Organizations

During the nine months period CDSP continued its support for two NGOs for community development work in clustered villages of Char Majid (Sagarika) and in Char Baggar Dona II (Upoma) on the basis of the existing agreement. This support was financed out of the NGO fund budget.

The involvement of BRAC in CDSP II was formalized through an agreement between BRAC and RNE. BRAC completed the selection process of five local NGOs: Sagarika, Upoma, N-RAS, DUS and YPSA. These NGOs are currently preparing their individual

work plans. These plans will form the basis for the Inception Report to be produced by BRAC.

3.2.3. Team of advisers

A significant element of transition was the change in the size of the staff from the consultants side. The number of Bangladeshi staff increased in the bridging period from 58 to 72, with 11 people leaving and 25 joining the project. The Agricultural Extension Specialist, nine Community development workers and a data collector left the staff. The newcomers were a Senior Agricultural Adviser, a Land Settlement Adviser, a Logistical Officer, a Field Coordinator, three Field Engineers, seven data collectors, a surveyor, a driver, four speedboat crew, three guards, a peon and a cook. The increase of staff was the consequence of the expansion of the project area. The change in composition had to do with the change in the relative weight of the project components. All Bangladeshi staff have a contract with Sheltech Consultants (Pvt.) Ltd..

From the two Dutch consulting firms, CDP b.v. and HASKONING Consulting Engineers and Architects, six experts carried out short term assignments for a total of 151 consultancy days. The distribution was as follows: project management (1), land- and water engineering (65), civil engineering (55) and agricultural development (30). The Team Leader was the only expatriate long term consultant.

See annex 5 for the list of staff.

3.2.4. Coordination mechanisms

The Project Management Committee convened only once in the bridging period, at the end of March. The National Steering Committee also met once, on May 24. The discussion focused on land settlement and monitoring of CDSP I areas. The decision was taken to have two Project Management Committees (at District level): one for Noakhali mainland and Hatia (to be convened in Noakhali), and one for Muhuri (to be convened in Chittagong).

The Government has taken the decision to abolish the National Steering Committee. Instead the Inter Ministerial Technical Committee for ICZM will act as the steering committee for CDSP II. The Inter Ministerial Committee met on May 30, but CDSP II was not yet on the agenda. During that meeting the decision was taken to include representatives of DPHE and DAE in the Committee so that all five implementing agencies of CDSP II are present in the meetings.

3.3 Project support

An important element of improved project support was the development of a GIS and database system. CDSP now has a consistent set of digital spatial information and an integrated database for all project areas.

Accomplished GIS work includes:

- Remote sensing images are available of the complete project area and hardcopy 1:10,000 BIWTA topographical maps (Finnmap)
- Base information contains boundaries (administrative, project areas), infrastructure, hydrology
- Polder 59/3b (southeast) was digitized from the BIWTA maps and updated through a DGPS survey; South Hatia and Nijhum Dwip were digitized from the remote sensing image
- Elevation data from South Hatia, Muhuri and 59/3B were digitized and a Digital Elevation Model (DEM) was developed
- *Mouza* maps for the CDSP I polders, Muhuri and South Hatia were digitized and georeferenced based on a DGPS survey
- Database and GIS are linked; land type maps and cropping pattern maps were produced, based on the agricultural plot to plot survey

Achievements with regard to database work:

- the land- and water database was converted from Excel to Access
- a database for land settlement has been set up to facilitate monitoring in the CDSP I areas; all *khatian* sheets have been entered
- an agricultural database has been established containing the results of the agricultural plot to plot survey
- for all databases data entry sheets have been developed as well as report printing formats, facilitating entry, data control and analysis.

The bigger project area led to an expansion of the logistical operation. Site offices were built in Muhuri (fully completed) and South Hatia (80% completed). In Muhuri a project office was established, with guesthouse facilities, on the BWDB compound (Muhuri Irrigation Project) in Sonagazi. South Hatia already had a functioning office in the DUS building, with a separate guesthouse near by. In the CSP I areas, two site offices are still Maintained (Char Bhatirtek and Char Majid). The site office in Char Baggar Dona (BWDB property) will be used by Upoma, a local NGO. Plans have been developed to built an extra floor on one of the offices on the BWDB compound in Sonapur to house the additional consultant staff.

Communications have been considerably improved by the installation of a satellite telephone (with e-mail facility) in the Sonapur office. The Muhuri office and the Hatia office can be reached by telephone.

Four new 4WD vehicles have been procured in the bridging period. One car was provided to the office of the Project Director CDSP II, two to Sonapur office and one to Muhuri. Two of the older cars were given to the office of the Commissioner Chittagong Division and the Deputy Director Agricultural Extension (Noakhali) respectively.

The project procured a speed boat for transport between Noakhali mainland and Hatia, while BWDB made a speed boat available for the stretch between South Hatia and Nijhum Dwip. The design for a bigger seagoing vessel that would be suitable for use

during the monsoon season and would have a radius of about 100 km. was completed in the bridging period.

Chapter 4 FINANCIAL ASPECTS

4.1. Financial assistance

	(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.)
BWDB		98,920,689	4,121,694	95,291,598	3,629,091	
LGED		171,399,206	7,141,633	171,399,206	-	
Total		270,319,895	11,263,327	266,690,804	3,629,091	300,173

Based on Dfl./Taka rate of 24:1

4.2. Contribution World Food Programme

		Wheat (MT)	Taka
1.	BWDB	92,819	311,846.50
2.	LGED	97,830	295,107.00
	Total	190,649	606,953.50

The Taka component was paid out of Technical Assistance funds.

4.3. Technical Assistance funds

Code	Budget Item	Budget	%	Expenditure	%	Balance
300	Personnel	1,769,082	65	1,593,536	64	175,546
400	Investments	450,000	16	422,036	17	27,937
500	Operational costs	300,000	11	309,554	12	-9,554
600	Training	90,000	3	52,218	2	37,782
800	Contingencies	130,454	5	111,542	5	18,912
	Total	2,739,536	100	2,488,913	100	250,623

See also annex 4.

4.4. NGO fund

Code	Budget Item	Budget	Expenditure	Balance
300	Personnel	138,924	138,083	841
400	Investments	65,111	68,240	-3,129
500	Operational costs	261,330	256,052	5,278
600	Training	20,387	23,634	-3,247
	Total	485,752	486,009	-257