

RESILIENCE

News Bulletin of
National Resilience Programme (NRP)
Programming Division Part
www.nrpb.org



Programming Division
Bangladesh Planning Commission

Warm greetings to our readers!



Dr. Nurun Nahar
Deputy Chief & Project Director

I would like to begin by sharing with you the mission of the National Resilience Program (NRP) - "to sustain the resilience of human and economic development in Bangladesh through inclusive, gender responsive disaster management and risk informed development".

NRP-Programming Division Part

Project Duration

January 2018 to December 2020

Development Partners : DFID & SIDA

Technical Partner : UNDP

Project Budget : BDT 1385.85 lac

GoB : BDT 125.99 lac

Project Aid : BDT 1259.86 lac

NRP-Programming Division Part Project was approved on 31 July 2018 and officially launched on 14 November of the same year.

A small but vibrant team is doing the work behind the scene to implement the activities of the sub-component. The team includes – Project Manager, Planning Specialist, Researcher and Finance & Admin Associate.

The Programming Division is guiding and supervising the project through the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) and Project Steering Committee (PSC).

The project is co-financed by the Government of Bangladesh and two development partners-DFID and SIDA. Total budget for this three years project is BDT 1385.85 lac and among the amount GoB contribution is BDT 125.99 lac and project aid is BDT 1259.86 lac.

Since November 2018, the project carried out many interesting activities, initiatives and achievements in several components, where a multitude of stakeholders were engaged across government, academia and private sector.

This edition of Newsletter will apprise you of all the updates. There are many significant events coming up in the next few months, read on to know more! ■

Training Manual on Mainstreaming DRR to be introduced in the Public Sector Training Institutes

NRP-PD has developed Training Manual on Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction which will be introduced in selected public sector training

institutes. The draft version of this manual was shared in a workshop on 29 August at NEC Committee Room. Mr. Md. Nurul Amin, Secretary, Planning Division attended the program as Chief Guest and Mr. Md. Mohsin, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and NPC of NRP was present as special guest. The participants appreciated the initiative and suggested for further consultation with stakeholders in finalizing the contents of the manual and also suggested to form a technical committee for further review. Mr. Md. Khalilur Rahman Khan, Chief, Programming Division chaired the session. ■



Gender Responsiveness in Development Projects Emphasized

Speakers in a workshop on Gender Gap Analysis in Development Projects underscored the need for ensuring gender responsiveness in development initiatives to achieve gender inclusive resilient growth. The participants voiced concern over the fact that the existing Gender Responsive Guideline for Designing and Review of Development Projects 2009 is not properly followed in the project designs in public sector and suggested that it could be updated to reflect the changes in global and national policies. It was mentioned that the current development agenda including the SDGs and Sendai Framework for DRR and SoD should be addressed in this guideline. The event was organized by NRP-Prog. Div Part at BICC on 22 May 2019. Mr. Md. Nurul Amin, Secretary, Planning Division and the Member, Programming Division attended the program as Chief Guest, while Mr. Md. Khalilur Rahman Khan, Chief of the Programming Division chaired the session. Dr. Nurun Nahar,



Deputy Chief and Project Director, NRP-PD delivered welcome address. The workshop was enriched with lively engagement of the multisectoral participants from the GoB, CSOs and Academia.

Ms. Farhana Hafiz, Gender Mainstreaming Analyst of NRP presented the findings of the study on Gender

Gap Analysis in Development Projects. She reviewed three projects implemented by LGED, DWA and DDM who are also implementing partners of NRP. The study shows that, the development projects addressed gender issues with low attention and most of the officials engaged in development projects are not aware of the proper use of gender guideline for preparing development projects.

The study suggested for sector specific gender guideline, integration of gender issues in early stage of project formulation, transformation of gender guideline as planning tools and introduce innovation in gender mainstreaming initiatives. As a follow-up action, NRP-DWA part is supporting MOWCA for updating gender guideline. ■

Please see more in page 6

NRP to contribute towards Resilience in Business

National Resilience Programme (NRP)-Programming Division Part is promoting disaster and climate risk resilient business for sustaining the growth and productivity in the private sector. As part of this initiative, NRP-PD has started dialogue and communications with the business community to understand the areas of possible collaboration and support for scoping of the work. Views were exchanged with Chattogram Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) on 08 August 2019 at Chamber office in World Trade Center. The NRP team shared planned activities for promoting resilience in business and scope for mutual partnership in this area. The CCCI president mentioned that, the business community of Chattogram has been facing huge loss every year due to disaster and climatic event, but there is no specific research-based evidence of the economic loss. He sought assistance from NRP for conducting a study on Impact of Waterlogging on local trade, focusing in Khatungang, the commodity hub of Bangladesh.



Syed M. Tanvir, Director of Pacific Jeans and a Director of CCCI shared proposed activities of the Center of Excellence to be established by CCCI. Activities include- research, training, policy advocacy, branding and promotion, empowering youth and women, linkage and engagement etc. NRP Project showed interest to contribute in developing knowledge materials for the Centre of Excellence and provide expert engagement.

Keeping with this momentum, another meeting with BEPZA was held on 03 September 2019 at BEPZA Conference Room with Dr. Zillur Rahman ndc, member (investment promotion) in the chair. Mr. Arif Abdullah Khan, Program Analyst, UNDP and Mr. S M Morshed, Project Manager, NRP-PD shared proposed work with BEPZA and it was decided for further discussion on modality of mutual collaboration.

Earlier NRP-Prog. Division team had a meeting with BGMEA President Dr. Rubana Huq on 20 May at BGMEA office in Dhaka and it was decided that, the project will carry out a study on Supply Chain Resilience of RMG Sector in Bangladesh. ■



Result Indicators on DRR Proposed for 8th Five Years Plan

National Resilience Program is supporting General Economics Division (GED) for developing result indicators on Disaster Risk Reduction for 8th Five Years Plan. In this connection, a study on developing indicators for 8th Five Years Plan has been conducted.

Proposed result indicators for 8th five year plan include- mainstreaming of risk reduction, prepare guideline as referred in the SoD, impart training to officials on disaster and climate risk management, construction of resilient housing and cyclone shelters, training to Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) and urban volunteers on search and rescue, activate MRVA cell in DDM, reduce death of women and children due to cyclone and reconstruction of cyclone shelters.

NRP Consultant Mr. Mohammad Abdul Wazed presented the report in a workshop held on 31 July 2019 at ECNEC meeting room. Mr. Md. Mafidul Islam, Chief, General Economics Division attended the program as Chief Guest, Mr. Md. Khalilur Rahman Khan, Chief, Programming Division presided over the session. Representatives from different ministries and implementing agencies participated in the workshop. ■



Training on Risk Informed Development



NRP Programming Division Part organized three residential training courses on Risk Informed Development at BCDM, Savar, Dhaka during April to June 2019. A total of 65 officials

from different ministries and implementation agencies participated in these courses. Among the participants 77% were male and another 23% were female.

The course included the issues related to risk informed development and its global experience, current practices of risk informed development, scope and opportunity for implication of Climate Risks and Vulnerability Assessments (CRVA) tools, best practices of crisis management, legal framework of disaster management, major changes in revised Standing Orders on Disasters, Inclusion of DRR in development projects, Role of Field Administration in Disaster

Management and Gender Responsive Resilience.

Feedback form participants shows that 28% were highly satisfied over the quality of training program, 47% were satisfied, 20% were moderately satisfied and 5% are less satisfied.

Mr. Md. Nurul Amin, Secretary, Planning Division and the Member of Programming Division attended the closing session as Chief Guest and distributed certificates among the participants. Among others, Mr. Md. Khalilur Rahman Khan, Chief of the Programming Division and Dr. Nurun Nahar, Deputy Chief and Project Director for NRP-Programming Division Part also spoke on this occasion. ■



Risk Information Platform to be Established in Planning Commission

A national 'risk information platform' is going to be established to assist planning officials in different ministries for identification of risks and possible mitigation options for sustaining benefits of development projects. NRP will extend support to Programming Division to activate and run this digital platform. Planning and investment in both public and private sectors, in view of risks involved, will be facilitated through the planned platform.

The concept of the 'risk information platform' was shared at the meeting held at the committee room of the National Economic Council (NEC) on 25th February 2019. Representatives from GoB agencies and NGOs took part in the discussion. They underscored the need for storing and connecting available data with other government and non-government agencies and make the platform user-friendly. Md. Khalilur Rahman Khan, Chief of Programming Division attended the meeting as Chief Guest. ■



Disaster Impact Assessment (DIA) to be introduced in project approval process

Programming Division of Bangladesh Planning Commission has taken initiative to develop Disaster Impact Assessment tools in project approval process. In this connection, a technical committee has been formed to guide and facilitate Disaster Impact Assessment (DIA) process and its integration in development planning. This committee comprises representatives from Government Organizations, NGOs, UN Agencies, academic institutions and research organizations. NRP is supporting the Programming Division for this initiative.

DIA is a mainstreaming tool to integrate knowledge and information about disaster and climate-related events, trends, forecasts and projections into the development planning process to minimize the loss and damage caused by certain disasters.

In 2017, a meeting of National Disaster Management Council (NDMC) chaired by the Honorable Prime Minister directed the concerned authority to develop DIA for ensuring effective disaster management and sustainability of development interventions. Moreover, DIA gets special importance in the revised Standing Order on Disaster (SOD) of 2019.

NRP organized an Expert Group Consultation on DIA was on 25 March 2019 at Programming Division to explore the concept of DIA and its implication

procedures. The experts suggested to review the effectiveness of EIA and find out the scope of merging EIA and proposed DIA for avoiding duplication and making the screening process user friendly. Another consultation on DIA was held on 25 September with Mr. Md. Khalilur Rahman Khan, Chief of Programming Division in the chair. The meeting suggested to review current practice of DRR screening by the Department of Agriculture and WARPO and to consider the learning of DIA in global arena. It was also suggested to make DIA as separate tool and make it simple. First meeting of DIA technical committee was held on 30 September and suggested to organize the inception workshop with wider participation from different agencies. ■



Gender Responsiveness in Development Projects

NRP -Programming Division part project in association with NRP-DWA part conducted a study on Gender Responsiveness of Development Project in April-May 2019, Under this study, gender responsiveness of three projects being implemented by the Department of Women Affairs, Department of Disaster Management and Local Government Engineering Department were analyzed. The projects are - Income Generating Activities Training for Women at Upazilla Level by DWA, Urban Resilient Project by DDM and Haor Infrastructure livelihood improvement project by LGED.

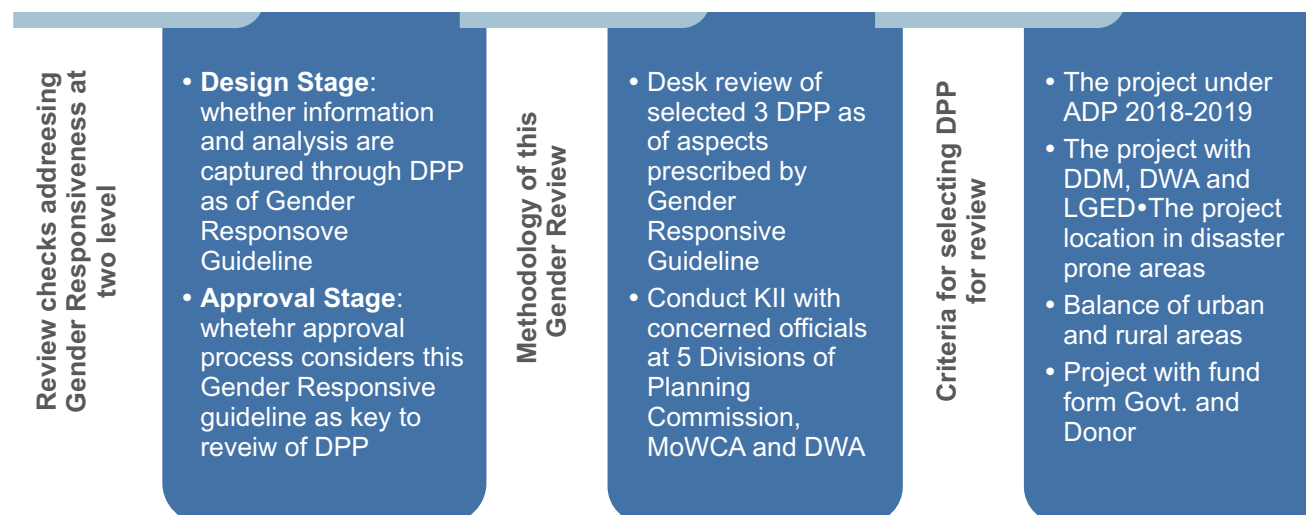
whether they meet gender perspectives in background, objectives, strategies, component wise annual phasing, procurement plan and monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

Overview of 3 selected DPP

A) Urban resilience Programme: Department of Disaster Management (DDM) Part

The overall objective of the project is “to enhance the capacity of the government to effectively plan for, respond to and recover from, emergency events.”

Methodology and Project Selection for Review



Purpose of this Gender Review

The aim of this review is strengthening the capacity of National Planning Process to address Gender Responsiveness at Development Project Proposals (DPP) under leadership of Planning Commission. The main purpose of this review is to assess existing planning process of DPP whether they consider prioritization of differentiated needs and capacities of women, girls, men and boys and allocated resources accordingly.

Five key areas of DPP and indicators for review

This review intended to follow “Gender Responsive Guideline for Design and Review of Development Projects” as guiding document, so it tried to analyze 5 following areas of DPP as proposed by guideline

The project implementation period is from July 2015 to June 2020 and the total project budget is BDT 125,50,00,000. BDT 115,50,00,000 is funded by World Bank and 10,00,00,000 is covered through Government. The location of the project is in 3 city corporations: Dhaka North City Corporation, Dhaka South City Corporation and Sylhet City Corporation.

B) Income Generating Activities Training for Women at Upazilla Level by Department of Women Affairs (DWA)

The overall objective of the project is “to facilitate the poor disadvantages Women to make them self-dependent and skilled human resources through Income Generating Activities (IGA) Training.” The project implementation period is from January 2017

1 The original Gender Responsiveness Guideline offered gender considers

to December 2019 and the total project budget is BDT 2505622,000. It's a government own funded project means total cost is covered through revenue budget. This project covers 426 Upazilla (sub - district), 64 Town and 8 Divisional town means its location is all over Bangladesh.

C) Haor Infrastructure and livelihood Improvement Project by Local Government Engineering Department (LGED)

The development objective of the project is to improve living standards and reduce vulnerability of the poor.” The project implementation period is from January 2012 to June 2019 and the total project budget is BDT 1076,32,00,000. BDT 806,39,34,000 is funded by IFAD and 269,92,76,000 is covered through Government. This project covers 28 Upazillas (sub-district) of 5 districts (Kishorehgonj, Hobigonj, Sunamgonj Netrokona, and Brahmanbaria) in Bangladesh.

accessibility and security. Post and telecommunication sector have specific gender issues, like, regulation of telephonic communication for preventing gender-based violence, etc.

- The existing guideline instructs to include gender issues in context analysis, impact analysis, strategy, log frame and budgeting under DPP. At the same time, it offers 14 key areas for gender equality that needs to consider during setting targets. But the major limitation of the guideline is it doesn't explain the connectivity of each sector to 14 key guidelines proposed. Thus, most of planners from other sectors except socio-economic infrastructure and agriculture, perceive gender issues as not their business.
- Though there is a circular on Gender Responsive Guideline, it is not very clear who is responsible to monitor whether DPP process is following it or not.

Review Findings

| Gender responsiveness of Selected Projects at a glance | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Income Generating Activities Training for Women at Upazilla | | |
| <p><i>This projects meets gender responsiveness against 6 indicators. This project has more scope for having an in-depth gender analysis and addressing women's empowerment in more comprehensive manner because of its mandate to achieve gender equality.</i></p> | Haor Infrastructure and livelihood Improvement Project | |
| | <p><i>In Terms of indicators to assess Gender Responsive, this projects meets responsiveness against 4. This project considers women as target beneficiaries for certain activities. This project didn't attain gender responsiveness in its mainstreaming, but it set targeted activities for women.</i></p> | Urban Resilience Project |
| | | <p><i>After reviewing of all informations, data and analysis presented in this DPP, it indicates none of area meets gender responsiveness against any indicators.</i></p> |

Major Challenges

- Apart from Socio-Economic Infrastructure Division and Agriculture, Water Resource and Rural Infrastructure Division; review identified gaps among planners to conceptualize the relevance of gender issues to their respective sectors. For example, officials of Physical Infrastructure think that sectors they deal are mostly 'Gender Neutral', for example, railway, water transport, tele-communication etc. But from gender analytical perspective, anything that is being used by human being, has definite gender issues which should be taken into consideration. Railway has gender issues as it is related to women's mobility,
- Many planners received training on Gender Responsive Guideline. But there is no proper documentation on how many persons from which level and which sector/division received training on Gender Responsive Guideline. And how they applied their knowledge during DPP design and approval stag were not properly assessed due to lack of having strong accountability mechanism.
- Review reveals that Ministry of Women and Children Affairs is not playing expected role to motivate and guide others sector in designing development initiatives/projects from gender perspective. Hence their capacity for such push and advocacy seems to be enhanced.

Recommendations

- The Gender Responsive Guideline for design and review of Development Projects Proposals (DPP) 2009 needs to be thoroughly reviewed through coordination of different sectors to make it more realistic, need-based and user-friendly. The revised guideline must offer sector specific gender checklists.
- The existing DPP manual must be reviewed to include Gender dimension in line with Gender Responsive Guideline to ensure that gender equality is everyone business.
- All concerned officials involved with designing and approving of DPP must receive training on Gender Responsive Guideline. And there must be accountable mechanism to track that concerned official are proactive in addressing gender responsiveness into DPP.
- There must be specific standards and measurement scale to assess gender responsiveness of DPP. And here, IMED can play vital role through providing appraisal framework and build capacity among planners to make them more accountable for gender responsive of DPP.
- Planners must change their mind set to treat women as “Agent of change” rather “Vulnerable” and thus design DPP accordingly by addressing existing gender discriminatory norms, practices and rules.
- The more proactive leadership role that the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs needs to play during designing and approval of DPP. And thus, they need to come forward with their expertise to ensure necessary coordination with other sectors. ■

Programming Division -at a glance

www.plandiv.gov.bd

Programming Division under Bangladesh Planning Commission consists of three wings - Agriculture, Industry and Coordination Wing, Infrastructure Wing and Socio-Economic Wing.

The mission of Programming Division is sustainable and all-of the country development through participatory national development planning, policy and effective resource management. The vision is socio-economic planning that is time bound, sustainable and effective.

Programming Division has three broad objectives;

- Public investment through sectoral prioritization and strategies
- Management of development allocation
- Assisting in the project appraisal and monitoring system

Programming Division is responsible for formulating the Annual Development Programme (ADP) of the Government of Bangladesh in the light of basic objectives and goals stated in the Five Years Plans and Perspective Plan. It monitors the utilization of ministry wise /sector wise ADP allocation and produces recommendations for the ministries for necessary measures where improvement is required.

To increase knowledge base, this Division has conducted two studies on the trend of allocation in the previous plans. These are: (a) Trends of Disaster Public Expenditures in Bangladesh: An Analysis of sectoral development expenditure during 6th FYP in Bangladesh and (b) Scoping of Integration of Waterlogging Risk Reduction into National and Local Planning and Budgeting Processes.

The Programming Division also implemented ADB funded Regional Project-Climate Action in South Asia with the objective to design and establishment of Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) system and pilot testing it for selected large investment projects in agriculture and water resource sectors.