

MULTIPURPOSE DISASTER SHELTER PROJECT (MDSP)
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Consultant

FIELD VISIT REPORT

1. Period of Visit : 06 Feb – 07 Feb 2019
2. Location of Visit : Lakshmipur District.
3. Participant of visit : A.H.M. Mahbubur Rahman, TL, M&E Consultant,
Md. Matiur Rahman, Civil Engineer/ M&E Specialist, M&E Consultant,
4. Officials met during Visit :

D&S CONSULTANTS

- Mr. Md. Ahsanullah, Field Resident Engineer, Lakshmipur,
- Mr. Md. Mir Hossain, Estimator cum Lab Technician, Lakshmipur,
- Mr. Ovijit Mollik, Field Supervisor, Lakshmipur,
- Mr. Sushanta Dhar, Field Supervisor, Lakshmipur,

CONTRACTORS' PERSONNEL- M/S. Navana Construction Ltd.

- Mr. Engr. Abul Kalam Azad, Area Manager,
- Mr. Rowshan Alam, Quantity Surveyor,
- Mr. Mohd. Abbas, Site Engineer,
- Mr. Md. Mintu Molla, Site Engineer,
- Mr. Md. Rubel Miah, Site Engineer,
- Mr. Md. Mehdi Hassan, Site Engineer,

CONTRACTORS' PERSONNEL- M/S. Riasat & Brothers

- Mr. Mohd. Nurunnabi, Contractor's Representative,
- Mr. Mohd. Sobuj Alam, Site Supervisor,

SMC

- Mr. Md. A.R.M. Yousuf, Head Master, Moddho Shak Char GPS at Laxmipur Sadar UZ,
- Mrs. Anwara Begum, Head Master, Khasmahol Shak Char GPS at Laxmipur Sadar UZ,
- Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam, Head Master, Mattabor Hat GPS at Laxmipur Sadar UZ,
- Mr. Md. Abul Hossain, President, SMC, Mattabor Hat GPS at Laxmipur Sadar UZ,
- Mr. Abu Raihan, Head Master, Dakkhin Char Monosha GPS at Laxmipur Sadar UZ,
- Mr. Abdul Wadud, President, SMC, Purbo Char Martin GPS at Komolnagar UZ,
- Mrs. Sabina Yasmin, Head Master, Ludhua GPS at Raipur UZ,
- Mr. Md. Shamsul Alam, Assistant Teacher, Central Keroa GPS at Raipur UZ,
- Mrs. Sathi Rani Saha, Head Master, Golokpur GPS at Raipur UZ,

5. Activities of Visit : **Monitoring of the Implementation Activities of MDSP**
6. Sites visited: 4 nos. of “New construction of shelter sites” and 6 nos. of “Rehabilitation of existing shelter sites” were visited:

Package no. LGED/MDSP/LAX/14-15/NW-06 (New Construction):

- **LAX-105:** Moddho Shak Char GPS cum CS, Laxmipur Sadar UZ,
- **LAX-106:** Khashmahol Sakchar GPS cum CS, Lakshmipur Sadar UZ,
- **LAX-113:** Purbo Toom Char GPS cum CS, Lakshmipur Sadar UZ,
- **LAX-23:** Dakhin Purbo Bhabanigonj GPS cum CS, Lakshmipur Sadar UZ,

Package no. LGED/MDSP/LAK/16-17/W-04 (Rehabilitation):

- **LAXE-270:** Mattabor Hat GPS GPS cum CS at Laxmipur Sadar UZ,
- **LAXE-259:** Dakkhin Char Monosha GPS cum CS at Laxmipur Sadar UZ,
- **LAXE-24:** Purbo Char Martin GPS cum CS at Komolnagar UZ,
- **LAXE-206:** Ludhua GPS cum CS at Raipur UZ,
- **LAXE-207:** Central Keroa GPS cum CS at Raipur UZ,
- **LAXE-382:** Golokpur GPS cum CS at Raipur UZ,

7. Findings and Observations of the M&E Consultants:

A. General:

The M&E Consultants undertake the field visits as part of its obligation to perform the following:

- a) Overall monitoring and evaluation of project implementation activities;
- b) Carry out independent monitoring of project progress, inputs, outputs and outcomes and impact of project interventions at different point time;
- c) Supervise compliance of social and environmental safeguards;
- d) Propose recommendations for appropriate corrective actions, if any.

B. Physical works:

The M&E Consultants visited the following shelter sites:

i) Construction of New Shelters including Shelter Connecting Road

LGED/MDSP/LAX/14-15/NW-06

The M&E team visited 4 nos. under construction new shelter sites of MDSP in Lakshmipur Sadar Upazila of Lakshmipur district.

Physical Progress

- Construction activities have been stopped in most of the shelter sites in Laxmipur district about two months back.
- The reported physical progress of construction of the 4 nos. new shelters are as follows: **LAX-105: 45%; LAX-106: 26%; LAX-113: 26%, and LAX-23: 37%.**
- As of end of January 2019, overall physical progress of the package is **31%** against the cumulative target of **71%**. It clearly indicates that the scheduled progress of the package is much lagging behind.

General Observations

- **Site selection:** Selection of all sites for construction of new shelters has been very good as these are in cyclone vulnerable remote places of the district.
- **Staff Mobilization by the Contractor:** At the start, M/S. Navana Construction Ltd. made good mobilization of field personnel. Project Manager, Deputy Project Manager, Assistant Project Manager, Area Manager, Community Organizers, Site Engineers and other support staffs etc. were mobilized. It was learnt that there has been no physical activity since early January, 2019. We were informed that the poor physical activity is due to financial constraint. Project Manager, Deputy Project Manager of the contract package have left Laxmipur since long for which we were unable to interact with them. Community Organizers responsible for ensuring environmental and social safeguards were also not met during the visit. The shelter sites appear barren and the progress of work is indeed disappointing (**Photo: 01**).



- **Construction Schedule:** Site specific construction schedules of individual shelters of the package had been prepared at the beginning but it remains an instrument of monitoring only in paper. The schedule had been prepared for each individual structure site in a diagram that showed only the proposed start and completion dates of the various work elements and no provision of showing the actual dates of implementation of the various work elements. Dates of actual implementation of the various work elements against targets for each individual structure site ought to have been included in the schedule and strictly followed. We have reasons to be sceptic about the ability of the contractor to complete 34 nos. shelters within 24 months i.e. 11 November, 2019. The contractor may be persuaded to update the construction schedule immediately and gear up activities accordingly targeting completion in time.
- **Site Plan:** Site Plan showing the demarcated storage yard of construction materials, labour sheds, tube wells and toilets for construction labours, re-bar fabrication yard, waste disposal areas etc. has not been made for any working site. A Site Plan is an essential instrument for efficient performance of construction works particularly in respect of ensuring environmental as well as social safeguard measures prior to and during construction activities.

Observations on the Construction Works

- Laboratory tests of MS rod, coarse sand, cement etc. have been done. Test reports have been made available in the field and test results are OK.
- The quality of construction materials such as MS rod, coarse sand etc. procured at sites appears good.
- Quality steel shutters have been used in all RCC works so far done.

- MS angles has been kept irregularly and haphazardly (**Photo: 02**). These should be kept on raised platform in safe location.



- Excavated earth has been stacked irregularly and haphazardly (**Photo: 03**). Advised to immediately remove the earth from construction sites.



- Site offices and labour sheds have been constructed but presently remain out of use (**Photo: 04**).



- Thatched temporary shed for continued schooling are in poor and dilapidated condition (**Photo: 05**). Dilapidated school sheds should be repaired as construction works will be delayed.



- As per MDSP requirement, the shelters have been designed as three storey buildings with provision of livestock accommodation on the 1st floor with ramp provision. The design provides construction of several numbers of cast in situ piles with variable lengths with pile diameter of 500 mm each.

At present overall management of works by the contractor in terms of proper planning and execution of the ICB contract package appears poor.

Shelter Wise Progress

The physical works in the visited shelters are mostly limited to foundation work (Pedestal Column casting up to grade beams casting) to 1st floor columns casting. Observations on the shelter wise progress is stated below:

- **LAX-105:** Physical progress is still limited to shutter and re-bar placement for columns casting at 1st floor. Construction of underground water tank (2 nos.) including installation of Deep Tube-wells (4 nos.) has been completed. It was learnt that no physical activities has been done since early January 2019. The site appears barren and the progress of work is disappointing.
- **LAX-106:** No physical work was going on. Physical progress is still limited to casting of pedestal columns up to grade beams (**Photo: 06**). Installation of Deep Tube-wells (4 nos.) has been completed. Physical progress was also limited to ramp construction including construction of underground water tank (1 no.) (**Photo: 07**).



- **LAX-113:** No physical work was observed during the visit. It was known that there has been no activity since 2nd week of January 2019. Physical progress is limited to foundation works. (**Photo: 08**). Installation of Deep Tube-wells (4 nos.) has been completed. Construction of underground water tank (1 no.) has been partially done (**Photo: 09**).



- **LAX-23:** Shutter and re-bar placement for ground floor slab casting was being done only by a few labours. **(Photo: 10)**. Construction of 2 nos. underground water reservoir including installation of Deep Tube-wells (4 nos.) has been completed. Part of the ramp has been recently cast. **(Photo: 11)**.



Shelter Connecting Roads

There is provision of shelter connecting roads (SCR) of various lengths mentioned below:

LAX-106: **SCR = 1050 m**

LAX-23: **SCR = 373 m**

Construction works of the shelter connecting roads at shelter sites have not been taken up as yet.

ii) Rehabilitation of Existing Shelters

LGED/MDSP/LAK/16-17/W-04

It is a NCB contract package in Laxmipur district consisting of rehabilitation of 30 nos. existing School cum Shelters. Major physical works for rehabilitation of shelters generally include the following:

- roof top screeding;
- lean concreting/ patent stone casting;
- patch brick work & construction/ re-construction of walls;
- outside and inside patch plastering;
- outside and inside painting,
- placement of tiles at staircase and on 1st/ 2nd floor;
- repair of staircase railing as necessary;
- supplying and fixing of ventilator grills and veranda grills;
- supply or repair of steel glazed window shutter with frames;
- supplying and fixing of M.S. door frame;
- supplying and fixing of wooden door shutters/ frames;
- repair/installation of M.S. Collapsible Gate;
- construction/ cleaning of septic tanks;

- repair of toilets with supply and fixing of tiles and modern sanitary features;
- electrification works;
- back filling works where necessary, and
- supplying of school furniture for students and teachers, etc.

The M&E team visited 6 nos. of existing shelter sites at Laxmipur Sadar, Komolnagar and Raipur upazilas of Laxmipur district.

Field Visit Observations:

Physical Progress

- The reported physical progress of the rehabilitation of the exiting 6 shelters are as follows: **LAXE-270: 80%; LAXE-259: 80%; LAXE-24: 0%; LAXE-206: 25%, LAXE-207: 15% and LAXE-382: 30%.**
- Out of the **30 nos.** shelters under the package, works of **11 nos.** shelters have been taken up and remaining **19 nos.** still remaining untouched. The overall physical progress of the package as of January 2019 is reported to be **21%** against cumulative target of **48%**.

General Observations

- **Construction Schedule:** No construction schedule of the contract package as also of individual shelter was available. General Construction Schedule of the package along with site specific construction schedule showing the dates of actual implementation of the various work elements against targets should have been prepared for proper monitoring by the responsible persons.
- **Material Test:** No material test report was available during the visit. It is learnt that no test of materials has been conducted till date.
- **Rehabilitation Need Assessment:** Assessment of the rehabilitation needs of the shelters could have been more exhaustive targeting overall and sustained stability of the infrastructures (**Photo: 12**).



- **Contractor's Technical Personnel:** No resource person other than one Contractor's Site Engineer was met during the field visit. The contractor is supposed to mobilize the required nos. of technical personnel as per provision of the contract.

- In **LAXE-270**, construction of one septic tank for one toilet has been considered in rehabilitation item of works. Other toilet at the west of the school building has not been considered in the rehabilitation programme. It may be connected to the nearby existing soak-wells by including in the revised estimates. **(Photo: 13)**.



- Sand used in plastering works in some rehabilitation shelters has traces of salt content as reflected in the plaster work **(Photo: 14)**. Besides, FM of sand seems to be less than 1.00. Specified sand with prior tests should be used.



- As per BoQ item of works, submersible pump has been considered for lifting water in all shelters under Raipur UZ. The submersible pumps cannot be installed in the existing tubewell pipes because the diameter does not match. It may be replaced by conventional suction pump.
- Unlike other shelters, no provision of tile placement in staircase has been made in rehabilitation shelters of Raipur UZ.
- No work has yet been done in **LAXE-24**. The condition of the school cum shelter is very bad and needs immediate rehabilitation **(Photo: 15)**.



- **LAXE-207:** Repair work has been undertaken. However, the condition of the building is very critical because the existing columns, beams and slabs have almost failed (**Photo: 16 & 17**).



Overall management of works by the contractor in terms of proper planning and execution of the big national contract package appears poor.

Item wise progress

- **Roof Top Screeding:** Dr. Fixit Water Proofing Solution has been selected for application on the roof top of all repairable shelters in Laxmipur district. The item has not yet been applied in any site whereas in Noakhali, provision has been made of 16 mm thick izonil plaster and 25 mm thick patent stone casting.
- **Lean Concreting/ Patent Stone Casting:** Completed at ground floor of **LAXE-270 & LAXE-207 (Photo: 18)**.



- **Tiles Placement:** Completed at staircases, 1st / 2nd floor of **LAXE-270, LAXE-259 & LAXE-382 (Photo: 19)**. Work is ongoing in **LAXE-206 & LAXE-207**.



- **Brick Work:** Patch brick work has been done in **LAXE-207**.

- **Repair of Staircase:** Done in **LAXE-270 & LAXE-259 (Photo: 20)**. Work is ongoing in **LAXE-206**.



Photo: 20

- **Outside & Inside Plastering Works** (Patch repair works where necessary): Done in **LAXE-270, LAXE-259, LAXE-206 & LAXE-382 (Photo: 21)**. Work is ongoing in **LAXE-207**.



Photo: 21

- **Reconstruction of Toilet:** Work is ongoing in **LAXE-270, LAXE-206 & LAXE-382 (Photo: 22)**. There is a gap between two toilets in **LAXE-382** which helps insects to deposit soil even on tiled floor (**Photo: 23**). The gap should be filled up.



Photo: 22



Photo: 23

- **Construction/ Re-construction of Septic Tank:** Work has not yet started in any shelter site.

- **Outside & Inside Painting Works:** Completed in **LAXE-259 (Photo: 24)**. Work is ongoing in **LAXE-270 & LAXE-382**. Normally, painting work should be taken last after completing all necessary repair works but in many repair shelters, painting has been done in advance.



- **Supplying and fixing of Grills and Collapsible Gates:** Done in **LAXE-270, LAXE-259 & LAXE-382 (Photo: 25)**. Work is ongoing in **LAXE-206 & LAXE-207**.



- **Repair, supplying and fixing of wooden door shutters/frames:** Done in **LAXE-259 (Photo: 26)**.



- **Electrification Works:** Patch electrification work completed in **LAXE-206 & LAXE-382**. Work is ongoing in **LAXE-270, LAXE-259 & LAXE-207**.
- **School Furniture Supply:** School furniture like high and low benches (Tanin Brand), Chairs and tables for the teachers, Steel Almirah etc. have not been supplied in any school as yet.

C. Compliance of Environmental Safety Measures.

New Construction of shelters

The BoQ provides as many as 13 items related to environmental safety measures as identified during environmental assessment of subprojects. These are:

- **First Aid Box:**
- **Protective Fencing:**
- **Grass Turfs:**
- **Vegetation and Tree Plantation**
- **Water Filter:**
- **Safety Gear Package:**
- **Temporary Sanitary Latrine:**
- **Temporary Camp Site Waste Disposal Facility:**
- **Dust Suppression Measures**
- **Environmental and Social/Safeguard Personnel:**
- **Health/Safety Warning Sign:**
- **Tube Well:**
- **Construction of Temporary Shed for Uninterrupted Schooling.**

At the start of the physical works, most of the environmental safety items were addressed. Due to prolonged stoppage of works, the sites appear abandoned and the objective of mitigation measures are useless now. As the works will be restarted, many of the safety items will have to be refurbished.

Rehabilitation of Shelters

EMP provision in BOQ:

Site specific BoQ item wise estimates for rehabilitation works were found only for shelters under Raipur UZ. The available BoQ estimates however, do not show any provision of mitigation of environmental and social safety aspects.

In fact, 8(eight) nos. environmental safety measures costing about Tk. 50,000.00 for each shelter are included in rehabilitation packages. These are: a) First aid box; b) Dust suppression measures; c) Working labour shed; d) Project sign board; e) Safety gear package; f) Temporary sanitary latrine; g) water filter and h) site cleaning, etc.

No sign of implementation of the environmental safety measures was observed anywhere. The contractor personnel or even the FRE appear to have no knowledge about the safety measure provisions in the BoQ of rehabilitation works.

D. Opinion of SMC

The Head Master/Head Mistress are important members of the SMC. During visits, some of them informed that due to construction of the new shelter buildings in the school premises and rehabilitation of old school cum shelters, the prolonged need of improvement of the dilapidated school buildings will be met. This along with supply of school logistics will greatly create a good environment for an improved schooling activities.

In **LAXE-259**, the teachers suggested the following:

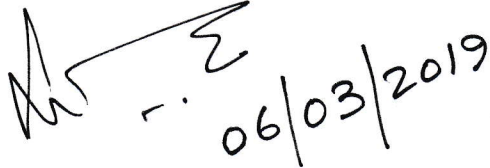
The hall room in the 2nd floor is big enough to accommodate two classes. They suggested to provide folding partitions to hold two classes simultaneously.

They also informed that the existing fans of the classes have been coloured and re-fixed although there is provision of supplying and fixing new fans. The matter may please be looked into.

E. Conclusion

We would recommend to PMU, D&S consultants and related stakeholders to please consider our observations given above and take necessary measures as deemed appropriate.

We express our deep appreciation and thanks to the DS Consultants, School Authorities, Teachers and the Contractors for their kind cooperation extended to us during the field visit.

Handwritten signature and date. The signature is stylized and appears to be 'A.H.M. Mahbubur Rahman'. The date is written as '06/03/2019'.

A.H.M. Mahbubur Rahman,
Team Leader, M&E Consultants,
MDSP, LGED