

MULTIPURPOSE DISASTER SHELTER PROJECT (MDSP)

Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Consultant

FIELD VISIT REPORT

1. Period of Visit : 04 Feb – 05 Feb 2019
2. Location of Visit : Noakhali 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. Prabodh Kumar Munshi, RRE, Noakhali Region, D&S Consultant, Noakhali
- Mr. Shailen Chandra Das, Field Resident Engineer, Noakhali,
- Mr. Md. Rezaul Karim, Field Supervisor, Noakhali,
- Mr. Md. Mohsin Alam, Field Supervisor, Noakhali,
- Mr. Sushanta Dhar, Field Supervisor, Noakhali,
- Mr. Md. Nurul Amin, Field Supervisor, Noakhali,
- Mr. Md. Aktaruzzaman, Field Supervisor, Noakhali.

CONTRACTORS' PERSONNEL- M/S Toma Construction & Co. Ltd

- Mr. Engr. Shamsuzzaman, Deputy Project Manager,
- Mr. Engr. Moinul Islam, Area Engineer,
- Mr. Md. Hafizur Rahman, Site Engineer,
- Mr. Mohammad Showkat, Site Manager,

CONTRACTORS' PERSONNEL- M/S MR-RT JV

- Mr. Redwanur Rahman Waris, Contractor's Representative,
- Mr. Mohd. Shafi Alam, Contractor's Representative,
- Mr. Md. Masud, Contractor's Representative,
- Mr. Liton Debnath, Site Engineer,

SMC

- Mr. Tapas Chandra Das, Head Master, Char Mohiuddin GPS at Subarna Char UZ,
- Mr. Mohd. Shafiq Ullah, Asstt. Teacher, Char Mohiuddin GPS at Subarna Char UZ,
- Mr. Md. Abdul Mannan, Head Master, Char Alauddin Red Crescent GPS at Subarna Char UZ,
- Mrs. Sharmin Nahar, Head Master, Char Bata Ansar Miar Hat GPS at Subarna Char UZ,

- Mr. Md. Mohiuddin, Head Master, Char Bata Habibia GPS at Subarna Char UZ,
- Mrs. Hosne Ara, Asstt. Teacher, Uttar Lamsi GPS at Kabirhat UZ,
- Mr. Mohd. Ashraful Azim, Head Master, Char Gullakhali GPS at Kabirhat UZ,
- Mr. Mohd. Belayet Hossain, Head Master, Purbo Lamchi Ladu Companerhat GPS at Kabirhat UZ
- Mrs. Selina Akter Chowdhury, Asstt. Teacher, Momtaz GPS at Companigonj,
- Mrs. Krishna Koli Kor, Asstt. Teacher, Purbo Char Parboti Janata GPS at Companigonj UZ,
- Mrs. Kajal Rani Roy, Head Master, Mohabbatpur GPS at Noakhali Sadar UZ,

5. Activities of Visit : **Monitoring of the Implementation Activities of MDSP**

6. Sites visited: 5 nos. of “New construction of shelter sites” and 8 nos. of “Rehabilitation of existing shelter sites” were visited:

Package no. LGED/MDSP/NOA/14-15/NW-09 (New Construction):

NOAP-376: Char Mohiuddin GPS cum CS, Suborno Char UZ

NOAP-154: Char Alauddin Red Crescent GPS cu CS, Suborno Char UZ.

NOAP-336: Purbo Char Amanullah GPS cum CS, Suborno Char UZ.

NOAP-210: Uttar Lamsi GPS cum CS, Kabirhat UZ.

NOAP-100: Momtaz GPS cum CS, Companigonj UZ.

Package no. LGED/MDSP/NOA/16-17/W-05 (Rehabilitation):

NOAE-313: Char Bata Ansar Miar Hat GPS cum CS at Subarna Char UZ,

NOAE-314: Char Bata Habibia GPS cum CS at Subarna Char UZ,

NOAE-509: Mohabbatpur GPS cum CS at Noakhali Sadar UZ,

NOAE-161: Char Gullakhali GPS cum CS at Kabirhat UZ,

NOAE-402: Purbo Lamchi Ladu Companerhat GPS cum CS at Kabirhat UZ,

NOAE-59: Purbo Char Parboti Janata GPS cum CS at Companigonj UZ,

NOAE-503: Bamni GPS cum CS at Companigonj UZ,

NOAE-69: Thanarhat GPS cum CS at Companigonj 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/NOA/14-15/NW-09

The M&E team visited 5 nos. of new shelter sites of MDSP at Suborno Char, Companigonj and Kabirhat Upazilas of Noakhali district.

Physical Progress

- The reported physical progress of the construction of the 5 new shelter works are as follows: **NOAP-376: 43%; NOAP-154: 63%; NOAP-336: 45%; NOAP-210: 37% and NOAP-100: 32%.**
- As of end of January 2019, overall physical progress of the package is **43%** against cumulative target of **71%**. It shows that the physical progress of the package in general is lagging behind.

General Observations

- **Site selection:** Selection of all sites for construction of new shelters has been very good as these are indeed located in cyclone vulnerable remote places of the district.
- **Staff Mobilization by the Contractor:** M/S. Toma Construction & Co. Ltd. has made fairly good mobilization of field personnel. Project Manager, Deputy Project Manager, Assistant Project Manager, Area Engineer, Site Engineers and other support staffs. Community Organizers who are responsible to ensure environmental and social safeguards were not met during our visit.
- **Construction Schedule:** A general construction Schedule of the package has been made but no site specific schedule was available. Construction schedule is an essential instrument to program and monitor the construction activities. The schedule has been prepared in a diagram that shows only the proposed start and completion dates of the various work elements. Actual dates of implementation of the various work elements have not been reflected anywhere. Construction schedule showing the dates of actual implementation of the various work elements against targets should be prepared for each individual structure site for proper monitoring. If necessary, the schedules may periodically be updated and followed up.
- **Site Plan:** Individual site plans of each shelter site 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. have not been prepared for any working site as yet. A Site Plan is an essential instrument for efficient performance of construction works particularly in respect of ensuring management of environmental as well as social safeguard issues prior to and during construction activities. This should be prepared for each individual shelter site.

Observations on the Construction Works

- The quality of construction materials such as MS Rod, stone chips, coarse sand etc. procured at sites appears good. Laboratory tests of MS rod, coarse sand, cement etc. have been done. Chemical test of water has also been done. Test reports have been made available during our visit.
- MS rods should be stored on raised platform to avoid mud and water (**Photo: 01**).



- Generally, concrete work is good but at some places, quality of concrete should be improved. (**Photo: 02**)



- Stone chips at some sites appear larger in size (**Photo: 03**). Properly graded stone chips should be used.



- Sand used for plastering works in **NOAP-154** exposes traces of salt. **(Photo: 04)**
- Site offices and labor sheds have been constructed in all sites.
- Steel shutter materials have been used in all RCC works.



- 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.

Shelter Wise Progress

The physical works in the visited shelters are limited to columns at ground floor casting to 2nd floor slab casting. Observations on the shelter wise progress is stated below:

- **NOAP-376:** Shutter and re-bar placement for 1st floor slab casting is going on **(Photo: 05)**. Installation of Deep Tube-wells (4 nos.) has been completed **(Photo: 06)**.



- **NOAP-154:** No physical work was observed on the day of the visit. 2nd floor slab casting has been done **(Photo: 07)**. Ramp construction including Installation of Deep Tube-wells (4 nos.) has been completed. Brickwork & re-excavation of earth for the construction of underground water tank **(Photo: 08)** were in progress.



- **NOAP-336:** Shutter placement for 2nd floor slab casting is in progress (**Photo: 09**). Installation of Deep Tube-wells (4 nos.) has been completed. Important construction material like rods and stirrups have stacked haphazardly and carelessly. (**Photo: 10**)



- **NOAP-210:** Physical progress is still limited to casting of column kickers (**Photo: 11**). Construction of 2 nos. underground water reservoir has been completed. It was learnt that no physical activities has been done since mid-October 2018. A lot of physical works is yet to be done to complete the shelters. The site appears barren and the progress of work is so disappointing.



- **NOAP-100:** Ground floor columns casting is going on. Curing arrangement observed (**Photo: 12**). Construction of 2 nos. underground water reservoir has also been completed.



Shelter Connecting Roads

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

NOAP-154:	SCR = 624 m
NOAP-336:	SCR = 295 m

Construction works of the connecting roads have not been taken up as yet. Beneficiary and SMC of **NOAP 154** strongly demanded construction of the SCR immediately to facilitate improved communication during the ensuing monsoon (**Photo: 13**). The matter may please be taken into account.



ii) Rehabilitation of Existing Shelters

LGED/MDSP/NOA/16-17/W-05

It is a NCB contract package in Noakhali district consisting of rehabilitation of 90 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;
- installation of PVC water tank at roof;
- electrification works;
- back filling works where necessary, and
- supplying of school furniture for students and teachers, etc.

The M&E team visited 8 nos. of existing shelter sites at Subarna Char, Kabirhat, Noakhali Sadar and Companigonj upazilas of Noakhali district.

Field visit observations:

Physical Progress

- The reported physical progress of the rehabilitation of the exiting 8 shelters are as follows: **NOAE-313: 70%; NOAE-314: 75%; NOAE-509: 20%; NOAE-161: 30%, NOAE-402: 45%, NOAE-59: 80%, NOAE-503: 70% and NOAE-69: 75%.**
- Out of the 90 nos. shelters under the package, works of **50 nos.** shelters have been taken up and remaining **40 nos.** still remaining untouched. The overall physical progress of the package as of January 2019 is reported to be 35% against cumulative target of 24%.

General Observations

- **Construction Schedule:** No construction schedule of the contract package as also of individual shelter was available. Overall Package Construction Schedule along with site specific construction schedule showing the dates of actual implementation of the various work elements against targets should be prepared for proper monitoring by the responsible persons.
- **BOQ items:** Site specific BOQ item wise estimates for physical works were found only for Subarna Char & Companigonj UZ works. These estimates, however do not show any provision for mitigation of environmental and social safety aspects. The FRE appears to have no knowledge about the safety measure provisions in the BOQ although the rehabilitation package in Chattogram provides specific EMP measures to address the environmental safety aspect. 8(eight) nos. environmental safety measures have been included in Chattogram rehabilitation package involving 130 nos. shelters. 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. for which provision of substantial amount has been made in the contract for the purpose. The matter may please be looked into.
- **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.
- **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.
- 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.



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:** It consists of 16 mm thick izonil plaster plus 25 mm thick patent stone casting connected by a fibre layer. Done in all visited sites (**Photo: 15**)



- **Patent Stone Casting:** Completed at ground floor of **NOAE-313 & NOAE-314**. The ground floor of **NOAE-313** has undulated rough surface instead of levelled smooth surface (**Photo: 16**). Curative measures should be taken.



- **Tiles Placement:** Completed at staircase, ground floor/ 1st floor of **NOAE-313 & NOAE-314**, **NOAE-161**, **NOAE-402**, **NOAE-503 & NOAE- 69** (**Photo: 17**). Work is ongoing in **NOAE-509 & NOAE-59**.



- **Brick Work:** Patch brick work has been completed in **NOAE-509**.
- **Repair of Staircase:** Done in **NOAE-313**, **NOAE-161**, **NOAE-402 & NOAE-503** (**Photo: 18**). Work is ongoing in **NOAE-314 & NOAE-69**.



- **Outside & Inside Plastering Works** (Patch repair works where necessary): Done in **NOAE-314, NOAE-161, NOAE-402, NOAE-503 & NOAE-69 (Photo: 19)**. Work is ongoing in **NOAE-313, NOAE-509 & NOAE-59**.



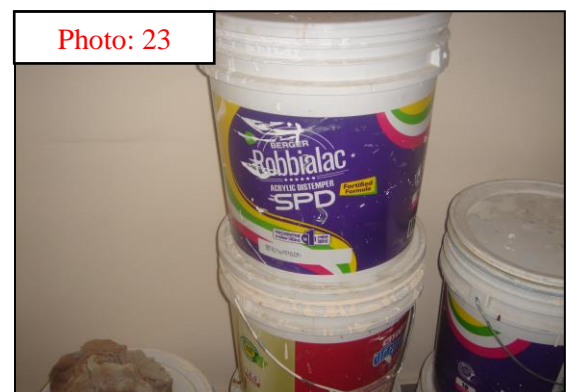
- **Reconstruction of Toilet:** Completed in **NOAE-314 (Photo: 20)**. Work is ongoing in **NOAE-313, NOAE-509 & NOAE-503**. There is no outlet for drainage in **NOAE-161**. Drainage outlet must be provided.



- **Construction/ Re-construction of Septic Tank:** Completed only in **NOAE-503**. Work has not yet started in other sites.
- **Installation of Water Tank at Roof:** Installation of PVC Water Tank at roofs of **NOAE-402 & NOAE-503** has been completed (**Photo: 21**). Work is ongoing in **NOAE-59**.



- **Outside & Inside Painting Works:** Works is ongoing in all sites except **NOAE-509 (Photo: 22)**. In **NOAE-402**, it was observed that acrylic distemper has been used for painting instead of plastic paint (**Photo: 23**).



- **Supplying and fixing of Grills and Collapsible Gates:** Done in all sites (Photo: 24) & (Photo: 25)

Photo: 24



Photo: 25



- **Repair or supplying and fixing of wooden door shutters/ frames:** Done in NOAE-314. (Photo: 26) but all workmanship is not up to standard (Photo: 27)

Photo: 26



Photo: 27



- **Electrification Works:** Patch electrification work is ongoing in NOAE-503.

- **School Furniture Supply:** Only high and low benches of Tanin Brand have been supplied in NOAE-314 (Photo: 28). Other furniture such as Chairs and tables for the teachers, Steel Almirah etc. should be supplied early as requested by the teachers.

Photo: 28



C. Compliance of Environmental Safety Measures in New Shelters.

The BoQ of the new shelters has provision of as many as 13 items related to environmental safety measures as identified during environmental assessment of subprojects. The contractor is to engage Community Organizers to monitor the implementation of EMPs. No Community Organizer was met in the field.

Our observations on the compliance of the environmental safety measures are as follows:

- **First Aid Box:** First aid boxes with standard contents have been procured for all sites.
- **Protecting Fencing:** Protective fencing has been erected partially in all construction sites to keep the students and public away to avoid the danger of accident. The fencing has been made by corrugated iron sheets. However, the fencing is often not continuous.
- **Grass Turfs:** It is not required at the moment.
- **Vegetation and Tree Plantation:** Vegetation and tree plantation will be done after full completion of works.
- **Water Filter:** Required nos. of water filters have been procured.
- **Safety Gear Package:** Safety gear package such as helmets, hand gloves, rubber shoes, light reflecting dresses etc. have been procured. Labors are using it.
- **Temporary Sanitary Latrine:** Temporary sanitary latrines have been constructed for labors.

- **Temporary Camp Site Waste Disposal Facility:** Demarcated area for waste disposal particularly for disposal of construction debris like earth, concrete etc. was not observed. The contractor should arrange a separate demarcated area away from construction site to temporarily dispose construction debris in order to create a safe environment for smooth construction works. It is always advisable to remove the debris from site with immediate effect (**Photo: 29**).



- **Dust Suppression Measures:** In some sites, sand was kept covered in order to prevent dust pollution while in some other sites, these were kept exposed. This should always be kept covered to protect from air pollution (**Photo: 30**).



- **Health/Safety Warning Sign:** Health/safety warning sign was found in some of the construction sites.
- **Tube Well:** Tube wells have been installed at all sites to have safe drinking water for the labors and site staff. Test reports indicate that the quality of water is good for safe use.

- **Construction of Temporary Shed for Uninterrupted Schooling:** There is provision to construct temporary shed for class accommodation where existing school building has been demolished. In **NOAP-204**, one thatched temporary shed for schooling has been constructed but the quality of this shed is very poor (**Photo: 31**).



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, 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. They verily hope that after completion of the shelter cum school, the nos. of student enrolment is likely to increase.

They however mentioned that due to dismantling of the existing school buildings, some temporary school sheds have been made as alternative accommodation for classes but the quality of the temporary needs to be improved.

F. 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.

Finally, we express our deep appreciation and thanks to the field personnel of LGED, the DS Consultants, SMC members, Teachers and the Contractors for their kind cooperation extended to us during the field visit.

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