

**Government of Bangladesh
Local Government Division, Policy Support Unit**

Sector Development Plan (FY 2011-25)

Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in Bangladesh

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Addendum on Chittagong Hill Tracts

Prepared by

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The working documents were used as background materials for preparing the Sector Development Plan (SDP). The factual information and views expressed in the working documents are of the authors and does not necessarily of the Policy Support Unit or of the agencies that the authors belong to.



ADDENDUM ON CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS (Draft)



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1. Background and Objective

1.1 Background

The Sector Development Programme (SDP) for Water and Sanitation Sector was formulated and approved by the government in 2006 based on the National Policy for Safe Water Supply and Sanitation of 1998, the subsequent Sector Development Framework (SDF) of 2004 and the National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction (PRSP) of 2004. Actions in light of PRSP and SDF had been adopted in the SDP under its strategic goal of ensuring safe water and sanitation for all.

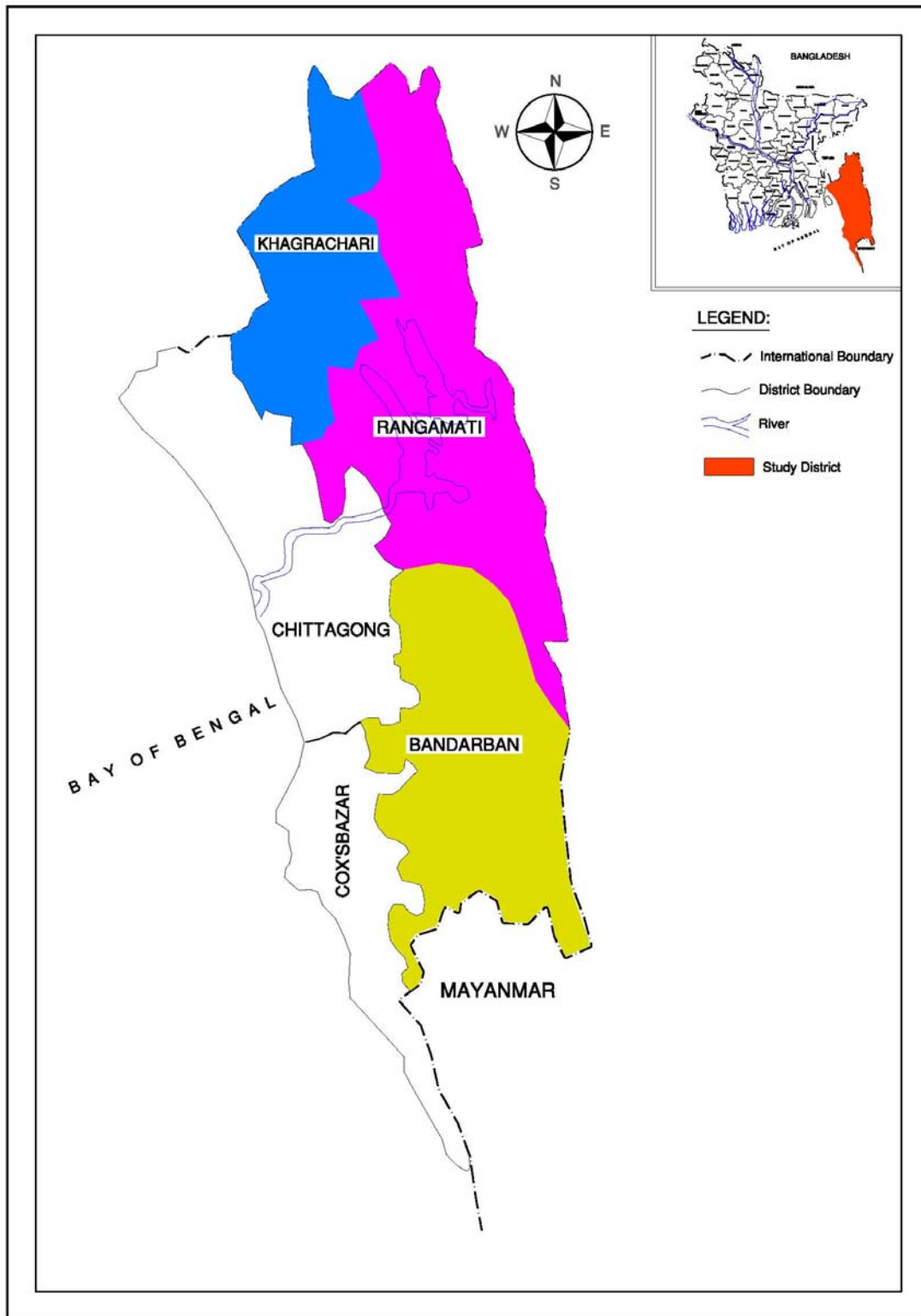
The institutional review and the institutional reform and capacity building package for the sector were given due attention during preparation of the SDP and other related Government Policies and Strategies. National and international commitments were also taken into consideration. However, the Government felt that preparation of the SDP was not based on a thorough stakeholder consultative process. GOB ownership and donor endorsement were not adequate to make the SDP an effective sector implementation tool. Further, the time was not sufficient to develop a harmonized and operational Investment Plan.

There were some other observations on the SDP 2006, made by the Government, particularly those related to addressing issues of service disparities among various geographic regions and strategic locations. Among others, the Government emphasized to take into special consideration the issue of Chittagong Hill Tracts, where it was further rationalized that sector development and implementation in CHT is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of CHT Affairs. Therefore, it was decided to further assess and respond to the recent GoB Circular (ref: letter No. 2004/365 dated 20/5/2007 of LGD) on separate SDP needs for the CHT area.

1.2 The CHT area in light of SDP

CHT is located at the south-east of Bangladesh where majority of the people are of tribal origin (see CHT map in Figure 1)). CHT accounts for about 9% of the total area of the country. Unlike rest of the country where population density is high and more or less uniform, the population in CHT is only about 1% of the total population. The area has difficult geographic and hydro-geological conditions. It is believed that the diverse socio-economic, cultural, linguistic and ethnic characteristics of the region should be given special focus in attaining the national goal of water supply and sanitation coverage and improved level of services in a sustainable manner. In view of the complex situation prevailing in the CHT, the requirement of service options and implementation strategies for water supply and sanitation have stressed to further determine. Hence, this task is considered as an integral part of the whole assignment of Review and Revision of the SDP.

Figure 1: Map of CHT



1.3 Objectives of the Addendum

The overall objective of the Addendum on the SDP for CHT areas is to focus on establishing an operational SDP including Sector Investment Plan (SIP), which is adaptive to the local context and in line with the government decision as well as fulfilling the aspirations of the CHT communities.

The specific objectives of the addendum are:

- To assess the issue of a separate SDP for CHT or make clear demarcations for the area in the National SDP in light of the recent GOB Circular on the issue and make recommendations for needed documents to be prepared
- To frame explicit arguments and provide rationalized basis for deciding on the issue of preparing a separate SDP for CHT
- To prepare final draft of the revised short term SIP and a SDP Addendum on the CHT issue for presentation and approval in the National Forum for Water Supply and Sanitation

Scopes of works are suggested in the Terms of Reference (TOR) to satisfy the objectives.

2 Methodology

A careful attempt was made to clearly understand the merit and necessity of a separate SDP for CHT, so that the ultimate goal of mainstreaming the sector development is not overlooked.

The recent GOB Circular, primary reactions of the government and donors (especially Danida) and other sector partners on the issue are used as prime tools for the assessment. Participatory and consultative methods were applied in the assessment process. These are as follows:

Desk review of relevant policies, strategies and plans:

A thorough desk review of relevant government policies, plans and strategies was done with an aim to explore policy provisions for safe water supply and sanitation in the CHT area in contrast to the provisions made for rest of the country. The review covered the following national documents:

- National Policy for Safe Water Supply and Sanitation 1998
- National Policy for Arsenic Mitigation 2004



CHT Regional Council Chairman attended the Regional Workshop on revised SDP

- National Water Policy 1999
- National Sanitation Strategy 2005

In addition, the CHT Peace Accord 1997 is also analyzed to examine the level of responsibilities and authorities given to the CHT Regional Council and 3 Hill District Councils to execute development programmes. As it is considered complementary to the policy review, respective Government Standing Orders and Circulars are analyzed to draw recommendations for the scope of formulating a separate SDP for CHT.

Review of institutional set-up and service delivery mechanisms:

The current modalities of WSS service delivery of the country including CHT are reviewed. The institutional set-up of the CHT is also analyzed to explore possible advantages and disadvantages of either a separate SDP or CHT addendum.



Interview with the Chairman of Bandarban Hill District Council (HDC)

Consultation with the line ministries and departments:

The government line ministries (e.g. MoLGRD, MoCHT) and departments (e.g. DPHE) are consulted to obtain their views and to consolidate arguments for the decision to be made on the issue.



Interview with the Chief Engineer of Chittagong WASA conducted by the Consultants and PSU Official

Consultation with local authorities and stakeholders:

A consultative workshop was conducted on 1 April 2009 at Rangamati. Chairman of the CHT Regional Council, Representatives from CHT Development Board and Rangamati Hill District Council, district and Upazila level government officials (i.e. DC, UNO), local Upazila Chairman, UP Chairmen and Members, representatives of indigenous local bodies (e.g. Headman, Karbari), NGOs, media representatives and civil society members attended the workshop. Besides, Chairman and several other officials of Bandarban HDC were consulted on the same issues.

FGDs with community people (service users):

A number of FGD sessions were conducted with selective service users at remote community levels, focusing on the problems and potentials of the hardcore poor, women and other underprivileged segments of the CHT rural community. All of those FGDs were done to explore users' views on possible service provisions and necessary institutional arrangements.

The list of participants who attended the local level consultative workshops, interviews and group discussions conducted in the CHT area is attached to the Field Consultation Report.

3 Analysis of Relevant Policies, Institutional set-up and Stakeholders' Views



CHT community people with whom Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) are held

Analysis of the relevant government policies and strategies, existing institutional arrangements for WSS service delivery and views and opinions of the sector stakeholders is consolidated to provide a more rational conclusion on the issue of preparing a separate SDP for CHT. These are presented in three sub-sections:

- National WSS policies and strategies
- Institutional set-up and service delivery mechanisms
- Feedback from stakeholder consultation

3.1 National WSS policies and strategies

National Policy for Safe Water Supply and Sanitation 1998: Drinking water supply and sanitation is defined as a sub-sector within the broader sector of health, environment and water. The Local Government Division (LGD) is responsible for overall planning, identification of investment projects and coordination of activities of agencies under it. DPHE is responsible for water supply and sanitation for the whole country except Dhaka and Chittagong city areas which are under the jurisdiction of respective WASAs.

The WSS policy is built on a set of principles, which emphasizes development of the water supply and sanitation sector through local bodies, public and private sectors, NGOs, CBOs including women groups. It also stresses the need for assigning priority to under-served and un-served areas and adoption of water supply and sanitation

technology options appropriate to specific regions, geological situations and social groups. The need for change within the conventional programmes is recognized by the government, and it calls for transition from traditional service delivery arrangement where it is hoped that the change will necessitate the adoption of new institutional and financial arrangements.

National Sanitation Strategy 2005: The strategy is prepared on the basis of relevant policy guidelines, which includes:

- The National Policy for Safe Water Supply and Sanitation 1998
- Draft Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)
- National Water Management Plan 2004
- Sector Development Framework 2004
- Pro-poor Strategy for Water and Sanitation Sector 2005
- Sanitation related Policy Decisions 2004

The strategy is based on a number of principles, of which sanitation is treated as a human rights issue. Further, social, cultural and technical appropriateness and equitable allocation of resources are given high importance. The strategy has also identified major issues related to sanitation (Section 7), namely: lack of financial resources for having household latrines, inadequate hardware outlets, land tenure/ownership problems, discrete and inequitable investment, socio-economic dimensions of WSS are not fully understood and considered and absence of a legal framework for improved sanitation .It put forward some implementation strategies for improvement of sanitation in the country.

National Water Policy 1999: The Policy was formulated by the Ministry of Water Resources, and is applicable for the whole water resources sector, including the water supply and sanitation sub-sector. To address the problems related to WSS, it is the policy of the government to facilitate access to safe and affordable drinking water supply by:

- preserving natural depression and water bodies in major urban areas for recharge of underground aquifers,
- mandating relevant public institutions to provide WSS service in the greater interest of public health,
- empowering and holding municipalities and urban WSS bodies responsible for regulating the use of water, and
- mandating local governments to create awareness among the people in checking water pollution and wastage.

National Policy for Arsenic Mitigation 2004: The policy provides a guideline for mitigating the affect of arsenic on people and environment in a holistic and sustainable way. The policy supplements the national goals of poverty alleviation, public health and food security. The policy states that access to safe water for drinking and cooking shall be ensured through implementation of alternative water supply options in all arsenic affected areas, and all arsenicosis cases shall be

diagnosed and brought under an effective management system. The policy recognizes that technology options for water supply are area-dependent and no single option can serve the purpose of the people having diverse socio-economic background.

In addition to the WSS policies and strategies, **The CHT Peace Accord 1997** has been reviewed to assess the legal and administrative provisions of the CHT that may be required for implementation of the SDP. The Peace Accord is the preliminary basis for developing further laws, regulations and acts for its full execution. Some of the functional objectives of the Peace Accord have already been met through establishing CHT Affairs Ministry, CHT Regional Council and three Hill District Councils. The indigenous local government system (Kingships on major ethnic groups) of the CHT is officially recognized by the government. Specific mandate related to land administration, water/natural resource (except Kaptai Lake and reserved forests) management and related local and human resources development is given to the CHT authorities. Necessary changes in the administrative system in CHT could be made as per the provision of the Peace Accord.

Further, a special GOB Sanding Order (vide No. 1999/320 by LGD dated 8/5/2007) which was issued for establishing Water Supply and Sanitation (WATSAN) Committees at district, pourashava, upazila, union and ward levels has been reviewed. The Standing Order also includes guidelines and roles of the WATSAN Committees for CHT. These committees are advised to involve the Regional and District Councils as well as representatives from major ethnic minority communities.

3.2 Institutional set-up and WSS service delivery mechanisms

During formulation of projects, planning discipline of the government is the same in CHT and in the hills of plain (i.e. other than the CHT) areas. In particular, water supply and sanitation facilities to be provided in the hills of plain area and CHT are identical with a little bit of departure to suit local conditions in either of the two cases. Apart from CHT, other hilly regions of the country are similar to that of CHT, and unlike CHT, communication difficulties in haor, char and island still persist. In both the cases, resource allocation mechanism and implementation procedure is more or less similar. However, a comparison of the institutional set-up and WSS service delivery modalities for both the areas (CHT and plain) is presented below:

Plain (other than CHT) areas: The Ministry of LGRD&C is overall responsible for the WSS sector. DPHE is the mandated agency to plan and implement drinking water supply and sanitation sector activities jointly with the Local Government Institutions (LGIs) at municipality, upazila and union levels excepting the areas under the jurisdiction of WASAs and City Corporations. Sector activities are planned and implemented utilizing government funds through ADP allocation and in some cases, utilizing bi-lateral or multilateral donor funds. The LGED is also given mandate to undertake small scale water supply and sanitation in the rural areas (mainly growth center and irrigation project based) and WSS infrastructure development in case of donor assisted projects in the urban areas.

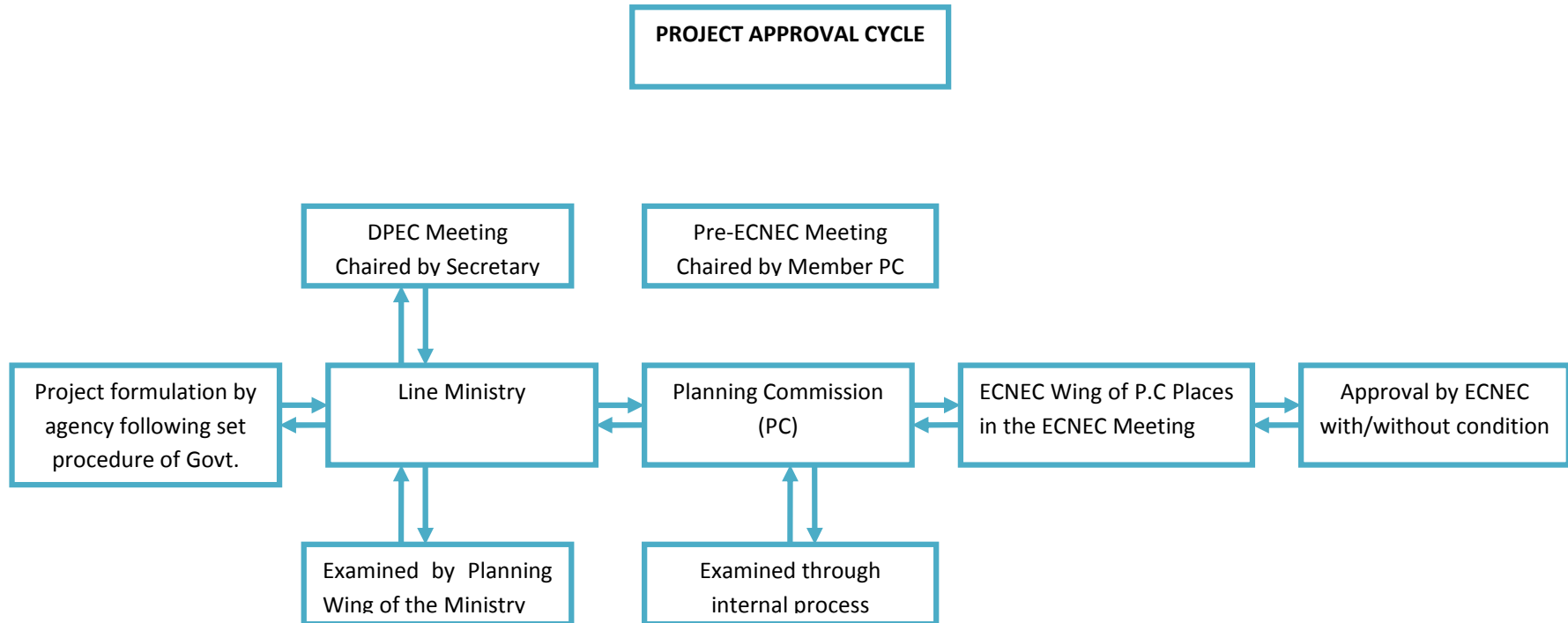
The normal project approval cycle of the sector follows uniform government procedures. The initial formulation of project is done by the concerned departments (DPHE/LGED). Then it is submitted to the line ministry (LGD) for necessary review and checking. The line ministry after checking through Departmental Project Evaluation Committee (DPEC) headed by the Secretary forwards the project to the Planning Commission for observance of formalities through Pre-ECNEC and eventually to the ECNEC for final approval (Figure 2). After approval of the project by the ECNEC, it is redirected to the department through the line ministry for execution of project activities. The same procedure and formalities are observed, no matter whether the project is related to plain or CHT.

CHT areas: The Ministry of CHT Affairs is established within the framework of the CHT Peace Accord 1997 and it is responsible for specific development matters relating to CHT. However, drinking water supply and sanitation (WSS) is not included in its jurisdiction. The government officers up to the level of EEs (DPHE & LGED) are deputed under the HDCs. As transferred subject, district level DPHE officers along their set-up work under the administrative control of HDCs. Resource allocations for WSS projects are made by the department (DPHE) and funds are channeled through HDCs. The working procedure of the HDCs with respect to WSS is similar to that of the plain areas (i.e. works jointly with Pourashavas, Upazilas and UPs with the administrative support from HDCs).

The project formulation and approval cycle for CHT is similar to the plain areas at central level, but there are some functional differences at local levels:

- Although DPHE Executive Engineers and their set-up in CHT works as transferred subject under HDCs (within the jurisdiction of MoCHT) they are centrally controlled by the MoLGRD. As such, projects formulated by the department, follow the set identical procedure of the government (LGD)
- Central reporting and coordination of the projects are done through DPHE and MoLGRD, where MoCHT is responsible for providing administrative support.

Figure 2: Schematic diagram of GoB Project Approval Cycle



3.3 Feedback from stakeholder consultations

- **CHT Regional Workshop**

The local stakeholders at the workshop highly focused on the extent of service coverage, technical and social issues. Issues of service delivery mechanisms were relatively not discussed. The outcome of the workshop is summarized below:

Problems encountered by CHT communities:

Lack of coordination among the organizations working in the WSS sector of CHT was reported as a major issue. As a result, a large number of people are deprived of the benefits of WSS facilities, especially in the remote areas. In most cases, this issue has resulted in duplication of facilities. There is no single agency responsible for coordination and monitoring of activities of different organizations. Users are generally reluctant to maintain water options and sanitary facilities installed by different organizations, including public facilities. A substantial number of options especially ring wells and deep-set pumps were reported to be non-functioning after project completion.



Traditional dug-well (Chara) used by the CHT communities for household and drinking purposes

Further, water options were reported to be non-functioning due to lowering of water table in dry season. Many water options effective elsewhere do not yield water in the CHT due to rocky aquifer. No attempt has so far been made to drill beyond 65 meter depth. Besides geographic differences, there are cultural

differences too among different ethnic groups, resulting in the need to design variable pattern of hygiene practices. Environmental pollution due to waste disposal and open defecation in the Kaptai Lake is a serious concern with respect to use of water for drinking purpose.

The current method of estimating coverage of WSS facilities in CHT is erroneous because un-served areas are also brought in the process of evaluation. As there is no water testing laboratory in CHT region, it takes a long time to accomplish testing. No attempt has so far been made by the public or private sector organization to develop the conventional local sources of water. Arrangement of water points outside water supply network in towns appears inadequate. Hydro-geological survey and mapping of water points for the whole of CHT area is absent.

Recommended solutions:

Participants attached importance to large scale motivation programs on maintenance of water options and best hygiene practices. It was suggested to provide community latrine instead of household latrine. Spare parts, maintenance tools and expert *mistries* (technicians) are suggested to be made available everywhere especially in the remote areas.

A geophysical survey and mapping of water points need to be carried out. Base line survey needs to be done in the remote areas for correct planning. Survey of existing ring wells and deep-set pumps (most of which are non-functioning) is suggested, so that, at low cost, water facility could be given to the people by repairing those non-functional ring wells and deep-set pump wells. Mapping should be done for selection of service delivery points in order to bring the hardcore people within the coverage network.



Participants of the CHT Regional Workshop discuss on the local WSS problems and potentials

Indigenous knowledge should be taken into consideration designing water sources in the CHT area. Gravity flow system and spring development should be considered as priority areas. The WATSAN Committee should be reactivated and strengthened for taking over full responsibility of WSS services at local level. Environment should be protected in spite of all kinds of development activities. Water supply network should be expanded in the three towns of CHT immediately.

Trained manpower and spare parts should be available in remote areas. Water quality testing facilities (field test kit) should be made available up to Upazila level and testing laboratories to be established at district headquarter. Survey should be done to ascertain the actual status of sanitation facilities in CHT.

- ***Outcomes of the FGDs with CHT community people***

The CHT area is characterized by low coverage of safe water supply and sanitation. On average, 60% people in CHT has access to safe water, which abnormally reduces to only about 4% in the dry season. More than 50% of the users have to walk far (on average 500 meters) from their households and go down to the hills to collect water; a task that is generally risky for them because of the hilly terrain.

The water supply coverage in the urban areas of CHT is about 40%. Ground (e.g. tubewell, ring well) and surface water (e.g. gravity fed system, spring, canal, chhara and rivers) are major sources of water supply. But ground water is not available in most parts of the towns, throughout the year. Different technologies are feasible for different areas. Traditional water supply technologies such as tubewells, ring wells are not workable in all places; while gravity fed system and water supply through spring development are the sources of community water supply.



The common latrine (indigenous) types used by the CHT communities

Coverage of latrines in the CHT districts is about 79% of which only 17% are in good hygiene condition. The coverage in the rural poor communities is much less (hardly 5-10%). Lack of awareness and poor economic status of the rural communities is reported as the main cause of low sanitation coverage. Severe scarcity of water is another reason for low coverage. In addition, quality latrines are not available as difficult communication across the CHT causes high cost for transportation and frequent damages of latrine materials.

The present sanitation status in the urban areas is also not satisfactory. There is no sewer system in the Pourashava areas. Only about 50% households have latrines, while others use various types of unhygienic latrines. Public toilets are necessary and community latrines are feasible where cluster of people live.



Shallow hand-pump TW used at a school premise in CHT

The coverage of hygiene practices in CHT is insignificant. In general, about 10-15% people adopt hand washing before meal and after defecation. About 45% people use safe water for drinking and cooking purposes. The rate of proper or hygienic latrine maintenance is about 20%, while rest of the latrines remains as unhygienic. There is visible shortage and lack of initiatives for hygiene promotion either from the government or from NGOs. A comprehensive package of sanitary latrines followed by hygiene education should be undertaken to improve sanitation condition of rural areas of CHT.

- ***Views of MoLGRD and major donors***

The narration of the background for consultancy services for review and revision of SDP is referred to the views and observations of the government (MoLGRD-GOB).

The views of Danida (as supporting agency) are also reflected in the TOR background as well.

It is recommended that in the revised SDP the issues of CHT to be more focused than it was in the SDP 2006. One of the factors for SDP revision is very much relevant to the letter issued by the Local Government Division (LGD), vide No. 365 dated 20.5.1007, wherein it is indicated either to prepare a separate SDP for CHT or to make an addendum on CHT to the revised SDP.

3 Outcomes of the Analysis

National Policies and Strategies

None of the policies and strategies has specifically mentioned about the problems and requirement of the CHT area, but those have a common and central focus on assigning priorities to the under-served and un-served population. The role of local authorities is considered critical for sustainable sector development. Adoption of alternative technology options is suggested and it is recommended to be area-specific and based on geological situation and social groups. The national WSS policies and strategies, in general, call for transition from traditional service delivery arrangements. The above aspects of the national policies and strategies have relevance with the diverse geographic, socio-economic and geological condition of CHT, and found supportive to the need for special attention to the problems and potentials of the area.

Institutional arrangements for WSS service delivery

Institutional set-up for WSS service delivery in CHT is not unique, except the placement of DPHE and LGED Executive Engineers under the administrative control of HDCs. CHT authorities are assigned responsibilities for local coordination, while project resource allocation, planning mechanisms and approval procedures are uniform for the whole country. Given the context, implementation of a separate SDP for CHT would require separate planning mechanism, funding procedures and institutional rearrangement. Whereas, implementation of a national SDP (which includes an addendum on CHT assigning special focus and priorities on the local situation and demands) under a broader policy and regulatory framework would be much easier, and that could be done avoiding complexities of such regulatory and institutional rearrangements.



School Children and Teachers in CHT: Faces of the Nation

Views and opinions of local stakeholders

The problems noticed by the local stakeholders are mostly related to service coverage and levels. The requirement for alternative technical solutions for water supply (e.g. spring development, gravity flow system) should be considered and availability of quality hardware materials (both for water supply and sanitation) is recommended. The local cultures,

communication difficulties and other socio-economic diversities are suggested to be addressed in WSS programme design for CHT. Local level coordination needs to be strengthened. All these needs can be addressed through an addendum on the SDP for CHT.

4 Deciding Factors on the Issue of Separate SDP for CHT

The assessment of policy provisions, regulatory framework, stakeholders' views and the government observations regarding formulation of a revised SDP revealed that there would be some specific advantages and disadvantages regarding the above decision. Also decisions would require to be made related to socio-cultural, technical, institutional and political aspects of CHT in formulation of SDP including Sector Investment Plan (SIP). In order to make the best use of those aspects, decision factors are broadly categorized as follows:

- Advantages and disadvantages of separate SDP for CHT
- Factors for consideration in support of an Addendum

4.1 Comparative advantages and disadvantages of separate SDP for CHT

Currently the WSS sector in Bangladesh is being implemented under a broader regulatory framework, accommodating the needs of different geographic and geological areas of the country. Accordingly, the SDP 2006 was formulated, though there was inadequacy in paying attention to the requirements of CHT. In the revised SDP, the issues of donor harmonization and sector coordination through an eventual Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) have come to the forefront, and have been taken in to consideration to identify the following possible advantages and disadvantages of a separate SDP for CHT.

Advantages:

- Single planning for single region, which will generally result in smooth implementation and local level coordination
- The uniqueness of problems and potentials of CHT related to water supply and sanitation would be recognized and will get special attention
- It would potentially increase the scope of MoCHT and ideally be in line with the spirit of regional autonomy (as it is delineated in the CHT Peace Accord 1997)
- Will create opportunity for special government and donor funding
- Eventually, decentralization would be promoted and the pace of sector development in CHT would be accelerated

Disadvantages:

- Will be isolated from the mainstream development of the country (while other sectors such as, health, education are still under one programme)
- Will require specialized approaches and knowledge base (where proposed SWAp for the WSS sector may further be constrained)

- If special and continued funding is not available, the sector development in CHT may go out of focus
- Readiness of local (CHT) institutions and service providers to take over full responsibility of sector implementation
- Will require establishing additional central level coordination (i.e. inter-ministerial, inter-departmental)
- Will have financial and policy implications (and as a result, policies may require to be adjusted, or new policies for CHT be developed)
- Procedural and institutional/administrative readiness of the central government will have to be satisfied
- National MIS of the sector and the set of information management tools would require to be revised and reformulated
- The implementation of revised SDP is expected to start from FY2010-11, given the context, such initiative may hamper achieving national goal of safe water supply for all by 2011 and sanitation for all by 2013
- Project plans and formats is the same, so creating a separate SDP may create a additional administrative burden

4.2 Factors for consideration in support of an Addendum

It is revealed from the review of sector policies, views of local stakeholders and community people that some factors have to be strongly considered for deciding on the CHT addendum. These are categorized as follows:

Social and cultural

- The majority of population in the CHT area is of tribal origin. Their culture, languages and the overall way of life styles are literally different than other areas of the country
- The development of private sector in CHT has been far behind compared to the other regions, which is considered vital for expanding coverage
- The success of social campaigns would be fully dependant on the use of local knowledge and involvement of indigenous communities, which requires communication (language) barriers to be overcome
- The poverty level of the under-privileged segment of CHT population is much higher, and given the context, the WSS sector has aimed to create an impact on poverty reduction

Technical

- Due to its difficult geographic and hydro-geological characters, CHT areas require different technological solution (both for water supply and sanitation)
- In view of difficult situation prevailing in CHT, the requirement of water options in rural areas has already been considered as one source for 50 people (whereas, the number is 100 in the plains)
- The requirement of geo-physical survey and mapping of water points is strongly emphasized

- Development of water sources (including development of conventional sources e.g. gravity flow and spring development) needs special considerations
- Independent support services (water quality testing, technicians development, availability of spare parts) is urgently required

Institutional

- DPHE is the implementing agency centrally controlled by the MoLGRD, but works in the CHT areas under MoCHT as transferred subject
- Project planning and formulation discipline of the government is the same for CHT and the plain areas
- Local level coordination problems among organizations work for WSS still persist, which has to be resolved for achieving better results
- Capacity of local communities/service users and private sector needs to be built

Political (policy framework)

- In general, the national policies and strategies focus on the issues of the rights of the under-privileged, under-served and other disadvantaged segments like poor and ethnic communities
- Referring to the CHT Peace Accord 1997 and the subsequent legal and regulatory development, the mandates of the CHT Regional Council and the MoCHT may require to be expanded (at least covering drinking water supply and sanitation in addition to water resource management)

5. Issues and Recommendations

In the revised SDP attempt has been made to synchronize the whole process in a rational and pragmatic way so as to keep pace with the real situation of both plain and hilly regions. In addition, considering the potential advantages and disadvantages of a separate SDP as well as the present sector capacity to address the special issues of CHT, it is recommended to prepare an addendum to the revised SDP rather than two separate reports. Then it might be easier to implement sector programme within a single policy and regulatory framework but addressing various issues of the special/strategic regions.

The key issues identified would be addressed in the revised SDP and SIP (through an Addendum for CHT) as outlined below:

Issue 1: Socio-economic, cultural, linguistic and communication diversities of the CHT area have to be specially addressed

The CHT area is comprised of a number of ethnic communities with a mix of migrated non-tribal population. They have different cultures and social beliefs, use different languages and are of diverse socio-economic condition. They also suffer from communication difficulties. It is believed that the development of CHT

communities has lagged behind due of lack of proper attention in the various development programmes.

Recommendation 1a: *Socio-cultural diversities would be addressed in the programme design and implementation procedures*

The planning and implementation of hardware and software interventions for the CHT area is required to follow the specific service needs and socio-political diversities of CHT based communities. The SDP addendum on CHT will use a thorough assessment of service demands by different ethnic communities and incorporate those in the planning of service provisions.

Recommendation 1b: *Formulation of behavioral change communication programme would be adaptive to the local context*

The sustainability of WSS service impacts and delivery mechanisms would be mainly dependant on the behavioral change communication programmes. The overall communication strategy will incorporate different behavioral pattern and socio-cultural diversities of each community. A broader framework would be developed for the CHT area, which will be planned and implemented at the local level involving local communities.

Issue 2: *The CHT area requires different technical solutions for water supply and sanitation*

The geographic and geological situation of CHT is different than other regions of the country. Presently shallow and deep tubewells are used for drinking water purposes, but it is inadequate for the large coverage as because most of tubewells are installed down the hills. This has resulted in a difficult situation for collection of water, particularly for women and children. The natural sources of water such as springs and small water reservoirs are not developed and adequately used. Besides, the sanitation coverage is low due to lack of technology development that suits the local context and non-availability of hardware materials as much as required.

Recommendation 2a: *Appropriate technological solutions for water supply and sanitation need to be developed and scaled-up*

The revised SDP would accommodate the requirements for alternative technology options for CHT. The technology mixes of hand tubewells and developed natural water sources would be included. Special attention will also be paid for sanitation technologies. All technologies would be developed and incorporated into the plans as per strategic areas (rural and urban) as it is done for other areas of the country. For doing these, separate provision for R&D would be kept in the revised SDP.

Recommendation 2b: *Additional costs for technology development need to be planned*

The SDP addendum for CHT would comprise of separate Sector Investment Plan (i.e. financial plan). This would be formulated considering the additional costs for technology development and implementation in the CHT area.

Recommendation 2c: *Technical support service and physical facilities for the CHT area need to be established*

The innovation of alternative technology for CHT and its subsequent implementation will require constant support services (i.e. piloting, water quality testing, geological survey). This will be incorporated in the CHT addendum and SIP.

Issue 3: *Planning and implementation mechanism for CHT have to be reformulated and coordinated*

The government planning and project formulation discipline, at present, is uniform for the whole country irrespective of its regions. But diversities of service demands and levels of different geographic and geological regions are addressed under a broader regulatory framework. In case of preparing an addendum on SDP for CHT, the planning and implementation mechanism has to be revised and coordinated with the central system.

Recommendation 3a: *The project planning and financing for CHT would be the responsibility of MoLGRD*

The SDP addendum for CHT would include all WSS service components and other support activities. The planning and financing of projects will be done by the MoLGRD, but through an effective representation of and coordination with MoCHT at central government level.

Recommendation 3b: *Implementation and coordination of the projects at local level would be the responsibility of MoCHT*

The local level project implementation and coordination would be done by the MoCHT, but through an effective coordination with LGIs (which are under MoLGRD).

Recommendation 3c: *Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) under a broader planning framework need to be adopted*

A synchronized M&E system would be developed for better information management for the SDP (where an addendum on CHT would be included). Local level implementation and service delivery systems would be different but all the sector development interventions would be undertaken under a broader planning and regulatory framework, as it exists in the current system. This will ensure special focus on the regional needs and priorities as well as avoiding complication of regulatory control. For this, special effort will be made for project coordination and harmonization of donors.