



Inspiring Excellence

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PUBLIC PROCUREMENT WATCH

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CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT FORUM HELD AT RANGPUR

On 11th July, 2019, Thursday, the 1st divisional workshop under Digitizing Implementation Monitoring and Public Procurement Project (DIMAPPP) was organized at Begum Rokeya Hall, RDRS Bangladesh, Rangpur. The workshop gathered diverse stakeholders such as beneficiaries, government officials, civil society, engineers, doctors, teachers, NGO members, and media personnel. The event started with the welcome speech of Mr. Shish Haider Chowdhury, Director, coordination and training, CPTU, IME Division. The Chief Guest, Mr. Abul Mansur Md. Faizullah, NDC, Secretary, IME Division, Planning Ministry and the Special Guests, Mr. Md. Ali Noor, DG CPTU and Additional Secretary and Mr. Zakir Hossain, Divisional Commissioner of Rangpur delivered



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speeches. Besides them, Mr. Syed Enamul Kabir, District Commissioner of Rangpur, Dr. Imran Matin, Executive Director, BIGD, Brac University, and Ms. Salina Aziz, Programme Manager, BIGD, Brac University also spoke about citizen engagement in public procurement. During the first session, Dr. Mirza Hassan, Team Leader of the Citizen Engagement sub-component, BIGD, Brac University shared a presentation on the findings and future of Citizen Engagement in Public Procurement. The event was followed by a short Q&A session.

In the 2nd half, a workshop was organized where participants shared their views about citizen involvement in public procurement. They also offered suggestions and recommendations to address the challenges that come along with the initiative. Participation throughout the event was spontaneous. Kabita Chowdhury, Communications Specialist of the sub-component at BIGD, hosted the event.



Citizen Engagement Forum at Rajshahi



On 30th September 2019, the 2nd Divisional Workshop took place at the Conference Hall, Chezz Razzak Suites, Padma Housing Estate, Rajshahi. After the opening speech by Salina Aziz, Programme Manager, BIGD, Brac University, the event commenced with speeches from Mr. Shish Haider Chowdhury, Director, coordination and training at CPTU, followed by speeches from Chief Guest Md. Ali Noor DG CPTU and Additional Secretary, Special Guest Md. Zakir Hossain, Additional Divisional Commissioner of Rajshahi (General), and Chairperson Md. Hamidul Hoque, Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi. Dr. Mirza Hassan, Team Leader of Citizen Engagement sub-component, BIGD, presented on how citizens are monitoring procurement work under DIMAPPP. A Q&A session followed.

After lunch, participants took part in the workshop divided in different occupational groups. All the groups came up with suggestions to benefit the project. Mr. Mosta Gausul Hoque, Principal Project Management Consultant, CPTU, Ministry of Planning, hosted the event.

Public Private Stakeholder Committee

Meeting held at Ministry of Planning

The 13th Public-Private Stakeholders' Committee (PPSC) Meeting was held on 22nd August 2019 in the NEC Conference Room. Honorable Minister of Planning, the PPSC Chair, Mr. M. A. Mannan MP presided over the meeting. The meeting was organized by CPTU and facilitated by BIGD. Mr. Md. Ali Noor, Director General of CPTU and the member-secretary of PPSC, assisted the Chair in conducting the meeting.

The PPSC was formed with the representatives from the business community, think-tanks, media and civil society organizations along with government officials. The members came together at the 13th PPSC meeting to discuss on the progress of DIMAPPP so far, share the existing drawbacks, and decide on the future agenda needed to be addressed. After Dr. Mirza Hassan, Team Leader of



Citizen Engagement sub-component, BIGD, presented on the ongoing efforts in citizen engagement, the floor was opened for discussion. Mr. Md. Shahidul Hoque, Senior Secretary, Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division shared that the citizen engagement model must be made sustainable. Mr. Abul Mansur Md. Foyezullah, NDC (Secretary, IMED, Ministry of Planning), asked for more awareness programs directed towards women to bring more of them in. In the end, Honourable Planning Minister Mr. M. A.

Mannan MP said that cost minimization is fundamental to decision making and relevant people should be held accountable to ensure 'value for money' in public procurement. He thoroughly emphasized on making transparent and accountable decisions, with an additional suggestion on creating a 'blacklist' for contractors who fail to deliver quality work. Declaring the 14th PPSC meeting to be held in December 2019, the 13th PPSC meeting ended.

Citizen Engagement Activities at Field Quarterly update

Citizen engagement in monitoring public work is already showing positive results. In the 1st year of implementation, citizens are monitoring road and school building construction. Citizens complained about using substandard materials and not maintaining the said standards in construction work. All the complaints were forwarded to the relevant authorities with further follow-ups to ensure that the quality is maintained as per requirement.

On 29th July 2019, a citizen from Jorshimul, Dhunot, complained to the field officers regarding the use of low-quality brick chips for road construction. The next day, the field officers found 30-35 local citizens present there demanding the use of good quality brick chips for the road. The designated engineer then verified the complaint and immediately ordered to stop using

the low quality brick chips. The remaining 5 trucks of brick chips were sent back. Later on, the contractor brought in good quality brick chips.

Activities	Achieved till October 10, 2019
Contract list collection from LGED	80
Group formation	51
Group orientation	51
Site meetings	51
Grievances	52 (41 from Citizen group) + (11 from general citizen)



On 24th July 2019, a Citizen Group member complained about using soil instead of sand for base carpeting in the construction of Dhemusia Musarpara Primary School. The members at first pointed out the discrepancy and requested the contractor to use sand. The contractor was reluctant, and misbehaved with the member. After the Field Officer and the appointed Sub-Assistant engineer visited the site and verified the complaint, the engineer ordered the contractor to start using sand instead of the soil. In a follow-up visit on 27th July, the Field Officer found that sand was being used as promised.



Citizen group is closely monitoring the ongoing work of katabarirdanga government primary school, Taraganj, Rangpur.



Citizen group orientation in Solonga to Vuiagati road under Raiganj upazila, Sirajganj



Citizen group engaging in public procurement.



Citizen group orientation on Kalerpara UP office to Sonamoha Hut road construction under Dhunat upazila.