

MINUTES OF MEETING ON NATIONAL SEISMIC RISK MITIGATION PROGRAMME (NSRMP) HELD ON 12.11.2021; 03:30 PM IN OPS. ROOM, NDMA BHAWAN, NDMA.

A meeting on National Seismic Risk Mitigation Programme (NSRMP) was held on 12th November, 2021 at 03:30 PM under the Chairmanship of Sh. Krishna S. Vatsa, Member, NDMA. The meeting was attended by Officials from NDMA and the World Bank, and the Consultant (DDF-AKDN JV) team. List of participants is attached at Annexure-I.

2. The meeting started with a welcome note by the Chair. Setting context of the meeting, Dy. Project Director (NCRMP), NDMA briefed on NSRMP and progress made so far by the Consultant. It was informed that the contract came into force on 19th August 2019 with contract period of 12 months, i.e., upto 18th August 2020, and so far, only two deliverables have been completed out of total 12 deliverable under the project. Considering Covid-19 situation and consultant's request, extension of time was granted upto 15th March 2020. Despite extension of timeline, there was hardly any improvement on performance of the Consultant and Consultant did not complete all deliverables by the extended timeline. Looking to delay in submission of deliverables by the Consultant and considering timeline for negotiation with DEA which was September 2021, the contract timeline was further extended up to 31st December 2021, keeping timeline for completion of all deliverables upto 28th September 2021, which has also lapsed and Consultant has not yet fulfilled their contractual obligation. It was further informed by Dy. Project Director that so far 13.24 Cr out of the contract value of Rs. 41.7 Cr have been paid to Consultant, and out of 12 deliverables, 2 deliverables have been accepted. There is very little progress on preparation of DPRs and other deliverables by the Consultant.

3. The Joint Secretary & Project Director (NCRMP), NDMA informed that after negotiation & consultation with DEA, NDMA has managed to get some extension with a definite timeline to go back to DEA for appraisal & negotiation. The JS & PD stressed that the DPRs along with other relevant documents such as procurement plans, R&R, etc. must be absolutely ready for going back to DEA for appraisal. With this in mind, NDMA expect all deliverables to be received by 31st December 2021, which is the end of 2nd extension granted to the Consultancy firm, and afterwards there will not be any further extension of the contract. Hence, the Consultant shall ensure to complete all balance deliverables by 31st December 2021.

4. A presentation was made by Prof. Amit Bose (Director, DDF Consultants) in context of NSRMP, challenges and way forward. He informed that substantial progress has been made in preparation of draft DPRs and draft EIA/SIA/EMP/RAP, and preparation of these deliverable documents will be finalized after finalization/approval of PIP and ESMF. He requested for decisions on matters such as ESMF finalization by 30th November 2021, state wise & component wise fund allocation, payment provision for part payments against deliverables submission and reimbursement of GST against a lumpsum payment done for draft ESMF document submitted by the consultant. As way forward, he suggested for constitution of Administrative & Technical Steering Committee, realistic accepted deadline for project completion with states/stakeholders confirmation and revision of contract with provision of part payment on progress of components/sub-components. Highlighting the working difficulties during Covid-19 pandemic situation, Mr. Onno Ruhl (General Manager, AKDN) described the time spent on this project as most unusual time for a project of this kind. He indicated the importance of underlining contract extensions without cost extension, and the reason for requesting for this meeting as non- finalization of deliverables despite multiple revisions with several back & forth correspondences. He stressed upon understanding scope of work against the deliverables to avoid multiple revisions as an effective mechanism to resolve the impasse in the project progress and provision of alternative way of fund flow, particularly necessary in Covid situation, looking to the limited means of consultant. He further requested for considering a way out for fund flow.

5. Member (KSV) opined that since there has been lots of concern on the part of NDMA and the World Bank as well, it will be good to hear from concerned Officers from the NDMA and the Bank to understand the current status of project and the issues to be resolved. He further stated that NDMA will collectively take decision after understanding the issues discussed, aiming for a fair resolution.

6. Dy. Project Director replied on Consultant's concerns presented in the meeting. The PIP and ESMF documents have been frequently submitted by the Consultant without complying basic requirements of the deliverables. Despite adequate guidance/handholding to the Consultant through Component/Sub-Component/activity wise review meetings conducted frequently/regularly, the Consultant failed in producing final documents meeting the subject and the contractual requirements, which has led to delay in finalization of deliverables. The Consultant is oblivious of the fact that there is a Review & Monitoring Committee constituted on NSRMP which has been intimated to Consultant through PMU's correspondence dated

13th September 2019 and first meeting of Review Committee was held on 24th Sept 2019 to appraise Inception Report (1st Deliverable). He re-iterated that Consultant's submissions/deliverables under NSRMP are reviewed by domain Experts of the Review & Monitoring Committee and the Experts' comments on deliverables are conveyed to Consultant either through meetings or letter. As a matter of fact, NDMA and the Review Committee have been putting more efforts in identifying shortcomings with every submission and advising them way out for rectifying the recurring shortcomings as compared to the consultant's effort in preparing/revising the documents.

Regarding consultant's concern on delay in response on submissions of documents, it was clarified that on every component/subcomponents of the project, there are domain experts in the Review Committee, who review and provide comments on the documents specific to their expertise. For example, DPR of Sub-component A1 (EEWDS) [a bulky document requiring considerable time to review] submitted by the Consultant has been reviewed by the domain experts (Members of the Review & Monitoring Committee) from NCS (Dr. O.P. Mishra), IIT-Roorkee (Prof. M.L. Sharma) and NGRI (Dr. D. Shrinagesh), and comments received from these experts will be shared with Consultant shortly. The ESMF document submitted by Consultant has been reviewed several times by the World Bank experts, and in the recent review meeting the Bank's experts have highlighted several deficiencies in the document, including several repetitions, spelling mistakes and grammatical errors observed across the document, and repetitive & superfluous inputs have masked at places the meaning of the theme. Furthermore, there is serious language issue, and several statements/narrations are not in order or are very confusing. This sort of deficiencies is observed in all deliverables/ submission by the Consultant. The World Bank experts have advised Consultant that the documents must be checked/proof read by a Technical Auditor on the part of Consultant before submission to NDMA/World Bank.

Dy. Project Director said that it is a fact that documents submitted by the Consultant are found not upto the mark and sub-standard. Also there is no provision of part payment under the contract. Based on approval of Competent Authority, some payment has been released initially on submission of Draft ESMF document but later the World Bank raised objection suggesting to make payment only after acceptance of the deliverables fulfilling the requirements by the Review Committee.

Regarding fund allocation, it was further clarified that based on state specific risk profile & vulnerability and Component/subcomponent wise assessment applying rationality by Consultant, and further endorsement from States, the Consultant is required to propose State wise and Component wise fund allocation to NDMA. This has been narrated to

Consultant several times but time and again the Consultant has been writing and has again raised this as an issue to NDMA. It was re-iterated that the State wise and Component wise fund allocation to be proposed by Consultant has no relation with the budget to be decided by NDMA/the Govt. of India. At the time of project approval/ onset, the fund allocation may be increased or decreased by NDMA/Govt. of India. Thus there is no linkage between budget allocation by Govt. of India and the project outlay mentioned in the NSRMP contract, i.e., approx. Rs. 5000 Cr.

Regarding PIP, it was re-iterated that no state is agreeing to the retrofitting rate proposed in PIP which the Consultant is already aware with. On Consultant's claim that their Key experts are working on the project, it was informed that the Environment Specialists (Key Expert) are absent from the project since last one year and Bihar State Coordinator has hardly went to Bihar State since last one year. Bihar State has been writing to NDMA in this regard. Furthermore, Bihar State has informed that Consultant team (Team Leader & State Coordinator) did not attend the meeting on NSRMP scheduled by Bihar Govt. under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary. Consultant is habitual of sending email/VC link requesting the State Govt. Authorities to attend the meeting without seeking prior concurrence/ convenient time from the State Authorities. Similarly, Himachal Pradesh Govt. has complained that Consultant's State Coordinator resides in Dehradun and has visited States very few times till date, and this applies in case of other States too. NDMA is of the view that since key personnel/experts have not been fully engaged/deployed by the Consultant, the deliverables are neither being completed within the stipulated time nor meeting the desired quality.

7. Sh. Anup Karanth (Sr. DRM Specialist & TTL, The World Bank) expressed that during last two years period, series of meetings have been organised on different Components/ subcomponents of NSRMP. As far as project Management is concerned, PMU is looking after other consultancies under NCRMP, which are doing well in terms of project activities/deliverables. This Consultancy on NSRMP is a bit of an exception. Intent of doing this project was to get the project prepared in a way that NDMA could go for negotiation to DEA and there was a definite cause for bringing in the Consultancy of a nature that can deliver upto the expectations. Contract was awarded to this Consulting firm primarily based on competency of the key experts projected by them at that point of time.

He highlighted key points on the progress during the past two years. The project design relies on all components and sustainability is built on activities under Component C. Hence, Component C activities are very critical for the project beyond retrofitting (Comp B),

and the outputs are significantly falling short in terms of its expectation. The Consultant has done considerable job on model retrofitting design and Model DPRs (Buildings) were received and comments provided. However, the retrofitting cost analysis is still unclear. Calculations based on thumb rules are not acceptable by the States/PMU and Bank. Consultant needs to come up with rate analysis to arrive at the cost. In several review meetings, Consultants were also requested to pick a good mix of asset class for pilot retrofitting in consultation with State counterparts. Despite several attempts the focus is primarily centred around buildings. One of the critical aspects to be checked with States and demand from States is towards retrofitting of critical Bridges. The model DPR for bridge is pending for and the last review meeting pointed several lacunae in site observations/field investigations (soil investigation, NDT) and analysis. Model DPR approval of bridge is critical as it has a bearing on the overall investment picture at State and aggregate level. On ESMF, the delay in finalizing is attributed to lack of subject experts in the team, communication challenges, absence of subject experts in scheduled meetings, lack of action on comments and resubmission with critical gaps. The draft PAD is short of information and the approach towards programme design. Additional documents towards the project preparation are still awaited.

On EEWDS, experts from NGRI, ISR and NCS have provided comments and the recent version need to take into account the suggestions on design and implementation (to be phased in MPA). EEWDS Implementing Agencies are not showing interest in project preparation as the DPR/ investment plan proposed lacks the details. Subcomponent A2 DPR requires analysis and subsequent arrival of investments. Consultants need to bring on-board right/competent experts for detailed assessment for this component.

Component C has been reviewed recently. Revised approach papers on activities targeted under Comp C were received after one year and falls short of comments/suggestions provided in Mar/April 2020. The documents still lack clarity on approach and mechanism to be evolved based on assessment/consultations with Stakeholders which is yet to be done. MIS is critical to project design and implementation. Despite repeated consultation and guidance the MIS development is way behind schedule and impacts project preparation.

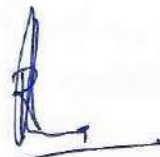
States on-boarding on CNERMP and establishment of PMU & SPIU should be set up on priority.

8. The Joint Secretary & Project Director (NCRMP), NDMA flagged overall issues on the project. Based on discussion with States, it has come to notice that States are not clear on the cost estimates and most of the States have also informed that on ground there are no visit

by consultant team, neither there are physical consultations nor site visits by experts are done. For getting commitment from State Govt., basis of estimation in PIP must be known to States. Consultant need to undertake visits in States and meet the State Govt. Officers concerned, as Without active participation and commitment on the part of States, it will be very difficult to go for implementation. She also stressed that PIP is one of the base document on which DEA will appraise the project.

9. Member (KSV) opined that if cost is not estimated correctly, there is always possibility of huge cost overrun and the project becomes unviable. Even after two years of consultancy services, there are divergent opinions and its really unfortunate. Deliverables from Consultant are crucial factor. NDMA will take collective decision on the project.

10. The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair and all the participants.



(Rajeev Sharma)
Project Manager
NCRMP, NDMA

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Sl. No.	Name of Officials with Designation	Organisation
1	Sh. Krishna S. Vatsa Member	NDMA
2	Sh. Rajendra Singh Member	NDMA
3	Ms. Sreyasi Choudhury Joint Secretary & Project Director (NCRMP)	NDMA
4	Sh. Ravinesh Kumar Financial Advisor	NDMA
5	Sh. Samir Kumar Dy. Project Director, PMU	NDMA
6	Sh. Rajeev Sharma Project Manager, PMU	NDMA
7	Dr. Sanjay K Sharma Env. Specialist, PMU	NDMA
9	Dr. P Prasad Project Coordinator, PMU	NDMA
10	Sh Tinku Kumar Procurements Specialist, PMU	NDMA
11	Mr. Anup Karanth Sr. DRM Specialist & TTL	The World Bank
12	Prof. Amit Bose Director	DDF Consultants
13	Sh. Saurabh Chandra Director	DDF Consultants
14	Prof. Pratima Rani Bose Coordinator	DDF Consultants
15	Sh. Amit Kumar Team Leader	DDF-AKDN JV
16	Ms. Anju Bansal General Manager	DDF Consultants
17	Mr. Onno Ruhl General Manager	AKDN