

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report describes the mobilization activities of the consultancy work for Package- 04 (Saghata Upazila of Gaibandha District and Sariakandi Upazila & Sonatola Upazila of Bogra District) of the 'Preparation of Development Plan under Preparation of Development Plan for Fourteen Upazilas' Project under Urban Development Directorate (UDD) of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The report is being submitted in pursuance of the agreement signed between the client Urban Development Directorate (UDD) and Modern Engineers Planners and Consultants Ltd. (MEPC) on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

The core objective of the project is preparing planning packages to ensure the future growth and development of the project area in a planned and organized way. The current project would emphasize over those activities focusing on all relevant social and physical infrastructure services and facilities including the national level communication network. It would emphasize over the economic development in and around the project area and also livelihood of the local people, who are very much depended on local economic activities. The current project would also emphasize over the change in land category, land use and livelihood pattern.

This report is the 1<sup>st</sup> footprint to achieve goal and objectives of the project. The Mobilization Report describes the mobilization of project activities, deployment of key personnel, background, objective, scope of the project and findings of the reconnaissance survey activities of the project area as per ToR by consultants in fulfilling the for Package- 04 of the 'Preparation of Development Plan under Preparation of Development Plan for Fourteen Upazilas' Project.

Saghata Upazila of Gaibandha District and Sariakandi Upazila & Sonatola Upazila of Bogra District are three adjacent Upazila of the Northern part of Bangladesh. All three Upazilas are highly vulnerable to natural disaster. Almost each year the three Upazilas are affected by flood and river erosion resulting from Jamuna River.

Saghata Upazila is a flood prone area located at Gaibandha district under Rangpur Division. The Upazila is adjacent to four others Upazila namely Islampur Upazila (Jamalpur district) at east, Gobindoganj Upazila (Gaibandha district) at west, Gaibandha Sadar Upazila at north and Sonatola Upazila (Bogra District) at south. Most of the business, economic and administrative activities are based on Bonarpara Union and the office of the Upazila Parishad is also located at Bonarpara. The total area of Saghata Upazila is 231.02 square kilometer with a total population covering 2,67,819 (Source: BBS, 2011). The whole Upazila is covered by 118 Mouzas. The major rivers of the area are Jamuna and Bangali. Jamun River runs along the eastern part of the Upazila adjoining to Bhartkhali, Saghata and Haldia Union. The Upazila has 329.93 acre khas land and 08.27 acre abandoned land. The sandy land area, homogeneous topography, Char area, moderate moisture etc are the common geographical characteristics of the study area.

Sonatola Upazila is a flood prone area located at Bogra district under Rajshahi Division. The Upazila is adjacent to four others Upazila namely Sariakandi Upazila (Bogra district) at east, Shibganj Upazila (Bogra district) at west, Gobindoganj Upazila (Gaibandha district) at north and Gabtoli Upazila (Bogra District) at south. Most of the business, economic and administrative activities are based on the Sonatola municipal area.

The total area of Sonatola Upazila is 156.75 square kilometer with a total population covering 1,86,778 (Source: BBS, 2011). The whole Upazila is covered by 101 Mouzas and the number of village is 131. The major rivers of the area are Jamuna and Bangali. Jamun River runs along the eastern part of the Upazila adjoining to Tekani Chukainagar, Pakullah and Jorgachha Union from north to south. The Upazila has 331.61 acre khas land. The sandy land area, homogeneous topography, Char area, moderate moisture etc are the common geographical characteristics of the study area.

Sariakandi Upazila is a flood prone area located at Bogra district under Rajshahi Division. The Upazila is adjacent to four others Upazila namely Madarganj Upazila (Jamalpur district) at east, Gabtali Upazila (Bogra district) at west, Sonatola Upazila (Bogra district) at north and Dhunat Upazila (Bogra District) at south. Most of the business, economic and administrative activities are based on the Sariakandi municipal area. The total area of Sariakandi Upazila is 432.60 square kilometer with a total population covering 2,70,720 (Source: BBS, 2011). The whole Upazila is covered by 122 Mouzas and the number of village is 216. The major rivers of the area are Jamuna and Bangali. Jamun River runs over the middle part of the Upazila adjoining to Kazla, Sariakandi, Karnibari, Chandan Baisha and Bohail Union from north to south. The Upazila has 4048.82 acre khas land. The sandy land area, homogeneous topography, Char area, moderate moisture etc are the common geographical characteristics of the study area.

In order to prepare the Mobilization Report, the consultant team had performed Reconnaissance Survey along with client team. The activities done during the Reconnaissance Survey are meeting with the Upazila Chairman, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Local leaders and Local peoples of three Upazila. To draw the stakeholders view points reconnaissance survey also conducted to collect the basic information and all field data of the study area based on that data and information of three Upazila.