

**Report of the PD on Progress of Work of SDNP and
Follow-up of the Decisions of the 2nd & 3rd Steering Committee Meetings
July 23, 2001**

Follow up:

- i) Modification of the Project Implementation Plan (PIP): Draft has been submitted.
- ii) Modification of the project budget: Revised budget has been submitted to the Steering Committee before placing it to NPD/UNDP.
- iii) Inclusion of important non-SIAs: Arrangements have been made for giving connectivity to Asiatic Society, Muktijoddha Punorbashan Kendra, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Shandhani, BMA, IEB and several other institutions.
- iv) Cyber Café at BIDS: Students of more than 10 schools/ colleges / institutes are attending the cyber café schedule from 10:00-1:00 p.m. and 2:00-5:00 p.m. with a total of more than 100 students per week.
- v) Events of importance: National and international days are being observed regularly and they have been hosted in SDNP's web site.
- vi) Additional manpower for SDI: Advertisements have been given in the newspaper for the recruitment of Database Programmer (1 post), Research Officer (1 post), Maintenance Engineer (2 posts), and Data Entry Operator (1 post) and recruitment will be completed by August 01, 2001.
- vii) Data exchange with similar institutes: Collaborational work is in progress.
- viii) New telephone lines: At present SDNP has fifteen telephone lines and demand note for more ten lines have been issued to SDNP.
- ix) Formulation of policy on a "not-for-profit" basis of operation: The sustainability plan has been prepared in the light of "not-for-profit" basis and submitted to the Steering Committee.
- x) Recruitment of Database Consultant: The database manager has been offered a short-term appointment as per BIDS rules. He expects to join soon after completion of necessary formalities.

A) Achievements:

- 1. Connectivity to National Press Club, Export Promotion Bureau, and Mymensingh Press Club has been given.
- 2. A two days workshop and temporary cyber café was organized at the National Press Club in observance of the World Environment Day 2001 from July 6 to 7.
- 3. Published a environment related CD on the same occasion.
- 4. Contact and negotiations are in progress with BAU for setting up of the first regional node.
- 5. Technical Specifications for the VSAT, main server and other equipment have been done. Alternate high-speed connectivity to the Internet is also in active consideration (Table-1).
- 6. Several selected non-SIAs (Member, Planning Commission; Ex-Vice Chancellor, BOU; Mymensingh Press Club; etc.) have been connected to SDNP server by dial up connections.
- 7. BIDS researchers have been given dial-up facilities from home.
- 8. Observation of national and international days has become a regular activity.
- 9. Collaboration programmes have been taken in hand to implement School Programme with World Computer Exchange, SDNP HQ and FED and also several other institutional collaboration programmes are in preliminary stage of processing.
- 10. Web site development for SIAs, important non-SIAs including UNDP projects are in progress (HIV AIDS project of UNDP; IUCN Bangladesh).

B) Future Strategies

Development of Database

After the joining of the Database Manager, Database Programmer, Research Officer and Data Entry Operator, efforts will be given to design and develop the SDN web database and make available to all users through ftp or browser. Necessary arrangements will be taken to collect existing databases from similar research institutes and upload them in SDN's site. The recruitment process has already started and interviews will take place later this month.

Outreach programme

1. Mymensingh Node:- In order to outreach SDN's activities in the regional stations, the first regional node has been selected to be at Mymensingh. This has been suggested by the Chairperson of the Steering Committee that through trial-error and experimentation the nearest node could be established. Being the largest education and research institute in Mymensingh, the project has selected the Bangladesh Agricultural University as the possible host institute for setting up the regional node. Preliminary negotiations and follow up discussions are in progress before signing up of the MOU in between SDNP and BAU.

The air distance between Dhaka and Mymensingh has been measured by using a GPS and observed that the distance can be covered by setting up two towers in between these two destinations (map in Annex-1). Radio modem connectivity will be the preferred one in this respect. This will be cheaper and convenient. Table-1 below illustrates the connectivity possibilities with probable bandwidth facility and approximate cost estimation:

Table-1: Comparison of connectivity alternatives

Type of Connectivity	Bandwidth	Intermediate point Linkage facility	Cost estimate	Remarks
VSAT in Mymensingh	64 Kbps	No	Equipment- Tk. 20 Lacs at installation Rent- Tk. 1 lac per month	Too costly to maintain
Dhaka-Mymensingh direct telephone line with a Dhaka exchange number	28-33 Kbps	No	Tk. 2 lacs (approximately , not ensured)	Can be an intermediary solution to link the Mymensingh node
Radio modem with two intermediate towers in between the two destinations	64 Kbps	Yes The intermediary points like Gazipur and Bhaluka can be given similar connectivity through omni-directional antenna and research organizations can be reached through modular extensions.	Tower-1 lac each; Radio modem- 2 lac each;	This can be the ideal extension of SDNP through establishing sub-nodes at phases. The same procedure can be adopted to similar region for offering extended coverage of SDN.
BTTB X25 available to Mymensingh	64 Kbps	No	Connection- Tk. 3000.00 Annual fee- Tk. 15000.00 Data fee- Tk. 4 per Kilo segment	May be costly for 24 hour service

2. Public Access Centre:- Offering Internet services to general communities through Public Access Centres (PACs) is one of the main objectives of SDNP. To achieve this objective several PACs will be established in Dhaka city. Annex-2 showing tentative locations of the PACs. The implementation and operational plan is in preparation and will be placed to the Steering Committee.
3. Rajshahi and Khula Nodes:- Necessary activities will be geared up after the Mymensingh node is activated well.
4. Information centre at Cyclone Shelters:- As soon as the project reaches the Khulna node, initiatives will be taken to establish these information centres across the coastal belt area.
5. School Programme:- As indicated in the achievement section, work is in progress in this aspect.

Upgradation of Technology

1. Upgradation of the main node:- The main node needs upgradation to maintain quality service and requisite bandwidth to potential clients of SDNP. The main node will have to be connected to the Internet through a speedy link. Table-2 suggests alternate connectivity of the main node:

Table-2: Internet link for main node

Type of connectivity	Bandwidth	Cost estimate	Remarks
VSAT link	64 Kbps	Equipment- Tk. 20 lacs Rent- Tk. 1 lac per month	Expensive, but independent of any third party interruption
Broadband	128 Kbps	Installation charge- Tk.1.5 lac (one time) Rent- Tk.90,000/month	Can be an intermediary solution for extending SDN's bandwidth
Leased line	28-33 Kbps	Rent- 30,000/month	Currently using, but too slow for large number of users

Table-3 shows alternate quotations from two of the available Broadband providers:

Table-3: Available Broadband providers

Description of Item	Gonophone	Neksus	Remarks
Installation charge	150,000	20,000	
Cost of 100 ft tower	125,000	125,000	
One pair 128 Kbps Modem	500,000	(100,000)	If we take lease of the equipment we do not need to buy them.
Equipment lease facility	No	20,000	
Monthly fee	135,000	90,000	
Annual Service Charge	25,000	No	
Fixed deposit (refundable)	No	20,000	
Total amount in Taka at time of installation	935,000	275,000	
Annual fee	1,620,000	1,080,000	

2. WAP connectivity:- To provide high speed data transfer in between selected SIAs/non-SIAs, and especially Dhaka-Mymensingh sub-nodes WAP/radio modem connectivity has been thought of. Since towers will be erected at the main node and sub-nodes, then without incurring any additional cost for the tower we can use it for mounting an omni-directional antenna providing 15 Km line of sight radio connectivity to them at low cost, which will be independent of telephone link. For this purpose, if one omni-directional antenna would be set up at the main node (costs nearly Tk. 100,000 for one access unit at BIDS and Tk. 75,000 for one subscriber unit at the user end).

Project expects that initially for making experimentation in this aspect UNDP and ADAB can be connected through this method inside Dhaka.

Sustainability

For making the programme sustainable, several initiatives will be taken from the project.

- **Networking Consultancy:-** SDNP technical team can provide networking consultancy to different educational institutes and non-government organizations for nominal pricing at not-for-profit cost basis (already similar consultancy has been given to IUCN Bangladesh and work is in progress with Manarat University);
- **UUCP Support:-** UUCP email support can be provided to the above types of organization at Tk. 10,000 per annum, while the commercial rate is minimum Tk. 24,000 per annum;
- **Lease line support:-** SDNP can provide dedicated lease line support to its partners at a cost of around Tk. 10,000 per month;
- **Broadband support:-** After implementation of pilot broadband connectivity, the project can provide this facility to other partners at their demand and create some extra fund.

A tentative tariff plan is being attached in Annex-6.

Institutional Collaboration

Several organizations have been contacted in the effort of making collaborative activities in the field of education, health, agriculture, etc. A draft of the implementation plan is in preparation and will be submitted to the Steering Committee.

Already a partnership proposal for establishing the Country Development Gateway of the World Bank in Bangladesh has been submitted in joint collaboration with a private organization, Desh Bangla Projekti Limited, a venture of Grameen Cybernet Ltd.

C) Constraints faced

1. The main problem faced during the last three quarters was the non-release of fund and it has put the project in stalemate. However, it is expected that from August 2001 project work could be done at full swing.
2. Procurement Problem:- Delay in procurement processes are making the activity slower at the implementation level.

D) Decisions Needed

1. Revision of the PIP:- The revised PIP has been submitted for approval of the Steering Committee. Several distinct modifications have been made:

Manpower: Manpower structure has been modified (Reflected in budget revision D and attached in Annex-3);

Equipment: In budget provision though a fixed fund has been allocated as non-expendable fund, but the number of equipment is quite insufficient for the project requirement. Project has revised the equipment requirement (Annex-4);

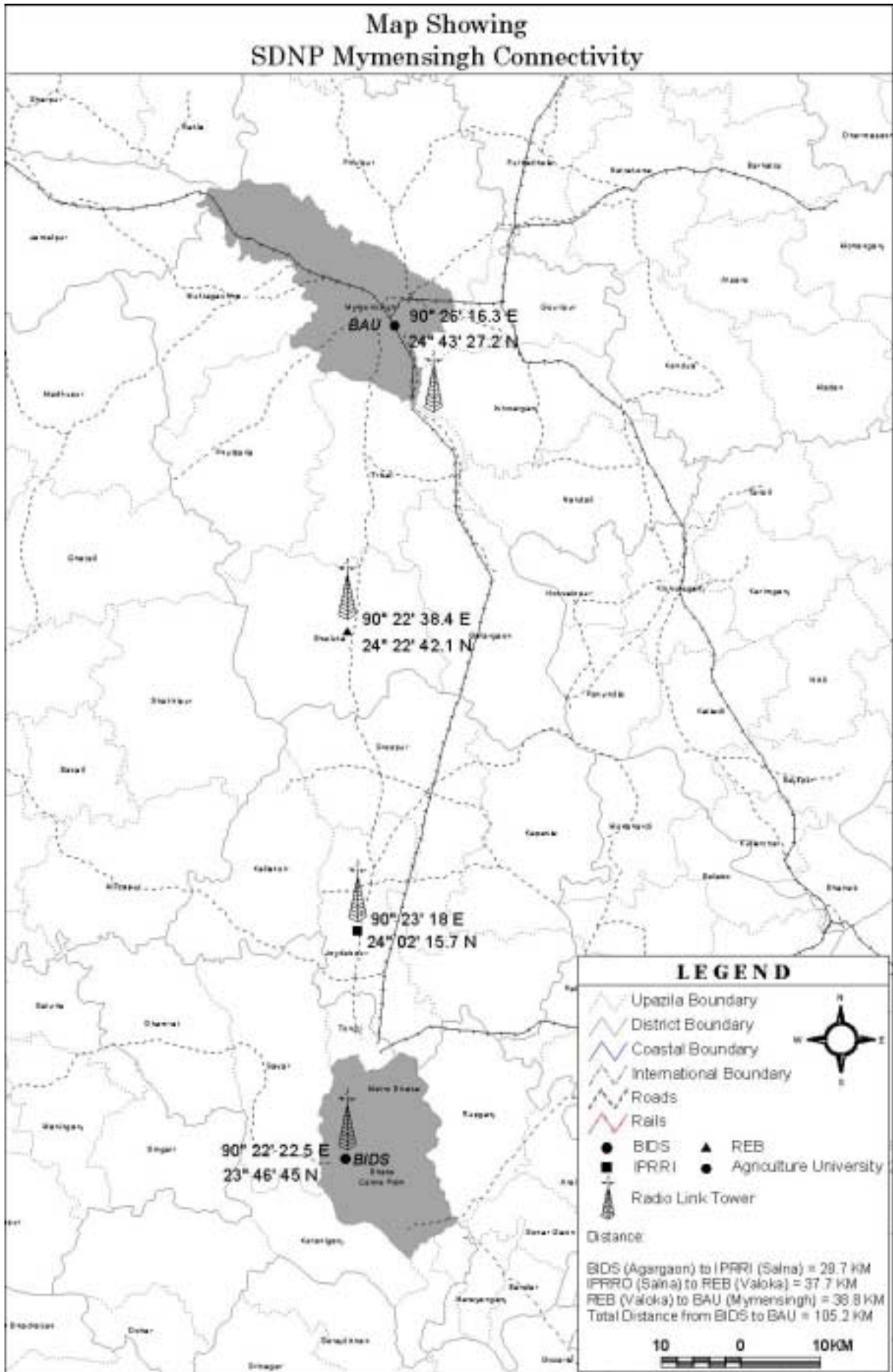
Project period: Due to non-release fund for about three quarters, many of the project objectives could not be achieved during that period and the project feels that the period should be extended until end of 2004;

Fund: To accommodate extended project period including stretched project activities, additional manpower and upgradation of equipment additional request for fund has been made (Annex-3).

2. Training of SDNP and DIBS Staff:- Two of SDNP personnel and one BIDS personnel need to be trained in web data base environment and ORACLE administration. Training programme will be conducted in Dhaka at BASE Limited premises and a total of Tk. 100,000 will be needed for this purpose.

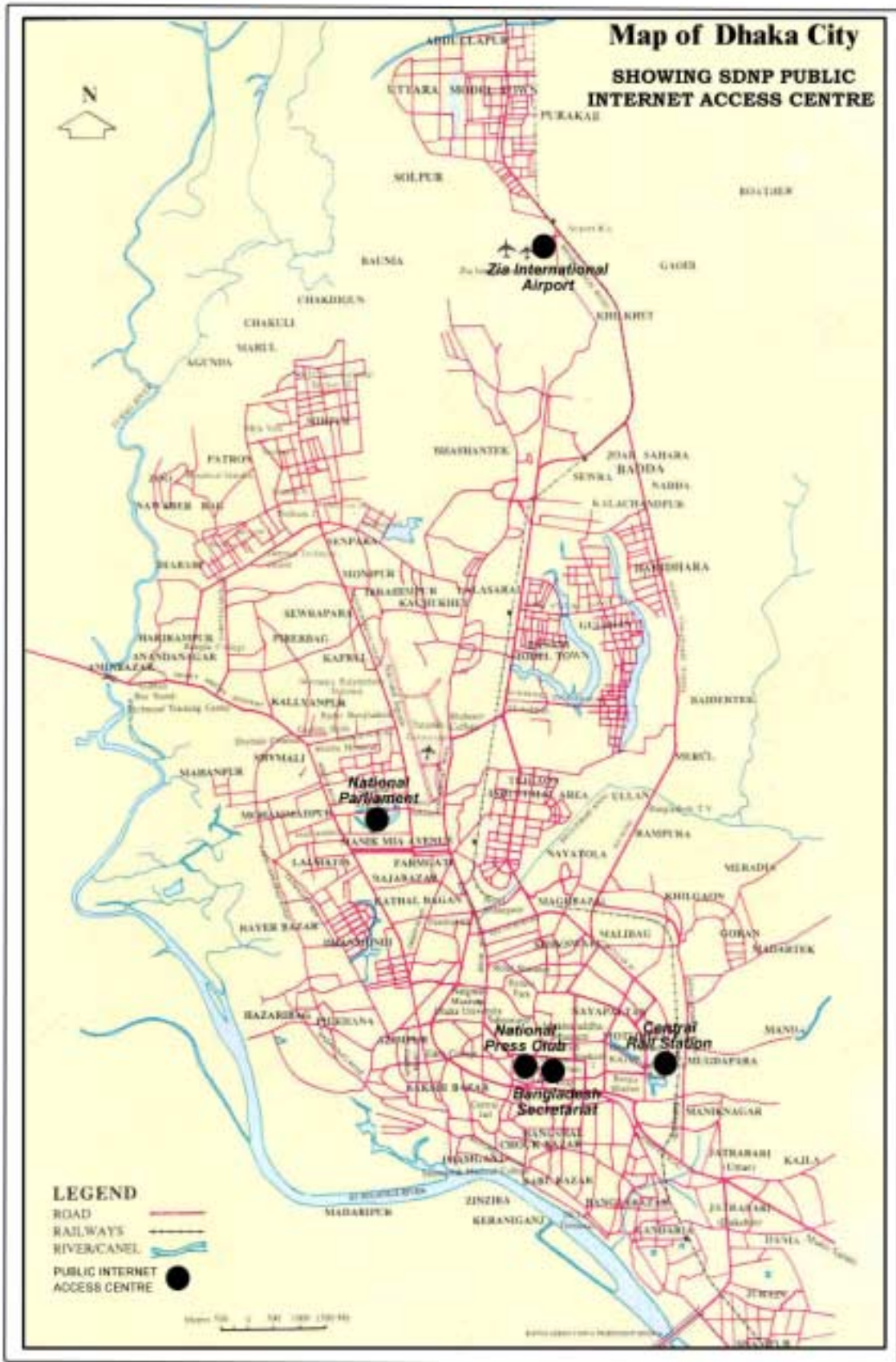
3. Main server's connectivity to Internet:- Singtel has been contacted again to provide VSAT services. However, as an interim arrangement, a 128 Kbps dedicated broadband connectivity from Gonophone/NEKSUS is suggested (Offer letters have been attached in Annex-4).
4. Connectivity to Mymensingh Node:- The link can be established
Direct telephone line: With a cost of Tk. 200,000 (approximately), operational cost unknown;
Radio modem: A minimum cost of 900,000 for two end points (4 towers @ Tk. 125,000 and two radio modem @150,000);
5. Gazipur Sub-node:- Radio modem seems to be the best possible connectivity to Mymensingh node with two hops in between the two destinations. At the first sub-node, the link will land in Salna providing connectivity to related research centres in Gazipur, then in the second stop over in Bhaluka, the link will land on REB office and at the final destination it is expected to land in Bangladesh Agricultural University campus.

Additional cost of nearly Tk. 250,000 will be needed for each sub-node in Gazipur (Salna, BRRI, RARI, BAI, BIT) (a map is attached in Annex-5).
6. Approval of the Sustainability Plan
7. Establishment of PACs.
8. Visit to successful SDNP:- It is the high time to visit one or two successful SDNP installations before implementing the main phase and the CDG initiative of the World Bank. This has also be a suggestion of the UN SDNP Mission that the project personnel should visit one or two successful SDN's abroad for becoming familiarized with the practical implementation plans.



Annex-2

Public Access Centres (PACs) in Dhaka



Annex-3

Synopsis of the Budget revision (Revision D)

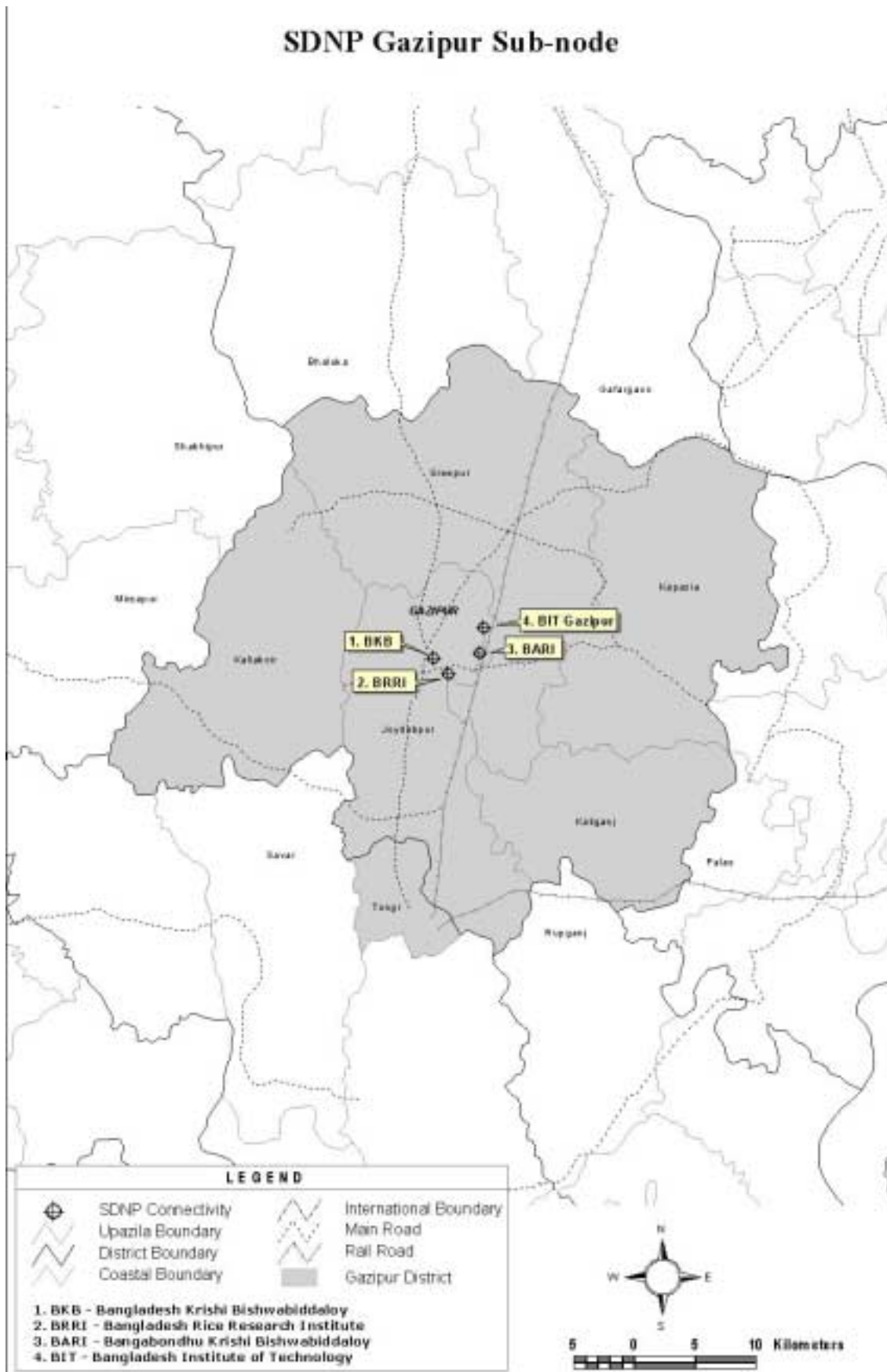
Budget Code and description	Revision C (Allocated)	Revision D (Revised)	Remarks
19: Personnel	575,557	843,729	Extended period up to December 2004 and inclusion of PAC personnel involves additional funding (46% increment)
29: Sub-Contracts	66,000	108,085	Technical installations and IT demonstrations require additional fund (63% increment)
39: Training	40,229	80,229	Regional Workshop and other root level workshops need additional fund (99% increment)
49: Equipment	695,000	807,000	Technological changes may create the possibility to use alternate methods and substantial modifications in all the nodes, which requires additional funding (16% increment)
59: Miscellaneous	84,214	182,391	This portion of budget includes sundries from where Internet bill (VSAT rent will have to be paid @USD2500 per month (116% increment)
99: UNDP and cost sharing (if any)	1,461,000	2,021,434	38% increment

Annex4

PIP Revision for Equipment (Revision D)

Description of Equipment	Budget provision in Revision C (allocated)	Modification in Revised Budget (Revision-D)	Remarks
VSAT equipment	None	One set	For main node
Server for HQ and region	12	12 (2+2+5+3)	2 terminal servers 2 main servers 5 regional servers 3 backup server
Desktop PC for HQ and region	31	95 (15+50+20+10)	15 main node 50 regional nodes 20 training room 10 cyber café
Desktop PC for Public Access Centres (PACs)	--	130	20 Press clubs 50 PAC Dhaka 50 PAC outside Dhaka 10 Cyclone shelter
Laser printer	31	31 (6+5+20)	6 main node 5 regional nodes 20 PACs
Laptop PC	1	3	1 in station usage 2 out station usage
LCD/OHP	6	6	1 LCD in Central node 5 OHP in regions
Scanner	6	7	2 at central node 5 in regions
Telephone	31	75	3 official use 47 ISP service and PACs 25 Regions
Generator	6	6 (1+5)	1 HQ 5 regions
Slide Projector	1	1	
UPS	31	50 (15+35)	15 HQ 35 regions
External Modem	31	55	5 HQ 50 regions
Hub	--	10	5 HQ 5 Regions
Network Switch	--	03	HQ
GSM Modem	--	10	For PACs
Modem Pool	--	02	HQ
Network Interface Card	--	200	100 HQ 100 Regions
Networking Toolkit	--	02	
Air Blower	--	01	

CD writer	--	02	
Fax Machine	--	01	
De-humidifier	--	01	
CD Duplicator	--	01	
Web camera	--	10	PACs and Regions
Digital Camera	--	01	
Network Web camera	--	02	HQ
Color Laser Printer	--	01	HQ
Router	--	01	Backup at HQ
Bandwidth Manager	--	01	
21" Color Monitor	--	01	
Wireless Router	--	04	
Parabolic Directional Antenna	--	10	Dhaka, Mymensingh, Salna, Bhaluka
Omni-directional Antenna	--	04	Dhaka, Mymensingh, Salna, Bhaluka
Wireless LAN PCI Card	--	05 (1+4)	
Wireless gateway	--	01	
Global Modem PCMCIA Card	--	01	
ADSL Modem	--	04	
Photocopier	--	01	
Additional Equipment	--	As and when necessary	Provision of fund extension for non- expendable.



Sustainability Plan

Tariff for Special Packages at not-for-profit basis

1) Email

Services	Client Group	Fee	Remarks
Email	SIA	Free	600 minutes free/month. For additional minutes accounts will be charged at Tk. 0.25
Email	Non-SIA	Free	400 minutes free/month. For additional minutes accounts will be charged at Tk. 0.25
Email and Internet (Individual user from Home)	SIA	T.k. 0.25/- per minute (minimum 50 hrs slot @ Tk. 750/-)	Setup charge-300/- on site

2) Internet Browsing

Services	Client Group	Fee	Remarks
Email, Internet and LAN	BIDS	1000/- (5000 minutes slot)	Setup charge-Free
Email, Internet and LAN	BIDS	1500/- (8000 minutes slot)	Setup charge-Free

3) UUCP Account

Services	Client Group	Fee	Remarks
UUCP	SIA/ Hosted by SDNP	10,000/- per year	Setup Charge- Free Minor maintenance- free (Commercial charges are around Tk.24,000/- per year)
UUCP	SIA/ Not hosted by SDNP	15,000/- per year	Setup Charge- 1000/- Minor maintenance- free
UUCP	Non-SIA	20,000/- per year	Setup Charge- 2000/- Minor maintenance- 200/- per call

4) Web Site Hosting

Services	Client Group	Fee	Remarks
Web Hosting (USA)	SIA	25,000/- per year	Package includes 2 year's domain registration, 1 year's 20 MB hard disk space and hosting at a reliable server in USA.
Web Hosting (SDNP)	SIA	5,000/- per year	Package includes 2 year's domain registration, 1 year's 20 MB hard disk space and hosting at the SDNP server in Dhaka (Excellent as a mirror server).

5) Corporate Lease Line

Services	Client Group	Fee	Remarks
With Telephone	SIA	15,000/- per month	
Without Telephone	SIA	10,000/- per month	

6) WAP Services (Planned)

Services	Client Group	Fee	Remarks
Radio Modem	SIA	Fixed at later stage	Services will be offered as per availability
Alternate Technologies	SIA	Fixed at later stage	Services will be offered as per availability

Terms and Conditions

- All payments have to be made in advance.
- One month free maintenance after installation.
- Above tariffs are made on single user basis.
- No security deposits.
- No monthly line charge.
- No hidden charge.
- Above charges do not include any Government taxes and SDNP reserves the right to accommodate such charges, if applicable.

SDNP reserves the rights to change the tariffs and Terms and Conditions any time for the benefit of the project.