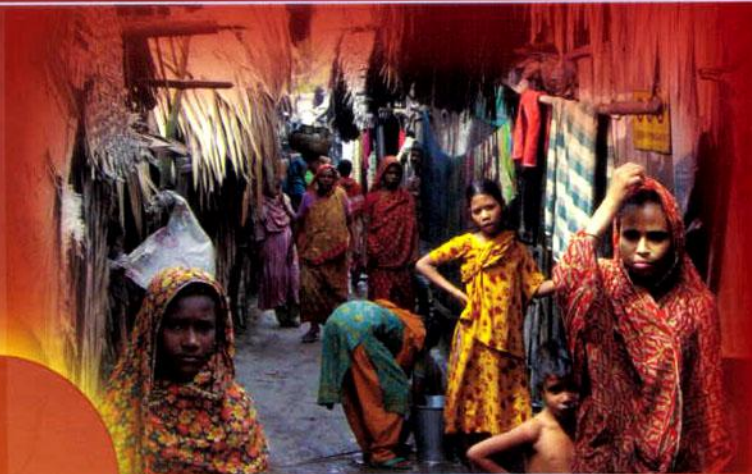


# URBAN PARTNERSHIPS FOR POVERTY REDUCTION (UPPR) PROJECT

LGED/UNDP/DFID Project BGD/07/009



**DFID**

Department for  
International  
Development



Bangladesh

## Context

The Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction (UPPR) Project is supporting the implementation of strategies that respond to the challenges of urban poverty reduction in the context of Bangladesh's rapid urbanisation. Bangladesh's urban population is growing at an estimated 3.6 percent per year; at this rate, the urban population will reach 50 million by 2015. In the six large cities, about 35 percent of the population live in slums, 20 percent are poor, and 23 percent are extremely poor.



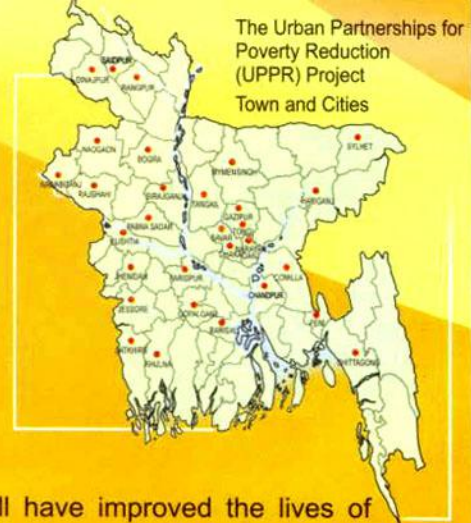
## Brief Description

The Project is improving the livelihoods and living conditions of three million urban poor people, especially women and girls, during the period 2008-2015. The project, costing about USD 120 million, is funded by the UK Department for International Development, UNDP, the Government of Bangladesh, and the beneficiary communities. The implementing partners are the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Local Government Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Government of Bangladesh, UNDP, UN-Habitat and other UN agencies.

The project delivers programmes of physical infrastructure and services improvement, socio-economic development, and community and local government capacity building in thirty towns and cities. It also supports partnership development and pro-poor policy advocacy. UPPR builds on the successful community-centred approach of the UNDP-funded Local Partnerships for Urban Poverty Alleviation Project (LPUPAP), which was implemented in eleven towns and cities during the period 2000-2007.

UPPR will eventually be implemented in the following Pourashavas (Municipalities) and City Corporations:-

- Barisal
- Bogra
- Chandpur
- Chittagong
- Comilla
- Dhaka
- Dinajpur
- Faridpur
- Feni
- Gazipur
- Gopalganj
- Hobiganj
- Jessore
- Jhenaidaha
- Khulna
- Kushtia
- Mymensingh
- Narayanganj
- Naogaon
- Nawabganj
- Padma Sadar
- Rajshahi
- Rangpur
- Saidpur
- Satkhira
- Savar
- Sirajganj
- Sylhet
- Tangail
- Tongi



## Project Outcomes

UPPR supports programmes that, when completed, will have improved the lives of three million urban poor people. Specifically:-

- 2.5 million people living in urban slums will have improved access to basic services;
- 2 million urban poor people, of whom 50 percent are women and girls, will have improved incomes and assets;
- Programmes will be developed and implemented to improve the lives of the urban, extreme poor population;
- Partnerships will be established between local governments, urban poor communities, civil society and private sector;
- Town economic development and poverty reduction strategies will be developed and implemented;
- Community access to sources of finance for housing improvements and livelihoods improvement will be established.



## Project Outputs

### Output 1. Mobilised communities

Urban poor and extremely poor communities mobilised and supported to form representative, inclusive and well-managed groups.

- Urban poor and extremely poor communities form Primary Groups, of about 20 households, Community Development Committees (CDCs), Clusters of CDCs, Town Federations and cross-community common interest associations with 70 percent of leadership positions taken by women;
- Community Action Plans (CAP) developed using participatory research and analysis techniques and the needs of the community identified and prioritized.

## **Output 2. Improved living environments**

Urban poor and extremely poor communities supported to create healthy and secure living environments.

- Community contracting system established for infrastructure and services improvements, such as water supply, sanitation, drainage, waste management, street lighting, and community centres;
- Improvements in security of tenure, increased investment in housing improvements and improvement in community and family health status.

## **Output 3. Increased incomes and assets**

Urban poor and extremely poor people supported to acquire the resources, knowledge and skills needed to increase their incomes and assets

- Urban poor and extremely poor households have increased incomes and assets and remain out of poverty for at least two years;
- Urban poor and extremely poor families have access to formal financial services;
- Improvements in social conditions such as reduction in dowry and increase in the age of marriage for girls;
- Increase in the percentage of girls completing secondary education and women's participation in economic activities.



## Output 4. Pro-poor urban policies

Development and implementation of pro-poor policies and practices supported in partnership with others.

- MDGs localised to town level and town level economic development and poverty reduction strategies prepared and implemented with participation of all stakeholders including urban poor and extremely poor communities;
- Urban poor and extremely poor community development funds established to ensure post-project funding for community infrastructure, housing improvements and livelihoods activities;
- Partnerships between government and donors formed so that pro-poor policies are developed and implemented and there is an increase in donor and government funds directed towards urban poverty alleviation;
- Programme for capacity building of local government officials and elected representatives and communities leaders;
- Peer-group learning processes established including town networks and international exchange programmes for community leaders as well as government officials and elected representatives;
- Development of knowledge products and implementation of communications strategy



## Implementation Strategies

### Community Empowerment

- UPPR uses the proven approach of supporting communities to form Primary groups, Community Development Committees, Clusters of CDCs and town-level Federations. Community-based savings groups, with technical support from the project, build mutual trust and financial management capacities. At least 75 percent of the leaders are women.
- Cross-community associations are supported as needed to bring together people with common interests based on livelihoods (e.g. egg producers), health issues (e.g. access to affordable maternal health care) or social problems (e.g. dowry).

## Settlements Improvement

- The project funds and provides technical support for the development and implementation of community contracts for the construction of basic services such as sanitation and water supply, improvements in access and environmental improvements such as drainage, solid waste management and cleaning of ponds;
- Communities are supported in their efforts to improve the planning of settlements and make qualitative improvements to their houses;
- Communities are helped to negotiate improvements in security of tenure through community land purchase or leasing, land sharing or, where necessary, voluntary relocation. Community groups are formed to improve their negotiating position with common land owners.

## Livelihoods Improvement

- The project funds apprenticeship and vocational training programmes leading to wage employment and the development of technical and managerial capacity of those with demonstrated entrepreneurial aptitudes;
- The emphasis is on supporting access to livelihood opportunities that are outside the slum-based economy through developing links with town-level private sector organisations such as trade and industry based federations;
- The project provides support to communities to encourage girls to reach higher levels of educational attainment and for training of women who wish to enter the labour market or enhance their entrepreneurship skills

- Urban agricultural activities are supported as an economic activity and as way of improving family nutritional status.

## Support for the Extreme Poor

- The project, working with urban poor communities, NGOs and the Government, is developing strategies that support economic and social development of the urban extreme poor, vulnerable and marginalised;



- These include community-based programmes to support the disabled, elderly, single person and female headed households;
- The project works with NGOs and specialised agencies to meet the needs of pavement dwellers, street children and other marginalised and vulnerable groups who do not live in settled communities.

## **Town Level Economic Development and Poverty Reduction**

- The project provides technical and financial support for the preparation of town economic development and poverty reduction strategies with the participation of local government, private sector, civil society, academic institutions and urban poor community representatives.



## **Capacity Building**

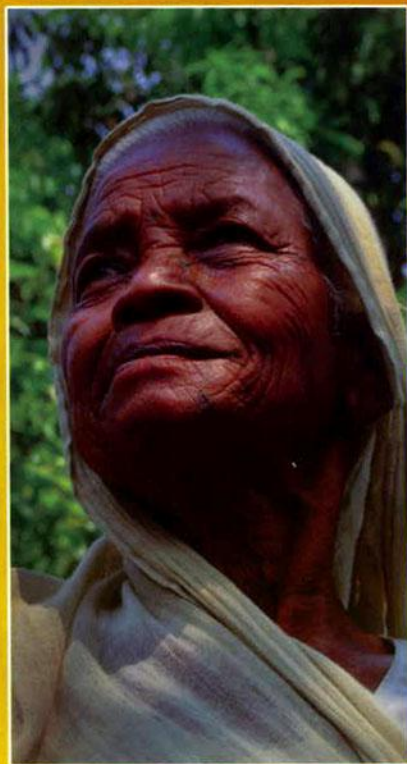
- The basis of the project's capacity building approach is to build long term sustainable relationships between urban poor community leaders, the local government and service providers. This is done through a combination of direct training, peer learning processes and community to community, town to town and international exchange programmes.

## **Social Problems**

- Communities are supported to overcome social problems such as early marriage, dowry, domestic violence and drug abuse through mutual support programmes, links to specialised NGOs and government programmes.

## **Policy Advocacy**

- The project is pro-actively supporting pro-poor policy development and implementation at both national and local government levels through knowledge products, international and regional experience-sharing and a communications strategy publicising best practices;
- Partnerships are being formed between government and donors to discuss, develop strategies and provide funding for programmes that will enable the Government of Bangladesh to meet the existing and future challenges of urbanisation and urban poverty reduction and to meet its targets under the Millennium Development goals.



## For Further Information

### UNDP

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