

Summary of DFID's work in Bangladesh 2011-2015

April 2011

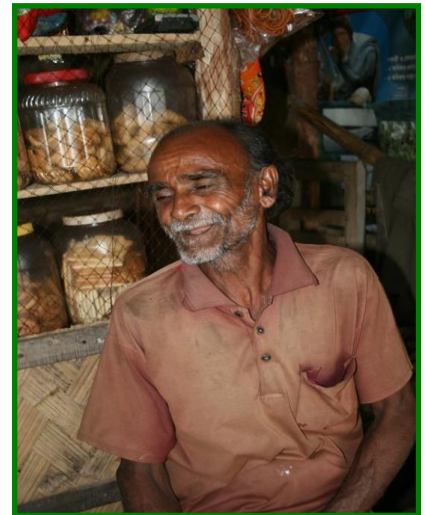
Why we work in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is a country with enormous potential. Since the early 1990s, the economy has grown by five to six percent a year and the country has weathered the recent global financial crisis well. Alongside its economic achievements, Bangladesh has made some good progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), most notably in reducing income poverty, getting nearly all girls and boys enrolled in primary schools, and reducing child and maternal mortality.

But Bangladesh is poor, populous, rapidly urbanising, highly vulnerable to natural disasters and already experiencing the effects of climate change.

High levels of poverty and inequality exist, with 50% of the population living on less than \$1.25 (£ 0.77) per day and 80% on less than \$2.00 (£1.22). Population growth is a continuing challenge, with 160 million people living in an area the size of England and Wales. One in fifteen children die before they reach five years old, and around 130,000 babies die every year in their first month of life. Thirty per cent of women are undernourished and 7,332 die each year due to complications of pregnancy and childbirth.

Bangladesh is most off track on MDG7 (access to water and sanitation) and MDG5 (improving maternal health), though data from the 2010 maternal mortality survey show significant progress over the last decade, giving cause for real optimism that strategies are working. State capacity to finance and deliver social services, however, remains weak and hampered by unstable politics and substantial fiduciary risks.



'I feel relieved after opening the store. There was a time when my wife and I would eat just once a day. Now we eat thrice!' Bano Mali, a shop owner. (DFID)



'Before (the project) maternal death was dangerously high. But now, the rate has gone down thanks to facilities offered under the ongoing maternal health programme'. Zohra Akhater, a nursing supervisor. Project: Accelerating Progress of Maternal Health (DFID)

What we will achieve

- Help to lift five million people out of extreme poverty and help at least 1.15 million people to better cope with the devastating effects of floods
- Help to ensure 1.5 million more girls and boys complete a full cycle of primary education
- Ensure 1.2 million births are assisted by skilled carers.
- Provide access to improved water sources for at least 1.2 million people and improved sanitation for at least 600,000 people
- Strengthen the Government's ability to provide basic services to its people, by advising the government on how to raise taxes to invest in healthcare and other essential programmes

Who we will work with

The UK has a strong track record of delivering flexibly and effectively in partnership with others. We will continue to work closely with Government of Bangladesh, international agencies such as the UN, other donor countries and civil society organisations.

We will also work closely with other UK government departments to contribute directly to the UK's key objectives of security and prosperity for Bangladesh.



How we will work

We will work harder towards goals in wealth creation, health, education, water and sanitation, poverty, hunger and vulnerability, climate change (including disaster preparedness), and governance and security. Our 2011-2015 portfolio will build on tried and tested approaches, whilst allowing for innovation and learning within programmes. We will maintain a diverse spread of projects which will balance direct support for poor people in the short term with building national and regional government capacity and stimulating economic growth over the medium to long term. All our work will focus on results, use of evidence of impact and value for money. Delivery partners will share the responsibility for demonstrating that UK tax payers' money has been effectively used to achieve real change for Bangladesh.

'We are working for the rights of children all over Bangladesh to help them and their families come out of poverty with UK aid. It has been established that UCEP is providing **'good value for money'** to poor underprivileged children', Brig. Gen. Aftab Uddin Ahmed (Retd.), Executive Director, Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs (DFID)

We will be guided by the UK's new commitments on transparency, with actions including:

- A new Aid Information Management System, which will help Government to collate, analyse and share data on donors' projects;
- Public financial management reforms that facilitate transparency on budgetary information across the Government of Bangladesh;
- Work with Transparency International Bangladesh and other civil society actors to facilitate dialogue between the Government of Bangladesh and citizens on transparency and accountability in service delivery (including health, education, legal services);
- An e-registry of all the international treaties, laws and regulations affecting businesses in Bangladesh.

More information

For a more detailed breakdown of Bangladesh's Operational Plan, please visit: www.dfid.gov.uk/bangladesh

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