



The World Bank

Bangladesh 2005 Fact Sheet

BANGLADESH DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Bangladesh is the 10th most rapidly growing economy among 31 large developing countries with populations above 20 million, with GDP growth averaging 5% since 1990s.
- Income poverty in Bangladesh declined by 1 percentage point per year since 1990 – faster than almost all other developing countries.
- Primary school enrollment is almost 100% - one of the highest rates in the developing world. The ratio of girls to boys in primary school is higher than most developing countries.
- Bangladesh is the only country to have eradicated polio in South Asia. 77% of all children are immunized before age 2, a national coverage rate far exceeding that of India or Pakistan.
- Bangladesh has consistently allocated its budget in a pro-poor way, injecting substantial public resources into education and health. Bangladesh's military expenditures are the lowest by far of any country in the region, as a percentage of GDP.
- While infant and child mortality remains high, Bangladesh has reduced this scourge faster than any other developing country.
- Despite progress, governance and corruption remain a major concern in Bangladesh. Bangladesh performs poorly relative to other low income countries in political stability, regulatory quality and control of corruption.

WORLD BANK PROGRAMS IN BANGLADESH

- Bangladesh is the World Bank's third largest borrower of IDA credits (concessional, no-interest credits repayable in 35 to 40 years). In FY05, the World Bank committed \$600 million to Bangladesh -- equivalent to \$4.5 per capita -- aimed at supporting growth and empowering the poor through health, education and community development.
- Supporting the Government's *Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRSP)*, a *Country Assistance Strategy (CAS)* is being prepared, jointly with DFID, ADB and Japan. The CAS puts governance at center stage. Empowering the poor and improving the investment climate are its two program pillars.

Governance

- The World Bank is supporting public procurement reform -- the Public Procurement Law prepared with World Bank assistance now governs all public purchases.
- Core governance reforms in public administration, financial management, tax & customs administration, public expenditure management, bank regulation and supervision are being supported by World Bank policy-based *Development Support Credits (DSC)*. DSCs also support strengthening of the Controller and Auditor General, operationalization of the Anti-Corruption Commission, as well as a range of sector governance reforms, in the health sector, education, energy, telecoms deregulation, and closure of state-owned enterprises.

Education

- The World Bank is providing \$150m to *Primary Education Development Program (PEDP II)* to reduce drop-out rates, improve teaching quality and ensure timely delivery of textbooks.
- The World Bank provided \$51m to educate 500,000 currently out-of-school children
- A \$53m credit is financing literacy education for non-literate citizens over school-going age
- A *National Registration and Certification Authority*, to ensure only qualified teachers are certified and allowed to teach, was supported by World Bank's *Secondary Education DSC*.

Health and access to safe water

- The World Bank provided \$300 million to improve maternal and infant mortality and improve delivery of health services, leading a Consortium of other donors in *HNPSP*.

- To combat escalation of HIV/AIDS, the World Bank is providing \$18 million for AIDS prevention and outreach programs targeted at drug users and sex workers.
- Dhaka's air quality improved as vehicular pollutant emission was brought down by 40%, with the help of the World Bank's \$5 million *Air Quality Improvement Project*.
- Over 4000 villages now have access to arsenic-free drinking water, under the World Bank's \$48 million *Arsenic Mitigation and Water Supply Program* projects.

Energy and Infrastructure

- Access to markets has been provided to rural producers via rehabilitation of 3000 km of rural roads, under the World Bank's *Rural Transport Improvement* project.
- Electricity was provided to over 233,000 rural households via 13,000 km of transmission lines, financed by the World Bank's \$190m *Rural Electrification Project*.
- Traffic speeds increased and travel times were reduced in Dhaka, following completion of the World Bank's *Dhaka Urban Transport Project*.

Empowering the poor

- Over 400,000 families falling victim to 2004's floods received income support through the World Bank's *Flood Rehabilitation* assistance.
- Some 7500 households in Bangladesh's five poorest districts will receive support during the *Monga season*, to mitigate hunger and deprivation, under *Social Investment Program* project.

RESULTS AND OUTCOMES OF WORLD BANK PROGRAMS

- Government's new Public Procurement Regulations aim at transparency and competition in tendering; the World Bank's *Public Procurement Reform Project* provided support.
- 78,000 government schools all over Bangladesh provide education to more than 17 million children under the *Primary Education Development Program (PEDP II)*
- More than 700,000 girls receive stipends under the World Bank's *Female Secondary Education Assistance Program*.
- Over 540 community-driven learning centers have begun to provide education to children from poorest and most marginalized segments of the society through *Reaching Out-of-School Children* project.
- Half a million infant deaths and over 20,000 maternal deaths have been prevented through the *Health and Population Sector Program* supported by the World Bank and donors.
- *HNPSP* also supports 23,000 health centers across Bangladesh which provide health care services to more than 5 million households.
- 98 hospitals introduced HIV-safe blood transfusion centers supported by the World Bank.
- *Financial services for the Poorest* provides more than 50,000 households with small scale loans to improve their earnings.
- Communities are implementing over 900 small-scale local infrastructure projects such as rural roads, tube-wells, culverts and school repairs under the *Social Investment Program* project's community-driven development programs.
- Solar home systems provide lighting to over 50,000 households and power small businesses in remote rural areas, funded by the World Bank's *Rural Electrification and Renewable Energy* project.
- State enterprise losses fell by 60% and loan defaults in the nationalized commercial banks fell 9%, under the World Bank's *Enterprise Growth and Bank Modernization Project*.
- Power sector system losses fell by 6%, and bill collection rose to 99%, up from 84% in 2002, with support from the World Bank's ongoing operations and policy dialog.

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