

Our Development Objectives

Over the last ten years Bangladesh has made impressive gains in key human development indicators. According to the 2008 UNDP Human Development Index Statistical Update, Bangladesh ranked 147 among 179 countries with an HDI score of 0.524, placing it among countries considered to have achieved medium human development. However, even though Bangladesh has taken considerable steps towards poverty alleviation, many challenges remain. More than 63 million people live below the poverty line, the constant threat of sudden shocks - natural and manmade - the uncertain impact of globalization and an increasingly competitive international trade environment impede higher growth rates. In addition, structural changes in rural Bangladesh have spurred rapid economic migration with the related complexities of rising urban poverty, lack of decent work and adequate shelter in urban areas. Bangladesh thus faces considerable challenges in order to sustain and build on the achievements of the last decade and to remain on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

UNDP is uniquely placed to support the Government of Bangladesh in addressing these challenges. Its neutrality, need-responsive interventions leveraging its access to global best-practices, and trusted partnership with the Government enable donor coordination and resource mobilization in critical but sensitive areas that intersect national priorities and UNDP's global mandate.

Given these challenges, and reflecting UNDP's unique position in relation to both Government and development partners, our development objectives focus on five key areas:

1. Democratic governance and human rights
2. Sustainable environmental and energy management
3. Economic growth and poverty alleviation
4. Reduction of social and economic vulnerability
5. Gender equality and the advancement of women

Founded on the international human rights standards, UNDP takes a rights-based approach for all development activities and integrates the principles of equality and equity, accountability, empowerment and participation into all its programmatic interventions. The commitment to this approach combined with UNDP's comparative advantage of technical expertise and 'on the ground' practical experience supported by knowledge of best practices gleaned from our global network put UNDP Bangladesh in a powerful position to support the Government of Bangladesh advance the human development of all its citizens.