

PROJECT FACTSHEET

POVERTY ENVIRONMENT CLIMATE MAINSTREAMING



CONTEXT

Poverty, growth and environmental sustainability are inextricably bound together in Bangladesh. Despite significant progress in reducing population growth in the recent past Bangladesh continues to face huge challenges to sustain these trends while at the same time preventing environmental degradation.

The combined impact of these challenges is daunting. Environmental degradation factors into poor health indicators and thus affects household well-being. Pollution from industries and chemical fertilizers wreak havoc on the country's freshwater and those who depend on this water. Land degradation resulting in the loss of land, farming areas, soil erosion, wetland habitats and forests, and affects the poor, who depend on the productivity of these natural resources, most severely. Bangladesh's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change similarly poses a critical challenge to these people, who live and depend on marginal lands. The predicted rise in sea levels of around 30cm by 2050, is likely to make an additional 14% of the country extremely vulnerable to floods by 2030, placing further pressure on the population and on resource use patterns.

Compounding this are the challenges of governance and coordination in Bangladesh. It is vital that environment and climate issues that matter to the poor are "mainstreamed" into these multiple Government institutions, from Planning to Finance ministries and across multiple implementing agencies.

ACTION

Poverty environment and climate change mainstreaming aims to reverse environmental degradation and adaptation in ways that will benefit the poor, and that facilitate sustainable economic development. The indicators for successful PECM



PROJECT SNAPSHOT

- OFFICIAL TITLE: Capacity Building for the Planning Commission: Poverty Environment Climate Mainstreaming (PECM)
- TIMEFRAME: 2010-2013
- DEVELOPMENT PARTNER: UNDP, PEI (UNDP/UNEP)
- IMPLEMENTING PARTNER: General Economics Division, Planning Commission, Ministry of Planning.
- OVERALL BUDGET: US\$ 1 million

are institutions, policies and investments that do not undermine pro-poor environment and adaptation outcomes, and instead positively contribute to livelihoods of both men and women.

The overall goal of Poverty Environment Climate Mainstreaming project is to provide the catalytic support that will secure these goals. The project seeks to enhance the institutional capacity of targeted national stakeholders, allowing them to integrate poverty-environment-climate

(PEC) linkages into national development planning and budget processes. This integration promotes more sustainable economic development in Bangladesh, and helps ensure that the livelihoods of Bangladesh poor are not undermined by the unsustainable use of natural resources or lack of consideration of the current and future impacts of climate change.

The project follows a two-prong approach that seeks to:

- Support the integration of climate change and environmental considerations into national development planning and budgeting processes
- Enhance UN's country assistance to provide effective support towards climate-resilient poverty reduction efforts

The Planning Commission and the General Economic Division specifically, is mandated with planning for Bangladesh's macro-economic development. They are thus well placed among Government agencies to address issues of mainstreaming poverty, environment and climate change considerations into the planning process.

The Bangladesh PECM project is part of an Asia Pacific regional and global Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI) run by UNDP and UNEP. In Asia-Pacific, PEI is at different stages of development in Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal, PNG, Thailand and Timor Leste, with Philippines and Sri Lanka under discussion.

IMPACT

The PECM project is deliberately targeted at the policy level in Bangladesh, to complement the growing number of on-the-ground climate change interventions. The impact of this policy focus will be measured through the long-term planning benefits across government, but also by the security of the population, especially the poor, against the multiple threats of environmental degradation, poverty and climate change.

Project support for the development and dissemination of analysis on the economic and social impacts of climate change will support greater evidence-based climate planning. Strengthening this evidence base will help integrate PEC issues into national planning documents and sectoral strategies. In addition, national level training and advocacy and improvements in knowledge management will result in the strengthened capacity of institutions like GED to advocate, integrate and plan for climate change issues across Government.



REVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION IN WAYS THAT WILL BENEFIT THE POOR, AND THAT FACILITATE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

KEY RESULTS

- Develop and disseminate analysis of linkages between social and economic factors, climate change and key development priorities (e.g. agriculture, infrastructure, trade, food security, gender equality and poverty reduction).
- PEC issues integrated into key national planning documents
- PEC issues integrated into key sectoral strategies
- National level training, advocacy and knowledge management on PEC mainstreaming through dissemination of analysis and findings
- Improvement of the development budget system to ensure adequate investment in PECM related purposes.

DONORS:



IMPLEMENTING PARTNER:



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