



# MEDIA RELEASE

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ATTENTION: NEWS EDITOR

## Government and UN signs five-year plan

*United Nations Country Team aims to raise US\$ 249.2 million for Bangladesh development over next five years*

**DHAKA:** The Government and the United Nations (UN) country team in Bangladesh today signed an agreement that outlines UN support aimed at assisting the nation as it strives to meet development challenges over the next five years. The agreement, known as the **United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2006 – 2010 (UNDAF)**, aims to raise US\$ 249.2 million dollars for Bangladesh in six priority areas.

The six areas, as outlined in the UNDAF are: Democratic Governance and Human Rights (mobilization target US\$ 62.1 million dollar), Health, Nutrition and Sustainable Population (mobilization target US\$ 29.4 million dollar), Education and Pro-Poor Growth (mobilization target US\$ 101.35 million dollar), Social Protection and Disaster Risk Reduction (mobilization target US\$ 31.7 million dollar), Gender Equity and Advancement of Women (mobilization target US\$ 19.95 million dollar) and Prevention and Protection against HIV/AIDS (mobilization target US\$ 4.7 million dollar).

The UNDAF process is undertaken every five years with the aim of coordinating UN activities at the country level. This approach is one component of the UN Reforms being implemented in countries all over the world, including Bangladesh. Each new *Framework* builds on the achievements and progress made previously.

As part of the process, the UN agencies working in Bangladesh, and in close consultation with the Government, completed a **Common Country Assessment (CCA)**, which details the state of development in Bangladesh. The CCA used a rights-based approach clustered around the four groups of rights - survival, livelihoods, protection and participation. This analytical approach distinguishes the CCA from the more target driven focus of the *Bangladesh MDG Progress Report* and the *Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP)*.



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The CCA indicates that over the last decade or so, Bangladesh has made impressive gains in key human development indicators. The most recent UNDP Human Development Report ranked Bangladesh 138 among 177 countries with a Human Development Index (HDI) score of 0.509, which is consistent with medium human development. This implies that the country enjoys improved macroeconomic stability, lower population growth, greater women's empowerment, reduced aid dependency, increased food security, more effective disaster management capacity, more active non-governmental organisations (NGOs), free and fair parliamentary elections, a vibrant and pluralist civil society marked by cultural activism and developmental debates, and an active and free press.

However, over 63 million people still live below the poverty line, under the constant threat of sudden shocks, natural and manmade, the uncertain impact of globalisation, 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. 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.

Based on the gaps and challenges highlighted in the CCA, in the first Bangladesh MDG Progress Report 2005, and in the PRSP, the Government and the UN Country Team identified six national priority areas to be addressed under the UNDAF 2006 - 2010.

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