

LOCAL POVERTY REDUCTION CLUSTER



Cluster Portfolios

Portfolio:	REOPA-CST
Imp. Agency:	UNDP, Ministry of Local Government Division
Budget:	US \$30 Million
Portfolio:	UPPR
Imp. Agency:	LGED, MoLGRD, GoB, UNDP, UN-Habitat
Budget:	US \$120 Million

OVERVIEW

The urban population is growing at approximately 4% per annum and it is estimated that the urban population will reach 50 million by 2015. An estimated 43% of urban households live in poverty and 35% of the population live in slums. While rural poverty was reduced from 52.2% to 43.8% in Bangladesh in 2005, 85% of the poor live in rural areas. 38% of the population is unemployed/underemployed, with one million additional job seekers annually. The cluster works to enable vulnerable groups in rural and urban areas to attain sustainable livelihoods, through providing safety nets and securing pro poor growth. Services include pilot projects/identification of best practices; policy advisory services; advocacy; and downstream project interventions. Two major national poverty reduction projects are underway in support of the Ministry of Local Government, while technical support was also provided to the Ministry of Industry.

REOPA - CST: The Rural Employment Opportunities for Public Asset -- Capacity Strengthening Team, with co-funding by the European Commission, provides technical, financial and managerial support to Local Government Institutions, local NGOs and the rural poor in 388 Unions across 6 districts. REOPA works closely with the LGD, and also with locally rooted NGOs. This safety net project employs very poor women and men in community-planned public work schemes, which enables these selected food insecure communities to achieve food security and to ease constraints that impede their economic and social well being.

UPPR: The Urban Partnership for Poverty Reduction (UPPR) project supports the mobilization and empowerment of urban poor communities through the development of partnerships with local governments, civil society and the private sector in 30 cities and municipalities. UPPR aims to improve the livelihoods and living conditions of 3 million urban poor by strengthening local government capacity. Through UPPR activities: Urban poor communities and groups are mobilized to create healthy and secure living environments; Urban poor families acquire resources and skills to increase their incomes and assets; Pro-poor urban policy environment is created, delivering benefits for the poor.

KEY RESULTS IN 2008

2008: Major Knowledge Products

1. REOPA and UPPR Operational Manuals
2. REOPA Training Manual
3. REOPA Brief on Gender Mainstreaming
4. REOPA Brief on Nutrition
5. REOPA Brief on Micro Entrepreneurship Development
6. Capacity Development Approach of REOPA-CST

- Promoted equitable space for women who now: Lead 1500 block grant committees in 388 unions; Implement 90% of the community contracts under REOPA; Discharge 75% of all office bearer positions in CDCs; Manage 85% of community saving groups; and represent 15 wards of city corporations as commissioners.
- More than 11,640 families were food secure, 11640 landless poor women earned daily wages amounting to \$5.1 million and saved a total of \$ 1.4 million. \$0.92 million cash were transferred to 388 union Parishads creating over 1000 public assets and ensuring 820,000 persons work days for the landless.
- Mobilized approximately \$ 4 Million additional resources for the road maintenance women crews in light of the food price increase.
- Built policy partnership with Ministry of Industry, developing national industrial policy.

PRIORITIES FOR 2009

- Consolidate the activities of the UPPR & REOPA CST and ensure timely delivery of \$ 25.80 million for the projects under programme cluster.
- Strengthen the CO's policy advisory services in the areas of pro-poor growth and poverty reduction in close collaboration with Ministry of Industry and Ministry of Local Government: Finalize the updating national Industrial Policy 2009 through consultation and also development of national web-portal of Ministry of Industry, -Organize International Conferences on a variety of urbanization issues and SSNPs.
- Deepen the knowledge base in the area of poverty reduction through collaborative research: Review, policy analysis and study on Micro Insurance, Rural-Urban Linkages, conditional cash transfer practices for identifying harmonized approach and existing social safety nets programmes to provide a comprehensive policy SSNP framework.
- Formulate a new programme on creating employment for local poverty reduction and mobilize resources.
- Enhance CO's women's empowerment and gender mainstreaming efforts across all clusters and projects.