

Country Fact Sheet

(February 2008)

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Facts

▪ Population	144.3m (2006)
▪ Population living below \$1 a day	36.0%
▪ Population living below \$2 a day	82.8 %
▪ Gross National Income per capita	\$490
▪ Gross Domestic Product per capita	\$1,870
▪ Life expectancy	65.1 years
▪ Infant mortality rate	41 per 1000 live births
▪ Under-five mortality rate	65 per 1000 live births
▪ Maternal mortality rate	320 per 100,000
▪ Equal numbers of girls and boys enrol in primary and secondary schools	

(Source: BBS, Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2007, WB and UNDP Human Development Report 2006)

Forward Look

- **Population growth:** population may be 200 million by 2035, and 240 million by 2050, in a country the size of UK.
- **Urbanisation:** in 2005 it was estimated that 35 million people (25% of the population) lived in urban areas. This could rise to 80 million by 2030. Dhaka will be among the world's largest mega cities.

What Are We Aiming For?

Bangladesh has sustained good growth rates, and seen poverty reduced significantly, over the past decade or so. But 40% of the population lives on less than \$1 a day; and 83% on less than \$2 a day. And almost 20 million (over 7%) are extreme poor, living on less than 16p a day.

Bangladesh wants to "Unlock its Potential", and aspires to becoming a middle income country with much reduced poverty by 2030. This is feasible, but challenging. By 2035, the population could be 200 million. Dhaka, the second fastest growing city in the world, could have a population of 50 million by 2050. 40% of the country could be flooded during the monsoon season, compared to 25% today.

The critical policy objectives are clear:

- strong, stable democracy based on rule of law;
- higher and more diversified economic growth;
- sound public finances and macro-economic management;
- more, and better quality, public services - health, education, water and sanitation;
- faster private sector growth, including more jobs/income opportunities for the poor.

UK's Role in Reducing Poverty in Bangladesh

The UK is a long standing partner of Bangladesh. We continue to stand with Bangladesh as it aspires to become an ever more stable, prosperous and democratic country, one that plays a constructive role in the global community.

The UK is the largest bilateral grant donor to Bangladesh. The Aid Framework has totalled £350m over the last 3 years, and stands at nearly £117 million for 2007/08. Bangladesh is the UK's second largest country programme after India.

DFID's focus for the period up to March 2009 is on supporting Bangladesh to achieve outcomes in four broad areas:

Better governance and security So that, for example: by 2012, government will have continued the work begun by the Caretaker Government in 2007 and will be actively fighting corruption, and accounting better for the money it spends; and by 2013, demands from the public will have greater impact on government action.

Progress indicators for March 2009:

- World Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) indicators for Government Effectiveness and Control of corruption improve from 2005 baseline.
- 50% of poor men and women in target areas report an active involvement in *shalish* (informal justice system)

To support this we are:

- Assisting the Ministry of Finance to improve government financial management and enhance the ability of the government to target resources according to need. (Financial Management Reform Programme, £18m over 5 years)
- Funding the Preparation of an Electoral Roll with Photographs (£10m over 3 years) for Bangladesh's Election Commission to prepare a credible voter roll for elections in 2008 and to establish the technical infrastructure capacity required for the Government of Bangladesh to maintain and update the voter roll thereafter.

Less extreme poverty and less vulnerability to disasters and climate change So that, for example: by 2013, 6 million Bangladeshis will be lifted out of extreme poverty; and by 2015, the underlying causes of *monga* (acute seasonal hunger) will be eliminated

Progress indicators for March 2009:

- DFID programme directly assist 150,000 people to avoid *monga* hunger
- Increased ownership of assets, including land and livestock

To support this we are:

- raising homesteads for extremely vulnerable people living on Chars sand islands in the Jamuna River in northern Bangladesh, protecting houses and assets from flooding. The Chars Livelihoods Programme (£50m over 8 years) also transfers assets to households and provides access to latrines and shallow tube wells.
- Providing £75m over 7 years (2007-14) to BRAC, for its Challenging the Frontiers of Poverty Reduction which aims to lift 4 million people out of extreme poverty in rural areas.
- Improving the livelihoods and living conditions of 3 million urban poor and extremely poor people, especially women and children, through the Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction project. This will be administered by UNDP, and will be implemented jointly by UNDP, UN-Habitat, NGOs and the Government of Bangladesh. (£60m over 7 years)
- Providing £65m Challenge Fund for large and small NGOs to uplift 1 million people in rural and urban areas from extreme poverty by 2015. The fund is being managed by a management agency.

Better basic services – education, health and water and sanitation – for the poor So that, for example: by 2015, 15% more students complete primary education; and by 2015,

all people benefit from improved hygiene practices and access to improved sanitation, and will have access to safe, reliable water.

Progress indicators for March 2009:

- Increase to 55% of people benefiting from access to sanitation.
- 5 million people have access to better hygiene as a result of DFID programmes.

To support we are:

- contributing £100m over 6 years (2004-10), through a pooled funding arrangement, involving 11 development partners managed by the Asian Development Bank (Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP) II). The programme improves the quality of education for 17 million primary school children in over 78,000 schools.
- Contributing £100m over 5 years (2006 – 2011) through a World Bank Multi-Donor Trust Fund, for the Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme (HNPS) to create a sustainable improvement to the health, nutrition and family welfare status of the population of Bangladesh, especially for those most vulnerable, e.g. the poor, women, children and the elderly.
- Helping to provide safe drinking water to some 2.5 million people currently at risk from arsenic contamination, through the Sanitation, Hygiene Education and Water Supply in Bangladesh (£36m over 5 years 2007-11).

Stronger private sector growth that directly benefits the poor So that, for example: by 2010, 2.5 million more poor people will get jobs in micro, small and medium enterprises; and by 2010, 2.5 million poor people will get better access to appropriate financial services, rural infrastructure and markets

By March 2009 we hope to see:

- 0.5m jobs for poor people sustained in micro, small and medium enterprises each year as a direct result of DFID programmes
- Recorded improvements in business climate

To support we are:

- Promoting Financial Services for Poverty Reduction (£40m over 7 years) to offer greater access to, and use of, diversified financial services for poor people, micro and small enterprises, and farmers.
- Providing 1.35 million new power connections to homes and businesses through the Rural Electrification Development Project (£50m over 5 years), benefiting over 10 million people in rural Bangladesh
- Working with the EC and IFC on the Business Investment Climate Fund (BICF - £20m over 7 years) to improve business regulations and reduce red tape and corruption. BICF will complement the DFID/World Bank Private Sector Development Support Programme (PSDSP), through which DFID will make significant investments (£20m over 7 years) in Special Economic Zones to promote specific growth sectors.

Joint Partnership and Harmonisation

The UK, along with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and Japan, contributes around 80% of all development assistance to Bangladesh. Partnership and harmonisation is likely to improve results and will hopefully make aid more effective. Bangladesh is becoming less dependent on aid, so a joint strategy of 'constructive engagement' developed by the Group of 4 will play an increasingly significant role. We are considering how this coordination can be extended to all Donor partners in Bangladesh. We are also involved in the current evaluation of the Paris Declaration in Bangladesh, looking at how well donors coordinate and work effectively with the Government of Bangladesh.