



PROJECT FACTSHEET

Union Parishad Governance Project (UPGP)

CONTEXT

The Union Parishad Governance Project (UPGP) has evolved from the success of two projects implemented earlier by the Local Government Division (LGD). The first one was the Sirajganj Local Governance Development Fund Project (SLGDFFP) implemented in Sirajganj district during 2000-2006, and the second was the Local Government Support Project - Learning and Innovation Component (LGSP-LIC) implemented during 2007-2011 in 388 unions of 41 Upazilas under Sirajganj, Habiganj, Satkhira, Feni, Narsingdi and Barguna districts.

Inspired by the success of these pilots, the Government of Bangladesh, UNDP and UNCDF, saw the opportunity to build a third generation of institutional reforms and innovations in this area; they conceived and established UPGP which commenced in December 2011, as part of an overall programmatic framework of support from UNDP and UNCDF to the Government of Bangladesh's local governance reform initiatives.

ACTION

The main objectives of UPGP are to support the Government of Bangladesh in meeting the Millennium Development Goals through effective, inclusive, participatory and democratic local government. The expected results are: deepened local representative democracy to enhance accountability; improved pro-poor and Millennium Development Goals oriented service delivery by local government institutions; strengthened national policy and systems and strengthened institutions for local government. While the LGSP-LIC concentrated more on the demand side of governance (citizens' participation) at the local level, this project aims at the supply side of governance (strengthening institutional capacity of the LGIs). With the support from EU, DANIDA, UNDP and UNCDF, the project is being implemented by the Local Government Division (LGD) of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (LGRD & C).



PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Project Period:

Dec 2011-Dec 2016

Geographic Coverage:

564 UPs under 7 Districts

Focus Area: Strengthening capacity of Union Parishad

Development Partner :

EU, DANIDA, UNCDF & UNDP

Implementing Agency:

Local Government Division (LGD), MoLGRD & C

Budget:

US\$ 18.39 million

KEY OUTPUTS EXPECTED

- Strengthening Democratic Accountability of the Union Parishads through Citizen Engagement. This will be achieved through support to the UP Chairs and members to perform their functions, and through increased and active engagement of citizens in Standing Committees and Ward Shavas;
- Innovations in Pro-poor and MDG-oriented Planning and Financing of Service Delivery by Union Parishads. These are reinforced by the system of performance-based grants that provides an incentive for improved governance, better planning and resource mobilization, while offering a discretionary funding window for local development.
- Strengthening national capacity for effective policy review, monitoring, lessons learning and capacity development of LGs for Improved Local Governance.

IMPACT

- Democratic leadership : The project has deepened democratic leadership and engagement with citizens in the functioning of Union Parishads.
- Development Planning System: The basic architecture for an inclusive development planning system that systematically builds on community priorities, proposals by Standing Committees and preparation of UP development plans has been established by the project.
- Performance based financing system: The performance based financing system has shifted the focus of investments by UPs from conventional roads and culverts, towards social sectors and the MDGs, and strengthening revenue mobilization.
- Citizen's Engagement: The project has triggered inclusive engagement between citizens and the UP leadership, through Ward Shavas, and strengthening of UP Standing Committees
- A National Framework for Capacity Building and Policy Development: A National Framework for Capacity Building and Policy Development is being formulated to establish a sustainable capacity within the government.
- Peer to Peer Learning: Peer to peer learning among Union Parishads has been supported on a wide scale, which has facilitated the seamless transfer of better practices with minimal technical support.



UPGP funded safe motherhood scheme on Blood Grouping and Ensuring Safe Blood During Delivery.

