

BANGLADESH

Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement Sector Project



Unplanned and uncontrolled urbanization creates tremendous pressure on basic urban infrastructure and eventually limits the growth potential of the national economy. The concentration of population and activities in a few metropolitan areas tends to aggravate urban environmental conditions in the absence of adequate capacity to manage urban growth.

Recognizing diseconomies of congestion and environmental degradation in metropolitan cities, the Government of Bangladesh requested the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to continue to provide assistance to the urban sector to help rehabilitate and expand urban development and services in

pourashavas (secondary towns) throughout the country, and to further help in decentralizing and strengthening urban governance.

In response to the government's request, ADB approved the Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement Sector Project on 28 November 2002, to continue providing assistance to the urban sector, initially in 22 *pourashavas* nationwide.

The objective of the project was to promote human development and good urban governance in Bangladesh's secondary towns by helping the selected *pourashavas* to enhance accountability in municipal management and strengthen their ability

PROJECT RESULTS

Roads and bridges. Roads and bridges were constructed under the project, increasing motorized traffic movement and creating new employment opportunities. The improvement of roads and bridges contributed to savings on vehicle operating costs and on time for passengers and vehicles, which in turn contributed to increased economic activity in the *pourashavas* and their peripheries.

Drainage network. An integrated drainage network was created, which protected the system from blockage and encroachment. The benefits arising from the improved drainage network included enhanced property values and improved environmental conditions.

Urban infrastructure. The completed bus terminals, supermarkets, and kitchen markets developed under the project contributed to the sustainable financial health of the *pourashavas*. The improvement of slum facilities generated jobs and led to enhanced access of slum dwellers to safe drinking water, sanitary latrines, footpaths, drainage, solid waste management, and street lighting.

The improved roads and drains, solid waste disposal, sanitation, and construction of public toilets and water supply facilities ushered in commercial, environmental, and social benefits to the population. The community development and awareness program fostered bonding and a participatory attitude among the stakeholders. The slum improvement program and microcredit facilities contributed to reduced poverty. The target urban population, particularly informal settlers, benefited significantly from reduced traffic congestion, improved health, and better living conditions.

Several areas of urban development and management also significantly improved for the *pourashavas*, such as reduced backlog in payment of electricity bills, improved environmental conditions, a better road network, an improved water supply, and enhanced women's participation.

Several institutional and sectoral reforms were also initiated, including the new Pourashava Act promulgated in 2009, which emphasizes the role of town and ward-level coordination committees, and the draft urban sector policy.

to provide improved municipal services. The project aimed to develop and expand physical infrastructure and urban services to increase economic opportunities, and to reduce the vulnerability of inhabitants of

secondary towns to environmental hazards and poverty. The project also sought to support active participation by the community—particularly women—in municipal management and services.

The Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement Sector Project is in line with the strategic directions of ADB's South Asia Department. The strategy focuses on sustainable infrastructure, climate change mitigation and adaptation, human development, regional cooperation and integration, public-private partnership, and good governance.



The slum improvement program and microcredit facilities contributed to reduced poverty.



Informal settlers improved their health, and had better living conditions.

The improved roads increased motorized traffic movement by nearly 53%, and the construction works created about 537,000 person-days of direct and 246,000 person-days of indirect employment opportunities

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Cost and financing: ADB, \$60.0 million; Government of Bangladesh, \$22.8 million; municipalities, \$3.9 million; beneficiaries, \$0.3 million

Project approval date: 28 November 2002

Project themes: Gender and development, good governance

Status of project implementation: Completed

Loan closing date: 8 December 2010

Executing agency: Local Government Engineering Department

FOR INFORMATION

Bangladesh Resident Mission
South Asia Department
Project Officer: Mohammad Nazrul Islam
mnazrulislam@adb.org

Link to South Asia Project Briefs:
<http://www.adb.org/publications/series/south-asia-project-briefs>

Sources: Project Data Sheet. <http://www.adb.org/projects/29041-013/main>; ADB. 2002. *Report and Recommendation of the President to the Board of Directors: Proposed Loan and Technical Assistance Grant for the Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement (Sector) Project in the People's Republic of Bangladesh*. Manila. <http://www.adb.org/projects/documents/urban-governance-infrastructure-improvement-sector-project-rrp>; ADB. 2013. *Completion Report: Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement (Sector) Project in Bangladesh*. Manila. <http://www.adb.org/projects/documents/urban-governance-and-infrastructure-improvement-sector>



Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 IGO license (CC BY 3.0 IGO)