

**Implementation Status & Results  
Bangladesh**

**Northern Areas Reduction-of-Poverty Initiative Project -- Women's Economic Empowerment Project (P114841)**

Operation Name: Northern Areas Reduction-of-Poverty Initiative Project -- Women's Economic Empowerment Project (P114841)      Project Stage: Implementation      Seq.No: 3      Status: ARCHIVED      Archive Date: 17-May-2013

Country: Bangladesh      Approval FY: 2012  
 Product Line: IBRD/IDA      Region: SOUTH ASIA      Lending Instrument: Specific Investment Loan  
 Implementing Agency(ies):

**Key Dates**

Board Approval Date 27-Oct-2011      Original Closing Date 31-Dec-2015      Planned Mid Term Review Date 01-Apr-2014      Last Archived ISR Date 23-Nov-2012  
 Effectiveness Date 25-Mar-2012      Revised Closing Date 31-Dec-2015      Actual Mid Term Review Date

**Project Development Objectives**

Project Development Objective (from Project Appraisal Document)

**The development objective of the project is to facilitate access to employment opportunities in the garment sector for poor and vulnerable women from lagging areas of Bangladesh by providing information, technical and life skills training, transitional housing, and other support to adjust to urban life and formal sector employment.**

Has the Project Development Objective been changed since Board Approval of the Project?

Yes       No

**Component(s)**

Component Name	Component Cost
Component 1: Raising awareness and selecting candidates in the lagging region of northern Bangladesh.	0.92
Component 2: Establishing training centers with dormitories in the Export Processing Zones (EPZs) located in Dhaka, Ishwardi, and Ka rnaphuli.	32.53
Component 3: Providing initial training and on-going support to beneficiaries.	2.04
Component 4: Supporting coordination, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and expansion.	4.30

**Overall Ratings**

	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Progress towards achievement of PDO	Satisfactory	Satisfactory
Overall Implementation Progress (IP)	Moderately Satisfactory	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating	Moderate	Moderate

**Implementation Status Overview**

The project became effective on March 26, 2012; but the revised DPP was approved by GOB in May 2012. The EOIs for all major packages were advertised only after the approval of

the revised DPP; this meant significant delay in the commencement of civil works. Subsequently, implementation progress subsequently has been satisfactory. Civil Works on all three construction packages are progressing well. The dormitories and training center (DTC) at Dhaka EPZ is expected to be completed by February 2014, followed by the DTC at Ishwardi EPZ by April 2014 and DTC at Karnaphuli EPZ by May/June 2014. The supervision engineers appointed by the Bank are in close contact with the Supervision Engineering Consultant appointed by BEPZA and conduct bi-weekly field visits to each of the sites. The construction works and supervision of construction are both found to be efficient and of satisfactory quality.

Since all the subsequent project activities are dependent upon the completion of the hostels and dormitories, for e.g. the recruitment of the girls from the sending areas, these too will be delayed. The baseline study for the Northern areas was supposed to be completed by March 25, 2013 (a year from effectiveness) as per the Financial Agreement; however due to delays on the Ministry side the Bank with Trust Funds contracted BRAC Institute of Development (BDI) to design the baseline study, establish the survey protocol and test the survey questionnaires; pilot the baseline study and prepare a baseline report as well as a Concept Note for the Impact Evaluation, which can be used by the Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE) to undertake a more detailed study starting from June 2013. This has been planned to coincide with the start of the design of the IEC campaign so that strategic linkages can be established early on between the baseline and key monitoring and evaluation indicators to be used for the length of the project. BDI has submitted the baseline inception report as well as preliminary findings based on field visits, and has tested the survey questionnaires within the March 25, 2013 deadline; the final report as well as the design of the Impact Evaluation Concept Note will be completed in June 2013.

The Feasibility Study for the determination of inclusion of the Uttara EPZ as a potential site for building a DTC was supposed to be completed by December 2012; however due to delays in preparing and advertising the TORs as well as completing the evaluation process for EOIs and RFPs the contract for this activity could not be given. The evaluation process is now complete and the contract is expected to be awarded by May 10, 2013.

The InterMinisterial Committee and BEPZA's Board have approved the the Operational Policy for the CSR Fund which was crucial for the sustainability of the project and a condition of the Financial Agreement.

All major recruitments of key project staff at the PIU and PCU are completed. The detailed project implementation plan and the detailed procurement plan have been updated. A formal monthly Implementation Progress meeting is organized between MOLE, BEPZA, and the Bank task team to assess progress and agree on next steps. The next Project Steering Committee meeting will be held In early May 2013 as part of the planned supervision mission for the project.

**Locations**

No Location data has been entered

**Results**

**Project Development Objective Indicators**

Indicator Name	Core	Unit of Measure		Baseline	Current	End Target
Number of women who receive training	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	Value	0.00	0.00	3600.00
			Date	26-Mar-2012		31-Dec-2015
			Comments	Too early to report		
Percentage of graduates who are formally employed for at least 10 months of the year following completion of their training.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Percentage	Value	0.00	0.00	90.00
			Date	26-Mar-2012		31-Dec-2015
			Comments	Too early to report		

Difference in average level of net monthly income of graduates, before and 1 year after completion of their training	<input type="checkbox"/>	Percentage	Value	0.00	0.00	50.00
			Date	26-Mar-2012		31-Dec-2015
			Comments	Too early to report		
Level of satisfaction with the project among graduates (% who rank their satisfaction level as three or higher on a five point scale)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Percentage	Value	0.00	0.00	90.00
			Date	26-Mar-2012		31-Dec-2014
			Comments	Too early to report		

**Intermediate Results Indicators**

Indicator Name	Core	Unit of Measure		Baseline	Current	End Target
Raising awareness and selecting training program candidates from the lagging region of northern Bangladesh.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number	Value			
			Date			
			Comments			
Number of eligible applicants who apply for the training program	<input type="checkbox"/>	Number Sub Type Breakdown	Value	0.00	0.00	10800.00
			Date	26-Mar-2012		31-Dec-2015
			Comments	Too early to report. 350 every three months		
Percentage of beneficiaries who complete the three-month training offered by the program.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Percentage Sub Type Supplemental	Value	0.00	0.00	95.00
Establishing training centers with dormitories in the EPZs located in Dhaka, Ishwardi, and Karnaphuli.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Percentage	Value	0.00	0.00	90.00
			Date	26-Mar-2012		31-Dec-2015
			Comments	Too early to report		
Percentage of graduates who stay in the project accommodation after completion of their training	<input type="checkbox"/>	Percentage Sub Type Breakdown	Value	0.00	0.00	95.00
			Date	26-Mar-2012		31-Dec-2012
			Comments	Too early to report		
Percentage of project beneficiaries who are satisfied with the services offered by the facilities (% who rank their satisfaction as three or higher on a five point scale)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Percentage Sub Type Breakdown	Value	0.00		80.00
			Date			31-Dec-2015
			Comments			
Percentage of graduates who opt to pay for the meal service provided by the project facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Percentage Sub Type Breakdown	Value	0.00	0.00	95.00
			Date	26-Mar-2012		31-Dec-2015
			Comments			
Providing initial training and on-going support to beneficiaries.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Percentage	Value			
			Date			
			Comments			

Percentage of project graduates who are offered formal employment within one month of graduation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Percentage	Value	0.00	0.00	100.00
		Sub Type	Date	26-Mar-2012		31-Mar-2014
		Breakdown	Comments	Too early to report		
Percentage of graduates who are satisfied with the training program (% who rank their satisfaction as three or higher on a five point scale)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Percentage	Value	0.00	0.00	90.00
		Sub Type	Date	26-Mar-2012		31-Mar-2014
		Breakdown	Comments	Too early to report		
Percentage of graduates who are employed at the senior operator level 18 months after graduating (i.e., they get promoted)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Percentage	Value	0.00		80.00
		Sub Type	Date	26-Mar-2012		29-Dec-2017
		Breakdown	Comments	Too early to report		

**Data on Financial Performance (as of 27-Feb-2013)**

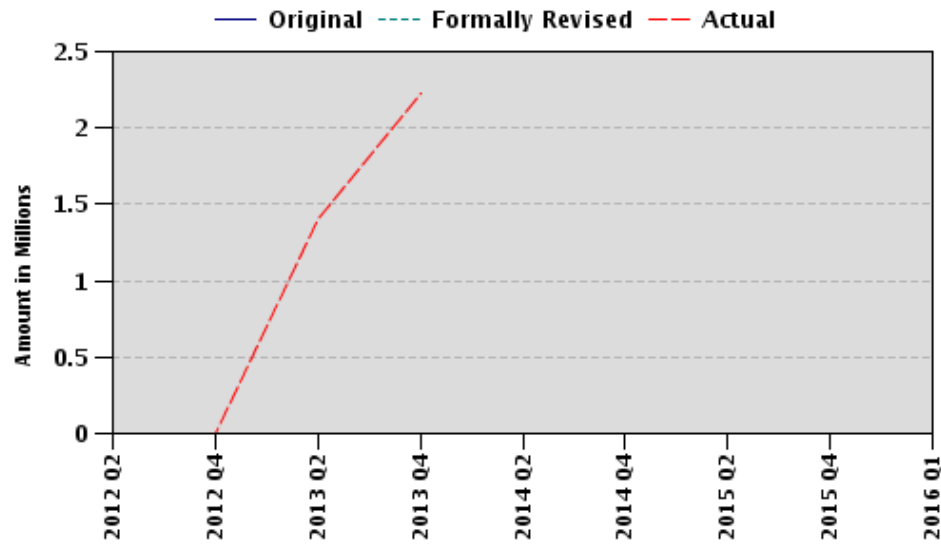
**Financial Agreement(s) Key Dates**

Project	Ln/Cr/Tf	Status	Approval Date	Signing Date	Effectiveness Date	Original Closing Date	Revised Closing Date
P114841	IDA-50150	Effective	27-Oct-2011	04-Dec-2011	25-Mar-2012	31-Dec-2015	31-Dec-2015

**Disbursements (in Millions)**

Project	Ln/Cr/Tf	Status	Currency	Original	Revised	Cancelled	Disbursed	Undisbursed	% Disbursed
P114841	IDA-50150	Effective	XDR	18.20	18.20	0.00	2.23	15.97	12.00

**Disbursement Graph**



**Key Decisions Regarding Implementation**

The project became effective on March 26, 2012, and the revised DPP was approved in May 2012. Civil works for the construction of all three DTCs is progressing efficiently and is assessed as being of good quality. All major recruitments of key project staff at the PIU and PCU are either completed or are in the final stage of completion. BEPZA's Board has approved the CSR Fund which was a condition of the FA. The preliminary (pilot) baseline and Concept Note for Impact Evaluation will be completed by June 2013. The detailed baseline study undertaken by MOLE will begin in June/July 2013 to coincide with the designing of the IEC. The Feasibility Study for inclusion of Uttara EPZ has faced serious delays but is expected to start in May 2013.

**Restructuring History**

There has been no restructuring to date.

**Related Projects**

There are no related projects.