



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

SOUTH ASIA | Bangladesh | Social, Urban, Rural and Resilience Global Practice Global Practice | IBRD/IDA | Specific Investment Loan | FY 2012 | Seq No: 7 | ARCHIVED on 31-Oct-2015 | ISR21177 |

Implementing Agencies:

Key Dates

Key Project Dates

Bank Approval Date:27-Oct-2011

Effectiveness Date:25-Mar-2012

Planned Mid Term Review Date:15-Jul-2014

Actual Mid-Term Review Date:15-Jun-2014

Original Closing Date:31-Dec-2015

Revised Closing Date:31-Oct-2017

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 Objective?

No

Components

Name

Component 1: Raising awareness and selecting candidates in the lagging region of northern Bangladesh.:(Cost \$0.92 M)

Component 2: Establishing training centers with dormitories in the Export Processing Zones (EPZs) located in Dhaka, Ishwardi, and Kamaphuli.:(Cost \$32.53 M)

Component 3: Providing initial training and on-going support to beneficiaries.:(Cost \$2.04 M)

Component 4: Supporting coordination, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and expansion.:(Cost \$4.30 M)

Overall Ratings

Name	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Progress towards achievement of PDO	● Moderately Unsatisfactory	● Moderately Unsatisfactory
Overall Implementation Progress (IP)	● Moderately Unsatisfactory	● Moderately Unsatisfactory



Overall Risk Rating

● Substantial

● Substantial

Implementation Status and Key Decisions

Implementation is delayed by two years, due to late start-up and persistent delays at BEPZA. At the Government's request, the Bank extended the project closing date in February 2014 (from December 31, 2015 to October 31, 2017). However, the draft revised DPP that incorporates the agreed time extension and cost reallocation has been pending at BEPZA since January 2015 for submission to MOLE. In addition to RDPP delays, operational delays have also persisted, eating into the longer implementation period. BEPZA's has not submitted a revised DPP to MOLE, the draft of which had been agreed upon during the MTR mission and readied since January 2015. Without a commitment to a three year training program incorporated within a revised and approved DPP, the Bank should not allow the training to start as this would pose significant risk first and foremost to the 900 beneficiaries who would arrive at the training centers in November 2015 and basically asked to fend for themselves after a month should BEPZA close the project. This also poses a significant reputational risk to the Bank.

Since BEPZA is directly under the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the Bank has been engaged in a year long dialogue with the latter to resolve the issues with BEPZA. At the last meeting held at the PMO during end August 2015, where BEPZA was present, four options were tabled:

- 1) BEPZA agrees to extend the project, revise the DPP and proceed according to the project design and abides by the decisions reached at MTR
- 2) BEPZA proposes an alternative design that is workable for them to be assessed by the Bank and GOB; the proposal may or may not be acceptable to either
- 3) The project along with all the physical facilities is transferred to MOLE for implementation
- 4) Bank cancels and asks for early return of funds as project is fully unsatisfactory

Of these, the PMO and the Bank agreed that option 3 would be the best, keeping the long term sustainability of the project in mind, given that MOLE has the mandate and the willingness to take the PDO forward. It could easily, efficiently and cheaply carry out the training activities using their own trainers and staff, and would not have to outsource the component after the project period. The trained girls can easily be absorbed in BGMEA/BKMEA factories (reporting till last week a gap of 250,000 skilled workers in the RMG sector) which MOLE regularly coordinates with, as well as at BEPZA factories where there is demand.

A meeting has been called at the PMO for October 25, 2015 based on the outcome of which the Bank will restructure the project.



Risks

Systematic Operations Risk-rating Tool

Risk Category	Rating at Approval	Previous Rating	Current Rating
Political and Governance	--	● Moderate	● Moderate
Macroeconomic	--	● Low	● Low
Sector Strategies and Policies	--	● Low	● Low
Technical Design of Project or Program	--	● Substantial	● Substantial
Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	--	● High	● High
Fiduciary	--	● Low	● Low
Environment and Social	--	● Low	● Low
Stakeholders	--	● Moderate	● Moderate
Other	--	--	--
Overall	--	● Substantial	● Substantial

Results

Project Development Objective Indicators

► Number of women who receive training (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	10800.00
Date	26-Mar-2012	--	--	31-Oct-2017



► Percentage of graduates who are formally employed for at least 10 months of the year following completion of their training. (Percentage, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	90.00
Date	26-Mar-2012	--	--	31-Oct-2017

► Difference in average level of net monthly income of graduates, before and 1 year after completion of their training (Percentage, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
Date	26-Mar-2012	--	--	31-Oct-2017

► Level of satisfaction with the project among graduates (% who rank their satisfaction level as three or higher on a five point scale) (Percentage, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	90.00
Date	26-Mar-2012	--	--	31-Oct-2017

Overall Comments

The training program is expected to start from November/December 2015. The training centers and dormitories are ready and furnished; training equipment, food supply, security, cleaning and management for the DTCs are done. Training providers will be on board by end October 2015. However, as mentioned before training commencement is dependent upon submission of a revised DPP incorporating a full training program of three years as per project design.

Intermediate Results Indicators



► Raising awareness and selecting training program candidates from the lagging region of northern Bangladesh. (Number, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	--	--	900.00	10800.00
Date	--	--	15-Oct-2015	31-Oct-2017

▲ Number of eligible applicants who apply for the training program (Number, Custom Breakdown)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	900.00	10800.00
Date	26-Mar-2012	--	15-Oct-2015	31-Oct-2017

▲ Percentage of beneficiaries who complete the three-month training offered by the program. (Percentage, Custom Supplement)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	95.00

► Establishing training centers with dormitories in the EPZs located in Dhaka, Ishwardi, and Karnaphuli. (Percentage, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	90.00	90.00
Date	26-Mar-2012	--	15-Oct-2015	31-Oct-2017



▲ Percentage of graduates who stay in the project accommodation after completion of their training (Percentage, Custom Breakdown)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	95.00
Date	26-Mar-2012	--	--	31-Mar-2016

▲ 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) (Percentage, Custom Breakdown)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	--	--	80.00
Date	--	--	--	31-Oct-2017

▲ Percentage of graduates who opt to pay for the meal service provided by the project facilities (Percentage, Custom Breakdown)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	95.00
Date	26-Mar-2012	--	--	31-Oct-2017

▶ Providing initial training and on-going support to beneficiaries. (Percentage, Custom)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	--	--	--	10800.00
Date	--	--	--	31-Oct-2017



▲ Percentage of project graduates who are offered formal employment within one month of graduation (Percentage, Custom Breakdown)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	90.00
Date	26-Mar-2012	--	--	31-Mar-2016

▲ Percentage of graduates who are satisfied with the training program (% who rank their satisfaction as three or higher on a five point scale) (Percentage, Custom Breakdown)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	0.00	0.00	90.00
Date	26-Mar-2012	--	--	31-Mar-2016

▲ Percentage of graduates who are employed at the senior operator level 18 months after graduating (i.e., they get promoted) (Percentage, Custom Breakdown)

	Baseline	Actual (Previous)	Actual (Current)	End Target
Value	0.00	--	--	80.00
Date	26-Mar-2012	--	--	31-Oct-2017

Overall Comments

Data on Financial Performance

Disbursements (by loan)

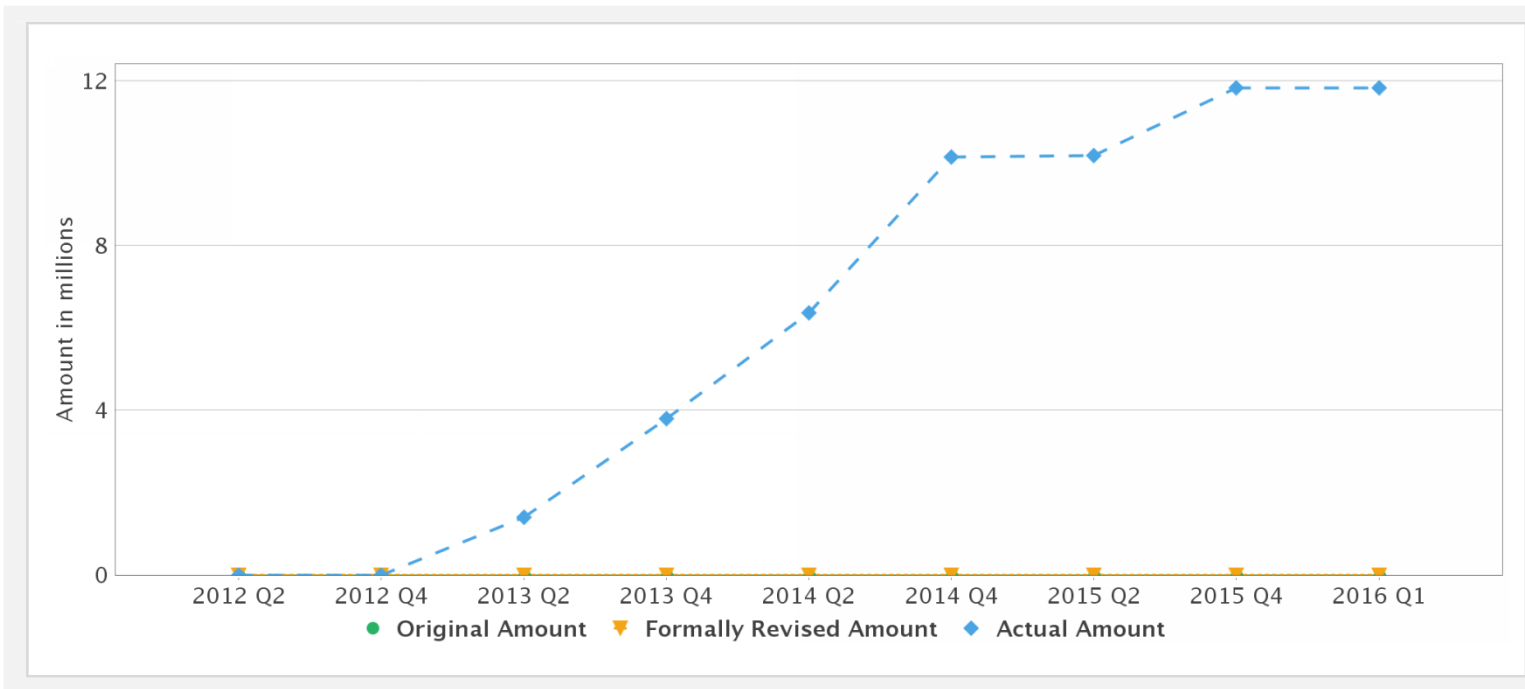
Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Currency	Original	Revised	Cancelled	Disbursed	Undisbursed	Disbursed
P114841	IDA-50150	Effective	XDR	18.20	18.20	0.00	11.83	6.37	 65%

Key Dates (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Approval Date	Signing Date	Effectiveness Date	Orig. Closing Date	Rev. Closing Date
P114841	IDA-50150	Effective	27-Oct-2011	04-Dec-2011	25-Mar-2012	31-Dec-2015	31-Oct-2017



Cumulative Disbursements



Restructuring History

There has been no restructuring to date.

Related Project(s)

There are no related projects.