



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: 8 | ARCHIVED on 05-Jan-2016 | ISR22257 |

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 Satisfactory
Overall Implementation Progress (IP)	● Moderately Unsatisfactory	● Moderately Satisfactory



Overall Risk Rating

● Substantial

● Substantial

Implementation Status and Key Decisions

After protracted delays (two years) at BEPZA, the Bank engaged with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) over the last year to give guidance on a way forward for the project. At the last meeting held at the PMO on October 25, 2015 it was decided that a) The Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) would continue as the main implementing agency for the project and would not deviate from the project objective or overall design; the Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE) will continue as the line Ministry; b) IDA would fund the operating costs of the project in a phased manner (100 percent in year one of operations i.e.2016, 50% in year two until Corporate Social Responsibility Funds can take over from year three). This is as per the PAD agreed upon at Negotiations; however there was a disjoint with the Financing Agreement (FA)that states that all expenses have to be borne by BEPZA from day one. The FA will be amended during Restructuring; c) the issue of finding jobs and placing the NARI graduates therein was the sole responsibility of BEPZA and jobs were to be secured within the Zones. BEPZA has been consistently raising concerns regarding bearing this responsibility for the last two years. The agreement at the PMO was that job placement will be a shared responsibility between MOLE and BEPZA, with MOLE taking the lead in facilitating the process with the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) as a partner. BEPZA factories will be the first preference, any spill over graduates will be placed at BGMEA factories; d) the Bank will facilitate the process of building a CSR platform under MOLE with BEPZA and BGMEA and in partnership with major buyers from Bangladesh as well as factory owners to generate the funds for the operating costs of the project for the last one and half years; e) the project will be extended till December 2018 to allow for it to meet its target of training and placing into jobs10800 girls within three years (it had previously been extended till October 2017 from the original closing date of December 2015); f) BEPZA would immediately submit a revised DPP to MOLE incorporating all changes and MOLE would then submit it to the Planning Commission for review and approval. MOLE, BEPZA, the Economic Relations Division (ERD) and the Planning Commission were all represented at the meeting by high level officials from each organization.

The DPP was submitted to the Planning Commission on November 26, 2015. A review meeting has been held to address minor queries and the DPP approval is expected within a week. The Bank is awaiting a request for restructuring from ERD in order to officially start the process on our side. In the meantime all pending key procurement packages have been completed and the training is expected to start by the first week of January 2016. Given the proposed revised closing date of the project (as per revised DPP and the shortly expected request for restructuring letter from the government) the PDO will now be achievable within the proposed revised timeframe.



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)



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 targets and closing dates will be revised after the project is officially restructured.

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	900.00	10800.00
Date	--	15-Oct-2015	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	900.00	900.00	10800.00
Date	26-Mar-2012	15-Oct-2015	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	90.00	90.00	90.00
Date	26-Mar-2012	15-Oct-2015	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

The closing date will be revised after the project is officially restructured.

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	13.00	5.20	 71%

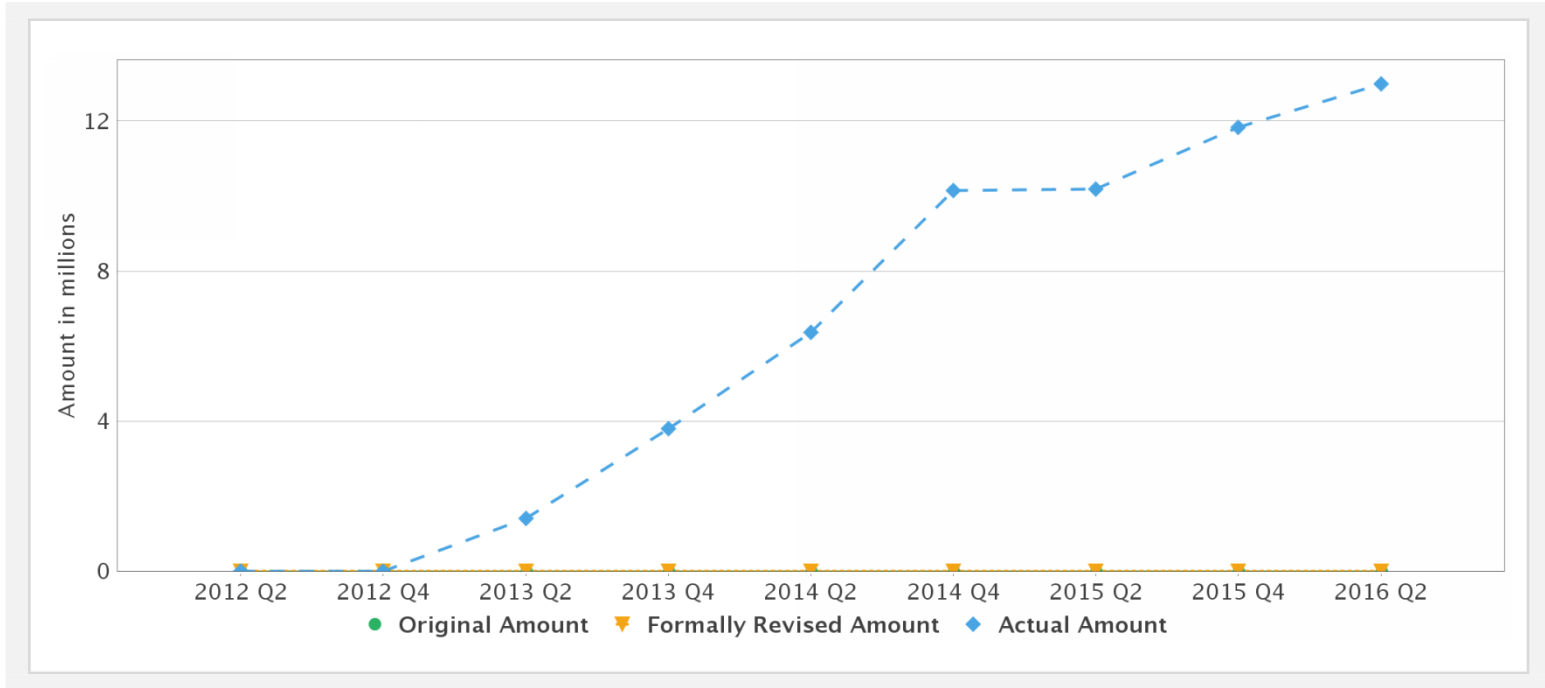
Key Dates (by loan)

Project	Loan/Credit/TF	Status	Approval Date	Signing Date	Effectiveness Date	Orig. Closing Date	Rev. Closing Date
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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.