

**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: 5      Status: ARCHIVED      Archive Date: 21-Jun-2014

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	15-Jul-2014	Last Archived ISR Date	18-Dec-2013
Effectiveness Date	25-Mar-2012	Revised Closing Date	31-Oct-2017	Actual Mid Term Review Date	15-Jun-2014		

**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	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Implementation Progress (IP)	Moderately Satisfactory	Moderately Satisfactory
Overall Risk Rating		Substantial

**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 all three EPZs will be handed over by July 2014. The construction works and supervision of construction are both found to be efficient and of satisfactory quality.

Given the delays in starting the project and the more realistic time-line for achieving civil works of this scale the project was restructured to extend the closing date to October 31, 2017.

Key contracts for the IEC through which beneficiaries will be selected, registered, given orientation, organized into groups (linked with the Impact Evaluation), assigned to DTCs and then transported to the DTCs has been delayed significantly at BEPZA. It was supposed to be fielded in March 2014. However despite the Bank's NOC the contract has not been signed. This has already pushed the project back by three months, but more delays are apprehended due to BEPZA's indecision. The contract for machineries will have to be re-bid for a second time as the bids were evaluated and found to be non-responsive. BEPZA is also delaying on the key contract for hiring Training Providers who will deliver the training, conduct localized demand surveys and run the job placement services.

The baseline study for the Northern areas has been completed as per the FA. A more detailed baseline will be undertaken by the Ministry of Labor and Employment (MOLE) which has been strategically designed to coincide with the IEC so that linkages can be established early on between the baseline and key monitoring and evaluation indicators to be used for the length of the project. The design of the Impact Evaluation has been completed during the last mission and an MIS will be designed accordingly.

The Feasibility Study for the determination of inclusion of the Uttara EPZ as a potential site for building a DTC has been completed and shows positive results. However the sudden slow down at BEPZA regarding project implementation after excellent progress on completion of the buildings has raised concerns and may force the Bank to reconsider Additional Financing for the fourth DTC at Uttara EPZ.

The Mid Term Review which was scheduled for June 2014 will be pushed to mid July 2014.

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. However, BEPZA found that non-RMG factories contributing to the CSR fund were unwilling to contribute to the project. BEPZA and the Bank conducted several field trips and meetings and found that many RMG factories are willing to contribute to the project as they will be potential beneficiaries of the project and will save considerable costs spent on training new workers. During the last mission it was decided that the stipend amounts will be raised keeping in mind the rise in minimum wage. This will now be enough to cover the cost of food and other operating costs at the DTCs. IDA would fund the total cost of stipend in the first year starting from when the trainees enter the DTCs and then will do so on a declining basis (50% in year two, 25% in year three) until BEPZA takes over the entire cost of stipends via CSR funds by project closing. By year one the project can demonstrate the quality of trainees and a steady supply of skilled labor to the factories who will place their demand with the placement services to be operated at each DTC and pay accordingly towards the CSR fund designated especially for NARI. BEPZA is urged to start mobilizing factories to leverage their CSR funds at the soonest.

**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	10800.00
			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 Sub Type Breakdown	Value	0.00	0.00	100.00
			Date	26-Mar-2012		31-Mar-2014
			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 Sub Type Breakdown	Value	0.00	0.00	90.00
			Date	26-Mar-2012		31-Mar-2014
			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 Sub Type Breakdown	Value	0.00		80.00
			Date	26-Mar-2012		29-Dec-2017
			Comments	Too early to report		

**Data on Financial Performance (as of 28-May-2014)**

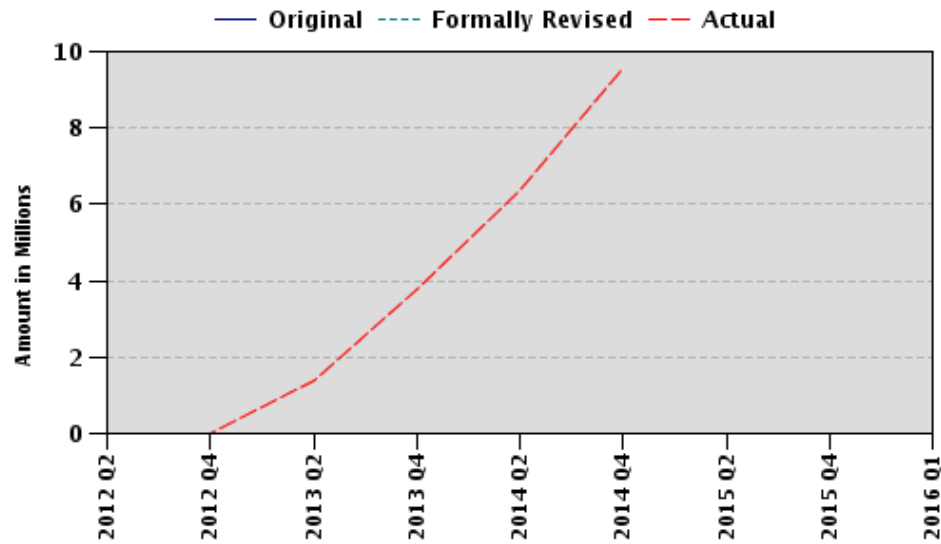
**Financial Agreement(s) Key Dates**

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-Oct-2017

**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	9.53	8.67	52.00

**Disbursement Graph**



**Key Decisions Regarding Implementation**

The project became effective on March 26, 2012, and the revised DPP was approved in May 2012. Keeping the start up delay in mind and a more realistic schedule for civil works of this scale, the project closing date has been extended to October 31, 2017. The DTCs will be completed by July 2014, including repair works for the approach road to the DTC site at Karnaphuli EPZ (which was damaged due to civil works and which can be repaired within the budget allocation for the site). BEPZA's Board has approved the CSR Fund which was a condition of the FA. Baseline study, design of the Impact Evaluation and the feasibility study for the inclusion of a fourth DTC at Uttara EPZ have been completed. However, the core contract for project - the Information and Education Campaign (IEC) - through which the beneficiaries will be mobilized, selected, registered, provided with orientation training at the source areas and then transported to the DTC sites has been delayed at BEPZA for the last two months. The delay has implications for all other project components as the training and subsequent placement of trained workers, which is the purpose of the project, cannot start without the output of the IEC (selected beneficiaries from the source areas). Other key contracts such as that of the Training Providers, who will not only deliver the training, but will also run localized demand surveys with the factories and provide job placement services for the trainees is, also being held up at BEPZA. The IEC was scheduled to be fielded by April 2014; it is the most important, sensitive and core activity for the project.

**Restructuring History**

There has been no restructuring to date.

**Related Projects**

There are no related projects.