



NUTON JIBON LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

A NEW LIFE FOR THE RURAL POOR

BASIC INFORMATION

APPROVAL DATE:
**February 25
2015**

END DATE:
**June 30
2021**

TOTAL COMMITMENT:
\$220 million

IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES:
Social Development Foundation

OVERVIEW

While Bangladesh had successfully reduced extreme poverty in rural areas from 37.9 percent in 2000 to 21.1 percent in 2010, – still rural poverty is almost three times that of urban areas. Extreme poverty continues to be a rural phenomenon with majority of the poor residing in rural areas, where agriculture remains the primary source of livelihood for the rural economy. The **Nuton Jibon Livelihood Improvement Project** aims to improve the livelihoods of the poor and extreme poor in selected rural areas.



CHALLENGE

Poverty rates in Bangladesh have declined at an impressive rate over the past decade with improved health outcomes, living conditions for the poor, lowered child mortality, and overall improved safety net coverage. In spite of these achievements, a number of challenges remain. Poverty assessment reveals, increases in the share of the working population and rising labor incomes mainly contributed to the decline in poverty over the past decade. Almost half of the poverty decline was due to growth in farm incomes. The assessment also found that poor households living in the poorest regions are less able to cope with shocks. Addressing rural poverty and food security issues thus remain as the critical policy priorities to ensure inclusive and pro-poor growth.

APPROACH

As a third phase of an ongoing program initiated over 10 years ago, the project continues to provide support to 3,200 villages supported under the Social Investment Program Project II through second generation institutions and producer group support. The Nuton Jibon Livelihood Improvement Project targets around 2,500 new villages covering 12 districts and is expected to benefit 500,000 poor and extreme poor households, comprising of about 2.25 million people.

The project provides livelihood support and enables access to market through business partnerships to empower the rural communities. It helps mobilize the poor and extreme poor people, who often remain left out from micro credit schemes, by building and strengthening community institutions including Nuton Jibon Community Societies. In addition, the project shares nutrition and agricultural knowledge and focuses on enhancing youth skills. The project also funds small scale rural infrastructure.

TOWARDS THE FUTURE

The project substantiated that increased income leads to change in overall food consumption and dietary diversification as measured by increased diversity in diets. Average household consumption increased by 39 percent for milk and dairy products, and by 49 percent for meat and egg. This evidence was fully conceptualized in the next operation, “Nuton Jibon Livelihood Improvement Project 3” by linking livelihood angle with quality food consumption.



RESULTS

41,849 jobs were created

30% – 50% increase in income of 432,919 members who took loans from village revolving loan fund

90,527 producers mobilized into 5,561 producer groups accessing input and output markets

92% of village institutions met the criteria of transparency, inclusiveness, and accountability

Of the **3.4 million** direct beneficiaries, 94% were women

99% of male and 98% of female unemployed youth were gainfully self-employed after receiving skills training

92% of targeted households benefitted from improved community infrastructure or social services sub-projects

89% of completed community infrastructure subprojects were operated and maintained by communities

10 major business partnerships were established through public/private partnerships with communities