



DHAKA CITY NEIGHBORHOOD UPGRADING PROJECT

A MORE LIVEABLE **DHAKA CITY**

BASIC INFORMATION

APPROVAL DATE:
March 29
2019

END DATE:
June 30
2024

TOTAL COMMITMENT:
\$100.5 million

IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES:
Dhaka South City Corporation
under Local Government Division

OVERVIEW

With 36 percent of the country's urban population living in Greater Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh has become one of the world's most densely populated cities. The Dhaka Metropolitan has been the country's engine of economic growth and job creation. To achieve its vision of becoming an upper-middle income country by 2031, Bangladesh must manage Dhaka's urban growth. Dhaka's urban development has not kept up with the city's population growth, resulting in a messy and uneven urbanization process.



CHALLENGE

Dhaka is one of the least liveable cities in the world. According to EIU Global Livability Index 2018, it ranked 139 out of 140 cities. Many residents, including the 3.5 million people living in informal settlements, often lack access to basic services, infrastructure, and amenities. Living standards in many slums are worse than in rural areas, despite proximity to jobs. Only two-thirds of the city is covered with piped water, less than 1 percent of domestic sewage generated is treated, and 60 percent of municipal solid waste is collected. Severe traffic congestion is endemic, a consequence of inadequate infrastructure and public transport relative to the high population and economic density. Dhaka is the world's fourth most polluted city; with pollution levels 8 times higher than World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines. Public and open spaces are declining as a share of land use. The low liveability index disproportionately affects vulnerable and excluded groups such as the poor, women and elderly.

APPROACH

The **Dhaka City Neighborhood Upgrading Project (DCNUP)** will help Dhaka transform into a more liveable and competitive city. The project aims to improve public spaces and urban services in four large neighborhoods—Kamrangir Char, Lalbagh, Sutrapur-Nayabazar-Gulistan, Khilgaon-Mughda-Bashabo—under the Dhaka South City Corporation. It will undertake interventions that are designed through a collaborative process with beneficiaries and that can be implemented quickly. The project will help improve the livability, vibrancy and regeneration of neighborhoods and thus enhance civic lives. The project will finance improvements in public spaces such as streets, sidewalks, parks, open spaces and community centres. It has identified priority areas for “rapid results” through consultations with civil society, think tanks and urban professionals. These include: improving pedestrian safety and mobility, enhancing open and green spaces to rejuvenate surroundings, transforming existing community centres into multi-use facilities to serve neighborhoods, and revitalization of waterfront areas.

The project will enhance accessibility, usability, and safety, disaster and climate resiliency of the public spaces. It will also pilot interventions for safe mobility and traffic management. It will cater to the needs of women, youths, elderly and disabled, who often refrain from using public spaces.

TOWARDS THE FUTURE

The project will contribute to learnings for rapid results for future expansion of sustainable urban public space improvement in other major cities in Bangladesh with increased capacity of the City Corporations as lead implementing agencies in sustainable urban development. The project will also contribute to the broader scheme of development for metro Dhaka as a whole, with expansion happening in the north, east and southern fringes.



EXPECTED RESULTS

20% increase in number of people accessing enhanced public spaces

1 million people enjoy improved urban living conditions

Improvement of **30** hectares of public spaces

Engagement with **60%** of citizens of the selected neighborhoods for design of sub-projects

30 km of roads rehabilitated

100% outreach to community of selected neighborhoods regarding improvement in public space