



FEBRUARY 2004 • EMBASSY OF SWEDEN, DHAKA

Semi-annual Report
March–October 2003

Bangladesh



Content

Political and Economic Development	3
Development Co-operation	5
General	5
Education	6
Health and Population	8
Local Governance/Rural Development	9
Personnel and Consultancy Fund	11
Concessionary Credits	11
Democracy & Human Rights	12
Summary of Bilateral Agreements, Allocations and Disbursements	15
Publications Received March 2003–October 2003:	16
Swedish Development Co-operation with Bangladesh	18

Published by Sida 2004

Asia Department

Author: Embassy of Sweden, Dhaka

Printed by Edita Sverige AB, 2004

Art. no.: SIDA3530en

This publication can be downloaded/ordered from www.sida.se/publications

Political and Economic Development

By the end of the reporting-period the BNP-Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had completed two years in power. From 25 January to 16 March local elections were successfully held to 4228 of the country's 4451 Union Parishads (the second lowest tier of Bangladesh's local government system). In September / October 2003 the Government established the so-called "Gram Sarkars" (the lowest tier of local government) all over the country. Some 500 000 selected members of the Gram Sarkars will, according to their mandate, function as a support institution of the Union Parishad.

Media-reports indicate that the law and order situation remained a major concern during the period. A number of killings and abductions have been reported at the same time as human rights issues at large remained to be efficiently addressed. Also corruption continued to be an issue of serious concern to the Government. Draft legislation on an independent Anti Corruption Commission was presented to Parliament in July 2003. While a decision is yet to be taken by Parliament the draft Act has been criticised in media and by various civil-society organisations for not ensuring a truly independent Commission. A revised draft legislation is expected to be presented to Parliament early 2004.

In Parliament the four-party coalition holds 216 out of 300 seats. The former ruling party Awami League (AL) holds 62 seats. The Parliament sessions have not been as productive as one would have hoped. Some of the Parliament's Standing Committees are e. g. yet to be appointed, while some others are not meeting regularly. AL has during the period staged boycotts and "walk-outs" in Parliament as well as called hartals (general strikes) to protest against the Government.

The developments on the macro-economic side has been encouraging during the reporting period. The ADB in its economic update in September 2003 forecast that the GDP growth would increase to 5,7% for FY 2004 compared to a growth rate of 5,3% during FY 2003.

Revenue collection during July – September 2003 was 9,3% higher than the same period in 2002. All taxes under the National Board of Revenue recorded increases compared to the previous year. During FY 2003 year-on-year merchandise exports increased by 9,5%. The increase in imports however offset the increase in exports resulting in an increased trade deficit. Worker remittances increased by more than 20%. The

overall balance of payments increased to a surplus of USD 899 million for FY 2003 compared to a surplus of USD 365 million a year earlier. Foreign exchange reserves continued to increase and stood at almost 2,5 billion USD in October 2003.

On the bilateral side the export from Sweden to Bangladesh declined by 32% during the first half of 2003 while the registered import from Bangladesh increased by 6 % compared to the corresponding period a year earlier. The registered trade volume for January – July 2003 amounted to 799 MSEK compared to 788 MSEK a year earlier. In October 2003 a Swedish trade and investment delegation visited Bangladesh. The delegation was headed by Ambassador Kjell Anneling, Chief Co-ordinator for Trade and Investment Promotion and Special Advisor to the Minister of Industry and Trade.

Development Co-operation

General

The interim PRSP entitled *Bangladesh: A National Strategy for Economic Growth, Poverty Reduction and Social Development* was presented by the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) in March 2003. The document had been prepared through a participatory process of national consultations with various stakeholders. The key objectives to be supported through the PRS are promoting pro-poor growth, faster human resource development, women's advancement, social protection and participatory governance. The document served as an important input to the Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF) that was held in Dhaka on May 16–17 under the chairmanship of the Finance Minister Mr Saifur Rahman. The BDF was inaugurated by the Honourable Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. The Swedish delegation to BDF was led by the Head of the Asia Department at Sida.

In the BDF, development partners recognised the GOB's achievements in stabilising the economy and launching structural reforms, even though it was pointed out that the unfinished structural agenda was substantial. There was general agreement in the meeting about the critical importance of better governance – including improvement of law and order, human rights and security, anti-corruption strategy, addressing extortion and toll-taking and improving NGO relations. Corruption remained a core governance issue. The GOB's decision to hold also next years BDF in Dhaka was welcomed by the development partners.

The disbursements under the bilateral development co-operation agreement between Sweden and Bangladesh have not been up to the expectations.

The progress in the preparation of the next phase of primary education development program, PEDP2 has been progressing during the period. The work is a real team effort between the development partners led by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Bangladesh, GoB.

The health sector was facing problems in the collaboration between the development partners (the Pool Funders) and the GoB. Some of the important goals in the Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) in the health sector have not been met by the GoB. Preparation for the new sector programme (HNPS) has been delayed and while the GoB intends to

launch the programme in 2004 it is envisaged that donors will be able to support the programme only from 2005 after necessary assessment have been completed. A donor supported contingency plan for 2004 is under preparation.

The preparation of the Local Governance and Production Programme, LGPP, is progressing. In March 2003, the GoB formally submitted its own LGPP document/proposal Sida and in March 2003 an Idea Memo of the LGPP program was presented to the Sida Project Committee in Stockholm.

In June a quarterly meeting was held with ERD.

Education

The final draft of the National Plan of Action II (NPA II), 2003–2015, for basic education (formal primary education and non-formal education) has been submitted to the Government of Bangladesh for its review and approval. The final draft NPA II is focused on quality and sustainability in the context of inclusive education. It is a rights based plan building on the commitments of EFA, Dakar, 2000. The challenge in the future will be the effective management of inclusive education, given that Bangladesh has one of the largest primary school age populations in the world.

The development of basic education is dependent on the rights of the child. The Bangladesh Committee on the Rights of the Child, which monitors the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in Bangladesh,

has recently recommended to the Government, based on the Second Periodic Report of the Government of Bangladesh on CRC, (a comprehensive report on civil rights and freedoms, family, basic health, education and leisure, special protection, minorities, and exploitation), that the revised National Plan of Action for Children should ensure all rights under the CRC, the MDGs, and the World Fit for Children Action Plan, and that it be integrated into the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). Furthermore, it has recommended that the National Children's Council be strengthened, and the establishment of the Directorate of Children's Affairs be expedited. The National Plan of Action for Children and the NPA II for basic education need to complement each other, and the co-ordination between the relevant ministries strengthened.

Sweden currently supports various basic education programmes in Bangladesh. However, in the future, Sida needs to explore linkages with the secondary level – formal and non-formal education systems, particularly from a gender dimension

and Sweden's commitment to poverty alleviation including fair trade policies, environmental issues, combating HIV/AIDS, while contributing to human resource development and national ownership.

Primary Education

Second Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP II):

Preparations for the full – scale implementation of the sub-sectoral Second Primary Education Programme (PEDP II), 2003 – 2009, based

on SWAp principles is almost completed. The planning of PEDP II was a joint collaborative effort between the Government and Development Partners (DPs), with the Ministry of Primary & Mass Education (MOPME) in the lead. Based on the Government's request and consensus between the DPs, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is the lead donor agency responsible for negotiations with the Government, as well as providing support for preparation and implementation – management, monitoring, reporting.

Recently, the Government and ADB have concluded the negotiations for support to PEDP II, and the loan agreement including financing from ADB and ten other DPs including Sweden has been reached. Support to PEDP II is based on the sub-sectoral Macroplan for primary education development, the Government's approved Programme Concept Paper and Programme Proforma (for the entire PEDP II as opposed to individual PPs for projects), and other relevant documents.

If all conditions for programme implementation and donors' financing is fulfilled by the end of 2003, (of which most have been met), full-scale implementation of PEDP II with both Government and donors' financing should commence from early 2004.

The total budget is USD 1.8 billion, of which 64% (USD 1.16 billion) is the Government contribution, and 36% (USD 654 million) the donors' contribution.

The Swedish contribution is MSEK 250/USD 29.0 million (1.6% of total budget).

The PEDP II will have inception and completion phases to facilitate better implementation.

The programme approach adopted by PEDP II has resulted in better co-ordination and harmonisation of Government and donors' support with regard to policy, funding, reviewing, reporting, programme and financial management, based on common elements. Risks have been assessed and analysed and measures introduced to minimise inefficiencies, corruption, and negative environmental impact. However, PEDP II is an ambitious programme, and policy reforms take time.

The focus is on quality development in the context of inclusive education that can be sustained. Under this, the elements of gender integration, pre-schooling, ethnic minorities, vulnerable groups have been further strengthened, and children with special needs have been incorporated for the first time under a mainstream formal education programme. PEDP II will cover approximately 85% of all primary school age children. What still needs to be integrated is the mainstreaming of children who cannot access the formal system mainly due to poverty. Currently, Government and NGO programmes in non-formal education cater to these children, but dialogue and activities on how to mainstream most of these children under primary education programmes, will continue under PEDP II, as this is the ultimate goal of the Government, because primary schooling is free and compulsory in Bangladesh. However, adequate time must be given to develop capacity to manage inclusive education effectively, within PEDP II and beyond, so that resources are not wasted and mistakes not repeated.

IDEAL Project:

Plans for integrating the IDEAL project into the PEDP II from July 2004 is being discussed. The integration of the IDEAL Project along with 2–3 other projects from the previous support under PEDP I, will be part of the inception phase planning and work from 2004. The integration will focus on building on activities that will contribute to quality development and exclude duplications.

Non-formal education

Discussions are on-going on the need to develop a national framework for Non-Formal Education (NFE) on a sub-sectoral basis between the Government and DPs.

Sweden has supported two Government NFE projects – NFE 2 (non-formal education for children – adults) and NFE 3 (basic education for hard to reach urban working children). The NFE 2 project completion activities – final audit and assessment have been completed and the embassy will follow-up pending issues. The NFE 3 project activities will be completed in December 2003, and completion activities – final evaluation and others are on going. Preparations for support to the next phase of the NFE 3 project, 2004–2009, is on going, with the participation of UNICEF, Sida, and DFID. Based on lessons learnt, the next phase will include sustainable livelihood/skills training linking education to the world of work, safer working environments, better opportunities for accessing mainstream education, more pro-active involvement in working children's rights and policies, and strengthening the gender dimension. Sida intends to provide support from July 2004.

Based on overall lessons learnt through Sida's long-term investment in NFE, support is also being considered from 2004 for two innovative continuing education interventions for children, specially primary school dropouts, adolescents and young adults in the rural context with government and an NGO partner. These will be complimentary to each other as well as the intended support for the next phase of the NFE 3 project. The objective is to further develop strategically sustainable and replicable NFE approaches that are gender oriented, and contribute towards capacity development at the community level to better link education to poverty reduction.

Health and Population**Health and Population Sector Programme HPSP**

The HPSP was extended until December 2003. A meeting chaired by the Prime Minister had decided to disunify two wings of the Ministry, health services and the family planning as soon as the HPSP period is over. So the World Bank led pooled financiers requested the Government to submit an alternative technical proposal through a letter dated 30 March 2003. In June 2003, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) shared an alternative action plan to be implemented under the HPSP and Sector Wide programme at large. The MOHFW would inform of actions completed during bi-monthly meetings between MOHFW, Economic Relations Division and the pool financiers. So far there were two meetings to review the implementation of the Action Plan. The pace of implementation of the activities was satisfactory.

Preparation of Health Nutrition and Population Sector Programme HNPSP

The Government finalised the Conceptual Framework of HNPSP. There was also an annex on health sector in the I-PRSP of the Government. Based on these the Government had prepared the Programme Preparation Plan (PIP). The PIP was in the process of revision to accommodate comments from different stakeholders like GOs, professional bodies and the development partners. The HNPSP would be launched with only the Government financing from January 2004. The DP financing may happen later on upon completion of a lengthy appraisal process led by the World Bank.

Support to Local NGOs in the Health Sector

In response to a formal request by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) the Embassy positively appraised a one-year bridge financing measure in support of Menstrual Regulation service provision. The support of up to 10,3 MSEK should enable three NGOs, Bangladesh Association for Prevention of Septic Abortion (BAPSA), Reproductive Health Services, Training and Education Programme (RH STEP) and Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition (BWHC) to continue to provide Reproductive Health (RH) service delivery, service promotion and technical training with a focus on Menstrual regulation. The project meets the objectives of key Sida and Government of Bangladesh's health policies. The current uncertainty of the next Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme (HNPSP) design and appraisal process carries the risk that in one-year time, another extension of the support might be requested after June 2004.

Local Governance/Rural Development

Local Governance and Production Program (LGPP)

The main objective of the Local Governance and Production Programme (LGPP) is to contribute to poverty reduction by strengthening of local government bodies through capacity building and empowerment of local communities.

The preparation of the programme is progressing well. In March 2003 the Government of Bangladesh formally submitted a project document seeking financial support from Sida.

After subsequent discussions Sida and GoB agreed that the project document needed some further refinement. Accordingly it was decided that "A Facilitation Team" would be procured to assist GoB in developing the project document into a Project Concept Paper (PCP) and an Technical Assistance Project Paper (TAPP) for the GoB budget-process 2004/2005. It is envisaged that the Facilitation Team will be in place early 2004 with a view of preparing for a first implementation phase starting in July 2004 or shortly thereafter.

Local Capacity Development Initiative (LCDI)

The Local Capacity Development Initiative aims to strengthen the interface between the central level in Dhaka and the local institutions at the local Union (Upazila and Pourashava) levels in Greater Faridpur and to facilitate the interaction between the local community beneficiaries and the local authorities to jointly plan, design, implement and maintain local development projects.

Developing Business Service Markets (DBSM)/Katalyst

DBSM/Katalyst aims at finding ways to provide necessary services to strengthen small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Bangladesh. The program is funded by a donor consortium consisting of; DFID, the lead donor; SDC and Sida. The program has a National focus but has an interesting component called "Support to Weaker Rural Markets" where Greater Faridpur is planned to be the first pilot area. The Inception-phase of the DBSM lasted for six months and ended 31 March 2003. During March the pre-cursor to DBSM SDC funded BDSP program was evaluated by Alan Gibson/Springfield. His findings have been of good use in preparing for the DBSM/Katalyst program.

A TAPP has been produced by GoB (Ministry of Commerce) with the assistance of the donors and presented to the NPC SPEC committee in late December 2002. Based on comments received then the TAPP was revised with the intent to get it approved soon. However, the TAPP is yet to be approved by the Planning Commission.

Productive Employment Project – PEP (RD-5) & Arsenic component of PEP

PEP is the one remaining component of the old RESP project. This micro-credit and socio-economic support project was supported by Sida for the period 2000 – June 2002. Sida's contribution was originally 14.5 MSEK but an additional amount of 5.8 MSEK was added to finance a new *Arsenic component* as well as to extend the TA-component with a further year, up to June 30 2003. However the agreement signing was much delayed by ERD and the Arsenic component could only first in December start hiring and planning for actual implementation of the project. Based on a submission from ERD in September 2003 Sida has agreed on a "no-cost" extension up to June 2004.

In February 2003 the PEP was evaluated by an international consultant assisted by a local counterpart. The evaluation report also included some suggestions as to what effort PEP need to make in order to sustain the project after the finishing of Sida's financial support in June 2003. The recommendations was shared with the GoB (BRDB) in February and further discussed with GoB in the quarterly meetings in March and June respectively. BRDB is yet to decide on the future modalities of the PEP.

Arsenic mitigation projects

The Sida supported project with ICDDR,B, 'Arsenic in Tubewell Water and its Health Consequences in Bangladesh' (2001–2003) has been approved for a no-cost extension up to end of January 2004. Although field activities were completed in July 2003 and arsenic analysis was completed by end of November 2003, some of the mitigation activities of the project took more time than was expected and thus led to the delay.

ICDDR,B submitted a project concept note in February 2003 requesting Sida to support a continuation of the project during the period 2003–2006. The aims of the continued project would be to further study the variations in arsenic exposure through tube well water; to further study the health effects; to further study the mitigation process; and to further

strengthen the competence at ICDDR,B and BRAC to deal with the arsenic problem in Bangladesh. Sida entered into an agreement with ICDDR,B in October 2003 for the new three-year project.

Support to local NGOs in the Rural Development Sector

A Sida evaluation cum appraisal (see below) of the SAMATA supported program in Greater Faridpur (supported 2000–2002) as well as the support extended to the SAMATA Land-rights network organisation was conducted in October 2002. Based on the evaluation, it was shown that in most parts the project(s) had been successful and that the social mobilisation had helped poor landless families getting ownership of government owned land.

SAMATA requested Sida in January 2003 to continue supporting the project "Empowerment through Resource Mobilisation (Phase –II) in Greater Faridpur 2003 – 2007". Based on the evaluation and substantive discussions with SAMATA, subsequent revisions of the proposal (also in budgetary terms) emerged and Sida approved the proposal in March 2003. A total amount of 17.5 MSEK has been allocated to the project for the period 2003-2007. In September a Donor Management Committee (DMC), comprising DFID, NORAD and Sida was formed in order to reduce transaction-costs and to maximise donor harmonisation in the support to SAMATA. The DMC will have an acting focal point for communication with SAMATA and also formally meet with representatives of SAMATA twice a year to review financial issues and the progress of the programme based on progress reports prepared by SAMATA.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TI-B). Sweden is part of a donor consortium consisting of DFID (lead agency), Denmark, Norway and Sweden. A MoU was signed in December 2002 between the donor partners and Sida has allocated a total amount of 10 MSEK to the TI-B program called "Making waves". The agreement between TI-B and Sida was signed in July 2003.

Personnel and Consultancy Fund

During the reporting period Personnel & Consultancy Fund covered the travel cost of

22 persons, attending different Sida & other training courses in Sweden. Out of them 13 were GOB officials, 3 from NGO's and 6 from the private sector. The male / female ratio was 19:3. Personnel & Consultancy funds were also used to cover the cost of some civil society members who visited Sweden during that time to participate in different conferences like "Global Water Partnership" conference, International Conference on "Tree Biotechnology" in Stockholm etc.

Concessionary Credits

Third Karnaphuli Bridge

In October 2003 the Swedish Government authorised Sida to support the construction of the third Karnaphuli Bridge in Chittagong. The total cost of the project is estimated at 69,5 million Euro. The project will be co-financed by Sida, Dutch FMO and the Government of Bangladesh.

The bridge is considered by the GOB to be an essential and most urgent requirement for the development of the country as a whole and the Chittagong area in particular.

Electricity Transmission in Northwestern Bangladesh

In August 2003 Sida decided to extend a concessionary credit not exceeding SEK 67 million for the construction of Barapukuria Substation and Bogra – Barapukuria transmission line. The financing agreement between SEK and ERD was due to be signed in November.

TRIDP-I

Project review missions from ADB visited Bangladesh in May and October 2003. The missions concluded that the project had continued to progress well. Currently the focus is on constructing roads, market places, flood shelters etc as agreed in the programme plan.

Saidabad-III

No major development during the six-month period. The World Bank is ending its support to WASA and Denmark has decided to keep their potential credit facility support to Saidabad on hold.

Volvo buses, Dhaka

In October 2003 ERD submitted a request to Sida for credit financing of another 95 Volvo double-decker buses for Dhaka City. Further processing of the request will await an evaluation/preappraisal that will be undertaken early 2004.

Democracy & Human Rights

During the reporting period Swedish Embassy was busy with the evaluation activities of its support to the NGO's who are engaged to promote Democracy & Human Rights, as most of our Agreements with the NGO's expired on 31st.December 2002. In case of three NGO's, Swedish Embassy had to extend the Agreement up to June 2003 with no additional fund. These extensions were due to non-availability of suitable consultants for the evaluation and preliminary negotiation on their future proposals. All common reports such as Annual Narrative Reports, Annual Audit Report, half-yearly narrative and financial report from the following NGO's were received. Beside the above regular reports following are some activities performed by individual NGO's during the last six months:

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) – During the reporting period significant component wise achievements are as follows:

1) To raise awareness on violence of women and children BNWLA conducted 26 awareness sessions through schools and colleges, organised and demonstrated 2 village theatre on awareness, and conducted 108 Shalish/ local mediations. 2) To give protection to deprived women & children BNWLA received 1891 complaints, registered 258 court cases, filed 15 Public Interest Litigation (PIL). 3) Under Advocacy/Lobbying on Women & Child rights component BNWLA completed 16 awareness

campaign through press media, published 2 newsletter, selected 1 issue for research and conducted 1 study on violence against women. Due to delayed disbursement of fund BNWLA could not achieve its planned activities for the last six months.

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) – Sida signed a new three years Agreement with ASK during this reporting period. NOVIB & Norwegian Embassy also signed their respective agreement with ASK. During the reporting period ASK's Training unit provided 91 training sessions on different HR related issues which has generated about one million taka for ASK. They have conducted 52 Salish to prevent 48 Human Right violation. 395 different issue based drama was performed by the popular theatre unit to raise the awareness on Violence against women and HR issues. During this period they have registered 5791 complaints out of which 3610 were settled through mediation and 385 settled through litigation. They also provided protection to 905 working children.

Steps Towards Development (Steps) – To fulfil the objectives Steps has tried to cover a significant course with the support of its partners, Gender Change Agents (GCA) Groups and Like Minded organisations. With help from Steps, 80 partner organisations developed their own Gender Policy, gender monitoring tools and indicators. Along with other like-minded organisation, they contributed to develop and submit the CEDAW Shadow report to UN. The landmark contribution of Steps in that report was the evaluation of the Government Initiatives on CEDAW and Bangladesh.

Association for Community Development (ACD) – A new Agreement to support ACD's three year project has been signed during this period. During the reporting period ACD organised 4 training on "capacity building on community people through PRA", organised 3 meeting on "Development of Local Level democracy", 7 meeting on "Strengthening Rule of Law", 4 meeting on "Equal Opportunity and Wages ensured", 2 training on "political Empowerment". All of the above activities were targeted towards Elected UP Chairmen, elected UP members, women labourers, social leaders, teachers, marriage registrar, imams, club members, social workers, group members and in some occasion officers from local administration i.e. U.N.O., Assistant Commissioner etc.

Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism & Communication (BCDJC) – A new Agreement has been signed during the reporting period. During this reporting period BCDJC conducted three training-courses on Journalism to organise and sensitise the reporters on the core issues (Human Rights, Gender & Good Governance). They have also arranged three Colloquiums with the newspaper editors/gatekeepers to discuss Press situation in the region and the coverage of Gender & Human Rights issues in NewsPapers. BCDJC also published a book on Journalism and core issues and successfully organised a national seminar on "Women in Mass Media".

Centre for Policy Dialog (CPD) – The present phase of IRBD project of CPD ended 31 August 2003. As agreed the LMG conducted an evaluation of IRBD. One international and one Bangladeshi consultant conducted the evaluation. The final report has just been published. The report was very much positive with recommendation to continue support to CPD. The next CPD's IRBD proposal would be for five year. All the LMG members have indicated their support. In January there will be an in-house appraisal of the project, hopefully end of January we will be able to sign an Agreement with Cida (The lead agency of the LMG).

Integrated Development Foundation (IDF) – Following the evaluation and the recommendation to IDF to do some work on different rights related issues of Chittagong Hill Tract people. Realising the need of the people, IDF prepared and submitted a concept paper to the Embassy for support. The concept paper was reviewed at the Embassy and IDF was asked to undertake major revisions of their proposal. The revised proposal is yet to be submitted to the Embassy. Hopefully in early 2004 we will be able to make our internal decision on support to IDF.

Manabik Sahajya Sangstha (MSS) – Sida supported MSS to establish a Study Circle Resource Centre to facilitate Swedish model of Study Circle at the grassroots level. The project will be ending on 31st January 2004.

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)

The National Democratic Institute (NDI) initiated the Swedish model of Study Circles with assistance from Sida for a one-year period, 2003–2004. Four NGOs have been involved in the implementation of the project. During the period April – October 2003, NDI organised ten (10) training courses for study circle organisers and facilitators assigned by participating NGOs. Six (06) participant booklets and a study circle information brochure were developed for use in study circles in Bengali and English languages. Topics included Environment and Health; Union Parishad Activities; Alternative Dispute Resolution; Role of Members of Parliament (MP); Transparency and Accountability in Primary Education Sector; and Primary Health Care Services.

A Bangladesh Study Circle Steering Committee has been formed involving four partner organisations. The committee met five times to discuss progress, share study circle activities, and to do strategic planning.

Seventy-four (74) study circles on different topics were organised and conducted by the four organisations. Seven Hundred and sixty-eight (768) citizens have participated in the study circle discussion as of October 31st, 2003. Educational qualifications, occupational patterns varied from group to group.

Summary of Bilateral Agreements, Allocations and Disbursements

Country Allocation

In FY 2003, Bangladesh has 150 MSEK available for disbursement. According to the latest prognosis, Bangladesh is planning to disburse 101 MSEK in FY 2003. At the end of this reporting period a total of 72 MSEK had been disbursed, which is 72% of the planned total disbursement for FY 2003 and 32% of the revised country allocation.

Table I (in MSEK)

Fiscal year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003 end of Nov.
Opening balance	40,8	48,8	8,9	45,3	84,1
Allocation	120,0	140,0	179,1	150,0	150,0
Available	160,8	188,8	188,0	195,3	234,1
Disbursed	112,0	179,9	142,7	111,2	72,0
Carry over	48,8	8,9	45,3	84,1	

Table II

	Budget	Disbursed	Budget	Disbursed	Budget	Disbursed as of Nov, 2003
	2001	2001	2002	2002	2003	
Direct support to NGOs	5,200	3,930	3,90	03,60	11,35	9,26
Democracy & human rights	6,375	4,240	7,00	05,75	7,90	6,00
Total	11,575	8,170	10,90	09,35	19,25	15,26

Publications Received March 2003–October 2003:

- Main Phase: Second Biannual Report, January to June 2003, July 2003, ESTEEM Project/PEDP I
- Social Development Report, July 2003, ESTEEM Project/PEDP I
- Index for Inclusion, Developing Learning and Participation in Schools, Centre for Studies on Inclusive Education, May 2003
- Literacy in Bangladesh, Need for a New Vision, Education Watch CAMPE, October 2003
- Renewed Hope, Daunting Challenges – State of Primary Education in Bangladesh, Education Watch, CAMPE, August 2003
- Learning Throughout Life, Challenges for the 21st Century, UNESCO, June 2003
- Contribution of Civil Society to the Development and Provision of Primary Education in Bangladesh: Educational Processes & Practices, ESTEEM Project/PEDP I, September 2003
- Completion Report on NFE 2 Project, Services & Solutions International, July 2003.
- Transparency International Bangladesh (TI – B) – NIP Phase II Making Waves: Six-monthly progress report for January 2003 – June 2003.
- Draft National Private-Sector Survey of Enterprises in Bangladesh, 2003. Prepared by Lisa Daniels for DfID, USAID, SDC and Sida. August 2003.

- LCDI. Annual Report 1 July 2002 – 30 June 2003. September 2003.
- Evaluation of the Local Capacity development Initiative (LCDI) Implemented by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED). Draft Report. Steinar Langbakk, Langbakk Consulting AB. August 2003.
- Third Rural Infrastructure Development Project. An Aide Memoir of a Project Review Mission (11 – 26 May 2003).
- Briefing Note on Project Implementation of TRIDP/NRIDP (RDP-21), LGED, October 2003.
- Improving the Use of Technical Assistance in Bangladesh's HNP Sector, Review of Technical Assistance to HPSP, Christopher Willoughby et. al, September 2003
- Demand Side Financing: A Protocol for Intervention Pilot. The Assessment of Health Care Financing Options for the Poor, WHO Bangladesh, July 2003.
- Action Plan for Completion of Agreed Reform Agenda, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 13 August, 2003.
- Bangladesh. A National Strategy for Economic Growth, Poverty Reduction and Social Development. Government of Bangladesh. March 2003.
- Interim Report on Study Circle Program, NDI, July 20, 2003

Swedish Development Co-operation with Bangladesh

Contribution Number	Financial follow-up Country programme Bangladesh. Updated on November 14' 2003	Status	Period of Agreement	Agreed amount	Amount for Planned Agreement	Disbursed upto & incl 2002	Disbursed 2002	Disbursed 2003 as of 31st Oct.2003	Planned Disb. 2003	Estimated Disb. 2004	Estimated Disb.2005	Estimated Disb. 2006
1. Budget allocation per country												
1A. Development Coop Agreement												
Contributions												
				582.54	886.00	470.22	76.93	52.07	77.50	226.32	184.00	209.00
Social sector												
42003214	NFEI (Non Formal Education Project)	A	9701 - 0406	150.00	-	128.66	67.06	43.70	66.01	181.11	144.00	154.00
42003216	NFEII (Non Formal Education Project)	A	9701 - 0406	45.00	-	44.45	2.05	1.30	1.82	5.91	-	-
42000095	NFE - III Phase 2	P			100.00					20.00	20.00	20.00
42000115	NFE Monitoring	A	0105 - 0206	6.00		4.64	1.66			-	-	-
42003212	IDEAL- Primary Education	A	0001 - 0406	47.00	-	32.75	12.67	0.18	0.19	2.70	-	7.00
42000098	NFE for Poverty reduction	P			35.00					7.00	7.00	7.00
42000096	PEDP - II	P		-	250.00	-	-	-	-	50.00	50.00	50.00
	Basic Education in Faridpur / LGPP	I		6.00		-	-	-	-	-	2.00	2.00
42000063	Fifth Health & Population Sector Programme	A	9807 - 0312	260.00	-	211.06	50.69	42.21	44.00	4.95	-	-
42000137	HFSP - TA	P		9.00						3.00	3.00	3.00
42000138	Finance Health Prog. in G. Faridpur	P		6.00						2.00	2.00	2.00
42000139	Finance HIV / AIDS	P		15.00						15.00	-	-
	UNUSM	P		30.00					20.00	10.00	-	-
	HINSP	P		-	300.00					60.00	60.00	70.00
42000108-9	Infrastr. priv.sect. urb. water/san			54.20	135.00	38.99	8.54	7.57	10.36	35.20	40.00	55.00
42000107	ICB (ISP & PCU)	A	0007 - 0306	19.50	-	18.97	0.54	-	-	-	-	-
42000120	PEP	A	0007 - 0312	20.30	-	14.73	3.98	3.30	4.57	1.00	-	-
42000142	LCDI	A	0107 - 0312	14.40	-	5.29	4.02	4.27	5.79	4.20	30.00	50.00
	LGPP	P		-	110.00	-	-	-	-	20.00	10.00	5.00
	LCDI - III	P		-	25.00	-	-	-	-	10.00	-	-
Agric, Fishery and Environment												
				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Research Cooperation												
				-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other												
42000064	Personnel & Consultancy (II)	A	9807 - 0112	8.34	-	9.67	1.33	0.81	1.13	10.01	-	-
42000126	Personnel & Consultancy	A	0201 - 0506	12.00	-	0.87	0.87	0.81	1.13	10.01	-	-
Total DISB.Dev. Coop. Agreement												
				582.54	886.00	470.22	76.93	52.07	77.50	226.32	184.00	209.00
Annual amount												
Balance Brought Forward												
Total Available for year												
Disbursement & Planned Disbursement for year												
Balance Carry Forward												
							120.00		150.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
							50.00		93.07	165.58	139.26	155.26
							170.00		243.07	365.58	339.26	355.26
							76.93		77.50	226.32	184.00	209.00
							93.07		165.58	139.26	155.26	146.26

In Million SEK

Updated on November 14' 2003

Swedish Development Co-operation with Bangladesh

Contribution Number	Financial follow-up Country programme Bangladesh. Updated on November 14 2003	Status	Period of Agreement	Agreed amount	Amount for Planned Agreement	Disbursed upto & incl 2002	Disbursed 2002	Disbursed 2003 as of 31st. Oct.2003	Planned Disb. 2003	Estimated Disb. 2004	Estimated Disb.2005	Estimated Disb. 2006
	1 B. Outside Dev. Coop. Agreement			162.54	63.20	64.15	27.50	9.63	23.56	35.24	29.30	19.20
	Social Sectors			9.89	18.00	-	-	-	5.00	11.09	6.00	6.00
42000065	CMES / NGO	P		-	18.00	-	-	-	-	6.00	6.00	6.00
42000154	Reproductive Health(RH-STEP)	A	0307/0412	5.19	-	-	-	-	2.50	2.69	-	-
42000153	BAPSA	A	0307/0413	1.46	-	-	-	-	0.80	0.76	-	-
42000155	BWHC	A	0307/0414	3.23	-	-	-	-	1.70	1.63	-	-
	Infrastr. priv.sect. urb. water/san			12.00	30.00	4.95	2.50	0.81	3.00	7.30	8.25	5.00
42000090	SAWATA	A	0001 - 0306	2.50	-	2.35	0.90	0.81	0.10	-	-	-
42000117	ICDDR'B	A	0106 - 0305	3.50	-	2.60	1.60	0.81	0.90	-	-	-
42000149	ICDDR'B	A	0307 - 0606	6.00	-	-	-	-	2.00	2.00	-	-
	DESM	P		-	30.00	-	-	-	5.30	5.30	6.25	5.00
	Democratic Governance & HR			41.25	15.20	-	-	4.65	10.36	16.85	15.05	8.20
42000135	Integrated Development Foundation (IDF)	P		-	3.60	-	-	-	-	1.20	1.20	1.20
42000145	SAWATA-Land(Greter Faridpur)	A	0301 - 0712	18.00	-	-	-	2.25	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50
42000146	Transparency Int. Bangladesh	A	0301 - 1208	10.00	-	-	-	-	0.30	3.70	2.00	2.00
42000129	Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK)	A	0307 - 0606	4.05	-	-	-	0.60	1.20	1.40	1.45	-
42000130	BNWLA	A	0304 - 0512	4.00	-	-	-	-	1.20	1.40	1.40	-
42000131	Steps Towards Development (STD)	P		-	5.10	-	-	-	1.70	1.70	1.70	-
42000132	Asso. For Community Development (ACD)	A	0301 - 0512	1.50	-	-	-	0.24	0.50	0.50	0.50	-
42000133	BCDJC	A	0301 - 0512	1.50	-	-	-	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	-
42000134	Center for policy Dialog (CPD)	P		2.00	-	-	-	-	0.40	0.80	0.80	-
42000148	NDI	A	0301 - 0312	1.00	-	-	-	0.85	0.85	0.15	-	-
	Upa Zila Election Observation	P		-	1.50	-	-	-	-	0.50	0.50	0.50
42000141	Seminar & Minor Studies	A	3001 - 0512	1.20	-	-	-	0.21	0.21	0.50	0.50	-
42000156	Child Rights Initiative	I		-	3.00	-	-	-	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
	Soft Credits			94.20	-	59.20	25.00	-	-	-	-	-
71000996	Rural Road Investment - II	A	9807 - 0104	35.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
71000023	TRDP - I	A	9711 - 0206	34.20	-	34.20	-	-	-	-	-	-
71001533	TRDP - II	A	0207 - 0412	25.00	-	25.00	25.00	-	-	-	-	-
	Others			5.20	-	-	-	4.18	5.20	-	-	-
42000136	Financing Local Post	A	0301 - 0312	1.20	-	-	-	0.86	1.20	-	-	-
41003512&21	Programme funded staff	A	0301 - 0312	4.00	-	-	-	3.32	4.00	-	-	-
(1 A+1 B)	TOTAL PLANNED DISB COUNTRY ALLOCATION			745.08	949.20	534.37	104.43	61.70	101.06	261.55	213.30	228.20
	PREL. COUNTRY ALLOCATION								150.00	200.00	200.0	200.0
	2. Outside Country Allocation			82.80	325.00	82.80	-	-	-	313.00	-	-
	Concessional Credits			82.80	325.00	82.80	-	-	-	313.00	-	-
71000835	Bgd, GSM Network Gramin	A	0004 - 0104	24.00	-	24.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
71000959	Urban Transport BGD	A	9906 - 0106	48.60	-	48.60	-	-	-	-	-	-
71000853	BGD Generator for DWASA	A	9808 - 0106	10.20	-	10.20	-	-	-	-	-	-
71000987	Surface Water Treatment	P		-	140.00	-	-	-	-	128.00	-	-
71010440	Bgd Bogra Substation	P		-	50.00	-	-	-	-	50.00	-	-
71001188	Third Camaphuli Bridge	P		-	135.00	-	-	-	-	135.00	-	-
	GRAND TOTAL BANGLADESH			827.88	1 274.20	617.17	104.43	61.70	101.06	574.55	213.30	228.20

Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.



SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

SE-105 25 Stockholm Sweden
Phone: +46 (0)8 698 50 00
Fax: +46 (0)8 698 56 15
info@sida.se, www.sida.se