



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
and
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



MEDIA RELEASE

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UNDP aims to fund US\$ 266.05 million for development of Bangladesh over next five years

Government and UNDP signs five-year Country Programme Action Plan

Dhaka: With greater emphasis on democratic governance and poverty alleviation, the Government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh today signed an agreement that outlines UNDP support to meet development challenges over the next five years. The agreement, known as the **Country Programme Action Plan 2006-2010 (CPAP)**, aims to fund US\$ 266.05 million for Bangladesh in five priority areas.

The five areas, as outlined in the CPAP are: Economic Growth and Poverty Alleviation, Sustainable Environment and Energy Management, Reduction of Social and Economic Vulnerability, Gender Equality and the Advancement of Women and Democratic Governance and Human Rights.

The Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) is the key tool for UNDP's programme-level management for the next five years emphasizing results to be achieved during the period. The CPAP is the legal agreement between the Government of Bangladesh and UNDP to implement the country programme.

The CPAP indicates that over the last five years (2001-2005), UNDP-assisted projects have made impressive gains in key development areas in Bangladesh. The environment in Dhaka has improved as a result of two policies that UNDP supported: a ban on plastic bags and the conversion of motorized rickshaws and other public and private transports to operate with compressed natural gas. UNDP supported Government in creating a paradigm shift in disaster management from conventional response practices to comprehensive risk reduction. Again, a UNDP publication on human security drew policy attention to the criminal justice system, problems of access to justice, and violence against women. This enabled the Government and UNDP to engage in participatory consultations leading to other initiatives, such as police reform. A pilot initiative for good governance in the Sirajganj district strengthened the capacity of Union Parishads (UPs) and contributed to government decision to allocate Block-grants to all UPs in Bangladesh.



Over 63 million people in Bangladesh still live below the poverty line, under the constant threat of sudden shocks, natural and manmade disasters, the uncertain impact of globalisation and an increasingly competitive international trade environment impedes higher growth rates. Challenges in governance remain as persistent constraints to development. Bangladesh's PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper), *Unlocking the Potential: National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction (NSAPR)* finds that "governance has justifiably emerged as the most critical of issues at the interface of democracy and development."

Future interventions to promote pro-poor growth will contribute to the achievement of poverty-related MDGs, PRS goals for economic growth, trade promotion, private sector development, urban poverty alleviation, rural non-farm activities, women's economic empowerment and women's advancement and rights.

UNDP initiatives will facilitate confidence building in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and develop infrastructure appropriate to governance in the region.

Model Thana (Police Station) will be established in urban and rural locations to demonstrate how pro-people policing can benefit the community and ensure their needs and expectations can be met. Support will be provided to enhance skills for high quality police operations and investigations and to ensure that lower court prosecution brings closure to the investigative effort.

UNDP will also contribute to the development of umbrella programmatic initiatives as well as separate projects to address the impact of climate change, land and water management issues, biotechnology potentials, energy issues and management of ecologically critical areas.

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