Empower poor urban communities

The project is based on the fundamental premise that the urban poor, especially the women, can break away from the vicious cycle of poverty if they are empowered and actively supported by Government, Local Governments and non-governmental organizations. It is intended to benefit about 100,000 families living in 500 communities in 11 project towns but the development of local governments. Promotion of local partnerships, community participation in all aspects of the development process and increasing approaches in achieving the development objective. The program support building of local governments. Promotion of local partnerships, community empowerment of poor urban communities and capacity.

Mymensingh, Bogra, Sirajganj, Gopalganj, Gopalganj, Narayanganj, Hobiganj

About 100,000 families living in 500 communities across 11 towns are covered with 4,400 families having about 20 families, with one family as the member. The primary groups formed the Community Development Committees. The size of the CDCs depends on the size of the community but ranged from about 100 to 400 families. In 600 communities across the 11 towns there are about 10,000 communities in primary groups. The community people organized themselves into primary groups having about 20 families, with one family as the member. The primary groups formed the Community Development Committees. The size of the CDCs depends on the size of the community but ranged from about 100 to 400 families. Their involvement in the project.

Community Development Activities

Community Mobilization

In order to mobilize the communities a number of activities were carried out within the community such as mass meetings, exchange visits participatory urban appraisal surveys, family surveys and informal group meetings. The key outputs were the formation of Primary Groups (PGs), Community Development Committees (CDCs), Project Implementation Committees (PICs), and Project Coordination Committees in each town. During the first two years of the project a total of 412 mass meetings were organized to make people aware about community participation and building partnerships for the poverty reduction. Community capacity building has been done through interventions such as regular meetings of the groups and committees, training and counseling, formal and informal communications and participation in planning and decision making at different levels.

Primary Groups

Participatory urban appraisal surveys were undertaken to organize the communities in primary groups. The community people organized themselves into primary groups having about 20 families, with one family as the member. The primary groups formed the Community Development Committees. The size of the CDCs depends on the size of the community but ranged from about 100 to 400 families. In 600 communities across the 11 towns there are about 10,000 families living in 500 communities.

Community Development Fund

Community Action Plan

The Community Development Fund (CDF) is for construction of basic facilities according to community needs reflected in the Community Action Plan (CAP). The preparation of a CAP is the first step for a community contract. The CAP includes a priority list of facilities and improvements in environmental conditions needed by the community. The CDF has been successful in meeting basic needs of the majority of the poor in the project communities, providing more than 140,000 households. Water supplies and sanitation are much improved through additional 31,380 latrines and 2,914 tubewells and quality of life, health status and income earning potential are reported to have improved. Women and children have especially benefited.

Community Contracts

The community action plans form the basis for the development of the community contracts that are all managed by the communities and led by the women. The contracts are not providing only twin pit latrines and tube wells but together with footpaths and drains, these appear to take the overwhelming majority of the funding. Investment remains and is circulated within the community and community-based management also helps to ensure quality control and long-term sustainability. About 313 CDCs have awarded community contracts that were prepared in accordance with the project implementation guidelines.

“Is it difficult to bring women out of their houses in a Muslim country...the LPUPAP project has not only helped women to come out but inspired them to lead, save and improve the life of the whole community...” - Nur-E-Alam Hol, Chairman, Shriganj

Poverty Alleviation Fund

Savings and Credits

The formation of savings and credit groups was considered as one of the key interventions for poverty alleviation. The primary groups were mobilized to form savings and credit groups. The project has prepared guidelines, books of accounts and passbooks for each PG. The total amount of savings in all towns stands at Tk. 31.0 million (US$ 825,000 approx.).

Most of the primary groups started savings and were designated as Savings and Credit Groups (SCGs). The primary groups meet weekly for managing the different needs of the groups, including collection of savings and disbursement of loans. The SCGs are also provided with books of accounts and have been trained in their maintenance. The project regularly monitors the books of account at CDC as well as at SCG level. The communities have had the opportunity to build their management skills, particularly financial management, through savings and credit management and this has been a very useful preparation for the management of the community contracts.

The saving and credit activities have enabled families to accumulate financial assets which have provided some security against shocks of illness and unemployment and, through loans, to acquire productive assets for income generation. The project has also provided a family file to the SCG members, as an encouragement for their keeping of records and papers. This was also aimed at empowering women members to have responsibility, self-confidence in their individual identity.

Life skills enhancement

The scheme provides 6 months’ apprenticeship to young people selected by the community from the poorer households. The project has already funded 183 CDCs’ contracts for 3,386 apprenticeships. The first batch has completed its 6 months and over 80% are reported to be full-time employment.

Apprentice learning

Besides “women oriented professions” like handicrafts, tailoring, embroidery and sewing, girls and young women are taking up a cross section of professions like computer operators, beauty parlour work, assistant nurses, jewellery making and leather work as well as non-traditional professions like carpentry and furniture making, mechanical repairs (including mobile phones), banner and poster making, photography and studio work. Findings from “Status of Women Analysis” Apprenticeship Programme.