People's Republic of Bangladesh

2015 Country Programme Evaluation

Bangladesh at a glance

Rural population: 105.3 million (2013)
Rate of annual GDP growth: 6% (2013)
GDP per capita: US$957.8 (2013)
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP): 17 (2013)
Agricultural sector growth: 4% per annum (2006-2013)

Population living below national poverty line declined

Selected Government policies, programmes and strategies for rural poverty reduction

Bangladesh Vision 2021

Sixth Five Year Plan 2011-2015


National Agriculture Policy 2013

Social Safety Net Programme

Economic Empowerment of the Poorest in Bangladesh Programme

The presentation of the material in this map do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of IFAD concerning the delimitation of the frontiers or boundaries.
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

An international financial institution and a specialized United Nations agency

Invests in rural people

Empowers rural people to reduce poverty, increase food security, improve nutrition and strengthen resilience

Since 1978, has provided over US$17.6 billion in grants and low-interest loans to projects globally

IFAD-funded projects throughout the world have reached about 459 million people

Based in Rome - the UN's food and agriculture hub

IFAD in Bangladesh

31
Loan-financed projects approved

6
Ongoing projects

US$17.2 million
IFAD financing

10.7 million
Households directly benefitted

Country Strategic Opportunities Programmes (COSOPs)

1999
Promote self-managing grass-roots community organization that will create and sustain viable, cost effective institutions and also empower the rural poor

2006
Using IFAD's limited resources to support the scaling up of successful innovative approaches to poverty

2012
Support the Government's strategy for rural development, especially the Sixth Plan's goal of diversifying agriculture towards higher value-added production to promote commercialization and raise farm incomes

Country Programme Evaluations at IFAD Conducted by the Independent Office of Evaluation

Objectives
Assess performance and impact of IFAD-financed operations in a given country

Generate findings, conclusions and recommendations that will inform the next country strategic opportunities programme (COSOP) in the country

Methodology
Conducted in accordance with directives of IFAD's Evaluation Policy

Follow core methodology and processes for CPEs outlined in IOE's Evaluation Manual

Undertaken by a team of development experts, following internationally-agreed evaluation criteria such as relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and rural poverty impact
2015 Bangladesh Country Programme Evaluation

- Timeframe: 2004-2014
- Operations ongoing in the time frame
- Non-lending activities
- 1999, 2006 and 2012 country strategies (COSOPs)

Projects covered by the evaluation

Five closed or completed

- MFTSP 2003 US$20m
  Microfinance and Technical Support Project
- SCBRMP 2003 US$31.8m
  Sunamganj Community-Based Resource Management Project
- MFMSFP 2005 US$29.78m
  Microfinance for Marginal and Small Farmers Project
- MIDPCR 2006 US$43.9m
  Market Infrastructure Development Project in Chaltanda Regions
- FEDEC 2008 US$57.7m
  Finance for Enterprise Development and Employment Creation Project

Six ongoing (includes one recently approved)

- PSSWRSP 2009 US$119.8m
  Participatory Small-scale Water Resources Sector Project
- CDSP 2011 US$89.2m
  Char Development and Settlement Project IV
- HILIP/CALIP 2012 US$133.3m
  Haor Infrastructure and Livelihood Improvement Project - Climate Adaptation and Livelihood Protection
- CCRIP 2013 US$150m
  Coastal Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project
- NATP 2008 US$84.75m
  National Agricultural Technology Project
- PACE December 2014 US$92.8m
  Promoting Agricultural Commercialization and Enterprises
- NATP II September 2015 US$214m
  National Agricultural Technology Project II

Non-lending activities

- Knowledge management
- Partnership-building
- Grant portfolio

Performance of country strategies (COSOPs)

- 1999, 2006 and 2012 COSOPs
  Assessed against relevance and effectiveness
Main evaluation findings

**Strengths**
- Positive impact on rural poverty alleviation: increase in rural households income and improvements in productivity
- Building/strengthening of social capital and empowerment of beneficiaries: gender equality and women's empowerment
- Strong focus on innovation: agriculture technologies, microfinance, community-based resource management, value chain pilots and infrastructure

**Areas for improvement**
- There are pockets of unmet need in rural credit: requires diversification and policy support for emerging entrepreneurs
- Knowledge management is still one weak link of the Bangladesh country programme
- There is insufficient broad-based institutional partnerships and limited convergence and/or interface with the Government

---

**Key recommendations**
- Strengthen focus on agriculture
- Maintain access to credit as a priority
- Maintain environmental protection as a priority
- Broaden policy and institutional support for the country programme

---

**Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE)**

IOE conducts evaluations of IFAD-financed policies, strategies and operations to promote accountability and learning. The main purpose is to contribute to improving IFAD’s and its partners’ performance in reducing rural poverty in recipient countries. IOE’s independent evaluations assess the impact of IFAD-funded activities and give an analysis of successes and shortcomings – to tell it the way it is – as well as identify factors affecting performance. Based on the key insights and recommendations drawn from evaluation findings, IOE also communicates and shares IFAD’s knowledge and experience in agriculture and rural development with a wider audience.