

Urban Partnership for Poverty Reduction (UPPR) - Bangladesh

Summary:

To improve the livelihoods and living conditions of 3 million urban poor and extremely poor people, especially women and children, The Urban Partnership for Poverty Reduction (2008-2014), implemented jointly by UNDP and DFID in Bangladesh, contributed to urban poverty reduction by directly improving the living environment and social and economic conditions of urban low-income families in 30 towns and by influencing national and local urban poverty reduction and economic development policies.

Objectives:

To improve land tenure security, access to community infrastructure for a healthy living environment, and access to essential services such as health facilities and finance for improved housing and entrepreneurship, thereby improving children and women's livelihoods and living conditions.

Key Stakeholders:

- Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives
- Local Government Engineering Department (LGED)
- Corporations
- 30 Cities and Towns
- UNDP
- DFID

Implementation strategy:

The review of the programme documents of UPPR indicates similarity in the output and intervention strategies with the DAY-NULM Mission. Key similarities include:

- Both UPPR and DAY-NULM Mission emphasise community action planning and institutional development of community institutions. Hence, mobilisation of the urban poor lies at the core of both the programmes
- To address the social and economic vulnerability of poverty, both the programmes incorporate activities that seek to increase the knowledge and skills of the urban poor in accessing employment and business opportunities. This includes skill development and training, enterprise development through access to finance, markets and technology, and supports access to financial services for productive and non-productive purposes
- Both the programmes support and encourage community institutions through social groups like SHGs/federations to overcome social/economic problems
- Partnerships with the private sector and civil society are envisaged for the implementation of pro-poor policies and practices under both DAY-NULM and UPPR

As indicated earlier, UPPR has its foundation in participative community action planning, from which community contracts were developed for settlement improvements and socio-economic activities. Communities themselves executed the contracts and managed project funds.

Source: (DFID)

Resource Utilisation:

UPPR worked towards mobilising the urban poor to build their own organisations and take their demands further to the municipal authorities. This approach made space for vulnerable community members and



worked towards their empowerment to make decisions and implement solutions. They promoted the formation of Primary Groups (PG), comprising of 20 households, which further formed CDCs to assess the community's physical and socio-economic needs and develop plans.

Source: (DFID)

Impact/ Outcomes:

UPPR reported significant improvement in reducing multidimensional poverty and in promoting women's empowerment (Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction, 2015):

- There was a poverty reduction in the 12 UPPR towns, as indicated by the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI). The MPI was 23 per cent in 2014 (reduced from 33 per cent in 2013), and percentage of nutrition deprived households fell to 12 per cent (from 68 per cent in 2013)
- Findings of the Women's Empowerment Scorecard conducted in 22 UPPR towns reveal that more than 90 per cent of 2,700 women community development committee members reported moderate to high levels of empowerment

Challenges/ Lessons Learnt:

- Encouraged the municipalities to consider community-driven organisations as long-term development partners. This was done through building skills and abilities of communities.

Replicability & Sustainability:

- UPPR focuses on a community organisation model to deliver benefits and aims to go beyond the project's life and organisational structures. It has been instrumental in fostering linkages leading to stronger relationships between service providers and communities. This was because it followed the approach where communities were empowered by creating their skills and abilities through multiple tools.

Fact Sheet:

Thematic area	Urban Poverty Alleviation
First-year of the program	2008
Responsible institution	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives
Target audience	Urban Poor Population
Coverage	30 Cities and Towns

