# Giving Locally Elected Women Voice in Local Governance Structures: Bangladesh



**Second Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement (Sector) Project (UGIIP-II)**

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED)

Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives, Bangladesh

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# Overview

- Background Information

- Project at a Glance

- Women Participation in Project Activities

- Achievements to date

- Challenges encountered

- Lesson Learned

# Background Information

❖ 38 million people live in urban areas i.e. 28% of national population

❖ Urban population growth rate is 3.1 percent

*(i.e. 1.8% higher than national growth rate)*

❖ Lack of urban services, poor governance and weak citizen participation are among key urban issues

❖ UGIPP II follows lessons learned from a series of urban projects supported by ADB; particularly Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement Project (UGIIP-I) from 2003 to 2010, 30 municipalities)

❖ Policy shift: from only infrastructure to also 'capacity building' of local government institutions,performance based fund allocation

❖ Second Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement (Sector) Project (UGIIP-II), 35 municipalities (duration 2009-2014)

# Increasing Urbanization

## GROWING DEFICIENCIES

➢Access to safe drinking water: 45%
➢Solid waste management:20%-30%
➢Severe traffic congestion
➢Distorted land and housing market



## URBAN POVERTY



➢ 30-40% urban population below poverty line
➢ Low level of basic infrastructure services
➢ Low per capita floor space
➢ Small size and weak dwellings
➢ Vulnerability to natural hazards
➢ Lack of tenure and land

# Expected Outcome of UGIIP-II

**Expanded access to and usage of urban infrastructure and services, and improvement in urban governance**



# Project Objectives

- ➢ **Enhance capacity of Pourashavas (municipalities) to implement operate, manage and maintain basic urban services;**
- ➢ **Improve Urban Governance;**
- ➢ **Increase accountability of municipalities towards citizens;**
- ➢ **Provide improved physical infrastructure and services.**

# PROJECT AT A GLANCE

**Component A:
Urban Infrastructure & Service Delivery**

- Urban Transport
- Solid Waste Mgt
- Urban Drainage
- Water Supply & Sanitation
- Municipal Facilities
- Basic Services for
- Urban Poor

**Component B: Governance Improvement & Capacity Development (UGIAP)**

Performance Criteria:

- Citizen awareness and participation
- Women's participation
- Integration of urban poor
- Urban planning
- Financial accountability and sustainability
- Administrative transparency

**Outputs**

**Municipalities**

**Component C: Project Management & Implementation Supports**

- Establish PMO at LGED office
- Establish PIU at Pourashava level
- Capacity Building Training
- Support Extra Human Resources
- Allocation of Resources

# Building Capacity of Elected Women

- **Locally elected women generally unfamiliar with the business of local governments – procedures, protocols of formal meetings**

- **Unfamiliar with politics,  limited experienced in public speaking**

- **Limited knowledge of local development budgets & resources**

- **Lack of support from male colleagues**

**Therefore, project includes capacity building**

- **Leadership skills and confidence building**

- **Knowledge on budgets to carry out their roles and functions**

- **Involving them in key committees such as tender committees, environment committees, etc**

**Continue ….**

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# Women Participation in Project Activities

❑ **Improving Women Participation in Local Governance through setting women quotas for all decision-making forums**

- ■ TLCC headed by Mayor with at least 1/3 women members (including all WWCs);

- ■ WLCC headed by Ward Councilor (at least 1/3 women members);

- ■ GC headed by WWCs (including all WWCs);

- ■ Municipal Standing Committees (at least 40% women members);

- ■ SICs (at least 2/3 women);  and

- ■ CBO executive committee (40% women).

\* *TLCC = Town Level Coordination Committee, WLCC = Ward Level Coordination Committee, WWC = Women Ward Councilor, GC = Gender Committee, SIC = Slum Improvement Committee, CBO =  Community Based Organization*

## Improving Women's Participation in Infrastructure Planning

- Mass awareness and participation of women in infrastructure planning and prioritizing (FGD, Visioning at Ward and Municipal Level);

- Preparation of Pourashava (Municipal) Development Plan with at least 33% women participation;

- Participation of women members (including WWCs) in different committee meetings (TLCC, WLCC and CBOs);

- Preparation of CAP for infrastructure addressing women's needs with at least two-third women participation.

FGD= Focused Group Discussion, CAP = Community Action Plan

# Women's Participation in Awarenes Building

Conduct quarterly courtyard meeting, yearly and half-yearly rally led by WWCs

# Improving Women's Participation in Infrastructure Planning

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FGD= Focused Group Discussion, CAP = Community Action Plan

# Achievements to Date

**WWCs and Women Participation in Local Governance:**

⬤ **TLCC:**

■ Meeting is being held quarterly and as when necessary: 866 meetings held;

■ 47 TLCCs are in operation at 47 project municipalities with 785 (more than 33%) women members

■ Women participation rate in meetings is 35%

■ Specific time has been provided for WWCs and women members to express opinion in TLCC meetings;

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**Continue ....**

# **Achievements to Date**

## **WWCs and Women Participation in Local Governance:**

- **WLCC**

- ■ Meeting is being held quarterly: 8463 meetings held;

- ■ 471 WLCCs are in operation;

- ■ 1,928 women (41%) members are participating;



**Continue ….**

# Achievements to Date

## WWCs and Women Participation in Local Governance:

- WWC as one of the panel mayors;

- 10 mandatory and 8 optional standing committees comprise with 40% WWCs;

- 'Committee to Protest Oppression Against Women' and 'Women and Children Affairs Standing Committee' chaired by WWC;

- 47 GCs (headed by WWC & including all WWCs as members) are in operation;

**Continue ....**

# Achievements to Date

## WWCs and Women Participation in Local Governance:

- 1,014 CBOs are operating with 4,056 women member (34% ) in CBO executive committee;

- 47 PRAP Steering Committees are in operation with WWC participation;
- MCC committee of 47 municipalities are operating with WWC as member;

- 47 GRC are in operation with active participation of WWC as member;

PRAP= Poverty Reduction Action Plan, MCC= Mass Communication Cell, GRC= Grievance Redress Cell

**Continue ....**

# Achievements to Date

**Community women participation led by WWCs:**

- 39% women participation in FGDs;

- 52.25% women participation in Ward visioning & Municipal visioning;

- 285 municipality based rallies organized;

- 1,904 Ward based rallies organized;

- 6,373 Court yard meetings held where 197,444 women participated;

# **Achievements to Date**

- 471 women representatives from poor community are performing as member of TLCC;

- 141women representatives from poor community are performing as member of WLCC;

- 1,562 Primary Groups with only poor women of slums;

- 186 SICs including 79% women members;

- SICs chaired by a woman;

- SIC members are actively participating in slum development (from planning to implementation and maintenance/ over all management);

# Achievements to Date

**Active Role of WWCs as Chair Person and Member of GC and other Decision Making Committees:**

- Providing capacity building training to TLCC women members;

- Support women friendly infrastructure;

- Established Women Section in all project municipalities;

- Providing IGA training and support;

- Addressing oppression against women;

- Child management (Children of CY meeting participant mothers) for uninterrupted attention;

  IGA = Income Generating Activities, CY = Court Yard

# Policy Support to Increase Women Participation

- Government enacted Municipal Act, 2009 to institutionalize TLCC, WLCC;

- Ministry issued specific instruction to ensure women representation mentioned earlier in TLCC & WLCC;

- Standing Committees also formed by the Act with provision of 40% women representation;

- Recent draft Urban Sector Policy emphasize gender mainstreaming in urban governance.

# **Challenges**

- WWCs are not always treated equally;

- Less time and opportunity of TLCC women members to speak out;

- Women voice are not always recorded in TLCC and WLCC minutes;

- Lack of effective participation of WWC in PS Standing Committees;

- Lack of effective participation WWCs in different committees;

# Lessons Learned in Facilitating Women Voice in Local Governance Structure

- Legal framework established by the Government is necessary to ensure adequate participation of women in decision making. With the Municipal Act of 2009 and following executive order of 2011, Government of Bangladesh mandated 33% women representation in TLCCs and 40% in WLCCs which has provided women the opportunity to voice their needs, issues and concerns and to participate in Ward and Municipality level priority setting;

- Specific detailed conditions and performance criteria regarding women participation is essential;

- Strong monitoring and timely reporting from field is required;

**Cont....**

- Participatory approach can ensure gender-responsive governance improvement and capacity development of municipalities that lead towards sustainability;

- Regular motivational and training activities are essential to resolve social barriers in women's participation and involvement in project activities;

- Strong leadership at the Municipal level (Mayor, WWCs, GC Chairperson) can promote and demonstrate innovative practices;

- GAP built in project components contributing towards project objectives helps achieving better results in women participation.

GAP = Gender Action Plan

# **Thank You**

# TLCC Formation

| Mayor | Chairperson | Remark |
|---|---|---|
| Councilors (men & women) [maximum 12] | Member | Total Members 50 |
| Representative from different agencies (DC Office, LGED, DPHE, RHD, PWD, Cooperatives, T&T, etc. | Member | |
| Representatives of  Civil Society | Member | |
| NGO Representatives | Member | |
| Womens' Representative | Member | |
| Poor Representative | Member | |
| CEO | Member Secretary | |

- *1–3 members from each ward*
- *At least 1/3 women members*
- *At least 7 members from the poor of which 2 women members*

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# WLCC Formation

| Respective Ward Councilor | Chairperson | Remark |
|---|---|---|
| Women Councilor (reserve seat) | Co-Chair | Total Members 10 |
| Representative from Slum | Member | |
| NGO Representative | Member | |
| Representative from Civil Society | Member | |
| School Teacher | Member | |
| Staff from Pourashava | Member Secretary | |

- *40% of the total members will be women*
- *At least 2 members from the poor*

Back

# CBO Executive Committee

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Chairperson | 1 | Remark |
| Co- Chairperson | 1 | • Total Members 12 |
| Secretary | 1 | |
| Joint- Secretary | 1 | • At least 1/3 women members |
| Cashier | 1 | |
| Member (Drainage & Sanitation Management) | 1 | |
| Member (Family Waste Management) | 1 | |
| Member (Clinical & Market Waste Management) | 1 | |
| Member (Community Infrastructure Maintenance) | 1 | |
| Member (Street-light Management) | 1 | |
| Member (Road Cleaning & Maintenance) | 1 | |
| Member (Others) | 1 | |