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USAID 50 ANNIVERSARY

BANGLADESH Country Development Cooperation Strategy

FY2011- FY2019

September 2011

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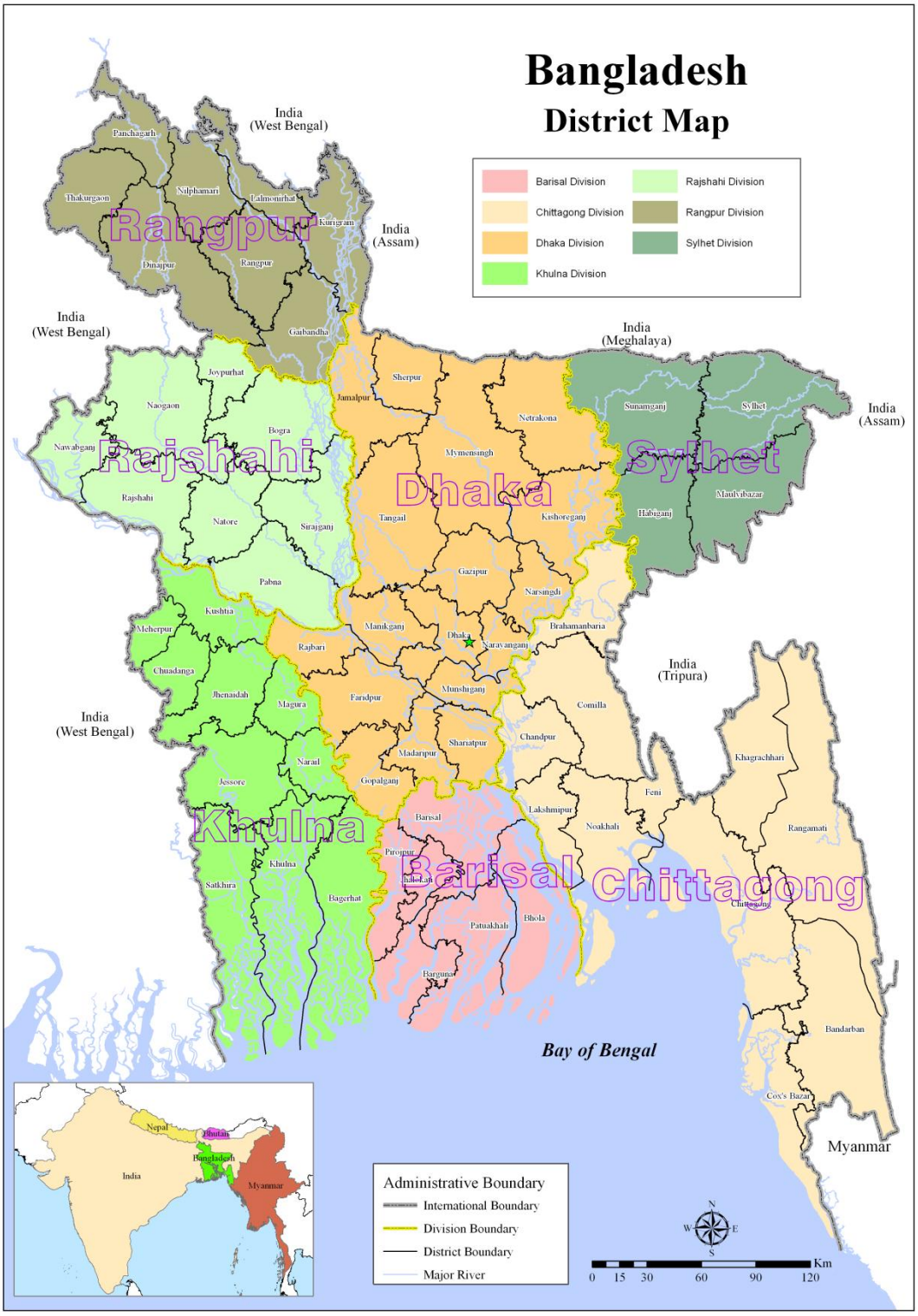
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
BCCSAP	Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan
CDCS	Country Development Cooperation Strategy
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DG	Democracy and Governance
DO	Development Objective
DP	Development Partner
EC-LEDS	Enhancing Capacity for Low Emission Development Strategies
ERD	Economic Relations Division
FP	Family Planning
FTF	Feed the Future
GCC	Global Climate Change
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHI	Global Health Initiative
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GOB	Government of Bangladesh
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
HPNSDP	Health, Population and Nutrition Strategic Development Plan
IR	Intermediate Result
LCG	Local Consultative Group
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCH	Maternal and Child Health
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MP	Member of Parliament
MW	Mega Watt
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ORT	Oral Rehydration Therapy
PA	Protected Area
PL 480 Title II	Public Law 480, Title II
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RH	Reproductive Health
TB	Tuberculosis
UN	United Nations
USAID/B	USAID/Bangladesh
US	United States
USG	United States Government
WB	World Bank


Bangladesh
District Map
Barisal Division
Chittagong Division
Dhaka Division
Khulna Division
Rajshahi Division
Rangpur Division
Sylhet Division
India (West Bengal)
India (Assam)
India (Meghalaya)
India (Tripura)
India (West Bengal)
India (West Bengal)
Rangpur
Rajshahi
Dhaka
Sylhet
Khulna
Barisal
Chittagong
Panchagarh
Thakurgaon
Nilphamari
Lalmonirhat
Kurigram
Dinajpur
Rangpur
Gaibandha
Joypurhat
Naogaon
Nawabganj
Bogra
Rajshahi
Natore
Sirajganj
Pabna
Sherpur
Jamalpur
Mymensingh
Netrakona
Sunamganj
Sylhet
Maulvibazar
Habiganj
Kishoreganj
Tangail
Gazipur
Narsingdi
Manikganj
Dhaka
Narayanganj
Brahamanbaria
Kushtia
Meherpur
Chuadanga
Rajbari
Jhenaidah
Magura
Faridpur
Munshiganj
Comilla
Chandpur
Shariatpur
Madaripur
Gopalganj
Narail
Jessore
Khagrachhari
Feni
Lakshmipur
Noakhali
Rangamati
Barisal
Pirojpur
Jhalokati
Khulna
Satkhira
Bagerhat
Patuakhali
Bhola
Barguna
Chittagong
Bandarban
Cox's Bazar
Bay of Bengal
Myanmar
Nepal
Bhutan
Bangladesh
India
Myanmar
Administrative Boundary
International Boundary
Division Boundary
District Boundary
Major River
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Km

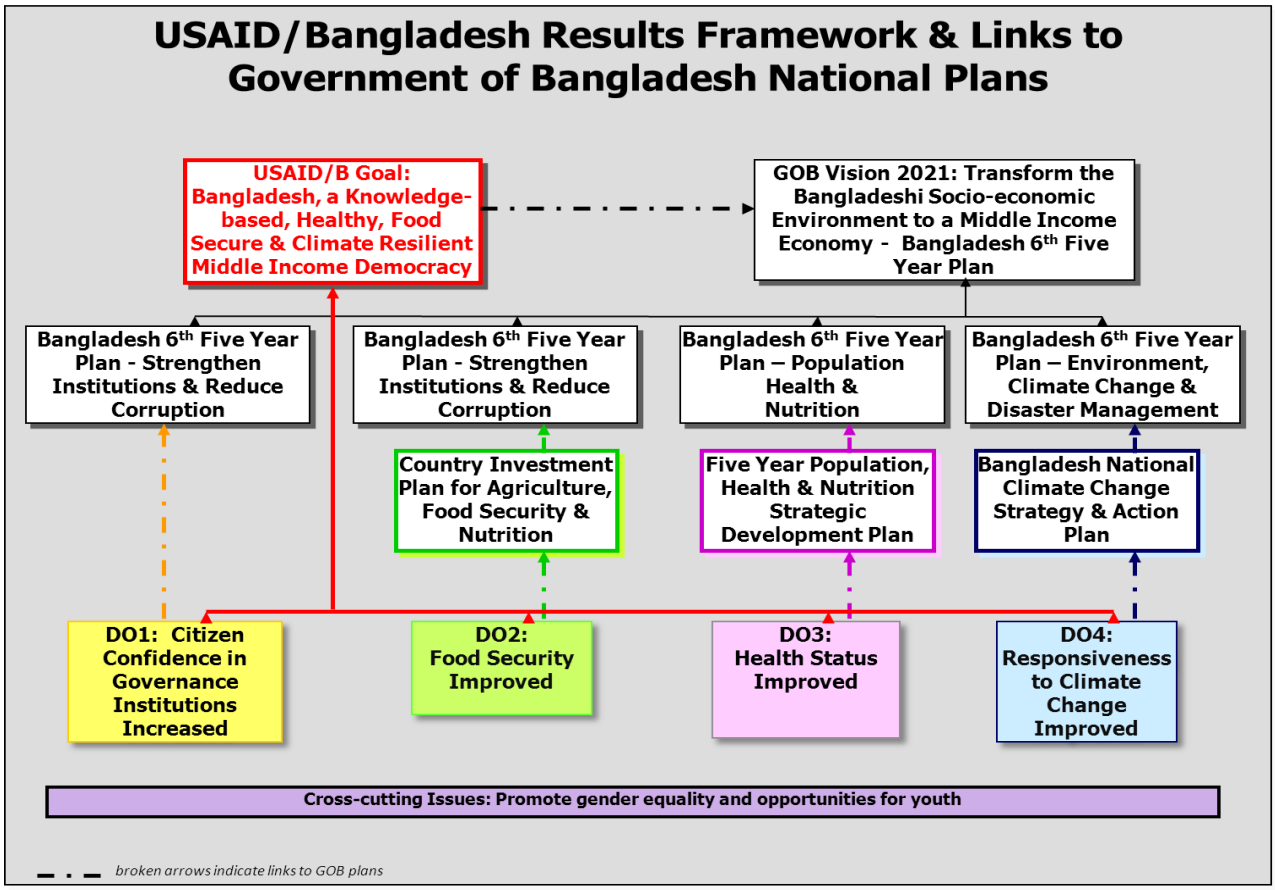
OVERVIEW

Bangladesh is an important partner of the United States. The Government of Bangladesh (GOB) has been an active partner in planning and implementing USAID/Bangladesh's (USAID/B) development programs. Past assistance has not only helped the GOB overcome some of its formidable development challenges but has also resulted in several broad-based benefits to the country and its citizens. USAID's new Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) for Bangladesh follows in this tradition of partnership. **Over the next five years, USAID will support the GOB's plans to transform its economy to achieve Bangladesh's ambitious vision of becoming a middle income country by 2021 when Bangladesh celebrates its 50th year of independence.**

USAID/Bangladesh's CDCS is based on Government of Bangladesh designed national plans, including the Sixth Five-Year Plan for 2011–2015. The overall goal of the CDCS is support the country's ambitious goal to become a lower-middle-income country by 2021, with a minimum per capita of $999.

Given the gross national income per capita of $640 in 2010, Bangladesh requires a GDP growth rate of eight percent or more each year to reach that goal. The Sixth Five-Year Plan focuses on: (1) Accelerating economic growth and employment; (2) Benefiting from higher labor force growth and ensuring labor quality; (3) Improving factor productivity through information technology; (4) Reducing population growth; (5) Ensuring food security; (6) Managing the spatial dimensions of growth; (7) Improving access of the poor to essential services and factors of production; (8) Ensuring social protection for the underprivileged population; (9) Ensuring gender parity; (10) Ensuring environmental sustainability; (11) Improving governance; (12) Strengthening administrative capacity; and (13) Establishing a results-based monitoring and evaluation system. Other significant plans developed in recent years with US and other donor assistance include: The Second National Strategy for Accelerated Poverty Reduction for 2009–2011; the National Food Policy Plan of Action (2008–2011); the Health, Population and

Nutrition Strategic Development Plan (HPNSDP); the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2009 (BCCSAP); and the Bangladesh Country Investment Plan, a five-year plan to ensure sustainable food security through public investment in agriculture, food security and nutrition.



USAID/BANGLADESH COUNTRY DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION STRATEGY

USAID/B supports GOB's Vision 2021 through the goal statement, "Bangladesh, a knowledge-based, healthy, food secure and climate resilient middle income democracy," and will contribute to the GOB's long term development goals while focusing on improving the lives of the poor. The results framework for 2011-2016 presents the following Development Objectives (DOs) that contribute to USAID/B's overall goals:

DO1: Citizen Confidence in Governance Institutions Increased

DO2: Food Security Improved

DO3: Health Status Improved

DO4: Responsiveness to Climate Change Improved

Given the significant challenges in food security, health and climate change, Bangladesh has been selected as a priority country for the U.S. Government's Global Health Initiative (GHI), Feed the Future (FTF), and the Global Climate Change (GCC) Initiative.

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES FOR USAID/BANGLADESH

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE #1:

Citizen Confidence in Governance Institutions Increased

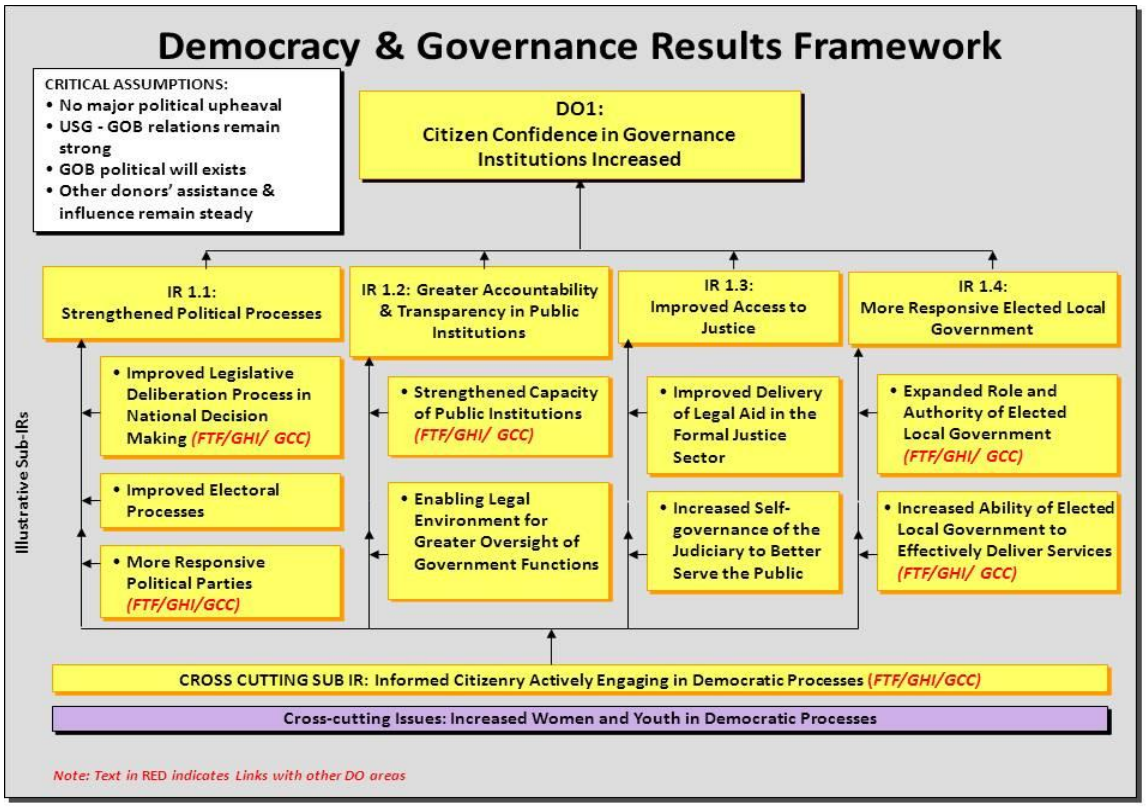
The promotion of democracy and governance is an important objective of U.S. foreign policy and is critical to advancing Bangladesh's development in each of the sectors of focus in USAID/B's CDCS. Promoting more pluralistic and responsive governance is one the USG's four overarching strategic goals in other combined interagency strategy documents. Increasing citizen confidence in governance institutions is directly aligned to this USG strategic goal. Realizing this objective will require addressing four inter-related obstacles to effective governance in Bangladesh: (1) nascent political institutions including the parliament and political parties; (2) corruption, low transparency of government, and ineffective mechanisms of accountability in all branches of government; (3) the inability of citizens to access the justice system; and (4) the concentration of authority and resources at the national level.

For most Bangladeshis, GOB accountability and responsiveness are measured in terms of the delivery of basic services, the level of corruption, and the rule of law as evidenced in the expectation and administration of justice. Given that, for the majority of citizens, the most visible form of governance is local government institutions, the USG encourages decentralization to support further democratization within Bangladesh. The development hypothesis is that *support for increased citizen engagement and improved governance will generate increased demand for democratic practices and better services, which in turn, will culminate in improved accountability and responsiveness to citizen needs, thereby increasing citizen confidence in governance institutions.*

DO1 interventions will contribute to six of the priority areas in the GOB's Sixth Five-Year Plan which are identified as challenges for achieving the GOB goals under Vision 2021: (1) making parliamentary processes effective; (2) strengthening local governments; (3) controlling corruption; (4) promoting legal and judiciary reform; (5) improving sectoral governance; and (6)

protecting human rights. USAID will continue to work with GOB auditing and monitoring offices to strengthen the culture of accountability and transparency in government finances. To ensure that the Mission's expected results under this DO are adequately tracked and monitored, a national sectoral Democracy and Governance survey will be conducted on an annual basis and results will be reviewed to determine any adjustments that may need to be made regarding USAID's DO#1 interventions.

Alongside the GOB's vision of being 'Digital by 2021,' efforts under DO1 will utilize science, technology, and innovation to communicate behavior change and reach the broadest audience possible, including women and youth. Virtual and real communities will grow from new technologies by encouraging citizens, CSOs and public/independent agencies to become involved in virtual policy debates. Additionally, focusing on youth provides a unique opportunity to use social networking tools including YouTube, Facebook, documentaries and other tools to raise awareness, share key development messages and improve transparency.



Where we work:

Democracy & Governance (DG) activities inherently work at the national level to promote parliamentary and political party improvements. However, DG activities will increasingly focus on the local government level and complement GCC, FTF and GHI activities in select geographic areas to enhance the outcomes of these presidential initiatives. Additionally, USAID will target interventions in local governance and community-based policing, as well as NGO network advocacy, protection of human rights, and capacity building in the Rajshahi and Rangpur Divisions in the northwest.

One of the greatest governance challenges facing women in Bangladesh is their exclusion from the decision-making process whether it is at the household or national level. Women's active participation at all levels of decision-making is essential for democracy and governance to take hold. As national politics are dominated by competition for power and resources, women's lack of access to the same hinders their participation in political life. USAID support for political party development, parliamentary strengthening and civil society engagement will address these issues as we focus on empowering women to be more actively engaged in the political process.

Strategic Programming:

IR 1.1: Strengthened Political Processes

USAID will work to promote productive electoral processes, engage women and youth in the political process, promote civil rights and freedom, and support internal reforms that facilitate work on domestic issues.

IR 1.2: Greater Accountability and Transparency in Public Institutions

USAID will support GOB efforts to reduce corruption at all levels by promoting policy and budget reforms, citizen participation in the government, citizen awareness of the right to information, demand for investigative journalism and increased accountability and transparency.

IR 1.3: Improved Access to Justice

USAID will work to improve judicial integrity and self-governance, support legal advocacy and legal aid, raise awareness of human rights issues and increase access to community-level justice and policing.

IR 1.4: More Responsive Elected Local Government

USAID will promote decentralization of governance, allocations and financial resource generation and citizen and elected-officials' participation in local decision-making and planning.

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE #2:

Food Security Improved

USAID/B's DO2 is the flagship DO for the USG's Feed the Future (FTF) Strategy and its objective in Bangladesh: "Availability, Access, and Utilization of Domestically Produced and Nutritious Foods Increased." This DO is aligned with the GOB's 6th Five-Year Plan and the FTF-supported Country Investment Plan (CIP) for agriculture, food security and nutrition. DO 2 aligns FTF, PL 480 Title II Multi-Year Assistance Plans (MYAPs), Economic Growth and Nutrition resources to increase agricultural productivity, increase income generation and access to food and improve nutrition and dietary diversity. In cooperation with the GOB, other USG agencies and donors, USAID will address components of three inter-related obstacles: lack of availability, access and utilization of food that directly affect food security and poverty. These obstacles are related to (1) insufficient productivity gains in agriculture to keep pace with an increasing population; (2) the inability to buy food by the poor which indicates increasing incomes are just as important to food security as production; and (3) diets lacking diversity and heavily reliant on rice, which leads to malnutrition.

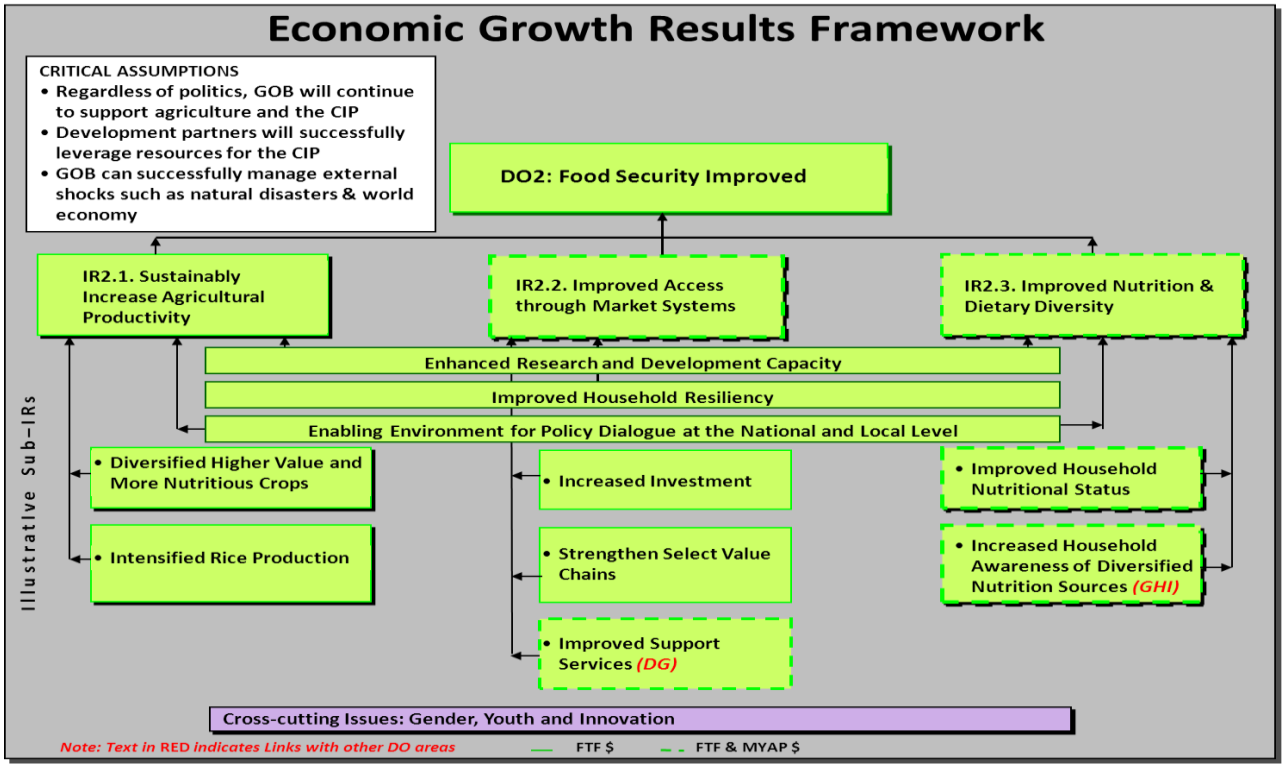
A high rate of productive employment generation is essential for Bangladesh to achieve sustainable, broad-based economic growth and the household income levels required for food security and the nutritional understanding requisite to the diversified balanced diets essential to combat malnutrition. Three overriding constraints face the agriculture and non-agricultural sectors of the economy: (1) poor governance; (2) poor state of infrastructure; and (3) a lack of skilled labor, including technical and middle management expertise. The Mission will address these issues through targeted interventions to increase agricultural productivity, increase incomes and access to food and improve nutrition and dietary diversity.

The development hypothesis is that *addressing constraints of availability, access, and utilization of food security will lead to positive outcomes for health and income security.* While inadequate production is one of the major challenges to food security, increased quantity of staple crops (dominated by rice) alone will not achieve food security in Bangladesh. Therefore, the strategy

must incorporate integrated and multi-sectoral interventions geared towards increasing diversification to more nutritious and high value crops to both improve incomes and reduce malnutrition rates.

By FY 2016, it is expected that activities under DO 2 will significantly increase the incomes of roughly 1,000,000 beneficiaries including nearly a half million who are currently below the poverty line (< $1.25/day) and decrease the proportion of children underweight and stunted each by 25%. The program also expects to increase non-rice production by 20% and improve private sector investment by $1 billion. As part of FTF implementation, the Mission will continue efforts to create new public-private partnerships and to spur innovation and dissemination of technological advances with real potential to improve agricultural productivity and nutrition.

Science and technology are at the heart of DO2's activities. Innovations will help crops adapt to pending climate change problems such as salinity, flooding or drought. New cultivation methods, including deep placement of urea and alternate wet dry technologies in rice, will

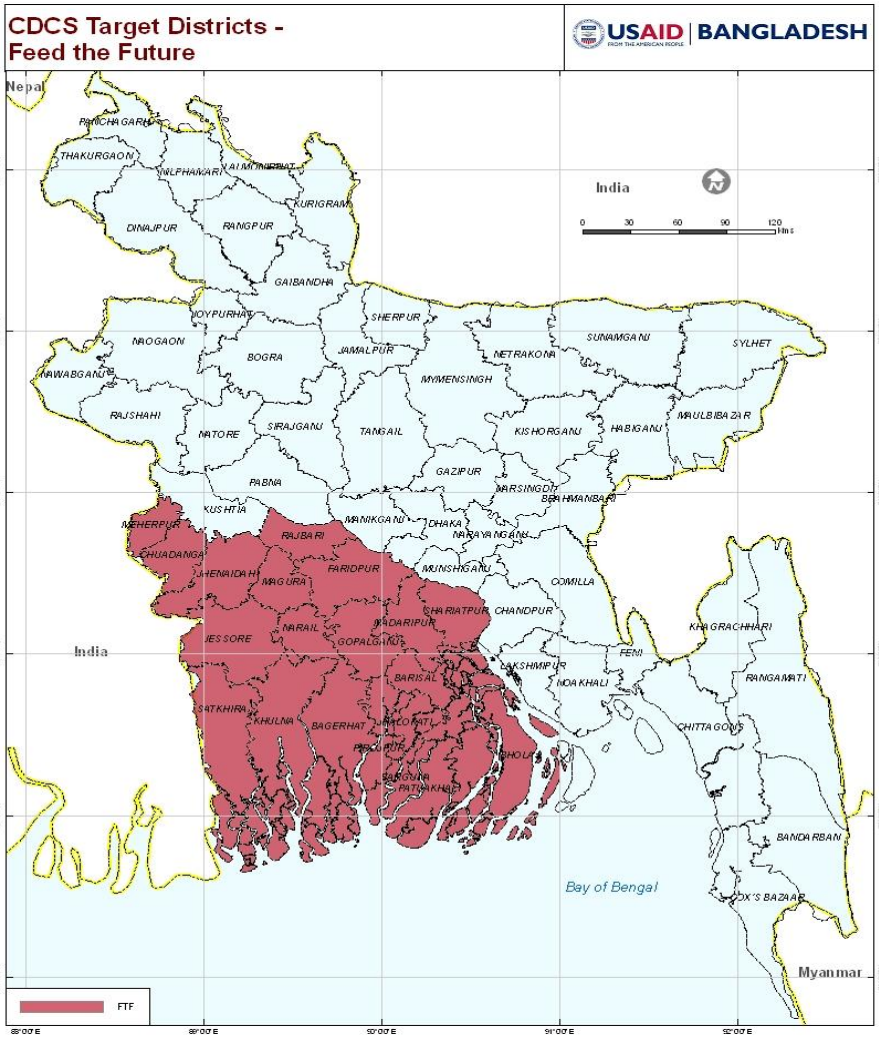


reduce greenhouse gases and water pollution while saving fossil fuels and increasing farmers' incomes. The mission will remain on the cutting edge of technology, constantly abreast of new innovations and technologies in SMS, cell phones, smart phone and web-based applications; genetic engineering; marketing; machinery; irrigation technology; and satellite imagery.

Where We Work:

Food insecurity in Bangladesh is widespread and persistent; however, some regions of the country stand out. USAID/B will focus in the south central/southwest part of the country (see map), which has a total population of about 30 million and has great potential for agricultural diversification and the mitigation of climate-related food insecurity.

Gender- and age-related food challenges will also be address by USAID's food programs. To address women's constraints to crop production, more women-friendly technologies will need to be developed to reduce the burden on women who have significant household responsibilities, by saving time and increasing purchasing power. As men are the main decision makers at all levels, increasing men's



knowledge about nutrition for children and pregnant and lactating women is crucial for food security. As adolescents and youth are in the majority in the population, working with them will be an opportunity to raise awareness in the next generation to reduce malnutrition in children and future mothers. Working to inform husbands and mother-in-laws, who often have dominant voices in the household, will help create a constituency to improve farming practices for women.

Farmers (small- and medium-scale), landless or near landless laborers, private sector actors, researchers, and extension agents will be targeted for assistance under this program. Funds tied to PL 480 Title II MYAP programs will focus on the extreme poor populations in the south, southwest and mid-north who are landless and micro-entrepreneurs in the value chain.

Strategic Programming:

IR 2.1: Sustainably Increased Agricultural Productivity

USAID will support research, innovation, education and investment in diversification, intensification and productivity in the agricultural sector to promote food security and adequate nutrition. Projects will also assist in the development of agricultural infrastructure and improvements.

IR 2.2: Increased Income Generation and Access to Affordable Food

USAID will increase access to food by reducing post-harvest losses, maximizing input and output market efficiency, improving purchasing power and creating alternative income sources from farm and non-farm sources in the targeted areas and populations.

IR 2.3: Improved Nutrition and Dietary Diversity

In connection with its Feed the Future and Global Health Initiatives, USAID will implement a comprehensive strategy to improve nutritional status and dietary diversity in the FTF target area of south central/southwest Bangladesh. These programs will include nutrition and food production education and behavior change communication, targeted nutritional health interventions and research, innovation and advocacy efforts.

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE #3:

Health Status Improved

USAID/B's DO3 for FY 2011–2016 is the flagship DO for the "whole-of-government" strategy approach under the Global Health Initiative and brings together each of the USG agency's exceptional core competencies for strategic programming in health. This DO includes improved efficiencies and innovative approaches, and builds on past and on-going successful population, health and nutrition programs while incorporating GHI principles.

Over the past three decades, Bangladesh has made considerable progress in reducing its fertility rate. Nonetheless, it is projected that the population size will continue to grow to between 200 to 225 million over the next four decades. The GOB's goal to reduce the fertility rate to 2 children per woman by 2016 will require revitalizing the family planning program and adopting a multi-sectoral approach to address population issues. In addition, Bangladesh is now on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for both maternal and child health. Although health outcomes have improved in some areas, great strides still need to be taken to complete unfinished business in maternal and newborn health, family planning and nutrition. USAID/B, through the GHI, has realigned its programming in line with GOB's HPNSDP for 2011–2016 and the Paris Declaration to reengage with donors.

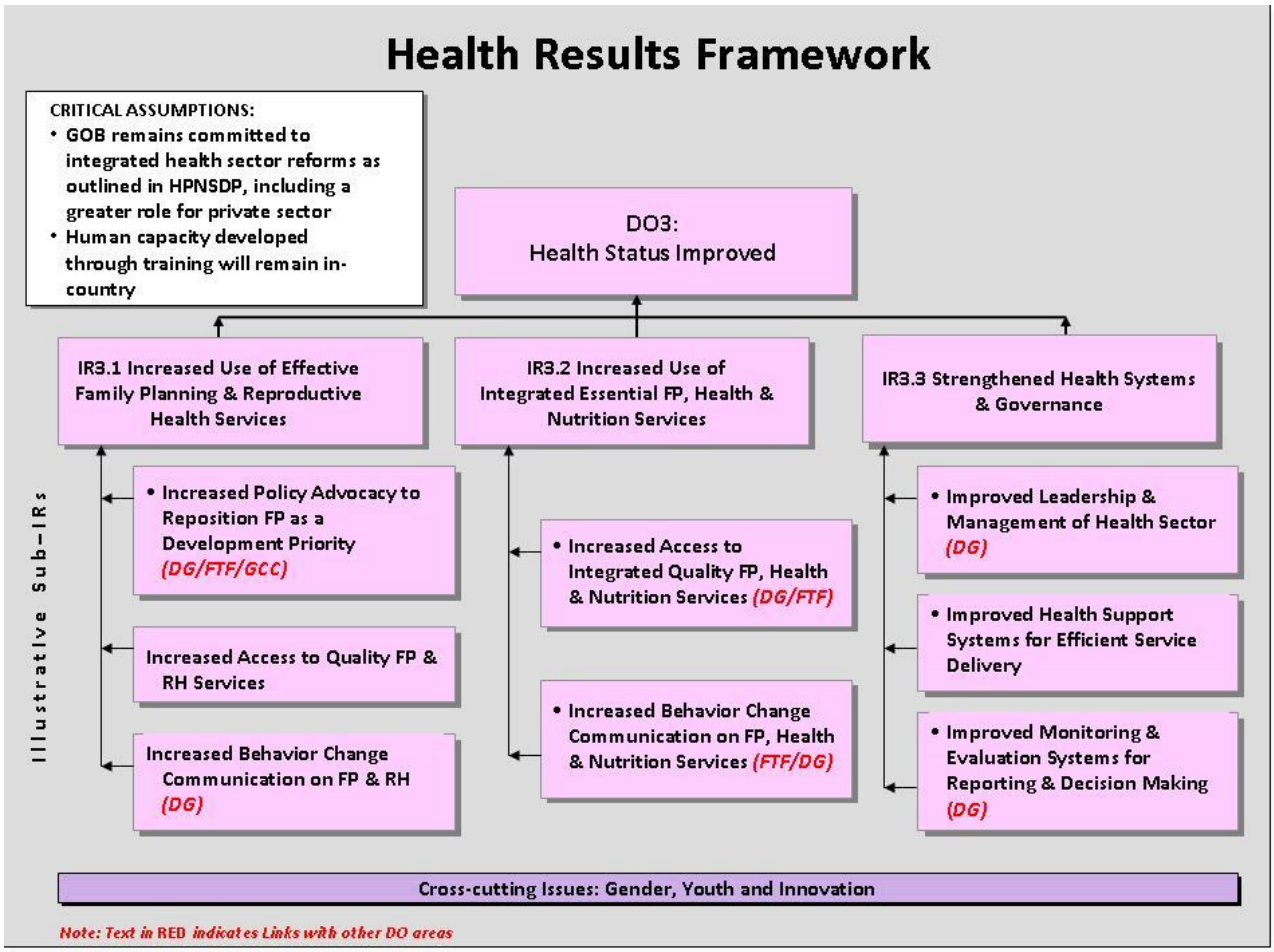
The 2011 USAID-funded Bangladesh Maternal Mortality and Health Care Survey results demonstrated a 40% decline in the maternal mortality ratio over the last nine years. The decline in maternal deaths was due principally to improved family planning practices (reducing exposure to high risk pregnancies), increased use of obstetric care (especially institutional deliveries and use of skilled birth attendants), upgraded health facilities and the availability of NGO services in hard-to-reach areas. Under DO3, USAID will expand the use of these programs to keep Bangladesh on track to meet the MDG 5 of reducing maternal mortality by three-fourths between 1991 and 2015. While Bangladesh is also on track to achieve MDG 4 (child health), the nutritional status of children remains one of the lowest in the world. An impact evaluation of USAID's PL480 Title II program showed that linking home gardening to nutrition

behavior change messages (such as dietary diversity, exclusive breastfeeding, and feeding frequency) could dramatically improve child stunting and wasting levels. These best practices will be scaled up under both DO2 and DO3.

Bangladesh has pioneered innovation in the health sector to transform the lives of millions of its citizens and level the playing field. In the next five years, USAID will accelerate implementation of two new activities. They include the Mobiles for Health (as part of the Mobile Alliance for Maternal Action (MAMA) Initiative) and Helping Babies Breathe activities, working closely with local and international firms to address maternal and newborn health problems, respectively.

At the end of the six year period, USAID will help the GOB to achieve to the following major results:

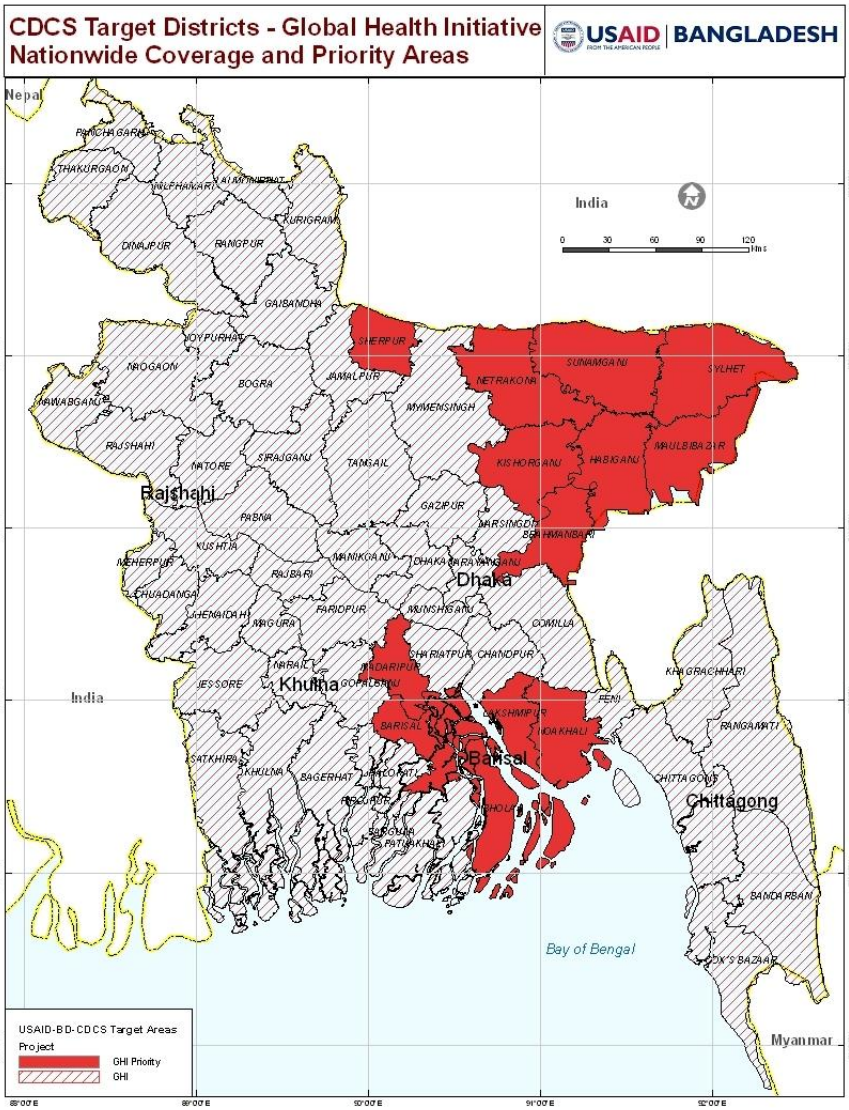
- Reduction in the total fertility rate from 2.5 to 2.2 children per woman to by 2016 (by meeting some of the unmet need for family planning);
- Reduction in the under-five mortality from 56 to 48 per 1000 live births, thereby meeting the MDG for child health;
- Reduction in the maternal mortality from 194 to 143 per 100,000 live births, thereby achieving the MDG for maternal health.



The results framework of DO3 reflects the logical relationship of USAID/B's efforts to increase access to quality health services while strengthening health systems. DO3's development hypothesis is*: if all Bangladeshis have access to quality health services at an affordable cost and are aware of the benefits of using these services, they will use these services, leading to improved health outcomes. Strengthened health systems are integral to ensuring access to quality and sustainable service provision.*

Where We Work:

Efforts will be country-wide but focused primarily on low performing areas in Sylhet, Chittagong and parts of Barisal and in selected areas where the GOB is not able to provide services (see map). DO3 activities will primarily target women and children from poor and underserved households, focusing on pregnant and lactating women, and young infants and children. Gender-based violence is prevalent and results in many cases of maternal mortality and morbidity. Male participation in family planning and reproductive health care is very low. Alliances will be built with mother-in-laws, husbands, elected officials and male religious and community leaders at all levels of society to improve health outcomes.



Strategic Programming:

IR 3.1: Increased Use of Effective Family Planning and Reproductive Health Services

To help the GOB reach its goal of reducing fertility to below replacement levels by 2016, USAID will employ behavior change communication strategies among youth, couples, and men; increase advocacy, demand and access for family planning and reproductive health services;

train counselors and health workers; and promote research and innovative technologies to reach a broader audience.

IR 3.2 Increased Use of Integrated Essential Family Planning, Health & Nutrition Services

USAID will expand on successful health and FP services partnership efforts at the local level in rural districts and urban and peri-urban slums to deliver an Essential Services Package, integrating critical FP; maternal, newborn and child health; and nutrition services, including breastfeeding with sanitation, immunization, tuberculosis (TB) treatment and care and specialized services for the populations most at risk for Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS). Programs will promote research, access to, and demand for services.

10 Essential Services Package (ESP)

- **Family Planning/Reproductive Health**
- **Maternal Health**
- **Newborn Care**
- **Child Health**
- **Nutrition**
- **Diarrheal Disease Control**
- **Safe Water**
- **Immunization**
- **Tuberculosis**
- **HIV/AIDs**

IR 3.3 Strengthened Health Systems and Governance

To achieve DO3 through IRs 3.1 and 3.2, USAID has made a strategic shift towards increased support to strengthen public health systems at the national, local, and community levels, placing a special emphasis on strengthening and increasing functionality of primary health care service delivery from the sub-district to the community level. Interventions will expand to promote strategic leadership and smart integration to tackle the complicated health problems that remain – such as treatment for acute respiratory infections, newborn care and emergency obstetric care – that require reliable service delivery systems in order to meet the MDGs. Under these interventions, USAID will strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) to improve data compiling, research, analysis and use.

DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE #4:

Responsiveness To Climate Change Improved

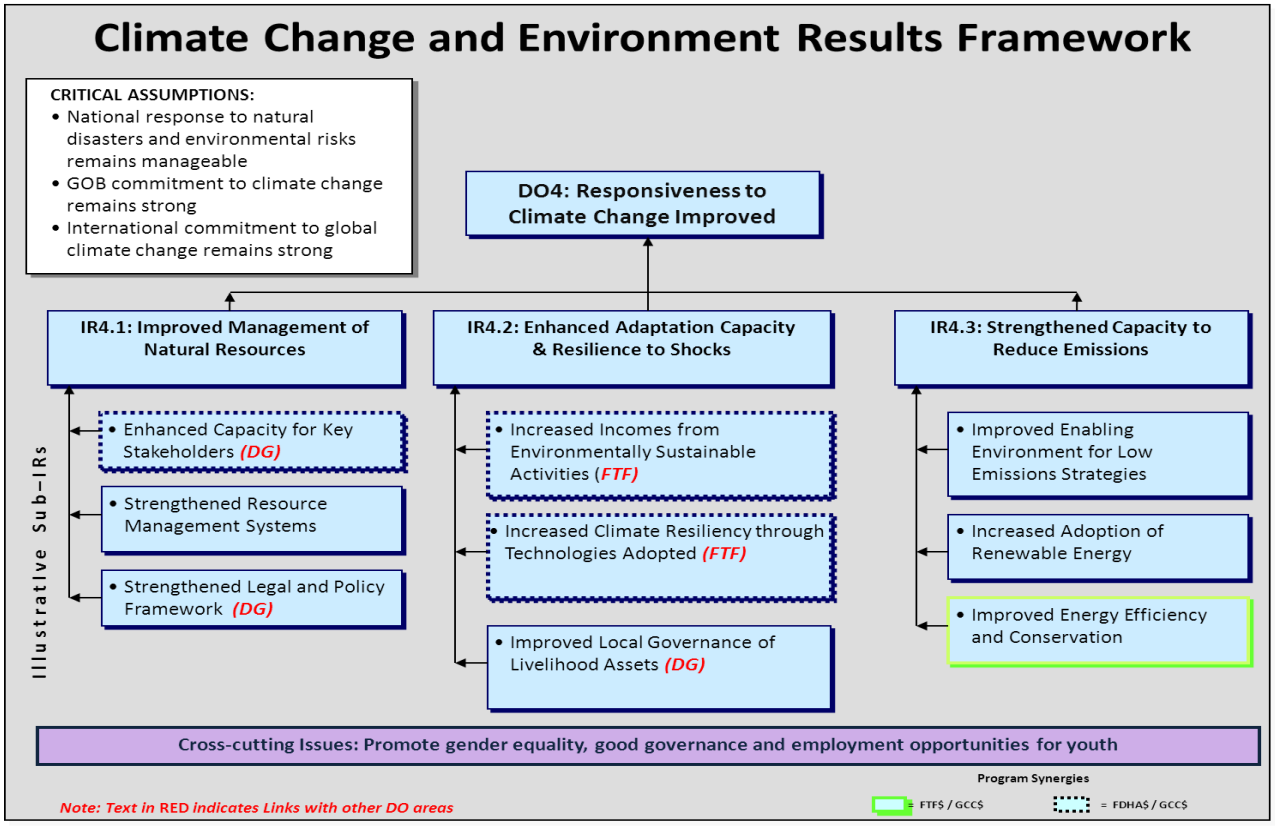
USAID/B's DO4 for FY 2011-2016 aligns directly with the GOB's 6th Five-Year Plan and the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP 2009), which recognize the adverse effects of climate change as a major development challenge. DO4 also aligns GCC and PL 480 Title II resources to improve Bangladesh' ability to respond to climate change and to mitigate the effects of climate change on the country's most vulnerable populations.

USAID has made critical investments in biodiversity conservation and rural electrification, including strengthening the capacity of environment and energy sector government institutions. Under past environment programs, USAID helped communities dependent on the forests and wetlands for their livelihoods play a formal role in decision making through Collaborative Management Organizations. USAID programs increased sustainable livelihood activities in and around protected areas utilizing conservation financing mechanisms and the protection of critically endangered ecosystems. Programs also addressed the legal and policy framework related to natural resource management. USAID will scale up this combined approach of immediate action and longer-term policy adjustments up under DO4.

The successful approaches of previous energy projects will be continued under the CDCS. For example, USAID assistance to the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission in setting energy tariffs, developing accounting systems, improving quality of services and customer awareness has been instrumental in promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy use. In addition, linkages with the private sector based on the value chain approach for alternate livelihood activities for climate change adaption will be emphasized. Projects will provide support for various energy and resource management authorities, ministries and commissions in the GOB. In addition, USAID will pursue close collaboration with other local stakeholders including NGOs, customer groups, academics and business chambers to achieve the clean energy objectives.

A reliable energy supply is critical for agricultural value-added processing, irrigation and storage, and is one of the limiting factors in agricultural development throughout Bangladesh. Energy efficiency measures will also help to decrease the unit cost of agriculture products, thereby decreasing prices and improving the accessibility of the rural poor to food. Future clean energy activities will support the dissemination of solar water pumps that will help decrease irrigation costs for critical crops. In addition, clean energy project activities will form a core component of the Bangladesh Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) program.

Finally, reliable energy will improve the quality of basic health services by ensuring vaccine and medicine cold chains and the effective use of medical equipment that rely upon electricity. Science, technology and innovation will play an important part in helping achieve the goals under DO4. This includes strengthening the capacity of the GOB on REDD+ mechanisms particularly on Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) through promotion of Geographic Information System (GIS) and Remote Sensing (RS) for the RIMS Unit of Forest Department

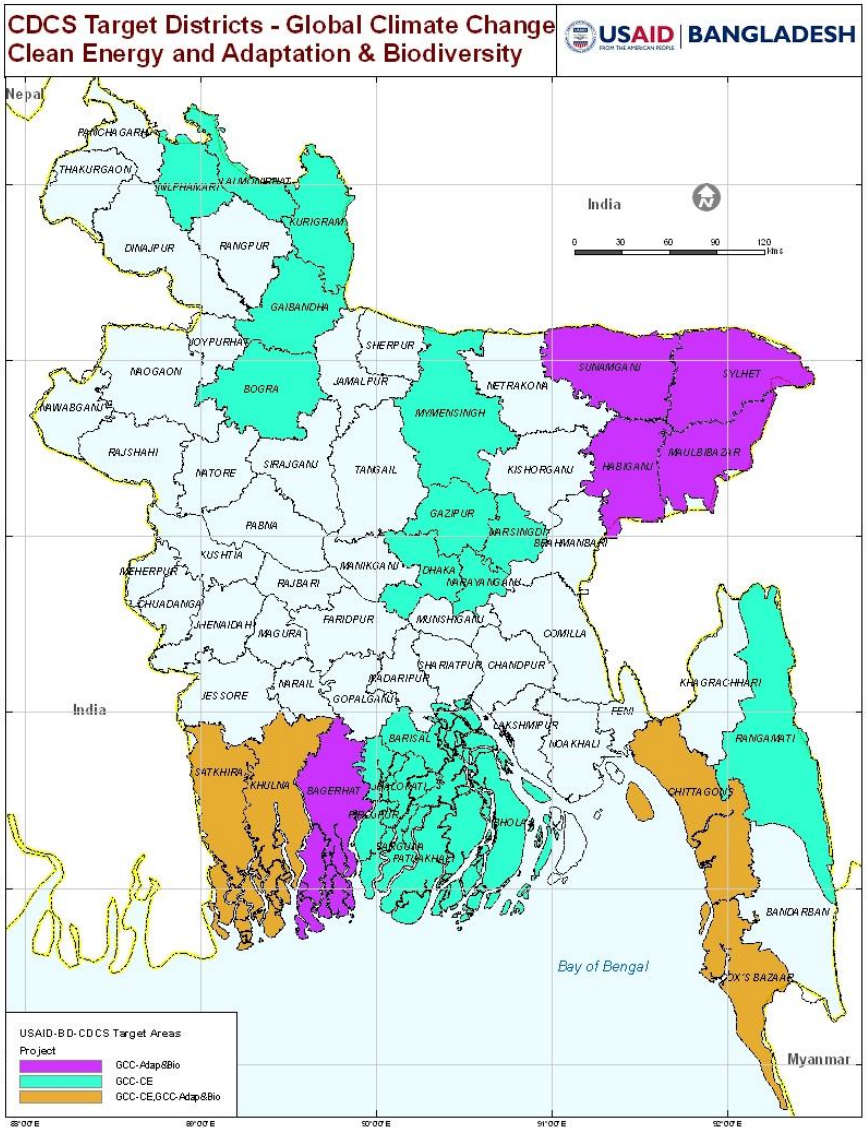


(IR4.1). Activities under this IR will also promote Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS) to reduce the deforestation for fuel wood consumption leading to GHG emission mitigation. In addition, low-cost, indigenous, user-friendly technologies will be promoted to enable targeted population to better adapt to negative effects of climate change (IR4.2). The GOB capacity to perform cross-sector, economy-wide emission analyses, economic modeling and GHG emission inventories, using the latest techniques will also be promoted (IR4.3). Finally, USAID will promote renewable energy technologies like, solar, biogas and biomass, and innovations in the deployment of energy efficiency technologies in the distribution and transmission systems (IR4.3).

DO 4 aims to increase the nation's responsiveness, adaptation to climate change and mitigation of climate change through three inter-related intermediate results: (1) improved management of natural resources focused on biodiversity conservation leading to indirect adaptation benefits; (2) enhanced adaptation capacity and resilience to shocks; and (3) strengthened capacity for low emissions development focusing on mitigation. The development hypothesis underpinning the DO 4 is that *improved management of natural resources, livelihood diversification, climate risk management and enhanced capacity for low emissions development will address adaptation and mitigation of GCC, while providing sustainable economic benefits and clean energy resources.*

Where We Work:

Under this DO, activities will focus in several different regions. IR 4.1 and 4.2 will concentrate on the South, Northeastern and Southeastern parts of the country. Due to the stronger presence on industry, IR 4.3 will focus on the South and Centre. Some areas in the north also present good opportunities for biomass and solar panels under IR 4.3. The map shows potential target areas in purple for biodiversity and adaptation (IRs 4.1 and 4.2), in green for clean energy (IR 4.3) and in orange where they overlap. Bangladesh's forest protected areas account for 1.6 percent of the country's territory, which the GOB would like to increase to five percent over the next five years. USAID/B will continue to work in these areas so as to maintain past achievements in combating poverty, food insecurity and environmental degradation. Communities living in and around protected areas live below the national average poverty line and are highly vulnerable due to significant dependence on natural resources. USG focus on climate change mitigation will prioritize areas based on an agreed work plan between the GOB and USG for EC-LEDS, including those areas where activities can be integrated with the other Presidential Initiatives.



The link between poverty and vulnerability is crucial and it affects women disproportionately. Nearly 70 million people in Bangladesh can be affected annually by climate hazards such as floods, cyclones and drought. Social and cultural norms restrict women's mobility in many rural areas, rendering them more vulnerable during any disaster. Moreover, poor nutritional status contributes to their reduced capacity to cope with the effects of a hazard. Floods increase women's domestic burden and hardship. Poverty and women's low social status including lack of education, knowledge and access to resources further hinder their ability to provide self-protection. Strengthening the resilience of key populations, livelihoods and economic sectors facing climate-related stresses will be prioritized for adaptation activities.

Strategic Programming:

IR 4.1 Improved Management of Natural Resources and Biodiversity

To ensure sustainable management of natural capital, reduce poverty and enhance Bangladesh's adaptive capacity, USAID will conduct resource inventories and biodiversity threat assessments, support revision and enforcement of relevant forestry and land-use laws, encourage benefit-sharing and community ownership and develop the REDD+ market.

IR 4.2 Increased Adaptation Capacity and Resilience to Shocks

Climate-risk related investments in IR4.2 will focus on critical development sectors and activities prioritized by the GOB and target highly vulnerable populations with activities to enable them to better adapt to climate changes and increase their resiliencies to sudden climate shocks. This IR will also support PL 480 Title II activities that promote disaster risk mitigation technologies and work with vulnerable communities to help them recover from shocks. USAID provides humanitarian assistance during times of disasters and pre-positions supplies when disasters are imminent.

IR 4.3 Strengthened Capacity to Reduce Emissions

To support Bangladesh in increasing its national energy security in a responsible, sustainable manner (BCCSAP 2009), USAID will promote fuel diversification, increased supply from renewables, and moderate growth in demand via energy efficiency and conservation. USAID will improve the enabling environment for low emission growth (via the EC-LEDS program),

expand the use of renewable energy sources, and promote energy efficiency and conservation in production and consumption facilities to lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Gender and youth are two issues of general concern for Bangladesh and cut across all DOs of this strategy. As such, USAID/B will mainstream gender and youth in project-level analyses and Project Appraisal Documents and incorporate gender and youth issues in performance indicators and evaluations, and into solicitations and evaluation criteria.

Gender equity: Gender inequity is a cross-cutting issue that affects the long-term development of Bangladesh and hinders economic growth. Hence, it is addressed in the CDCS as a cross-cutting issue and will be mainstreamed in all DOs (see DO sections below). USAID/B programs will incorporate recommendations, as identified by the April 2010 Gender Assessment for USAID Bangladesh and additional gender analyses, into the project designs of the DOs to increase gender parity and improve gender equity. In addition, all implementing partners will be required to develop gender strategies for the activities. The Gender Advisor on staff at the mission will ensure integration of gender considerations through participation on project design teams and review of concept papers. USAID/B will continue to be active in facilitating knowledge-sharing on gender and development with other donors in the Women's Advancement and Gender Equality sub-group of the Local Consultative Group. Finally, monitoring and evaluation activities will be structured to track and assess progress towards gender equity at the strategy and implementing mechanism levels. Differences between baseline and final evaluations will be analyzed to assess the effectiveness of activities designed to address the gender gap in various sectors.

Youth: USAID/B will develop a more focused approach to engaging youth. Bangladesh has approximately 128 million youth under the age of 40. Investments today in youth development will pay future dividends in economic growth and positive social change. The "youth bulge" also presents serious political, social and economic pressures, placing a significant burden on employment opportunities for the uneducated. Political unrest and economic stagnation could destabilize the country if the nation's institutions, civil society, and private sector cannot maintain adequate job creation and opportunities for youth. Out-of-school youth require training to provide them with marketable skills to achieve sustainable livelihoods.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

M&E activities are key components of both program management and performance management and program learning and accountability. While monitoring will provide USAID/B's management with early indications of progress towards the achievement of DOs, evaluations will offer evidence that USAID/B interventions are achieving the intended results and generating learning opportunities that will inform future program designs. USAID/B's evidence-based M&E system will be built around five interdependent elements:

1. Establishing a Performance Management Framework.
2. Collecting, storing and analyzing evidenced-based performance information.
3. Conducting evaluations.
4. Using information to influence decision-making and resource allocation.
5. Communicating results through success stories, lessons learned, and best practices.

USAID/B will also invest in the M&E capacity at selected local government levels. For example, USAID/B is helping the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare improve its Health Information System, specifically to establish more reliable and complete data that can be aggregated, analyzed, reported, and used effectively in program planning and decision making.

Extended through: December 31, 2019