

Government of the people's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Labour and Employment
The Northern Areas Reduction of Poverty Initiative (NARI) Project
Projects brief

1. Name of project: The Northern Areas Reduction of Poverty Initiative (NARI)
2. Sponsoring Ministry/ Executing Agency: MOLE/BEPZA
3. Objective of the Project: To facilitate access to employment opportunities in the garment sector for poor and vulnerable women from lagging areas of Bangladesh.
4. Location of the Project :

(a) Source Area :

Northwestern area of Bangladesh such as Rangpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat districts and other poor areas.

(b) Receiving Area:

Division	District	Upazila/Others
Dhaka	Dhaka	Ashulia/Savar
Chittagong	Chittagong	Chittagong City Corporation (North Patenga)
Rajshahi	Pabna	Ishwardi
Rangpur	Nilphamari	Nilphamari Sadar

5. **Estimated cost : (in Lakh Taka)** : (i) Total : 32627.80
(ii) GOB (FE): -
(iii) P.A.(IDA): 24857.80
(iv) BEPZA : 5106.00 (Contribution in kind)
(v) MoLE : 74.00 (Contribution in kind)
(vi) Employers and beneficiaries : 2590.00
6. **Project Implementation Period** : Date of commencement: January, 2012
:Date of completion : December, 2015

7. **Project Components:** The project will facilitate the entry of poor and vulnerable women into the formal labor force. It will follow a managed system along the entire labor supply chain from selection to job placement for the targeted poor women to ensure fairness, efficiency and safety. In line with this approach, the project is built around four major components constituting coordinated action programs from selection to job placement of the target population. These are shown as follows :

Component 1: Raising awareness and selecting candidates in the lagging districts of northern Bangladesh.

This component aims to share information about the project with the people of the five lagging districts of northern Bangladesh—namely, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, and Rangpur—and select beneficiaries from among these populations.

Component 2: Establishing training centers with dormitories in the EPZs located in Dhaka, Ishwardi, and Karnaphuli.

This component will support the establishment of the project's training centers and transitional accommodation facilities.

Component 3: Providing initial training and on-going support to beneficiaries.

This component will finance initial training and on-going support to project beneficiaries in their transition to formal employment in the garment factories and life in the areas surrounding the EPZs.

Component 4: Supporting coordination, monitoring and evaluation, and program for expansion.

As a pilot, this project requires special care and supervision and a strong emphasis on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities. It is an integrated administrative component located in the MOLE as the Project Coordinating Unit (PCU)

8. Main goal & objectives:

(a) The overall goal of the project:

- (i) promote “pro-poor” inclusive economic growth;
- (ii) reduce poverty in lagging regions; and
- (iii) encourage the empowerment of women.

(b) Project development objective: Facilitate access to employment opportunities in the garment sector for poor and vulnerable women from lagging areas of Bangladesh by providing information, technical and life skills training, transitional housing, and other support to adjust to urban life and formal sector employment.

9. Target population and beneficiaries:

The project on completion in December 2015 was expected to provide training and employment to poor and vulnerable women age 18-24 years totaling 10800(14400) in the RMGs of 4 EPZs (including Uttara EPZ). Due to delay in approval, contracting and actual time required for construction, training centers with dormitories in the EPZs located in Dhaka, Ishwardi, and Karnaphuli will be completed by March-May,2014.As a result only 18 months (instead of 36 months) will be available for training in the present project completion of December 2015.

10. Overview of progress:

The project is to build 3 dormitory cum training centers at Dhaka, Chittagong and Iswardi EPZs involving three packages .All three packages, comprising the DTCs near Dhaka, Ishwardi and Karnaphuli EPZ sites, civil works are completed.

Overall, implementation is delayed by about one year, due to late start-up. A further five month delay has occurred in signing the IEC package. At present, all preparatory activities for training center start-up are expected to be completed by end of June, 2015 (including equipment installation, community outreach, and trainee selection, recruitment of management advisors, training, catering, and security personnel). The slow pace of progress on these elements is of prime concern at this stage. The current disbursement rate is 56%.

11. Other procurement status:

Package Name	Progress	Remark
a. Supply & installation of equipment for DTCs	Bid evaluation process going on	Delayed
b. Installation of solar power	Bid received	Delayed
c. Supply of furniture for DTCs	Contract signed on 02.03.14	Supply under process
d. Supply of computers etc.	Estimates being prepared	Delayed
e. Supply of ACs	Estimates being prepared	Delayed

f. Supply of Refrigerator, micro oven, water filter	Estimates being prepared	Delayed
g. Consultancy for IEC	On going	Delayed
h. Consultancy for providing training	EOI received	Delayed
i. Management adviser recruitment (4)	EOI received	Delayed
j. Finalization of tr. manual	Almost finalized	Delayed
k. Food, Cleaning, Scurity equipment & Security (12)	Awaiting NOL from WB	Delayed