

Data Sheet

USAID Mission:	Bangladesh
Program Title:	Economic Growth
Pillar:	Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective:	388-012
Status:	New in FY 2006
Planned FY 2006 Obligation:	\$1,520,000 DA; \$198,000 ESF
Prior Year Unobligated:	\$0
Proposed FY 2007 Obligation:	\$1,310,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation:	2006
Estimated Year of Final Obligation:	2010

Summary: This program will expand economic opportunities and alleviate poverty by augmenting the Government of Bangladesh's Poverty Reduction Support Program. USAID interventions will help Bangladesh overcome market isolation by improving the way enterprises cooperate and compete and by facilitating investments in policy reform, workforce development, product and service quality, and Information and Communications Technology (ICT). In these endeavors, USAID will place special emphasis on economic growth favoring poor, disadvantaged, or at-risk groups, including women and youth. USAID will alleviate wage disparity between men and women within targeted industries, expand access and participation for women in training programs, and increase the number of women-owned or managed businesses. As there is a direct correlation between access to electricity and poverty reduction, USAID will work to expand access to energy, while improving performance and ensuring energy security, by strengthening government institutions and regulatory bodies. Direct beneficiaries of USAID efforts will include rural households; micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs); private providers of business support services; and public energy sector institutions. As this is a new objective, this document constitutes notification of FY 2006 funds.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

FY 2006 Program:

Expand and Improve Access To Economic and Social Infrastructure (\$1,089,000 DA). USAID is providing technical assistance to rural cooperatives to promote the sustainability of the rural electric sector. USAID is also supporting the installation of new solar home systems in non-grid rural areas and constructing rural technology centers to provide training and maintenance for the solar units. Principal Implementers: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and Grameen Shakti.

Improve Economic Policy and the Business Environment (\$431,000 DA; \$198,000 ESF). USAID is providing technical assistance to establish an effective and independent energy regulatory body. USAID is also supporting compliance with labor standards through labor/management dialogue and training in employee rights. Principal Implementers: National Association of Rural Utility Commissioners (NARUC).

FY 2007 Program:

Expand and Improve Access To Economic and Social Infrastructure (\$450,000 DA). USAID plans to provide technical assistance to rural electric cooperatives to strengthen business operations and sector management. USAID plans to continue to support the expansion of renewable energy to non-grid rural areas through the installation of home solar systems. Principal Implementers: NRECA and Grameen Shakti.

Improve Economic Policy and the Business Environment (\$455,000 DA). To further private sector growth, USAID plans to continue assistance to select institutions and stakeholder groups that advocate for reforms. USAID also plans to support local and international non-governmental organizations' advocacy and training in the areas of social compliance and corporate responsibility. Principal Implementers: NARUC and others To Be Determined (TBD).

Improve Private Sector Competitiveness (\$375,000 DA). USAID will promote the expansion of private

sector growth benefits to the poor, particularly women and youth, through interventions emphasizing the use of appropriate ICT in the areas of E-governance, E-policy, E-commerce, and E-human resource development; expansion of MSMEs; value chain linkages; and broad-based participation in economic growth activities. This program plans to continue training and technical assistance to improve business management and marketing skills, enhance existing production and processing technologies, and assist enterprises to develop business plans and bank loan applications. USAID also plans to promote trade capacity development through regional trade fairs and other means of market penetration. The ongoing loan portfolio guarantee under USAID's Development Credit Authority will continue to improve MSME access to formal financial institutions and contribute to the growth of the sector. USAID will also encourage the creation of public-private sector partnerships which contribute to pro-poor economic growth. Principal Implementers: TBD.

Improve Quality of Workforce through Vocational/Technical Education (\$30,000 DA). USAID will continue to support workforce development through training programs that expand opportunities for women and youth to participate more fully in the market economy. Principal Implementers: TBD.

Performance and Results: Although this is a new program, it will incorporate and build upon activities initiated under a previous strategic plan. By the end of the program, the Bangladeshi economy will have become more diversified and be characterized by sustained market-based growth that has increased benefits at the industry, micro-small and medium enterprise, and household levels. The power sector will have improved its performance with less system loss and greater institutional efficiency.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Bangladesh

	DA	ESF
388-012 Economic Growth		
Through September 30, 2004		
Obligations	0	0
Expenditures	0	0
Unliquidated	0	0
Fiscal Year 2005		
Obligations	0	0
Expenditures	0	0
Through September 30, 2005		
Obligations	0	0
Expenditures	0	0
Unliquidated	0	0
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	0	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2006 NOA		
Obligations	1,520	198
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2006		
Obligations	1,520	198
Proposed Fiscal Year 2007 NOA		
Obligations	1,310	0
Future Obligations	36,000	600
Est. Total Cost	38,830	798