THE WORLD BANK

IMPACT EVALUATION

Evaluating Impact: Turning Promises into Evidence

Bangladesh Employment Generation Program For The Poorest (EGPP)

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1. Background

- In Bangladesh, 20% of people are hard core poor
- Among the hard core poor, high seasonal poverty in *monga* prone, river erosion,flood areas, *haors-baors* and *char* area in Bangladesh
- In these areas poor people remain unemployed almost 3 months from September to November and 2 months from March to April
- These hard core poor people are leading precarious lives because of their unemployment as well as recent food price inflation
- For that reason, GoB has started the Employment Generation Program for the Hardcore Poor, which provides 100 days of employment on local public infrastructure schemes at a cash wage of 100 taka per day
- Budget allocation of TK. 200 million is the largest safety-net program in Bangladesh (2 million beneficiaries)

2. Results Chain

Inputs	Activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Longterm Outcomes
•Budget allocation •MoFDM management team •Program Director's office •District & upazila officers •Community project committees •ICT, MIS •Poverty map data •Inter-ministrial steering committees	•Program designed •Design & distribute guidelines •Training program for project implementing officers & other field level officers •Use poverty map for geographic targeting to upazila level •Formation of implementing commities •Fund release & open bank account •Schemes implemented •Wages paid •Monitoring & Evaluation	•190 million person-days of employment created •1/3 of beneficiaries are women •Approximately 7000 schemes completed •75% of beneficiaries are hardcore poor (i.e., bottom 20%) •80% of beneficiaries are day laborers •95% of beneficiaries have less than 0.5 acres of land	Beneficiaries: •Seasonal unemployment reduced •Food insecurity reduced •Women's participation in labor increased •Reduced use of adverse coping strategies by beneficiary households Rural Development: •Completed schemes used by community	Beneficiaries: ▪Increased purchasing power ▪Reduced malnutrition ▪Women empowerment (measured by labor force participation) ▪Reduced distress sales of assets Rural Development: ▪Community level assets created & sustained

3. Primary Research Questions

- What fraction of beneficiaries are hardcore poor (i.e., in the bottom 20 percent of the income distribution)?
- How does EGPP impact individual beneficiaries in terms of food consumption and savings?
- How does the income earned by EGPP beneficiaries compare to income earned without the program?
- How does EGPP impact income generating activities of women beneficiaries?
- How can EGPP take-up be increased?

Women's participation in EGPP

4. Outcome Indicators

- % of beneficiaries eating at least 2 meals per day
- % of household expenditure on food

- Household income (from EGPP & other sources)
- Changes in savings & assets/housing

- Womens' participation
- Income earned by women

Completed canal digging scheme

5. Identification Strategy/Method

- Random assignment with difference in difference: compare difference before and after, between people selected and not selected for EGPP
- Focus evaluation in high poverty *upazilas* (sub-districts)
  - national EGPP wage rate is higher than local wage rate
  - more people want to work than there are jobs available
- All who want to work has to complete 'Job Application Card'
- All who meet EGPP eligibility criteria form the 'eligible population'
- Jobs allocated to those who meet EGPP eligibility criteria using random selection
- Treatment group is eligible people who are offered jobs
- Comparison group is formed of eligible people that do not get jobs under the random selection

6. Sample and data

- Household survey questionaire
  - Baseline survey
  - Followup surveys
  - Both treatment (EGPP beneficiaries) and comparison group surveyed
  - Questions on income generating activities, savings and assets, food security, migration, household characteristics, etc.
- Monitoring data
  - Total labor registered in EGPP
  - Women registered
  - No of days worked by men and women
  - Geographical targeting (distribution of beneficiaries across upazilas)
- Poverty map
- Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES)
  - National sample survey fielded in 2010
  - Contains question on EGPP participation
- Qualitative Evaluations (e.g., Focus Group Discussions, Social Audit)

7. Time Frame/Work Plan

Baseline survey:-

1. Immediately after job card application completed and treatment /comparison groups selected
2. Before programs starts
3. August 2010

Follow-up Survey---Phase 1

1. After completion of phase 1
2. December 2010 / January 2011

Follow-up Survey---Phase 2

1. After completion of phase 2
2. May / June 2011

8. Sources of Financing

- GOB
- World Bank Trust Funds (have already applied for TFESSD, RSR)
- Other Development Partner (e.g. DFID, AusAid)