



**UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
BANGLADESH**



**Rural Empowerment through Renewable Energy**



<b>Activity Purpose:</b> 1. Empower rural women in Renewable Energy  2. Expand & sustain use of Solar Home Systems	<b>Location:</b>  20 different locations in Bangladesh
<b>Partners:</b> Grameen Shakti	<b>Project Duration (Start and End Dates):</b> August 25, 2005– September 30, 2008 (has been extended for another two years to focus on Cyclone Sidr affected areas).
	<b>Grant Amount:</b> \$1,182,000 (New extension \$1.2 million)
<b>Site Contacts:</b> Mr. Md. Ahsan Ullah Bhuyian, Assistant General Manager, Grameen Shakti Mobile: 01715-132753	<b>USAID Project Manager:</b> Sher M. Khan, Office of Economic Growth <b>Telephone:</b> 8855500 x 2072 <b>Mobile:</b> 01713-424357
<b>Summary:</b>  <p>The USAID funded grant project - “Rural Empowerment through Renewable Energy” has been implemented by Grameen Shakti (GS), an affiliate of Grameen Bank, aims to empower rural women and youth in particular - by enhancing job skills and expanding economic opportunities for them in the solar renewable energy sector. The \$1.2 million grant activity builds and improves women’s skills in solar renewable technology. The project includes establishment of 20 Grameen Technology Centers (GTC) to provide technical support in rural areas to the on-going and rapidly expanding renewable energy program of Grameen Shakti.</p> <p>The project has achieved its training targets. More than 1,000 women technicians have already been trained to install and maintain Solar Home Systems (SHS) and assemble crucial components of the SHSs. These efforts have led to an increase in the number of SHSs installed to 4,000 per month. The activity has trained 10,000 students, 5,000 women users of SHS, and 300 engineers. It has provided employment and income generating opportunities to women who otherwise would have remained in poverty in the absence of this activity. The Mowna GTC has trained 79 women technicians in eight batches. The GTC also imparted day-long training to 249 users and 536 students as part of awareness building. The success of the program has led the Mission to extend the activity, for another two years, in the Cyclone Sidr affected areas to help build livelihood for women.</p> <p>In 2000, USAID gave Grameen Shakti (GS) a grant equivalent to \$4.0 million in local currency. The grant to GS enabled the installation of SHSs in remote off-grid rural areas over a period of five years. GS used this USAID grant to successfully install 38,500 SHSs in various parts of Bangladesh by the time the project ended in August 2005. This effort demonstrated the viability of solar energy in a Bangladesh setting and encouraged other donors to support the program as well. The number of Grameen Solar Home Systems today stands at about 175,000.</p>	
<p align="center">United States Agency for International Development / Bangladesh          Madani Avenue, Dhaka Bangladesh          Phone: (880-2) 885-5500 Fax: (880-2) 882-3648  <a href="http://www.usaid.gov/bd/">http://www.usaid.gov/bd/</a></p>	