



**UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BANGLADESH**



Project: Rural Electrification Development Project (REDP)

<p>Activity Purpose: (Note: REDP is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). DFID provides the funds to USAID, who administers the grant for the project)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project supervision and monitoring including procurement, project selection and construction; 2. Rural Electric Cooperative (Palli Bidyut Samity, PBS) Member education and Board development to strengthen cooperative model within Rural Electrification Program 3. Socio-economic impact assessments 	<p>Location: REDP provides commodity support for three GOB projects with primary funding to nine PBSs (Rajshahi, Brahmanbaria, Jhenaidah, Kurigram, Nawabgonj, Mymensingh - 2, Magura, Faridpur, Nilphamari), but some commodity support is also provided to 67 PBSs under two other projects</p>
<p>Partners: DFID/Bangladesh, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), International Ltd., Rural Electrification Board (REB) and Palli Bidyut Samities (PBSs)</p>	<p>Project Duration (Start and End Dates): March 1, 2006 – February 28, 2011</p>
<p>Grant/Contract Amount: \$3,852,491 (DFID's Grant to GOB totals £50 million Pounds Sterling)</p>	<p>Activity Officer: Md. Kamaruzzaman Telephone: 01713141193</p>

Summary:

Studies have shown that one of the critical elements for development is access to reliable energy including electricity. For Bangladesh, significant progress has been made through the ongoing development of the Rural Electrification (RE) Program that now brings electric service to more than 7.3 million connections and benefits more than 44 million rural people. This is considered by many to be one of the most successful infrastructure development programs in the developing world. While this indicates significant progress, only an estimated 35% of the rural households have access to electricity. Studies have shown significant socio-economic benefits to households having access to electricity so efforts are required to incorporate remaining rural citizens as beneficiaries of the RE Program.

USAID is viewed by many as the pioneer of the Bangladesh RE Program being that it funded the initial feasibility study in 1976 which led to the establishment of the Rural Electrification Board with its mandate to guide the development of the electrification of rural Bangladesh. To date USAID has provided funding in excess of \$220 million dollars and has leveraged this into a total investment of more than \$1.4 billion from 15 different development partners. Since the mid-90's USAID's primary focus has been to provide funding for technical assistance, including institutional capacity building, while other development partners provide commodity support.

The Program:

A Rural Electric Cooperative (Palli Bidyut Samity, PBS) is responsible for providing electricity in rural areas of Bangladesh. The overall objective of the commodity funding provided by the DFID for the REDP is for some of the Palli Bidyut Samities (PBSs) that are struggling financially and in more remote areas of the country with a focus on ensuring that poorer households and female headed households are given the opportunity to have a connection. In order to implement the project, DFID requested participation from USAID to assist with the joint implementation of the project through USAID's institutional contractor, NRECA International

Ltd.

This joint initiative included DFID's request that USAID contract with NRECA to provide assistance with respect to three tasks. The first and primary task is the overall supervision and monitoring of the DFID funded project, to verify that the execution of the project is in accordance with REB standard procedures, and to monitor and approve the expenditure of funds. Monitoring includes the planning and selection of projects, the procurement of materials and field inspections of the construction of physical facilities at the field level. In the second task, assistance will be provided to REB and PBSs in the development and implementation of programs that would help strengthen the PBS concept (adopted from RE cooperative model of USA) through improved member education and the development of the PBS Boards of Directors. This task will specifically include efforts to improve the awareness of the PBS members with respect to their rights and responsibilities as members of their PBS and also support the ongoing development of the PBS Boards, both of which will promote improved governance within the Bangladesh RE Program. The third and final task is an assessment to determine the socio-economic impact of the DFID project funding on the beneficiaries who were targeted. This will include the development of a baseline in the early years of the project, a preliminary assessment of the impacts at various intervals of the project including annual reviews and finally a follow up study towards the end of the project to more accurately document the various impacts.

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