

**PRESS RELEASES**

**09 February 2015, Monday**

Today on 09 February, 2015, Financing Agreement for US\$ 300 million has been signed at the Economic Relations Division (ERD), Dhaka between the Government of Bangladesh and the International Development Association (IDA), to implement "Income Support Program for the Poorest (ISPP)" project. Around 5 lakh poorest pregnant women and mothers of 0-5 years old children will get income support on condition of attending specific services. Based on Bangladesh Poverty Database (BPD), households of 443 Unions under 42 Upozilas of 7 Districts will be covered under this project. To accommodate this, Common Implementation Platform will be established to increase the capacity of Local Level Government. Cash will be transferred to the beneficiaries under the following condition:


- Pregnant women will get Tk. 200 each time for attending 4 antenatal care visits;
- Children's from 0-24 month will get Tk. 500 each time for attending Growth Monitoring and Promotion (GMP) meeting on a monthly basis.
- Children's aging 25-60 month will get Tk. 1000 each time for attending GMP on a quarterly basis.
- All beneficially pregnant women and mothers get will Tk. 500 per visit for Child Nutrition Cognitive Development (CNCD) session on a monthly basis.

The project will be implemented by various Government and Non-Government Institutions and to strengthen their capacity, following steps will be taken:

- Capacity of the Union Parishads will be strengthened to monitor & supervise the beneficiaries;
- Capacity of the Community Clinics will be strengthened to deliver the ANC, GMP & CNED session;
- Capacity of Union Post Offices will be strengthened to deliver electronic payments to the beneficiary by using Postal Cash Cards.
- Safety Net Cell (SNC) will be established at the existing Union Parishad Offices.

Mr. Mohammad Mejbahuddin, Senior Secretary ERD and Mr. Johannes Zutt Country Director of the World Bank, Dhaka Office signed the Agreement on behalf of their respective sides. Representatives of Local Government Division, MoLGRD&C and other senior officials of the Government of Bangladesh and the World Bank were present at the ceremony.

The loan will be received in standard terms and conditions of the International Development Association (IDA), which includes 0.75% service charge on disbursed amount. The repayment of the loan is 38 years, including a 06 years grace period. The project will be implemented from April 2015 to June 2020 by the Local Government Division of Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives.

  
09.02.15  
(Saiyada Faizunnesa)  
Assistant Chief