

URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME BRAC | BANGLADESH

OUR APPROACH

More than half of the world's population today lives in urban areas. Of them, over a billion people live in urban poverty. BRAC, the world's number one NGO, has made pro-poor urban development one of its eight programmatic priorities in its current five-year strategy (2016-2020). Aligned with this objective, BRAC started its **urban development programme (UDP)** in 2016, with a vision to make cities and human settlements safe, resilient, inclusive and sustainable. Its aim is to improve the wellbeing of **one million people living in urban poverty in 20 cities** in Bangladesh.

UDP has outlined **six programmatic priorities** in its current **five-year urban strategy**:

1. Improved access to affordable, adequate basic services
2. Improved access to livelihood, skills and entrepreneurship development
3. Ensuring adequate, safe and affordable housing and slum upgradation
4. Integrated policies and plans to mitigate and adapt to climate change impact and disaster resilience
5. Strengthened urban governance for inclusive, accountable and pro-poor urban management and planning
6. Strengthened policy advocacy and partnerships for sustainable, pro-poor and inclusive urban growth

URBAN IMPACT



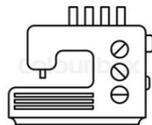
1,000,000

People will have access to basic affordable services in urban slums



500,000

Infrastructural services will be provided to people living in urban slums



50,000

Garment workers will have access to improved livelihood and wellbeing services



450

Slums will be upgraded



20

Cities will have inclusive and accountable urban governance

ACHIEVEMENTS

170,000

People accessed basic services in urban slums

277,776

People accessed safe water, sanitary and hygienic toilets and latrine facilities

30,031

RMG workers received direct wellbeing services

18,250

People have improved waste collection facilities

10,000

People received livelihood support

5580

Low-cost houses built for the community

5060

People received capacity development training on inclusive urban planning and governance

CURRENT PROJECTS

Engaging Multi-sectoral Partners for Creating Opportunities, Improving Wellbeing and Realising Rights of the Urban Poor (EMPOWER)

2016– 2022

The EMPOWER project aims to improve the wellbeing of one million people by reducing their multidimensional poverty and deprivation in 20 cities in Bangladesh. The project's objectives are to enhance access to affordable and quality basic services by people living in urban poverty, empower them to raise their voice and take collective action towards their rights and entitlements, strengthen urban governance institutions for inclusive, accountable and pro-poor urban management and planning and test and evaluate urban innovations for replication and scale-up.

Empowering the Ready-Made Garment Workers living in Urban Slums in Dhaka (ERMG)

2017 – 2020

Of the four million workers in the ready-made garment sector, 64% are women and 87% report recurring health challenges. In response to their growing wellbeing needs, BRAC urban development programme launched the ERMG project, providing workers access to basic services (health, legal aid, skills training, financial savings products, health insurance) from three one-stop service centres in major industrial areas. The project aims to establish a sustainable service model which will empower workers, and build trust and accountability in the ready-made garment sector in Bangladesh.

Housing Finance for People living in Urban Poverty

2017 - 2022

In response to the precarious nature of urban informal housing and the limitations of the formal housing sector, BRAC urban development programme launched its low-cost housing initiative in two climate-vulnerable cities in Bangladesh. The housing project follows a cost recovery model whereby a city development fund is set up to provide housing loans and to manage the community's funds. The project aims to provide land tenure security to the urban slum-dwellers, and quality affordable housing in consultation with architects and the local community.

Fire Hazard Prevention Project

2017-2022

The fire prevention project is focused on improving the capacity of low-income communities in preventing and responding to fire-related incidents. Pilot experiments were tested out to improve community awareness and train community volunteers to effectively respond to outbreaks of fires. A community firefighting mechanism system was established, fully maintained and operated by the community.

Urban Innovation Challenge

2016- 2022

The Urban Innovation Challenge (UIC) engages young innovators to submit their ideas to solve pressing urban challenges in the areas of housing, transportation, skills, healthcare, WASH, renewable energy and climate change. The first edition of UIC was launched in 2016 and three finalists, Bhumijo, Bloodman and BD Assistant were selected for investment scaling. The second edition of UIC was launched in July 2018.

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Low-cost resilient housing for people living in urban poverty

PARTNERS

