

# URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

ACTIVITY UPDATE  
2018

## SITUATION UPDATE

Bangladesh is urbanising at a rapid scale. By 2050, half of the country's population will be living in urban areas. Economic and climate-induced migrants are causing Bangladesh's urban population to swell. Many of them find shelter in low-income informal settlements, or 'slums'. At present, there are 14,000 slums in Bangladesh, with a population of roughly 7 million people. Overcrowded and unhygienic living conditions, lack of access to safe drinking water and inadequate sanitation, livelihood insecurity, violence against women and children are all common realities in the slums.

With a view to alleviate multidimensional poverty and deprivation of 1 million urban poor by 2020, BRAC made pro-poor urban development one of its eight programmatic priorities (2016-2020) and launched its Urban Development Programme in 2016. The programme is currently operating in 369 low-income communities in 20 cities and municipalities across Bangladesh, implementing a range of tailored pilot projects and interventions including providing access to basic affordable services to the urban poor, empowering workers in the ready-made garment sector, community fire prevention awareness, low-cost climate-resilient housing and advocating with the local and national governments for inclusive, pro-poor, urban planning and policy. UDP created its Urban Strategy 2018-2022 to guide its future plan and implementation.

Community mobilisation has always been at the centre of BRAC's poverty alleviation strategy. In the urban context, UDP has introduced the 'Community Action Plan' (CAP) as a tool for empowering marginalised communities. 369 Community Development Organisations (CDOs) in 20 cities and towns across Bangladesh have established their individual community action plans, addressing their respective community-based problems. The community action plan consultations identified both infrastructural and socio-economic problems in the slums including waterlogging, scarcity of safe water and waste management mechanisms, as well as the absence of schools and day-care centres in the community. Recurring socio-economic issues affecting the communities include unemployment, child marriage, drug abuse and gender-based violence.

Based on consultations with the community, UDP has been able to deliver targeted solutions in the slums— 264,000 people have been referred to appropriate health, legal aid, skills and financial services. UDP has also initiated infrastructural development projects in the form of low-cost housing and improved drainage and sanitation facilities. Local city authorities have recognized the challenges in the urban low-income communities, demonstrated ownership for the wellbeing of the slum residents, and have incorporated pro-poor inclusive development into their respective planning strategy.



20 CITIES AND  
TOWNS



369 SLUMS  
UPGRADED



1,000,000  
PEOPLE LIVING IN URBAN  
POVERTY



# PROJECT UPDATE

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



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UDP's flagship EMPOWER project aims to mobilise and transform low-income communities by enabling their access to basic affordable services such as housing and safe water and sanitation, citizen rights and entitlements, improving overall urban governance and piloting new interventions with scope for scaling up.

Till date, the project has initiated activities in 369 slums in 20 cities and towns in Bangladesh. Each slum has its own primary groups, cluster committees and community development organisations (CDOs). These groups are responsible for the implementation, maintenance and operations of project activities in each of their respective communities.

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## ACHIEVEMENTS

2096

EDUCATION GRANTS  
PROVIDED

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2896

LIVELIHOOD ASSETS  
SUPPORT PROVIDED

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5560

HOMES REBUILT



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

UDP provided over 2896 livelihood assets support to the most marginalised communities for the growth of small-scale enterprises. The programme also supported the education of 2096 children by providing education grants. Urban agriculture was also introduced as over 5000 clients received support in planting and harvesting seasonal vegetables such as tomatoes, bitter gourds, aubergines, spinach, etc. 45 community information resource centres have been set up across 20 cities for the development of the enterprise activities in the slums.

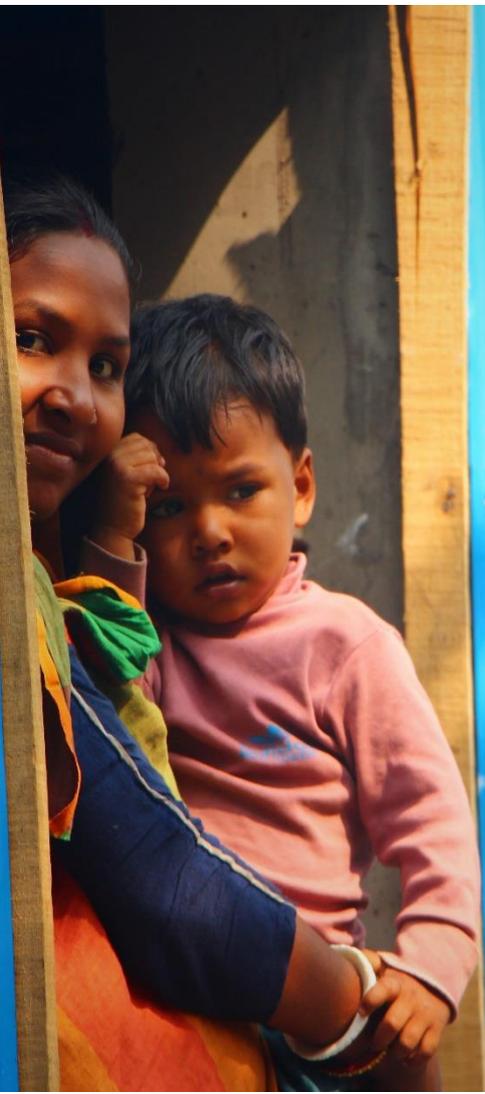
With a view of improving inclusive urban planning and governance processes, 500 people received capacity development training and support, ranging from mayors to slum development officers, local government officials and representatives and union leaders.

Disaster preparedness and emergency response in urban low-income settlements are also central to UDP's work. 27,100 community members have participated in mock drills in 2018. 5560 homes were rebuilt by UDP in the aftermath of two major fires in Korail, one of the largest slums located in the heart of Bangladesh's capital Dhaka. The large-scale reconstruction project was possible through joint implementation with the Dhaka North City Corporation and UNDP, and a huge mobilisation effort by the local community. The emergency housing reconstruction initiative in 2017, established the public-private partnership model which UDP has since, adopted for all its community infrastructure upgrading initiatives. **729,019 people** living in urban poverty accessed improved WASH services.

In order to improve operational efficiency and to make data more transparent and accessible, UDP introduced a real-time data monitoring system in its 20 cities and towns. With a target of one million, the programme has incorporated the profiles of **750,000** people living in urban slums so far on the real-time platform.

In 2018, UDP initiated over 500 urban interventions in 20 cities and towns, providing access to safe water, sanitary latrine facilities, waste management facilities, solar powered energy etc. impacting over **729,000 urban residents** of low-income settlements.

Climate-resilient low-cost housing has also been introduced by UDP, a pilot initiative for BRAC. At present, 110 homes in 2 cities have been upgraded by UDP's low-cost housing project. In 2019, the pilot project will be scaled in 10 other cities.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

**729,000**

ACCESSED IMPROVED  
URBAN FACILITIES

**300,000**

RECEIVED ACCESS  
THROUGH SERVICE  
INTEGRATION

**27,100**

PARTICIPATED IN MOCK FIRE  
DRILLS IN URBAN SLUMS

# PROJECT UPDATE

## EMPOWERING WORKERS IN THE READY-MADE GARMENT SECTOR (ERMG)



### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

3

ONE-STOP SERVICE CENTRES

776

RECEIVED LEGAL AID SERVICES

842

GRADUATED FROM SKILLS  
TRAINING

20,798

RECEIVED PRIMARY HEALTH  
CARE

BRAC Urban Development Programme started its RMG workers' wellbeing project (ERMG project) in July 2017 with a handful of factories in the industrial areas of Gazipur, Tongi and Savar. The project targeted providing wellbeing services to 50,000 RMG workers in the areas of healthcare, legal aid, financial services, skills training etc.

In 2018, the ERMG project provided services to **28,525** from **28 RMG factories** in 3 one-stop service centres (OSSCs). A total of **20,798** of people received primary healthcare services from doctors and paramedics. **776** received legal aid support. **842** graduated from skills training (NTVQF Level-1) and found employment in RMG factories. UDP is also working with Maya Apa, the technology-based wellness and 5678 people have used their service till date.

Job fairs were held in Savar and Gazipur, where employers and potential employees were matched based on their needs and preferences. Government officials were also present, and the event served as a platform for the voicing of workers' needs and demands. Health camps were also held in the communities as well as in the factory premises where workers received eye check-ups, vaccinations, blood grouping services etc.

One of the key achievements for the ERMG project in 2018 has been the introduction of financial services customised for RMG workers. The workers accessed financial literacy workshops, creating awareness on savings and management of personal finances. Moreover, financial safeguarding has been introduced in the form of DPS savings and health insurance as workers opened **239** mobile banking (bKash accounts) and DPS accounts. Under the DPS scheme, workers are saving BDT 200 each month through personal and BRAC contribution. The workers are motivated to save for their children's education, buying assets, future investments, financial security etc. **130** RMG workers have signed up for health insurance till date.

# Low-cost climate-resilient housing for people living in urban poverty



BRAC UDP has begun the process of ensuring land tenure security and housing for people living in urban poverty. In the pilot phase, UDP has provided support in improving the homes of 110 individuals in two climate-affected cities: Khulna and Satkhira with plans of expansion to 10 more cities. The project is being overseen by City Development Fund committee, comprised of community leaders, who manage the project implementation.

Housing is at the centre of the New Urban Agenda. From its very inception, UDP has been engaged in housing initiatives in low-income urban settlements across the country. In early 2017, as a part of an emergency response in Korail slum, UDP helped reconstruct 5,500 homes affected by two devastating fires.

In light of the findings from the National Convention, UDP initiated the process of piloting low-cost housing by setting up city development funds in Khulna and Satkhira. The purpose of the City Development Fund (CDF) is to provide access to affordable financial services in order to improve the tenure security and housing conditions of the low-income communities.

The process of implementing low-cost houses was completely participatory from the planning, designing, costing and construction. Community members actively selected the households for upgrading their homes, conducted affordability analyses, envisioned and designed their 'dream homes', and supported each other in making their dreams a reality.

"I lived in a ramshackle hut with my family of 10. I had a dream that someday I will get to sleep inside my own brick-built house. I am extremely grateful to BRAC for helping me make my dream come true." - Mayna Dasi, resident of Rajarbagan colony, Satkhira municipality.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

110

HOUSES UPGRADED

12

CITIES TO RECEIVE HOUSING  
UPGRADATION

# Low-cost climate-resilient housing for people living in urban poverty



Most of the people living in communities in south-west Bangladesh lived in dire circumstances- their houses were made of precarious building material such as wood, corrugated tin sheet, bamboo etc. This region is also particularly disaster-prone, experiencing some of the worst cyclones in recent times. For these reasons, BRAC decided to pilot its low-cost housing project in this region targeting people who already have access to land tenure security.

In the initial stage of the project, the CDF members and the UDP regional staff visited the climate vulnerable areas and conducted their assessment on the housing conditions of these areas. The team selected the areas with most appalling conditions which lacked access to sanitary toilets, no waste management facilities, limited access to safe water facilities, blocked and overflowing drains etc. The eligibility assessment and the housing affordability analysis determined which communities were going to be selected as the first to receive housing upgrading: Khulna and Satkhira. The initiative aimed to build low-cost climate resilient housing which would be cost effective and would fulfil the demands of the service receivers at the same time. In consideration of the budget and low-cost housing model, along with full participation of the land-owners, the community architect and the engineer customised the design of each house depending upon the owner's financial capabilities, and the availability of land. The houses are designed to accommodate maximum access to sunlight and ventilation. This feature of the house design has enabled the electricity bill to reduce significantly because now they have access to adequate daylight in the house. Besides, the walls of the houses are made with fresh water bricks (brought from other cities) instead of salt water bricks available in Khulna because these bricks are longer lasting. As Khulna and Satkhira are both low-lying and disaster-prone, the flash pointing, and salt resisting chemicals used in the construction of these homes will mitigate any damage that might be caused in the next 10 years. The houses are therefore not only comfortable to live in, but also climate-resilient.



## IMPACTS

- There has been a significant shift in the community perception as a whole along with the enhanced standard of living. The paradigm shift is noted as a positive behavioural change which results in effective community relationship.
- The socio-economic impact in the community is indeed noteworthy. Apart from an increased social status and improved economic condition, the clients are now being respected in their respective communities more than ever before.
- The electricity bills have gone down to a great extent as the newly built houses are airy and have access to more sunlight unlike the previous ones which were not only unplanned but also congested.
- Capacity building training is provided to each client, local builders and CDO members so that they are well informed about the identifying, handling and buying of raw materials and maintenance of the houses and all of them work themselves during the construction of the houses. This enables them to gain new knowledge as well as technical skills.
- Housing being at the centre of community development, there is a comprehensive slum upgradation plan including construction of roads, latrines, setting up of tube wells, waste

# Low-cost climate-resilient housing for people living in urban poverty

## EFFECTIVENESS

- Local builders and BRAC Engineers jointly initiated research on introduction of low-cost construction materials such as, handmade floor tiles, and compact block for wall construction
- The community which was once poorly structured is now living in one to two storied houses where families are living in separate rooms, making the perfect use of the lands both proportionately and effectively.
- Every house is being built on two fixed models with a specific budget allotted from the CDF. Starting from procuring raw materials to construction, clients and CDO members are actively engaged in all process and costing.
- Even though the houses are made of bricks, they are made in a very climate resilient manner by using special chemical to protect the walls from damage by salt water and flood.
- The houses are both low cost and climate resilient at the same time which has created an exemplary model in the communities. Even other cities and low-income communities are interested to replicate this model since it is very cost effective and environment friendly.

## BEST PRACTICES

- Regular feedback is taken from the creditors regarding the design and construction work in order to ensure 100% client satisfaction. This creates a glowing example in the effective communication between clients and UDP.
- The clients can select their own customized design based on the 2 housing models provided by the community architect and the engineer through participatory discussions
- The clients and their family members themselves work for the construction along with getting the raw materials of their choice. It does not only save cost and time, but also gives them the satisfaction that their houses are being built according to their own plans and wishes.
- When the house of one family is under construction, the other families offer their help to that family. As they have been living in those communities for generations, they are all closely tied and know each other so well that they do not have to rent other houses to stay during construction.
- Even though the clients are mostly poor, none of them have made any delay in the repayment of the loan till date, which is a highly commendable practice.
- Now that the people have better housing facilities, they feel like their long-cherished dream has finally come true. This also gives them the feeling of privacy, safety and security. Moreover, they have been living in this community for generations and so they take pride in the continuity of their establishment.





## CASE STORY

Archana Das lived in a squatter in Rishipara colony in Khulna City Corporation. Her husband works as a day labourer, with a monthly income of BDT 15,000. She and her husband supports her elderly mother and one-year old child. The family received a loan of BDT 1.5 lakh from the city development fund (CDF) to upgrade their house. Archana and her family designed their 'dream home', a two-storied, three bedroom home with an attached kitchen and an outdoor courtyard. Archana's sister who also lives with them has a wing of her own which is attached to Archana's house through a common staircase. For Archana's family, having three generations living under one roof is like an absolute dream. The family takes great pride in their two-storied brick-built house. Archana's family are now able to comfortably host friends and relatives visiting from out of town. Their upgraded homes have improved the family's social standing in their community and strengthened their family ties. All three generations are now able to eat, pray and play together in harmony.



# Improving WASH Infrastructure in Urban Slums



In Bangladesh, two-thirds of the urban population lack access to safe water. In urban slums, 83% of households do not have access to sanitary latrines and WASH facilities and 60% of municipal solid waste in Bangladesh is not properly disposed. BRAC Urban Development Programme (UDP) is currently working to provide water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management facilities to people living in urban poverty in 369 slums in 20 cities and towns in Bangladesh. The programme has three key objectives: To provide access to improved WASH facilities to people living in urban poverty; To provide access to WASH facilities in schools in urban low-income communities; To promote good hygiene health practices and community-level awareness. The programme's intervention strategy includes establishing a cost-sharing mechanism between the local community, local government and BRAC, linking the urban informal settlement with government service providers, building inclusive WASH facilities for minors, the elderly and physically challenged populations, and implementing climate resilient WASH infrastructure.

Till date, **729,019** number of people in low-income communities have benefitted from UDP's WASH infrastructure development. Over 500 infrastructural interventions have been developed, each one customised to suit the specific needs of the community. In Balurmath colony in Barisal for example the groundwater has depleted and tubewells no longer pump water. BRAC built a mini-pipe water supply system (MPWSS) in Balurmath colony to bring people access to safe water. This model is now being scaled to the other 20 cities and towns and in schools. 320 community-managed hygienic toilets have been built in slums where the existing sanitation facilities were inadequate. The toilets have been innovative, multi-chamber, gender- segregated with handwashing and menstrual hygiene facilities. BRAC UDP has also taken initiative on faecal sludge management which will improve sewerage system and overall sanitation. Furthermore, the community is accessing safe water via renovated tube-wells, water-delivery trucks and water bodies such as ponds are being preserved for use by the community. In total 212 waste collecting vans and tractors have been provided and 20 community dust bins have been set up in communities. UDP has also initiated waste management in the slums by supplying waste collection bins, vans and waste recycling initiatives in partnership with the local government.

Improving WASH and waste management infrastructure in slums has led to significant behavioural changes in the community, increased awareness as well as visibly cleaner and safer neighbourhoods. Waterborne diseases are on the decline, women's safety is being ensured and livelihood activities are being generated around the maintenance and management of the WASH and waste management infrastructure in the slums.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

**1733**

UPGRADED WASH  
FACILITIES

**729,019**

PEOPLE HAVE ACCESS  
TO SAFE WATER



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

**16 FEET**

WIDE ROAD  
CONSTRUCTED IN  
KORAIL

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**BDT 15, 16, 293**

UDP CONTRIBUTION FOR  
ROAD CONSTRUCTION

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**BDT 3, 50, 000**

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

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**BDT 4, 00, 000**

CITY CORPORATION  
CONTRIBUTION

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## COMMUNITY UPGRADING IN KORAIL, DHAKA

Transportation and mobility is at the heart of a community's well-being. 'Beltola road' is the lifeline of the people living in Korail as it serves as the entry and exit point of goods and commodities that are transported to the market place or 'Korail bazaar'. Over 100,000 people depend on this particular market for meeting their daily needs. Previously, Beltola road was narrow, full of potholes, and regularly experiencing waterlogging in the rainy season. The road was too narrow for even a fire truck to pass, increasing the risk of a fire hazard. Residents faced a lot of hardship commuting to and from their work on a daily basis due to the conditions of the road.

In response to this critical need, BRAC UDP initiated the process of upgrading the Beltola road, in partnership with the local city corporation and the local community. The tripartite agreement between the three stakeholders influenced the financial, technical, and community mobilisation. The total project cost was BDT 17, 86, 267 (17 lakh, 86 thousand and 267 taka), of which, BDT 2,69,974 was contributed by the Dhaka North City Corporation and community members. BRAC UDP contributed the remaining BDT 15, 16, 293. The UDP engineering team conducted the mapping, planning, budget statement, material statement, and prepared step-by-step guidelines on the entire construction process. As a result, the new Beltola road, which was 3 feet in width prior to the redevelopment, became 16 feet wide and 830 feet long, easily wide enough for one fire truck to pass at any given time.

The best practice example from this initiative was that the entire process was community-driven: The community led the procurement and safeguarding of the construction materials; Youth groups were mobilised to control the traffic and maintain order among pedestrians and passers-by during the construction phase of the project. The community even set up their own lighting in the evening and cleared any obstructions posed from the community both physical and otherwise, to ensure the smooth implementation of the project.

The Beltola road redevelopment project set the benchmark for community upgrading; Soon after, the community mobilised and renovated the drainage system which would improve the problem of waterlogging in Korail.



# LIVELIHOOD PACKAGE

BRAC Urban Development Programme is promoting pro-poor urban development through access to a livelihood support package (skills, employment and entrepreneurship development) for the urban poor on special preference for extreme poor, underprivileged youth, climate migrants and industrial workers (especially focused on RMG workers).

Broadly, UDP provides 2 types of support for the development of livelihoods and entrepreneurship for urban poor. The first one is grants/assets support such as small business grants, educations grants etc. and the second one is training, and job placement currently accessible by workers in the RMG sector. 10% of our livelihood grants have been awarded to people with disabilities, particularly women entrepreneurs.

In 2019, UDP will evaluate the grant recipients by using enterprise graduation set criteria. If the recipient is unable to meet the criteria for 'graduation', then UDP will analyse the root cause of failure and re-support them.





## PLANNING & GOVERNANCE

### Capacity Development Training for Pro-poor Urban Planning and Governance

UDP provided training and capacity development support on inclusive pro-poor urban planning and governance to 576 elected representatives and government officials including mayors, city councillors, standing committees chief executive officers, slum development officers etc. from 20 cities and towns including Savar, Rangpur, Saidpur, Gaibandha, Cumilla, Sirajgonj, Mymensingh, Jhenaidah, Faridpur, Satkhira, Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Khulna, Sylhet, Narayangonj, Dhaka North City Corporation and Dhaka South City Corporation. The programmes were jointly organized by BRAC Urban Development Programme (UDP), BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD) and Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP). The main objective is to strengthen local capacity in preparing and implementing local development plans, control local development and ensure municipal financial sustainability.

Outcome is the allocation of budget for the urban poor while the service is being ensured in a hierarchical manner from the community to the City authorities. Ensuring accountability, transparency, gender sensitization and responsibilities through the governance trainings both in community and city representatives such as the elected representatives, local government officials, standing committee, town level coordination committee etc. Ensured budget allocation for the urban poor and community budget and action plans are already linked with the city budget and city plans. Updating and preparation of city development plans for instance BRAC and UDD is supporting Gaibandha municipality for preparation of Strategic Development Plan (master plan) and city performance improvement plan and capital investment plan are ongoing considering the slum upgradation, housing, renewable energy, DRR, climate change and future impact with further assessment and improvement for generating more revenue. Currently planning to arrange more seminars and workshops on climate change and its impacts for mayors and other local government officials outside the 20 cities where UDP does not operate.

576

MAYORS, COUNCILORS, STANDING  
COMMITTEES AND GOVERNMENT  
OFFICIALS

20

CITIES AND TOWNS

# INNOVATION



## URBAN INNOVATION CHALLENGE

BRAC Urban Development Programme won the 'best innovation' award at the 'Smart City Week 2017' for launching the Urban Innovation Challenge in 2016. The second edition of the Urban Innovation Challenge (UIC) was launched in 2018, following its success from 2016. The same tagline of 'Our cities. Our Solutions' was adapted this year. The objective was to explore business ideas in five specific challenges: Renewable Energy, Climate Change, Slum Upgrading, Housing and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). The official launching ceremony was held in the BRAC Centre Inn, Dhaka on 21 July 2018. The State Minister for Information and Communications Technology, Zunaid Ahmed Palak, inaugurated the year-long event as the Chief Guest. The jury panel consisted of Start-up Bangladesh Investment Adviser Tina Jabeen, Prothom Alo Youth Program Coordinator Munir Hasan, Inclusive Innovation Toru Institute founder Saif Kamal, and Rubana Huq, Managing Director of Mohammadi Group.

After three months of rigorous 'competition phase', the finalists were announced at a grand finale event, organised at the BRAC Centre Inn on 27 November 2018. Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Climate, Dr Atiqur Rahman, was present at the event as chief guest.

Five teams won awards in four categories for innovating effective solutions: 'Nirvana' and 'City Bird' won in the renewable energy category, 'Jotno Healthcare' in healthcare category, 'Onushongo' in the low-cost housing category, 'Drinkwell' in water sanitation and hygiene category and 'Responsive Urbanist' received honourable mention in the WASH category. Each winning team received initial grant support of up to BDT 500,000, mentorship support from sectoral experts and ongoing incubation support, connecting them with industry experts in the startup community.



## ADVOCACY, CONFERENCES & EVENTS

### First National Convention on Housing Finance for People living in urban poverty, Bangladesh

15 October 2017: UDP hosted its first annual national convention, which was attended by 100 Mayors, the Minister and the Secretary for Housing, prominent government officials from the urban development sector, planners, academics, partners, NGO representatives and community leaders who congregated at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka to discuss housing financing solutions for people living in urban poverty.

Three themes were discussed at the day-long convention's parallel sessions: city planning and governance, housing financing and partnerships. A convention declaration, outlining concrete action points was produced at the end, and all the mayors present, pledged their commitment to adopt these recommendations. The mayors committed to make low-income housing a priority issue in their planning, gave their word to improve the municipal budget allocation for low-income housing, facilitating mutual learning and experience sharing with other local municipal governments and co-establishing a national mayor's council where they can collaborate with each other on finding joint solutions to key urban challenges. Further recommendations at the local level include establishing city development funds advocating for community-led land tenure and housing security, disbursing BRAC seed capital for establishing community revolving funds, providing capacity training to local government officials and BRAC staff in addressing low-income housing issues, advocating for inclusive city master plans and piloting different housing schemes for people living in urban poverty.

At the national level, the mayors agreed to jointly advocate for the formal adoption of the national urban policy, the establishing of a separate urban ministry, a national urban council led by the Prime Minister, allocation of 40% of national budget towards local government institution, invigorate the Bangladesh Municipal Development Fund (BMDF), improve inter-ministerial coordination among land, housing and local government ministries, and advocate for establishing a local government commission and local government day.



## WORLD URBAN FORUM

February 7-13, 2018: A 6-member delegation from BRAC's Urban Development Programme, headed by Senior Director Asif Saleh, participated in the ninth session of the World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Attended by Ministers and Mayors, planners and policy-makers, academics and practitioners alike, WUF9 is the largest and most premier platform for sharing knowledge and devising solutions for sustainable urbanization.

The biannual forum aims to raise awareness, improve collective knowledge through sharing of good practices and lessons learned, and increase cross-sectoral coordination among stakeholders for advancing and implementing sustainable urbanization. Over the course of the week-long programme, members of the BRAC team hosted and participated in training events, networking sessions and panel discussions which addressed a wide range of issues in the urban sector. By participating for the first time at the forum, BRAC increased their visibility as an urban stakeholder in the largest global platform. It is expected that the learnings and key takeaways from the forum will guide and inform UDP's future urban strategy and ongoing programmes in 20 cities and municipalities all over Bangladesh.

## SMART CITIES WEEK

November 29, 2017: UDP participated in the first ever 'Smart City Week, 2017' co-organized by UNDP and the Access to Information (a2i) Programme from the PM's office. At the event, 17 smart concepts were awarded from 100 innovative ideas showcased at the Smart City Innovation Hub, where UDP won the 'Smart City Excellence Award' for their 'Urban Innovation Challenge' initiative.

# ADVOCACY, CONFERENCES & EVENTS

## WORLD HABITAT DAY



BRAC Urban Development Programme observed World Habitat Day, 2018 in 20 cities and municipalities on 1 October 2018. The theme for 2018 was 'Municipal Solid Waste Management'. Rallies were held across the country in collaboration with the local municipality and city corporations. Mayors, Councillors and BRAC frontline staff attended the rallies. In Dhaka, UDP commemorated World Habitat Day 2018 with a rally and a joint seminar programme with the Urban Development Directorate. The programme was presided over by the Honourable Minister of Housing and Public Works, Engineer Mosharraf Hossain. The Secretary and Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, the Chairman of RAJUK, Country Director of UNDP, academics and members of civil society were all present as special guests at the event. BRAC UDP's Programme Head, Hasina Mushrofa presented on BRAC's interventions in addressing municipal solid waste management, which includes direct intervention as well as capacity training and advocacy. At the closing of the programme, the Minister presented Hasina Mushrofa with a plaque, recognizing BRAC's model of good practice in addressing municipal solid waste management.

## World Cities Day 2018, Bangladesh

World Cities Day is observed worldwide in order to promote the international community's interest in global urbanization and enhance cooperation among countries and cities in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges of urbanisation and contribute to sustainable urban development. On the occasion of World Cities Day 2018, UDP in partnership with the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, the Urban Development Directorate and several public and private universities and NGOs, organised a workshop and display with the theme, "Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities". The event was held at the House Building and Research Institute (HBRI), in Mirpur, Dhaka. The parallel session was moderated by the UDP Programme Head, Hasina Mushrofa and five other respected individuals from the urban sector. The discussion focused on the programme's activities including building a sustainable urban ecosystem. With one of the least liveable cities in the world, a range of policies and priority solutions were discussed in the context of cities in Bangladesh.



## Third Annual National Conferences on Urban Resilience to Climate Change (ICCCAD), Dhaka Bangladesh



BRAC UDP co-hosted the 'Third Annual National Conference on Urban Resilience to Climate Change' with the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD). UDP led the session, 'Prioritising Climate Change and Local Level Resilience in Secondary Cities and Towns'. As the sixth most climate-affected country in the world, a range of priority solutions were discussed in the context of Bangladesh, including strengthening municipal-level planning, establishing a separate Urban Ministry, adopting the National Urban Policy and mobilizing diverse resources. BRAC UDP received the award for best "Climate Resilient Low-Cost Urban Housing for Climate Change Migrants".



# BRAC RMG Strategy Workshop 2018

On 3-4 July 2018, BRAC organised a high-level RMG strategy workshop with members of the extended BRAC family. The workshop intended to build the organisation's capacity to lead local improvement efforts in Bangladesh's complex and growing garment industry. It offered an opportunity for existing BRAC teams to share key learnings on existing programs, hear different perspectives on the state of the sector from external experts, and brainstorm future initiatives that can continue to strengthen improvements to Bangladesh's garment sector. Along with partners, there are big opportunities for BRAC to design and implement domestic- led solutions and create real impact in the broader garment sector ecosystem in Bangladesh.

Six social development programmes including Urban, Skills, Human Rights and Legal Aid, Migration, Microfinance, Gender, Justice and Diversity and members of the BRAC family, BRAC Bank, bKash, Maya Apa, BRAC-

University, Microfinance, Gender, Justice and Diversity and members of the BRAC family, BRAC Bank, bKash, Maya Apa, BRAC University, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development, BRAC UK, BRAC USA participated in the programme.

External presenters from the RMG sector including representatives from BGMEA, Marks and Spencer, Director of Research of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, and Business for Social Responsibility's HERhealth project also shared their knowledge and expertise with the BRAC family at the strategy workshop.

The workshop presented many findings and generated new ideas for BRAC's expansion in the RMG sector. BRAC intends to weave its experiences and lessons learned into new program designs to address gaps and structural barriers, build on recent improvements, and deliver systemic changes that add value to worker's lives.

# FIELD STORY



Shathi had never worked a day in her life. Her husband is a businessman who provided a comfortable life for his family. She is a housewife and a mother of a 2-year-old daughter. When her husband unexpectedly fell ill, Shathi had to take the role of the responsible adult in the house. She needed money to run the household and to pay for the medical costs of her husband. Shathi was utterly helpless as she had no resources to help her get on her feet.

A friend of Shathi's referred her to the one-stop service centre, after seeing an ad in the newspaper. She came to visit and got to know of the various types of services on offer ranging from the SMO training, health care services and legal aid support. Shathi always had a fascination with the sewing machine but never got the opportunity to learn how to use one. She enrolled in the 3-month sewing machine operation training and after successfully completing the course she found a job as a sewing machine operator in Standard Stitches Ltd.

Shathi is now earning BDT 12,000 a month. She feels empowered, both financially and socially. Even though the circumstances of her having to look for means of employment was unfortunate, her husband and family are proud of her. Shathi introduces her daughter, Fatima, who just celebrated her second birthday.

"We invited and fed over 100 people at her birthday party. We had a huge party where she got lots of presents."

# Key Partners



Gazipur City Corporation

Rajshahi City Corporation

Dhaka South City Corporation

Barishal City Corporation

Dhaka North City Corporation

Narayanganj City Corporation

Rangpur City Corporation

Chattogram City Corporation

Khulna City Corporation

Mymensingh City Corporation

Sylhet City Corporation

Cumilla City Corporation

Savar Municipality

Saidpur Municipality

Gaibandha Municipality

Satkhira Municipality

Sirajganj Municipality

Jhenaidah Municipality

Cox's Bazar Municipality

Faridpur Municipality



Strategic Partnership Arrangement – Delivering real results together

BRAC Urban Development Programme

Gulshan Bhaban  
355 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh  
Tel: +880 2 9881265  
Email: [udp.communication@brac.net](mailto:udp.communication@brac.net)

[www.brac.net](http://www.brac.net)  
[www.bracinternational.nl](http://www.bracinternational.nl)

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