



EMPOWERING WOMEN IN CITIES AND TOWNS

URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME | BRAC

More than half of the world’s population today live in urban areas. Of them, over a billion people live in urban poverty, and they are mostly women.

Women leadership has been a major milestone in BRAC UDP’s programming. UDP mainstreamed gender in their work through a combination of service provision, capacity-building and awareness-raising. The programme facilitated gender analysis and integration training to 156 staff including male staff members who outnumbered female staff in their gender sensitivity training. Regional teams have oriented their field staff as well as local government officials with BRAC’s internal ‘**SHE Policy**’, ‘**Gender Policy**’, and they are now implementing these values across their work. Additionally, UDP’s community organisers (COs) are regularly discussing gender-based social issues including child marriage, rape, dowry, violence against women and children etc. in their monthly primary group meetings to raise awareness and shape the community’s behavioural practices.

UDP’s gender-based achievements in 2018 are as follows:

- 750 women representatives participated in ward level committees in 20 cities and municipalities for city planning and urban governance
- 4139 women entrepreneurs received livelihood asset grant support
- Installation of streetlights has increased women’s safety and mobility in 3 cities
- 9510 women have accessed services at BRAC’s one-stop services

URBAN IMPACT BY 2022



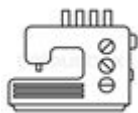
1,000,000

People will have access to basic affordable services in urban slums



5,00,000

Infrastructural services will be provided to people



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

110

Women received housing loan

582

Women received training in sewing machine operation (SMO)

750

Female CDO members received training on leadership capacity and organizational development

4139

Women received livelihood asset grant support

8928

Female workers in the RMG sector received primary health care services

98,580

Female WASH clients

250,000

Women primary group members receiving awareness

ONGOING URBAN 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)

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

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

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. 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.

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Female skills learners learning sewing machine operation at BRAC's one-stop service centre

PARTNERS

