

Project ref: ASIE/2003/5813

EC Partners

- **Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, People's Republic of Bangladesh**

Facts and Figures

- Duration: **2004-2009**
- EC contribution: **€105 million**
- Beneficiaries: schools, teachers, pupils
- **60 million textbooks** distributed per school
- **30 000 new classrooms** with furniture, tube-wells for safe drinking water, and hygienic toilets
- **35 000 additional teachers**
- **90 000 teachers** receive better pre-service training
- **160 000 teachers** receive in-service training for child-centred instruction
- Tangible reduction in teacher/pupil ratio and increased contact hours



Education

Improving primary education in partnership with the Government of Bangladesh

A dedicated education policy for girls established gender parity in primary education in Bangladesh, helping to meet Millennium Development Goals 2 and 3 - Universal Primary Education and Gender Equality. The challenge remains to ensure that all children complete primary education and receive high quality instruction, improving their level of basic life skills, literacy and numeracy.



Context: A long road to universal primary school completion

Eighteen million eligible children make Bangladesh's primary education system one of the largest in a developing country. The Government has a dedicated policy towards "Education for All" and has made significant progress in improving the number of children enrolling in schools, and in access provided for girls. And yet, poor educational infrastructure (classrooms, drinking water, toilets, etc.) and a shortage of qualified teachers mean that many children still don't have a chance to complete a primary schooling of good quality.

Objective: Fostering education quality in a joint programme with the Government of Bangladesh

In 2004 the Government of Bangladesh, together with 11 development partners (including the European Commission), joined forces providing USD 1.8 billion for the Second Primary Education Development Program (PEDP-II). The programme addresses four main areas:

- Better management of the primary education system
- Quality improvements through more recruitment and better teacher training
- Infrastructure development
- Equitable access for all children

Impact: What has been achieved?

Over 60 million textbooks are being distributed to pupils every year during the course of the programme. Over 27 000 new teachers have been recruited between 2004 and 2007. 12 000 new classrooms are already completed, with learner-friendly furniture. The teacher-pupil ratio has declined and the number of contact hours that the teacher has with the pupils has increased, resulting in better learning outcomes.