

**The Republic of Korea's Country
Partnership Strategy for
the People's Republic of Bangladesh
2016-2020**

The Government of the Republic of Korea

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The Republic of Korea's Country Partnership Strategy for the People's Republic of Bangladesh

I. Summary

Graduation from the LDC category by 2021
Transformation from a low-income country to a middle income country Socio-economic environment improvement through acceleration of economic growth

7th Five Year Plan (FY2016~FY2020)						
Accelerating growth with equity						
Goals	Income and poverty	Sector Development	Human Resource Development (Education, Health, and Population)	Water and Sanitation	Energy and Infrastructure	ICT Development
Tasks	Reduce poverty and increase real GDP growth rate	Develop agriculture, industry and service sector	Improve enrolment rate for primary and secondary education	Provide safe drinking water and improve access to sanitary latrines	Enhance electricity generation, ensure energy security, and strengthen transport network	Improve the quality and expand usage of ICT infrastructure in various fields

Objectives of the Republic of Korea's Development Cooperation for the People's Republic of Bangladesh
The Korean government will support the Bangladesh government to realize the Vision 2021 and the 7 th Five Year Plan, focusing on the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve quality of human resources through reinforcement of education and training institutions ▪ Increase regional connectivity through expansion of transport infrastructures ▪ Reinforce public health services for the improvement of mid-to-long term public health system ▪ Reinforce ICT infrastructures for acceleration of economic growth

Priority Areas and Support Plans	Education
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support expansion and improvement of primary and secondary education for disadvantaged communities ▪ Support expansion of special skill set of workforce by enhancing opportunities for technical and vocational education ▪ Support human resource development by providing platform for ICT training
	Transport
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support quality enhancement and expansion of transport infrastructure ▪ Share expertise on development, operation, and management of transport infrastructure
	Water Management and Public Health
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support establishment of water supply and sewerage systems in priority development areas ▪ Reinforce public health service system, personnel capacities, and maternal and child health service system 	
	ICT(Communications)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support reinforcement of personnel capacities and technical framework in ICT fields ▪ Support application of information and communications technology for efficient service delivery in the education and governance sector

1. **(Vision)** The Government of the Republic of Korea aims to contribute to the successful implementation of Bangladesh's 7th 5-year Plan (FY2016-FY2020) and Vision 2021, ultimately assisting Bangladesh in national development and poverty reduction and also enhancing the exchanges and cooperation between two nations.

2. **(Criteria for Selecting Priority Areas)** Priority areas are selected based on Bangladesh's national development plan, the Republic of Korea's capacities for development cooperation, development challenges of Bangladesh, anticipated financial resources, and opportunities for cooperation with other donor countries and organizations.

3. **(Priority Sectors)** Minimum of 70% of the total ODA for Bangladesh will be allocated for the priority areas.
 - ① **(Education)** Ensuring access to effective education that enhances the quality of human capital through a skills-oriented approach
 - ② **(Transport)** Facilitating regional connectivity by establishing transport infrastructures that can contribute to a greater economic growth
 - ③ **(Water Management and Public Health)** Reinforcing the mid-to-long term public health system and improving quality of life through development of water management and public health services
 - ④ **(ICT)** Expanding ICT-based infrastructure for efficient service delivery and accelerated economic growth

4. **(Implementation Strategy)** Efficiency, sustainability, and harmonization will be the 3 values emphasized to improve effectiveness of ODA projects for Bangladesh.
 - **Efficiency:** Creating synergy between development projects
 - **Sustainability:** Promoting participation of relevant stakeholders in Bangladesh and improving management competencies of aid recipient organizations to improve project sustainability
 - **Harmonization:** Increasing opportunities for cooperation with the Government of Bangladesh and donor organizations by strengthening field work coordination and dialogue

5. **(Strategic Foundation)** Compliance with the ODA Advancement Plan of the Korean government, DAC's recommendations, international standards on foreign assistance, such as Busan Global Partnership Implementation Strategies and UN's sustainable developmental goals (SDGs) will be ensured through project implementation.

Korea aims to reinforce cooperation with Bangladesh and other development partners through improvement of the Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) and a phased introduction of the Program-based Approach (PBA) in accordance with existing guidelines and competencies of the state apparatus.

II. Priority Areas and Implementation Strategy

A. Education

1. Needs Assessment

The Bangladesh government has been aiming to establish a knowledge-based society and improve the country's human development index (HDI) through eradication of illiteracy, improvement in the quality of compulsory education, and science and technology based education.

Moreover, the Bangladesh government has selected labor productivity enhancement as an important implementation strategy, which will be devised through increased investment in the IT sector, additional employment generation for women, and higher export of semi-skilled manpower.

In regard to export of manpower, the foreign remittance, the vital component amounting to 8% of the GDP in 2014, can be increased manifold through training of technical professionals, tailored to meet the demands of the global labor market. The government undertook a technical/vocational training reform project between 2010 and 2014, which led to the National Technical and Vocational Qualifications Framework (NTVQF). In accordance with the framework, emphasis will be laid on reinforcing modern technical training and capacity building of technical/vocational trainers.

Quality enhancement of educational facilities, curriculum, and educators is essential to increase opportunities for universal education as well as education participation parameters. The demand supply gap for education across gender and income levels needs to be closed through the expansion of middle and high schools in order to reduce the elementary dropout rate and reintegrate dropout children. For development of nonagricultural industries, mainstreaming IT education in middle and high schools is necessary.

2. Korea's Strength in Development Cooperation

Korea's experience with successful industrialization through human resource development stands out as a prime example for many developing countries. Korea was ranked 26th among 138 countries in the higher education and training sector in the Global Competitiveness Report 2016-2017, which indicates Korea's competitiveness in development support for education.

Vocational training is one of the relatively low cost contributing factors to economic development of developing countries. In alignment with the development strategy of the partner country, this sector can be an engine for regional economic growth and an investment for industrial development in the future.

Korea has competitive advantages in training model development, vocational training programs on automobile, electricity, electronics, information, and

communications technology (ICT), along with an experienced and competent pool of professionals. Korea will support secondary education and TVET program in Bangladesh.

3. Implementation Strategy

a. Expansion and improvement of primary and secondary education for disadvantaged communities

The Korean government will consider the Umbrella Project which aims to expand educational foundations and facilities that can resolve the imbalance in regional development, as well as ensure maximum participation of women and disadvantaged communities such as rural residents.

b. Expansion of the skilled workforce by enhancing opportunities for technical and vocational education

To increase employment opportunities for experienced and competent professionals, the Korean government will provide support for educators' capacity building, improving educational curriculum and vocational training facilities that satisfy domestic and international demands.

To increase the synergy between aid projects, the Korean government will reinforce connectivity through cooperation and division of labor by sector and function in grant aid and concessional loan projects. For example, loan projects for establishing community IT education center will be integrated with vocational training center projects funded by grant aid.

c. Improving the quality of human resources by providing a platform for ICT training

The Korean government will support projects aimed at integrating ICT systems into regional educational institutions, improving educational infrastructure, and supporting human resource development for future industries by ensuring access to support materials and equipment for IT education in elementary and secondary education institutions as well as development of educational curriculum.

B. Transport

1. Needs Assessment

The Bangladesh government has acknowledged that the nation's poor transport infrastructure is one of the major obstacles to the acceleration of its economic growth and is planning on developing a transport infrastructure that is efficient, sustainable, stable, and regionally balanced.

Bangladesh's transport systems can be generally classified into roads, railways, inland waterways, marine and air transport. Among them, roads account for more than 70% of passenger travels and 60% of freight transport. Railways are considered as a safe and economic mode of transport and have become increasingly important in Bangladesh as a sector requiring policy development.

2. Korea's Strength in Development Cooperation

Korea has adequate technology for and expertise in establishing a nationwide road network in a short span of time, based on a comprehensive national land development plan. Recently, Korea has developed an intelligent transport system using IT technologies, enhancing its relative advantage. According to the Global Competitiveness Report 2016-17, Korea is ranked 10th in communication infrastructure among 138 countries which manifests Korea's strength in this sector.

3. Implementation Strategy

a. Strengthening of quality and improving capacity of transport infrastructure

To achieve sustainable economic growth in Bangladesh through economic integration, balanced land development, and invigoration of trades, the Korean government will support improvement in quality of transport environment, expansion of transport infrastructure, and enhancement of capacities by 2020. Korea will aim to improve major road and rail transportation through the development of large scale transportation infrastructures under public-private partnerships (PPP) schemes and co-financing schemes with other development partners.

b. Sharing expertise on development, operation and management of transportation infrastructure

The Korean government will share its own experiences and relevant policies on development and management of transport infrastructures with the Bangladesh government in order to improve capacities of the transportation sector.

C. Water Management and Public Health

1. Needs Assessment

Improving basic public services such as drinking water supply, sanitation, and public health system has been an important agenda for the Bangladesh government to ameliorate the quality of life.

The Bangladesh government is currently working on developing water resources and a stable supply of commercial and industrial water to develop the regional economy. It has also shown a strong willingness to establish sanitary and safe water

pipelines to provide clean water and ultimately improve the living conditions and public health system in disadvantaged communities.

The government's target is focused on supplying safe drinking water across the entire nation to combat water scarcity owing to arsenic contamination of surface water.

On the other hand, most public health facilities are in poor condition and the accessibility of public health services is significantly low due to the lack of qualified personnel. The situation is even worse in rural areas and for low income groups.

2. Korea's Strength in Development Cooperation

In the 1990s, Korea has experienced widespread industrial development, while establishing a water-friendly environment which led to the development of advanced infrastructures and technologies for water resources.

The Korean government, as a leading country in the Green Growth Sector (i.e. water supply and sewerage sectors), is targeting to pursue a global green development scheme of water supply and sewerage systems.

In addition, Korea possesses skills, technologies, experiences and outstanding professionals in the public health sector. It also has the experience of successfully establishing hospitals and disease control programs.

* Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) has supported Public Health Projects such as Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital Establishment Project ('14)

**KOICA has supported Public Health Projects such as Establishment of National Institute of Advanced Practice Nurses in Bangladesh Project ('12), Eye Health Promotion and Prevention of Blindness in Bangladesh Project ('15), and KOICA-UNICEF Improving Effective Coverage of Maternal Newborn and Child Health Interventions of Reducing Preventable Child Deaths_('15)

Korea has successfully improved public health service delivery in a very short span of time, through manualization of health services in community health centers and efficient use of level-by-level public health professionals, such as community health practitioners and workers for family planning services.

* KOICA has supported Public Health Projects such as UNICEF Maternal, Infant and Child Health Interventions by Home Visits ('11-'13)

3. Implementation Strategy

a. Improvement of water supply and sewerage systems in priority development areas

The establishment of water and sewerage infrastructure will provide a supply of safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in priority development areas, through which a foundation for Bangladesh's regional economic growth will be created and the community's health care promoted.

The Korean Government will support reinforcement of capacity in the water management sector through establishment of infrastructures and training engineers in detailed design, commissioning, and system management.

b. Improvement of public health system and policies as well as the quality of health services

The Government of Korea will seek out opportunities to reinforce mid-to-long term public health system and policies through improvements in accessibility and quality of Bangladesh's public health services.

The Korean government will also provide support for reinforcement of general health and medical delivery systems as well as increasing the quantitative and qualitative skills of public health practitioners by building the capacity of public health personnel through training institutions.

c. Contribute to healthy lives of vulnerable groups

The Korean government will support reinforcement of medical services for regions with poor access to public health facilities and services to reduce disease vulnerability. Besides, facility based delivery and improving the quality of pre- and post-natal care services will be adopted to improve maternal and child health services.

D. ICT (Communications)

1. Needs Assessment

In Bangladesh, information and communications technology is widely viewed as a driver for economic and social growth. The government initiated a vision for 'Digital Bangladesh', based on which it has been working on the establishment of a knowledge-based society to develop the economy, increase employment rate, improve social security, and enhance public sectors' transparency by invigorating ICT. It plans to utilize ICT in all areas including agriculture, medicine, education, training, and governance as a way to improve efficiency and productivity.

2. Korea's Strength in Development Cooperation

Korea has become one of the leading countries in the field of information and communications within a short period of time. Despite the lack of natural resources, Korea transformed into a strong, information-based society in only half a century and its successful growth is regarded as a development model for developing countries.

In the "Measuring the Information Society" report on global ICT development (2015) by the United Nations, Korea was ranked first on the ICT Development Index* among 167 countries. Korea also boasts outstanding technical infrastructure as well as technical professionals.

* ICT Development Index (IDI): An index indicating the degree of development in information and communication technologies (ICT) sector based on various criteria including the level of ICT access, use and skills for measuring the information society. In 2015, Bangladesh was ranked 144th among 167 countries.

3. Implementation Strategy

a. Reinforcement of personnel capacities and technical framework in ICT fields

Aligned with the Bangladesh government's strategies for the communications sector, Korea will provide support to reinforce Bangladesh's ICT infrastructures and create synergy with other sectors, especially in the education and governance sectors.

Korea will support projects fostering technical professionals with skills training and education, carry out invitational training programs, and send experts to develop capacity of human resources in Bangladesh.

b. Support for applying information and communications technology for efficient service delivery in the education and governance sector

In line with existing state service delivery mechanisms and educational systems, the Korean government will extend support to improve pro-poor service delivery systems in various sectors, especially the education and governance sectors.

III. Assumptions

The following critical assumptions may affect Korea's strategy and approach to development cooperation in Bangladesh.

1. Lack of Infrastructure and poor condition of existing resources across all sectors

2. Lack of qualified professionals in education, public health services, and communication sectors

3. Severe socioeconomic imbalance between regions

IV. Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) Evaluation Framework

Recipient Country Development Goal (Bangladesh Development Strategy)				
Transformation from a low income country to a middle income country through accelerated economic growth				
CPS Strategic Goals				
Priority Focus Sectors	Goals by Sector	Obstacles by Sector	Achievements by Sector	Evaluation Index
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop human resources through capacity building of professional skills/technical training as well as general education institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of capacity to train personnel - Lack of electricity and power resources - Lack of capacity to establish intergovernmental cooperation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supply and improvement of educational infrastructure - Support for improvement in school environment and reinforcement of educators' capacities 	<p>CPS Conformity (whether a project has been appropriately developed in accordance with the CPS goal)</p> <p>Project Implementation Status (whether projects have been implemented in alignment with CPS)</p>
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish a comprehensive transport plan through expansion of transport infrastructures - Improve regional and international connectivity through supply and improvement of transport infrastructures - Improve living standards through balanced infrastructures across the country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor road conditions (unpaved roads, interregional imbalance) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvement in transport environment and development of transport infrastructures 	
Water Management and Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reinforce mid-to-long term public health system and policies through improvements in quality of and accessibility to Bangladesh's public health services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public service quality gap across urban and rural areas - Generally poor level of public health infrastructure - Lack of adequately qualified professional public health personnel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reinforcement of public health delivery system - Training of public health practitioners and capacity building in public health - Improvement of maternal and child health 	
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating synergies between ICT and other areas through support of ICT infrastructure development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of professional personnel in the communications sector - Unstable power supply and lack of communications infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of ICT education facilities - Support for the government's adoption of ICT system 	
Assumptions		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lack of infrastructure and poor conditions of existing resources across all sectors 2. Lack of qualified professionals in education, public health services, and communication sectors 3. Severe socioeconomic imbalance between regions 		

V. Mid-Term Allocation Plan

At least **70%** of Korea's ODA will be concentrated in the **priority areas** of bilateral cooperation, while some flexibility will be retained in order to respond to urgent humanitarian demands and socioeconomic changes in Bangladesh.

However, policy plans and projects shall be adjusted based on program mission, policy dialogue, interim monitoring, delay in projects, or other possible unforeseen changes in circumstances.

The budget allocation could also be adjusted during the budget discussions and project planning stages, and is subject to parliamentary decision.

VI. Partnership Plans

1. Partnership with donors

a. Cooperate with multilateral and bilateral development partners to develop projects

Develop and support projects that are aligned with our policy goals and criteria for priority sectors by participating in the Local Consultative Group Bangladesh (LCGB) ¹ comprised of donor organizations such as international aid organizations and multilateral development banks.

Prevent overlaps between projects and improve aid effectiveness by participating in LCGB meetings, sharing information with donor organizations, and cooperating in the planning of co-financed projects.

b. Improve NGO's capacities and develop synergized projects through cooperation with NGOs at home and abroad

2. Partnership with the private sector

The Bangladesh government has allocated more than 30% of its total expenditure to development programs and has been working on developing infrastructures but government spending alone is insufficient²

In order to improve the low level of infrastructure development, the Bangladesh government plans to acquire financial resources through Official Development

¹A consultative group for aid organizations providing grants and loans for development projects in Bangladesh (consisted of 49 aid organizations)

² Bangladesh anticipated that it requires 10 billion dollars (approx. 10% of Bangladesh's GDP) annually to achieve the infrastructure development goal by 2020, but the government's expenditure for infrastructure development in FY2015 amounts to only 2.1% of GDP

Assistance (ODA) or Public-Private Partnership (PPP).

As the Bangladesh government's experiences with PPP projects were mainly with communications and electricity sectors³, PPP projects for transport and other priority focus sectors must be developed and supported.

³ Since 1990, 59 (\$12.2 billion) out of 65 (\$12.3 billion) PPP projects were for communications and electricity (World Bank, PPI)

