

Sirajganj Local Governance Development Project (SLGDP)

The Sirajganj pilot project (SLGDP) began in July 2000 and was completed at the end of 2006. The project was implemented in Sirajganj District of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The Sirajganj project demonstrated the positive impact of devolved block grant funding on infrastructure and service delivery at the local level, as well as performance improvement of Union Parishads in areas such as planning, finance, resource mobilization and management. The intelligent piloting, tracking, and measuring of project results gained the attention and support of the Government, which is now replicating the model using its own resources, support from the World Bank, and continued support from UNDP and UNCDF.

Its strategies were:

- The provision of block funding directly and transparently to Union Parishads to provide greater financial autonomy and budgetary certainty;
- The linking of these block grants to clear incentives (Minimum Conditions & Performance Measures) for the Union Parishads to improve their fiscal and managerial performance;
- The promotion of participatory planning, budgeting, implementation, and supervision of infrastructure and service delivery at the Ward level;
- The provision of tailored training modules for Union Parishad staff in basic skills (office management, gender sensitivity, local revenue collection, policing, etc.);
- The support elected women Union Parishad members in networking and increase their sense of empowerment; and
- The analysis, documentation and dissemination of policy lessons to feed policy change and reform.