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Local Level Poverty Monitoring System: Conceptual Issues and Indicators

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Micro Impacts of Macroeconomic and Adjustment Policies in Bangladesh Project

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Local Level Poverty Monitoring System:
Conceptual Issues and Indicators

1. Introduction

Under the Poverty Monitoring System (PMS) component of MIMAP-Bangladesh project, the following activity has been proposed:

Operational design and pilot testing of a poverty monitoring system at the village/upazila level for use in local level planning and development with focus on gender, microcredit, and environment related variables.

Initially, the design of the local level PMS will be tested and implemented in one location and, with availability of additional finance, wider replication of the design would be taken up. The outputs expected from the activity are the following:

i) Design of a regular mechanism, along with specific indicators, to collect and process poverty data at the local level in a participatory manner;

ii) Reports on pilot testing and implementation of the design in a village purposively selected for the purpose; and

iii) Reports on methodology and application of poverty statistics in initiating local level plans and development programs and tested methodologies to create and sustain effective linkages with government agencies, NGOs, and community organizations.

2. Proposed Methodology and Implementation Mechanism

The local level poverty monitoring system (LLPMS) will have three components:

- Participatory Poverty and Development Monitoring (PPDM)
- Resource Profile Monitoring (RPM)
- Village Development Planning (VDP)

The first two components will generate the data base and the third one will utilize the information in preparing local development plans and programmes.
Participatory Poverty and Development Monitoring (PPDM)

The PPDM will monitor poverty and socio-economic changes with selected indicators. The indicators are chosen, in a participatory manner, to cover priority areas. The indicators have been selected such that these are simple to collect, easy to interpret and preclude, as far as possible, subjective interpretations. Specific indicators have been proposed to cover relevant areas e.g. households; income/expenditure; nutrition and sanitation; employment, labour and wages; assets and credit; women and children; education and health; trade, commerce and nonfarm activities; agriculture and environment; information and communication; and others. The information will be collected at village/household level using local people. Technical and other assistance will be provided through the project to develop local capacity to sustain data collection, processing and dissemination on a regular basis. The information will be periodically updated. The local people will be involved in all activities and the information will be kept at an appropriate place for public sharing (e.g. displaying on board). Participatory techniques will be employed to elicit the required information.

Resource Profile Monitoring (RPM)

The PPDM information will largely cater to need identification at the local level while RPM data will be used for resource and potential analysis. Using similar methodology as in PPDM for collecting information, RPM indicators will provide the inventory of available resources and potential for development. The profile includes all village resources e.g. availability and utilization of land, population, agriculture, livestock and fisheries resources, forests, water resources, infrastructure and marketing, education and health, nonfarm and small-cottage industries, education and health services, transport and communication services, social activities and others.

Village Development Plan (VDP)

For preparing VDP, the information from PPDM and RPM will be combined with explicit need assessment and priority ranking by the communities through adopting participatory techniques. The programmes will be designed on a sectoral basis with specific targeting to underdeveloped areas and poor groups.
3. **Indicators**

The list of indicators includes the following specific areas:

- **PPDM Indicators**

i) **Village/Household Characteristics**

- No. of households
- No. of population
  - Male
  - Female
- Migration
  - Out-migration
  - In-migration
- Religious status
- No. of female headed households
- Distance from nearest pucca road
- Distance from nearest (i) Primary school; (ii) Secondary school; (iii) College.
- No. of households with access to electricity
- No. of households with
  - 0-2 members
  - 3-6 members
  - 6 and more members
- Population age group
  - 0-5 years
  - 6-15 years
  - 16-49 years
  - 50 and more years.
- No. of widows
- No. of working children
- No. of houses having pucca, kutcha and jhupri roof.
ii) **Education**

- No. of illiterate adults
  - Male
  - Female

- No. of children not going to schools
  - Primary level (Male, Female)
  - Secondary level (Male, Female)

- No. of schools and school enrolment
  - Primary
  - Secondary

- No. of persons attained literacy through adult literacy programme
  - Male
  - Female

iii) **Health and Sanitation**

- For drinking purposes, no. of households using tubewell/tap water and other sources

- For other household needs, no. of households using tubewell/tap water and other sources

- Presence of arsenic contamination in tubewell water (no. of tubewells detected)

- No. of households using
  - Sanitary/slab latrines
  - Kutcha/nonsanitary latrines
  - Open space

iv) **Mortality and Morbidity**

- No. of deaths over last 12 months
  - Male
  - Female
  - Children (0-5 years), Male, Female
♦ No. of death due to pregnancy complications
♦ No. of disabled persons
   Male
   Female
♦ Incidence of major diseases by age groups and male/female
♦ Treatment facilities
   Location of health centres
   Public/Private facilities available

v) Participation in local level institutions
♦ No. of members in Union Parishad
   Male
   Female
♦ No. of members in NGOs (Male, Female)
♦ No. of members in different committees (school/bazar/religious institutions) by sex

vi) Agriculture and Environment
• Land ownership
  -- No. of households with
    No homestead land
    Homestead land only
    Small farmers
    Medium farmers
    Large farmers
• Total area
  -- Cultivated area
  -- Fallow area
  -- Forest area
  -- Water bodies
  -- Area cultivated more than once
  -- Irrigated area
- No. of livestock animals (bovine animals, goat/sheep, poultry)
- No. of animal deaths
- No. of households selling surplus crop and animal products
- No. of households owning productive assets (cycle/motor cycle, power tiller, shallow tubewell, rickshaw/van, boat, etc.)

vii) Labour and Wages
- No. of wage labourers (Male, Female, Children)
- Major occupation (Male, Female)
- Wage rate (Male, Female)
- Non-farm activities

viii) Access to Credit
- No. of borrowers
  - Banks/Government sources
  - NGOs
  - Non-institutional sources

ix) Food Security
- No. of households with adequate access to food
  - For 12 months
  - 9-12 months
  - 6-9 months
  - 3-6 months
  - 0-3 months

x) Access to Market
- List of commodities for sale in markets (village market, nearby markets, households) and buyers (traders, aratdars, consumers).
xi) Crisis and Crisis Coping Capacity

- Type of crisis faced by households and mitigating measures adopted (floods, droughts, death of income earners, accidents, litigation/police harassment, unexpected business losses, mastani, theft/dacoity etc.)

xii) Perception of Poverty

- No. of households
  - Very poor
  - Poor
  - Non-poor

- Economic/social characteristics of different groups.

- RPM Indicators

i) Geographical Characteristics

- Physical conditions
- Land characteristics

ii) Land and Population

- Economically active population
- Seasonal migration
- Un- and under employment rates
- Farm and non-farm employment
- Land utilization
  - Crop cycle
  - Adoption of modern technology
  - Land holding characteristics
  - Rented in and rented out lands
  - Access to modern inputs and credit
- Population by sex and age groups
- Land ownership pattern
- Wage rates by sex
iii) **Livestock, Forests and Water Resources**
- Livestock population and productivity
- Animal feed and vaccination
- Animal mortality
- Area under types of forests
- Afforestation programme
- No. of households benefiting from forest resources
- Sources of water and water use for different purposes

iv) **Non-agricultural Activities**
- Small/cottage industries
- Sources of raw materials
- Resource base and its utilization

v) **Education, Health and Social Sector Development**
- Literacy rate
- Enrolment and drop out rates at different levels
- No. of health centres and no. of persons by sex receiving treatment (outdoor, indoor)
- No. of trained doctors
  -- In hospitals/clinics
  -- Private practitioners
- Special social development programmes(e.g. women, youth and other target groups)
  -- Government sponsored
  -- NGOs
  -- CBOs

vi) **Infrastructure and Communications**
- Availability of post, telephone and other facilities
vii) **Marketing Linkages**

- Market centres and vertical linkages
- Nature of commodity flows and marketing intermediaries
- Storage facilities
- Cooperatives
- Prices of major commodities

viii) **Development Priorities and Prospects**

- **Agriculture**
  - Food/nonfood crops
  - Irrigation
  - Adoption of new technologies
  - Training and market development
  - Horticulture/vegetables production

- **Livestock**
  - Feed, breed improvements
  - Animal health, vaccination
  - Marketing

- **Forestry**
  - Community forests
  - Demand management

- **Infrastructure**
  - Rural electrification
  - Road construction/maintenance
  - Water supply and sanitation
  - Communication and information net working

- **Education**
  - Literacy programmes
  - Schooling facilities
4. Village Development Planning

For effective village development planning, the information collected through PPDM and RPM will be used to assess the need and resource situations along with need assessment of the local people themselves and priorities expressed by the communities. The institutional aspects and linkages with local level institutions (including NGOs and CBOs) will spelled out for implementation of the proposed interventions.

- Motivation programmes
- Health
  - Health/nutrition education
  - Health facilities
  - Health/population training
- Income Generation
  - Farm activities
  - Non-farm activities
  - Skill development/training
  - Credit facilities
- Women and Social Development
  - Social/human rights
  - NGO/Community development
  - Skill/awareness training
  - Credit and marketing support
- Information and Communication
  - Information centre
  - Access to communication facilities