

Strengthening Urban Integration Capacities of Internally Displaced Persons and Supporting Host Communities (INTEGRATE)

Background

Bangladesh faces severe climate change impacts, displacing millions who migrate to cities, often settling in slums with limited support. With rising sea levels, floods, and cyclones, millions of people are already forced to leave their homes, mostly in rural areas, and seek refuge in urban areas. This is leading to the rapid growth of informal settlements with precarious living conditions. Existing problems in the cities such as underemployment, overburdened infrastructure and poverty are made worse as a result.

Women and people with disabilities in the informal settlements are particularly hard hit. They must overcome major issues to engage in activities outside their household or have their own economic prospects. They often lack access to information, financing and training necessary for gainful employment or starting a business.

Objective

The project aims to improve the economic participation of persons displaced internally due to climate change and residents of host communities. This primarily affects women and people with disabilities in informal urban settlements.

Approach

The project supports women and people with disabilities in setting up and developing small businesses and cooperatives. By helping them to establish their companies, innovative services and products on the market, they can generate a regular income and improve their economic and social participation.

The range of social services for residents of informal settlements is improved by introducing inclusive and gender-equitable standards. This enables the most disadvantaged population groups to stabilise their living situation in the long term.

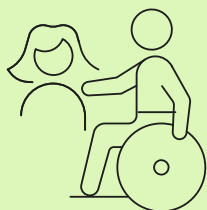
The project also supports municipal authorities in developing socio-economic integration strategies for women and people with disabilities. Among other things, it creates inclusive and gender-sensitive training and employment opportunities in local companies.

Project name	Strengthening Urban Integration Capacities of Internally Displaced Persons and Supporting Host Communities (INTEGRATE)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Commission value	4.8 Million Euros
Project region	Bangladesh
Partner ministry	Ministry of Social Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Implementing partner	Department of Social Services (DSS), Khulna City Corporation (KCC), Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC), Sirajganj Municipality, Satkhira Municipality
SDG contribution	SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)
Duration	October 2023 - September 2027



Life in the informal settlements in Rajshahi

Interventions and Expected Results



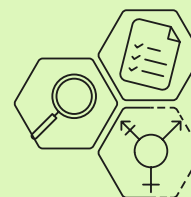
New Income Sources

for women and persons with disabilities through the creation of small enterprises or cooperatives.



Livelihood Improvement

through improved social services at the city level.



Employment Opportunities

In local companies for women and persons with disabilities.

Intervention Area 1: Innovative Business Opportunities

Women and people with disabilities are supported in setting up small businesses or cooperatives to generate additional income. In the preparatory development phase of the business start-up and accompanying training, key aspects of the social, economic, technical, and financial feasibility of the small businesses are addressed and marketable and financially viable business plans are developed. These will help to establish their innovative services and products on the market and generate additional income to improve their social and economic participation.

Intervention Area 2: Improved Social Services

Public social services for disaster- and climate-induced internally displaced persons and residents of host communities in informal

settlements are improved through the establishment of inclusive and gender-responsive standards. The range of social services for people from the informal settlements in the selected cities will be optimised, enabling beneficiaries to improve their livelihoods and stabilise their living situation.

Intervention Area 3: Training and Employment Opportunities

Inclusive and gender-responsive training and employment opportunities for women and people with disabilities from the informal settlements are being established in private companies in the vicinity of the selected cities. In view of the major challenges, companies and municipal administrations are actively involved in the development of pilot initiatives and resilient concepts to sustainably improve the corresponding offer and access opportunities.



A group of women is learning boutique printing to start their own business.



Like Nargis Akter, many women receive skill training and become economically empowered to support their families.

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