

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Finance
Economic Relations Division
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka


PRESS RELEASE
05 May 2015, Tuesday

A loan agreement to the tune of US\$ 200 million has been signed today (05 May 2015) at 4:00 pm at the NEC II Conference Room of the Economic Relations Division (ERD), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka between the Government of Bangladesh and the World Bank to finance the “**Nuton Jibon Livelihood Project**” to be implemented by the Social Development Foundation (SDF) under Bank and Financial Institutions Division of the Ministry of Finance. **Kazi Shofiqul Azam**, Additional Secretary, ERD, Ministry of Finance and **Ms. Christine E. Kimes**, Acting Country Director, World Bank Dhaka Office signed the loan agreement on behalf of the Government and WB respectively. A project agreement has also been signed by Mr. A. Z. M. Sakhawat Hossain, Managing Director of SDF and the Acting Country Director of WB on behalf of their respective sides. A number of senior officials of concerned ministries/agencies and the WB were also present during the signing ceremony.

The Social Investment Program Project (SIPP) was implemented aiming to develop effective and efficient financing and institutional arrangements for improving the access to local infrastructure and basic services through the implementation of community-driven small-scale infrastructure works and social assistance programs with the assistance of WB. As it was deemed to be successful in supplementing the poverty reduction, WB has been financing ‘Empowerment and Livelihood Improvement Nuton Jibon Project’ in the second phase with the objectives of improving the livelihoods, quality of life and resilience to climate-variability, natural hazards and other shocks of the rural poor, especially the left-out poor and vulnerable households. Building on the success and lessons of the earlier two phases the proposed project has been designed to continue and further strengthen the earlier activities by expanding the project command area; and incorporating nutrition and some other interventions.

The proposed Project Development Objective is to improve livelihoods of the poor and extreme poor in the areas. The Nuton Jibon Livelihood Improvement Project will benefit about 5 million poor people in the poorest Upazilas of 22 districts those with the highest percentage of poor people according to the latest Bangladesh Poverty Maps. The project will empower rural communities by providing support for livelihoods, increasing access to market through business partnerships, helping in funding for small rural infrastructures, building and strengthening community institutions including Nuton Jibon Community Societies. Furthermore, the project will raise nutrition awareness, share agricultural knowledge and continue focusing on creating youth employment opportunities. The project will be implemented over the period of six years (from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2021).

The loan will be received in standard terms and conditions of the International Development Association (IDA), which includes 0.75% service charge on disbursed amount. The repayment of the loan is 38 years, including a 06 year grace period.


(Dr. Delwar Hossain)
Senior Assistant Chief