

**PREPARATION OF OECD DAC POVERTY NETWORK GUIDELINES ON POVERTY
CONSULTATION WITH PARTNERS: BANGLADESH
Summary Note: January 2000**

In preparing the DAC Poverty Network guidelines on poverty reduction, consultation is planned with partners. This aims to engage partners in an effective way in the preparation of the Guidelines. Consultation will also broaden knowledge of the guidelines, and hopefully enhance ownership. Various forms of consultation are envisaged (approximately 8 regional or country studies facilitated by different agencies). This short note focuses on in-country consultation in Bangladesh, where the DFID office has offered to help facilitate the process. The consultation will be carried out under the DAC-umbrella, and contribute to coordination with and cooperation between donors.

The consultation will assess perceptions of a wide range of stakeholders engaged in development co-operation key stakeholders, and discuss with them a draft of the guidelines. The country consultation will provide an more *in-depth* reflection on poverty reduction activities than is feasible at agency headquarters in OECD countries. Being a case-study in one country, findings cannot be generalised, but will provide a test case of the framework developed in the Guidelines. Though discussions with poor people may form part of the process of consultation, the primary aim will be to document the views of various groups of stakeholders.

A **first phase** of work will review the considerable literature on Bangladesh and the role of international development co-operation. This will also identify the issues to be taken up in the consultation. Issues to include are:

- the national poverty reduction strategy and donor community response;
- donors' macro level support, programmes, and projects;
- promoting ownership and partnership;
- donor co-operation and co-ordination.

The **second phase** will document the variety of views by different stakeholders on activities relating to poverty elimination. Consultation will be required with representatives of ministries, local governments, journalists, academics, activists, farmers', workers' community-based and religious organisations, primary stakeholders. This will be done through interviews, and one or more meetings.

It is envisaged that a **local team** will be commissioned to organise the consultation, and produce an independent report (in close co-operation with the Poverty Network). The team should consist of a group of people with the following areas of expertise: poverty, gender, participatory methodologies, experience with interviewing senior officials, good knowledge of local stakeholders and country context, experience with facilitating workshops, and the ability to bring together people with very diverse backgrounds.

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