

## **TRUST FUND TO STRENGTHEN STATISTICAL CAPACITY OF BBS PROJECT: SMALL ETHNIC GROUP FRAMEWORK**

The Trust Fund to Strengthen Statistical Capacity of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) project aims to support efforts to increase the frequency, quality, and accessibility to the Labor Force Survey (LFS) and the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) data. To achieve these objectives, the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) launched the (i) Quarterly Labor Force Survey (QLFS) in July 2015 and is currently preparing for launching the (ii) 2016 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) in April 2016.

The QLFS and HIES are nationally representative household surveys. Small ethnic groups in Bangladesh represent only a very small fraction of the population – 1.3 percent based on the latest 2011 Population and Housing Census statistics. While small ethnic minorities are not explicitly a domain of study in any of these two nationally representative surveys, there is a possibility that these might be randomly included in the sample. If this is the case, interviewers will be trained to consider important aspects while collecting data from these communities, which will be focused on respecting their specific norms and practices and ensure that none of the questions collides with their beliefs and practices.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This project includes two separate components: the (i) Quarterly Labor Force Survey and the (ii) 2016 Household Income and Expenditure Survey. Each of these two components covers three key aspects linked to the design, implementation, and dissemination of these two national representative surveys, namely household survey design and data management, data analysis and information systems, and data dissemination. This project will not fund any data collection activity but ensure that data collection activities carried out under BBS budget are conducted following the small ethnic plan strategy described below.

#### **Component 1: Quarterly Labor Force Survey**

The labor force survey design and data management component of this project will fund activities that promote capacity building among key staff in areas of sampling and the implementation of the notion of rotating panels into the survey design. In addition, this will support the development of a comprehensive data management system for the labor force survey data collected with a long term view on sustainably given the panel nature of the data collection strategy.

The data analysis and information system aims to support activities that promote the analysis and dissemination of the data collected. In order to achieve this, support will be provided in terms of the design of data visualization tools for accessing labor force survey indicators produced in a periodic basis using this survey instrument. In addition, support will be provided for the production and modification of existing labor force survey so that quarterly statistics can be produced in a timely manner.

The data dissemination will support activities for better and timelier dissemination of labor force statistics to promote more evidence-based policy and enhance the capacity of the General Economics Division (GED) to formulate economic strategies based on statistical information in light of the 7<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. The availability of more frequent labor market statistics will also play a key role in planning, policy and decision making at the various levels of the Government, thereby driving national development. Timely and reliable labor market statistics and analysis is key for policy makers to effectively design, implement, monitor, and evaluate national policies that promote better work opportunities for workers, decent work environments, and a more productive workforce.

## **Component 2: Household Income and Expenditure Survey 2016**

The household survey design and data management component of this project will support BBS in different components related to the design and implementation of the new HIES 2016, including questionnaire design, sampling, design of data entry application, training of master enumerators and enumerators, and design of an integrated data transferring and management system linked to central data quality control checks. In addition, it is also to support the BBS in improving consistency in survey instruments between the QLFS and the HIES 2016.

The data analysis and information system aims to support the design of data visualization tools to disseminate and promote the use of the HIES 2016 data, including the possible production of basic demographic and other statistics based on the quarterly representative samples that are part of the sampling design for the upcoming round of this household survey.

The data dissemination will support activities for better and timelier dissemination of poverty statistics to promote more evidence-based policy and enhance the capacity of the General Economics Division (GED) to formulate economic strategies based on poverty statistics in light of the 7<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan.

## **SMALL ETHNIC GROUPS STRATEGY**

### **Overview of Small ethnic groups in Bangladesh**

Bangladesh is a very homogenous country in terms of religion, ethnicity, and linguistic composition. The 2011 Population and Housing Census data suggests that roughly 90.4 percent of the population is Muslim. Small ethnic groups are diverse in their culture, language, religion, traditions and patterns of social, economic and cultural life. The largest concentration is in the Chittagong Hill Tracts but other areas in which these communities live include Chittagong, greater Mymensingh, greater Rajshahi, greater Sylhet, Patuakhali and Barguna. Chakma, Marma, Tanchangya, Tripura, Chak, Pankhoa, Rieng, Pankho, Mro, Santal, Monipuri, Bome, Kheyang, Murang, Bawn, Khyang, are some of the well-known small ethnic communities of Bangladesh.

### **Introduction**

Since no field level activities or any kind of interaction with communities is funded, this framework unlike typical Ethnic Minorities/Tribal Frameworks and does not include community

consultations or grievance redress mechanisms etc. This is a framework with a commitment from BBS to carry out training sessions to sensitize the PDs of the project who in turn will train their staff and field level enumerators on culturally sensitive approaches to conducting the surveys.

### **Strategy for conducting surveys with small ethnic groups**

The questionnaires from both the QLFS and HIES are quite standard and follow international data collection standards. Data collection for these two survey instruments is conducted by teams comprising BBS enumerators and locally recruited enumerators and facilitators. This substantially reduces the risk that local context might not be appropriately considered and well understood by teams of enumerators. All questions related to the socio-economic and demographic background of each individual will be addressed with cultural sensitivity.

### **Training**

The project will develop culturally sensitive approaches and training for the field staff for inclusion of ethnic groups for the surveys. The project directors for the QLFS and HIES will receive a training/orientation session on how to handle cultural sensitiveness by tapping into skilled human resources on the issues of the ethnic minorities, where relevant and possible. The specific training design and delivery modality as well as the dates for holding the training will be fixed by BBS in collaboration with the Bank.