

**United States Agency for International Development
Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
Office of Food for Peace**

**Fiscal Year 2010: Title II Proposal Guidance and Program Policies
Supplementary Fiscal Year 2010 Title II Multi-Year Assistance Program
Country Specific Guidance: Bangladesh**

I. Background

The Office of Food for Peace (FFP) has funds available for Multi-Year Assistance Programs (MYAPs) in Bangladesh in fiscal year 2010. FFP anticipates making up to three awards of up to an annual total of \$42 million for five years, subject to the availability of funds. This document supplements the FFP *Title II Proposal Guidance and Program Policies* with information on USAID/Bangladesh and FFP's food security programming priorities.

II. Food Security Situation and Geographic Priorities

During the previous 15-20 years, Bangladesh has made substantial gains in terms of economic and social indicators. However, poor livelihood opportunities and natural disasters are major factors behind persistently high poverty rates resulting in food insecurity. In addition, poor infant and young child feeding practices, maternal malnutrition, infectious diseases and gender inequity contribute substantially to high rates of child malnutrition.

MYAPs should target districts that are characterized by high rates of poverty and chronic malnutrition. These include the following districts: Jamalpur and Mymensingh (in Dhaka division); Barisal, Bhola, Patuakhali, and Barguna (in Barisal division); Khulna, Narail and Bagerhat (in Khulna division); Kurigram, Nilphamari, Bogra, Dinajpur, Pabna, Rangpur and Sirajganj (in Rajshahi division); and Cox' Bazaar (in Chittagong division).

III. USAID/Bangladesh and FFP Programming Priorities

The overall strategic objective for the 2010-2014 Title II MYAP in Bangladesh is “*to reduce food insecurity among vulnerable rural populations in Bangladesh.*” Mission and FFP priority objectives and recommended activities for Title II MYAPs are summarized below:

1. **Reduce Chronic Malnutrition Among Children Under Five by:**
 - A. Preventing of malnutrition among children under two (PM2A);
 - B. Improving infant and young child feeding practices;
 - C. Preventing and treating childhood illnesses;
 - D. Screening and referral for children under five with severe acute malnutrition;
 - E. Improving maternal nutrition and health;
 - F. Improving nutrition status and nutrition awareness among single and newly married adolescent girls and their families;
 - G. Employing effective behavior change communication and interventions; and
 - H. Improving hygiene practices and access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in rural areas, as well as urban slum areas in targeted districts.

2. Increase the Incomes of Poor and Extremely Poor Households by:

- A. Broadening the focus to include farm and non-farm and direct and indirect options;
- B. Adopting a market driven strategy;
- C. Assessing markets and developing market linkages;
- D. Developing and strengthening value chains;
- E. Transferring information on improved practices and technologies;
- F. Working with clients in groups to facilitate technology transfer and marketing;
- G. Linking with other service providers along the value chain;
- H. Making more effective use of asset transfers;
- I. Using a business development lens; and
- J. Considering gender issues in the design and implementation of income generation programs.

3. Reducing Vulnerability of Poor Communities and Households to Natural Disasters by:

- A. Improving community organization and planning;
- B. Increasing and/or protecting community and household assets;
- C. Improving early warning and disaster response systems; and
- D. Developing and/or maintaining the disaster response capacity of awardees and partners.

Priority will be given to proposals that integrate a preventative approach into their activities targeting malnutrition among children under age two. PM2A is a food-assisted approach to reduce the prevalence of child malnutrition by targeting a package of preventive health and nutrition interventions to *all* pregnant and lactating women and children under age two. Participants in targeted high-risk areas receive a conditional food ration based on program participation, to prevent the onset of malnutrition *before* it occurs. This population-based approach differs from many maternal child health and nutrition interventions that target children *after* they have become malnourished to help them recuperate from malnutrition. To ensure long term benefits from prevention, other MYAP components should serve the same population, bringing improvements to their household food and livelihood security. This approach has been successfully tested in a Title II setting and had a significant impact on reducing malnutrition.

USAID/Bangladesh and FFP encourage the submission of proposals focused on improving food access and utilization and reducing the vulnerability of targeted individuals, households and communities. MYAP proposals should demonstrate an understanding of the FFP *Bangladesh Food Security Country Frameworks* and USAID/Bangladesh development program priorities to encourage a more integrated food security approach. MYAP proposals should encourage an enabling environment for promoting gender equality and local nongovernmental organization capacity building, where feasible. In addition, proposals should reflect collaboration between awardees and the Government of Bangladesh and other organizations specializing in public health. This will also enable more traditional programs, such as immunization and vitamin supplementation, to be administered with Title II funds. For additional information, the FFP *Bangladesh Food Security Country Framework* is available via the FFP website and mission development priorities can be found on the [USAID/Bangladesh](#) website.