

Narrative Summary	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p>OVERALL GOAL Access to public services at a village level is improved by the implementation of the Link Model.</p> <p>PROJECT PURPOSE The Link Model, which is a framework to link villages and governmental agencies concerning rural development, is accepted as one of principal rural development approaches by the Government of Bangladesh.</p> <p>OUTPUTS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The managerial and operational system of PRDP is established. A public officer responsible for overall coordination at Union Coordinating Committee (UCC) is trained. UCC functions as a framework to facilitate overall coordination among Upazila, Union, and Village levels. Village Committee (VC) functions as a framework to ensure villagers' participation in rural development processes. The effectiveness of the Link Model is disseminated. The system to support UDO's activities at BRDB is set up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in number of NBD agents' visits to villages spontaneously or in response to villagers' demand. Recognition of public services by villagers is improved. A component of the Link Model is reflected to rural development projects of the Government of Bangladesh. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity records of NBD Interviews with rural villagers Interviews with government officials 	<p>a. BRDB remains as a body responsible for rural development.</p> <p>b. NBD service agents are continuously sent to the Union.</p>
<p>ACTIVITIES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Holding a regular meeting with CP. Training project staff. Monitoring project activities. Establishing Project Coordinating Committee (PCC). Clarifying TOR of Union Development Officer (UDO). Making an operational manual of UDO. Training ARDO who plays a role of UDO. Constructing Union Development Center (UDC) or making sure of the function. Organizing UCC. Facilitating collaboration among stakeholders at UCC. Monitoring rural development. Providing training courses. Organizing Village Committee (VC). Planning small-scale infrastructure projects at VC. Implementing a small-scale infrastructure project. Installing notice boards to assure transparency of public services. Conducting Study Forums. Conducting seminars to demonstrate the outcomes of PRDP. Managing web pages on PRDP. Documenting the effectiveness of the Link Model. Preparing its supporting system at BRDB. 	<p>By the project completion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Staff, budgets and equipment are allocated as planned. PCC is regularly held. Monitoring is periodically conducted. The responsible officer plays a leading role to manage UCCM. The operational manual of UDO is comprehensible. TOR of UDO is fully understood by stakeholders. The participants of UCCM are varied. UCCM is regularly held. Number and variety of new resources mobilized at Upazila level or higher level. Horizontal coordination among NBD agents is improved. Increase in number of NBD's visits to villages, spontaneously or in response to villagers' demand, in the target area. The public services provided meet actual need of villagers. Villagers fully understand the role and functions of VC. VC autonomously draws up a development plan. Percentage of users of infrastructure to total population. The rural infrastructure is maintained by a community. Most villagers recognize and pay attention to notice boards. Percentage of users of notice boards to total population. Percentage of infrastructure plans reflecting women's need. Percentage of female beneficiaries. The contents and number of forums and seminars conducted. The contents and dissemination of the report on Link Model. ARDO's ability to implement the Link Model is improved. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Project Report Minutes of PCC/Minutes of List of attendees at PCCM Monitoring report Interviews with government officials Interviews with government officials as above/Operational Manual Interviews with stakeholders List of attendees at UCCM Minutes of UCCM Interviews with public officers/List of infrastructure projects Interviews with public offices Record of NBD activity Interviews with public officers and villagers Interviews with villagers as above/Minutes of VCM Interviews with public officers as above/Site visit Monitoring Report Project Report Interviews with public officers and villagers Interviews with ARDO 	<p>c. Project fund is properly allocated.</p> <p>d. UDO or ARDO who is educated by PRDP does not resign.</p> <p>PRE-CONDITIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural residents do not protest against the PRDP.
<p>INPUT</p> <p>JAPAN</p> <p>Personnel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term Experts Rural Development Advisor (1) Gender and Development (1) Community Development (1) Short-term Experts Rural Development Policy (3) Rural Development Planning & Training (3) Rural Extension (2) Rural Socio (2) Rural Area Planning and Extension (1) Local Administration (1) Rural Economy (1) Project Staff Dhaka Office (HO) Ellenga Office (Upazila + Union) Training of CP in Japan 2 CPs Machinery and Equipment Annex V-II Local Cost N/A 	<p>BANGLADESH</p> <p>Personnel (3)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counterpart (3) Assistance from project related personnel (NBD Union Parishad members etc) <p>Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office space for Japanese experts Land for 2 UDCs <p>Local Cost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labor Costs for CPs Customs Duties Utility Costs 		

Concept of the Link Model

At present, the delivery of rural services is administered by different Nation Building Departments (NBDs) at the Upazila level with a population of about 250 thousand. Some particular services are delivered to the rural people at the Union and even ward level, including those of family planning, health, livestock and agricultural extension. However, these services are often almost invisible to the villagers. The causes of this crucial defect are: (i) most of the services are rendered with almost no coordination among the respective field assistants working at the Union level, and (ii) the services are delivered by the development agents to some individuals bypassing village institutions, if any. On the whole, there are geographical, administrative, economic and cultural barriers that separate villagers from officials of different levels. These barriers and gaps should be removed and bridged in one way or another in order to streamline the rural public services, that are of prime importance in rural development.

The Link Model is to delegate day to day administration of rural service delivery to the Union level whose population is about 25 thousands, a proper and governable size for rural development. The "link" will be established among villagers, public representatives at Union, development agents of NBDs working at Union, and relevant civic sector. Key component are Village Committee (VC), Union Coordination Committee (UCC), and Union Development Officer (UDO).

VC

- Form a Village Committee as a community-based informal institution in which members are selected, but not elected, through mutual consensus among the villagers.
- Maintain liaison with the UCC which consists of NBDs, UP, NGOs, and other VCs and disseminate information to the villagers.
- Integrate villagers' common interest into village plans through monthly meetings of both VC and general villagers.
- Submit the village plans to Union Coordination Committee for scrutiny, endorsement, and possible financing.
- Implement village plans approved at UCC by ensuring villagers' participation.

UCC