

## Employment Generation Program for the Poorest- EGPP



Employment Generation Program for the Poorest (EGPP) has been formulated to provide short-term employment to the people who are seasonally unemployed, while also developing community assets and rural infrastructure. The key objective of this scheme is to safeguard active, disadvantaged families by generating temporary work opportunities.

### How to select an EGPP Scheme?

- Choosing a scheme based on need after consulting with beneficiaries and the local community.
- The proposed scheme is reviewed in ward meeting. The local community, especially the women, participates actively in the meeting. This meeting prepares a priority list which is submitted to the union committee for approval.
- The selected (approved) schemes are being displayed in notice board of union parishad.

### Key features of the EGPP 2022-2023 Fiscal Year

Target Area	Nationwide, with priority given to the poorest areas
Total Beneficiaries	5,18, 000 persons
Budget for 2022-23 Fiscal Year	BDT 1830 crore

### Beneficiary Criteria

Factors related to land and asset ownership, income, marital and disability status. Eligible households should have less than 0.5 acre of land, having no productive assets, and less than BDT4,000) as annual income; the head of household should also work as a day laborer. The beneficiary will not be the owner of a pond for fishing.

These criteria should be applied by local committees of elected officials in the selection process . 30% of beneficiary slots are reserved for women.

Implementing agency	Department of Disaster Management (DDM)
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## Nature of EGPP Schemes

- Pond digging.
- Road construction and repairing.
- Embankment construction and reconstruction/repairing (require recommendation from Bangladesh Water Development Board).
- Canal digging for reduction of waterlogging or irrigation.
- Improvement of rural infrastructure.

## Payment Modalities

- BDT 400 per working day, 40 days in a phase and highest 2 phases in a year.
- Digital payment.
- Equal wages for men and women.

**MIS:** Management Information System ( MIS) covers online beneficiary list disaggregated/distributed by district, Upazila (geographical unit) and union.

## MJF contribution for making the EGPP inclusive and transparent

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) through its *Excluded People's Rights (EPR)* Project funded by FCDO,UK contributed to strengthen public institutes for better service delivery targeting the underprivileged and excluded persons to ensure their rights to social protection and other public services.

Citizen Support Group formed under the EPR project conducted social audit on EGPP in project areas and found that many eligible beneficiaries were left out from the inclusion process and at the following stage, detailed facts and figures were shared with respective local Upazila Project Implementation Officer of the Department of Disaster Management and also with the respective Upazila Nirbahi Officer. The UNO and UPIO suggested Citizen Support Group to share the eligible beneficiary list with Union Selection Committee and, accordingly the original beneficiaries were replaced through gradual process. Prior to the EPR project implementation, a survey report of MJF (2016) shows, 63% respondents faced irregularities in EGPP programme. Such irregularities are alarmingly higher than that of any other unconditional and conditional social security programmes.

The MJF experience demonstrates that effective citizen engagement is essential for creating an accountable and transparent public service.

## Challenges

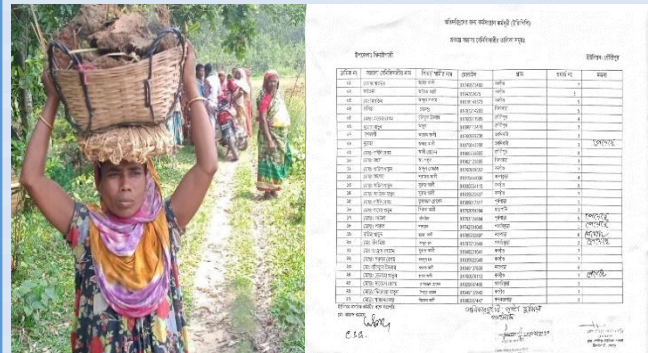
- Lack of transparency in beneficiary selection.
- Physical absence of beneficiaries in work hours.
- Delay in starting the work of approved scheme.
- Irregularities in digital payment.
- Lean time is not same for all districts.
- Inconsistency in the information provided by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.
- Availability of the workers in some of the areas is hard (that's why internally displaced workers are engaged).

## Issues to be considered by policy makers

- Making access to the list of beneficiaries for all.
- NGOs and CSO groups can develop a certain protocol/mechanism for monitoring of EGPP scheme.
- Enhance digital literacy for the workers and supervisors.

## Citizens validated the EGPP beneficiaries and replaced the left out

Excluded People's Rights (EPR) project has been working at 11 local government units of Sreebordi and Jhenaigati Upazila of Sherpur district since 2019. The project aims to enhance transparency and accountability of the social security programs. In doing so, the MJF has facilitated citizen-led different social accountability tools as strategy to find the evidence of what is practically happening in the field. The process also includes interface meeting between the citizens and the service providers. In the month of May 2020, respective citizen support group (CSG) members of the UPs of Jhenaigati Upazila conducted Social Audit on Employment Generation Program for the Poorest (EGPP) and found that many eligible beneficiaries remained left out while some ineligible and unidentified persons were included as workers.



Therefore, upazila level CSG compiled these findings and shared these specific finding and evidences in a dialogue with the concerned officials of the Upazila. In response to the findings, the UNO, Jhenaigathi has suggested citizen support group to assist respective selection committees to find out such eligible beneficiaries. Furthermore, CSG members have submitted the eligible beneficiary list to the selection committees of respective UPs. Accordingly, these beneficiaries were replaced for the entitlement of EGPP benefits. For instance, selection committee of Guipure union has included new beneficiaries by replacing from the proposed list.

- Introduce stakeholder's orientation on EGPP.
- Relevant Ministry can select priority areas for implementation of EGPP based on poverty & vulnerability status instead of making the program commonly applicable for all areas.
- The MoDMR and DDM can identify/ascertain area wise different 'lean period' in consultation with the local authorities and people .  
In order to quickly resolve grievances, the Grievance Redress System (GRS) should be at the local level in addition to logging online.
- Introduce Community monitoring through using Social Accountability Tools during implementation.
- As regards to the wardshava proposals and annual plan, every implementing LGI should prepare and approve a plan of their own EGPP schemes.
- Specific grace should be mentioned for inclusion of workers from the 'persons with disability' and 'mothers with infant' (example- less work volume)