

**EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION**

TEL: 880-2-885-55-00

FAX: 880-2-9881677, 9885688

E-MAIL: [DhakaPA@state.gov](mailto:DhakaPA@state.gov)

WEBSITE: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>



**REMARKS BY**

**U.S. AMBASSADOR DAN MOZENA  
AT THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF USAID GRANT IN SUPPORT  
OF BANGLADESH'S HEALTH SECTOR PROGRAM  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WORLD BANK**

**ECONOMIC RELATIONS DIVISION**

**APRIL 9, 2012**

Dr. A.F.M Ruhul Haque, MP, Minister of Health and Family Welfare

Mr. Humayun Kabir, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Mr. Md. Shafiqul Azam, Acting Secretary, Economic Relations Division

Ms. Ellen Goldstein, Country Director, World Bank

Development partners, other representatives of the government, distinguished colleagues and friends

Today marks an historic occasion in America's long development partnership with Bangladesh, a partnership in which the United States has already provided more than \$5.8 billion to support a better quality of life for the people of Bangladesh. This partnership continues; in 2011, America's commitment to Bangladesh reached more than \$180 million.

We are making history today because for this first time ever America is undertaking a grant agreement with the World Bank in Bangladesh that will pool U.S. funds with those of other development partners. These funds will directly support the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's Health Sector Development Program.

I am pleased to announce today that America through USAID is committing over \$40 million over the next five years to join the development partners' pool through the World Bank to support the Ministry's health program.

For us, this is a new approach to development assistance. I think it is a welcomed change, one that enables us to collaborate better and more effectively with the Bangladesh government, Bangladeshi civil society, and other development partners. I think this approach could become a model for further United States support to Bangladesh's development priorities.

This assistance is part of the US Government's ongoing support to the people of Bangladesh to achieve their long-term development objectives, as defined in the Government of Bangladesh's 6<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan.

Our partnership with Bangladesh encourages strong public-private sector cooperation in all development sectors. We believe that leveraging the expertise, talents, and resources of the private sector and civil society will help Bangladesh reach its ambitious development goals sooner and in a sustainable fashion.

The funds that America is committing today are part of President Obama's Global Health Initiative. American engagement in Bangladesh aligns perfectly with the Government of Bangladesh's goals of a healthy, prosperous Bangladesh. This grant with the World Bank will enable USAID to harmonize its assistance and support Bangladesh more effectively as the nation continues its remarkable progress toward achievement of its Millennium Development Goals.

My announcement today is but the latest evidence of America's deepening partnership with Bangladesh. I am so proud of the benefits this partnership has brought to the people of Bangladesh in so many different ways. The partnership has helped provide access to primary health care for 30 million Bangladeshis, reduce maternal and child mortality, enable Bangladeshis to have the family size they want, fight TB and HIV/AIDS, prepare for natural disasters such as floods and cyclones, improve food security, strengthen the country's democratic institutions, help the police shift to a new approach to policing, community policing, and help security forces improve their ability to defend the nation's sea and land borders. This list goes on, but I have made my point: America's partnership with Bangladesh

is strong, deep and multi-faceted. It truly has done much to improve the well-being of millions of Bangladeshis.

America's engagement with Bangladesh goes beyond development assistance. We are Bangladesh's single largest export destination, Bangladesh's largest investor, its third largest source of remittances, and most popular destination for advanced education. Bangladesh's exports to America create hundreds of thousands of jobs in Bangladesh and help fuel this robust economy.

I am, indeed, proud of what America's partnership with Bangladesh has done to help Bangladeshis improve their quality of life.

My colleague, Richard Greene, USAID/Bangladesh Mission Director, will provide some specifics on the funding provided under this new grant, which marks America's joining the Government of Bangladesh, the World Bank and five other development partners in support of better health for the people of Bangladesh.

Thank you!

=====

*\*Prepared for delivery\**

**GR/ 2012**