



## PRESS RELEASE

### **United States and Bangladesh Renew Shared Commitment to Safeguard Women's Rights**

**RANGPUR, April 10**—The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur concluded a joint three-day event dedicated to promoting women's rights. Held from April 8-10, the Gender and Development Fair provided a platform for local leaders, university students, and the people of Rangpur to commemorate the economic and social contributions of women in Bangladesh.

During the closing ceremony, Mashhur Rahman Ranga, State Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, and U.S. Ambassador Dan Mozena renewed their commitment to ensure women have equal opportunities to contribute to—and benefit from—the country's economic growth. Vice Chancellor of Begum Rokeya University Rangpur Dr. A.K.M. Nurun Nabi and USAID Mission Director Janina Jaruzelski thanked the government officials, civil society organizations, university students and the people of Rangpur for participating in the fair.

The Gender and Development Fair featured seminars, workshops, a photo exhibition, film screening, and cultural performances by local artists. Representatives from the Government of Bangladesh, USAID, American Center, Begum Rokeya University, nongovernmental organizations, academic institutions, publishers, and private sector groups showcased their women's empowerment programs at 70 exhibit booths located on the campus fairgrounds.

*The U.S. Government, through USAID, has provided over \$6 billion in development assistance to Bangladesh since 1971. In 2013, USAID provided nearly \$200 million to improve the lives of people in Bangladesh. USAID supports programs in Bangladesh that: promote democratic institutions and practices, expand food security and economic opportunity, improve health and education services, and increase resiliency to climate change through adaptation and low carbon development.*

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