

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

TEL: 880-2-883-7150-4

FAX: 880-2-9881677, 9885688

E-MAIL: DhakaPA@state.gov

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



PRESS RELEASE

UNITED STATES AND BANGLADESH LAUNCH INTERNET-BASED MONITORING SYSTEM TO ENSURE AVAILABILITY OF CONTRACEPTIVE SUPPLIES

DHAKA, FEBRUARY 15 -- USAID Mission Director to Bangladesh Denise Rollins and Health Minister AHM Ruhul Haque today jointly introduced the Logistics Management Information System (LMIS) at a launch ceremony at the Radisson Hotel in Dhaka. This Internet-based tool will allow Bangladesh government officials to monitor the supply chain of government-owned contraceptives stocks nationwide and raise an alert if there is a possible stock shortage. This tool will also help determine the amount of required contraceptives for Bangladesh and help the government make evidence-based decisions to procure contraceptives for Bangladesh.

The U.S. Government, through USAID, has been assisting the Government of Bangladesh to plan, implement, monitor and provide training to government staff to put this information system into operation. The project aims to ensure that contraceptives are available throughout the year at both government sources and on the private market.

Estimated at 160 million people, and projected to grow to 230-250 million by 2050, Bangladesh's large population has a significant impact on all development sectors in the country. Research indicates that the average desired fertility rate in Bangladesh is less than two children per family, which is below replacement level, but in reality average families have more than two children. One reason for this is the lack of access to family planning services and products.

The United States Government joins the Government of Bangladesh in its desire to provide quality family planning methods and comprehensive information to all Bangladeshis on a consistent basis. For over three decades the United States Government has provided assistance to the Government of Bangladesh to procure family planning commodities, educate the population on family planning, and enhance the efficiency of procurement processes. In

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addition, the Government of Bangladesh has invested tens of millions of dollars of its own funds to purchase family planning commodities. Together, the United States and Bangladesh are working to ensure that these contraceptives reach the men and women who want to use them.

USAID administers programs in five key areas in Bangladesh: improving health and pre-primary education; creating income opportunities for rural poor; supporting good governance; enhancing food security; and strengthening disaster preparedness and providing emergency assistance following natural disasters. Since 1971, the U.S. Government has provided over \$5.8 billion in assistance to Bangladesh.

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Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)