

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCT: KP-3

Integrated Approach for Development of Slums and Low Income Communities in Urban Areas of Bangladesh

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ITN-BUET
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South Asia Urban Knowledge Hub

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Integrated Approach for Development of Slums and Low Income Communities in Urban Areas of Bangladesh

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Executive Summary

In Bangladesh, slums and Low Income Communities (LICs) are typically characterized by poor housing condition, water shortages, poor sanitation, inadequate drainage and waste management facilities, inadequate electricity supply, unplanned/poor construction, inadequate access, and indoor air pollution. Although there have been significant interventions to improve access to basic facilities in slums, most of these have limited focus, e.g., improving access to sanitation and water supply; often these are implemented without addressing the important interrelated issues (e.g., water supply without consideration to wastewater drainage, sanitation without fecal sludge management). There is virtually no interaction among the different institutions/organizations that are providing/ facilitating these services.

An “integrated approach” (Knowledge Product – 3) has been proposed for holistic development of slums and low income communities (LICs). The approach has been developed based on assessment of existing situation and challenges in slums and LICs, review of slum development approaches/ experiences in different countries, and through extensive consultation involving all stakeholders. The “approach” involves identification of issues and challenges in urban slums and LICs under “four broad categories”, and then addressing the “interrelated issues and challenges” under each category systematically in an “integrated manner” involving all stakeholders including the LGI itself, I/NGOs, development partners, and other concerned agencies. The four broad categories, and the interrelated issues to be addressed under each category are as follows:

- (1) WASH, drainage and solid waste management:** (a) Legal Water Supply and Tariff; (b) Number of Users for each Community Water Point; (c) Integration of Drainage with Water Supply; (d) Number of Users for each Community Sanitation Facility; (e) Addressing Special Sanitation Needs; (f) Facilitating FSM; (g) Wastewater Disposal; (h) Wastewater Treatment; (i) Solid Waste Management (SWM); (j) Training and Awareness.
- (2) Energy, fuel and fire safety:** (a) Legal Power Supply, (b) Safety of Power Lines, (c) Improved Cooking Stove (ICS), (d) Safety Campaign and Training.
- (3) Housing and access:** (a) Guideline/Standard for Low-cost Housing, (b) Awareness about Housing Construction, (c) Improving Physical Access, (d) Access to Information and Communication.
- (4) Healthcare, education and recreational facilities:** (a) School, (b) Healthcare facilities, (c) Recreational facilities.

The logical next step should be to implement this “integrated approach” in selected slums and/or LICs. For this purpose, discussion should be initiated with LGIs. The LGIs should take the responsibility of coordinating activities of different stakeholders (e.g., CBOs, I/NGOs, Development Partners) so that different entities with different expertise/ interest can work in a coordinated manner addressing all interrelated issues holistically.

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KNOWLEDGE PRODUCT: KP3

Integrated Approach for Development of Slums and Low Income Communities in Urban Areas of Bangladesh

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1.0 Context

In Bangladesh, a significant fraction of the city/urban dwellers live in slums and low-income communities (LICs) without adequate access to basic services and facilities. In the six major cities of the country (Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet and Barisal), slum population accounts for about 35% of the total population. In Dhaka, the capital city with over 14 million inhabitants, more than 30% of the population lives in slums and LICs. Between 1996 and 2005, the total population living in slums of Dhaka more than doubled; Dhaka city alone is estimated to have between 3,500 to 4,000 slums of different sizes (Rahman, 2013). These slums and LICs, like many other slums throughout the world, are typically characterized by poor housing condition, water shortages, poor sanitation, inadequate drainage and waste management facilities, inadequate electricity supply, unplanned/poor construction, inadequate access, and indoor air pollution. Furthermore they often suffer from frequent natural and man-made disasters like flooding/water logging, fire hazard, etc.

There is considerable volume of literature on approaches to slum development (e.g., World Bank, 2008; Charumitra et al., 2014; Sticzay and Koch, 2015; Hindman et al., 2015; Elrayies, 2016). Sticzay and Koch (2015) presented innovative financial models to reduce poverty and upgrade slums. Elrayies (2016) presents a detail review of slum development approaches, including case studies, and emphasizes on four major issues for sustainable slum development – food, energy, water and waste. Charumitra et al. (2014) presents a detail assessment of slum development approaches practiced in different countries of the world, and emphasizes on integrated, inclusive, and participatory development approach that takes into account the capabilities, choices, and willingness of slum dwellers along with strong commitment of the Government.

The National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) 2010-21 of Bangladesh Government (GoB, 2013) identifies “making slums part of dynamic urban economy” as a key challenge. The strategies listed in the NSDS include upgrading slums, resettlements of slum dwellers, ensuring tenure security, enhancing access to infrastructure and all urban services, promoting income generating activities and providing social safety net coverage with special attention to generation of employment opportunities for the youth. Although there have been significant interventions by both government and non-government organizations to improve access to basic facilities in slum areas, most of these have limited focus; most interventions focus on improving access to sanitation facilities (often without considering the issue of fecal sludge management) and water supply (mostly without considering the issue of drainage of the generated wastewater). There is virtually no interaction among the different institutions/organizations that are providing/ facilitating these services. In fact, the scenario appears to be similar in most developing countries; Elrayies (2016) in his detail review of slum development approaches in different countries noted that most interventions typically focus on “one or two issues” related to sustainable slum development.

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In urban areas of Bangladesh, Local Government Institutions (LGIs), that is City Corporations and Paurashavas, are primarily responsible for delivery and management of basic services, such as water supply, drainage, sanitation, and solid waste management, except in six major cities, where Water Supply and Sewerage Authorities (WASAs) are responsible for water supply and sewerage system. Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and a number of associated utilities are responsible for generation and distribution of electricity. There are a range of other organizations, both public and private, that are associated with delivery and facilitation of other services (e.g., gas supply, education, healthcare, ICT). However, development interventions in these diverse areas appear to be taking place in an uncoordinated manner, and as a result the residents of slums and LICs are not getting the desired benefits from these interventions. There is no guideline or approach for systematic and continuing development of slums and LICs, and no “authority” is taking the responsibility of guiding, coordinating or facilitating the development interventions in slums and LICs.

Therefore, an integrated multi-stakeholder approach is needed to improve the facilities and services (e.g., water, sanitation and drainage, waste management, housing and transport, energy, education and health) in slums and LICs.

This document (referred to as Knowledge Product KP-3) developed under the K-Hub (South Asia Urban Knowledge Hub) presents an “integrated approach” for development of slums and low income communities (LICs). This has been developed based on detail assessment of existing situation and challenges in slums and LICs, carried out through a case study (Ali et al., 2016), review of slum development approaches and experiences in different countries, and through extensive consultation involving all stakeholders including representatives from the Ministry of LGRDC, LGIs, I/NGOs, WASAs, utility service providers, academic and research institutions, and the private sector.

The Knowledge Product (KP-3) has been presented in five broad Sections. The first Section describes the present context, and the rationale for developing the “integrated approach” for sustainable and holistic development of slums and LICs. Section 2 describes the existing situation in slums and LICs in Bangladesh and the challenges being faced by slum dwellers. It also presents an overview of the typical development approaches and explains how these approaches are failing to address many of the interrelated issue/challenges. Section 3 presents the proposed “approach” for integrated development of slums and LICs. This Section starts with an overview of the entire integrated approach that involves identification of issues/challenges in slums and LICs under “four broad categories”, and then addressing the interrelated issues and challenges under each category systematically in an “integrated manner” involving all stakeholders (e.g., I/NGOs, development partners) under the leadership of the LGI (i.e., Paurashava or City Corporation). It then describes how the interrelated issues/challenges should be addressed as a part of the “integrated” development approach. Section 4 describes how this approach should be initiated under the leadership of the LGI, and how implementation of this approach should be monitored. Finally, Section 5 presents the concluding remarks.

2.0 Existing Situation and Challenges

The residents of slums and low income communities (LICs) in urban areas are facing diverse challenges, ranging from inadequate utility services (water, sanitation, power, and gas/fuel); environmental challenges (e.g., SWM, drainage, air pollution); narrow internal roads, fire hazards, and poor housing; lack of proper healthcare, education, and recreational facilities; and prevalence of crime.

Many of these challenges are interrelated (Ali et al., 2016). For example, improvement of water supply often leads to deterioration of drainage problem (due to generation of more drainage/waste water), as seen in Vashantek slum in Dhaka (Oxfam-ITN, 2015). Expansion of sanitation facilities without proper fecal sludge management (FSM) does not bring about desired health and

environmental benefits. For example, in Vashantek slum at Dhaka, 96% residents have access to sanitary latrines, but absence of FSM services is causing environmental pollution (Oxfam-ITN, 2015). Sanitation facilities without special provisions for women (e.g., separate toilet for women with menstrual hygiene facilities, see Fig. 1), people with disability, old and very young deprive these groups from enjoying the benefits of improved sanitation systems, as was reported for four slums in Dhaka (Oxfam-ITN, 2015); 8% families of these four slums reported having a family member with some form of disability.



Figure 1: Separate toilets for men and women at Mohakhali Shat Tola Bostee greatly facilitates toilet use by women.



Figure 2: Unsafe electricity lines at Mohakhali slum; this often causes accidents and fire outbreaks.

Poor power supply infrastructure (Fig. 2) and poor cooking environment (Fig. 3) often lead to fire hazard (e.g., from short-circuiting of electricity lines, and from cooking) and indoor air pollution (from cooking), particularly affecting the women and the young. Poor quality house and narrow roads (Fig. 4) increase the vulnerability of slums/LICs to natural disasters and fire hazards. Slum dwellers are also in need of proper healthcare, education, and recreational facilities and experience a higher prevalence of crime compared to non-slum dwellers (World Bank, 2007). Improved healthcare services, education and recreational facilities could significantly improve quality of life in the slums and LICs (Ali et al., 2016).



Figure 3: Cooking in traditional inefficient stove in Kallyanpur slum causes indoor air pollution and increases risk of fire outbreaks.



Figure 4: Narrow lane in Kamrangir Char LIC would restrict easy and safe movement during a fire outbreak.

Majority of interventions by Government and Non-Government organizations in slums and LICs appear to focus on the basic utility services, particularly water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Apart from the fact that these are the most pressing demand in slums and LICs, these issues (i.e., water supply and sanitation) are also of highest priority from national perspective. Improvement

of water supply and sanitation in slums has been closely linked to meeting certain Millennium Development Goals (MGDs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a result, these areas often attract more attention than other issues. Over the years, this has led to a significant bias (toward water-sanitation) in slum/LIC interventions.

However, even interventions in WASH appear to suffer from certain limitations. For example, interventions in the area of water supply primarily focus on availability of water, and less on management (e.g., tariff) and drainage. For example, people of Vawalbagh Rail Line slum pay (to water vendors) up to 30 times more for water than what Dhaka WASA charges against legal water connections; the situation is similar in many slums without access to legal water connections. Interventions in sanitation seldom considers fecal sludge management (FSM), and often ignores special needs, e.g., of women and people with disability.

Certain important areas often receive very limited attention; these include drainage, SWM, power, gas/fuel, indoor air pollution, and fire hazard. Some of these issues are interrelated; for example, supply of natural gas or improved cooking stove (ICS) could significantly reduce indoor air pollution (which would result in significant health benefits) and decrease vulnerability to fire hazard. Similarly improved/legal power supply could also significantly reduce risks of fire hazards (from electrical short-circuiting) and accidents. Similarly, improved Solid Waste Management (SWM) system could bring about significant improvement in drainage and public health.

I/NGOs and development partners (DPs) often play an important role in development activities in slums/LICs, which are usually carried out with support from LGIs (i.e., City Corporations and Paurashavas). The I/NGOs and DPs often take up projects based on their own strengths/ focus; for example certain I/NGOs and DPs are more interested in WASH issues, while others could be more interested in energy (e.g., improved cooking stove) issues. Over the years, many NGOs have gained significant expertise in the area of water supply and sanitation through their continued association in these areas. As a result, there appears to be lack of expertise and experienced manpower for working in the other important areas/issues (e.g., energy/fuel, air pollution, housing/road, etc.). While some NGOs have demonstrated exemplary work in non-traditional sector (i.e., apart from water-sanitation), there appears to be lack of coordination among NGOs/ organizations with diverse interest/ expertise.

It appears that the local government institutions (City Corporations, Paurashavas) are not adequately involved in the development initiatives, and the interventions lack coordination and monitoring. There is seldom any coordination among the different organizations regarding their development initiatives. The interventions made by different organizations have largely been focusing on a few service provisions and are not holistic. Although some praiseworthy interventions have been observed in some slums and LICs in the areas of healthcare, education, and recreational facilities, these are not widespread; interventions in these areas could significantly improve quality of life in slums/LICs.

In absence of a clear slum development policy, and the land tenure/ownership issue remaining unresolved, interventions are disjointed and are not going to be effective in promoting inclusive urban development. An 'integrated development approach' is therefore, needed considering all the important aspects for improving the quality of life of people of the slums and LICs for sustainable, inclusive and safe urban living. As the guardian of cities and towns, the LGIs (i.e., City Corporations and Paurashavas) should own this approach/ initiative, and play an active role in coordination and monitoring of development initiatives by different organizations groups.

3.0 Proposed Integrated Approach for Development of Slums and LICs

3.1 Overview of the Integrated Approach

The “integrated approach” outlined below has to be owned by the respective Local Government Institutions (LGIs) in urban areas – i.e., City Corporations and Paurashavas. The “approach” involves identification of issues and challenges in a particular urban slum or LIC under “four broad categories”, and then addressing the interrelated issues and challenges under each category systematically in an “integrated manner” involving all stakeholders including the LGI itself, I/NGOs, development partners, and other concerned agencies. The four broad categories include:

- (1) WASH, drainage and solid waste management;
- (2) Energy, fuel and fire safety;
- (3) Housing and access; and
- (4) Healthcare, education and recreational facilities.

There are a number of issues under each broad category listed above that need to be addressed in an integrated manner. It is recognized that it may not be possible to address the issues and challenges all at a time; it may not be possible to even address all the issues under one “category” covering an entire slum/LIC (particularly if it is large slum/LIC). However, under any intervention, it is very important to address all the issues under each “category” in an “integrated” manner, so that the intervention addresses all the interrelated issues, and brings about sustainable positive impacts in the lives and livelihood of LIC/slum dwellers.

The LGIs (i.e., City Corporations and Paurashavas) should carry out and facilitate/ coordinate interventions in the slums/ LICs by different stakeholders (e.g., I/NGOs, development partners) and make sure that any intervention in slums/LICs under their jurisdiction take place in an “integrated” manner as outlined below. In order to ensure holistic development, the LGIs should coordinate activities of different stakeholders (e.g., CBOs, I/NGOs, Development Partners) so that these different entities with different expertise/ interest can work together in a coordinated manner addressing all interrelated issues. Figure 5 shows a flow chart describing the proposed integrated approach for slum development.

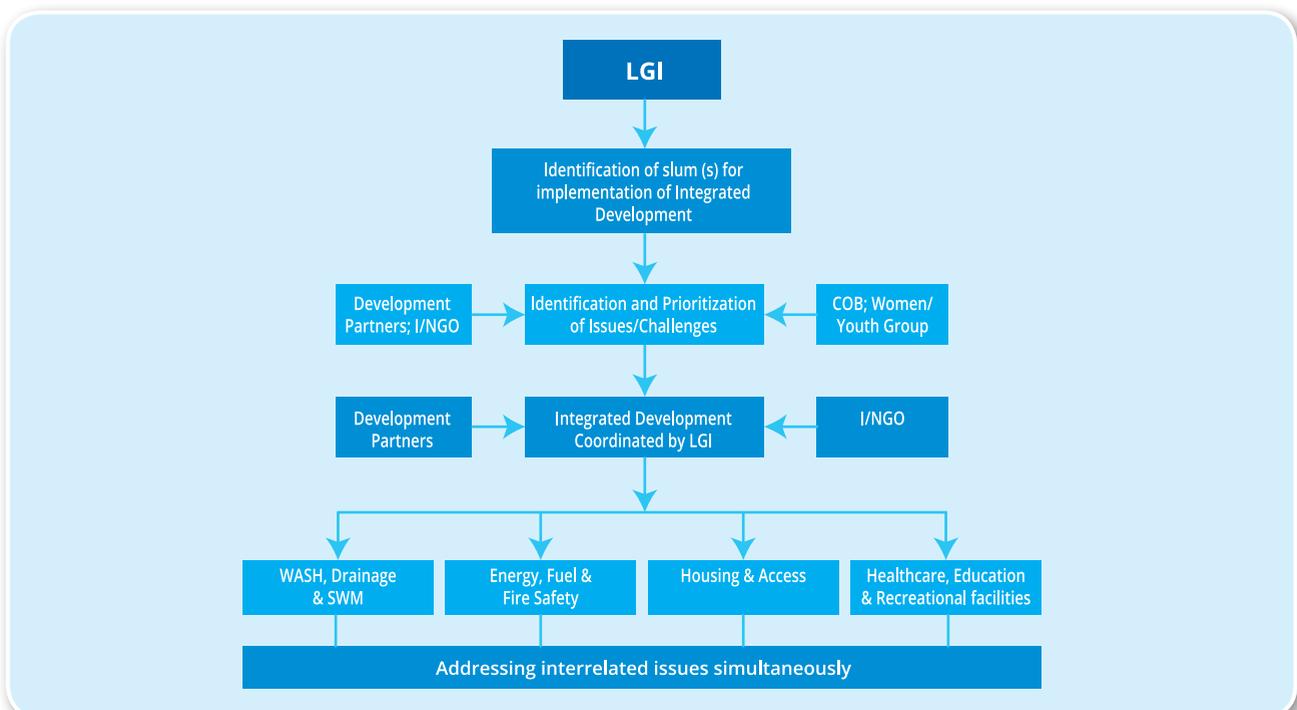


Figure 5: A flow chart showing the integrated approach for slum development

3.2 Identification and Prioritization of Issues and Challenges

Considering the diverse nature of slums and LICs, it is important to identify the issues and challenges in each slum/LIC separately following a “participatory approach”. This could be done in the form of Focus Group Discussions (FGDs), involving Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Women’s and Youth Groups in the slum, as well as general slum dwellers. The issues and challenges should be categorized under four broad headings, as noted above. Along with identification of issues and challenges, it is important to prioritize the issues from the perspective of the slum/LIC dwellers. This prioritized list of issues and challenges (under four categories) should be the basis for initiating and continuing “integrated” development approach in each slum.

Considering the limited capacity (e.g., manpower, resources) of LGIs in carrying out this exercise (i.e., identification and prioritization of issues/challenges) by themselves, LGIs may involve I/NGOs in identifying and prioritizing issues and challenges in slums and LICs under their jurisdictions in a systematic manner. Support may be sought from development partners in carrying out this exercise. It should be noted that in many slums/LICs, different organizations/NGOs are already involved in providing/ facilitating services; these organizations/ NGOs, with prior knowledge of these particular slums/LICs, could be involved in “identifying and prioritizing issues and challenges”. The LGIs (i.e., City Corporations and Paurashavas) would be the custodian of these prioritized lists for all slums/ LICs under their jurisdictions, and would coordinate/facilitate gradual and systematic development of slums/LICs following the “integrated” approach described below.

3.3 Integrated Approach of Development in Slums/LICs

The proposed “integrated approach” aims at gradually addressing all issues and challenges being faced by residents of slums and LICs in accordance to the needs and the priority set by slum dwellers themselves; the “approach” aims at addressing all important “interrelated issues” (e.g., sanitation and FSM) at the same time. Based on the interrelationships among issues/challenges, these have been classified into four major categories (as listed above).

The following sections describe the details of how the interrelated issues under different categories of challenges should be addressed in an integrated manner.

3.3.1 WASH, Drainage and Solid Waste Management

Adequate water supply at affordable cost is one of the basic demands in slums and LICs. As discussed in Section 1 and 2, while water supply affects operation and maintenance (O&M) of sanitation facilities, at the same time water supply also generates wastewater and affects drainage. While improvement of water supply improves O&M of sanitation facilities, it also leads to generation of higher volumes of wastewater that needs to be disposed of. Expansion of sanitation facilities without taking care of the fecal sludge leads to continued health risks and environmental pollution. As discussed earlier, improper solid waste management (SWM) often seriously aggravates drainage problems in slums/ LICs. Thus, in order to achieve the desired health and environmental benefits, all these issues should be addressed in an “integrated” manner. The LGIs would make sure that interventions (e.g., by LGIs themselves or by I/NGOs, others) in slums/LICs address these interrelated issues in an integrated manner. The following issues are to be considered while designing intervention in the area of WASH, drainage and SWM:

- (1) Legal Water Supply and Tariff:** Efforts should be made to ensure “legal” water supply to the slum/LIC, through the local water supply provider/authority (WASA/ City Corporation/ Paurashava); in this regard, the model that has been successfully implemented by Dhaka WASA may be adopted. Water supply charges/fees should be, at the most, at par with regular water fees charged by the supply authority.
- (2) Number of Users for each Community Water Point:** For community-scale water supply, a minimum standard should be set for the maximum number of users for

each community water point, and efforts should be made to gradually approach this standard; this standard should also apply to privately owned slums/LICs.

- (3) **Integration of Drainage with Water Supply:** Along with water supply, drainage system of wastewater and sullage should be developed, integrating it with storm drainage system of the slum/LIC. The drainage solution must include the entire drainage system, starting from within the slum/LIC and ending at an appropriate disposal location (e.g., city storm drainage system).
- (4) **Number of Users for each Community Sanitation Facility:** For community-scale sanitation facilities, a minimum standard should be set for the maximum number of users for each community sanitation facility, and efforts should be made to gradually approach this standard; this standard should also apply to privately owned slums/LICs.
- (5) **Addressing Special Sanitation Needs:** Efforts should be made to facilitate installation of separate sanitation facilities (septic tank system or pour-flush latrines) or community sanitation blocks for men and women (with menstrual hygiene facilities); the sanitation facilities should have provisions for easy access by people with disability, children and the elderly.
- (6) **Facilitating FSM:** The location of the sanitation facilities should be such that these are easily accessible by fecal sludge desludging tanks/vehicles; periodic/routine desludging of pits and septic tanks (using mechanical means) should be integrated in the design/management of the sanitation facilities.
- (7) **Wastewater Disposal:** If septic tanks are installed, effluent from these tanks should be disposed in properly designed soakage pits, or should be piped away to a suitable place for treatment and disposal.
- (8) **Wastewater Treatment:** In slums with very high density of population (therefore higher water use) or with poor infiltration capacity of soil, construction of decentralized wastewater treatment systems (DEWATS) should be considered for treatment of liquid wastes generated from sanitation facilities (so that wastewater does not overflow from pits/ soakage pits).
- (9) **Solid Waste Management (SWM):** Water supply and drainage interventions (noted above) must be accompanied by development of a solid waste management (SWM) system (in consultation with LGI), which will make sure that solid wastes do not clog drainage lines.
- (10) **Training and Awareness:** Training/ awareness campaigns on health and hygiene, particularly targeting women and children, should be an integral part of intervention in this category of issues.

3.3.2 Energy, Fuel and Fire Safety

Illegal and unsafe power connection is common in many slums/LICs; apart from being very costly (compared to legal fees for power connection and use), this often leads to accidents and fire hazard. Use of traditional inefficient mud stoves and biomass fuel is common in slums/LICs. This situation results in serious indoor air pollution and also increases the vulnerability of slums to fire hazard.

The following issues are to be considered while designing intervention in the area of energy and fuel:

- (1) **Legal Power Supply:** Efforts should be made to provide legal power connections in slums/LICs, in consultation with the appropriate authority. For this purpose, the model being used by Dhaka WASA for providing legal water connections to slums should be considered.

- (2) **Safety of Power Lines:** Existing power lines should be checked for safety and replaced/ repaired as required, and new power lines should have adequate safety against accident and short-circuiting; this initiative should cover privately owned slums/LICs.
- (3) **Improved Cooking Stove (ICS):** In line with Government's initiatives of promoting Improved Cooking Stove (ICS), the LGIs should work with relevant I/NGOs and development partners in providing/ popularizing ICS in slums/ LICs. Where feasible, the LGIs should facilitate use of LNG for cooking in slums/LICs (including privately owned slums/LICs).
- (4) **Safety Campaign:** LGIs, in association with relevant I/NGOs, should organize safety campaigns in slums/LICs on fire safety, indoor air pollution (IAP), and proper use of electrical equipment, with expert support from Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defense.

3.3.3 Housing and Access

Proper housing and easy access are keys to healthy living and reduced risk from fire hazard and natural disasters (e.g., flood/water logging, thunderstorm). Poor housing often leads to considerable damage during water logging and thunderstorms; poor ventilation aggravates the risk of air pollution. Poor and inadequate access has major adverse impacts; poor access within a slum/LIC increases the risk of damages and casualties from fire hazard due to inability of fire engines to get inside a slum and due to difficulties in quickly getting out of the slum in the event of a fire. Movement of sick and elderly people and children are also affected by poor access. Poor access also encourages criminals to use slums/LICs as a safe haven for avoiding law enforcement personnel.

Housing and access are probably among the difficult issues to be addressed by LGIs and others, particularly due to unresolved land tenure/ownership issues. However, this should not deter intervention and improvement in these areas. Many or most slums/LICs are in existence for a long time, and as long as these are in existence, efforts should be made to improve living condition within slums/LICs. The LGIs should try to address these issues systematically and on a case by case basis. The following activities are to be undertaken by LGIs, in association with relevant experts, I/NGOs and development partners, for overall improvement in the slums/LICs.

- (1) **Guideline/Standard for Low-cost Housing:** Development of guidelines/ standards for construction of low-cost houses in slums/LICs (including privately owned slums). Such guidelines for non-engineered housing are typically absent in "national building codes"; advantage should be taken of the significant work/research already done in this area by relevant experts. The guidelines/standards should be developed under the leadership of the Ministry of Local Government Rural Development of Cooperatives (MLGRDC), so that the same guideline/standard could be applied/ implemented in all urban centers.
- (2) **Awareness about Housing Construction:** LGIs should organize campaigns for raising awareness regarding construction of houses in slums/LICs, following the guidelines/ standards developed for this purpose.
- (3) **Improving Physical Access:** LGIs should facilitate construction/ expansion/ renovation of roads for ensuring easy access into and out of the slums/LICs (e.g., by fecal sludge desludging equipment/tank, fire fighting trucks/engines).

LGIs should facilitate discussion among the slum dwellers for possible expansion of roads/lanes within slums/LICs, and facilitate such expansion if agreed upon by the slum residents.

- (4) Access to Information/ Communication:** Along with improving physical access, slum dwellers should also have adequate access to information/communication related to education, safety and security, and opportunities for improving their quality of life. LGIs should facilitate such access to information/communication in slums/LICs through collaboration with relevant service providers.

3.3.4 Healthcare, Education and Recreational Facilities

Access to quality healthcare and educational facilities as well as recreational facilities (e.g., clubs, parks, playgrounds) is vital for improving the quality of life in slums/LICs. Hence, systematic effort should be made by LGIs and other relevant stakeholders in improving such access. In order to achieve this, the following issues/ activities should be addressed /undertaken.

- (1) Schools:** LGIs should initiate discussion with Government and relevant I/NGOs (e.g., BRAC) for establishing schools close to slums/LICs; the LGIs may support these initiatives by identifying appropriate land/space for such schools.
- (2) Healthcare Facilities:** Similarly, LGIs should initiate discussion with Government and relevant I/NGOs for establishing healthcare centers (with maternal healthcare facility), such that slum population gets easy access to these facilities.
- (3) Recreational Facilities:** LGIs in association with CBOs and local leaders should take initiative in ensuring access of children living in slums/LICs in nearby parks and playground. At the same time, LGIs and I/NGOs working in slums/LICs should promote and support establishment of small clubs/ recreational centers within slums/LICs.

4.0 Way Forward

4.1 Initiation of “Integrated” Development Approach

The integrated approach presented above has been developed in consultation with all stakeholders including LGIs, Development Partners, I/NGOs and others. The logical next step should be to implement this “integrated approach” in particular slums/LICs. For this purpose, discussion should be initiated with selected LGIs, particularly those who are planning/ implementing development programs in slums/LICs. Support may be sought from interested development partners and I/NGOs who would be interested to test this approach in the field. Experience from implementation of this integrated approach would help fine tune or update this approach for sustainable and inclusive development of slums and LICs.

4.2 Monitoring of “Integrated” Development Approach

The LGIs (i.e., City Corporations and Paurashavas) should take the responsibility of monitoring that development interventions in slums/LICs are initiated and implemented following the “integrated approach”, whereby all interrelated issues (e.g., water-sanitation-drainage-SWM) are addressed in a systematic and holistic way.

The LGIs should take the responsibility of coordinating activities of different stakeholders (e.g., CBOs, I/NGOs, Development Partners) so that different entities with different expertise/ interest (e.g., one with expertise/ interest in water supply, others in sanitation or healthcare) can work in a coordinated manner addressing all interrelated issues holistically.

5.0 Concluding Remarks

An “integrated approach” (referred to as Knowledge Product – 3) has been proposed for development of slums and low income communities (LICs), which has been developed based on detail assessment of existing situation and challenges in slums and LICs, review of slum development approaches and experiences in different countries, and through extensive consultation involving all stakeholders.

The “approach” involves identification of issues and challenges in urban slums/LICs under “four broad categories”, and then addressing the interrelated issues and challenges under each category systematically in an “integrated manner” involving all stakeholders including the LGI itself, I/NGOs, development partners, and other concerned agencies.

The logical next step should be to implement this “integrated approach” in particular slums/LICs. For this purpose, discussion should be initiated with selected LGIs. The LGIs should take the responsibility of coordinating activities of different stakeholders (e.g., CBOs, I/NGOs, Development Partners) so that different entities with different expertise/ interest can work in a coordinated manner addressing all interrelated issues holistically.

While a clear slum development policy is still not in place, and the land tenure/ ownership issue remaining unresolved, interventions addressing the various issues/ challenges could be made effective following the “integrated development approach” as proposed. It is expected that the demonstrated impacts of integrated approach would lead to the formulation of an appropriate slum development policy for sustainable and inclusive development of slums and the LICs.

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