

FP004 Climate-Resilient Infrastructure Mainstreaming (KfW), Bangladesh

CSO comments on the project given as intervention during the 11th GCF Board Meeting, November 2015

- Overall this project seems reasonably good to us, although it is not particularly innovative. It is a common practice in coastal Bangladesh to construct schools in such a way that they can be used as cyclone shelters, and in fact I know of at least one project my own organization is involved with that does exactly that. But we welcome the explicit focus on the most vulnerable.
- Would like to make three points.
- First, the emphasis on institutional capacity building within the Local Government Engineering Department, specifically with an eye towards its possible accreditation as a direct access entity in the future, points very much in the right direction. This responds to a requirement repeatedly stressed by the Board for all international accredited entities to support national entities with a view to their direct access accreditation. We would expect all international entities to take this mandate seriously and to outline in their funding proposals how they intend to fulfill it.
- Second, without access to the budget, it is difficult for us to assess whether the proposed costs are appropriate. But we are concerned that some components seem to be quite costly, primarily because of a very heavy reliance on international consultants.
- Finally, our primary area of concern is around local consultation. From the project proposal it sounds as if most consultations have been with donors, government agencies, and possibly some large NGOs. There is mention of one local consultation, but as the project area is three relatively remote rural areas and there was only one such consultation mentioned, it seems unlikely that all or even most potentially affected people have been engaged. These consultation processes must be strengthened especially if there is a possibility of land acquisition leading to relocation. One possibility in line with the GI would be for the NDA to help set up a participatory monitoring mechanism, with involvement from communities and local and national CSOs.