

**PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH ON CHRONIC POVERTY IN
BANGLADESH (PRCPB): A PROPOSAL**

April 2002 - April 2006

PRCPB Director

CPRC Director

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Programme for Research on Chronic Poverty in Bangladesh (PRCPB): A Proposal

1. ESSENTIAL FACTS

Programme Title

Programme for Research on Chronic Poverty in Bangladesh (PRCPB)

Summary of Purpose

Despite reductions in the percentage of people experiencing income/consumption poverty, and non-income poverty, in Bangladesh an estimated 60 million people remain poor. Many of these people experience chronic poverty—they are poor for extended periods of time, die in poverty and transfer poverty to the next generation. The chronic poor are heterogeneous but often they are concentrated in particular areas and experience social exclusion for a range of reasons (gender, age, disability, and social identity). They receive few benefits from contemporary state, market or social action.

The programme seeks to make efforts to reduce poverty in Bangladesh more effective by deepening the understanding of those who are chronically poor, of the processes that keep them in poverty and of the policy measures that will help them to overcome poverty and vulnerability. This goal is to be achieved by the production and dissemination of policy relevant research findings to government agencies, donors and civil society and by developing the capacity of Bangladeshi research institutions to undertake research on chronic poverty. A particular feature is the publication of the *Bangladesh Chronic Poverty Report* every two years.

The programme is based at BIDS and draws upon highly reputed researchers and advocates from BIDS and other academic/ research institutes and NGOs. The programme is a sub-centre of the Chronic Poverty Research Centre (CPRC) a partnership of southern and northern research institutes and development advocacy organizations led by IDPM at the University of Manchester. As part of CPRC it gains from access to theoretical and methodological work and interaction with an internationally reputed group of researchers. This programme spearheads CPRC work in Bangladesh and also contributes more broadly to the strengthening of CPRC through its theoretical and methodological insights.

Name of Directors

Dr Binayak Sen (BIDS), Director of PRCPB
Prof. David Hulme (IDPM), Director of CPRC

Collaborating Institutions

BIDS
IDPM, University of Manchester
CPRC Partners in UK and four other countries
Researchers at University of Dhaka
Other Researchers, Institutions and NGOs in Bangladesh (as the Programme develops)

Start Date

01 April 2002

End Date

30 April 2006

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Details of PRCPB and CPRC Directors

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Links with Other DFID-Funded Work

The proposed programme is closely linked to two specific components of DFID's work. As part of the British aid programme to Bangladesh it is intended that the PRCPB's findings will influence DFID, GoB and other development agencies within the country. In particular, the dissemination of findings should, in the medium term, assist DFID, GoB and others to select policies that more effectively support those experiencing persistent poverty to improve their livelihoods. In addition, PRCPB should strengthen Bangladesh's internal capacity for research and policy analysis on poverty and poverty-reduction.

As a sub-centre of the ESCOR-financed Chronic Poverty Research Centre (CPRC) the PRCPB will contribute findings on Bangladesh to CPRC for comparative analysis, contribute to the international *Chronic Poverty Reports* and assist in the production of concepts, methodologies and capacity development materials for CPRC. The PRCPB will, in turn, be able to draw guidance and materials from other CPRC partners, utilize the conceptual frameworks, methodologies and capacity development products of CPRC and shape the overall direction of CPRC activities through participation in the Annual Planning Meeting.

Capability Statement of Lead Organisations

IDPM (University of Manchester)

IDPM is the lead organisation for the Chronic Poverty Research Centre (CPRC), a partnership of 'northern' and 'southern' research institutes and advocacy organisations that seeks to provide analysis and policy guidance that will stimulate national and international debate and action about achieving greater inclusion of the chronic poor in the formulation of, and benefits deriving from, development policy.

IDPM is a leading UK development research institute and its research has been rated at the 'international' level (grade 5 on a scale of 1 to 5) by the Higher Education Funding Council. Its staff produce a high volume of peer-reviewed articles and commercially published books and it presently manages in excess of 6 million pounds of research grants from DfID, ESRC, Nuffield Foundation, Ford Foundation, EU and other bodies. It has a particular reputation for producing work that meets rigorous academic standards but which is policy relevant. Its researchers are highly experienced in the conversion of research findings into policy briefs and 'practitioner-friendly' products. The Institute runs a large doctoral programme that trains researchers from all over the world, has a dedicated postgraduate library, extensive IT facilities, facilities for visiting researchers and a website for research dissemination. A research administrator manages CPRC administrative and financial affairs and the Institute's accounting systems have been graded at the highest level by university auditors. As part of the University of Manchester, the Institute has access to academics in all disciplines, one of the best libraries in the UK and excellent computer support services.

BIDS

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) is the premier research institute in development studies in Bangladesh with a strong international reputation for academic and policy work. The Institute carries out basic research studies on the problems of development in Bangladesh. It also provides training in socio-economic analysis and research methodology for the professional members of its staff and for members of other organisations concerned with development problems. The institute has 40 researchers spread over five divisions, namely, macroeconomics, industry and physical infrastructure, agricultural and rural development, human resources development, and population and health studies. Among the outstanding publications of the Institute is the internationally reputed research journal—*Bangladesh Development Studies* (formerly known as *Pakistan Development Review*)—which has been published quarterly since 1959 and whose content is regularly reported in *Journal of Economic Literature*. In recent years BIDS has conducted research for the UNDP, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, DFID, USAID, DANIDA, and CIDA.

The PRCPB draws upon the resources of a set of highly reputed BIDS researchers who are personally committed to deepening understanding about chronic poverty in Bangladesh. The core team includes Dr Binayak Sen, Dr Zulfigar Ali, Dr Omar Haider Chowdhury, Dr Quazi Shahabuddin and Dr. Mustafa Kamal Mujeri. The Director of PRCPB, Dr. Binayak Sen, has an international reputation for work on the analysis of poverty and has provided policy advice to the Government of Bangladesh, World Bank, ADB, DFID and major NGOs. If this bid is successful, then the PRCPB will be his prime professional focus for the coming years.

Collaborative Arrangements

As a partner of the CPRC, BIDS is involved in a number of formal and informal relationships with other partners. While the formal relationships, especially these between BIDS and IDPM, are clearly spelled out and are of great importance the informal relationships are crucial if the intellectual exchanges between partners are to foster cutting edge research that can influence policy at national and international levels. IDPM and BIDS have collaborated in the past and have produced policy-influencing work on microfinance and poverty reduction. Arrangements for specific aspects of collaboration are identified below.

Research Planning and Budgeting

In January each year the PRCPB Director (and, when relevant, other colleagues) will participate in the CPRC Annual Planning Meeting which is attended by all partners. As part of that exercise he reports (written and presentation) on research work over the previous year (findings, concepts, methods, capacity development issues) and presents a research plan for the coming two years with a budget. Partners provide advice and guidance about the plan and how it might be linked to broader thematic, comparative, methodological and dissemination work. In a subsequent meeting, the PRCPB Director and CPRC Director (or Deputy Director) agree a revised plan and budget to be presented (as a component of the overall CPRC Annual Plan) to the CPRC Advisory and Review Group and ESCOR/DFID (Bangladesh). The PRCPB's Annual Report and Plan is also presented on an annual basis to the PRCPB's Advisory Committee in Dhaka. CPRC is represented on the PRCPB's Advisory Committee.

Financial Management

IDPM will issue PRCPB with an annual contract based on PRCPB's annual plan (following the Annual Planning meeting and Advisory Committee comments).

- The University of Manchester (through IDPM) will invoice DFID on a quarterly basis (in arrears) for PRCPB expenditure.
- The University of Manchester will pay PRCPB directly through BIDS

Monitoring, Quality Assurance and Evaluation

The monitoring of activity and outputs will be reported on a 6-monthly and annual basis by the Director of PRCPB to the Director of CPRC. The annual progress of PRCPB will be overseen in Bangladesh by the PRCPB Advisory Committee (see later) and internationally by the CPRC Advisory and Review Group.

Quality Assurance will be achieved by internal PRCPB and CPRC reviews of reports, briefs and other products and by external review through contracted reviewers (for the Bangladesh Chronic Poverty Report) and peer review for journals and publications.

PRCPB's activities and achievements will be subjected to the CPRC mid-term review, by an independent evaluator and by internal documentation of products, advocacy activities, formal and informal policy briefings and citations.

Dissemination and Communication

In addition to its extensive direct dissemination plans (see later) PRCPB's country-based and comparative findings will be disseminated through CPRC. The main mechanisms for this are:

- co-publication of PRCPB working papers in the UK in CPRC covers (hard copy) and on the CPRC website
- co-publication of the *Bangladesh Chronic Poverty Reports* on the CPRC website
- inclusion of PRCPB findings in CPRC comparative and thematic analyses (working papers and articles)
- inclusion of PRCPB findings in the international *Chronic Poverty Reports*
- contributions from PRCPB to CPRC edited books and journal 'special issues'
- inclusion of PRCPB findings and articles in CPRC newsletters and policy briefs
- hot links between the CPRC and PRCPB websites
- PRCPB participation in international conferences convened by CPRC partners

The CPRC will not only benefit from PRCPB inputs into its dissemination and communication activities, but recognizes that PRCPB staff will disseminate CPRC findings to additional audiences in Bangladesh, South Asia and other regions. The findings of the PRCPB research will be disseminated to the wider network of South Asian researchers such as *South Asia Network of Economic Research Institutes (SANEI)* where BIDS is acting as the coordinating institute for the SANEI-Bangladesh Chapter.

2. RESEARCH INFORMATION

2.1 Goal of the Programme

The programme seeks to make policies to eliminate poverty in Bangladesh more effective by deepening the understanding of who the chronic poor are, of the processes that keep them in poverty, and of the policy interventions that will help them overcome poverty and vulnerability. The present anti-poverty strategy concentrates on those poor people who can most easily be assisted. This is a logical short-term goal, but the challenge of poverty eradication requires that efforts to assist those with more long-term and deeply rooted problems also must be pursued (see Box 1 below).

2.2 Research Objectives

Box 1: Research Objectives and Key Research Questions

Research Objective	Question to be addressed
<p>a. To identify and document the chronic poor so that they are central to the agenda for development action in Bangladesh.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which socio-economic groups are not benefiting from current development policies? Why is this happening? • What are their numbers, distribution and condition and how will these change by 2015?
<p>b. To enhance the understanding of the social, economic and political processes that underpin the continued deprivation of such groups.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What social, economic and political processes keep these socio-economic groups in poverty while others escape it? • What are the main similarities and dissimilarities between these processes for different groups and in different contexts?
<p>c. To draw out policy lessons that make development policy and practice more effective in promoting poverty and vulnerability-reduction for the poorest.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the implications of the knowledge generated by questions in (a) and (b) for policy and practice? • What is known about the effectiveness of policy and practice to assist the other half?
<p>d. To raise the capacity of development research institutions in Bangladesh to analyse the problems of those excluded from the benefits of development and to disseminate findings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are present capacity levels? • Why are capacity levels constrained? • What can be done to raise capacity levels and strengthen the 'southern voice' in applied research on the poorest?

Why have high levels of chronic poverty persisted in Bangladesh? Who experiences chronic poverty? What are the factors behind it? What policies are needed to reduce it? These are the most urgent questions, which need to be addressed today. The programme would identify policies and institutional measures that would involve both the reform of existing interventions and new forms of innovation. It would focus on policy change and on the way in which poverty reduction activities can be implemented effectively.

2.3 Background to the Programme

The Challenging Arithmetic of Poverty in Bangladesh

About 40 per cent of the world's poor live in South Asia. Within South Asia, the incidence, depth, and severity of poverty are highest in the Eastern region, and within the latter, Bangladesh has the largest absolute number of population living in poverty.

Since its Independence three decades ago Bangladesh has come a long way. Once dubbed as the "test case of development" and labeled as a "landscape of disaster".¹ It has moved ahead since then and can claim to be a moderately successful democracy and a champion performer within the least developed group of countries. It has accumulated a rich experience in the field of "poverty alleviation" in terms of both considerable successes and notable failures.

The country has displayed its development potentials in several respects. It has demonstrated considerable crisis-coping capacity in dealing with frequent natural disasters. It has come out of the shadow of famine by putting in place large-scale food-assistance programmes during the periods of intensive distress. It has been able to reduce population growth via pro-active public policy. There have been favourable changes in the broad areas of human development: infant and child mortality has declined, the prevalence of child malnutrition has dropped, basic literacy has increased, and the gender gap in primary education has declined. Acceleration of food production and expansion of microcredit programmes have helped reduce the vulnerability of many in the rural population. In general, "voice" has increased among women, and aspirations for democratic graduation have taken definitive roots, indicating the future possibilities of the nation. All these have contributed to the overcoming of the negative image with which the country was associated for a long-time.

However, the benefits of these achievements have been unevenly distributed among the various segments of the poor. Alleged successes in anti-poverty programmes have mainly impacted on the *transient poor*, whether they relate to microcredit, food-assisted programmes, access to infrastructure and new technology, or institution-building and networking capacity. The "other half" of the poor—those whose deprivation is sustained over many years and often carried from one generation to the next and defined as the *chronic poor*—have largely been by-passed by the processes of growth and social development. This "other half" of the poor is the least likely to benefit from contemporary national and international development efforts. They include those living in marginal or remote rural areas, the immobile, the disabled, the elderly, destitute female-headed and child-headed "households", those "locked in" in low-paid jobs and poor markets, the displaced and refugees, and people experiencing social discrimination in its many and varied forms.

The problem of chronic poverty has assumed a greater relevance in the face of some disturbing developments during the nineties. *First*, while the overall incidence of poverty is showing a declining trend the pace of poverty reduction has been extremely slow. At this pace of poverty reduction it would take about 30 years to eliminate the current backlog of poverty and that too under the restrictive assumption of "distribution neutral" growth.² *Second*, the process of poverty reduction was highly unstable: decline in certain sub-periods has been followed by increase in other sub-periods. *Third*, while there have been declining trends in income/ calorie poverty and non-income dimensions of poverty (such as deprivations in education and health) the current level is unacceptably high, requiring a more radical restructuring of the current poverty reduction strategy. For instance, the level of child malnutrition, at 50 per cent, remains much higher than most of its South Asian neighbours and even

¹ In 1974, it ranked second lowest (next to Rwanda) in the world in terms of per capita income.

² Binayak Sen, "Poverty and Policy" in Rehman Sobhan (Ed.), Growth or Stagnation? A Review of Bangladesh's Development 1996, Centre for Policy Dialogue and University Press Ltd, Dhaka, February 1997, pp. 115-160;

exceeds the sub-Saharan average by a considerable margin. Similarly, the maternal mortality rate remains one of the highest in the world. *Fourth*, increasing social and political violence in the nineties has blunted the favourable effects of economic development on well-being and equity. All these shortcomings point to the need for a fresh, innovative, comprehensive and practical approach to dealing with the second-generation problems of poverty reduction in Bangladesh. Tackling the problem of chronic poverty poses the most important policy and institutional challenges in anti-poverty strategy facing Bangladesh today.

Making the Chronic Poor Visible

Three particular premises underlie our thinking about the need for studying chronic poverty. *First*, poverty reduction policies, and most research on them are increasingly focused on transient poverty and do not pay adequate attention to chronic poverty. *Second*, most research that is conducted on the “the other half” focuses on specific sub-groups, such as the female destitute, ignoring other vital sub-groups such as refugees, immobile households, those locked in remote areas, the disabled and the socially excluded. *Third*, while it is long recognised that the poor are not homogenous, most research has focused on the distinction between the so-called “extreme” and “moderate” poor households. However, the conceptual divide between the “extreme” and the “moderate” poor group serves only a limited analytical purpose, as the distinction is based on static calorie consumption criteria without any allowance for the dynamic strategisation on the part of poor households to climb out of poverty. A familiar example of such strategisation is when some of the so-called extreme poor households deliberately consume less than the food calorie norm yet they seem to spend a relatively higher amount on education of their children. This is contrary to the notion of “hierarchical basic needs”, which guides most policy analyses. This suggests a certain sequencing starting from the basic food down to higher order needs such as education and culture. In this case, the extreme poor households are worse off in the short-term (having more deficits in sheer calorie terms) but may be dynamically better poised for graduation from poverty than those among the moderate poor (or even non-poor) households who invest proportionately less on human capital. This suggests that the programme should seriously examine the validity of the extreme/moderate divide in partly that is currently dominating the development policy discourse and come up with a more policy-relevant formulation.

Alongside the analysis of ‘poverty trends’ for populations we need to understand the ‘poverty dynamics’ of households and sub groups.

The theme of chronic poverty demands a multidimensional and multidisciplinary approach. This is because the chronic poor are subjected to systematic exclusionary pressures both from the modern and pre-modern elements that interplay in the process of development. Not only do they fail to fully participate in the process of economic growth and recovery; they are also excluded from targeted social programmes and public transfers. The failures of market, government, NGOs, and even *Samaj* all have contributed to this systemic exclusion. The persistence of chronic poverty is not only the prime factor behind the slow pace of income-poverty reduction, but also fosters growing social inequality and insecurity. There is, however, considerable variation within chronic poverty, defined inter-temporally (seasonally and dynamically with considerable fluctuations), spatially (both within and across the national boundary with considerable statelessness and culture of exile), and in terms of intensity and severity of deprivations of persons “insulted and humiliated”. Bangladesh provides an excellent case study of circumstances, factors, processes, policies and institutions that lead to systematic exclusion of the chronic poor from development.

Survey of Literature

There are a number of contesting/reinforcing theories regarding chronic poverty in the literature. Each of these approaches carries instructive messages and important insights. The concerns voiced by each of these approaches need integrating within a comprehensive anti-poverty framework to deal with the problems of chronic poverty. Indeed, one of the key objectives of the programme would be to examine how different analytical perspectives interact.

- ***Market Failure Approach:*** The fundamental feature of chronic poverty is that it affects the access of the poor to markets, be they factor markets or output markets. The ability to obtain credit, to sell labour, to rent land for cultivation. This exclusion is either because they reside in areas, which are vulnerable to high income fluctuations with little scope for insurance, where market access is physically limited, or simply because they are perceived as risky agents in the presence of asymmetric information.
- ***Empowerment Approach:*** Exclusion of the chronic poor is mainly due to incomplete citizenship: their lack of voice and rights, networking capacity.
- ***Human Development Approach:*** Lack of basic capabilities such as education, health, and nutrition affects functioning in a major way. The poor lack these capabilities either because they lack effective access to quality public education and health, or because they lack collateralisable assets to borrow money to privately finance investments in human development.
- ***Livelihoods Approach:*** Exclusion of the chronic poor is conditioned by the lack of assets – natural, physical, financial, human and social.
- ***Political Economy Approach:*** Exclusion of the chronic poor is the product of adverse incorporation, an outcome of structural/ historical interplay of diverse factors that perpetrate economic inequality and unequal social relations.

2.4 Research Approaches and Methods

Both quantitative and qualitative approaches will be used in the programme. The appropriate mix will vary depending on the particular analytical issues under consideration (Box 2). CPRC partners are already in a strong position to advise on which methods to use and how to ‘mix’ them to deepen understanding and corroborate findings.

Box 2: Matrix on Approaches and Methods

Issue	Approach	Method
Analysis of Trends in Chronic Poverty Based on Repeated Cross-Sections and Panel Survey Data	Quantitative	Conventional poverty/ inequality indicators such as FGT measures, Gini index, Polarisation index, exit and entry rates relating to movement in and out of poverty
Analysis of Inter-Generational Trends	Qualitative	Case study, life-history, indicator-based structural interviews, FGD
Analysis of Pre-Existing Policies and Programmes	Quantitative/Qualitative	Quantitative evaluation techniques using before-after,

		with-without comparisons, Case study, qualitative techniques such as indicator-based structural interviews, Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA)
Remote Rural Areas/ Spatial Poverty Traps	Quantitative/ Qualitative	Generation of spatial poverty maps at disaggregated levels through GIS software, qualitative case study, PPA
Migration and Immobility	Quantitative/ Qualitative	Special survey, case study, FGD
Social Safety Net (targeted food programmes, old age, disability, child labour, female destitutes, child/women trafficking)	Quantitative/ Qualitative	Analysis of programme level data and existing assessments, case study, FGD, PPA and qualitative indicator based techniques
Violence and Social Conflicts (violence against women, ethnic conflicts, mastanocracy, breakdown of law and order, criminalisation of politics)	Qualitative/ Quantitative	Analysis of secondary data including newspaper reports, police and medical records, case study, FGD, PPA and qualitative indicator based techniques
Transboundary and Sub-Regional Issues	Quantitative/ Qualitative	Analysis based on commissioned papers and reports, special surveys, case study, FGD
Risks, Vulnerability and Social Capital (analysis of public policy relating to health, natural disasters, local public goods, with special focus on local government, CBOs, indigenous people, quality of public utilities)	Quantitative/ Qualitative	Analysis based on “citizen report cards” on the access and quality of public/ social services, FGD, PPA and qualitative indicator based techniques

2.5 Activities of Programme

The main activities fall under three headings:

- Research
- Dissemination and Communication
- Capacity Development

The plan of PRCPB detailed activity is shown below in Box 3. The main activity of the programme would be to conduct research on chronic poverty in Bangladesh. The entire research programme would be premised on a multidisciplinary approach, integration of quantitative, qualitative, and participatory methods, and address the questions of causes of chronic poverty with an eye on policies and institutional interventions for an effective anti-poverty strategy for various sub-groups of the chronic poor. The programme would draw upon the most recent evidence and generate new survey based information on various dimensions of chronic poverty. A major component of the programme would be to develop tools for poverty analysis as well as evaluating the impact of anti-poverty policy and programmes. An important part of the research programme would be to focus on new trends and aspects of poverty, including an analysis of emerging sub-regional dimensions that interface with national anti-poverty efforts.

A major thrust of the programme would be on adopting effective means of communication and dissemination catering to the needs of the diverse groups of potential clients through deploying a variety of options ranging from the *Bangladesh Chronic Poverty Report*, journal articles, policy briefs to *Chronic Poverty Watch* in daily newspapers, website summaries, and policy dialogues with different stakeholders.

A key aspect of the programme relates to capacity development. This involves the strengthening of BIDS, or partner organisations and more general activities (see ‘workshop’) to raise the capacity of researchers across Bangladesh to analyse poverty through multi-disciplinary approaches. The availability of CPRC outputs (especially the ‘Toolbox of Methods for Analysing Poverty’) and personnel will assist capacity development. A particular emphasis will be placed on mounting a *Poverty Analysis Workshop* every two years. The workshop will provide training to development practitioners such as mid level government officials, NGO and civil rights activists, young researchers from research institutes and universities. By this means it will add to the pool of talent available for policy relevant poverty research in Bangladesh.

An important aspect of capacity development relates to the recruiting of young researchers—talented and fresh graduates from the universities working on M.Phil dissertations relating to poverty themes - who would be involved as *Research Interns* under the programme. Under the research internee component of the programme every year 1-2 young researchers would be invited to take part in PRCPB’s research activities for a period (ranging from three to six months) pursuing a research theme in collaboration with a core researcher of PRCPB. The idea is to develop PRCPB as the meeting ground of young minds and intellects with fresh and innovative ideas about causes of poverty and policies for faster poverty reduction strategy. Through this component PRCPB will contribute to the development of a new generation of poverty researchers in Bangladesh.

Communication and Dissemination Strategy

The output of the Programme—in keeping with its varied nature—would be disseminated to meet the need of diverse audience. There are three groups of clients for whom the differing outputs are envisaged:

- (a) for academics and researchers--working papers, journal articles, books;
- (b) for policy makers and development practitioners--*Chronic Poverty Report*, policy briefs, website summaries;
- (c) for middle class and civil society—*chronic poverty watch* in daily newspaper, sponsored programmes on chronic poverty issues on TV (*subject to funding from additional sources*).

In year one CPRC support to BIDS will seek to develop the BIDS website so that PRCPB findings are easily accessible and integrated with other BIDS products.

Box 3: Plan of PRCPB Activities (04/2002 – 04/3006)

	04/02/0 3/03	04/03- 03/04	04/04- 03/05	04/05- 03/06	04/06 (One Month)
	Yr.1	Yr.2	Yr.3	Yr.4	Yr.5
Research on Bangladesh Chronic Poverty:					
• Analysis of Existing Data					
• Analysis of New Data					
• Review of Existing Qualitative Data					
• Collection and Analysis of New Qualitative Data					
Toolkit:					
• Poverty Maps					
• Integrating Quantitative, Qualitative and PPA in Poverty Assessment.					
Conceptual:					
• Rethinking Graduation					
• Hardcore vs. Moderate Poverty: Rethinking the Debate					
• Differing Poverty, Differing Policy?					
Commissioned Studies on Various Dimensions of Chronic Poverty and Policy as “Inputs” to CPR:					
• Social Safety Net Issues (specific reviews of targeted food programmes, old age, disability, child/ women trafficking, child labour)					
• Violence/ Conflict Interfaces					
• Women’s Empowerment					
• Migration and Immobility					
• Risks, Vulnerability, and Social Capital (specific reviews of health, natural disaster, social capital)					
• Public Services Monitoring					
• Other Issues (to be decided later)					
Sub-Regional Studies Contextually Related with Bangladesh’s Poverty Problems (borderland issues, including migration, trade, water, transit, energy, epidemics control, etc.)					
Capacity Development:					
• As an integral component of the Research and Dissemination Activity					
• Poverty Analysis Workshop					
• Involvement of Young Researchers as Research Internees					
Dissemination:					
• Bangladesh Chronic Poverty Report (CPR)					
• Working Papers					
• Policy Briefs					
• Web Site					
• Chronic Poverty Watch					

2.6 International Linkages

The programme would be carried out in active collaboration with a prominent body of researchers working in reputed institutions of the North and the South. This is implemented through three principal mechanisms.

- ***Academic Support with CPRC Researchers***

For each of the major analytical building block identified in the programme, an active interaction with researchers from the institutions working in the same problem area is envisaged. This will not only enrich the methodological and conceptual interrogations to be carried out under the present programme, but also contribute to the global programme of research on Chronic Poverty within which the current research programme in Bangladesh is being carried out (see Box 4 below).

Box 4: Academic Collaboration with Bangladesh Chronic Poverty Research Programme

Analytical Building Block	Resource Person
Toolbox	Andy Mckay, Colin Murray, Jonathan Goodhard
Theory (political economy, structural factors underlying chronic poverty)	David Hulme Andrew Shephard Andy Mckay Ben Cousins (South Africa)
Review/ Overview studies/ Cross-country Comparison of Quantitative Indicators	Andy Mckay
Remote Rural Areas (RRA)	Kate Bird Andrew Shepherd David Hulme Mandy Heslop, Mark Gorman (HAI)
Old Age	
Disability	Rebecca Yeo (ADD)
Migration	Uma Kothari
Conflict	Jonathan Goodhard
Urban poverty	Philip Amis
SSN policy	Andrew Shepherd, Steven Devereux
Child poverty	Caroline Harper (SCF)
HIV/ AIDS/ Health	Tbc
Gender	Uma Kothari
Politics of policy about Chronic Poverty	Sarah Bracking Sam Hickey, David Hulme
Agrarian Reform	Ben Cousins (South Africa)

- ***Academic Interaction of an Internationally Reputed Advisory and Review Group***

A multidisciplinary team of internationally reputed scholars would act as the peer reviewers as well as resource persons for the PRCPB. The team includes: Shirin Huq (gender, poverty, and human rights activist, associated with *Naripokkho*—an well-known civic rights and advocacy organisation in Bangladesh), Mahabub Hossain (Head, Social Science Division, IRRI, Los Banos, Philippines), Naila Kabeer (Fellow, IDS, Sussex), Azizur Rahman Khan (Professor of Economics, University of California, Riverside), Wahiduddin Mahmud (Professor of Economics, Dhaka University), Martin Ravallion (Lead Economist, World Bank, Washington D.C.), Rehman Sobhan (Chairman, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Dhaka), and Suresh Tendulkar (Professor of Economics, Delhi School of Economics). The council would also include a DFID advisor and the Director of the CPRC. Naila Kabeer would also participate in the PRCPB annual activities as a researcher with special focus on developing cross-cutting poverty-gender-citizenship themes.

- ***Sub-Regional Collaboration with the Researchers from the South Asia North East:***

Faster poverty reduction requires policies and measures that go beyond the national framework, involving sub-regional and regional cooperation. Since many of the dimensions of chronic poverty (migration, environmental degradation, refugees, cross-border trade, ethnic conflict) represent sub-regional processes, it is important to capture these dimensions for policy and institutional interventions. To this end efforts would be made to mobilize researchers of the South Asia North East, especially the states bordering Bangladesh. Extra funding will be sought, from CPRC central resources and/or other research sponsors for a series of commissioned papers to generate a poverty picture for each of the sub-regional themes culminating eventually into a *Report on Sub-Regional Dimensions of Bangladesh Poverty*. PRCPB would also organise chronic poverty related workshops, involving both methodological/ conceptual as well as policy sessions. This combination of the “practical skills” of capacity building with an international reputation for policy-relevant research is central to BIDS’s comparative advantage in hosting the programme.

2.7 Programme Output

The following output would be produced under the Programme:

- a. *Bangladesh Chronic Poverty Reports* produced bi-annually (2004, 2006). These reports would be published in a high-quality manner in order to have maximum impact and expected to have a high degree of visibility in its launching through the involvement of high-level policy makers. These reports would be co-published in an arrangement with a local publishing house with international marketing outlets. Materials of the report would be used as an input in the global Chronic Poverty Reporter, scheduled in 2003 and 2005.
- b. Occasional *Policy Briefs* addressing specific problems (Three policy briefs a year would be produced)
- c. A series of commissioned papers to be published within the rubric of the programme as *Working Papers*
- d. *Report on Sub-Regional Dimensions of Bangladesh Poverty*--one “thin” report in 2003, and one “comprehensive” report in 2005--*subject to additional funding being acquired from other sources*
- e. Publication of *articles and notes* in internationally reputed refereed journals
- f. Regular postings in the leading English newspaper in Bangladesh *Daily Star* and in vernacular print media (with the possibility of running a monthly *Chronic Poverty Watch* in the newspaper)

2.8 Management Plan

The programme implementation and output monitoring would be done through several institutional procedures. *Firstly*, there would be a quarterly management meeting of the director, principal researchers and support team to review the progress of the programme. *Secondly*, annual planning meeting at the outset of the financial year would be held to define the scope and focus of the research programme. This meeting will also agree the annual outputs of the programme (including the publication plan). *Thirdly*, an annual advisory and review group meeting would be held to review the output of the preceding year’s research as well as to guide the work plan for the next year. *Fourthly*, financial management of the programme would be carried out through quarterly reports submitted by BIDS to IDPM (University of Manchester). *Fifthly*, the programme implementation and output monitoring would be done through specific reports submitted to DFID as part of the annual report of CPRC.

2.9 Risks and Risk Mitigation

Risks	Mitigation
1. Availability of Programme Director	1. The Programme Director has prioritised this work over the next 5 years and has the full support of BIDS management to focus on PRCPB. In the event of his non-availability because of unavoidable problems (eg ill health) BIDS would arrange for a temporary replacement senior researcher (in discussion with CPRC and DFID).
2. Availability of Core Researchers and high quality researchers for commissioned work.	2. Initial discussions with the core team and potential 'commissioned' researchers has confirmed their commitment to PRCPB activity. PRCPB is designed in a way that will make involvement with it attractive for researchers and advocates in Bangladesh.
3. Political and environmental problems in Bangladesh	3. The research team is experienced in dealing with these. They cannot be avoided, but research will be designed to minimize their negative effects. At the same time, these 'risks' will be a central focus for PRCPB research.
4. Inflation and currency fluctuations	4. In the event of these being problematic PRCPB and CPRC would negotiate with DFID for a budget supplement and/or modifications to the planned research.

3. KEY STAFF, EXPERTISE AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Staff	Institution	Expertise	Time on Programme Activities	CPR Activities
Core Programme Team:				
Binayak Sen	BIDS	Senior Research Fellow. Analysis of poverty, income distribution, human development, political economy of growth, social capital and gender analysis	67%	PRCPB Director, principal author, conceptual/ methodological issues, poverty measurement and dynamics, anti-poverty policy, sub-regional issues
David Hulme	IDPM/Univ. of Manchester	Professor of Development Studies. Analysis of rural poverty, poverty reduction policies, civil society and public sector service delivery	5%	Theoretical issues and cross-disciplinary perspective
Zulfiqar Ali	BIDS	Research Associate. Analysis of household consumption, statistical techniques, analysis of poverty and human development	50%	Statistical analysis and measurement
Quazi Shahabuddin	BIDS	Research Director. Food security, agricultural policy, risk and uncertainty	15%	Food security, econometric modeling, remote and ecologically vulnerable areas
Omar Haider Chowdhury	BIDS	Research Director. Nutrition, public policy and macro fiscal issues	15%	Nutrition, safety net, public policy
Sharifa Begum	BIDS	Senior Research Fellow. Health and population studies	15%	Health and demography
Computer Programmer			100%	
Research Officer			100%	
Admin. Support Personnel			100%	
GIS Programmer	IRRI/ Dhaka Office		100%	Spatial poverty maps