



# IMPLEMENTATION OF 4 MILLION SOLAR HOME SYSTEMS IN BANGLADESH

**CASE STUDY/INSIGHT**

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This World Bank and other donor funded project aimed to scale up Solar Home System (SHS) market in the off-grid and rural areas of Bangladesh. Around 4 million SHSs were installed under this program. Also, 5 million energy efficient LEDs/CFLs were distributed to the households nation-wide. The project was successful due to its unique sales and performance linked incentive mechanism involving IDCOL, Grameen Shakti, other private sector units, NGO participation, government ministries, government departments, international donors and foreign embassies, academic and financial institutions. Fund for the incentives was partly generated from sale of carbon credits.

Our team assisted in streamlining the operations in data management, monitoring, reporting, verification, etc. Capacity building for various stakeholders on the above operations and addressing the challenges in obtaining carbon credits were also carried out.

Our team travelled throughout Bangladesh covering districts such as B.Barua, Barisal, Bogra, Chittagong, Comilla, Cox's Bazar, Dhaka, Faridpur, Dinajpur, Gazipur, Gopalganj, Hobiganj, Jamalpur, Jessore, Khulna, Kishoreganj, Laxmipur, M.Bazar, Madaripur, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Mymensingh, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Natore, Rajbari, Rajshahi, Serajganj, Shariatpur, Sherpur, Sylhet, Tangail, etc. for various activities of the project.

This is one of the most successful rural electrification projects in the world. Delegates from Africa and other parts of the world visited Bangladesh to study the possibility of replicating this project and its methodology in their respective countries. UN Secretary General, Mr. António Guterres visited a few project sites.



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Following are the key benefits of the projects:

- Women entrepreneurship development for SHS component businesses
- Technical and knowledge skill enhancement for women to work in SHS enterprises
- Improved children education in rural areas
- Employment creation in rural areas all over the country
- Rural new business opportunities
- Rural small business development
- Additional safety in the night time
- Improved quality of life
- Pride of ownership of SHSs
- Access to entertainment programmes and information to families in the rural areas through solar television sets

