



April 2021 (Issue No. 7)

Project for Capacity Development of City Corporations in Bangladesh
Local Government Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives
 Project Office: National Institute of Local Government (NILG) (Level 2), 29 Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagor, Dhaka-1207

C4C Overview: 4 Pillars (Outputs)

Output 1: Strategy for Governance Improvement of CCs • Legal Instruments, Guidelines • Training Plan	Output 2: Administrative Improvement in the CCs • Work process improvement • Citizen engagement • Annual Reporting • Regulations • Tax & budget management • Training management	Output 3: Holding Tax Management • Manual, Trainings Output 4: Budget Management • Manual, Trainings, Financial Projections
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Seminars: “Beyond Covid-19: City Corporation (Local Government) Fiscal Space” (March 2021)



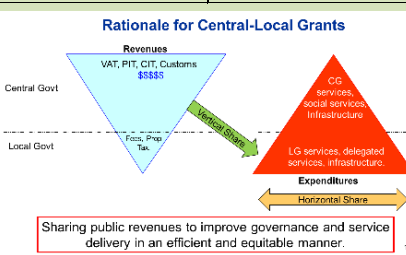
Speech by Hon. Minister, MoLGRD&C



Speech by Senior Secretary, LGD



Lecture by Professor Roy Kelly, Duke University, USA



Speech by Chief Representative, JICA Bangladesh Office



Discussions with Officials



LGD & JICA C4C Team

LGD with support from C4C organized seminars “Beyond Covid-19: City Corporation (Local Government) Fiscal Space” on 21 and 28 March 2021. A total of about 90 government officials and officials & representatives of 12 CCs took part in the two-day events in Dhaka connected with Prof. Roy Kelly of Duke University in the US, JICA officials & experts in Japan and development partners. The CCs have been experiencing revenue decline affected by the covid pandemic. The seminars reviewed the CC’s revenues, current revenue systems and issues, based on which Prof. Kelly delivered lectures on theoretical frameworks on local government fiscal space, international experiences and opportunities for the CCs’ revenue enhancement in Bangladesh. “Turn the covid challenges into opportunities by adopting formula-based grant structures for local governments, modernizing property tax and other own source revenue systems, cost recovery and private finance,” said Prof. Kelly. Mr. Md. Tazul Islam, the LGRD&C Minister, highlighted the government’s efforts for proper use of resources and commitment to creating an enabling environment for citizens to pay taxes and fees. Mr. Helal Uddin Ahmed, the LGD Senior Secretary, underscored the importance of citizen participation in the CC’s governance including revenue enhancement. Mr. Yuho Hayakawa, the JICA Chief Representative, said, “The roles of local governments particularly in urban areas are more important than ever in Bangladesh. LGD’s continued leadership in implementing the Strategy for Governance Improvement of City Corporations 2030 will be crucial and highly appreciated.”

Activities in Parallel

Output 1: Legal Refresher Workshops in 4 CCs



Legal Refresher Workshop in CuCC (November 2020)

Legal refresher workshops were held in GCC, RpCC, CuCC and NCC in Oct. – Dec. 2020. Councillors and senior officials took part in the event in each CC connected on zoom with Dhaka and Japan. Using the “Handbook on Statutory Framework for City Corporations” adopted by LGD, the councillors were guided on their responsibilities and authorities for framing legal instruments at CC level. The 4 CCs have deliberated on the Regulations on Standing Committee and Citizen Feedback & Grievance Redress, following model regulations prepared by LGD through C4C based on the procedure set out in the City Corporation Act 2009. 3 CCs have adopted the regulations, which are now with LGD for vetting and gazetting.



General Meeting for Regulations Approval in RpCC (December 2020)

Output 2: Administrative Improvement (AI)



Ward Level Coordination Committee in CuCC (March 2021)

AI activities that had been halted due to the covid pandemic were rebooted with an online review & planning workshop held in each CC during Sept. – Dec. 2020. Despite setbacks in some of the activities, the 4 CCs had largely achieved the targets set in the action plans. The ward councillors who had been leading the AI activities immediately took initiatives for coping with the pandemic in their areas, which was shared as positive impacts of the AI. They have also contributed to disseminating covid prevention leaflets produced by the JICA “Clean Dhaka” technical cooperation project. An award ceremony for school essay contest on “Safe Food for All: Responsibilities of Students” took place in RpCC after postponement since March. Though it was held in a smaller scale in observance of covid prevention measures, ten top award-winning students were invited to the city hall and received prizes and certificates from the Honourable Mayor.



Work Improvement Team (WIT) Meeting in NCC (March 2021)



Clean Dhaka Leaflet Dissemination in RpCC (March 2021)



Award Ceremony for School Essay Contest in RpCC (Nov.2020)

Outputs 3 & 4: Holding Tax & Budget Management



Financial Statements of the 4 CCs in compliance with the CC Act

The 4 CCs have completed annual financial statements for FY 2019/20. The forms updated by LGD through C4C have enabled the CCs to comply with the City Corporation Act 2009 that says the CC prepare an annual statement of accounts by 31 December after the closing of every financial year. The 4 CCs are also guided to prepare budget execution and ward-wise holding tax collection reports every month and quarter using related forms.



Standing Committee Meeting in NCC (February 2021)

With support from C4C, the standing committees on finance and taxation at NCC, RpCC and CuCC have reviewed (i) budget execution vis-à-vis the original budget and (ii) holding tax collection vis-à-vis the projected amount (demand) in each ward up to the 2nd quarter of FY 2020/21. Thanks to these evidence-generating reports, the councillors are more alert on the CC’s budget implementation and holding tax collection in their respective wards.

Upcoming Events & Tasks

- 5th PFM Training
- AI Review Workshop
- SGICC 2nd SC Meeting
- JCC Meeting
- C4C Completion Workshop