

URBAN POVERTY PROFILE

NARAYANGANJ CITY CORPORATION

SEPTEMBER 2018

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1. INTRODUCTION

In 2018, Bangladesh outgrew its status as a Low-Income Country and was recognized as a Middle-Income Country. This was a significant moment in the course of Bangladesh's social and economic development, highlighting the important transformations that are lifting millions from poverty.

But in tandem with the country's impressive economic progress, challenges have emerged, such as rapid urbanization and growing inequality — as well as urban poverty. Millions of poor Bangladeshis are migrating to cities, overwhelming scarce public services and creating slums. In recognition of these challenges, the Government of Bangladesh is introducing new policies and practices that will improve living conditions for the poor, build resilience, ensure more secure settlements, and enhance livelihoods and wellbeing.

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Government of Bangladesh are partnering to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the nation's development plans and to achieve the country's set targets. By focusing attention on reducing urban poverty, investments in infrastructure and basic services can be delivered in high-density areas to maximize impact for large numbers of people. Such a focus will help lift millions out of poverty, setting them on the path to achieving healthier, more productive, and safer lives. It will also lead to gains for the country as a whole, such as a stronger and more qualified workforce, and longer overall life expectancy.

The UNDP and Government of Bangladesh are using the five-year National Urban Poverty Reduction Programme (NUPRP) as the main vehicle to address these challenges. The programme seeks to directly improve the lives of 4 million urban poor people, but also to introduce a whole range of progressive pro-poor policies to local governments in urban areas across the country.

The SDGs that are most relevant to the NUPRP are:



APPROACHING POVERTY AT THE CITY LEVEL

Cities are diverse places; not only can they be different from one another, but different kinds of environments and places can exist in a single city. In the same way, there are many different kinds of urban poverty. Instead of thinking of poverty in terms of isolated cases, where the focus is on the characteristics of individual communities, NUPRP approaches poverty reduction from a city-scale perspective.

Thinking at the city scale allows stakeholders to recognize the complexity of and relationships between the different conditions poor people face, as well as larger-scale geographic, economic, environmental, and governance issues that are unique to each city. It also allows decision-makers to review overall conditions and respond by prioritizing specific locations where communities are most deprived, or where poverty is most highly concentrated. By reviewing and discussing poverty at the city scale, local governments can develop more effective interventions and policies.

RAISING STAKEHOLDERS' AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING

Urban poverty is not a simple issue. In fact, due to the multiplicity of causes, conditions, and impacts of urban poverty, it is a very complex one. There are also no quick-fix solutions. It is important that problems are discussed and resolved by local governments together with stakeholders, including urban poor communities themselves. But to do so effectively, all parties to these discussions must understand the issues comprehensively. NUPRP believes that effective poverty reduction efforts begin with a thorough understanding and assessment of poverty in cities, and that local stakeholders should have access to resources that can inform that understanding.

NUPRP'S PROCESS FOR REDUCING POVERTY



THE URBAN POVERTY PROFILE

The Urban Poverty Profile (UPP) is a short and accessible document that presents data and maps about poverty conditions in cities. It focuses on the conditions of poor settlements in towns and cities, but steps back to look at them from a city-scale perspective. By presenting information in a way that helps compare conditions across the whole city, aggregating comparable information at the ward-level, and focusing on a few essential issues — infrastructure, housing and land tenure, and livelihoods and wellbeing — the UPP intends to provide a basic introduction to a city's poverty conditions. It will give all city stakeholders access to a standard set of information that enriches and qualifies discussion, and leads to more informed and inclusive decision-making.

LEADING CHANGE THROUGH POVERTY REDUCTION

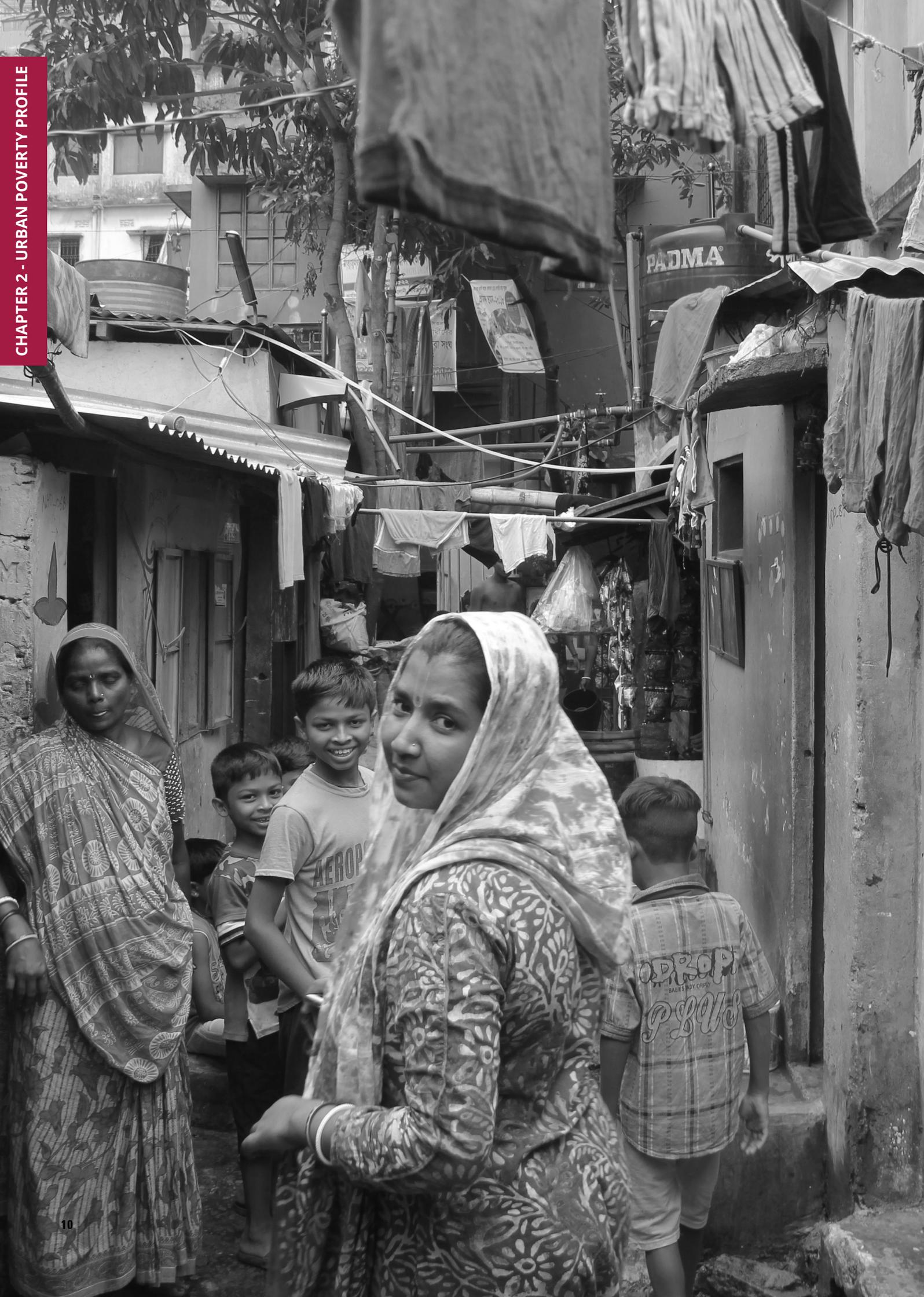
Poverty reduction efforts do not stop with better understanding and discussion. In fact, that's just where they begin. The UPP is intended to provide evidence to help develop targeted poverty reduction strategies; factual evidence to help design pro-poor policies, plans and budgets; and to serve as an advocacy tool to help community leaders raise awareness and hold governments accountable to their commitments to bring about real change.



Community residents had worked together, with resources and the support of Local Government, can significantly improve conditions in urban poor communities.



Community poor women are working for their livelihood for improving the quality of life of their life standard.



2. THE URBAN POVERTY PROFILE

URBAN POVERTY

Households in towns and cities across Bangladesh struggle against challenging conditions to elevate themselves from poverty. They collect savings in small groups to give each other loans, send their children to schools, operate small businesses, and steadily improve their homes to establish secure and safe places to live. In many communities, households are succeeding in this struggle. But poverty affects millions in Bangladesh, and efforts to lift people from it require more than isolated success stories. Poverty reduction requires large-scale coordinated initiatives, effective policies, and the involvement of poor communities.

Elevating millions from poverty means communities need to be empowered, and significant barriers need to be removed. Networks of communities should mobilize, organize, and engage with city governments. In turn, city government can show strength and leadership by working with the poor to bring about change. Furthermore, real change also requires the active involvement of the national government, to lead, provide guidance, and offer incentives.

Partnerships and collaboration are essential to creating workable and effective pro-poor policies. Poor communities need secure land tenure agreements, connection to water and electricity networks, access to jobs in higher paying fields, and official recognition of their emerging organizations. They cannot shoulder these steps alone. The urgency to collaborate is even more acute given scarce resources and the challenging complexity of resolving urban poverty. Such issues extend beyond any poor settlement or city boundary.

THE URBAN POVERTY PROFILE

The Urban Poverty Profile (UPP) focuses on parts of the city that are unmarked, unmapped, and largely unknown. Poor settlements can occupy vast areas of cities, and house sizeable numbers of its population, but little is officially known about them. As a result, they benefit from few of the same services and conditions that more developed areas have. This city-scale poverty analysis fills in some of the important knowledge gaps about urban poor settlements. In doing so, it raises awareness of what services they lack, what conditions they face, and informs planning and decision-making about their needs. Only by knowing the city is it possible to develop it adequately.

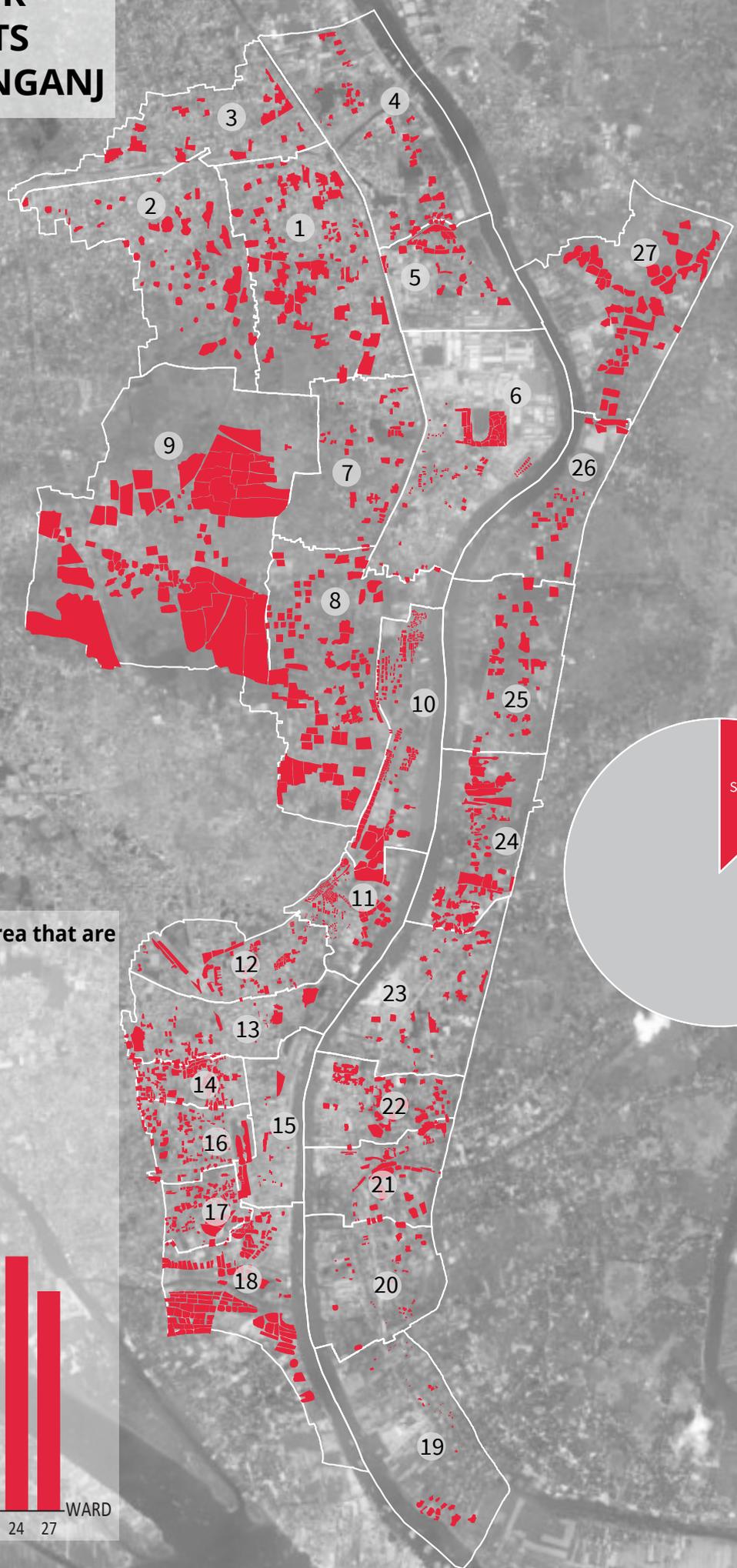
This UPP has been created as an information resource for urban poor community organizations and local government officials. It is dedicated to three things:

- Providing a city-scale guide that explains and demystifies urban poverty,
- Informing discussions about planning for the city's poor settlements, and
- Supporting communities to identify and advocate for necessary actions.

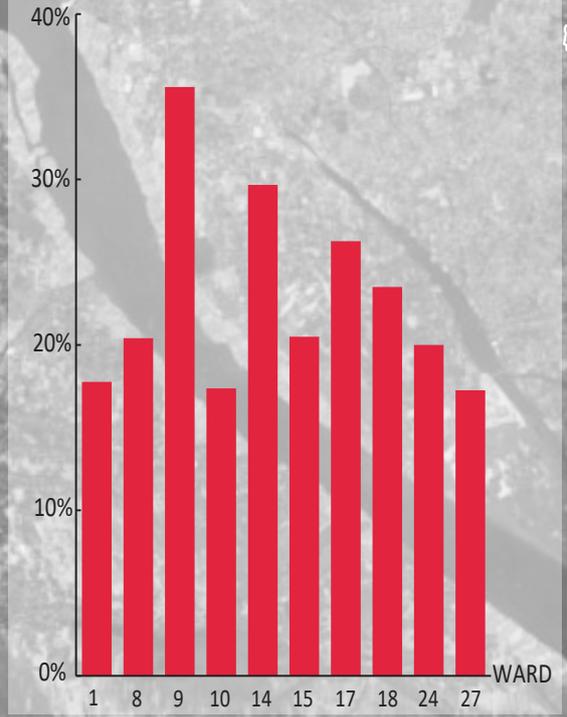
For local governments the UPP will help officials understand and contextualize the needs of the poor, and locate where problems are most acute. For pro-poor community organizations, it will provide a learning resource about urban poverty, and support advocacy efforts to focus the attention of the government and others on the development of poor communities.

The UPP begins with a city-scale overview of poverty, including city-level maps, data, and a description of the different types of poor settlements. The following chapters focus on infrastructure and services, housing and land tenure, and livelihoods and wellbeing. Critical issues are highlighted through maps, data, and recommended actions. The UPP concludes with a set of recommendations for city government and the CDC Federation to ensure the issues raised are addressed in policies, plans, and budgets, and result in positive change for the poor.

URBAN POOR SETTLEMENTS IN NARAYANGANJ



Top 10 Wards in terms of % Area that are Poor Settlements



3. POVERTY IN NARAYANGANJ

Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC) is one of the major city corporations of Dhaka Division and Bangladesh. NCC was formed in May 2011, and is comprised of the former paurashava Narayanganj, Siddirganj and Kadam Rasul. The city is positioned along both banks of the Shitolokha River in Western Bengal. NCC is approximately 30 km from Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. The city is historically known for its jute production. Today, NCC is one of the major industrial cities, with an industrial working river and important river ports. The city is popularly known as the “Dandee of Bangladesh.”

Narayanganj’s economy is largely based on its industrial strength, particularly the garment industry. Factory labor, import and export business, the shipyard brickfield, and more, provide additional income for the city’s population. The small and medium industries of cotton are increasing day-by-day, adding urban employment opportunities. The rural economy of Narayanganj is agriculture. According to Bangladesh Bank, the city is ranked third in the nation in terms of gross national income (GNI) and possession of wealth.

According to the 2011 Census, the city corporation has a population of 709,381 and a density of 60.8 persons per acre (BBS 2011). The city is growing rapidly with an annual growth rate of 4.05% (Urbanization and Migration in Bangladesh, 2016). The rapid growth rate can be attributed to the city’s unique industrial sector. The growing economy is attracting migrants from other areas. Indeed, between 2001 and 2011, Narayanganj District experienced a 175.55 net migration rate. This rate was the third highest in the country, behind only Gazipur and Dhaka (Urbanization and Migration in Bangladesh, 2016).

NARAYANGANJ PROFILE

	WITHIN POOR SETTLEMENTS [1]	CITY CORPORATION [2]	DISTRICT [3]	NATIONAL [4]	Dhaka
Household	57,980	165,637	675,652	32,173,630	
Population	254,825	709,381	2948,217	149,772,364	
Area	6.78 km ²	46.68 km ²	684.35 km ²	147,570 km ²	
Growth rate		4.05	3.05	1.37	
Population density	37,585 /km ²	15,197 /km ²	4,308 /km ²	1,106 /km ²	
Literacy rate		65.9%	57.1%	51.8%	

[1]Source: Urban Poor Settlement Mapping 2017 [2] [3] [4] Source: BBS 2011

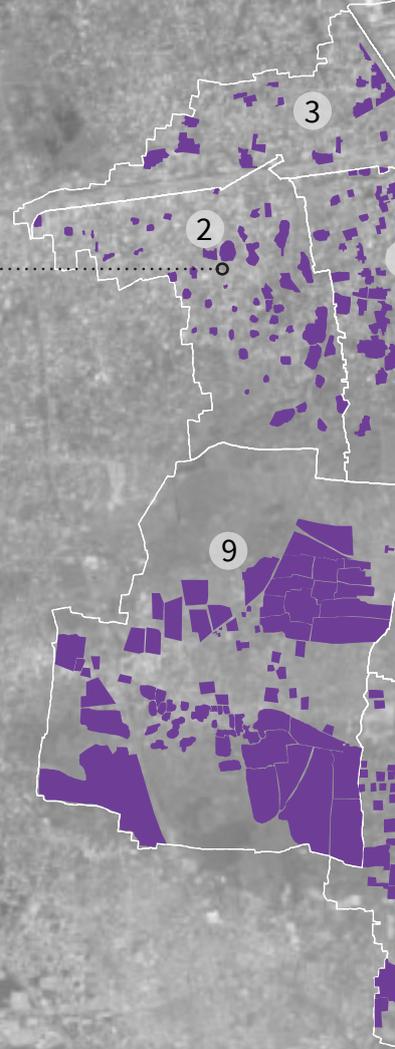
POVERTY AND POOR SETTLEMENTS

Poor settlements are widespread across the entire city. A 2017 survey revealed there are 1884 poor settlements in NCC. The survey was conducted by residents, Ward Counselors and city government officials. Participants identified the existence of inadequate housing, insecure land tenure, and low levels of access to basic services. Inadequate access to basic services can lead to poor drainage, high levels of unemployment, drug addiction, poor sanitation, and low levels of income. Poor settlements are not just isolated cases in a few wards, they exist in each of the city’s 27 wards.

Poor settlements occupy 15% of the city’s pre-2011 nine wards area (12.69 km²), and a sixth of the total area (46.68 km²). It is estimated that the population of these communities is 254,825, approximately 36% of the NCC’s population. Up until now, the extent of the city occupied by informal settlements, and the size of the poor population, has not been recognized. This assessment shows the considerable scale of the issue. Addressing the vast scale of urban poverty, by extending basic services, improving housing, and reducing social vulnerability, requires city-level policy solutions and significant public investment.

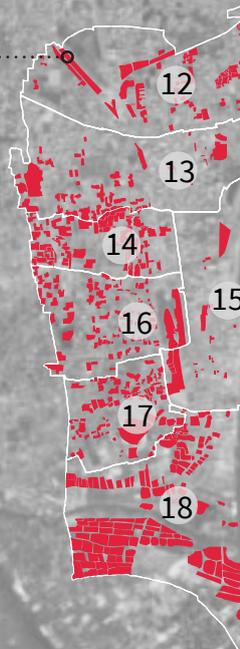
NORTHWEST, MEDIUM DENSITY POOR SETTLEMENTS ALONG UPLANDS

The poor settlements to the northwest of the city are vulnerable to insecure land tenure due to industrial zoned areas. Moreover, the communities face water, drainage issues and a lack of access roads.



DENSELY CONCENTRATED POOR SETTLEMENTS IN THE CITY CENTER

Communities in the city center have access to medium quality infrastructure services. The communities are dense and face issues with drainage and sanitation.





SCATTERED LOW DENSITY POOR SETTLEMENT ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE RIVER BANK

The poor settlement communities along the east side of the river, especially wards 25, 26 and 27, have limited access to infrastructure and services as they are further away from the city center. Due to the scattered distribution of these poor settlements, it is often difficult for the local government to provide adequate roads and drainage to these communities.



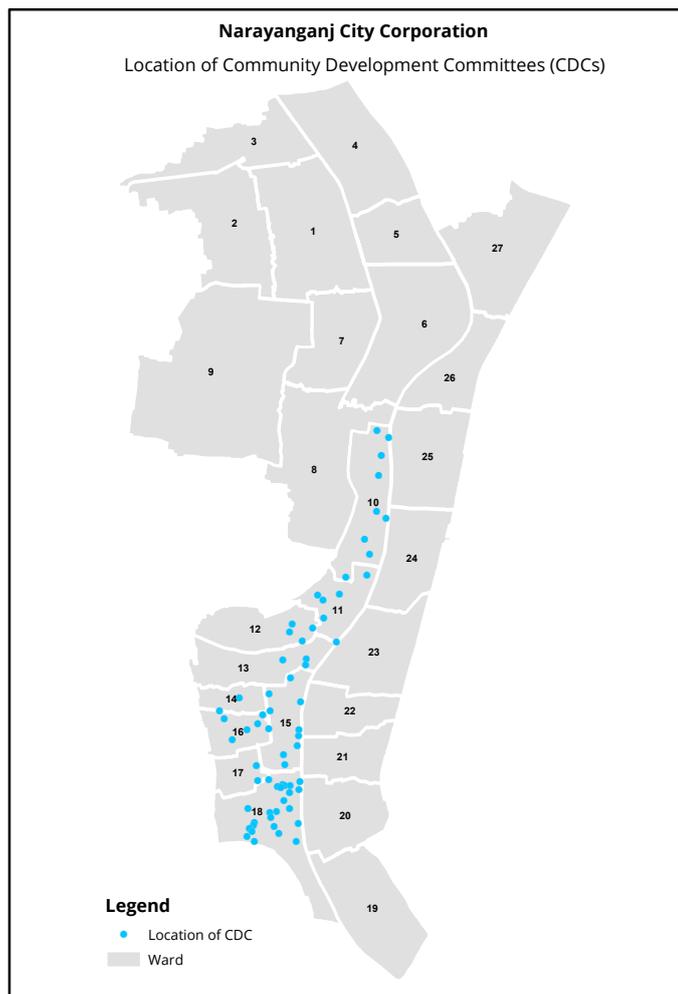
COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Community-based and citywide organizations are working to promote the rights of poor people and the conditions of poor settlements. The organizations employ advocacy planning strategies to bring necessary services. The City Corporation has approximately 61 Community Development Committees (CDCs). More than 80% of the CDCs are led by women who pay an active and critical leadership role in their communities in resolving community issues.

Across Bangladesh, many CDCs support grass-roots, self-organized and self-managed savings and credit groups. These groups promote household savings, and help increase access to small loans. Through them, the poor are empowered to participate in the economic growth of the city. In NCC self-organized and self-managed savings and credit groups have not yet been created.

At the city level, the CDC Federation was formed in the 2014. The federation is the representative organization of all the CDCs. It advocates on behalf of poor communities to the Mayor and local government, voicing their needs and participating in the planning and monitoring of pro-poor projects and policies.

Community organizations work independently and in collaboration with the municipality to bring about necessary changes to their communities. CDCs engage in infrastructure projects, and have been involved with installing street lights, community latrines, drain slabs, footpaths, tube-wells, and water reservoirs in NCC. Furthermore, they are engaged in providing savings-credit, health care and grants to students for education. Given the enormous scale of poverty across the city, it is important that community organizations understand, and are familiar with the complexity of poverty. Moreover, it is essential that they be consulted when projects and policies are designed and implemented.



Community Development Committees (CDCs) are formed in 9 out of 27 Wards in Narayanganj City Corporation

VISION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

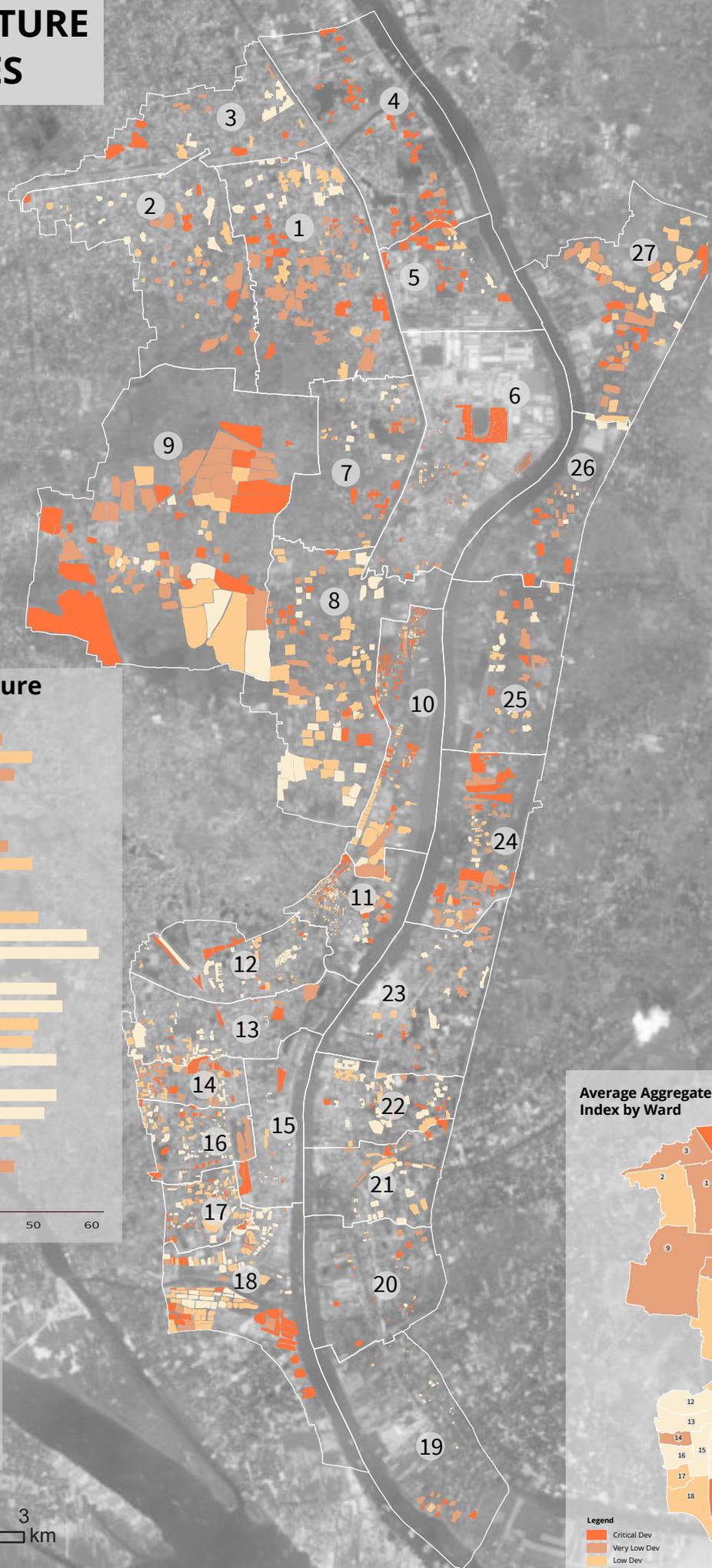
The Mayor of Narayanganj City Corporation has a desire to create an Integrated Concept Vision Plan that would capture and preserve the city's multi-faceted historic, industrial and neighborhood character. The document would explore the tremendous potential of existing water bodies to become an active public waterfront. Moreover, the City aims to build planned infrastructure and undertake targeted development. These strategies, alongside other policies, strive to achieve poverty alleviation and enhance living standards. The government envisions a cleaner, modern, and digital city.

In June 2017, a multi-stakeholder, city-level workshop was held to discuss the city's priority issues relating to poverty. Participants included the Mayor, government officials, Ward Counselors, and representatives of poor communities. The issues identified were roads, drains, solid waste, water supply, employment, income, social problems, housing, land tenure and eviction. In addition, data about poor settlements was discussed and validated by participants, resulting in the creation of the City Poverty Index (see below) which helps to indicate concentrations of poverty in the city.

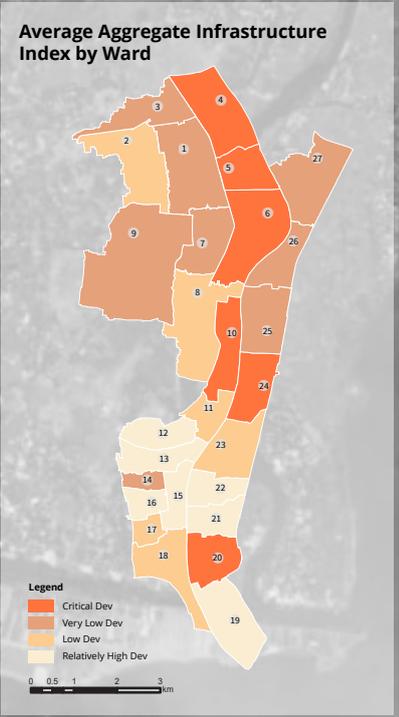
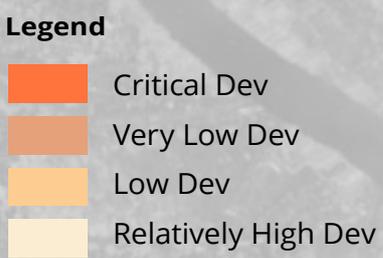


Priority issues identified by the city authority through discuss with the stakeholder

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES



Aggregate Infrastructure Levels by Ward



4. INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES

Poverty is caused in part by insufficient, or degraded, infrastructure. The poor conditions of infrastructure lead households to suffer from insecure conditions, and prevents them from making investments in their homes and communities and enjoying better living standards. Poor settlements may experience frequent flooding and waterlogging, and lack adequate access to safe drinking water sanitation facilities, jobs, markets, and health facilities. Without certain key infrastructure, the poor are significantly disadvantaged and at risk.

Strategic improvements to infrastructure can help facilitate other improvements and significantly increase living standards. For example, making pathways safer helps residents to better access schools and jobs. In turn, this can lead to higher incomes for their households. Likewise, pathway infrastructure also supports installation of drainage channels; this leads to a reduction in waterlogging, and improves health conditions.

ROADS AND PATHWAYS

An improved road network can increase access to jobs, education and other facilities. Often the drainage and road networks come hand in hand, and create a base to provide water and drainage to the whole community.



DRAINAGE

A well-connected and extensive drainage network is needed to remove water that collects in pools (waterlogging). It is not enough that there are drains, these drains have to be connected to drainage networks outside the community. If waterlogging persists residents can fall ill to diseases such as malaria, dengue, and Chikungunya.



WATER SUPPLY

Due to a lack of land ownership, poor settlements are not able to access the city's water supply. This means residents rely on illegal connections that can be precarious and expensive. Adequate water supply supports better health and hygiene by encouraging the use of latrines.



SANITATION

Sanitation facilities, such as latrines, help to remove harmful bacteria and protect households from illness and public health epidemics. It is important that they are accessible and adequately maintained, meaning fecal sludge is removed regularly.



KEY INFRASTRUCTURE AND BASIC SERVICES ISSUES IN NARAYANGANJ

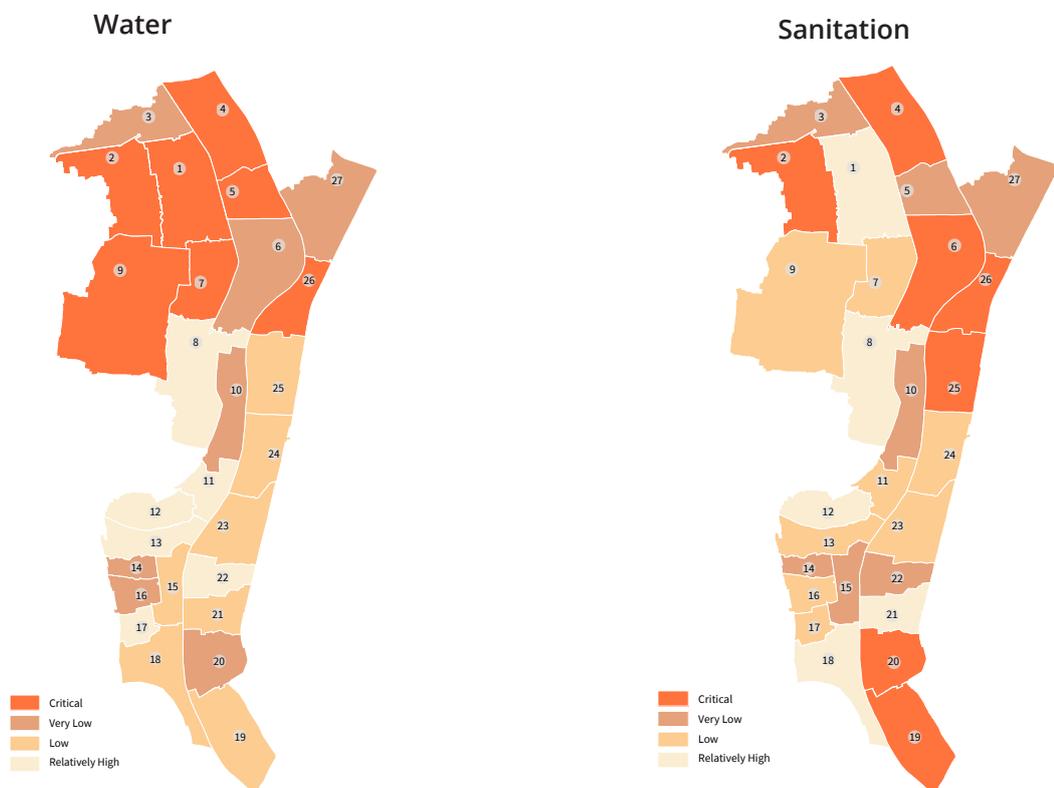
Infrastructure across the city is in poor condition due to either a lack of service or low quality. Among the various indicators of infrastructure, drainage, waste and roads are the biggest concerns for the poor settlements. The aggregated Infrastructure Index shows poor settlements on the western riverbank to the north of the city (wards 4, 5, 6, and 10), and on the eastern riverbank to the south and central (wards 20 and 24) have the least infrastructure and services.

WATER SUPPLY

About 59% of poor settlement households do not have access to the water supply. Poor settlements on the north side (wards 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 9), and east side along the river bank (wards 20, 26 and 27) have critically low access. Most of these wards are located far from the city center, making access more difficult. Access to piped water decreases the chances of becoming infected by waterborne disease.

SANITATION

Approximately 50% of poor settlement households lack sanitation facilities. Poor settlements on the north (wards 2, 4 and 6) and east (wards 25 and 26) along the river bank, and ward 20 and 19 in the south, do not have solid waste collection mechanism. Consequently, there is pollution and serious health risks. Wards 25 and 26 are far away from the city center, therefore these wards do not get solid waste collection service. Many households living on these lands are unwilling to setup sanitary toilets due to legal issues.



ROADS AND PATHWAYS

Approximately 73% households in poor settlements have poor or very poor access to roads and pathways. In the north-west (wards 4, 6, 7, 9 and 10) and on the eastern riverbank (wards 25 and 24), the roads are narrow and very poorly maintained. Wards 24 and 25 are located on the periphery, away from the city center. As such, it is more difficult for the government to provide these communities with quality road networks.

DRAINAGE

Approximately 77% of poor settlements in NCC do not have drainage systems. Due to poor quality drainage, the wards along the river banks on the east side (wards 23, 24, 25, 26, and 27) and wards 7, 8 and 9 have low capacity to handle the monsoon period. As a result, these wards flood or experience water-log regularly. River bank erosion is another critical issue. The primary reasons behind water-logging and flooding are low capacity drainage, inadequate numbers of sluice gates, and a lack of connectivity.

Key Issues	Critical Problems	Location
Access roads are absent or are poorly maintained	Reduced accessibility to jobs, education and health facilities	Wards 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 24 and 25
Drainage systems lack capacity or are absent	Frequent flooding and water-logging	Wards 7, 8, 9, 23, 24, 25 and 26
Lack access to piped water supply	Reduced access to the safe drinking water	Wards 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 26
Sanitation facilities are lacking	Open defecation in drains, environmental pollution with possibility of severe health hazards	Wards 2, 4, 6, 19, 20, 25 and 26
Lack of solid waster disposal facilities	Open defecation in waste managment, environmental pollution, odour problems, and the possibility of severe health hazards	Wards 4, 5, 6, 19, 20, 24 and 25

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

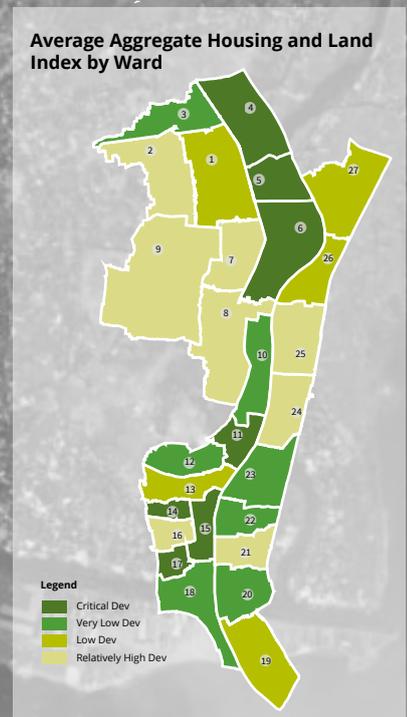
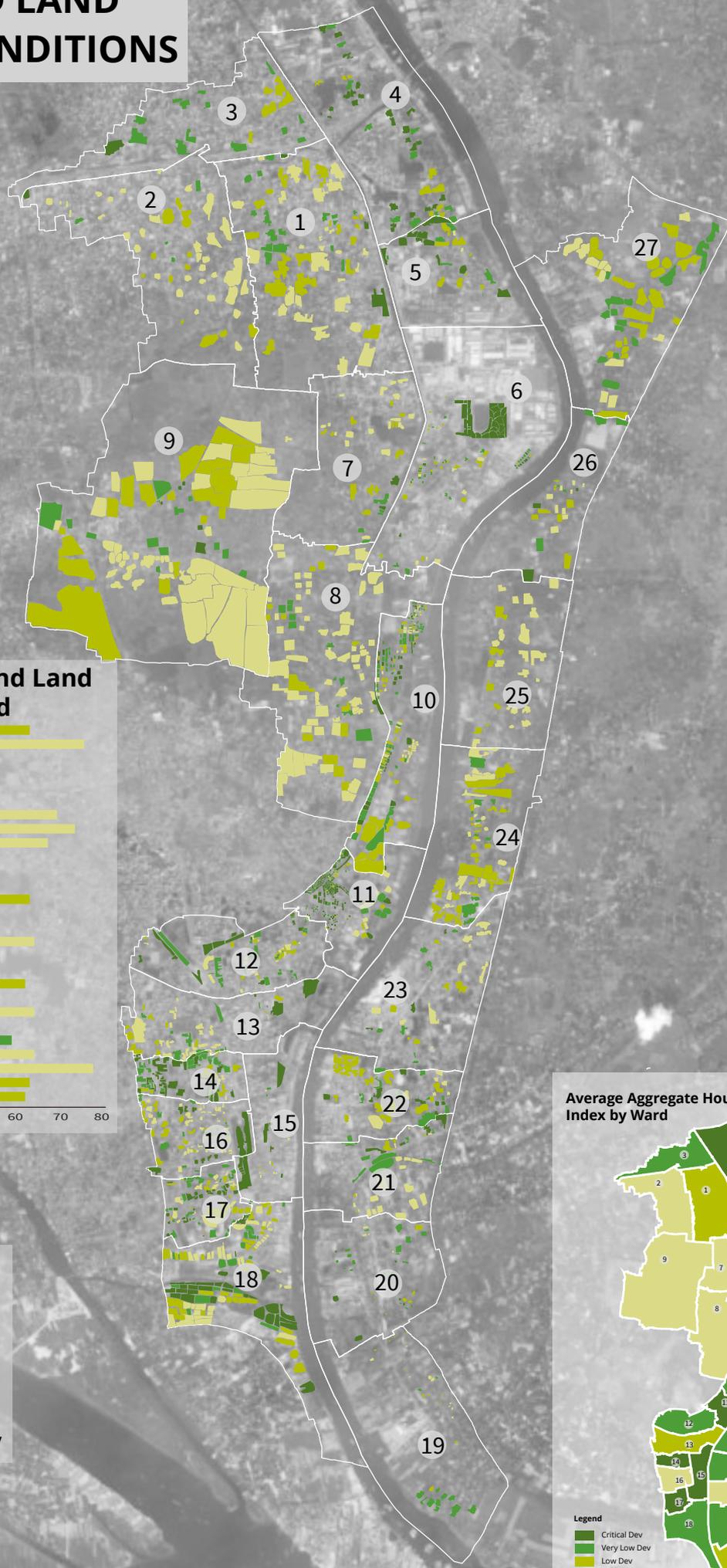
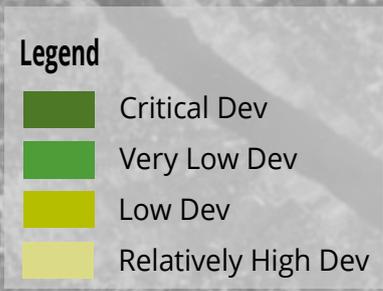
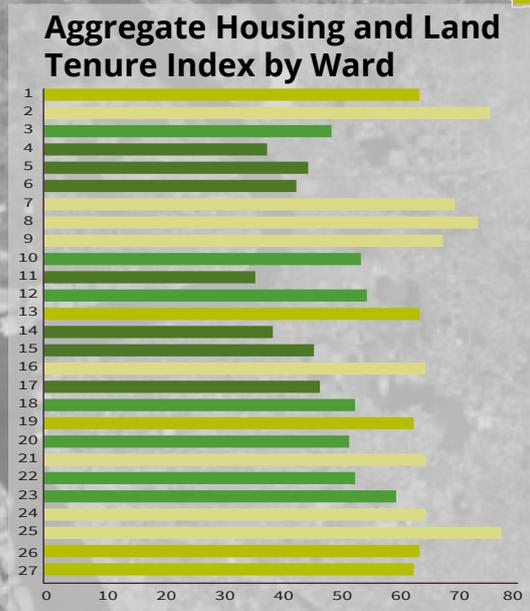
FOR THE COMMUNITY

Community-level Actions	City-level Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify, prioritize and document infrastructure needs through the CAP participatory planning process Prioritize the repair and maintenance of access roads in wards 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 24 and 25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDC Federation to take forward CAPs to local governments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize drainage systems in wards 7, 8, 9, 23, 24, 25 and 26 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare and submit a summary of CAPs for each ward to Ward Councilors to support the development of the city's annual development plan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize water supply in wards 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 26 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect water bills and give them to the Municipality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize sanitation in wards 2, 4, 6, 19, 20, 25 and 26 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize solid waste disposal facilities wards 4, 5, 6, 19, 20, 24 and 25 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the access for women, the disabled, and the elderly, in the planning and construction of community infrastructure 	

FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community-level Actions	City-level Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ward Councillors advise communities to align their needs with the city's vision and priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include road and pathway maintenance and construction in the Annual Development Plan, and budget as a priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ward Councillors mobilize community to participate in CAP workshops and attend the workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayor to encourage Ward Councilors to be present at CAP workshops and ensure inclusive participation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ward Councillors endorse CAPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a partnership between the Federation and Narayananj WASA to ensure the poor have access to water

HOUSE AND LAND TENURE CONDITIONS

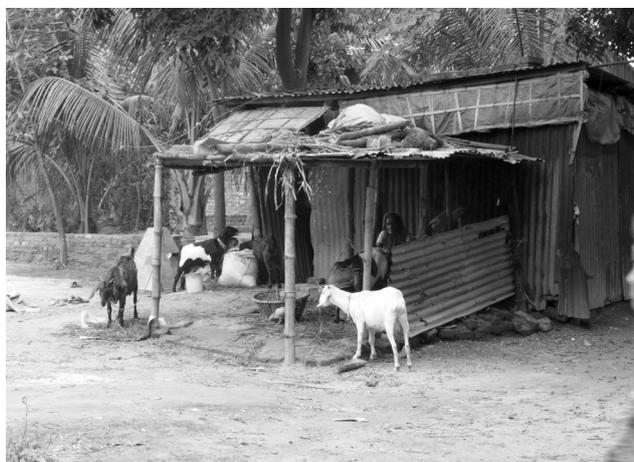


5. HOUSING AND LAND TENURE

A home is perhaps the single most valuable asset for a household. For poor households, a home can transform their lives, and elevate a family from poverty. By providing a roof, sturdy walls, hygienic conditions, and a secure environment, a family has a platform upon which to educate children, start a business, or accumulate savings. Houses can be built progressively, meaning they can be improved over time as savings permit, and transformed into valuable assets. However, when houses are located on insecure land, in dangerous places, where eviction is a possibility, people cannot improve their housing situation. Thus, housing and land tenure are critical issues for the poor.

SECURE LAND TENURE

Poor communities often occupy land that is not theirs, in fact one of the qualifying criteria for being a poor settlement is that they don't have legal tenure. Land tenure refers to the legal status of the land. The land can either be public or private, and usually it is occupied illegally. If the land is public, a variation of an occupancy arrangement, where the community is permitted to remain for an agreed upon period of time, is need for the land to be considered secure. If it is private, there is usually a rental agreement. However, landowners may decide to change their minds and sell the land. As such, occupations on private land can be more precarious.



ADEQUATE HOUSING

The quality of housing materials, construction quality, and the size of a housing unit, contribute to the quality of housing. Its location is also important; it should be located in a safe and secure environment. Housing for the poor usually starts very modestly, but by building part by part, the structures can be improved and grow over time.

If households in poor communities are given some degree of certainty concerning their housing tenure then they would be able to invest over time to improve not just their homes, but their communities too. Facilitating access to housing finance, increasing household income, and providing more secure land tenure arrangements, are all ways to improve the quality of housing. This is imperative because improvements in housing quality have a large impact on the living standards of the poor.



KEY HOUSING AND LAND TENURE ISSUES IN NARAYANGANJ

Poor households are mostly temporary structures. The housing and land tenure status is poor in wards 4, 5, 6, 11, 14, 15 and 17. Many of these households are located on government owned lands, and along the river side. The river side communities are at high risk of river bank erosion, as well as potential the threat of eviction.

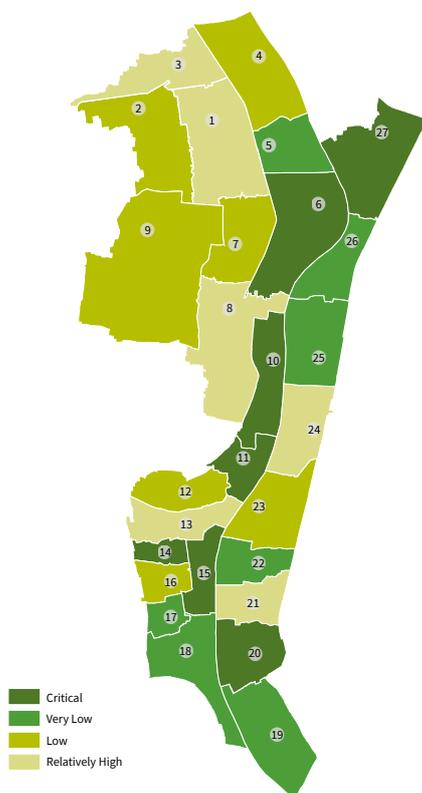
LAND TENURE

Households that have no land tenure security are the most vulnerable as they are at constant risk of eviction. Land along the river in the city center (wards 10, 11, 14, 15 and 20), and on the northern periphery along the river (wards 6 and 27) is primarily owned by the government. The residents feel insecure in their land tenure and are therefore discouraged from building permanent structures. As most of the land where squatters and renters are located is owned by the government, public interventions are easier to manage and complete.

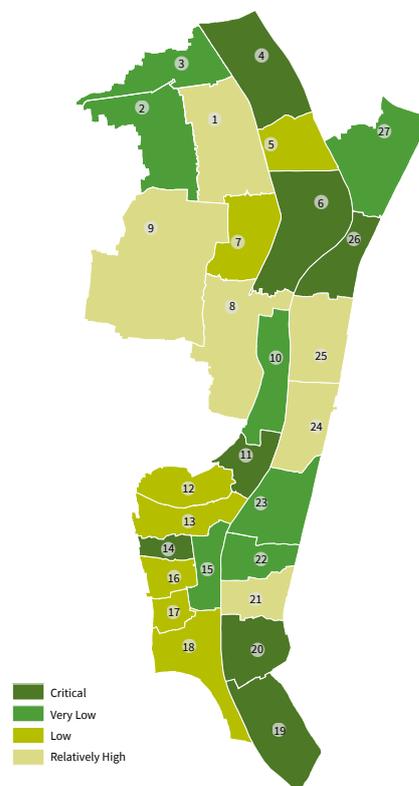
INADEQUATE HOUSING

Housing conditions are particularly poor near the city center (wards 11 and 14), along the river side in the north (wards 4 and 6), along the river side in the east (ward 26), and to the south of the city center (wards 19 and 20). These wards are densely populated and have limited access to roads. Therefore, people living in these settlements have poor job opportunities and low incomes. As a result, most houses are temporary structures. About 56% of the poor settlements have temporary housing conditions, meaning that these people are living in unhygienic and highly vulnerable structures. Most of these houses are made of flammable materials, thus there is the high risk of fire hazard. Also, congested areas can cause fires to spread quickly. Moreover, in the case of a fire incident, narrow roads would prohibit the fire service from accessing these areas to put out the fire.

Land Tenure



Housing



Key Issues	Critical Problems	Location
Inadequate Housing	Increased risk of illness and disease due to unhygienic conditions, and increased physical vulnerability	Wards 4, 6, 11, 14, 20 and 26
Insecure Land Tenure	Reduced capacity and willingness to upgrade housing and living conditions by the poor themselves. Increased risk of eviction	Wards 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 20 and 27

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

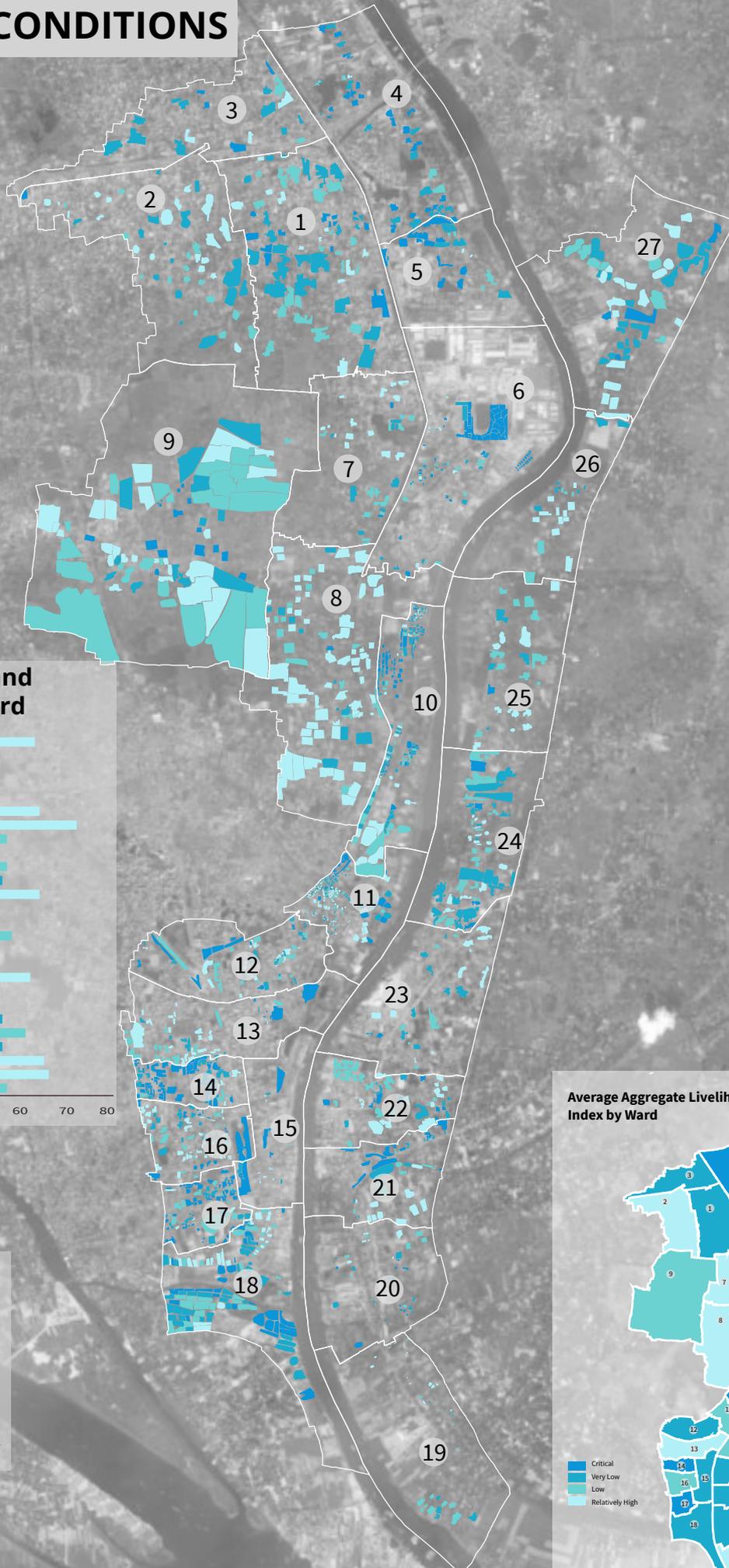
FOR THE COMMUNITY

Community-level Actions	City-level Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey housing and land tenure conditions of poor settlements in wards 4, 5, 6, 11, 14, 15 and 17 to create an inventory to share with the Federation, CHDF and Ward Councilors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish Community Housing Development Fund (CHDF) in Narayanganj
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the poor settlements in wards 6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 20 and 27 where negotiations can be initiated with the landowners for medium- to long-term lease agreements for the poor households residing on the land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take forward the community land tenure inventory initiative to government authorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request government to formally implement initiatives to secure land tenure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHDF to consolidate findings on where negotiations for medium to long-term lease agreement are suitable, and take forward to the local government
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize housing activities in wards 4, 6, 11, 14, 20 and 26 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHDF to strengthen technical, managerial and financial capacity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage in community-led housing finance efforts to raise funds for housing improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHDF to finance housing in the areas with greatest need

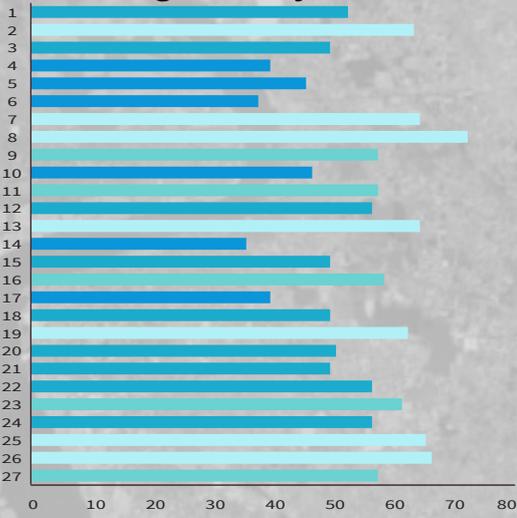
FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community-level Actions	City-level Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support land tenure and housing condition studies in critical areas, primarily focusing on wards 4, 5, 6, 11, 14, 15 and 17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a plan for poor settlements in higher risk areas to be relocated
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Councilors of the concerned wards (6, 10, 11, 14, 15, 20 and 27) to help negotiate and mediate agreements between landlords and communities to formalize leases securing land tenure for the poor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide matching funds to CHDF to support community housing finance initiatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide government land in critically poor areas to create long-term lease agreements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support CHDF to establish external linkages to attract funds to finance housing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relocate the most vulnerable settlements to sites that are more secure and also locally located 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support CHDF to build their technical, managerial and financial capacity.

LIVELIHOOD AND WELLBEING CONDITIONS



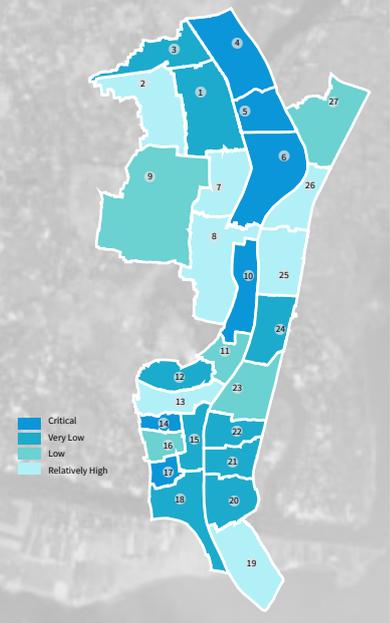
Aggregate Livelihood and Wellbeing Index by Ward



Legend

- Critical Dev
- Very Low Dev
- Low Dev
- Relatively High Dev

Average Aggregate Livelihood and Wellbeing Index by Ward



6. LIVELIHOOD & WELLBEING

Income earned by poor households provides funds for them to eat, buy clothing, send their children to school, and make improvements to their homes and communities. Income is a lifeline to progressing from poverty, establishing stability, and increasing wellbeing. Without an education or job skills, it is very difficult for the poor to advance and lift themselves. If family members can complete their studies, as well as learn useful skills, they will position themselves to be employed and able to contribute to their family income, and improve the wellbeing of the family.

Low income households are more interested in involving their children in income earning activities to support households. Due to the resulting high dropout rate, the communities are struggling to produce skilled workers. In turn, these children are growing up without the skills required to join the formal market, and are forced to work in the informal sector.

INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT

Income can be earned from jobs in the formal sector, or through informal sector employment, such as being a street vendor or a rickshaw driver. Income is usually more stable for formal jobs, such as a factory worker, but such jobs require specific job skills. Informal employment tends to be day-to-day and therefore unstable, requiring savings to provide some cushion to shocks.

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Many poor communities are faced with social problems. Problems may include crime and drugs, and can affect all residents and cause them to live in fear. Social problems are not inherent to poor communities, in fact community mobilization to raise awareness is often very effective in reducing and even getting rid of such social problems.



EDUCATION

If children are able to continue their studies and complete primary and secondary schooling, they will have a very strong educational base to gain employment and earn a living. If children are withdrawn from school to work, even temporarily, it is often very difficult for them to re-enter the education system. The dropout rate is an indicator of instable communities because their children have fewer opportunities to attain future gainful employment.

KEY LIVELIHOOD AND WELLBEING ISSUES IN NARAYANGANJ

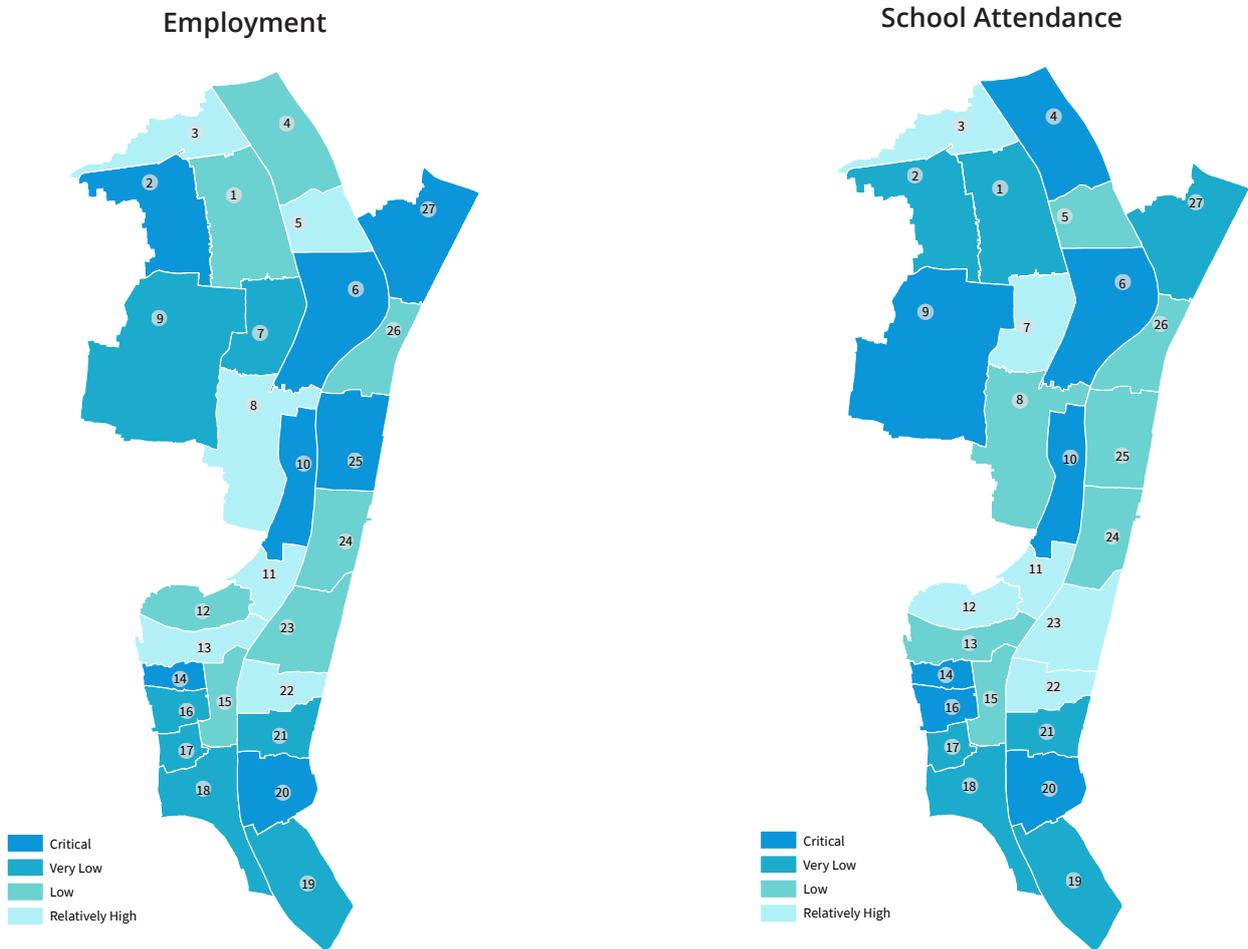
The overall condition of livelihood and wellbeing is worse in the north along the riverside (wards 4, 5, and 6) and in the center of the city (wards 10, 14 and 17).

EMPLOYMENT & INCOME

Most of the poor in Narayanganj do not have access to jobs in the industrial sector due to lack of education and training. As a result, most of them are working as day laborers. The employment situation is critical in wards 2, 6, 10, 14, 20, 25 and 27. In terms of income per household, the livelihood condition is critical in wards 1, 3, 6, 7, 15, 17 and 20.

LOW SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

If poor people in Narayanganj are unemployed or have a tenuous employment status, they are not able to send their children in school. For these reasons, there are high levels of low school attendance. Wards 4, 6, 9, 10, 14, 16, and 20 have critical levels of school attendance.



SOCIAL PROBLEMS

If poor people in Narayanganj are unemployed or have a tenuous employment status, they are more likely to experience social problems. Social problems are critical in wards 4, 6, 9, 10, 14, 16 and 20. Drug use is the most common social problem.

Key Issues	Critical Problems	Location
Informal jobs with low income	The poor are vulnerable to the seasonal income changes and are unable to cope with shocks	Wards 1, 3, 6, 7, 15, 17 and 20
Low school attendance	The poor lack the skills to reach jobs leading to unemployment and social problems	Wards 4, 6, 9, 10, 14, 16 and 20
Social problems	High rates of drug use and other social problems	Wards 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 20, 21 and 26

SUGGESTED ACTIONS

FOR THE COMMUNITY

Community-level Actions	City-level Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen capacity to manage savings and credit, and to share information Prioritize skills training for the poor in wards 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 14, 15, 17, 20, 25 and 27 Prioritize ensuring school-aged children attend school, particularly in wards 4, 6, 10, 14, 16 and 20, and lobby the School Management Committee to take action on absenteeism Prioritize increasing awareness and reducing the impact of social problems in wards 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 20, 21 and 26 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate to government to ensure that the poorest areas of the city receive investments Mobilize communities to report and take collective action around social problems through the CDC Federation Build partnerships with rehabilitation clinics in the city to ensure drug addicts receive treatment

FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community-level Actions	City-level Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support savings and credit groups, and strengthen their activities Support partnership initiatives that encourage the private sector to provide skills training and job placement for the poor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link the CDC Federation to growing job markets to reduce unemployment Form a city-level watchdog and relevant standing committee to promote awareness on social problems Establish a drug rehabilitation centre and promote awareness of treatment



7. CITY-SCALE RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR THE CDC FEDERATION

ENCOURAGE COMMUNITIES TO PRIORITIZE THEIR NEEDS

The Federation can support communities in prioritizing critical projects and actions. They can help them understand the importance of focusing on resolving specific urgent problems, rather than spreading their resources thin over a long list of needs. Together, they can put forward a more manageable number of high-impact actions that would be strategic in terms of poverty reduction. This requires the CDC Federation to help community leaders understand that urban poor communities may have different needs, and some require more urgent attention than others.

ELEVATE COMMUNITY NEEDS TO THE CITY-LEVEL AND ADVOCATE FOR THEIR INITIATIVES

The role of the Federation is to represent the needs of communities at the city-level. The Federation works directly with the Mayor and government authorities to achieve this. When priorities are identified, for example through the CAP process, the Federation should consolidate these priorities (first at the Ward-, then the City-level) and elevate these needs to city government. ‘Elevating’ needs involves lobbying for their inclusion in city plans and budgets, and following up on them to ensure continued recognition and implementation. The Federation can also explain government policies to communities. In doing so, they can more effectively support their implementation.

RAISE AWARENESS OF COMMUNITY GROUPS

Federations play a vital role in spreading knowing and raising the awareness of community residents, educating them on issues of vital importance. City-level campaigns resonate much louder and have greater impact than sporadic small-scale ones. If Federations can coordinate awareness campaigns, use many different means of communication, and back them up with city-level community leadership. Federation leaders should use the Federation platform to raise awareness about violence against women, nutrition, social problems, and even technical issues such as the importance of taking notes at meetings and managing community savings funds. The leadership role of the Federation is to lead community initiatives across the city, at all levels, and use their city-wide network to do so.

BUILD FEDERATION TECHNICAL CAPACITY AND SPREAD IT TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Build Federation technical capacity and spread it to community organizations: In order to effectively represent the needs of community organizations, and advocate for pro-poor plans and policies, Federations must have to develop a strong understanding of issues relating to poverty. This will allow them to articulate credible and respected positions, and offer workable and effective solutions. This requires the Federation leaders to become students of the often complex and wide-ranging issues that affect the poor. By discussing city-level poverty maps, data, and the Urban Poverty Profile, as well as attending trainings, they should become skilled enough to put forward pro-poor ideas to the Government.

FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

INVITE, ENCOURAGE AND MOBILIZE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOPS

Local government plays an important role in bringing about poverty reduction by encouraging inclusive discussions on issues relating to poverty, inviting community participation, and facilitating community efforts to develop solutions. By officially holding or attending community workshops, they can endorse them as important venues for the identification of pro-poor plans and policies, and recognize community efforts and initiatives.

STRATEGICALLY TARGET PRO-POOR POLICIES AND PROJECTS TO AREAS OF GREATEST NEED

Local governments can optimize limited resources by targeting areas of the city with the highest levels poverty as investments will have the greatest impact in these communities. This can be achieved by analyzing poverty data and referring to the City Poverty Index. Additionally, officials should listen directly to community needs, for example by referring to Community Action Plans. Such information provides valuable inputs into a strategic, city-level poverty alleviation strategy, and will better address the priority needs of urban poor communities. The approach can be consolidated into a ‘Strategic Urban Resilience Plan’ (SURP).

REDUCE VULNERABILITY ON AREAS OF GREATEST RISK

Another approach for governments to enable poverty reduction is to identify areas that are most vulnerable, and eliminate the risk factors. This may entail, for example, the relocation of households in dangerous areas where erosion is imminent or where they are exposed to physical harm. Other examples include, the introduction of water and sanitation systems to areas of the city where it is not available, and, as a result, have poor hygiene and public health outcomes. This approach can help to eliminate potential physical, economic and environmental shocks that could devastate the poor. Moreover, it can address inequalities in the city, allowing the poor to have a more solid base from which to move up the socio-economic ladder.

REACH OUT TO INSTITUTIONS TO DEVELOP COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATE AMONGST THEM

Local governments can play a valuable role in bringing together different actors in productive ways to reduce poverty, for example public service providers, development organizations, and the private sector. Potential collaborations include workforce development programs where private companies are connected with newly trained poor people for jobs. Furthermore, another collaboration could enable community organizations to collect water bill payments for WASA. In both cases, all parties benefit. Government should play a leadership role in bringing these partnerships together, and in coordinating their actions to produce the best possible outcomes.



