

Grant No-02
06 – Election Commission
Medium-Term Expenditure

(Taka in Thousand)

	Budget 2011-12	Projection			
		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Non-Development	199,78,00	574,52,30	641,74,22	716,82,60	3500,69,47
Development	220,37,00	0	0	0	0
Total	420,15,00	574,52,30	641,74,22	716,82,60	3500,69,47

1.0 Mission Statement and Major Functions

1.1 Mission Statement

To stand firmly as an independent institution and to conduct every election honestly, fairly and transparently and in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the country.

1.2 Major Functions

- a) Delimiting the constituencies for the purpose of elections to Parliament;
- b) Holding referendums, conducting elections for the Office of Honourable President, Honorable Members of Parliament, different Local Government Bodies, by-elections and other electoral processes prescribed by any other law;
- c) Preparation of electoral rolls for the purpose of elections to the Parliament and local governments;
- d) Preparation and distribution of National Identity Cards (NIC);
- e) Constitution of the Election Tribunal and disposal of election disputes as per relevant Acts;
- f) Registration of political parties and reservation and allocation of symbols for the registered parties and candidates;
- g) Handle matters related to the coordination and communication with international agencies, organize and participate in international meetings and conferences, seminar/workshops and contract formulation; and
- h) Preparation of proposals for formulating laws, rules, regulations, and guidelines with regard to elections and the Election Commission.

2.0 Medium -Term Strategic Objectives and Key Activities

Medium Term Strategic Objectives	Key Activity	Implementing Departments/Agencies
1. Building public confidence in the Election Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase public awareness on the functions of the Election Commission highlighting its commitment to operate as a strong and independent institution • Reform electoral laws and rules 	• Secretariat
2. Preparation of reliable and authentic electoral rolls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yearly updating of electoral rolls and inclusion of new electors • Inclusion of eligible expatriate citizens in the electoral rolls • Distribution of National ID Cards • Preserve electoral and election related information in the database 	• Secretariat
3. Conducting elections and modernization of election management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of election plans and necessary reform of electoral law/rules, having dialogues with different parties • Inter-ministerial communication and Coordination • Free and fair conduct of pre and post election activities, prevention of and addressing election irregularities, management of polling stations, declaration of election schedules and preparation of election results, publicity and publications • Introduction of technology in election activities • Establish an internal network by installing server station and database centre • Enforce voting rights through Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) 	• Secretariat
4. Support the democratic culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National and international communications for the creation of fair election environment and the development of a political culture • Registration of political parties 	• Secretariat

Medium Term Strategic Objectives	Key Activity	Implementing Departments/Agencies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint observers and inspire election observation process to establish transparency and accountability in the election process • Building public awareness of election- related processes 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize seminar/workshop/dialogue for pre and post election evaluation and review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat • Election Training Institute
5. Development of professional capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for polling personnel, permanent and temporary officers and staff involved in the election process regarding election management and vote casting • Capacity development, training on information technology, office management and other related issues for officers and staff of the Election Commission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election Training Institute

3.0 Poverty and Gender Reporting

3.1 Impact of Strategic objectives on Poverty Reduction and Women's Advancement

3.1.1 Building public confidence in the Election Commission

Impact on Poverty Reduction: Democratic processes would be strengthened through conducting free, fair and transparent election by the Election Commission as an independent agency. A strong democracy in turn fosters good governance in the society, enables pursuance of pro-poor policies and creation of an enabling environment for inclusive growth and socio-economic development.

Impact on Women's Advancement: In the practice of a sound democratic process, women's participation will gradually be increased, and women will also be empowered as their increasing participation in the decision making process. As a result, Election Commission which has been built as an independent and firm-trusted body, establishing democratic values through conducting free and fair elections will have indirect impact on women empowerment and development.

3.1.2 Preparation of reliable and authentic electoral rolls

Impact on Poverty Reduction: Identification of the true beneficiaries is critical for successful implementation of development programs, especially those relating to poverty reduction and expansion of the social safety net. Preparation of National ID cards based on the correct electoral roll information will help identify true beneficiaries, and thus contributing to efficient implementation of anti-poverty programmes. Acute poverty will be reduced through the implementation of programs related to the targeted poor beneficiaries.

Impact on Women's Advancement: It is obvious that women's individualism will be recognized through the inclusion of women in an electoral roll. Participation in the electoral process provides an opportunity for women to voice their opinions on different issues as well as exercise their choices of elected representatives. As a result, the whole process will be strengthened and this will help establish a true democracy in the country. Moreover, opportunities of women's participation as a candidate will be created resulting of greater participation of women in the election process. Also women's leadership will be created, which, in turn, help empower the women and increase their involvement in the development activities of the government.

3.1.3 Conducting elections and modernization of election management

Impact on Poverty Reduction: It is true that a free and fair election process strengthens democracy and elects qualified candidate, who will, in fact, try to implement government's programs based on the choices and aspirations of the people. Their visionary intent will also influence poor people's hopes and aspirations. Modernization of election management through leveraging information and communication technology strengthens efforts of the Election Commission to manage the election process efficiently and to ensure free and fair elections. As a result, poverty will be reduced since rights of the poor people will be established.

Impact on Women's Advancement: Necessary rules have been formulated to develop the women's leadership, and actions have been taken to implement this. Especially in the formulated acts/regulations related to the registration of political parties, a provision is highlighted that 33 percent women to be represented at all levels in all the Committees of any political parties by 2020. Hence women's participation as representative in the National Parliament will be increased. Besides, number of women representatives in the present local government bodies will also be increased resulting of increase women's participation and their empowerment. A fair and neutral election will encourage women to participate in the election process. Introduction of modern information technology will also help women officers and staff to discharge their job responsibilities smoothly. Therefore, due to the greater number of participation of women, overall

development and decision making in government will be increased, this will, in turn, help empower the women as a whole.

3.1.4 Support the democratic culture

Impact on Poverty Reduction: Strong democratic processes and institutions are critical to good governance and the protection of fundamental rights of the people. A vibrant democracy enables better representation of the people, especially those belonging to the poorer and disadvantaged sections of the society. It will indirectly contribute to poverty reduction.

Impact on Women's Advancement: A strong democratic culture has a positive impact on women's advancement in terms of facilitating better representation and articulation of women's issues, which, in turn, shape the development of policies and women-oriented programmes of the Government.

3.1.5 Development of professional capacity

Impact on Poverty Reduction: No direct impact.

Impact on Women's Advancement: Skill of the women staff will be increased due to their involvement in the election related activities, which, in turn, enhance the status of women in their profession.

3.2 Allocation for Poverty Reduction and Women's Advancement

(Taka in Thousand)

	Budget 2011-12	Projection			
		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Poverty Reduction	187,74,85	94,32,40	39,60,00	166,71,20	40,00,00
Gender	9,90,67	57,27,96	30,58,25	94,81,17	32,85,68

4.0 Priority Spending Areas/Programmes

Priority Spending Areas/Programmes	Related Strategic Objectives
1. Conduct National Parliament and local government elections: According to the Constitution, one of the primary duties of the Election Commission is to conduct national elections and by-elections. Further, conducting elections for the local government bodies is also a key responsibility of the Election Commission. Conduct of free and fair elections within the given timeframe, and discharge of Constitutional responsibilities has therefore been considered as the highest priority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building public confidence in the Election Commission Conducting elections and modernization of election management
2. Updating electoral rolls: It is the prerequisite of the Election Commission to prepare an authentic electoral roll for conducting a free and fair election. It is necessary to update the electoral rolls periodically in order to incorporate changes necessitated by new voters and drop out voters. It is also essential to collect personal information including biometric data with the intention of preparing an accurate electoral roll and database including the photos of the voters. National ID Cards have been issued based on the information provided. This is therefore a priority area for the Election Commission.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of reliable and authentic electoral rolls
3. Training and human resource development: Imparting training to the officers and staff of the Election Commission is essential to enhance their skills related to the elections and election management. Further, training and orientation programmes are also necessary for the officers and staff involved in election activities. It prepares them to discharge their duties efficiently, and enforce election related Acts and rules. This area is therefore accorded priority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting elections and modernization of election management Development of professional capacity
4. Using information technology in election management: Installation of server station, establishing data centre, and inter-ministerial network connection would enable seamless flows of election related information. Consequently security of information related to the election process will be strengthened and data transfers will be done faster. Further, the Commission is taking steps to introduce Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) which would strengthen the election management process. This area is therefore given highest priority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducting elections and modernization of election management Development of professional capacity
5. Increase public awareness of the democratic process and the role of the Election Commission: Building public awareness of the democratic process and the role of the Election Commission is essential for making the election process transparent and the election machinery accountable. Further it is essential to design, implement and sustain electoral reform programmes through discussion and debate on relevant issues in various public forums, and through public awareness programmes. This is therefore a priority area for the Commission.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the democratic culture

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Indicators	Related Strategic Objectives	Unit	Target 2009-10	Actual 2009-10	Target 2010-11	Revised Target 2010-11	Medium Term Targets				
							2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1. Rate of vote casting	1,3	%	80	75	75	70	80	80	90	80	80
2. Updating electoral rolls	2	Lakh person	25	25	35	30	25	200	150	20	60
		%	2	2	4	3	2	20	15	1.5	5
3. Application of electronic voting machine (EVM)	3	No. of centre	600	130	1000	500	1000	2000	40000	2000	2000
		%	3	1	2	1.5	2	5	5	5.5	6
4. Proving National ID Card	2	Lakh person	25	25	35	30	200	300	400	50	70
5. Rate of reduction of result publication time	3	%	25	20	25	25	30	40	50	60	70
6. Reduction of the rate of cancelled votes	3	%	.50	.60	.25	.40	.30	.25	.10	.05	.05

5.0 Recent Achievements, Key Activities and Outputs of the Department and Agencies under the Ministry

5.1 Secretariat

5.1.1 Recent Achievements: In Bangladesh, a democratic system of government has been established through the conduct of free and fair 9th parliamentary election. Before the 9th parliamentary election, electoral rolls of 8.50 crore voters with photos were published, and voter ID cards were distributed to them. Information pertaining to all the voters was stored in the database. This electoral database has also contributed towards strengthening the national security and implementing development programmes for targeted groups. Based on extensive consultation and discussions with all political parties, intellectuals and other stakeholders, necessary amendments were effected in the Election Act. Registration of 39 political parties was completed. National Parliament election in five constituencies were held due to seats falling vacant as a result of relinquishing it by the winner who won more than one seats, and by-elections in three constituencies were also held due to seats fallen vacant for various reasons. Initiatives have been taken to modernize the election management process and completing the election activity utilizing a digital system. Transparent ballot boxes had been introduced. A project related to ensuring voting rights through the introduction of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) has been undertaken. 21 voting centers of one ward in the Chittagong City Corporation election have already used EVMs.

5.1.2 Key Activities, Outputs related to the Activity and related Strategic Objectives

Key Activity	Outputs related to the Activity	Related Strategic Objectives
1. Increase public awareness of the functions of the Election Commission highlighting its commitment to operate as a strong and independent institution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Achieving the following goals by amendment of Election Commission Act 2009 and Election Commission (Procedure of Work) Rules 2010: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase participation of the highest number of honest and qualified candidates in the election Reduce impact of black moneys and muscle power in the election Increase accountability of elected representatives Further strengthening the way to democracy 	1
2. Reform electoral laws and rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the opportunity to enroll as voter by the expatriate Bangladeshi Increase the opportunity to take different arrangement to make the election more free and fair Making the organizing activity of the political parties more strengthen and noticeable Increase acceptability of election results by the political parties Necessary reform/amendment of one act and five regulations Make the election management time-befitting 	1

Key Activity	Outputs related to the Activity	Related Strategic Objectives
	by preparing and reforming necessary rules	
3. Yearly updating of electoral rolls and inclusion of new electors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to accept an authentic electoral rolls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prepare and update electoral rolls with photo inclusion of 40-lakh new voters cancellation of 10-lakh unqualified voters from the list amendment of wrong information of 20-lakh voters 	2
4. Inclusion of eligible expatriate citizens in the electoral rolls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion of 1 lakh expatriate voters in the electoral rolls Amendment of different information of the expatriate in the electoral rolls and distribution of voter ID Cards Establish citizen rights of the expatriate 	2
5. Distribution of National ID Cards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following activities will be undertaken in order to simplify and identify real beneficiaries for state's service- oriented programs including identifying voters in the election: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> distribution of voter ID Cards to 40-lakh voters provide very secured and developed long term voter identity card to 10-lakh voters amendment of National ID Card in light of amendments of different personal information of 20-lakh voters 	2
6. Preserve electoral and election related information in the database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smoothly completion of national security and services oriented works by storing all information of voters in the database Develop, amend and scrutinize database of 9-crore voters to amend and simplify distribution process of new national ID Cards Through further developing the Standard Operating Procedure, meticulous completion of amendment and scrutinize works of electoral rolls/national ID card 	2
7. Election plan and necessary reform of electoral law/rules having dialogue with different parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accept following advices in order to take quick approval of amendments from the national Parliament: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> dialogue with 50 political parties/alliances discussion with 40 civil society/agencies exchange views with 100 medias/news agencies Further development of legal structure acceptable to all Related activities of election act-rules: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 division level workshops 5 regional level workshops/seminars public awareness program in 64 districts 	3
8. Inter-ministerial communication and Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-ordination, communication and holding meeting/discussion for maintaining law and order situation, and publicity and administration works with Cabinet Division, Ministry of Public Administration, Finance Division, Local Government Division and Ministry of Information including different ministries, directorates, departments and agencies. Taking and implementing election related 	3

Key Activity	Outputs related to the Activity	Related Strategic Objectives
	decisions and conducting election in a right way	
9. Free and fair conduct of pre and post election activities, prevention and protection of election irregularities, management of polling station, declaration of election schedule and preparation of election results, publicity and publication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Efficient conducting of election according to the plan • For increasing confidence among the public regarding election result: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – providing centre-based results in the vote centre – publicly displaying of results in vote centre – publicity of combine results in office of the returning and assistant returning officers including Election Commission • Increase transparency and accountability in the election process 	3
10. Introduction of technology in election activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying vote centres, information transactions, and simplifying awareness process for voters in voting centres through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – bringing 40 thousand voting centers' of 300 constituencies under GIS – publish information provided by the candidates and election results in the website – Collect and publish online election result 	3
11. Establish internal network by installing server station and database centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish internal network between Election Training Institute, 10 Divisions/Regions, 64 Districts, 508 Upazila/Thana Election Server Station/Data Centre • Simplify coordination and mutual communication between different wings and offices functioning under Election Commission 	3
12. Enforce voting rights through Electronic Voting Machine (EVM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completely repeal possibility of cancelled vote • Increase further transparency and acceptability in the election management • Completion of vote counting at quickest possible time 	3
13. National and international communication for creation of fair election environment and development of a political culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitute a SAARC Forum comprising members of south Asian election conducting agencies • Development of election process through bilateral discussion and constituting other forum/agency • Development of election management by exchanging experiences 	4
14. Registration of political parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of political culture • Increase transparency and accountability concerning the source of finance of the political parties 	4
15. Appoint observers and inspire election observation process to establish transparency and accountability in the election process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of election management • Create environment of confidence related to election • Introduction of meaningful and constructive election observer management 	4
16. Building public awareness on election process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase public awareness through publicity in the mass media and through making 5 dramas/TV spots and direct area- based 500 mass gathering • Development of overall environment of the 	4

Key Activity	Outputs related to the Activity	Related Strategic Objectives
	election	
17. Organize seminar/workshop/dialogue for pre and post election evaluation and review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre and post election activities such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 local and foreign meetings, seminars and workshops holding 6 dialogues discussion at the division/regional level with the presence of 500 participants gather recommendations on election process and reforms of Act-rules, having dialogue with political parties in the presence of 400 participants 	4

5.1.3 Output Indicators and Targets

Indicators	Related Strategic Objectives	Unit	Target 2009-10	Actual 2009-10	Target 2010-11	Revised Target 2010-11	Medium Term Targets				
							2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
1. Dialogue	4	No.	40	0	0	40	40	45	45	45	45
2. Inspire voters/public awareness functions	4	No.	200	0	0	100	200	400	200	100	100
3. Election observer	4	No.	700	750	1000	1200	500	500	5000	1000	500
4. Installing server station and data centre	3	No.	100	55	370	300	125	30	10	-	-

5.1.4 Forward Budget Estimates

(Taka in Thousand)

	Budget 2011-12	Projection			
		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Non-Development	87,61,92	507,44,30	180,53,32	512,38,37	3082,27,27
Development	220,37,00	0	0	0	0
Total	307,98,92	507,44,30	180,53,32	512,38,37	3082,27,27

5.1.5 List of Projects, Programmes and Operational Units

Operational Unit/Project/Programme	Related Key Activity
Operational Unit (Non Development)	
1. Election Commission Secretariat	
Approved Projects	
1. Supporting the Distribution of National Identity Card and Preparing Electoral Rolls with Photos	3,4,5,6
2. Construction of <i>Upazila</i> and Regional Server Station for Electoral Database (CSSED)	11
3. Construction of Election Resource Centre	6,10,11
4. Strengthening Election Management in Bangladesh	6,10,11
5. Project Preparatory Technical assistance for Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services	3,4,5,6
6. Identification System for Enhancing Access to Services	3,4,5,6

5.2 Election Training Institute

5.2.1 Recent Achievements: 41 training programs related to elections were implemented. On the occasion of National Parliamentary/By Election, 88,221 and City Corporation and *Paurashava* including the Local Government, 48,597 election officials and 6,67,239 polling officials were provided training at the field level. 4,17,238 and 81,390 persons related to the preparation and updating the electoral rolls with photos as well as 6,553 users of translucent ballot boxes were provided training. Besides, before National Parliamentary and *Upazila Parishad* elections, members of the Electoral Enquiry Committee, returning officers, assistant returning officers and supporting learned magistrates were provided in-house training for 3 days. 772 officers and staff of the Election Commission were trained on financial and office management and participated in other regular courses. During June 2007 to June 2010, in these three years training for 2,43,715 persons were completed successfully.

5.2.2 Key Activities, Outputs related to the Activity and Related Strategic Objectives

Key Activity	Outputs related to the Activity	Related Strategic Objectives
1. Organize seminar/workshop/ dialogue for pre and post election evaluation and review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize two workshops/seminars/dialogues Organize one international and one national level workshop comprising 400 participants Prepare post election recommendations and evaluation 	4
2. Training for polling personnel, permanent and temporary officers and staff involved in election process regarding election management and vote casting process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase public awareness regarding vote casting process and election management Human resource development of permanent and temporary officers and staff involved in the election process Increase efficiency of 5-lakh election officials and staff Development of election management through increasing efficiency of election officials Fairly conducting of election 	5
3. Capacity development training on information technology, office management and other related issues to the officers and staff of the Election Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing training on server station management to 600 district and <i>upazila</i> election officers Providing training to 300 staff of division/region, district and <i>upazila</i> level and 200 other persons Increase efficiency related IT and information technology to the election commission officials and staff 	5

5.2.3 Output Indicators and Targets

Indicators	Related Strategic Objectives	Unit	Target 2009-10	Actual 2009-10	Target 2010-11	Revised Target 2010-11	Medium Term Targets				
							2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Training	5	No. (in lakh)	5	.02	4	7	.04	.04	7.5	2	1
2. Seminar/workshop	5	No.	2	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	3

5.2.4 Forward Budget Estimates

(Taka in Thousand)

	Budget 2011-12	Projection			
		2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Non-Development	0	0	0	0	0
Development	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0

5.2.5 List of Projects, Programmes and Operational Units: Not applicable.