

WASTE PICKERS  
*in* DHAKA



# WASTE PICKERS *in* DHAKA

**Using the sustainable livelihoods approach**

**Key findings and field notes**

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2001



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### Local collaborators

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## Acronyms

<b>DFID</b>	Department for International Development
<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>SLA</b>	Sustainable Livelihoods Analysis

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## Glossary

<b><i>Bustee</i></b>	Slum
<b>Bangla</b>	The national language of Bangladesh and mother tongue of all research participants.
<b>Dealer</b>	In the context of this report, a dealer is an individual to whom waste pickers sell their valuable waste after collection.
<b>Eid</b>	Islamic festival falling twice a year.
<b>Livelihood</b>	A livelihood comprises the means, activities, entitlements and assets by which people make a living. (See also below.)
<b>Taka (Tk)</b>	The currency in Bangladesh. At time of writing there were approximately Tk50 to US\$1.00, Tk80 to UK £1.00.
<b><i>Tokai</i></b>	Bangla word for waste picker
<b>Waste picker</b>	An individual who collects and sells valuable waste as a livelihood.

### **Sustainable Livelihood**

The following is a definition of sustainable *rural* livelihoods as defined by DFID. This is valuable (albeit in need of some adaptation) in understanding the nature of a sustainable urban livelihood.

‘A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base.’ (Carney, 1998: 4)