REPORT ON CSR IN BANGLADESH 2017

“Promoting CSR through the SDGs for Better Business”
DISCLAIMER

The information contained in this document was correct at the time of going to press and reflects the understanding of the CSR Centre. Information about companies was secured through interviews and review of corporate websites. For more information about particular CSR initiatives please contact the company directly.

CSR Centre 2017
Acknowledgements

The CSR Centre is pleased to share with you this year its Report on CSR in Bangladesh 2017: “Promoting CSR through the SDGs for Better Business”. Since the SDGs were launched in September 2015 by the United Nations with an agenda for global development and sustainability both the private and public sectors with development partners are engaged in addressing specific SDG targets. Today many of the MNCs and national companies are aligning their business strategies which highlight the relevant SDGs in order to contribute to the national development agenda and link with global initiatives for better business approaches.

This CSR Report includes interviews, articles and case studies from various stakeholders which are compartmentalized under SDG 4 Education, SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities, SDG 16 Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions and SDG 17 Partnerships for the Goals. It also gives a glance into the CSR Centre and its Board Members.

I would like to thank all our contributors to CSR Report 2017 - BRAC Bank, English in Action Project, Square, Wateraid, Safer World, Solidaridad, pi STRATEGY, SHUJAN, Robi Axiata Ltd, our esteemed board members Dr. Fahmida Khatun, Executive Director of CPD, Mr. Arif Khan CEO & MD of IDLC Finance Ltd, Sohail R. K. Hussain, MD & CEO of The City Bank Limited and of course Ms. Sultana Afroz, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance and lastly His Excellency Benoit-Pierre Laramée, the Canadian High Commissioner in Bangladesh.

Lastly I would like to request those companies and development practitioners in Bangladesh that are actively engaged in CSR activities to share with us their CSR best practices.

Shahamin S. Zaman
CEO, CSR Centre
In today’s globalised economy, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is considered a key strategy tool for re-defining the role of corporations in the marketplace. Ensuring the well-being of stakeholders and society as a whole, while maximizing the creation of shared value for the business owners is what CSR aims to achieve. I am glad that under the leadership of CSR Centre, businesses are increasingly engaging in proper implementation of CSR practices in Bangladesh.

CSR Centre has been in operations for ten years now and I am proud to say that it serves as a prime base of resources and advisory services on CSR in Bangladesh. At CSR Centre, we have wide spread access to diverse business networks, both locally and internationally, to help promote responsible business practices in our country. CSR Centre assisted management teams of numerous companies in Bangladesh to help develop roadmaps for sustainable CSR implementation. Training sessions were held on different issues related to business and social compliance. The Centre also facilitate multiple forums, seminars and workshops to engage stakeholders for advocating responsible business practices.

CSR is carried out worldwide to improve conditions in sectors such as human rights, labor standards, environmental impacts, corruption, workplace relations, gender discrimination in the workplace, freedom of association, fair trading options and philanthropic activities pertaining to natural disaster management. In Bangladesh, CSR mainly includes benevolent activities such as donations to various charitable organizations, NGOs and underprivileged people especially during natural calamities like floods, cyclones and epidemics. CSR activities in our country are taken in a very scattered manner and we need to focus on its sustainability and impact assessment. Guidelines or policies pertaining to CSR in Bangladesh are still in process and this concept is mainly recognized as a strategy tool for enhancing business reputation.

In 2017, organizations in Bangladesh allocated their CSR funds mainly towards educational assistance, fight autism, safe internet awareness, relief for flood affected people and the Rohingya crisis. The establishment of a sound CSR strategy can improve competitiveness of firms significantly and at the same time integrate social, environmental, ethical and other consumer concerns into their core business operations. Companies need to perceive CSR as investment and monitor the impacts in areas where they make contributions.

When planning CSR practices in Bangladesh, factors such as level of economic development, institutional reliability, and organizational leadership need to be taken into consideration. From this perspective, Bangladesh has some way to go before establishing widespread CSR practices in the business sector. Few CSR indicators that are strongly related to our economy are pre and post income generation, changes in health situation, women empowerment, sustainable improved biodiversity, access to education and provision of more green energy.

Due to its growing global recognition and engagement, CSR has been embedded into SDGs 2030, which I believe, will open up provisions of diverse CSR acts in Bangladesh. A national CSR Guideline or Act can highly assist corporate houses in our country to expedite their CSR activities further. Every business organization should start practicing CSR with a definite vision that is in line with the 17 goals of SDGs. CSR Centre will continue with its mission of helping companies become CSR champions which, in turn, will assist our government to achieve the targets laid out in the SDGs.

Sohail R K Hussain
MD & CEO
City Bank Limited
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPP</td>
<td>Public, Private Partnership</td>
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<tr>
<td>EIA</td>
<td>English In Action</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOMPE</td>
<td>Model Based Methodologies for Pervasive and Embedded Software</td>
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<td>TFs</td>
<td>Teacher Facilitators</td>
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<td>TDMs</td>
<td>Teacher Development Meetings</td>
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<td>NCTB</td>
<td>National Curriculum &amp; Textbook Board</td>
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<td>3P</td>
<td>People, Planet, Profit</td>
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<td>UIST</td>
<td>UCEP Institute of Science and Technology</td>
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<td>UNGC</td>
<td>United Nations Global Compact</td>
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<td>UNEPFI</td>
<td>United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative</td>
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<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
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<td>GRI</td>
<td>Global Reporting Initiative</td>
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<td>BTS</td>
<td>Base Transceiver Station</td>
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<td>GSMA</td>
<td>Global System Mobile Association</td>
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<td>SSNPs</td>
<td>Social Safety Net Programs</td>
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<td>BOP</td>
<td>Base of the Pyramid</td>
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<td>UNCDF</td>
<td>United Nations Capital Development Fund</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organization</td>
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<td>FSM</td>
<td>Faecal Sludge Management</td>
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<td>DPHE</td>
<td>Department of Public Health and Engineering</td>
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<td>DWASA</td>
<td>Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITN-BUET</td>
<td>International Training Network Centre in Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All</td>
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<tr>
<td>SaFaL</td>
<td>The Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Linkages</td>
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<td>DAE</td>
<td>Department of Agricultural Extension</td>
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Executive Summary

Today’s global vision is to have a world where all work together for a common cause – nations are struggling in their own way to secure socio-economic development amongst all challenges in order to contribute towards a progressing economy. Although there are many challenges to tackle governments are working together with relevant stakeholders to create both tangible and intangible impact. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are increasingly playing a pivotal role in enhancing strategic long term outcomes for public sector, private sector as well as for development partners. There has been a visible progress in the last two years since the SDGs were launched by the UN.

The “Report on CSR in Bangladesh 2017: Promoting CSR through the SDGs for Better Business” articulates opinions of those interviewed on specific SDGs (# 4, 10, 16 & 17) and the role of CSR to address those goals and link these to Public Private Partnership. It also talks about how individual companies implement its CSR strategies to link with the SDGs and what are the challenges faced in addressing the issues. The interviews by the Canadian High Commissioner in Bangladesh, Executive Director of CPD, Managing Director & CEO of IDLC and Additional Secretary from the Finance Ministry also highlights how various entities can contribute to the nation’s development agenda and the progress made so far within the country.

The articles and case studies reflect the importance and need for quality education in Bangladesh where BRAC Bank’s CSR initiatives in encouraging quality education has been highlighted and that of IDLC. One of the long term education projects English in Action has brought about a new trend in learning. At the grassroots level a case study of a model government school has been highlighted. It also shares how some leading companies such as Robi and Square as well as some development partners such as Safer World, Solidaridad, SHUJAN and others are working towards reducing inequalities as well as in the context of peace, justice and coordinated partnership approaches which have made some unique contributions in Bangladesh.

Lastly the report gives a brief glimpse into the CSR Centre’s work as a ‘facilitator for change’ both nationally and globally. Through this report the Centre hopes to engage with all relevant stakeholders and assist in strategic guidance to promote CSR and SDGs in Bangladesh.
“A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is a reality.”

-John Lennon
INTRODUCING CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CSR Defined

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) goes beyond philanthropy and compliance. It is about how companies take responsibility for their stakeholders and actions in the world at large. It is about investing in business growth while ensuring sustainability of markets, customers and the environment.

CSR is an evolving concept with many meanings. The definition used by the CSR Centre is: “CSR is about achieving commercial success in ways that honor ethical values and respect people, communities and the natural environment.”

It is also about promoting Sustainable Development: meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is beyond the required legal framework and is viewed as a comprehensive set of policies, practices and programs that are integrated into business operations, supply chains, and decision-making processes throughout the organization. Wherever the organization does business, it includes responsibility for current and past actions as well as future impacts. CSR involves addressing the legal, ethical, commercial and other expectations society has from business and making decisions that fairly balance the claims of all key stakeholders.
Ethical CSR
Morally mandatory fulfillment of a firm’s economic responsibilities, legal responsibilities, and ethical responsibilities.

Altruistic CSR
Fulfillment of an organization’s philanthropic responsibilities, going beyond preventing possible harms (ethical CSR).

Strategic CSR
Caring corporate community service activities that accomplish strategic business goals.

Dimensions of CSR
CSR incorporates internal and external dimensions that reflect The Triple Bottom Line - People, Profit and Planet, a framework often used for measuring performance.

Internal CSR incorporates core business activities that have an external impact on the society, environment economy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment / Planet</th>
<th>Economic / Profit</th>
<th>Society / People</th>
<th>Business / People, Profit, Planet</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Climate Change</td>
<td>Job Creation</td>
<td>Ethics</td>
<td>Labour Standards</td>
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<td>Bio-Diversity</td>
<td>Market Access</td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Energy Use</td>
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<td>Natural Resource Use</td>
<td>Pro-poor Products</td>
<td>HR Policies</td>
<td>Waste and Emissions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green Products</td>
<td>New Markets at Bottom of the Pyramid</td>
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</tbody>
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The Business Benefits of CSR

- Win New Business
- Increase customer retention
- Develop and enhance relationships with customers, suppliers and networks
- Attract, retain and maintain a happy workforce and be an Employer of Choice
- Save money on energy and operating costs and manage risk
- Differentiate yourself from your competitors
- Generate innovation and learning and enhance your influence
- Improve your business reputation and standing
- Provide access to investment and funding opportunities
- Generate positive publicity and media opportunities due to media interest in ethical business activities

Where to Start

- Compliance with the Law
- Respect for Human Rights
- Collaboration and Harmonization with the community
- Consideration of Environmental Issues
- Integration of Organization Resources

“Carefully planned and implemented CSR policies will help your organization to maximize its profit”
QUALITY EDUCATION
Changing Learning, Changing Lives

Sue Williamson
Team Leader, English in Action

English language skills are in short supply in Bangladesh, creating a barrier to economic growth and individuals’ opportunities. English in Action (EIA), a DFID funded project under MOPME, began in 2009 with the aim to contribute to the economic growth of Bangladesh by improving English language learning provision, therefore enhancing access to the world economy. EIA research studies have investigated links between English language and economic status in Bangladesh and found that:

- Many employers felt that insufficient numbers of employees and applicants possess the English language skills needed.
- Employers want English speaking staff e.g. 35% of employees in formal sector need English language skills.
- Candidates with good English skills are 30-50% more likely to be employed.
- Individuals with good English skills earn higher income by 20-30%.

Poor quality teaching is one of the root causes of poor English language skills amongst school leavers. EIA was designed to change the way that English is learnt by children, young people and adults in Bangladesh. The EIA teacher development programme has sought to increase the level of English language skills in schools so they are supporting teachers to learn to teach English through the application of participatory learning techniques in their classrooms. The programme is working with 51,000 Primary and Secondary School English teachers, who reach over 7 million students in every district of Bangladesh.
EIA is a school-based professional development programme. Teachers learn by carrying out new activities in their classrooms, guided by teacher development videos that show short and simple teaching techniques, explained by a video guide. EIA provides some audio texts, linked to the national curriculum, for use with students. All teachers have the materials available on their mobile phones, so there is no dilution of the programme’s core messages by an intermediary.

Teachers are supported within their school by the Head teacher and a partner teacher, who work through the activities together and regularly share successes and problems. Local Teacher Facilitators (TFs) lead local Teacher Development Meetings (TDMs), helping teachers to work through the activities and share their experiences together. Education Officers support and monitor the use of the professional development activities in GoB and/or EIA TDMs, schools and classrooms.

The programme leads teachers through a cycle of professional development activities inside or beyond school as shown in the diagram below.

EIA’s baseline study showed teacher talk to be the predominant classroom activity. This talk was mostly in Bangla and the only English students heard was the teacher reading from the

“By watching other teachers practicing different activities in the videos, I can continue to learn and explore. I have realized, even the simple things, like using real materials: pictures, flash cards, gestures and postures, play an important role in learning and teaching English.”

Pinky Rani Roy, Fhulpur, Mymensingh
textbook. Over the years of the project, research led by the Institute of Education Research, Dhaka University and Trinity College, London, has shown that there has been an impact on the quality of teaching and students’ learning outcomes. There is also evidence of changes in attitudes of both teachers and students in EIA intervention schools.

In 2015, amongst the teachers that EIA worked with, over 95% reported that EIA helped them to improve their own English and over 90% said that EIA has had an impact on the way they teach. The most recent research study shows that in Secondary schools, teachers’ use of English increased substantially from 64% to 86% and in Primary intervention classrooms student-student talk increased dramatically from 4% to 16% of all student talk in a lesson. This implies that teachers are using more participatory techniques including more group and pair work which give students opportunities to practise their English with each other.

The diagram below illustrates the proportion of student and teacher talk over the course of a 40 minute lesson in EIA intervention classrooms.

![Diagram showing the proportion of student and teacher talk in a lesson.](image-url)
These classroom changes in teaching have had an impact on student learning. 7 out of 10 primary school students can communicate in English at a basic level or above, this includes being able to use common vocabulary, singular and plural, simple adjectives and be able to give simple information about themselves. At Secondary level more students are able to communicate above the basic level than before EIA intervention.

EIA have been successfully working with the Government to mainstream approaches within their in-service teacher training programme and upload material on NCTB and DPE websites. The Government has also used EIA identified teacher facilitators for their English training programmes. A recent English in Action study found that this integration was having a positive effect on non-intervention schools. The general principles of encouraging students to talk in English during lessons appear to be accepted in a wider number of schools than EIA could reach.

The government education system has shown great commitment and EIA have provided a strong platform on which they will build over the coming years to improve teaching and learning of English.
1. Why do you think ‘Corporate Social Responsibility’ can play an important role in social and economic development of a country—Kindly share with us your opinion and observations.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is defined as the voluntary activities undertaken by a company to operate in an economic, social and environmentally sustainable manner.

CSR can play an important role in the social and economic development of any country, since the benefits of incorporating CSR practices into the companies operation are many. For example companies can manage risks more efficiently and effectively; foster good relations with investment partners, employees, and surrounding communities; increase access to capital; and improve their reputation. Managing social risks, including through conscious efforts to respect human rights, is increasingly important to companies’ success. As more becomes known about the costs of poor stakeholder relations, both in terms of share price and the bottom line, the more investors will want to see evidence of effective CSR. Effective integration of CSR practices helps to conduct business responsibly to grow globally, and that is also true for Canadian companies.

Canada remains committed to working with international partners and a variety of organizations, including the Centre for Excellence in CSR, civil society groups, and sector-relevant initiatives, to promote information-sharing on best practices and the development and dissemination of practical, innovative guidance to improve CSR performance. In Bangladesh the High Commission has supported the publication of a bilingual (English and Bangla) guidebook on social responsibility in 2013 to promote information-sharing on best practices and the development and dissemination of practical, innovative guidance to improve CSR performance. The purpose was to inspire companies operating in Bangladesh to develop and implement socially responsible businesses. Integrating CSR in companies operations is important for business as well as for the economy and a more inclusive and sustainable growth of Bangladesh. Based on the capacity of Bangladesh to develop the concept of social enterprise, there is a great potential for Bangladesh to integrate CSR with the social enterprise for better results.
2. **We understand that Canada has taken lot of initiatives in the field of education (to improve the quality and delivery of education, increase access and retention rates in primary schools, reduce gaps between girls and boys) – what is the plan for next 5 years in Bangladesh?**

Increasing access to quality basic education is a key priority for Canada and is in line with the government’s commitments to Education for All. Work in this area also aims to increase access to relevant learning opportunities for youth, with special attention to gender equality hence the reduction of gaps between girls and boys continue to be a priority for Canada.

In Bangladesh, Canada has been supporting Primary Education Development Program (PEDP) since 2013, and I am pleased to note that Canada has contributed to Bangladesh’s progress in education. Some of the successes achieved through this program are: The Grade 5 completion rate is now 79.1%, up from 60% in 2010 and demonstrating a year-over-year gain of 5%; almost all children now get a complete set of free textbooks at the start of the school academic year; the majority of teachers have achieved the training qualification standard. Moreover, although the appointment of teachers was slow for a variety of legal reasons, there is merit-based teacher recruitment, including of pre-primary instructors; incremental introduction of competency testing continues to be introduced into the Grade 5 completion exam; School Level Improvement Plan (SLIP) grants were widely released to schools and used according to local priorities.

Moving forward, we expect to continue in this line of support, as well as to make progress reaching out-of-school children and those living in urban slums and hard to reach areas. We also expect to support the adequate provision of pre-primary education in areas of greatest need.

Without a highly-educated workforce, businesses will be limited in their ability to develop new products and enter new markets. Bangladeshi businesses should be encouraged to also spend money on education-related CSR and play a greater role in improving education access. This way companies will be able to develop future talent, which in turn will have a positive effect on their bottom lines.

3. **Canada is partnering with the Bangladesh Government to strengthen Institutions through capacity building programs. How does Canada believe it can help build strong Institutions to ensure accountability, efficiency, inclusiveness and independence?**

Canada is supporting due diligence and responsible business practices within the ready-made garment industry, and sustainable sourcing of ready-made garments from international suppliers and manufacturers. Governments, businesses, non-profits and other organizations are increasingly integrating social and environmental objectives into the purchasing process which can be a means for leveraging social benefits and fostering sustainable economies. An example of Canada’s efforts in this area is $8 million in support over four years for a joint initiative with the International Labour Organization for improving working conditions in the RMG sector in Bangladesh, to help ensure that Bangladesh’s garment factories are properly assessed for safe working conditions, and remedial action is undertaken.

Additionally, Canada is supporting the Government of Bangladesh and the RMG industry in the pursuit of the creation of decent jobs and to grounding of gender equality into institutional practices and the empowerment of women workers.
4. In your opinion what should be the private sector engagements regarding CSR in Bangladesh? Why?

The integration of Bangladesh to the global markets is the most important incentive for companies to adopt CSR measures and standards. The concept of CSR is comparatively new to the private sector in Bangladesh, due to which its purpose needs, and benefits are still unclear to many. However, CSR is achieving recognition to the business community in Bangladesh as a means of business sustainability and promoting social benefit. As more Bangladeshi companies integrate CSR into their operations, a wealth of experience and knowledge will grow on what works and what does not.

The main factors that drive companies to adopt CSR practices are largely the same as for other regions: consumer pressure in industrialized countries, implementing ISO 26000 standards on social responsibility, access to finances which endorse only socially and environmentally responsible projects, multinational companies requiring local suppliers to comply with international standards and the growing pressure from civil society for responsible behavior.

5. What are your views on Public, Private Partnership (PPP) for Sustainable Development of any country? How important is it for Bangladesh?

Partnership between Public, Private Partnership (PPP) can play a contributory role to bring about a positive change leading to sustainable development, which encompasses the social, economic and development of a developing country like Bangladesh. PPP can be an additional mechanism to meet the public service deliverables. The advantages of PPPs are: access to capital, certainty of outcome, off balance sheet borrowing, innovation, and transfer of risk.

For Bangladesh, increasing the productive potential of the economy in a sustainable manner is important, and PPP can become Bangladesh’s stepping stone for infrastructural development. The Government of Bangladesh has taken a number of measures to create an enabling environment for attracting private investments on a sustainable basis. There has been some success in attracting private investment in some sectors such as power, gas, and telecommunications. However, much more effort and commitment is required in these sectors and several other priority sectors in order to accommodate economic growth. These priority sectors include ports, roads, railway, water supply, waste management, tourism, eservice delivery, etc.
# CSR Activities on Quality Education

**BRAC Bank**

BRAC Bank has become the fastest growing bank in Bangladesh, operating under a ‘double bottom line’ agenda where profit and social responsibility go hand in hand as it strives towards a poverty-free, enlightened Bangladesh. BRAC Bank’s Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Bangladesh are in line with its 3P (People, Planet, Profit) philosophy. Keeping in mind the government’s commitment to United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while planning its social programs, BRAC Bank prioritizes on long-term programs that have sustainable and lasting impact on the people and society of Bangladesh.

**BRAC Bank Scholarships: Realizing Potential of students**

BRAC Bank scholarship programs for the less advantaged students of the society are in line with SDG Goals of Quality Education and Reduced Inequalities. Here are the details:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Dream or Education</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500</td>
<td>Students realize their dreams to pursue basic education</td>
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Students pursue higher education at the University of Dhaka</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Students inspired for education in the pure sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Students fulfill higher education dreams at BRAC University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Students get the opportunity for technical and vocational education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>Students get the opportunity for technical and vocational education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500</td>
<td>Students realize their dreams to pursue basic education</td>
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**BRAC Bank- Prothom Alo Trust: Adamya Medhabi Scholarship**

‘BRAC Bank- Prothom Alo Trust: Adamya Medhabi Scholarship’ was introduced in 2010 to assist meritorious students of underprivileged families fulfill their pursuit of higher education. Now a good number of financially challenged students, whose family income is about BDT 3,500, especially in the rural parts of the country do not face dropout. Most of these students are used to doing menial work to support their family and education expenses. BRAC Bank stands by these students for their entire academic life. With the scholarship, many students are now studying in engineering universities, medical colleges and other reputed institutions. A total of 500 students have so far availed the scholarship. Each year 50 meritorious students from disadvantaged families who achieve GPA 5 in the Secondary School Certificate level get the scholarship for HSC study. Among them, the students who also repeat GPA 5 in Higher School Certificate level get scholarships for graduation.
The impact of this program goes deep into the social fabric of the country and is consistent with the SDG Goals of Reduced Inequalities that signifies the importance of the empowerment and promotion of the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status. The program is also in line with the SDG Goals of Quality Education that states that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education.

BRAC Bank scholarships: Business Studies, University of Dhaka
BRAC Bank Limited has provided scholarships to the meritorious students of Business Studies Faculty of Dhaka University. The bank as part of its corporate social responsibility is providing scholarships to 40 students, hailing from the rural parts of the country, at Dhaka University. The program helps students manage their dormitory fees, tuition expenses and basic living costs.

Realizing Higher Education Dream: BRAC University Scholarships
BRAC Bank is providing financial support to the meritorious but financially challenged students to help them pursue their higher education at BRAC University. Each year, 10 undergrad students, coming from rural and semi-urban areas of Bangladesh, avail this scholarship that covers their full tuition fees and living expenses. The students are required to maintain a CGPA of 3.5 to continue to get benefitted from the full amount of the education stipend.

Making Technical Education Affordable: UCEP Institute of Science and Technology
BRAC Bank Limited has partnered with UCEP Institute of Science and Technology (UIST) to make technical education available at affordable cost. The contribution will be used to establish an E-Library for the students of the polytechnic institute at Mirpur, Dhaka. UIST Dhaka is the first polytechnic institute of UCEP Bangladesh to provide quality higher technical education to the youth of the country. Started in 2015, UIST currently provides diploma degree in Mechanical, Civil and Electrical Technology.

Inspiring the Youth for Research and Study in Science: Biochemistry Olympiad
As part of its commitment towards enlightening the society, BRAC Bank Limited, in partnership with Dhaka University, has been organizing the Biochemistry Olympiad since 2009. The Biochemistry Olympiad inspires the young generation to pursue higher studies in science. More than 1,000 SSC/O level and HSC/A level students from all over the country participate in the biggest festival of bioscience in the country that is held every year at the Dhaka University Curzon Hall premises. The Olympiad is an initiative for popularizing higher education in science and research among the young generation.
1. IDLC has been engaged in CSR initiatives from 2010 – could you please tell us why IDLC thinks CSR is relevant to its core business strategy? How does these initiatives add value – in what ways?

We are committed to sustainable development by creating long-term value for our stakeholders, for the environment and for the community. We are voluntary participants of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) and of course, the CSR Center. The CSR Guideline of IDLC consists of IDLC’s strategic CSR focus, budget allocation, and reporting and communication requirements for CSR – targeting both internal and external stakeholder groups.

The Guidelines ensure that our funds are utilized for the sustainable growth of our community and our business practices maintain the proper industry and global standard, which we communicate through proper reporting and media channels. Other than obvious brand recognition, this opens up new doors to businesses which are both sustainable and profitable.

2. CSR is becoming a critical issue globally – most of the growing nations of the world are engaging in strategic CSR rather than philanthropy – in your opinion in what ways can the trade & investment sectors incorporate strategic CSR initiatives and programs?

Being in a service oriented business has some perks, you get to work with people directly. And when you are in a sector such as investment you get to directly learn and observe resources people need and want to better their lives. While the nature of our business ends up having some limitations that might prevent us from being able to serve them as customers, trade and investment companies can take the extra steps to help those in need through CSR and as you rightly mentioned, strategic CSR.

But it would be wrong to go headfirst into CSR activities without a proper plan and doing it for the sake of it. The first step is research to find out the people’s need and the most effective way to go about it. Talk to the locals, the elders, and the youth. Do not assume their needs and do not think you will know what is best for them. Make it a holistic part of your policy, that way it is beneficial for everyone involved.
3. **IDLC works in CSR on issues relating to women employment, health care, environment, education and youth development. In your opinion where do you see that the socio-economic impact has been significant? Why? Has this enhanced your customer base or profits?**

The socio-economic impact of investing in women and youth is always a matter of immense regard and discussion in this part of the world. That is why we work towards financial and social inclusion of both marginalized women and youth and focus on providing support following the highest standards of CSR practice.

If we talk about a particular case on this regard, one of our flagship activities in helping underprivileged women is a project which aimed at empowering marginalized women from North Bengal, partnered with Far East.

In a country burdened with overpopulation, it is nothing short of an irony that lack of skilled manpower is one of the major challenges faced by businesses and industries today. A coordinated effort from both public and private sectors is the need of the hour to address this crucial issue. To reduce this demand-supply gap and create a win-win solution for the industries and the community alike, IDLC launched a project in June 2013 following public-private partnership approach, targeting skills developed of marginal women and subsequent placement in the RMG sector as Machine Operators. The project satisfies IDLC’s focus to create equal opportunities for the marginal community through sustainable livelihood generation, and to contribute to women empowerment – both part of its broader Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) commitment.

This does not have a direct impact on our profits in the short run but we are looking at this as an investment into the economy as a whole. Organizations setting aside short-term gains to enable a large portion of the population contribute to the GDP should be a goal for any institution.

4. **IDLC has given training to the Female Garment Factory Workers on infant nurturing skills. What were the socio-economic impacts from this? Also how did this create a business motivation for IDLC? Do you think such efforts are sustainable in the long run?**

The reason we opted to provide support to new mothers working in the textile factories is to tackle the issue of proper maternity health awareness of new mothers in the garments sector. We have started working with Training and Assistance for Health and Nutrition (TAHN) Foundation from 2015 to enhance the infant care and breastfeeding skills of female garment factory workers by developing community-based peer counselors and support systems, covering around 400 households and training 8 peer counsellors who will continue to support these families in this matter.

In a business perspective, staff of various health facilities have confirmed that the babies of the employed female garment workers are seen to be frequently sick and are usually malnourished and health of their babies makes the mother (female worker) distracted, causes frequent absenteeism, and also worker’s hard earned earnings go on medical consultations and buying medicine. The objective of this initiative is to mitigate this problem and to improve the livelihood of these women. In RMG sector majority of the workers are female and these initiatives are important for sustainable economy. Therefore, creating awareness on key issues and provides guidance is essential to ensure growth of economic and social wellbeing.
5. Over the years IDLC has provided employment opportunities for people with disabilities, vulnerable and marginalized women and men. What is the objective of IDLC in working with such groups and what are your future visions to support them to achieve livelihood opportunities?

Many assume that the disabled and the vulnerable are weak. On the contrary, I believe they are stronger than the most of us. They face challenges in their everyday lives for things that many of us take for granted. So the privileged have a much narrower line of vision. These people on the other hand do not. Their experiences shape them to have a very different mindset from the rest of us, and that difference is a unique skill that organizations should hone if they want to better themselves. IDLC bring in these diverse groups of people to enrich our workforce with their gifts and in turn help them be the best version of themselves through technical and confidence building training.

Our future plan to continue these initiatives as I strongly believe in the latent potential of this population and we are always here to help them in any way they need, for them, for us and for the country.

6. As a leading financial institute in Bangladesh how do you propose to take the agenda of CSR and SDGs forward in the banking sector?

The banking sector is a unique placeholder in the CSR world. People assume that the only way financial institutions can help is by, well by financing. I disagree with this notion. While financing is of course one way to help, that just alone won’t help our country. We need to first find out the needs of the community, then divide the needs into segments and plan and budget accordingly and also ensure sustainability. We need to take steps to stabilize our economy.

In this regards I have seen several banks from neighboring countries do a fantastic job. They created a completely separate foundation that oversees CSR work. This helps divide the workload and makes the process more streamlined. We need to divide the sectors such as Health and Sanitation, Education and Skills, Livelihood Development, Environment and Rural development, then plan and execute. In IDLC we are currently working towards a similar way of reporting and spending, focusing on key development sectors to invest in.

7. In the next few years how do you foresee IDLC’s involvement in youth leadership or young entrepreneurship development? As you know “today’s youth are tomorrow’s leaders” – is there any plan for such initiatives in the future?

Bangladesh is at a crossroads now. With our goal to become a middle income country by 2021, we need to move from the extensive use of labor for production to entrepreneurship. And really, no one has more potential in this field then the youth of our nation. IDLC firmly believes in empowering this new generation with their plethora of amazing ideas and innovations. We are currently focusing on low income urban communities. This is where new entrepreneurial ideas spring up and these new businesses are so important to our economy, not only with their financial contributions but also with their potentials for creating new jobs. Their ideas are further improving the quality of lives of our people.
Currently we have multiple types of loans available to suit the needs of startups and other businesses. We look into their works on a case by case basis and provide expert advice regarding their policies as well. I have had the pleasure of interacting with so many talented young individuals and gained a great deal of insight. With every step we take we find out something new and try to incorporate that into our future policies.

8. IDLC has published a GRI Report on Sustainability – how has this helped in branding IDLC with a critical edge to business? Can you elaborate?

IDLC is committed to sustainable development by creating long-term value for our stakeholders, environment and our community. Internal and external communication of our work is extremely important not only for our image as a brand but also for complete transparency, a cornerstone principle of our organization. So the use of and established international standard makes this communication much easier for all parties involved. The performance indicators are approved and solid as well. It also makes comparison with other local and international organizations. It helps us understand and judge ourselves better, also developing future policies.
Best Practices to Ensure Quality Education

Arpara Model Government Primary School, Magura, Bangladesh

“Arpara Model Govt. Primary School” at Magura District in Bangladesh can be an example of ideal school to other educational institutes. Different “Best Practices” performing by the students and also continuous process of innovative initiatives and practices can be seen in the School.

Students enter into the classroom by pressing digital ID card machine. There are multimedia facilities for the students and their activities are been operated through CC camera by the Head Master of the School. The School has its own website (www.amgps.gov.bd) and in 2015, the admission process had done through online. In the “School Digital Service Point” students can learn about computers.

The School has a library named “Anando Pathagar” for the guardians. There is a special corner in the school premises titled “Mohanuvobotar Deyal (Wall of Humanity and Kindness)”. While entering the school, there can be seen the map of Bangladesh made with artificial grass in the frame with tiles on the left side is in the school. Here the students are taught the geography practically.

Some students gather their extra stuffs there so that students who need those stuffs can collect. Images of different inspirable activities of students are being tagged at the “Collections of Best Practice” corner to show and encourage other students. There is an “Honesty Shop” in the School which has no shopkeepers. Price of each products have been tagged and students keep the price of their desired products in a specific box.
All these initiatives have been taken by Easmin Akter, the Head Master of the School, to set up an exceptionally unique model beyond traditional school activities. She is constantly developing new initiatives for her dream school. This illuminant teacher, who came forward and realized that her responsibility is not only limited within providing lesson, but also to develop quality education which can be life-oriented and beneficial for human being. Her desire is to take the quality of education of this Upazila level school to the level of the European Primary School.

The immense support of Magura district administration and school teachers has made these initiatives possible. The school shows the unimaginable example of women empowerment. Women can contribute to society through their talents and hard work if they get opportunities. The initiatives taken by “Arpara Model Govt. Primary School” in Magura District can be replicated by other primary schools in Bangladesh.
Reducing Inequality in the Rural Areas

SQUARE Pharmaceuticals Limited
& SQUARE Toiletries Limited

SQUARE, the leading Pharmaceutical Company of Bangladesh has entered into the sector of herbal medicine with its future expansion plan, which is mostly dependent on the availability of quality local raw herbs. Landless farmer, jobless young people and women can contribute their family by producing medicinal plant and ensure green environment as well.

Our aim is to target and work with the nature to make economically self sufficient impacts in environment and increasing social values and integrity through plantation of medicinal herbs in cooperation of landless farmer, jobless young people and women – the key players that can provide additional financial support to their family.

Bangladesh possesses a rich flora of medicinal plants but those are not traceable. It has been estimated about 5000 species of different plants are growing in this country, among them more than 550 are regarded having medicinal properties. Use of these plants for therapeutic purposes has been in practice in this country since time immemorial. Even at this age of highly advanced allopathic medicine, a large majority (75-80%) of the population of this country still prefer using traditional medicine in the treatment of most of their diseases for not having any side effects.

So, SQUARE Herbal & Nutraceuticals Ltd (SHNL) a sister concern of SQUARE Pharmaceuticals Ltd works in collaboration with “Helvetas” Swiss Interco operation at northern district of
Bangladesh to encourage marginal farmers about the cultivation of medicinal plants to get quality raw material for our herbal medicines. SQUARE created market first, identified sustainable market and focused the market to the grower and trained the grower, developed skill and developed community based organization to enhance capacity building through learning process.

Initially 45 Villagers trained to initiate cultivation and sell directly to SQUARE’s Depot. To encourage growers, SQUARE purchased Bashak plant by taka 25/Kg where the market price was taka 12/ Kg. They received training on plantation and caring of herbs. Unused land can be utilized with the help of local people specially women and unemployed citizen to grow and care the herbs. SQUARE provided packing bags at free of cost to pack, store and smooth delivery to collection point. Gradually more intensive training provided, more people got involved and created Local Service Provider (LSP) to train, to collect and to smoothen up delivery process. SQUARE also arranged experience sharing workshop at union level for awareness raising at the producers.

To Create Shared Value SQUARE has chosen the poor marginal farmers at the northern part of the country as cultivator and direct seller of their caring plants. To initiate and to monitor whole process SQUARE collaborated with HELVITAS to make the project into realization.

The project of Medicinal plant cultivation impacted socially, economically and environmentally. Some impacts are mentioned below:

**Current access to economy by Marginal people**

**Producers:** Approximately 60,000 (Female: 48,000 & Male: 12,000)

**Extreme poor & poor:** 45600 (76 %)

**Public land /khasland (mainly roadside):** 450 km

**Homestead & others fellow land:** 150 Acres

**Local service provider (LSP):** 320

**Collectors:** 39

**Economical impact of the project**

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Unemployment
Limited access to education
Proverty
Less social recognition

**MARGINAL FARMERS**

**Before**

Unemployment
Limited access to education
Proverty
Less social recognition

**SQUARE**

Lack of Traceable Medicinal plant
Quality of RM: less ensured
Less quality claiming at RM part

**After**

Self employment
Access to education & Health
Alleviation of Proverty
Social recognition

Traceable medicinal plants
Ensured quality of RM
Full quality claiming
Contribution to Economy & Society through creating opportunity for marginal farmers
Economical Impact: About 60,000 marginal farmers are earning through Medicinal plant cultivation in the Northern part of Bangladesh. Poverty has been alleviated as they are earning from tk. 5000 to 25000/month. Women participation in earning process is maximum, so they are also contributing to the economy.

Social Impact: The medicinal plant cultivation and marketing model enhances social integrity through arranging interaction among the farmers. The education provided by LSP and the collection centre based social contacts enhances social value.

Environmental Impact: Huge cultivation of medicinal plant in the abundant land has enhanced forest development (450 KM road side). Use of natural pesticides and organic fertilizer enhance the caring for environment. Also Roadside basak cultivation decreased the soil erosion.

In 2005, we had only 3 products but presently we have 30 products. Among these products we export Adhovas- the medicine produced from Basak cultivation. In 2005 our sale value was only 1 cr taka where presently our sale value is 45 crore taka. PKSF under Finance Ministry has recognized our project and adopted as one of the project of PKSF for Poverty alleviation apart from their core micro credit project. Also government is helping the poor grower by small scale funding to promote the herb cultivation.

At Square Toiletries Limited, we believe CSR is not a particular agenda. It is what we do every day. It is sustainable, result-oriented, brand-connected initiatives to help people live a little better life.

Accessibility & dissemination of important information towards better health practice, especially in rural are always our key focus area for better business sustainability

Square Toiletries Ltd. (STL) is one of the shining stars of Square Group - the most trusted and respected conglomerate of Bangladesh. Being a trustworthy Bangladeshi company, STL always cares for people. The philosophy is “if we take care of people, they will take care of our business”. STL has couple of leading brands in different categories beating competitors. The reason behind this success is, STL always explores doing something that enhances customer’s lives. We call it ‘Care Based Marketing Approach. At STL we do not call it CSR rather it’s what we do every day.

STL operates a 24/7 toll free number (08000888000) for people who don’t have access to health center in rural areas. Everyday more than thousand callers are getting free service from Doctors and Psychologists regarding physical or mental health related problems e.g. pregnancy problem, children’s healthcare, general health problem, depression, adolescent health, nearby health care center location or an ambulance contact. With the highest ever mobile phone penetration in Bangladesh, this service is helping people from the deepest rural area. STL also launched the first interactive Bangla website www.supermombd.com where people can interact with medical / psychological professionals, can read articles.

To improve the lives of babies, STL focused on raising awareness on the importance of breast feeding and vaccination. STL is a proud contributor in the initiative of Polio elimination from Bangladesh. In Bangladesh it is extremely difficult for mothers to breast-feed at public places. STL arranges Breast Feeding Center and Diaper Changing Room in public places like trade fair, train/ bus stations through which mass people travels.
"Senora" being the 75% leader in sanitary napkin industry, understands the severity of menstrual health. Accompanied by a gynecologist, an expert team is moving from one rural school to another with the intention of reducing cervical infection, school absenteeism and early marriage, by educating girls about better menstrual health management. STL has educated 3.5 million girls to make their life better.

In association with Kingdom of Netherlands, STL ran a project ‘Go Bangladesh’ for RMG workers on Sexual & Reproductive Health & Right (SRHR). This is an attempt to ensure an improved life of a worker while increasing factories’ productivity. STL also made a film which is widely shown to generate rural awareness.

Senora is proud to be a part of Post Partum Hemorrhage Reduction intervention of ICDDR,B. One of the major reasons behind this high PPH caused maternal mortality rate was "inability to measure post-partum blood loss" as more than 70% of births takes place at rural home. Now the delivery kit contains measuring pad (each pad can absorb certain ml blood and can indicate risk of hemorrhage, in case of excessive bleeding). 40% decline over the past 9 years, the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in Bangladesh is now 194 per 100,000.

Square Toiletries Ltd. is aiming to touch 160 million lives to make them ‘Happy’ by ensuring quality and delivering sense of care through its products and efforts. That is how we aim to grow in business.
1. As CEO of the company what are your views on CSR? How can it help in company’s sustainability?

For us CSR, or CR as we refer in Robi, is the way we use technology to transform people’s lives into healthy lifestyle. Our vision is to be the next generation digital company. This transformation requires continuous innovation to bring up new ideas and new ways to serve our customers and lead them towards the fullest potential of life. We believe that as a responsible corporate, the more we transmute people’s lives with the help of technology, the more we unlock passages of doing business better and vice-versa. This win-win CR strategy will ensure our business sustainability. This is why we put CR at the very core of our business.

2. We are aware that Robi had made its market transformation in Bangladesh through its digital technology by greater mobile access – how do you envision its future growth in the rural areas and in achieving some of the SDGs such as reducing inequalities among various stakeholders?

The world which we now live in is going through a series of technological revolution that has already disrupted the way businesses perform. To perform better in this competitive edge, businesses, especially those reliant on technology, require the courage to continuously improve its base and actions amidst a steady focus. We envisioned a digitally-skilled nation and started working on digital lifestyle to be a partner in building a Digital Bangladesh.

With over 65% of our population living in the rural areas, we have always tried to connect the unconnected and reach the unreachable. We are continuously thriving to increase our rural coverage; at present, 65% of our total BTSs are in the rural areas. We have always been consistent in investing for network improvement since the launch of 3G technology in 2013 to help the government in bringing down the social inequalities.

We have already partnered with the ICT Division to take quality education through Robi-10Minute School across 2,001 Sheikh Russel Digital Labs and 30,000 multimedia classrooms in government schools and colleges. Besides we have signed up with GSMA’s Connected Women to include more women in our network ad enable them with the power of connectivity to break the social taboo. We ran a pilot project “Gori Nijer Bhobisshot” on vocational training for the underprivileged children in Chittagong to see if the adolescents can contribute in
advancing our ready-made garment and electronics industries at their legal working age and with appropriate skill set.

3. In Robi’s vision for sustainability how has its first GRI Report added value to its overall business? Do you think such a reporting framework should be used by all companies in Bangladesh?

We started producing our sustainability report in 2014 and the following year our maiden report “Dialing for Sustainability” was published. We have prepared the report according to the GRI-G4 standard. Our sustainability framework is derived from the Axiata Group’s four sustainability pillars - “commitment to beyond short-term profits”, “commitment to nurturing people”, “commitment to process excellence” and “commitment to planet and society”. The report has helped us in framing our activities and strategies based on the issues that are most materialistic to us for achieving our vision. We now think beyond the financial figures and gains that organizations otherwise prepare for their shareholders in the form of annual reports. My recommendation would be to make good use of the GRI reporting framework in Bangladesh not only in companies but in non-governmental organizations, media and service providers.

4. One of the company’s motto is to create jobs for “young talents” - how does Robi plan for human resource development in the telecom industry in Bangladesh to motivate the future youth?

Nurturing people is one of the four sustainability pillars we follow in Robi. As a people-centric company we believe that building a nation should begin with nurturing its young talents who would eventually lead them. Nurturing youth is one of the most important components of our human resource development plans.

We have a specific young talent program to hire fresh graduates and turn them into the next generation CEOs. Our rigorous training initiatives and especially the digital learning platform Lynda.com has brought enormous opportunities for our people to learn. We carefully design and recommend special courses based on functional and leadership requirements of the youth in our digital training platform. Besides, we run career carnivals across leading universities to guide the young minds towards the right career path. We invite university students to spend a day at our office to learn hands on from our colleagues about Robi and the telecom industry. Recently, we have started hiring local young talents for our regional operations.

Telecom companies, in terms of their rapid transformational future towards digital companies, are quite fascinating employers to the youth. The future we see for the youth is borderless, all about content and ideas and for that there will be less requirements for physical jobs, rather they all will go digital. Our human resource development plans are deliberated according to the future we see. Our young employees are skilled to be agile, innovative and customer-centric so that they understand the needs and trends to lead the nation towards positive societal changes.

5. In the context of “saving the planet “ Robi has already adopted many environmental-friendly strategies – to reduce carbon footprint, promote energy efficient work places, installing solar energy sites - are you thinking of a Public Private Partnership (PPP) in this regard to upscale your present activities? If yes, then how?
We care for the planet and this is the reason we have been working to improve our environmental footprint. We have a Green Committee in place who drives our internal green initiatives to be a greener and smarter office.

We serve over 38.5 million customers with the number one digital lifestyle network of the country. Our prime focus is to ensure energy and cost efficiency in our network, data centre and operations. In the long run, we plan to invest significantly to implement more energy-efficient technologies across our mobile towers, progressively reducing their reliance on non-renewable sources. The roll out of this initiative will be in many stages, and we will continue to monitor our progress to ensure sustainability in the long run.

We all know that PPP is a wonderful tool for national development and I foresee PPPs in the telecom sector as a crucial part of the industrial growth. I think there should be dialogues to identify paths for such collaborations backed by a proper futuristic guideline.

6. What are the challenges for the Telecom Industry that needs to be addressed by the Government?

Telecom is perhaps the most regulated industry in the country. Amidst many challenges, the key issues lie in the present taxation regime which is very high. Besides the cost of spectrum acquisition is quite high comparing to the other countries of the world. We do fear the regulatory uncertainty and the lack of regulatory framework to address the current imbalanced market landscape. I think in order to realize the dream of a Digital Bangladesh, government should partner the telecom industry and work together.

7. How can digital transformation drive future economic growth for Bangladesh?

Technology is a powerful enabler and the people of Bangladesh have already started getting the benefits of digital lifestyle. The number of micro start-ups and initiatives like Robi-10 Minute School, Yonder, Sheba.xyzetc - have all proven to be able to meet up our basic needs with digitally enabled features with perfection. Our government has also taken number of initiatives to educate young minds, especially the women, in ICT-based subjects and skill sets. This would surely bring disruption in the economy and the future will be driven by the digital world.

Foreign investors have always been keen in investing in Bangladesh for its inexpensive and abandoned human resources. For years, we have been sending semi-skilled and unskilled emigrants to developed countries who are now one of the key resources for our healthy GDP in terms of remittance. With the knowledge of ICT and the availability of soft skill development programmes and Nano degrees through different digital platforms, there will be time when we no longer export human being rather we shall be imparting their skills and earn more for the nation. Our economy, with the digital transformation, will become borderless and I strongly believe that today’s telecoms will become the biggest enablers of the future digital economy of the country.
Strategic Innovations to Reduce Inequalities across Multiple Domains

Pial Islam
Managing Partner, pi STRATEGY

pi STRATEGY is a pre-eminent management consulting firm that specializes in helping international and local clients transform ambiguity into opportunity. It connects leading edge management practices with development priorities through innovative design thinking principles.

At pi STRATEGY, corporate social responsibility is viewed through two distinct lenses. First and foremost, CSR is not viewed as a stand-alone activity. Instead, it is deeply embedded in the core business of the Firm. Secondly, and as a result of the first lens, the Firm meets its social responsibility mandate through each and every client engagement it undertakes. Many of its client engagements create direct and lasting contributions to inequality reduction. A small selection of examples is cited below.

Improvements within Social Safety Net Programs (SSNPs): The SSNPs target those in our society who are less fortunate, often a large segment of the base of the pyramid (BOP) population segments. The little financial support they receive from our Government is sometimes further reduced because of leakage throughout the system. In close collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh and the World Bank, pi STRATEGY helped develop innovative payment mechanisms and business processes to ensure the funds reach the intended recipients quickly and with a higher degree of accountability. Several pilots were designed, implemented and evaluated as a part of a country-wide payment modernization project.

SMILE: Enhancing access to Finance for Small Enterprises: The contribution of the small enterprises to a country’s GDP and growth is well documented. And yet, many of them find it difficult to obtain growth capital loans to expand their businesses, leading to a real and crippling inequality in access to finance. pi STRATEGY, in partnership with Robi/AXIATA, is developing a new product to address this inequality. The product features sophisticated productivity enhancement, inventory management, customer management and business intelligence tools in an easy-to-use mobile phone platform. It is expected that SMILE will help nearly one
million small enterprises improve their businesses and gain easier access to finance to expand their businesses.

Growth Strategy for NGOs: The NGO sector in Bangladesh plays a critical role in addressing many social challenges and inequalities. Over the past year, pi STRATEGY helped two leading non-profit organizations, CARE Bangladesh and ActionAid Bangladesh, craft their long term organizational strategies to help improve their operations and create lasting impact on social change. The inequalities addressed during these engagements span from the domains of women empowerment and nutrition to health and climate change.

Health Financing Innovation: Access to good quality health at affordable prices remains a critical inequality in Bangladesh. Over the years, pi STRATEGY has worked with a number of leading local and global organizations, such as ICDDR,B, BRAC Health, USAID, and Rockefeller Foundation among others, across a multitude of domains within the health sector to inject layers of innovation in solving complex health challenges that contribute to the inequality. One of those areas is health financing innovations as a part of Universal Health Coverage mandate of SDGs. In that respect, pi STRATEGY has put forward an innovative idea it calls the Nakshikantha approach, which turns existing health financing norms on its head and identifies a series of simple measures that can lead to both better quality of healthcare and reduce the inequality in terms of access and financing.

Path towards Greater Financial Inclusion: Financial Inclusion is yet another area where there exists widespread inequality in Bangladesh. The rich and well-to-do have access to a wide array of financial services that help protect and grow their assets, while the poor have limited access to formal financial sector services putting at risk the very little financial assets they do have. Equitable access to financial products such as savings, loans, and insurance can lead to improved financial well-being and equip people better to withstand financial shock from natural disasters or illnesses. And yet, 45+ years on, less than one-third of the population in Bangladesh is considered financially included, despite the 50+ banks, 60+ insurance companies and hundreds of MFIs we have in the country. pi STRATEGY has been actively involved in finding innovative solutions to this complex problem. Over the last 8 years, the Firm has conducted nearly 20 client engagements in this domain. It’s very first client engagement was a financial inclusion project that identified a set of new financial products specially targeting the base of the pyramid market segment. That engagement with World Economic Forum used extensive ethnographic research to inform the product innovation activities. One of the most recent engagements of pi STRATEGY that looked at the payment ecosystems in Bangladesh was also a financial inclusion project. For this engagement with the Prime Minister’s Office and UNCDF, pi STRATEGY conducted a first-of-its-kind assessment of all major payment modalities in Bangladesh, estimated what percentage was digital and what was not, and identified strategies to reach greater financial inclusion through digital means.

pi STRATEGY’s differentiated emphasis on CSR by embedding social responsibility directly into our core business has not weighed us down. In fact, it has instead helped us embolden our value and belief system in recognizing that every person and every organization has a responsibility toward addressing social challenges in whatever way possible. We are grateful and fortunate that our clients share the same values.
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PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDGs 16) – In the context of Bangladesh

Dr. Badiul Alam Majumdar
Secretary, SHUJAN: Citizens for Good Governance

On September 25, 2015, world leaders adopted a resolution entitled ‘Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’. The agenda is a ‘comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centered set of universal and transformative goals and targets’ – now referred to as the Global Goals. It seeks to strengthen universal peace, free humanity from poverty and heal our planet. The agenda’s bold and ambitious steps are intended to move the world to a sustainable and resilient path, causing lives of all to profoundly improve and our world to transform for the better. The agenda, known as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is to come into effect from January 1, 2016, replacing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and has been in implementation by relevant stakeholders over the past two years.

SDGs differ from MDGs

The SDGs are unique and differ significantly from the MDGs. First, the MDGs were designed to move us ‘half way’ to ending hunger and poverty whereas the SDGs are intended to fully solve these problems by 2030 and gives more detailed approaches.

Second, the SDGs are universal. They apply to people of all countries from both developed and developing nations. The intention is to leave no one behind because of her or his gender, age, disability, income, geography, ethnicity or other status. In fact, the commitment to reach the furthest behind first.

Third, the SDGs promote integrated development in social, economic and environmental issues. They address, among others, issues relating to democracy, plurality, accountability, violence, peace, equity and climate change.

Fourth, as violence and poverty tend to go hand in hand, peace building and promoting social harmony, are critical to the success of ending hunger and poverty. The new Agenda recognizes this need, and the ‘factors which give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice, such as inequality, corruption, poor governance and illicit financial and arms flows, are addressed in the Agenda.’

Fifth, the MDGs focused more on numerical targets, such as high enrollment rates in education, while the SDGs focus on quality of education and learning. The SDGs recognize the role of education in achieving a more humane and peaceful world.

Sixth, one of the most distinguishing features of the new Agenda is that it calls for ‘inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights ... rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions.’ In many countries good and effective governance, or lack thereof, have now become the most important of ‘development challenge.’ In fact, lack of democratic, accountable and inclusive governance are threatening the status quo and stimulating violent extremism to take deep roots in many societies.
Seventh, unlike the MDGs, the SDGs call for close monitoring of results through its 169 indicators, which will require conducting rigorous and regular reviews of progress at the sub national, national, regional and global levels. Such reviews are to be inclusive, transparent, gender-sensitive, respectful of human rights and have a particular focus on the poorest and most vulnerable people. The data to be used must be of high quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated. These reviews are intended to ensure accountability of authorities to the citizens.

Finally, although MDGs were to be largely financed by foreign aid, which did not materialize, each country will have the primary responsibility of implementing the SDGs mobilizing resources through inclusive and sustainable development. However, as the SDGs represent global commitment, such implementation is to be facilitated by revitalized global partnership in the areas of resource mobilization, capacity building, technology transfer and international trade. The global engagement in support of implementation of the SDGs has brought together Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and other actors in mobilizing all available resources.

**Sustainable Development Goal 16 and it targets**

The SDGs have 17 goals, of which Goal 16 is the most important in that it makes all other goals possible. In fact, Goal 16 is the crown-jewel of the SDGs and the achievement of other goals depends on it. It calls for ‘promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all level.’ Goal 16 has several targets, such as: end abuse, exploitation and all form of violence, promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice for all, develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions free from corruption & bribery, provide legal identity and protect fundamental freedom for all.

**Condition of SDG 16 in Bangladesh**

The present scenario of all the elements of SDG 16 in Bangladesh need to go a long way, for example, all forms of violence – political, religious, criminal, extra-judicial killing, unaccounted for disappearance, cruelty and violence against women and children, inter-personal and gender-based violence should not be tolerated. The domestic and international human rights organizations have been increasingly expressing concerns about the deteriorating human rights situation in Bangladesh.

The World Justice Project publishes Rule of Law Index for 113 countries for 44 indicators across eight primary rule of law factors, each of which is scored and ranked globally and against income peers. The eight primary rule of law factors are: Constraints on government powers, Absence of corruption, Open government, Fundamental rights, Order and security, Regulatory enforcement, Civil service, and Criminal justice. According to the Rule of Law Index for 2016, Bangladesh’s overall rule of law performance places it at 4 out of 6 in the South Asia region (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka), 23 out of 28 among lower-middle income countries, and 103 out of 113 countries and jurisdictions worldwide. The rich and powerful, especially belonging to the ruling party enjoy impunity and the poor are denied of access to justice. Thus, the rule of law in Bangladesh seeks greater attention from all relevant stakeholders to come forward to address these fundamental issues, otherwise if the current situation stays on like these, it will be impossible to achieve the other SDGs.
Illicit outward financial flow has been increasing in Bangladesh over the years (Target 16.4). According to Global Financial Integrity, on average, $6.16 billion was siphoned out of Bangladesh each year between 2005 and 2014. The total unrecorded capital flow from Bangladesh was $61.63 billion during the same period. Of this, $56.83 billion are due to under and over-invoicing. The rate illicit capital flight was higher since 2007, following the political turmoil, and continued until 2013.

Bangladesh has the legal framework in place for ensuring legal identity for all Bangladeshis, although its birth registration rate is still low. The influx of huge number of Rohingyas to Bangladesh, who nationals of neighboring Myanmar but there is no end in sight for their return, makes the situation even more challenging. Bangladesh has an excellent Right to Information Law, but its implementation is slow at best (Targets 16.9 and 10).

To conclude, SDG 16 is about democracy, good governance, peace and security and sustainable development. Based on our accumulated experience, it is obvious that sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security; and peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development. Thus, the 2030 Agenda recognizes the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights, on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions. This is based on the realization that sustainable development will not be possible in the long run if there is no democracy, good governance and respect for human rights and human dignity.
1. As you know SDG 16 highlights “Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions” – in the case of Bangladesh what are the main challenges to strive forward in this agenda? Do you think that there is some progress so far?

Since Independence Bangladesh has made significant progress both in social and economic areas. Our GDP size has multiplied, social advancement has been remarkable. Such progress has been possible due to our hard working people. Policy measures by the government have also been supportive. Bangladesh’s economy rests on three pillars – agriculture, manufacturing and service sectors. Bangladeshi farmers, readymade garments workers and other industry workers and migrant workers are the drivers of our economy. In order to move forward, the government has to ensure an enabling environment. We need institutions which will not only be independent, but also efficient which can implement policies. In my view, we have not made much progress in this area. For ensuring economic governance, relevant institutions such as Bangladesh Bank, Securities & Exchange Commission, and National Board of Revenue need to be more dynamic and effective. These institutions have to be equipped with full automation and highly skilled human resources.

2. In your opinion what is the role of private sector, civil society and media to build strong institutions to ensure accountability, efficiency, transparency and independence and achieve Bangladesh’s vision 2021?

The private sector has been working in a number of areas. Not only they contribute to wealth generation, they also create employment and income for a large section of the population. Their activities have to be integrated into the overall SDG framework. The civil society has three important roles to play - identify the issues important for the country, create awareness among the broader section of the population, and provide guidance and make policy suggestions. The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) is working for more than two decades to create awareness among various stakeholders on issues which influence their lives and livelihoods. The result is noteworthy –general people’s awareness on many economic and social issues have increased. Of course, many other CSOs are also working in their respective areas of interest and expertise. Media is also playing an important role in creating awareness on economic, social and political issues. They can contribute further by prioritizing their focus towards issues which are important for achieving Bangladesh’s vision 2021.
3. **Strengthening Institutional Capacity to establish ‘Good Governance’ is vital to achieve SDGs**

Bangladesh has already achieved the status of a Lower Middle Income Country. Now it aspires to become an Upper Middle Income Country. As we will be moving from a Lower Middle Income Country to an Upper Middle Income Country, we will lose some privileges given to a low income country, such as aid at low interest rate and duty free market access of products in the global market. So we have to be prepared to compete with other developing countries to access finance from international sources at a market rate. This will be expensive. To face these challenges, institutional strengthening is critically important. We have to focus more on domestic resource mobilisation to undertake development programmes. We have to diversify exports, move upwards to more value added products and improve our share in the value chain. We have to utilise foreign aid more efficiently. The underlying requirement for all these is to have strong institutions with full accountability. Only then good governance can be established.

4. **All forms of violence and insecurity have a destructive impact on country’s socio-economic development – what measures should be taken to reduce the risk and optimize the growth?**

The economic cost of violence is enormous. Although violence is a global-phenomenon, in Bangladesh we need to understand the root cause of violence. Lack of awareness, economic necessity and detachment from the mainstream society are the major reasons behind such behaviour. We have to acknowledge the problem and address it rather than ignoring and denying its existence.

5. **Do you think private sector engagement can facilitate the GOB’s plan?**

As I have mentioned earlier in this interview, the private sector is playing a significant role in the economy. About 80% of our economy is dependent on the private sector. The government has to create a vibrant and enabling environment where not only a specific sector, but all important sectors will get opportunities to grow and expand. For example, SME sector has the potential to create self-employment. Young and new entrepreneurs should have access to finance to start their own business.

6. **How can CSR engagement enhance the overall positive impact on the economy of Bangladesh and achieve SDGs?**

As we become more integrated into the global economy, we have to follow the global norms and standards. We have to be more compliant to business rules and ethics. CSR is an integral part of responsible business. The private sector should have an in-built CSR policy in their business. And this should not be limited to donation or charity. This should not be done on an ad-hoc basis. Organizations need to have a genuine intention to work for social and environmental development of their communities. Partnership is crucial for SDG implementation. SDG 17 emphasises on partnership among government, private sector and other actors of the society. Each stakeholder has a role to play in achieving the SDGs. Since the SDG agenda is vast, its implementation will require large amount of resources. Countries will have to explore new and innovative workers of fund beyond the traditional official sources. Therefore, CSR can complement the efforts towards implementation of the SDGs in Bangladesh.
Business 4 Peace: Encouraging Economic Stability

SAFERWORLD

Better business can only be achieved through economic stability and an enabling trade environment. Otherwise there can be negative impacts in society and it is the State’s duty to reduce conflict and encourage an enabling climate where business can flourish towards economic stability.

Over the last few years Saferworld has worked with businesses in several contexts. It focuses in supporting and advising businesses to be aware of the impact in the area they are operating in, the potential conflict or violence they might face and how to handle the situation together for better business.

Through Saferworld projects with communities in South-Western Bangladesh has emerged that the Businesses, Chambers and Business Leaders are playing a positive role in promoting peace and preventing violence. However, there are lots need to do to ensure that general people are connected with the relevant authorities to avoid violence and improve security.

Last couple of years (1991-2015) violent actions has integrated as part of political unrest and tools for entering in power, so general people expressed their fear and identified political violence as major cause of insecurity, open conflict, strikes, disruption to do daily business and even to have a normal life. Picketing, strikes and hartals caused 100 days of lost trading in 2015. Media reports in 2015 estimated lost economic growth due to civil unrest in the region is US $ 2.2 b and Economic impact with previous bouts of violence having been estimated at around US$60-80million per day (Kochanek, 2000). In situations like this communities feel helpless and no place to express their grievances. In some cases communities expressed their angers against political parties, administration and their representative organizations through symbolic work off 2 hrs/day, human chain and producer groups throwing or destroying their raw materials, products, goods and commodity publicly.

Responding to these issues Saferworld developed a program of work that aimed to harness the potential of the business sector for peace. Focused on two approaches-conducting research to understand the dynamics of business on conflict or peace situations and then a pilot project with business leaders in Sylhet, Sunamganj and Rajshahi district.

Using focus group discussions and key informer interviews to collect data, this research was carried out in three districts (Sylhet, Sunamganj and Rajshahi) and with five groups: a) business holders, entrepreneurs and associations, b) local government representatives and officials, c) civil society organizations, academic, local elites and the media, d) political groups and e) marginalized groups. In each district, a workshop was conducted to discuss the potential of business for peace and a subsequent joint validation workshop was held in Dhaka. The research focused on six areas - drivers of conflict, the types of interaction of business holders, initiatives respond to those conflict drivers, spoilers or champions of engagement, the impact of conflict dynamics on women, youth and marginalized groups, and the potential of business holders.
as change agent. Participants expressed the limitations and helplessness as individuals or as groups against those conducting unrest and violence.

The research identified five broad and overlapping factors lashing conflict and insecurity - political polarization, the out casting of politics, erosion of traditional norms and structure, the exploitation of religious and ethnic identities for political gain and unethical and exploitative business practices. During the discussion about research findings it became clear that business companies are the key stakeholder who willingly or unwillingly link with power structures and can play important role in promoting peace as they are key resource providers. The respondents identified the specific role and action of business holders towards peace, such as creating job opportunities and increasing economic opportunities, awareness raising and leveraging influence, promoting collaboration among different groups and setting an example through positive behavior.

Following the research strand the project has formed business for peace committees and opened ‘business for peace’ centers in each district. Business holders have brought together different local groups who take action together to influence policy makers and practitioners to work on reduction of violence and political unrest. The committee members were selected from all the respondents’ categories and working to organize activities that raise awareness, inspire and coordinate local communities for peace. It is also expected that greater coordination will be developed through small actions that has organized and promoted by the committee. Business holders lead the committee to protect the society and act as peace agent for the society. The main drive and interest of the business holders follow the win-win situation and serve for the bigger interest of the nation along with their own resource, business and livelihood saving. The next national election will be experiment for such initiatives as respondents guessing more violence as part of power dynamics.
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PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS
Addressing the Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) Crisis

Dr. Md. Khairul Islam
Country Director, WaterAid, Bangladesh

We are nearly two years into the era of the Sustainable Development or Global Goals, and the implications of this pivotal turn in international development are becoming clearer every day. Seeking to build on its strong performance in a number of areas in the Millennium Development Goals, Bangladesh has already set up a Chief Coordinator for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Affairs position in the Prime Minister’s Office, and both government and civil society are already deeply engaged in dialogues around a number of SDGs.

In the case of Global Goal 6—ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all—Bangladesh would appear to already have a significant advantage from its experience and lessons in vastly improving access to water and sanitation over the past two decades. We have come a long way from the days of nearly 40% open defecation. However, as we close the first chapter in Bangladesh’s journey towards safe water, sanitation and hygiene for everyone, we must look forward to the gaps that remain, and the emerging challenges that threaten years of collective effort.
Bangladesh’s remarkable gains in sanitation over the past two decades has largely relied on the rapid spread of pit latrines, an affordable form of improved sanitation that has enabled millions of both rural and urban poor to end longstanding practices of open defecation. However, the prevalence of pit latrines in rural areas and urban low income communities, as well as on-site sanitation with septic tanks for wealthier urban households, has created a second generation problem in the inadequate management of faecal sludge. Waste from septic tanks and pits operating beyond capacity can leak into the environment; or be dumped in open water bodies after cleaning. When we understand that every metric cube of sludge released into the environment is the equivalent of a thousand people defecating in the open, the looming crisis of Faecal Sludge Management (FSM) and the threat it poses to Bangladesh’s achievement in health and sanitation becomes apparent.

WaterAid and other NGOs, including SNV Netherlands Development Organization, Practical Action Bangladesh, Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor, Dustha Shasthya Kendra are all working on FSM, along with government institutions such as Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE), Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (DWASA) and academic institutions such as the International Training Network Centre in Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (ITN-BUET). These organizations are working to pilot and establish systems of waste management that look at the entire chain of sanitation – from containment of waste to its transport, treatment and eventual use or disposal. The range of initiatives spans from collection of waste using Vacutug, to transport to treatment facilities that then turn the waste into compost products.

These commendable initiatives are only the start. The issue of FSM comes with multiple faces related to policy, economics and technology – interconnected to each other in a complex web that demands equally multi-dimensional solutions. The strength of the SDGs lie in their acknowledgment of this complexity, and in its push to view development more broadly
as a comprehensive process rather than set of standalone, sector-bound issues. For us to successfully tackle the FSM crisis and achieve SDG 6, we need to shift to this new paradigm, tapping into a history of collective action on WASH but also bringing fresh thinking and local innovations to tackling the next phase.

The private sector has a key role to play in this aspect of meeting the SDGs, both as a potential ally to the efforts of government and civil society, and in their own capacity. There is considerable scope for involvement of the private sector through FSM-centred businesses in each step of the sanitation chain—containment, emptying, transport, treatment and safe reuse/disposal. Alongside, the need to develop a market for by products of the process also offers exciting opportunities for private sector entrepreneurs. While the public service aspect of FSM gives pause to straightforward equations to conventional for-profit models, the extra-monetary benefits in the form of massive reduction in environmental pollution and public health risk makes this a very promising area of exploration for CSR.

As Bangladesh continues its journey of economic growth and overall development, we need to take steps to prepare for the demanding future acknowledged in the SDGs. It is imperative that we address the issue of FSM comprehensively and urgently as a nation, in order secure existing accomplishments and ensure that millions of lives are not once again put at health risk.
1. In August 2010, The Government of Bangladesh issued the Policy and Strategy for Public Private Partnership (PPP) which has been replaced by PPP Law 2015 as part of the Government’s Vision 2021. Could you please elaborate on this initiative?

Bangladesh has been facing many development challenges since gaining independence in 1971. To overcome some of these challenges, the country requires significant investment in energy, transport, and water supply infrastructure and several other sectors. In mid-2009, a policy encouraging public-private collaboration was declared by the Government of Bangladesh (GoB) in the national budget legislation, but it lacked clear guidelines on how to put the government’s intentions into practice. Informal conversations with business leaders and government officials revealed a need for dialogue between the government and business representatives to identify and resolve obstacles in the implementation of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs).

In August 2010, the Government of Bangladesh issued the Policy and Strategy for Public Private Partnership (PPP) to facilitate the development of core sector public infrastructure and services vital for the people of Bangladesh. The PPP program is part of the Government’s Vision 2021 goal to ensure a more rapid, inclusive growth trajectory, and to better meet the need for enhanced, high quality public services in a fiscally sustainable manner.

Under this new national policy, the PPP Authority was established as a separate, autonomous office under the Prime Minister’s Office to support sector line ministries to facilitate identification, development and tendering of PPP projects to international standards. A PPP Unit under the Ministry of Finance was established to foster an environment of fiscal responsibility and sustainability in PPP projects. Later on, in 2015, the policy was replaced by the PPP Act 2015 as part of the Government’s Vision 2021.

In its Vision 2021 governmental action plan, Bangladesh has set the goal of becoming a middle income country by 2021. In its election manifesto, the present government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh promised to raise the GDP growth rate to 8 per cent. To achieve such a growth rate, the share of investment-to-GDP needs to be raised to 35-40 per cent, but the present average investment-to-GDP ratio is 22-23 per cent. According to one estimate, to
sustain a GDP growth rate of 8 per cent and beyond will require an additional US $28 billion (BDT 1.96 trillion) for 2016-2021. Participation of the private sector through PPP is considered an important route to reduce the investment deficit.

2. **In November 2016, PPP Authority signed “PPP Financing Partnership” MOU with 14 Financial Institutions. How do you see these initiatives will bring PPP success stories in Bangladesh?**

To ensure easy access to financing for the PPP projects and to shorten the timeframe for achieving financial close, Public Private Partnership (PPP) Authority has launched PPP Financing Program through signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with 14 Banking and non-banking financial institutions.

The Government introduced the Policy and Strategy for Public Private Partnership (PPP) 2010 and enacted an act in 2015, as part of the Vision 2021 goal to ensure a more rapid, inclusive growth trajectory, and to better meet the need for enhanced, high quality public infrastructure services in a fiscally sustainable manner.

The government is committed to providing quality infrastructure to the people and hence taken PPP as one of the most priority tools for private sector investment in infrastructure development of the country.

3. **In your opinion, what role should the Private Sector play with Government to advance Sustainable Development Goals in Bangladesh?**

The SDGs reflect an ambitious development objective with a transformative vision. The SDGs framework, unlike the MDGs, has been formulated to be universal and applicable to all countries. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 14 years. These are an intergovernmental set of goals with 169 targets. Private sector is recognized as the primary engine of growth, owning and operating production systems and accounting for most of the investment of the country. Total Investment outlay of 7th FYP is BDT 31.9 trillion or USD 407 billion, of which share of private sector 77.3% (USD 314 billion) and share of public sector is 22.7% (USD 92 billion). Meaning Private sector has a significant stake. Gross Domestic Investment as percentage of GDP would need to increase from 28.97% to 34.4%. FDI is supposed to increase from USD 2.25 billion to USD 9.56 billion.

4. **Do you think it is important to have partnership with civil society, organization and NGOs – how does your ministry advancing SDGs in Bangladesh?**

According to the United Nations Development Group (UNDG, 2013), there are strong voices demanding that civil society fully participate in the design of post-2015 policies in order to create functional national systems. Civil society must play a critical role in fostering advocacy and mediation in policy development, identifying crucial development priorities, proposing practical solutions and policy opportunities, and criticising impractical or problematic policies.

To represent the interests of the poorest and most marginalised members of society at the local level, CSOs should take on some critical roles. Such as:
• Listen to people and be aware of what is happening in their respective areas of operation.

• Translate the voices of the poorest and most marginalised citizens into rational or strong arguments that are acknowledged and addressed by the local government.

• Develop relationships or partnerships with the local government and in particular, identify the government departments, actors or institutions that need to respond in order to remedy problems.

• Use human rights as a lens of analysis. Adopting a human rights approach will enable the identification of groups of people whose rights have been violated, neglected or overlooked in development processes.

• Identify, engage with and learn from other CSOs that interact with these groups.

• Play a critical role as transformers in society by being involved in training and advocacy processes, which build the capacities and knowledge of the general people towards achieving the SDGs.

5. What do you see as being most effective in creating Cross Sector Partnerships?

Cross-sector partnerships are valuable because they allow innovative government, CSOs, business and non-profit leaders to advance goals that they cannot readily make progress on alone, e.g., achieving SDGs. Collaboration can yield substantial benefit, as partners bring different, often complementary assets to a relationship. When policy makers, bureaucrats, and academics, as well as leaders across sectors find the space where the global goals need intersects with the nonprofit’s mission, business communities, policy makers, and so on, they can work together toward an outcome that is a mutual win/win, most importantly, help advance the country and bring effective changes into life of the poor mass.

6. What are the challenges in establishing and managing cross sector Partnerships?

The term public-private partnership, for example, is used to describe a plethora of different arrangements from a simple business-NGO collaboration to a core-business, profit-making regulated partnership delivering public services or infrastructure, such as the PFIs in the UK. This latter type not only requires a completely different approach contractually and procedurally, but is considered by many as a form of privatisation and can encounter significant ideological resistance. Moving to a common language around collaboration and partnership would help set a stronger basis for moving forward.

The main challenge, however, is that partnering across societal sectors is much easier to espouse than it is to implement. It requires overcoming traditional mindsets, getting people to take risks, finding and convening organisations with different drivers, resources, timescales, values and cultures, agreeing common objectives that fulfil all sides’ needs and building trust and equity between the partners.

The challenge is exacerbated by the fact that there are few mechanisms to catalyse partnership development, organisations are usually not well set up for partnership, and individuals are often lacking the skills and experience necessary to partner effectively.
7. “Reduce Inequality” – Sustainable Development Goals -10 – to achieve this goal is there any initiative taken by the Ministry of Finance?

Over the last three decades Bangladesh has witnessed a significant reduction in its poverty rates, from 60% in 1990 to 24.8% in 2015. This has come as a result of strong economic growth, averaging at 6.5% since 2010. But despite these advancements, Bangladesh has a long road ahead in ensuring that economic growth is both stable and inclusive, keeping rising inequality in check and responding to extreme climate risks and disasters. The threat of climate change puts at risk the hard-earned impacts of years of growth and development, not just for those people in impoverished settlements along coastal belts and riverbanks, but also rather for the entire nation.

In order to reduce inequality and to achieve SDGs, the Ministry of Finance has taken number of initiatives. Bangladesh is progressively trying her best to achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 25 per cent of the population.

8. How can Government and Private Sectors work together to achieve SDG 10?

National Social Security Strategy of Bangladesh-2015 has already been formulated and all out efforts are being made to attain goals and targets set out in the strategy so as to progressively achieve greater equality. The Government is also improving the regulation and monitoring of financial markets and institutions and strengthens the implementation of such regulations.

Juxtapose, Ministry of Finance is seriously considering ensuring enhanced representation and voice in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions.
Making Agriculture and Food System More Productive and Resilient through Public Private Partnerships

Selim Reza Hasan
Country Manager-Bangladesh, Solidaridad

In Bangladesh, Solidaridad is facilitating a distinct transition towards sustainable growth of agriculture and market linkages through public-private partnerships and cooperation among those operating within the supply chain. The Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Linkages (SaFaL) program implemented by Solidaridad and supported by the Dutch embassy, is working with 60,000 smallholder farmers and landless workers in five districts, in southwest Bangladesh to improve food security and develop resilient livelihoods.

As a developing country, Bangladesh is making significant progress regarding food security and reducing poverty. Agriculture is the key source of income for the majority of the people in Bangladesh; therefore advancing this sector will increase the affordability of their livelihood such as nutritious food, access to education, better health care etc. It has great potential to contribute more in local food market as well as in international food market.

There is a pressing need for transforming food production and market system to promote availability, affordability and acceptability of food for the consumers in Bangladesh. The smallholders, who are playing a crucial role in production and supply of food, can hardly optimize the benefits because of the long and complex supply chains. Therefore, an inclusive approach is needed for ensuring a win-win situation for the producers, supply chain actors and consumers.

Solidaridad is undertaking a systematic approach towards ensuring sustainable growth of agriculture and market linkages through public-private partnerships and cooperation among the players operating within the supply chain. In alliance with GoB authorities, CSOs and businesses, Solidaridad is developing robust farmer support structures and business linkages for the adoption of good practices, market and finance. This includes policy influencing activities to frame a national plan of action for enhancing access to ecosystem services and supply chain governance towards increasing productivity in a sustainable manner. This, in turn, has led to improved access to quality inputs by the smallholders, responsible sourcing and inclusiveness of the value chain. This is being achieved through knowledge and skill enhancement of the producers and market actors, collectivization and institutionalization, improved linkages with the market and the service providers, capacity building and development of systems and processes for learning and sharing of ideas and new innovations.

The Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Linkages (SaFaL) program implemented by Solidaridad and supported by the Dutch embassy, is working with 60,000 smallholder farmers and landless workers in five districts, namely, Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Jessore and Narail in southwest Bangladesh to improve food security and develop resilient livelihoods. SaFaL is
developing business models for inclusive supply chains, thereby enabling the smallholder farmers to become successful agricultural entrepreneurs in aquaculture, horticulture and dairy. Solidaridad has organized the smallholders into 1,020 producers’ groups (collective action) and helped them to grow diversified food crops (availability), increase productivity through sustainable practices, improved income (affordability) and connected them to several local, national and international markets (accessibility). 500 Lead Farmers have been trained who are now working as ‘catalysts of change’ through farmer-to-farmer knowledge transfer, extension services and market linkages.

A total of 40 public and private institutions are collaborating with and investing in Solidaridad supported supply chains to promote new technologies, supply quality inputs like seeds and bio pesticides; and to develop responsible sourcing from the farmers.

Solidaridad along with the Bangladesh Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) developed a business model to connect mango producers with the export and domestic retail chains. Together with DAE and the Bangladesh Ministry of Agriculture, Solidaridad facilitated a framework for the “National Action Plan for Pest Free and Safe Mango Production for Domestic Consumption and Export”. The action plan outlined the production and post-harvest management practices to produce high quality and safe mango to comply with national and international market standards.

The Agora Super Stores are regularly sourcing farm produces from the producer groups, exporters are sourcing mango from the farmers through contract farming, BRAC Dairy is sourcing fresh milk and the seafood exporters are sourcing shrimp directly. In addition, a number of private sector companies such as Lal Teer Seeds, Ispahani Agro Ltd. are working on the backward market linkages for ensuring access and availability of quality farm inputs.

Solidaridad also mobilized key stakeholders in the shrimp sector, thus making a breakthrough in the shrimp business. A National Working Committee led by the Secretary, Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock; is being formed for decision making on policy issues related to inclusive and sustainable growth of the Bangladesh shrimp sector. The National Working Committee is currently working on formulating a “National Action Plan for the sustainable and inclusive development of Bangladesh shrimp sector”. 
CSR CENTRE AT A GLANCE

Vision
To be the catalyst for better society by encouraging public, private and development sectors towards promoting responsible business

Mission
To be the innovators for a positive change in society through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Highlights of the CSR Centre’s Activities from 2016 to 2017
- Development of the National CSR Guideline for Private Sector led Growth in Bangladesh
- CSR and Sustainability Seminars & Workshops
- Capacity Building on Social Compliance and its continuous improvement
- Guidebook Development on relevant CSR issues
- UNGC initiatives
In these last few years we in Bangladesh have seen an enormous interest on the issues of CSR or what is known as “Corporate Social Responsibility” – specifically after the disastrous incidents we have seen in 2013 through the calamities in the garment sector and of course the global interest in putting pressure for global standards in Bangladesh’s manufacturing industries.

The CSR Centre and the UN Global Compact talks about global standards which are applicable to all sectors and can be prioritized as per need of the industry. The CSR Centre in 2013 had launched the UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights (UNGPs) in 2014 it launched the Food & Agriculture Business Principles (FABP) for sustainability in the agriculture sector through international standards. In 2015 the Women Empowerment Principles (WEP) was launched in Bangladesh specifically for enhancing approaches to women’s empowerment. After which the Sustainable Development Goals were launched by the UN in New York which replaced the MDGs. After two years there has been a consorted effort by the Government of Bangladesh, various donors, INGOs, NGOs, CSOs and academia to implement the SDG agenda. Yet a common partner with all is the private sector – without the private sector there is no scope for PPP or Public Private Partnerships – there needs to be a common vision for progress and that vision can be a reality only by working together in country to implement the SDGs in Bangladesh! Both CSR and SDGs goes hand in hand. The UNGC being the largest CSR platform in the world includes issues on human rights, labour standards, environment and anti-corruption & good governance.

Today with this publication of the “Report on CSR in Bangladesh 2017: “Promoting CSR through the SDGs for Better Business” which is the CSR Centre’s 5th report, I am happy to see many of the Bangladeshi companies and NGOs as well as donors are not only implementing the SDGs but also getting an opportunity to share their experiences through our report to a broader audience. It reveals that there has been a positive change in the CSR landscape.

I would therefore like to encourage those sectors and entities who are still thinking whether they are fit to implement CSR or the SDGs - the time is now right to come forward and engage as Bangladesh moves forward in the global platform.
Message from the CEO

“CSR is increasing becoming a crucial agenda for all companies whether large or small - national or global - as it goes beyond philanthropy towards a strategic engagement in social, economic and environmental standards that leads towards responsible business and trade benefits.”

This year’s CSR Report “Promoting CSR through the SDGs for Better Business” highlights some of the national priorities in line with the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) of the UN. The report through its interviews, case studies and articles hopes to disseminate the socio-economic development in Bangladesh occurring through the CSR landscape. It also touches upon Bangladesh’s vision to become a Middle Income country.

As multinational and larger national companies engage in CSR – the Bangladesh Government is also looking at Public Private Partnerships (PPP) through a CSR lens while the development partners have initiated dialogue on CSR and private sector engagements. Companies require learning and incorporating global standards that can make “better business sense” in order to enhance trade opportunities. Most of the developing nations are dramatically changing their course of action by prioritizing the SDGs that can offer rapid socio-economic growth, financial independence and political stability to promote themselves to a Middle Income country and Bangladesh is no exception.

Through increased strategic CSR efforts by all stakeholders it is possible to supplement ongoing initiatives that have come a long way in supporting and branding a “Bangladesh for the Future”.

Shahamin S. Zaman
CEO, CSR Centre & GCN Bangladesh Focal Point
ABOUT THE CSR CENTRE

The CSR Centre is an organization dedicated to raise awareness about Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and encourage responsible business practices in Bangladesh to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The CSR Centre was established in 2007 initiated by the private sector of Bangladesh to encourage and expand on strategic CSR practices in Bangladesh and globally.

The primary objective of the Centre is to become the prime source of information, resources, and advisory services on CSR in Bangladesh, and the operational principal is to contribute to achieving the human development targets set in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through private sector led growth.

CSR Centre provides capacity building initiatives on CSR and other social compliance issues, guidance on international standards (SA8000, BSCI, etc.), private sector engagement and multi-stakeholder dialogue for development partners, national and international companies and works closely with relevant Government Ministries.

The CSR Centre launched the UN Global Compact in Bangladesh in 2009 which is the largest official platform for corporate engagement and CSR in the globe led by UN Secretary General. The CSR Centre as UNGC Focal Point launches and works along the UN initiatives nationally, regionally and globally.
KEY ACTIVITIES OF CSR CENTRE

- Provide Training on CSR & GRI
- Provide Training on Business Social Compliance Initiatives (BSCI) which includes different social compliance issues such as Occupational Health & Safety, Fair Remuneration & Decent Working Hours, Drafting a Remediation Plan and Social Management System
- Advice companies on CSR strategy development
- In-depth consultation with the company management team to develop concise roadmap for sustainable CSR implementation
- Facilitate forums, seminars, workshops to engage stakeholders for advocating responsible business practices and CSR
- Promote UNGC membership & provide advisory services to members
- Develop CSR case studies for sharing best practices of CSR
- Facilitate stakeholders to become CSR champions
- Engage with CSR projects in different sectors
Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD)
The centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) was established as a non-profit civil society initiative with a view to advance the cause of a participatory, inclusive and accountable development process in Bangladesh. CPD seeks to give voice to the interest and concern of the marginalized stakeholders in the society. They generate knowledge, which is created within the national framework in the context of regional and global.

CPD works on evidence-based research, multi-stakeholders dialogue, effective outreach – three different but interrelated expressions to contribute to the emergence of an inclusive society based on equity, justice, fairness and good governance.

Grameen Phone
Grameen Phone has various projects and initiatives in different sectors, focused on using their core competence to make a difference to the society. GP provides technical solutions for Anjuman Mufidul Islam with the aim to ensure proper usage and enhance efficiency through appropriate monitoring for its ambulance services. Telemedicine Pilot Initiative is to provide healthcare services to the underprivileged community who does not have access to modern medical services.

Grameen Phone launched a program to provide 2.1 million free Internet hours to 250 schools across the country. GP’s ‘The Community Power Project’ plans to develop a robust and cost effective decentralized mini-grid infrastructure based on renewable energy for rural development in Bangladesh.

BRAC Bank
BRAC Bank’s Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) are in line with its 3P (People, Planet, Profit) philosophy.

BRAC Bank has various projects on Education, Environment and Social welfare; In Education BRAC Bank- Prothom Alo Trust Adamya Medhabi Scholarship is for meritorious student of insolvent families to fulfill their pursuit of higher education in the rural parts of Bangladesh. It is in Partnership with UCEP Institute of Science and Technology to make technical education at affordable cost. In Social Welfare - Lifetime Support to BirProtik Taramon Bibi, who fearlessly fought during our 1971 liberation war, contribution of Blankets to Prime Minister’s Relief Fund during winter season.
IDLC Finance Ltd

IDLC Finance Ltd is a firm believer of community development. They have been contributing to the society since 2010 from the sagacity of social responsibility. Blood donation programs at different districts in Bangladesh, undertaking Model Village Project in Rangpur, sponsoring LEADS for educating underprivileged children, enhancing infant care skills of female garment factory workers in Chittagong towards sustainable future. Promoting income generating activities of adolescents with multiple disabilities with SEID Trust (Special Education for Intellectually Disabled)in Dhaka, provide livelihood training for underprivileged and marginalized people, promoting mental health and wellbeing etc are some of the CSR practices of IDLC.

IDLC also has taken initiatives for campaigning on environment awareness in educational institutions.

Abdul Monem Limited

Abdul Monem Limited has set up AMF (Abdul Monem Foundation) as its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. In Brahmanbaria, AMF has built school, college and madrasa for free quality education on 52 acres of land. AMF runs an orphanage with 3000 orphans and also stands by the disaster affected people in Bangladesh. “HANDS TO CHILDREN” is another initiative by the AMF to combat for malnutrition children. In the building collapse of Spectra Garments in 2005 and Rana Plaza Tragedy, AML has provided most of the revival equipment to the Bangladesh Army Salvage Operation. AML encourages employees to plant a tree every month for a Green and safe environment.

Rahimafrooz (Bangladesh)Ltd

Rahimafrooz is a 65 years old business group of Bangladesh and is the leading manufacturer of Lead Acid Batteries in the country. It’s Storage Power Products for application in Automotive, Motorcycles, Industrial, Telecom, Invertors, Electric Vehicle, Solar etc.

Rahimafrooz’s CSR vision is “Passionate and driven to make a difference among the Community and Environment” through a not-for-profit social initiative ‘Rural Services Foundation (RSF)’; which is committed to working in all areas of environment, social and human development. The RSF has so far installed more than 2.20 lakh Solar Home Systems (SHS) out of which 1.286 small SHSs have been installed for lower-income people across the country. Through these SHSs, around 4,000 tonnes of kerosene are saved per year which helps in protecting environment positively.
M. M. Ispahani Limited

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is one of the important components of the vision and mission of Ispahani Limited. Over the years Ispahani has endeavored to support and taken various initiatives to improve livelihood of the people. They have established schools and colleges in Bangladesh as well as the renowned Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital. It is a centre of excellence for providing modern, efficient and cost-effective eye care, including heavily subsidized rates for poor patients. They have specialist line up of up to 50 ophthalmic surgeons, as well as doctors, trained nurses, paramedics and other staff. Ispahani Islamia Eye Institute and Hospital has been looking after the eye care needs of hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshis since its establishment in 1960.

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI)

The Bangladesh Enterprise Institutes (BEI) focuses on sustainable economic development through trade, and corporate governance and creating an environment where private enterprise can deliver prosperity for both the country and its people. BEI undertakes research and advocacy on pressing issues of national interest including economic development, sustainable growth in trade, counter-terrorism, foreign policy and corporate governance. The institute promotes issues of importance to the private sector and seeks to initiate essential measures and influence policy for the development of a market-oriented economy. Through the promotion of sustainable growth in domestic trade, commerce and industry it addresses the challenges for Bangladesh in securing a fair share of the global market.

Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS)

The Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) is an independent, non-profit, non-government, policy, research and implementation institute working on Climate Change of Environment at local, national, regional and global levels.

BCAS envisions promotion of people-centered sustainable development by applying and advancing scientific, technical and local knowledge through research, developing models, demonstration, policy advocacy and project implementation. To achieve the goal, BCAS gives great importance to integration of environment and development, promoting people’s participation and good governance, encouraging rapid economic growth, and facilitating public-private partnership for poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods. BCAS is committed to ensure environmental justice.
The City Bank Limited

The City Bank is one of the largest corporate banks that encourages and supports the growth of the bank in Retail and SME Banking in Bangladesh.

City Bank engages in various kinds of CSR programs through monetary support by sponsoring different activities for students. In the health sector City Bank patronizing Bangladesh Thalasemia Hospital & Center for Rehabilitation of Paralyzed (CRP). They are engaged in assisting in combating natural disasters. They help to preserve environment at Lake Side Park, Baridhara to develop an eco-friendly society for healthy human life in collaboration with Baridhara Society and conduct ‘Fresh Air Excursion’ programs for children. In social welfare it supports SEID Trust (Special Education for Intellectually Disabled), Chandina Mohila Degree College and Prime Welfare Organization.

Summit Alliance Port Limited

As part of Corporate Social Responsibility, Summit Alliance Port Limited offered scholarships to the 4 best trainees of the National Maritime Institute, Chittagong. On completion of the courses, the trainees will be ready to serve on-board ocean going vessels. There is a befitting ceremony for the successful trainers, where the trainee receives the cheques worth taka 400,000. They also have other CSR initiatives, such as in the environment sector they do canal digging programmes to control floods and reduce water logging. In the health sector it organizes blood donation camps, vaccination programmes on Liver and Hepatitis B. In the social sector it makes financial contributions to the local community.

Youngeone Corporation

Founded in 1974, Youngone Corporation is a leading global manufacturer of outdoor/athletic clothing, textiles, footwear and gear built with a history of innovation, partnership and trust.

One of Youngone ongoing projects has been rehabilitating 2,500 acres of land purchased in 1999 in Bangladesh, now known as the Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ). Youngone made a unique, long-term commitment to its renewal. In the last 16 years they planted more than 2 million trees, created 17 reservoirs that conserve upwards of 360 million gallons of water and control floods and sediment flow in neighboring settlements. These reservoirs provide water for the local ecosystem. Youngone restored one of the most significant settlement sites in Sonargaon, Dhaka. This is the first attempt at preserving a cultural heritage site in Bangladesh.
DBL Group

In DBL, sustainability has been embedded in the core values of the organization. They are attaining sustainable growth through its various CSR and Compliance initiatives, and is effectively coping up with the constantly changing concepts.

DBL’s “Bandhan” is a fair price shop which serves low income workers with all the essentials and commodities at factory price of manufactures.

“Women in Factories Initiative” (WiFI) is another initiative of DBL to enhance their CSR program. The objective of the program is to create awareness about the rights of women regarding basic facilities at work, work environment and proper evaluation of work.

DBL’s ‘Rice Fortification Program’ with a strong focus on women aims to contribute to the reduction of micronutrient deficiencies in high risk groups in Bangladesh through the consumption of fortified rice.

Mutual Trust Bank

Mutual Trust Bank Limited (MTB) is a private Bangladeshi bank operates in all districts of Bangladesh. Mutual Trust Bank Limited distributed blankets to the severely cold affected less advantaged people of Sapahar in the district of Naogaon. They distributed the Iftar among the orphans and disadvantaged people in the city.

MTB has donated Tk. 1 million to the Prime Minister’s Relief and Welfare Fund for the victims of Cyclone Aila. They have donated Tk. 25.00 lakh on behalf of Mutual Trust Bank to assist the affected family of the martyred army officers who were assassinated in the Pilkhana Mutiny.

MTB also as its CSR initiative supports local arts and culture. MTB is also involved in the health sector where it has contributed to the local blood banks in Dhaka and Chittagong.
The CSR Centre is the Focal Point of the United Nation Global Compact (UNGC) in Bangladesh with the objective to promote the 10 principles of the UNGC and assist companies and other stakeholders to engage in strategic CSR initiatives and programs.

The Centre represents national interests at Global Compact forums and conferences throughout the world. As a principle promoter of UNGC it encourages the membership of signatories in the local network.

The UN Global Compact is guiding companies to fulfill their CSR responsibility, aiming at its ultimate goal achieving corporate sustainability by integrating UNGC core values.
JOIN UNGC & BE A PART OF BETTER BUSINESS

Responsible business practices combined with collaboration and innovation can bring powerful change in markets and societies. UNGC will help the organizations commit to, assess, define, implement, measure and communicate their sustainability strategy. With the help of UNGC, organization can make a difference across four core areas: human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption.

Benefits of Joining- UN Global Compact

• Unprecedented networking access with UN Global Compact participants – representing nearly every industry, sector and size, in over 160 countries with more than 8000 participating companies and 4000 non-business participants have already embraced the commitments of the UN Global Compact.

• Access to partnerships with a range of stakeholders – to share best practices and emerging solutions

• Best practice guidance

• Access to have tools, resources and trainings materials

• Local Network support in 85 countries including Bangladesh

• To get moral authority, knowledge and experience of the United Nations

Who Should Join

• National and Multinational Companies

• Small Companies/ SMEs

• Foundations, NGOs, Non-Governmental organizations and other non-business entities

To know more about UNGC visit - https://www.unglobalcompact.org

To become a UNGC member please visit- www.unglobalcompact.org/participation/join/application
“Understanding global mega-trends is crucial. We live in times of multiple, evolving and mutually-reinforcing shifts. These dynamics, of geopolitical, demographic, climatic, technological, social and economic nature, enhance threats and opportunities on an unprecedented scale.”

-António Guterres
UN Secretary-General

The Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact

HUMAN RIGHTS

Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
Principle 2: Make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

LABOUR

Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
Principle 4: The elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
Principle 5: The effective abolition of child labour; and
Principle 6: The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation

ENVIRONMENT

Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
Principle 8: Undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
Principle 9: Encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.
1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace and Justice, Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships for the Goals

Sustainable Development Goals

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