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Disclaimer

The information contained in this document was correct at the time of going to press and reflects the understanding of the UNGC Bangladesh Network. Information about companies were collected from the UN GCN Bangladesh Members. For more information about particular CSR initiatives please contact the UNGC Bangladesh Secretariat-CSR Centre.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The UNGC Bangladesh Network would like to take this opportunity to thank those organizations for providing case studies which demonstrate their respective CSR best practices in the areas of the 10 Principles of UNGC. The case studies emphasize on corporate actions to promote the different issues that are material to four thematic areas of the UNGC Principles (Human Rights, Labour Rights, Environment and Anti-Corruption) and depict actual business practices across Bangladesh. We gratefully acknowledge their contribution.

We specially thank IDLC Finance Limited, Grameenphone Limited, IUBAT, Square Pharmaceuticals Limited, ANDRA, DBL Group, Epyllion Group, Bangladesh Bank, Youth Foundation Bangladesh, Hathay Bunano, ACI Limited, WEAB, Teleconsult Group and Rahimafrooz Batteries Limited for providing case studies describing recent CSR initiatives in Bangladesh.

In addition, the UNGC Bangladesh Network acknowledges IDLC Finance Limited and Women Entrepreneur Association of Bangladesh (WEAB) for sponsoring the “UNGC NETWORK BANGLADESH: Booklet on CSR Best Practices 2014”, without whose support this booklet would not have been possible to produce.

The UNGC Bangladesh Network heartily extends their gratitude to CSR Centre for serving as the Secretariat of the UN Global Compact Local Network for Bangladesh. Since 2009, CSR Centre has been the key player in the endorsement of UNGC Principles in Bangladesh. CSR Centre is also the focal source of information, resources, and offers advisory services on CSR to public and private sectors in Bangladesh.

The UNGC Bangladesh Network also extends its special thanks to UNGC New York office and UNDP Bangladesh. It was with the help of these two esteemed organizations CSR Centre launched the UNGC Bangladesh Network in January 2009. UNGC New York Office has given their continuous support to the UNGC Bangladesh Network through several webinars, conferences and capacity building initiatives.

The “UNGC NETWORK BANGLADESH: Booklet on CSR Best Practices 2014” hopes to engage new members especially those corporate houses who have futurist plans towards enhancing their global markets through CSR.

Triporna Das
DBL Group
Member, UNGC Bangladesh Network
FOREWORD

Corporate Social Responsibility is perhaps best seen as a rising wave of consciousness within big business; a recognition that we are one human race, mutually dependent on each other and on all of nature. A recognition that we are all custodians of this pearl of a planet and its wonderfully diverse peoples and environs.

It is this emerging awareness that is at the heart of the CSR movement.

This awareness is about ensuring at least a fighting chance of survival for our most vulnerable and excluded communities as well as championing their rights and aspirations. It can also be about supporting sporting and art related activities for children and the elderly. The scope and variety of projects and activities that may be considered socially productive is vast and corporate entities simply need to chose from within the critical priorities and adopt principles set consensually by the UNGC on protection of human and labor rights and having a strong pro environment, anti corruption policy position.

Our responsibility need only be as big as we can bear but we all have a role. Such is the universality of the idea of social responsibility.

We have a common destiny even if we have allowed ourselves to become divided in a multitude of ways. Notably, in terms of nationality, race, faith, gender, sexuality and class as exemplified by the growing chasm in Bangladesh and around the world between the rich and poor. CSR is meant to be the response of big business to this crisis; the crisis of abject poverty in the midst of plenty, of children starving as farmers are subsidized to reduce food production, of women getting lower wages for the same work than men, of climate change and environmental degradation and a worldwide erosion of human, civil and labor rights.

This is a state of affairs that must concern all actors of goodwill and that includes those in the powerful and well endowed corporate sector who have not always been the most receptive to these notions. But change is upon us and now it is time for a concerted push by every member of every national network in this region and beyond to take corporate social responsibility to the next level.

This is the overall context in which the Bangladesh network of the UNGC, ably coordinated by the CSR Centre team, is hosting this important regional meeting and producing this publication to highlight local experience and best practice of CSR, which is still in its infancy in Bangladesh. Having said that the commitment and drive from the CSR Centre, our UNGC Focal Point to coordinate and lead on this issue has been remarkable. Bangladesh has made serious progress in advancing CSR since 2009 when the UNGC Bangladesh Network was initiated.

The UN has sought to lead a global initiative through the UNGC and its national networks to identify and replicate the best policies and practices in respect of CSR around the world and it is our hope that this booklet will be seen as a modest contribution to that.

I am delighted to be able to say that the CSR Centre has been working diligently with members in the UNGC Bangladesh Network and other allies including regional ones to get a robust national framework adopted for CSR in Bangladesh. It is also in the process of preparing a comprehensive report detailing the social responsibility work of all our 52 local UNGC members and thereby doing a serious analysis of where we are in this process as a nation.

I have no doubt that our discussions over these two days will allow us to learn from and share our plans, hopes and frustrations about the challenging mission we have signed up to and agree a process of collaborative work and advocacy that will allow us to advance CSR swiftly on a regional basis.

Kumar Murshid
BRAC University
Member, UNGC Bangladesh Network
Kumar Murshid  
Corporate Social Responsibility is perhaps best seen as a rising wave of consciousness within big business; a recognition that we are one human race, mutually dependent on each other and on all of nature. A recognition that we are all custodians of this pearl of a planet and its wonderfully diverse peoples and environs. It is this emerging awareness that is at the heart of the CSR movement. This awareness is about ensuring at least a fighting chance of survival for our most vulnerable and excluded communities as well as championing their rights and aspirations. It can also be about supporting sporting and art related activities for children and the elderly. The scope and variety of projects and activities that may be considered socially productive is vast and corporate entities simply need to choose from within the critical priorities and adopt principles set consensually by the UNGC on protection of human and labor rights and having a strong pro-environment, anti-corruption policy position.

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BRAC University  
Member, UNGC Bangladesh Network

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<tr>
<td>CSR</td>
<td>Corporate Social Responsibility</td>
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<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organization</td>
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<td>UNGC</td>
<td>United Nations Global Compact</td>
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<td>UNGCLN</td>
<td>United Nations Global Compact Local Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information Communication Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Information Technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Standard</td>
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<tr>
<td>RMG</td>
<td>Ready-Made Garments</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>BB</td>
<td>Bangladesh Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDG</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goal</td>
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<td>ADB</td>
<td>Asian Development Bank</td>
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<tr>
<td>CDM</td>
<td>Clean Development Mechanism</td>
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<td>YFB</td>
<td>Youth Foundation Bangladesh</td>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is viewed as a comprehensive set of policies and practices that dictate an organization’s decision-making processes and operations to fairly balance claims of all its stakeholder groups. It goes beyond mere regulatory obligations. CSR is more about how an organization manages business to create lasting positive impact on the society, and takes responsibility for not only its current and past actions but also its future initiatives.

Different markets and organizations interpret CSR in various ways, based on their sustainability agenda; however, there is a general consensus that CSR is philanthropy; rather it is an integrated approach linking with the organization’s core strategies to manage its economic, ecological and social performance in a sustainable manner.

To promote this sustainability agenda worldwide, the United Nations Global Compact, also known as UNGC, has come up with 10 principles under four core areas: Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-corruption. UNGC provides a common platform to more than 12,000 signatories, business and non-business alike, from 145 countries, to proactively network and engage, and work together in partnerships to advance markets, trade, finance and technology in ways that benefit the society at large, and support the broader UN agenda such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

This agenda is taken forward by the Global Compact Local Networks (GCLNs) in different countries – CSR Centre being the Focal Point of the GCLN for Bangladesh. The Bangladesh UNGC Local Network was launched formally in January 2009. At present, there are 52 signatories to the Global Compact from Bangladesh, inclusive of regulators, business associations and private sector organizations from a variety of sectors including ready-made garments and apparels, agro-processing, pharmaceuticals, banking and finance, telecommunications, NGOs, educational institutions etc.

Through strategic investments and innovative projects, organizations like IDLC Finance Limited, Grameenphone Limited, Square Pharmaceuticals Limited, DBL Group, Epyllion Group, Bangladesh Bank, Hathay Bunano, WEAB, IUBATACI Limited, Rahimafrooz Batteries Limited, TeleConsult Group, ANDRA ,Youth Foundation Bangladesh etc. are delivering visible socio-economic and environmental benefits: empowerment of marginal communities, especially women, through skills development and alternative livelihood opportunities; quality education for underprivileged children; rural community development through enhanced agricultural productivity, clean drinking water and sanitation; training and awareness build-up on health, safety and nutritional issues;addressing climate change and its impacts through environmentally sustainable financing, green products and practices, in-house management, tree plantation, and conservation.

This booklet highlights such best practices through case studies, showcasing the public and private sector’s contribution in upholding the UNGC development agenda of protecting and respecting internationally proclaimed human rights and labor rights, removing non-discrimination and creating equal opportunities for all, establishing corporate governance through anti-corruption policies and practices, actively promoting environmentally sustainable practices and fighting climate change. This bolsters a positive image of the country in the international platform – thus encouraging organizations to join the UNGC Bangladesh Network and be a part of the change-makers. With an active network and partnership opportunities, the public and private sectors can work together to enhance opportunities and achieve the common objective of building a sustainable and inclusive economy.

Zurat Haque
IDLC Finance Ltd.
Member, UNGC Bangladesh Network
INTRODUCING CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR)

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) 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.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) could be defined as an obligation, beyond that required by the law and the profit motive, for a firm to pursue long term goals that are good for society. It is about how a company manages its business process to produce an overall positive impact on the society. There is however no agreed definitions of CSR, as not all necessarily agree with each other about what is socially responsible. Thus there are different definitions.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) describes the general responsibility of a company for sustainable management in an economical, ecological and social respect. The multitude of companies and markets result in different interpretations of the term.

European Commission (EC) defines CSR as: "Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a fundamental concept designed to help companies integrate social and ecological concerns into their corporate activities and relationships with stakeholders."

World Business Council for Sustainable Development has defined CSR as: "The continuing commitment by business to behave ethically and contribute to economic development, while improving the quality of life of the workforce and their families as well as of the local community and society at large."

The CSR approach is holistic and integrated with the core business strategy for addressing social and environmental impacts of businesses. It needs to address the well-being of all stakeholders and not just the company’s shareholders. Whereas, the philanthropic activities are only a small part of CSR, which otherwise constitutes a much larger set of activities entailing strategic business benefits.

There can be three different types of CSR

1. **Ethical CSR**: Morally mandatory fulfillment of a firm’s economic responsibilities, legal responsibilities, and ethical responsibilities.

2. **Altruistic CSR**: Fulfillment of an organization’s philanthropic responsibilities, going beyond preventing possible harms (ethical CSR) to helping alleviate public welfare deficiencies, regardless of whether or not this will benefit the business itself.

3. **Strategic CSR**: Caring corporate community service activities that accomplish strategic business goals.
CSR is about achieving organizational excellence in ways that honor ethical values and respect people, communities and the natural environment.

ABOUT THE CSR CENTRE

CSR Centre is an independent, non-profit Trust that promotes sustainable development through responsible business practices. Here at the Centre, CSR is viewed as a universal business strategic imperative that can be ‘localized’ to suit an organization’s core vision and mission. The Centre provides CSR services and consultancy as well as advisory services. 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 principle is to contribute to achieving the human development targets set out in the post Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Bangladesh through private sector led growth.

Vision

To be the source of CSR resources for companies seeking to engage in CSR activities or further define their current activities into a concise framework. These activities are also key strategies for corporate excellence in order to maximize stakeholders benefit.

Mission

To be recognized as the Centre of Expertise for CSR in Bangladesh by sharing knowledge and providing expertise and services to promote sustainable development through responsible business practices.

Key Activities and Services

- Advice companies on CSR strategy development, partnerships and project management-the Centre assists companies through in-depth consultation to develop a concise roadmap for sustainable contributions.
- Participate in forums to engage stakeholders to advocate responsible business-the Centre engages in various seminars and workshops.
- Promote UNGC membership and provide advisory services to members.
- Provide training and facilitate workshops on topics of CSR to build private sector capacity.
The CSR Centre was established on September 5, 2007 with private sector start-up funding to encourage and expand CSR practices in Bangladesh. CSR Centre is the Focal Point for the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) in Bangladesh and is the principle promoter of UNGC in Bangladesh. CSR Centre is also the founder member of SANSAR (South Asian Network on Sustainability and Responsibility), which is a regional network working collaboratively for long term development at national levels. The CSR Centre has 15 Board of Trustees which represents diverse sectors in Bangladesh.
THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT

The United Nations Global Compact, also known as the Global Compact or UNGC, is a United Nations initiative to encourage businesses worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies. The United Nations Global Compact is a call to companies everywhere to voluntarily align their operations and strategies with ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and to take actions in support of UN goals and issues such as the Millennium Development Goals. By doing so, business, as a primary driver of globalization, can help ensure that markets, commerce, technology and finance advance in ways that benefit economies and societies everywhere. The UN Global Compact is a leadership platform for the development, implementation and disclosure of responsible corporate policies and practices. Under the Compact, companies are brought together with UN agencies, labour groups and civil society organizations to work in partnership and share best practices and models for sustainable growth.

The UN Global Compact is the world’s largest voluntary corporate sustainability initiative with over 12000 participants which include 8000 corporate signatories and 4000 other stakeholder groups based in 145 countries – representing nearly every industry sector and size, and hailing equally from developed and developing countries. Companies based in 101 nations have convened to establish self-actualizing Global Compact Local Networks. Local Networks serve an essential role in rooting the UN Global Compact within different national contexts – and their distinct economic, cultural and linguistic needs.

The UN Global Compact works toward the vision of a sustainable and inclusive global economy which delivers lasting benefits to people, communities, and markets.

To help realize this vision, the initiative seeks to:

1. Mainstream the Global Compact’s Ten Principles in business strategy and operations around the world; and
2. Catalyze business actions in support of UN goals and issues, with emphasis on collaboration and collective action.

The Compact was announced by the then UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in an address to The World Economic Forum in year 1999, and was officially launched at UN Headquarters in New York in year 2000. It is now chaired by H.E. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations.
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The UN Global Compact asks companies to embrace, support and enact, within their sphere of influence, a set of core values in the areas of human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption:

**THE TEN PRINCIPLES OF UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT**

The UN Global Compact’s ten principles in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption enjoy universal consensus and are derived from:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- The International Labour Organization’s Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work
- The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
- The United Nations Convention Against Corruption

The UN Global Compact asks companies to embrace, support and enact, within their sphere of influence, a set of core values in the areas of human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption:

<table>
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<th>LABOUR</th>
<th>ENVIRONMENT</th>
<th>ANTI-CORRUPTION</th>
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<td>PRINCIPLE 1</td>
<td>PRINCIPLE 3</td>
<td>PRINCIPLE 7</td>
<td>PRINCIPLE 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and</td>
<td>Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;</td>
<td>Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;</td>
<td>Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.</td>
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<td>PRINCIPLE 2</td>
<td>PRINCIPLE 4</td>
<td>PRINCIPLE 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.</td>
<td>The elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;</td>
<td>Undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRINCIPLE 3</td>
<td>PRINCIPLE 5</td>
<td>PRINCIPLE 9</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and</td>
<td>The effective abolition of child labour; and</td>
<td>Encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRINCIPLE 6</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>The elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.</td>
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ABOUT THE GLOBAL COMPACT LOCAL NETWORK

Global Compact Local Networks (GCLNs) provide a platform for participating companies and non-business stakeholders to advance the UN Global Compact and its principles at the local level. With approximately 101 established and emerging networks around the world, GCLNs serve an essential role in rooting the Global Compact within national contexts and advancing local priorities and needs. All companies are encouraged to participate in their Local Network, as well as engaging in countries where they have operations.

UN GLOBAL COMPACT BANGLADESH NETWORK

The Global Compact Local Network was formally launched in Bangladesh in January 2009. It is a start that augurs well for the future given that the Global Compact is expected to receive more coverage in the country in the coming years. Since 2002, BEI has been active in promoting the principles in Bangladesh. In September 2007, CSR Centre came on board to take forward the UNGC agenda in Bangladesh. At present CSR Centre is the principle promoter of the UNGC among the Bangladeshi signatories. CSR Centre has significantly contributed to increasing the promotion of these ideals in the fabric of the Bangladeshi business community by contributing to achieving the human development targets set in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Bangladesh through private sector led growth.

Currently, there are 52 Bangladeshi signatories to the Compact. By becoming a member of the UNGC’s Local Network (UNGCLN), companies, as the primary driver of globalization, can help ensure that markets, commerce, technology and finance advance in ways that benefit Bangladesh and contribute to a more sustainable and inclusive global economy. The private sector in Bangladesh can bolster a positive image of the country and can put Bangladesh on the map by highlighting the private sector’s entrepreneurial progress in the last two decades.
CSR Best Practices of UNGC Bangladesh Members

Network Bangladesh
SKILLS DEVELOPMENT & SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED WOMEN

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 development of marginal women and subsequent placement in the RMG sector as Machine Operators. The project satisfies IDLC’s focus on creating equal opportunities for a marginal community through sustainable livelihood generation, and to contribute to women empowerment – both part of its broader Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) commitment.

The project model consists of 5 steps: 1) Trainee selection and orientation in North Bengal; 2) Relocation to Gazipur for 2-month institutional training; 3) Transfer to the factory for 1-month on-the-job training; 4) Final skills assessment and certification; and 5) Placement in the industry.

IDLC’s partners for this project include Fareast Knitting and Dyeing Industries Limited (Industry Partner); Gazipur Technical School and College under the Directorate of Technical Education, Government of Bangladesh (Training Partner); TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) Reform Project of ILO (Technical Consultant); and CARE Bangladesh, with support from Shiree (Community Partner in North Bengal). The project is jointly sponsored by Fareast and IDLC, and the trainees are absorbed at Fareast factory upon completion of the training.

To date, the project has trained 91 people – 80 of whom have been successfully employed. The first phase of the project will complete 12 batches, each batch consisting of 26 trainees, to June 2016.

The project is directly contributing to socio-economic transformation of marginal women by empowering them to earn their own livelihood – thus prompting family savings, better facilities for their children, and improved status within the family and the community. Moreover, taking advantage of the structured process, trainees also receive formal orientation on factory environment to ensure better adaptability and efficiency in future, justifying higher salaries.

The project is an example of how organizations from different fields can come together to create meaningful impact in the community. This model can be replicated in other areas, thus making available skilled manpower across the country. This may prompt industries to relocate to other belts in the long run, creating more job opportunities locally, and thus reducing the need for relocation/migration altogether in search of a better life.
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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 development of marginal women and subsequent placement in the RMG sector as Machine Operators. The project satisfies IDLC’s focus on creating equal opportunities for a marginal community through sustainable livelihood generation, and to contribute to women empowerment – both part of its broader Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) commitment.

The project model consists of 5 steps: 1) Trainee selection and orientation in North Bengal; 2) Relocation to Gazipur for 2-month institutional training; 3) Transfer to the factory for 1-month on-the-job training; 4) Final skills assessment and certification; and 5) Placement in the industry.

IDLC’s partners for this project include Fareast Knitting and Dyeing Industries Limited (Industry Partner); Gazipur Technical School and College under the Directorate of Technical Education, Government of Bangladesh (Training Partner); TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) Reform Project of ILO (Technical Consultant); and CARE Bangladesh, with support from Shiree (Community Partner in North Bengal). The project is jointly sponsored by Fareast and IDLC, and the trainees are absorbed at Fareast factory upon completion of the training.

To date, the project has trained 91 people – 80 of whom have been successfully employed. The first phase of the project will complete 12 batches, each batch consisting of 26 trainees, to June 2016.

The project is directly contributing to socio-economic transformation of marginal women by empowering them to earn their own livelihood – thus prompting family savings, better facilities for their children, and improved status within the family and the community. Moreover, taking advantage of the structured process, trainees also receive formal orientation on factory environment to ensure better adaptability and efficiency in future, justifying higher salaries.

The project is an example of how organizations from different fields can come together to create meaningful impact in the community. This model can be replicated in other areas, thus making available skilled manpower across the country. This may prompt industries to relocate to other belts in the long run, creating more job opportunities locally, and thus reducing the need for relocation/migration altogether in search of a better life.
ONLINE SCHOOL

It is acknowledged that the quality of primary education in Bangladesh is far behind the quality we aspire to. The main reason for this is the shortage of schools and most importantly, the shortage of quality teachers, particularly in rural and remote areas.

Being a socially responsible company with education as one of the focus areas of Corporate Responsibility, Grameenphone opted for a medium through which quality education can be ensured. Thus “Online School” was launched.

The idea of the Online School is that the teacher conducts class from a distant location using video conferencing technology with the aid of moderators in the actual class. These moderators, who are from the local community, have no teaching background but can help the teacher on operational issues. The main objective of the Online School is to ensure quality education for underprivileged and secluded children living at the urban slums and remote areas. It also helps develop teachers to deliver quality education.

The first Online School started in August 2011 with 80 Students. At the end of the first academic year, a comparison of performance was done among similar types of schools (Banani School and Rayerbazar School) and Online School. The findings were clear. On a GPA scale of 4, the Online School had a year-end average GPA of 3.3725 while Banani School and Rayerbazar School 2.8675 and 3.08 respectively.

Today there are 360 students in 5 schools located in Gazipur, Gaibandha, Rajshahi, Madaripur and Bandarban.

We hope this concept will help deliver two very important benefits to the society

1. Ensure quality education to underprivileged and left out students
2. Teacher development as the Moderators are also learning how the class is conducted

The Online School has three partners, namely Jaago Foundation, Agni Systems Ltd. and Grameenphone Ltd. Jaago Foundation, a nonprofit civil society organization is responsible for providing on-ground services, run operations of the schools and design curriculum for different classes. Agni System Ltd. provides last mile internet solution for the schools for free of cost. Agni also provides technical support in regards to internet connectivity to Jaago Foundation for the initiative. Grameenphone provides financial and structural support for internet connectivity for the initiative.

The Online School is a unique idea through which quality education similar to that available in major cities may be provided to the disadvantaged population living at the slums and remote areas. Children who avail this support find it very interesting to study this way and they find learning to be fun. Initiatives such as this will educate people on the benefits of the internet and the amazing things that can be done through it.

It is expected that five more Online School will start operation by the end of 2014.
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IUBAT AND STORY OF BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (BBA) WITH DEFERRED PAYMENT

IUBAT- International University of Business Agriculture and Technology is the first non-government university established in Bangladesh. The initial planning began on 1989 and the university was established in 1991. Degree programs started on 1992 with the agreement with Assumption University of Bangkok, Thailand. IUBAT now operates as a government-approved university under the Non-Government University Act 1992. The overall mission of IUBAT is human resource development through appropriate teaching, training, and guidance. IUBAT has set out the long-term vision of producing one technical graduate from each village/ward under its KBAD concept as a step towards community self-reliance.

To materialize this vision and to translate the concept into reality IUBAT has special provisions for supplementing the family resources of a student through scholarships, grant, fee waiver, deferred payment, campus job, student loan, and the like. IUBAT policy to cater to the needs of all qualified students who aspire to higher professional education regardless of the income level of their family through appropriate educational financing arrangements.

Story: One young person was referred from the Monga (famine) affected district of Nilphamari to IUBAT for potential employment since the education of the person was interrupted due to the Monga condition. Being moved by the situation faced by the person, IUBAT created opportunities for training, employment situation, as well as study opportunity up to the HSC level paving the way of entry into the university BBA program with deferred payment facility.

This person was provided with work-study opportunity for survival and was found to be hard working and coped well with study requirements. After earning the BBA degree, the person continued study in the MBA program. But the BBA degree has enabled the person to earn the capacity to bear the cost of the MBA program.

The person is a first-generation graduate in the family who had a very positive effect on the rest of the family members who are also now availing opportunity for higher professional education with financial and motivational support of the person.

Besides, the person is a catalyst for development work in the community where a non-government organization has been created providing employment to eight people for income generation as well as providing the community with access to technology and information for alleviation of poverty. Thus, the person has become a role model in the community which is a perfect example of the catalytic role envisaged under the KBAD model.
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**Case-study**

“Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress and working together is success.”

– Henry Ford
Founder, Ford Motor Company
Before SQUARE Herbal and Nutraceuticals Ltd (SHNL), a division of SQUARE pharmaceuticals Ltd, the leading pharmaceutical company in Bangladesh, initiated the project, “SHAMRIDDHI,” the rural areas of the northern part of the country were severely affected by Monga. (a phenomenon of poverty and hunger marked by infertility of lands and unavailability of employment.)

In 2005, SHNL together with HELVETAS Swiss (working for forestation) began the journey with 43 impoverished women by providing them Adhatoda vasica plant (Bashak), some financial aid and the training to conduct the medicinal plant cultivation program. Now the program expanded into formal training of 300 Local Service Providers (LSP) who in turn reach out to the target groups - village women, marginal farmers and unemployed youths. As of 2014, “SHAMRIDDHI” works in 16 districts of Rajshahi and Rangpur Division and Shunamgonj District of Sylhet Division. There has been a tremendous business impact from the traceable medicinal plant that amounts to 1.48 million US Dollars (2014) from 0.36 million US Dollars (2007).

**Economical impact**
- About 60,000 families of marginal farmer (Female: 48,000 & Male: 12,000) are earning through medicinal plant cultivation in the northern part of Bangladesh.
- Poverty has been alleviated as they are earning from Tk. 5000 to Tk. 25000 per month.
- Women are contributing to the economy as their participation in the earning process is maximum.

**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.
- Collective effort in medicinal plant cultivation, harvesting and processing.
- Social gathering and dependency through LSP based self training program.
- Initiation of saving money through developing cooperative societies.

**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 the environment.
- Roadside Bashak cultivation decreased soil erosion

This socially responsible initiative of SQUARE has been recognized by the Ministry of Finance when they decided to adopt it as one of the project for poverty alleviation. On top of that, it has also received the “Asia Responsible Entrepreneurship Awards 2014-South Asia” under the category of “Social Empowerment Award.” SQUARE is planning to expand the project and increase its outreach covering 5 million direct and indirect beneficiaries.
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UNVEILING HUMAN SPIRIT

Epyllion Group is putting its step forward with a simple motto, “Human Spirit”.

**Human Rights:** Resourceful working environment: Epyllion Group ensures safe operating unit as well as upholds labor rights and provides privileges beyond the legal compliance which is formally verified by third party audit.

Consideration in health care: Business units of Epyllion Group are facilitated with well equipped medical center and registered physicians. A two-year long health check program (2012-2014) covered 10,000 employees of Epyllion Group to evaluate their health status. Regular health camps as well as vaccination programs are also organized.

**Empowering education:** As a socially responsible company, Epyllion Group takes its own responsibility to support students to continue their education up to next level. It provides scholarship to the meritorious students of Epyllion family for their academic performance up to graduation level. Every year 320 students of PSC, JSC, SSC and HSC level gets scholarship. So far, BDT 2.4 million has been handed over among 261 students of the Epyllion family in 2010 to 2014 sessions.

**Labor Rights:** Help desk, one stop service: Help desks are the closest point of service for the workers. These desks are located near work station with an open door and welcoming environment. These desks provide one stop solution to the workers on their day to day queries and serve as psychological counseling hub.

**Integrating ISO 26000 (SR):** Epyllion Group is integrating ISO 26000 standard in its business unit to incorporate this international standard in its own corporate governance. This is formally integrating in Epyllion Style Limited under Sustainable Management Framework (SMF) program with Marks & Spencer.

**Environment:**
- LEED (Gold) certified industrial infrastructure
- Eco Factory Program with Marks & Spencer
- Zero Discharge of Harmful Chemicals (ZDHC) program with C&A
- Cleaner Production (CP) program with G-STAR and IFC
- Energy Savings Initiative Program (ESIP) with H&M and GIZ
- Green Initiative (Tree plantation program)
- Environment Olympiad, 2012
- Paper Recycling Drive, 2013-14
- Environmental school campaign, 2014
- A Tree For Free project, 2014.

**Community involvement and development:** Sports development program: Epyllion Group initiated a sports development program which aims to develop the country’s sports environment as well as to aid the youngsters with a scope to invent their hidden merits in sports. Epyllion Group is sponsoring Narayanganj District Football Association with the opportunity to excel in sport. Under this program, yearly football tournaments are organized and local clubs and football grounds are modernized with financial and technical supports from Epyllion Group.

**Recognition**
- 5th HSBC Export Excellence Award, 2014
- Annual CSR Award, 2014
- Special honorary award from BSPA, 2014
- Best suppliers award from C&A
- CIF, 2008 and 2012

**Certifications**
- WRAP, C-TPAT, Credit Rating A-2, OCS and Oeko-Tex® certification

**Memberships**
- BSCI, SEDEX and UNGC membership
Environment:
• LEED (Gold) certified industrial infrastructure
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• Environmental school campaign, 2014:

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• Help desk, one stop service: Help desks are the closest point of service for the workers. These desks are located near work station with an open door and welcoming environment. These desks provide one stop solution to the workers on their day to day queries and serve as psychological counseling hub.
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Case-study
Epyllion Group
TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE, ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY FINANCIAL SYSTEM: THE BUILDING BLOCKS

The emergence of sustainable development in mid 80s consequentially generated the idea of ‘sustainable business’ or ‘corporate sustainability’ a decade before which is committed to aligning business operations and strategies in the areas of human rights, labor standards, environmental protection and anti-corruption. Internationally Many banks and financial institutions (FIs) initiated environment friendly practices in their financing and business procedure. But, Bangladesh Bank (BB) is the pioneering central bank around the globe for incorporating environment-friendly practices into its core financial sector supervision framework and operational structure. BB is the first central bank to issue comprehensive green banking policy guidelines for banks. The term ‘green banking’ received worldwide popularity and acceptance for these initiatives of BB. In the Advisory Council of the United Nations Environmental Programme for ‘Inquiry into the Design of a Sustainable Financial System’, Governor of Bangladesh Bank is the only representative of the financial sector regulators from the globe.

BB realized early on that the conventional short term business cycle centered on monetary and financial policy has been failing to address the longer term needs of environmental sustainability in growth pursuit. Thus, BB interceded with initiatives of imparting a directional bias in financing flows away from unsustainable uses towards sustainable and environment-friendly sectors. The under-served areas of sustainable and environment-friendly financing on green sectors including renewable energy generation, waste management, adoption of energy efficient low carbon output options have become BB’s support priorities.

BB has set targets aimed at raising and stabilizing sustainable financing to adequate levels. Current level of green finance is paltry, with low single digit percentage share of total credit. The disbursement targets for green finance are therefore at least 5% of total credit disbursement for older banks, at least 3% for newly licensed banks and at least 4% for FIs. Earlier BB provided policy guidelines on green banking to banks and FIs to pursue them for green finance, green marketing, in-house environmental management, creation of climate risk fund, BB has so far identified 47 green products in 11 categories for financing by banks and FIs as well as refinancing by BB.

BB’s refinance lines provide low cost fund to banks and FIs against their environmentally sustainable financing where ADB is supporting BB for a refinance window. A refinance scheme funded by shariah based banks and FIs for investment in green products has been introduced in 2014. Only shariah based banks and FIs can avail refinance facility from this fund. BB intends to phase out refinance support in longer term by introducing risk mitigation market mechanisms like environmental insurance.

BB introduced environmental and social risk grading of financing by banks and FIs. BB is providing the financial sector with necessary enabling infrastructure and detailed guidance for adoption of low carbon, energy efficient internal processes and practices, including carbon footprint measurement and use of paperless e-processes.

BB's promotion of environment-friendly financing is bolstering macro-financial and social stability. In the real economy the initiatives put incremental output in environmental conservation and social development. Bangladesh has been in rapid poverty decline in the sustained spell of stable six plus percent average annual real GDP growth for well over a decade. Despite ups and downs in the global scenario, this sustainable growth has been achieved due to the environmentally sustainable financing promoted by BB.
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COMMITMENT TO WOMEN’S RIGHTS: PUTTING PRINCIPLES INTO PRACTICE

A little less than a year ago, Halima Begum, Lucky Akhter and Mita Khatun had difficulties expressing themselves while demonstrating their tasks to their supervisors. They experienced hardship with meeting their targets due to communications barrier with their managers. Halima, Lucky and Mita lacked self-esteem and were not aware of professional etiquettes and personal hygiene. Today, all three of them feel confident and comfortable interacting with their seniors and peers. Halima used to be a Junior Operator and within few months she has been promoted to a Supervisory role, which was exceptional because generally after one year Junior Operators only receive increments and not promotions. Lucky did her schooling till eighth grade and now she is pursuing further studies at an Open School after realizing the importance of education. As she graduated from a training program, she was made a Supervisor. Today, Mita is more aware of her rights and responsibilities at the workplace than ever and she feels more empowered. She also altered the food habit of her family as she understood the importance of maintaining a healthy and balanced diet.

Rajia Banu and Taslima Akhter are holding Supervisory positions and they often had problems understanding their subordinates. Today, with better communication skills they are able to articulate while explaining assignments to those working under them and are more receptive to their subordinates. Similarly, Rajia and Taslima have noticed a positive change in the behavior of their team members as well.

All these positive changes have been visible following the trainings of Global Women Economic Empowerment Initiative (GWEEI), an initiative by Walmart and CARE Bangladesh. The program has been most successful in DBL Group among all participating Walmart affiliated factories across the world. The objective of the initiative is to develop activities and capacities of women workers by providing them with a variety of training on life and functional skills for personal development, health hygiene and nutrition, workplace rights and technical skills for efficiency improvement.

The GWEEI program has been a huge success and a rewarding experience for DBL Group through which workers developed positive attitude towards each other, transforming their professional, social and personal life. Through the program, workers develop soft skills which improve their interpersonal skills. The training enables workers to apply the techniques of communication that they learn and as well as the courage to speak. The motto of the program ‘Need to talk: cannot keep quiet’ lets the workers’ voice be heard and it also gives them a sense of empowerment. The promotion a ‘can do’ attitude in GWEEI enables workers to become more focused in their daily performance. It is by fostering opportunities like GWEEI, DBL Group synergizes its commitment to the UNGC ten principles, which at the same time helps the company to have a broader and more skilled pool of workforce in the future.
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“Sustainability is our business strategy. It’s our roadmap for how we operate & innovate.”

– Jeff Immelt
Chairman & CEO, General Electric

“Creating a strong business and building a better world are not conflicting goals – they are both essential ingredients for long-term success.”

– William Clay Ford
Jr. Executive Chairman, Ford Motor Company
“You may never know what results come from your action, but if you do nothing, there will be no result.”
– Mahatma Gandhi

The time is always right to do what is right.”
– Martin Luther King Jr., American activist & African American leader
PEBBLE BECAME THE STRENGTH FOR HER LIVELIHOOD

Ambia’s eyes light up when she speaks of her daughter of 1.5 years old. Ambia first came to Dhaka, Notun Bazar area with her mother was a minor child. Mother was working as constriction worker. She is 22 years. She married to a small businessman in 2008. She had joined in a school “ASA” in 2005 that provided education and skill training together. By that time she could read upto class VI. After closure of the school “ASA” she was moved to HBPS with the help of the founder of ASA in the hope of finding a source of income and was recommended for employment. She joined Sample Section and started learning crochet and knitting and also Curchupi. And within short time she could prove her skill. Now she is working with Production Section, where women like her could earn a decent living without endangering their dignity. That was 2005. Ambia has not looked back since. Today she is one of the most experienced and skilled worker at the Centre do training to the new recruits on the job. Working a 8.30 am – 5:30 pm shift six days of the week, she earns for her family a steady income that could easily rival any of the families in the area that are lead by men. She proudly supports not only herself and her daughter; she also helped her mother in law as well. Her life is not easy, but she gains satisfaction from the thought that she has provided for her family and ensured a brighter future for her child – one that fifteen years ago had seemed to her an impossible dream.
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Case-study
Hathay Bunano
CONTRIBUTION OF LAL TEER SEED LIMITED IN TROPICAL VEGETABLE VARIETY DEVELOPMENT AND INCREASED VEGETABLE PRODUCTION IN BANGLADESH

Vegetables are affordable protective food item rich in vitamins and minerals and are essential for the maintenance of human health. Nutritionists have recommended that 220 g of vegetables are to be consumed per day per person. But in Bangladesh the per capita consumption is estimated to be about 80 g only. As a result there exists wide spread malnutrition in the country. At present the production of vegetables is about 4.0 million tons against the requirement of 12 million tons which is far below than the requirement. Poor per unit yield is the reason of this low production. Lacking of high yielding varieties and short supply of quality seed is the main reason for low yield of vegetables in Bangladesh. The annual seed requirement in the country is about 4500 MT whereas the public and private sector is supplying only 26% of the total requirement; the share of the public sector is only 2%. The situation was even worse in the early nineties.

The Lal Teer Seed Ltd started her journey in 1996. The company has taken the tested approach of breeding varieties of seeds especially for the locale, investing time and resources in the long R&D process and committing itself to developing seed varieties of high quality. By this time the company has developed 160 vegetable varieties out of which 65 are hybrids. In the context of climate change the Lal Teer scientists have devoted themselves to the development of climate resilient varieties and were successful in developing varieties having resistance to pests and diseases, tolerance to salinity, drought etc and suitability to local conditions. Lal Teer is also producing hybrid rice seed and presently is producing 1500 tons annually.

The women entrepreneurs and women workers are engaged in seed production and processing. The company started with the production of 4 tons of quality seeds of different vegetables during 1996 and increased its production up to 450 tons by the year 2014. The company is the market leader for vegetable seeds in the country. The women entrepreneurs and workers are engaged in vegetable production. The production of vegetable has been increased from 1 million tons in 1996 to 4.0 million tons in 2013. This has been possible due to the development of high yielding varieties/hybrids by Lal Teer, the share of Lal teer itself in supplying quality vegetable seed is about 15%.

Lal Teer is serving the nation with quality seeds; in the early nineties quality vegetable seeds were not available. Now Lal Teer is supplying the packets of quality seeds of quality hybrid varieties to farmers and growers in every corners of the country and thus directly contributing in increased production and supply of vegetables to the nation. This will in turn help in alleviating widespread malnutrition that exists in the country and will also help in income generation of farmers, commercial growers and entrepreneurs.
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ADOPT-A- VILLAGE: INITIATIVE BY ACI

ACI is involved with community development that encompasses a range of approaches and activities aiming to improve the welfare and livelihoods of people living in rural areas. It is committed to behave ethically and with integrity in the communities where it works. ACI has taken different small and large initiatives to take collective actions and generate solution to common problems of the community. Adopt-A-Village is a magnificent initiative among all the initiatives that shows ACI's involvement to the community.

Adopt-A-Village is an initiative of ACI endeavoring to engender sustainable socioeconomic improvements in the lives of inhabitants of remote Bangladeshi villages. Through random selection, ACI adopts a particular village and takes many initiatives to solve the major problems of the villagers. In year 2010, ACI has inaugurated its adopt-a-village program as a pilot project in Ghonapara, a village of Gopalgonj district. The success of the pilot project has inspired ACI to replicate the project in more villages.

ACI provides villagers access to pure water and improved sanitation. In an effort to allow villagers to get access to safe drinking water, ACI has installed at least 31 Deep Tube Wells (DTW) in the villages of Gopalgonj district.

It encourages the villagers to utilize fallow land for agricultural purpose and actively participate in repairing, restoring and renovating water bodies such as tanks and ponds. Furthermore, it imparts training on modern agronomic practices to farmers in order to enhance agricultural productivity and encourages unemployed people to get engaged in productive work. ACI supports farmers by providing training, distributing sprayer, articulating crops demonstration plot with pesticide, herbicide and crops vitamins etc. Through the training program, farmer gets thorough knowledge about crops, soil, land, purchasing characteristics, credit status, new technology for high yield crop production etc.

ACI has provided many health care services to improve the community health situation. In the remote part of Bangladesh, villagers are deprived from medical facilities and unfamiliar of proper approach of personal hygiene. Free medical camps therefore create an opportunity for people to avail quality services, get educated on health issues and seek health advises.

The primary focus of this initiative is to create awareness among villagers in improving their standard of living on a self-help basis. ACI, works as a catalyst for change, in bringing about quantitative as well as qualitative improvements, in the day to day life of these people.

For the sustainable development of the community, ACI hopes to replicate the project in remote areas across the Bangladesh and uptake several CSR activities ranging from medical aid services to community based training and development programs aligned with its business practices.
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EMPOWERING WOMEN ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS

In accordance to United Nations Global Compact’s (UNGC) first principal TeleConsult Group (TCG) has implemented a unique project in the private sector of Bangladesh by providing call center based tele-counselling services to discriminated women, thus empowering women about their rights.

Project Period: March 2012 – Present.

A.1 Present Situation

Industry Background: The Ready Made Garments (RMG) industry is Bangladesh’s largest export earner:

- Bangladeshi RMG industry is very female-intensive (over 80% of the workforce are women & girls)
- Most RMG workers are poor migrants from rural areas, with little or no education

Violations of Rights: Labour practices and labour rights enforcement in this sector remain notoriously poor:

- Unfit working conditions / hostile work environments
- Denial of association or freedom to form unions

Women are at the greatest risk and face the most discrimination:

- Inequitable wages
- Lack of compensation for overtime or allowance for leave
- Frequent verbal and physical harassment

Obstacles:

- Most incidents of abuse go unreported for fear of reprisal, stigma, and general helplessness
- Major obstacles to obtaining legal aid for workers include lack of awareness about their rights

A.2 Project Outcomes

Role of RMG Workers’ Helpline:

- The “RMG Workers’ Helpline” project seeks to address these issues with the goal of empowering victims (particularly women) in overcoming abuse and violations of their rights.
- TeleConsult Group operates a call-in support service for RMG workers where they can get the information and guidance to help them deal with these issues.
- Critical factors contributing to the project’s success include ease of access (via phone), discretion and security of private information, specially developed agent training, and awareness.

Objectives and Outcome: The outcome of this project is a recognized, easily accessible, and discrete helpline service, through which callers are able to get immediate support in an appropriate manner, leading up to:

- Empowerment through awareness and guidance
- Addressing existing abuse
- Reduced incidence of future abuse
- Provide RMG workers (particularly women) a solid platform to voice their concerns
- Contribute to the overall improvement of labour practices and development in Bangladesh
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Violations of Rights:

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• Major obstacles to obtaining legal aid for workers include lack of awareness about their rights

Case-study

TeleConsult Group

“We value diversity in the workplace and strive to be responsible corporate citizen to all of our stakeholders in the communities where our products are manufactured and sold.”

– Paul J Winsauer
VP, Global Human Resources
SOLARISING BANGLADESH

Rahimafrooz Renewable Energy LTD. (RREL) is the foremost Renewable Energy Company in Bangladesh with over 35 MW roll out delivering access to energy with goal of leading Solarising Bangladesh. We have over 500 rural touch points, with over 3500 people delivering, installing, servicing Solar Systems that brought joy and life changing impact to millions of people.

Off Grid Solar PV power generation of over 135MW has been contributed by the largest Solar Home System (SHS) program in the world with over 3.3 million household installations, this is expected to exceed 6 million by 2016. RREL is a proud partner with a total installation of 4, 80,000 SHS. SHS has not only provided light, but had also impacted the lives of rural Bangladesh by increased income due to longer hours at work, more study hours, improvement in women and child healthcare amongst others. The mobile charging facility of SHS has also augmented efforts in mobile penetration and internet usage all over the country.

The next growth area is getting rolled out with Solar Irrigation Pumps and Micro grids. RREL is the market leader in Solar Pumps with 52% market share along with being pioneer in this field.

With over 1.4 million diesel irrigation pumps and their potential replacement, rural Bangladesh would experience significant positive environmental impact along with water/energy nexus and overcoming fossil fuel subsidy.

In Bangladesh, Solar is the “now” factor for both economic growth and an answer to energy needs. In the past 10 years, the number of solar systems in Bangladesh has jumped from 25,000 to 2.8 million. That in turn has created some 115,000 jobs, from assembling solar panels to selling, installing and maintaining them.

With a vision to address the climate change mitigation RREL incepted “Bangladesh Carbon” to develop sustainable GHG emission reduction projects that undertakes specialized CDM project development services and provides energy consultancy. We have facilitated three CDM projects in the area of energy efficiency for Paper Mill, Power Plant and Sugar Industry.

In recognition of our contribution to the development of alternative and sustainable energy solution, RREL was awarded the prestigious Ashden Performance Award in 2006 and the Platts “Global Energy Awards” Renewable Projects in 2004. Recently, we have been awarded the “Green Business” award by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industries for our contribution to disseminate and upscale the application of green energy through a variety of solar energy solutions all over the country.

SHS market share
Industry: 33, 00,000
RREL: 4, 80,000

Solar pump market share
RREL: 52%
Others: 48%
SOLARISING BANGLADESH


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“It always seems impossible until it's done.”
– Nelson Mandela
Former President, South Africa

“Every company must figure out why they are practicing CSR and how to really practice it to make a difference.”
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STEPPING STONE TOWARDS CSR

Network Bangladesh
HUMANITY IS ABOVE ALL

In my childhood when I first started to invent the world, understand reality and the practical life; from then on I always felt in my heart a deep compassion for humanity. I made a promise to myself that I will dedicate the rest of my life for humanitarian work. Happiness comes by doing something for others, by serving food to those they require food, by giving love to them those need love. I feel the inner self satisfaction by living for others, by doing things for others. In order to implement all these passions and dreams of my life I came to Bangladesh and built the nonprofit organization ANDRA (association for nutritional development, rural advancement and awareness). The vision of my organization ANDRA is to achieve the sustainable improvement and awareness in the nutritional status of the population particularly for the poor and disabled people. I would also like to build awareness for anti-corruption, human rights and labor rights by producing documentaries for the media channels.

Recently I had an opportunity to visit the institute of mother Teresa in old town, Dhaka, Bangladesh. My heart was crying when I saw that the sisters are still following the footsteps of mother Teresa, deliberately carrying the message of mother Teresa in their work by loving others.

I remember the words of the sisters, ‘we are very small as tiny as one drop of water in the huge ocean.”

We all human being should understand this value and engage ourselves for the service to the others.

Our great spirits and leaders have done it and have lightened the world with the light of their compassion and humanity.

Every human has a soft heart inside, though, poor or rich, they will have a desire to help others and even the one with stone heart preserves a glimpse of humanity inside. The path of humanity, honesty and sacrifice is always hard. When we leave this earth we do not take anything not even our body, Just our true deeds of memory left behind. Literature helps us to find the mystery of nature and creation. Religion helps us to find the meaning of truth and humanity helps us to understand others pain and be part of it.

Death is inevitable and like any other living creations I have to leave this earth, I do have to die but my dream is not going to die.

Let’s be there for each other, be next to them those they require food, shelter, support and love.

This should be our mantra and this is my last wish that I can leave the last breath of my life being your friend, mother and sister.
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PRACTICES TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABILITY

Introduction: Youth Foundation of Bangladesh (YFB) is a non-govt, non-profit and non-political voluntary youth organization. It was established in 19th October 2009. This organization exists to promote the positive, healthy development of young people. The mission is to provide the challenges, experiences, support and help young people need to develop to their fullest potential. YFB engage young people of all ages and both sexes.

The works of YFB is most often voluntary, reflecting the values like- youth development, youth self actualization, culture exchange, priorities and goals of the adults and young people who support them.

Focus: Various aims with various aspects of different categories of works is running with full care of YFB. Every program has been divided into two sections to ensures the outcome easier. YFB’s work can be categorized as follows:-


Environment & Development: Environmental change is a big issue in development. People should be made aware of the impossibility of separating development from changes in the environment. So, YFB focuses on issues like-

Water & Agriculture: Under the campaign of ‘Save Water Save the World’ many helpful steps are taken for a long lasing affect. Free bottle distribution, signing campaign on 40ft long ribbon, seminar on “Alternatives to save water”, visual campaign with short films- 1. Water crisis in the world, 2. The Beginner. To save agricultural land and food security we demanding to “Build Living Community enhance to save Agricultural land.

Peace in green: We should care about the resources of the environment. Many solutions of global environmental problem are lies in green, healthy surrounding. In order to ensure it YFB runs programmes like- 1. Tree plantation; 2. BD Hiking Team- Movement for Wild & Forest Conservation.

Workforce development: It is a kind of human resource strategy to bring the society economic stability. Every youth is a dreamer. To help them in their lives and to guide them towards the hope, YFB organized- ‘Motivation Rally’, workshop on career development and ‘Youth Entrepreneurship Program’.

Education: YFB select education as a right of every citizen. Society must ensure and provide education to all. In order to make this concept widely accepted YFB promote- ‘My Education My rights’.


Social welfare for needy: Our small help can bring a warm smile on a face. So, YFB runs Program- ‘Give me one Blanket’- warm cloth distribution project, Stand Beside Victim’s, Shelter for Homeless, of BLEPP (Better Living & Education for poor people).

Let the labour standards be a step to anti-corruption: Labourer are a silent but vast part of our country. Their hard work can be seen very clearly but their pain remain unveiled under corruption. We observed that- a day labourer works 8 to 10 hours per day and their payment decided with negotiation, most of the time he gets 200-250 taka, this too small income can not survive family. We are demanding under campaigns to ensure proper apply of labour law with high payment to evaluate their hard work and at the same time we want the corrupted labourer owner must be punished.
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Volunteering Social Health care:

To make aware our campaign on HIV/AIDs, Teens Sexual Education. Blood Donation program- Youth Foundation Blood Bank.

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“Business social responsibility should not be coerced; it is a voluntary decision that the entrepreneurial leadership of every company must make on its own.”

– John Mackey
CEO, Whole Foods Market

“In the next decade, the most successful companies will be those that integrate sustainability into their core businesses.”

– Jim Owens
CEO, Caterpillar
HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THE UNGC

The United Nations Global Compact is a platform for business and non-business entities to proactively network and engage in areas of human right, labour, environment, anti-corruption and contributing to UN goals in order to achieve the common objectives of building a sustainable and inclusive global economy. The Global Compact is constantly expanding its reach and enhancing opportunities for engagement.

To participate in the Global Compact and be a signatory member to the compact, please visit www.unglobalcompact.org and follow the links to Home/ How to Participate/ Apply now, where you will find steps outlined to apply and register to the Global Compact.

For successful submission of application, the organization should follow 3 steps:

Step 1: Review the Online Application Guideline
Step 2: Prepare a Letter of Commitment
Step 3: Complete the Online Application Form and upload a digital copy of the Letter of Commitment
Step 4: Annual contribution depending on the Annual sales/revenue of the organization (only applicable for Business Participation, Non-Business Participation can register for free)
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Sustainable development is the pathway to the future we want for all. It offers a framework to generate economic growth, achieve social justice, exercise environmental stewardship and strengthen governance. – Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General
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