



TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL
BANGLADESH

Social movement against corruption

Annual Report 2014

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FOREWORD

The year 2014 marked the transition of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) to its new five-year strategic phase of 'Building Integrity Blocks for Effective Change (BIBEC)' that started in October 2014 after successful completion of the *Paribartan* – Driving Change (PDC) phase which began in April 2009. This report presents a snapshot of TIB's efforts in this final year of PDC that catalyzed strengthening of legal, institutional and policy structures to prevent and control corruption at national and local institutional levels. The reporting period also witnessed systematic and painstaking efforts by TIB and its stakeholders to take lessons from successes and failures of PDC in designing BIBEC, under which TIB will concentrate on building and consolidating a series of mutually reinforcing integrity blocks for more effective change.

The year saw new heights in vibrancy, visibility and credibility of our knowledge-based advocacy, outreach and civic engagement. Our research, surveys, and diagnostic studies on governance deficit and corruption in general, and institutions of National Integrity System (NIS) as well as various sectors of public interest and institutions of service delivery in particular have led to more robust awareness and stronger demand for transparent, participatory and accountable governance.

The key pillars and prime movers of our success and impact, as modest as these may be, have continued to be grounded in the country-wide network of institutionalized platforms of Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC), Youth Engagement and Support (YES), Citizens for Transparency (Swajan) YES Friends and Young Professionals Against Corruption (YPAC) bringing together thousands of volunteers, three-quarters of whom are the youth. The set of social accountability tools we have piloted and applied in key service sectors have delivered integrity, transparency and accountability, which have been recognized nationally and internationally. TIB has become the natural destination of learning and sharing for replication across the global TI movement.

We have continued to work through networks and partnerships nationally and locally. While we have continued to be challenged, sometimes bitterly, by a section of the high and mighty, we have also succeed throughout the year to find champions and allies within the Government, public institutions and political space to catalyze positive change. We have been convinced once again that with passion, perseverance and impeccable credibility of whatever we do, even the hardest of challenges can be converted into opportunities for positive change.

Both PDC and BIBEC have been possible thanks to the generous support and unqualified trust and confidence of our development partners - UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Embassy of Sweden, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Embassy of Denmark (EOD)/DANIDA. We are grateful to them.

I take the opportunity to put on record my deepest gratitude to the Board of Trustees of TIB, without whose invaluable guidance and supervision none of what we have achieved over the year would be possible. We are grateful to CCC-YES, Swajan, YES Friends, TIB members, YPAC, and all our stakeholders including network partners for their sustained support. The media has continued to be our natural allies whose support and interest in our work have been a great source of inspiration for us.

Last but not the least, we invite all stakeholders, well-wishers and critics of TIB to feel free to provide us any suggestions, criticisms and guidance which will be invaluable as we move forward.

Iftekharuzzaman
Executive Director



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2014 was marked by the successful completion TIB's *Paribartan*—Driving Change (PDC) project which had commenced in April 2009 and ended in September 2014. This period was also marked by launching of a five-year new project 'Building Integrity Blocks for Effective Change (BIBEC)', which started in October 2014 and will end in September 2019. During BIBEC, TIB will concentrate on building and strengthening a series of mutually supportive integrity blocks to effectively reduce corruption.

PDC was successful in creating increased demand for transparency and accountability in the country. TIB's network of 45 Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC)s, Youth Engagement and Support (YES), Swajan (Swacchotar Jonno Nagorik – Citizens for Transparency) and YES Friends, the number of which has crossed 5500, continued to raise greater awareness about corruption and its adverse affects. This, in turn, contributed to visible and measurable changes in the quality of key service delivery institutions in health, education and local government. Women's participation in the movement has also grown consistently during this period.

During the first three months of BIBEC project, some initiatives were undertaken to encourage concerned authorities to undertake policy reforms or improve the implementation of existing policies. An advocacy initiative on corruption in sports motivated the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to put up two permanent display boards with the message 'Say NO to Corruption' in Mirpur stadium grounds to affirm their commitment to weed out corruption from the cricket arena. Besides, on the eve of the International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December 2014, the Bangladesh National Cricket Team expressed solidarity with TIB's 'Say No to Corruption' campaign during the 5th international one-day match against Zimbabwe.

During the last nine months of PDC, TIB's ground-breaking study on 15 pillars of National Integrity System found that a dysfunctional parliament, an all-powerful executive, an exploited judiciary, and an increasingly politicized bureaucracy and police force have essentially eroded the checks and balances that are pivotal to good governance. The finding was reinforced when Bangladesh's score in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) moved further downward in 2014. Bangladesh scored 25 points in a scale of 0-100 and had been ranked 145th from the top and 14th from the below in a list of 175 countries.

Efforts to strengthen the parliament continued during the reporting period. TIB's Parliament Watch study found that the boycott culture practiced by the Opposition had climaxed during the 9th Parliament in 2009–2013. The study on private universities found that they have turned into profit earning institutions through corrupt practices by government officials and university authorities. A health sector study found many institutional limitations where political leaders, leaders of labor unions, and public officials are indulging in gross irregularities and corruption.

A follow-up study on the garment sector highlighted the importance of sustaining the progress in a more strategic way. TIB proposed for setting up a Garment Sector Governance Authority to coordinate multiple governance initiatives involving various actors to ensure their transparent and accountable delivery against commitments.

TIB continued with its advocacy to strengthen the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and protested against the government move of amending two sections of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2009. TIB's role as a civil society watchdog was manifest from various press statements on issues ranging from right to information, illegal land grabbing by some influential government offices, proposed amendment of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act, provision of legalizing black money in the budget and repatriation of stolen money, to the amendment of the Constitution to allow impeachment of Supreme Court Judges.

TIB collaborated once again with the Information Commission to observe the Right to Know Day. A success in this regard was a Cabinet Division initiative in which one representative from the CCC was included in the district level RTI Committee formed by the government.

At the national level, various youth activities and competitions, such as, cartoons and a national debate, generated awareness among the youngsters while a residential camp for YES members gave new directions for the youth movement.

TIB continued to generate significant media attention by securing maximum media coverage following release of research reports or policy statements. In addition, comments and op-eds by the Chair, Board of Trustees and Executive Director featured prominently in the media.

TIB's advocacy initiatives and networking with policymakers have created scope and opportunities to further pursue reforms and changes in laws and practices at the institutional level. For example, following up on TIB's recommendation, the government took stern measures against middlemen and brokers in the Chittagong Port. In another effort, TIB and ActionAid Bangladesh jointly called upon the United Nations to ensure accountability and integrity in climate finance governance at both national and international levels.

The year 2014 was highly eventful for TIB. We have learnt once again that social movement against corruption has its own risks; we have also learnt that opportunities can also emerge from the risks and challenges and pave the way for positive change.

INTRODUCTION

As accredited national chapter of the Berlin based Transparency International, TIB is an independent, non-profit and non partisan non-government organisation which envisions a corruption-free Bangladesh. TIB's mission is to *catalyse and strengthen a participatory social movement to promote and develop institutions, laws and practices for combating corruption in Bangladesh, and to establish an efficient and transparent system of governance, politics and business*. TIB's combined role of research and advocacy has contributed significantly to the generation of anti-corruption knowledge, production of policy recommendations for good governance and engagement of stakeholders in social movement against corruption. Working closely through citizens' volunteer groups at the local level, TIB has spread its work across 45 locations in Bangladesh.

TIB's operational strategy: TIB uses a three-pronged approach in its work. It engages in

- Research for knowledge-based advocacy aimed at law/policy reform;
- Engagement with local level stakeholders for generating demand for transparent, effective and accountable governance;
- Outreach and communication for fostering citizen's support and building networks, alliances and partnerships for driving the anti-corruption movement.

During the *Paribartan* - Driving Change (PDC) project (2009-2014) TIB experienced both setbacks and successes in influencing institutional policy setting and capacity building and raising demand for good governance. The new phase Building Integrity Blocks for Effective Change (BIBEC) project (2014-2019), TIB is concentrating on building and strengthening a series of mutually supportive integrity blocks to effectively reduce corruption. "Blocks" here imply the key institutions of accountability, law and policy, education and training, ethnics and values and most importantly, the citizens of this country.

Accordingly, BIBEC's goal is to **promote a more enabling environment for reducing corruption** and its **objectives** are

- To advocate for reforms in laws, policies, processes, practices and oversight for improving governance in targeted institutions and sectors.
- To generate peoples' demand for good governance and to strengthen citizens' capacity to challenge corruption.

TIB's **research** is undertaken at both the local and national levels. At the local level, TIB conducts Citizens Report Cards to determine quality, satisfaction and accountability in service delivery in key areas, e.g. education, health, local government, land and climate finance. At macro level it conducts national household surveys to gauge people's experiences of corruption in selected sectors of public service and other need based/demand driven studies.

At the national level, it undertakes diagnostic and other studies to identify governance challenges in selected sectors of public service and other need based/demand driven studies.

At the national level, it undertakes diagnostic and other studies to identify governance challenges in selected NIS institutions such as parliament, and Anti-Corruption Commission. The findings from these studies, in turn, inform and reinforce TIB's advocacy, engagement and communication activities with key stakeholders/institutions.

TIB believes that social mobilisation is imperative for inducing change in people's attitudes, behavior and capacity in resisting corruption. Accordingly, TIB has established 45 citizens' volunteer groups (Committees of Concerned Citizens-CCCs) in 45 locations and 59 Youth Engagement and Support groups (YES) throughout the country. CCCs are senior citizens with high degree of credibility, integrity, social acceptability, and leadership capacity to inform, motivate and mobilise citizens in challenging corruption and promoting integrity in service delivery at the local levels. YES focuses on sensitising and nurturing strong ethical values and democratic governance amongst young people primarily at the local level and on a limited scale at the national level through cultural and other activities. The work of these volunteer groups is supplemented by auxiliary groups, namely, Swajan, YES Friends and Young Professionals against Corruption (YPAC). The auxiliary groups are essentially made up of individuals who do not or no longer qualify for CCC or YES membership but who nonetheless want to be part of TIB's movement and whose work supplement activities of CCCs and YES.

Advocacy at 45 locations is carried out through **civic engagement** on the basis of TIB's research findings in selected sectors/institutions and other demand driven issues with the aim of sensitising citizens and concerned authorities about their rights/duties, help change their attitudes towards corruption and capacitate them to challenge/address corruption. The **outreach and communication** tops up TIB's research and advocacy work by consolidating public awareness, knowledge, attitude, skills, opinion, aspirations and motivations through dissemination of evidence-based research findings and anti-corruption information/messages.

Corruption Perceptions Index 2014 Bangladesh's score and position go down

Bangladesh's score moved downward by 2 points in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) of 2014 compared to 2013 indicating that corruption still remains a major threat. The CPI was released on December 3 in which Bangladesh scored 25 points in a scale of 0-100 and ranked 145th from the top and 14th from below in a list of 175 countries.

This score was much lower than the global average score of 43 and both in rank and score among seven South Asian countries, Bangladesh's position remained 2nd lowest - lower than all except Afghanistan. Bangladesh was also among the 121 countries out of 175 who scored below 50. From the bottom, the ranking was 2 steps worse in 2014 (14th) than it was in 2013 (16th) and from top it was nine steps lower (145th) than 2013 (136th).

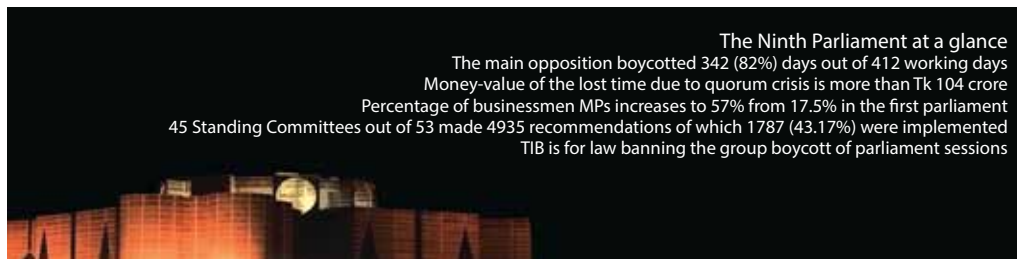
EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH

TIB produced and disseminated a wide range of research studies in 2014, primarily focusing on the contextual and causal analyses of corruption and recommending appropriate legal/policy measures. A total of 13 different types of studies were released during the period. Several studies on NIS institutions, such as the Parliament, and governance challenges in other sectors/institutions, such as the health sector and private universities have been instrumental in creating awareness and demand for fighting institutional corruption and establishing transparent and accountable governance.

A 'Parliament Watch' study on the Ninth Parliament found that the Parliament witnessed a record high boycott of parliamentary sessions by the main opposition during its tenure of five years from January 2009 to November 2013. Rampant quorum crisis wasted more than 222 hours resulting in a loss of more than BDT. 1040 millions. To overcome this noxious practice, TIB recommended a few measures which included inter alia, the enactment of law banning parliament boycott, adoption of rules against absenteeism, convening parliamentary sessions at least for 130 days a year and continuing every session for at least six hours, enactment of Code of Conduct Act for MPs, etc.

Another study titled 'Private Universities: Governance Challenges and Ways Forward' revealed numerous irregularities by private university authorities including Boards of Trustees, university administration, teachers and students, blended with inadequate monitoring and corrupt practices by government agencies, like the Ministry of Education and University Grants Commission (UGC). These seemingly converted private universities into profit earning institutions, through corrupt practices by government officials and university authorities. TIB offered 16 recommendations to avert the existing irregularities in private universities. Major recommendations include formation of an accreditation council and a policy framework to implement relevant laws, amendment of the Private University Act 2010, strengthening of UGC's monitoring system, allowing only high ranking foreign universities to run branches and closure of all outer campuses.

This Private University study dominated the public discourse for a long time. The Government initially reacted sharply manifest from the outright rejection of the study findings by the Education Minister who sought explanation on research methodologies which TIB duly provided. The UGC formed a Fact Finding Committee to examine the study findings and summoned TIB officials to hear their views. Private universities also denied allegations of involvement in corrupt practices. Contrarily, online polls by leading newspapers, commentaries by academics both in print and electronic media and reaction in social media overwhelmingly endorsed TIB's findings and urged the authorities to take corrective measures.



A study titled 'Governance Challenges in the Health Sector and Way Forward' identified many institutional limitations in the health sector. Around 20% positions remained vacant in various institutions under the health department. The recruitment, transfer and promotion involved bribes up to BDT. 1 million in each case. A section of political leaders, leaders of labor unions, assistants of office chief, accountants and administrative officers were found involved in different irregularities and corruption.

Another groundbreaking study 'National Integrity Context and System Analysis: BANGLADESH' revealed a weak National Integrity System (NIS) bedeviled by wide gaps between laws and practice. The study found that despite having a relatively strong legal framework, a culture of non-compliance generally prevails resulting in a lower than possible level of transparent and accountable governance in the country. The study found that a dysfunctional parliament, an all-powerful executive, an exploited judiciary, and an increasingly politicized bureaucracy and police force have essentially eroded the checks and balances that are pivotal to good governance. The study also questioned the independence and credibility of the respective Commissions (Election Commission, Anti-Corruption Commission, National Human Rights Commission and the Information Commission) and argued that weaknesses inhering in this regard have eroded public trust on these institutions. The study also observed that the absence of strong internal governance in political parties, civil society and the media exacerbated the governance challenges that confront the country's integrity system today.

During the reporting period, TIB's follow-up report on "Governance Challenges in the

Ready-made Garments Sector: Pledges and Progress" found that the key stakeholders including the government, various government agencies, BGMEA, factory owners and buyers have taken significant measures to cope with the multi-dimensional challenges of governance and corruption in the garments sector which essentially exposed the sector to unprecedented vulnerabilities in the wake of the Rana Plaza tragedy of April 24, 2013. The study also highlighted the importance of sustaining the progress in a more strategic way for which TIB proposed that a Garments Sector Governance Authority be set up to coordinate governance initiatives of multiple of actors involved in the sector and to ensure their transparent and accountable delivery against stated commitments.

A working paper titled "Climate Finance Governance: Institutional and Operational Progress, Challenges and Prospects" revealed a number of challenges including faulty disclosure of information, political influence in selecting contractors, violation of public procurement rules, and lack of accountability and proper monitoring in the implementation of World Bank-managed BCCRF project. TIB placed several recommendations to ensure transparency and accountability for effective utilization of climate finance management at the global as well as the national level. Among them the notable recommendations are: determining national designated authority and implementing body to get fund faster from GCF; ensuring effective representation of least developed countries in decision making process of GCF; ensuring proactive and need based disclosure of information of climate finance management and the World Bank managed BCCRF under the

provision of Right to Information Act 2009; and prioritizing the projects for fund allocation considering the risks of area or sector based communities in developing BCCSP's programmes and implementing its projects.

The robustness of TIB's evidence-based research continued to be recognized by stakeholders as contributing to shaping the direction of national anti-corruption agendas. For example, a study on food safety governance found that the absence of exemplary punishment for adulterators, legal bindings and coordination gap among authorities, city centered monitoring system and inadequate manpower have been causing governance failure in the food sector of Bangladesh. To overcome the governance challenges, TIB placed 16-point recommendations which included, among others, the amendment of Safe Food Act 2013 and its effective implementation, enabling consumers to take legal actions by consumers, the amendment of the Consumer Rights Protection Act 2009, and establishment of food courts in all districts and metropolitan cities.

In another study on governance challenges in the Management of Cooperatives, TIB unearthed various limitations in registration, monitoring and evaluation, audit, structural weakness of monitoring institutions, internal management limitations and corruptions that have been hindering the cooperatives from achieving the desired results. TIB underscored the need for updated rules for effective functioning of cooperatives and bring accountability in its operations.

The study on Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited

(BTCL) found that among many irregularities, BTCL experienced political appointments, lack of accountability in promotion and transfer, illegal Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) by using BTCL gateway and bribery in delivering services to customers. This study proposed 15 recommendations which included, among others, the reduction of ministry's interference over BTCL; transformation of BTCL, Tele Talk and Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Limited (BSCCL) into a single company, and floating of shares within the quickest possible time.

The study on Zila Parishads found that influences of MPs and a reluctant bureaucracy have weakened Zilla Parishads. TIB recommended reforming all Zilla Parishads by holding elections and handing-over the administrative responsibility to the elected representatives; reducing influence of MPs and fitting distribution of responsibilities between Deputy Commissioners and Zilla Parishad Chairmen.

The study on Chittagong Port and Custom House revealed that the estimated total minimum money value of daily illegal transactions in the Custom House was BDT 4.75 million and BDT 1.72 million in Chittagong port during cargo releasing process. For improving the governance situation, TIB recommended, among others, full and effective implementation of automation in custom house by establishing connectivity with all concerned institutions, discontinuation of the provision of container stripping inside the port, performance evaluation of officials and assessment of the effectiveness of automation by an independent and impartial third party.

TIB's Technical Assistance to LGED

Following of the release of a study titled 'Local Government Engineering Department: Problems of Good Governance and the Way Forward' in August 2013, the government assigned TIB with the task of providing technical assistance to LGED with support from ADB in identifying governance and fiduciary risks, and developing a road map to ensure good governance in LGED operations. A team of independent experts recruited by TIB is working on this assignment, which is expected to be completed by February 2016.

The above example testifies that evidence-based research and advocacy supplements by due diligence and commitment are critical for winning over TIB's stakeholders.

ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

During the reporting period TIB advocated for a number of policy measures based on its research findings in various sectors or emerging issues of national importance. In several instances, concerned authorities acknowledged TIB's study recommendations and took necessary steps to initiate policy reforms or improve the implementation of existing policies. Some concrete examples are highlighted below:

i. Based on the findings of National Integrity Context and System Analysis (NICSA) study, 15 policy briefs were disseminated to relevant Ministries and independent Commissions. The concerned institutions have taken TIB's findings positively and expressed interest to further engage with TIB to initiate reforms in selected areas.

ii. TIB led and coordinated the process of the review of the draft 'Foreign Donations Regulation Act, 2014, approved by the Cabinet in December 2014. Engagement of CSOs and the government (NGO Affairs Bureau, Office of the Prime Minister and Law Ministry), resulted in substantial improvement of the original draft, though some concerns continued to remain.

iii. TIB catalyzed and coordinated the process of the first ever participation of

CSO representatives in the process of engagement of the Donor Local Consultative Group (LCG) on governance with the government, led by the Cabinet Division.

iv. As a direct stakeholder that successfully participated in the drafting process of the National Integrity Strategy, TIB continued to engage with the government in the implementation process of the strategy in two ways: a) it provided technical support to the implementation unit of the NIS in the Cabinet Division including recommending measures to strengthen the NIS itself; and b) led the process of drafting the implementation strategy of NIS for NGOs (Civil Society) as one of the pillars of the strategy. In the process, TIB engaged with a group of leading national NGOs and their umbrella organizations, INGO Forum, Office of the Prime Minister and the NGOAB. The draft is awaiting approval of the Office of the Prime Minister.

v. TIB's proposal to tune the forthcoming 7th Five Year Plan with the National Integrity Strategy and specific objectives of transparent and accountable governance was welcomed by the Minister for Planning. TIB followed up with a set of recommendations for incorporation in the Plan.



Bangladesh National Cricket Team expressed solidarity with TIB's campaign

vi. TIB's advocacy against corruption in sports succeeded in convincing the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) to put up two permanent display boards with the message 'Say NO to Corruption' in the Mirpur stadium grounds to affirm their commitment to weed out corruption from the Bangladesh cricket arena. Besides, on the eve of the International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December 2014, the Bangladesh National Cricket Team expressed solidarity with TIB's campaign against corruption in cricket during the 5th international one-day match.

vii. There was no guideline from the BCCTF regarding evaluation of the impacts of completed BCCTF projects but following evidence-based advocacy by TIB, BCCTF Trustee Board has entered into an agreement with the Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Department (IMED) to evaluate 62 completed projects funded by BCCTF in late 2014. Moreover, following TIB's demand BCCTF has assigned Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) to evaluate the impacts of BCCTF projects.

viii. While undertaking an investigative study in 2013, TIB could not trace a total of 10 implementing NGOs approved by the BCCTF at the addresses provided by PKSF which was responsible for managing NGOs

and private sector funding. Moreover, TIB identified some governance challenges in the process of NGO approval/selection for implementing several adaptation projects. While initially PKSF denied TIB's findings, it subsequently carried out an investigation following TIB's sustained advocacy. The investigation led to suspension of 12 NGOs. In the meantime, the Anti-Corruption Commission also started an investigation against the alleged NGOs.

ix. Following TIB's request the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General has started special audit of BCCTF projects which was absent earlier and assured that this would be regularly carried out from now on.

x. Following TIB's study on 'Automation of Export-Import in Chittagong Port and Custom House: Governance Challenges and Way Forward', the National Board of Revenue (NBR) issued an office order ousting illegally appointed middlemen, popularly known as 'Badi Alam', who have been working as 'helpers' for custom officials in different Custom Houses for a long time. Their illegal involvement created opportunities for bribery and corruption in the export-import value chain and ultimately deprived the government of a huge revenue earning.



YES members helping patients through AI Desk at hospital premises

PEOPLE'S ENGAGEMENT

As a part of social movement, TIB applies tools and processes through which citizens can raise their voice against corruption. In addition to various public awareness initiatives, various social accountability tools like Citizens' Report Card (CRC), Face the Public (FtP), Open Budget, budget tracking, Advice and Information Desks (AI-Desks), street theatres and several cultural tools are used to mobilise citizens against corruption. Participatory accountability at the service delivery level is secured through Integrity Pledges taken by selected authorities in health, education and local government. TIB relies greatly on the voluntary spirit of the youth and catalyses their energy in demanding transparency, accountability and integrity in service delivery.

Ensuring transparency in beneficiary selection

Inspired by the advocacy campaign undertaken by the Committee of Concerned Citizen (CCC) in Lalmonirhat, the Moghalhat Union Parishad (UP) of Sadar Upazilla embarked on an initiative for preparing a list of eligible beneficiaries for 'allowances for the disabled' through a transparent process. Previously complaints abounded surrounding the exclusion of genuine beneficiaries or the dropping of beneficiaries from the list who were poor and marginalized and preparing a fake list through unfair means. To address this problem, CCC Lalmonirhat organized a

stakeholders' meeting, formed a committee and published the eligibility criteria to the community. All mobile phones were switched off during the to offset undue pressure or persuasion. The list was finalised in the presence of the community. The whole process took only a day and finally 23 genuine beneficiaries were selected for receiving 'allowances for the disabled' for the Fiscal Year 2014-15. This Union Parishad is now regarded as an example of transparency in service recipients selection for the 'allowance for disabled'.

Compelling health authorities to return unauthorized money

YES members' protested against an unauthorized payment at the Hospital of Pirojpur CCC and compelled the authorities to return Taka 500.00 it took from a poor fisherman Md. Abdul Halim of Kawkhali Upazila for emergency medical service which he was supposed to get free of cost. This happened when YES members, as part of their Satellite AI-Desk, came know about this irregular practice. Upon inquiry, YES members found the allegations to be true and after much persuasion and protest, were able to convince the staff to return the money to the poor fisherman, who appreciated the efforts made by the young anti-corruption volunteers.

promotional and motivational initiatives to engage people to fight corruption. These measures have demonstrated that practical changes are achievable in hospitals, schools, unions and municipalities.

During the reporting period, CCCs organized RTI Fairs throughout 45 project locations to mark the International Right to Know Day. Different government and non-government agencies set up their stalls to proactively disclose information on salient issues. The importance of RTI law was highlighted through various cultural tools i.e. street theatre, and folk songs such as Gambhira, Palagan. While YES members provided hands-on-training to visitors on how to file applications for information using the RTI Act 2009, local advocacy was carried out with respective institutions to appoint designated information officers.

CCC-YES groups also organized rallies, discussions, human chains, cartoon exhibitions, street theater shows, anti-corruption oath-taking and various outreach activities in 45 locations in the country to celebrate the International Anti-Corruption Day 2014. Tens of thousands of people, public officials and representatives, professionals, civil society, media, business and students from schools, colleges and universities joined these IACD events.

TIB's YES activities are aimed at improving the access of the poor and disadvantaged to basic public services without harassment and without having to make any unauthorized payments. They apply various social accountability tools such as mothers' gathering, AI Desk, street theatre, choose the right candidate programme, right to information fairs, rallies, human chains, cartoon exhibitions, signature campaigns, oath taking, and other



Mothers Gathering creates an opportunity to ensure transparency and accountability of SMCs

Ensuring quality primary education

APC Government Primary School in Khulna serves mostly poor and marginalized slum children. This school has been running with serious shortages in terms of facilities and teachers. There were also allegations of teachers' absenteeism, lack of awareness among mothers and ineffective functioning of the School Management Committee (SMC).

The Committee of Concerned Citizen (CCC), Khulna chose to base its interventions on this school to improve governance in primary education at the local level. A baseline was conducted and based on the findings, CCC designed and implemented several interventions aimed at creating awareness among mothers, and advocacy with SMC and local education authority. Following demands raised by the community, a new school building was built to accommodate a huge number of students, effective monitoring by authorities was carried out that contributed to the increase in teachers' timely attendance. The pass rate of this school is now 100 %, while dropout rate decreased; and students are also participating in various extracurricular activities, thanks to CCC Khulna's interventions.



Md. Faridur Rahman Razib, 1st Position, Group A
Anti-Corruption Cartoon Competition 2014

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

TIB organized a youth conference titled 'Youth Leaders in Innovative Anti-Corruption Movement' on June 5-7, 2014 in the auditorium of HRDC, Proshika, Koitta, Manikganj. A total 176 YES members, especially Group Leaders and Deputy Group Leaders from 59 YES Groups from CCCs and Dhaka, participated in it. During the conference, the YES members shared their thoughts and innovative ideas on seven key areas: Education, Health, Local Govt., Land, Right to Information, Good Governance in Climate Finance and Networking and Partnership. The conference created an opportunity for TIB's youth activists to critically analyze the movement and assess their individual and collective roles and responsibilities.

14 YES groups of Dhaka carried out regular campaigns and held discussion programmes, seminars and study circles on issues such as, anti-corruption and governance, human rights, climate finance governance, and right to information, to reach out to the student community of their respective university campuses.

TIB organized a national debate competition on "Good Governance and Effective Control of Corruption for Equality of Women" where 79 young debaters from all over the country participated. The debate competition offered an opportunity for disseminating anti-corruption information amongst young people and sharing views about various forms of corruption existing in society and ways of mitigating them.

The annual cartoon competition and exhibition marked an enthusiastic participation of fledgling young cartoonists of the country. The weeklong anti-corruption cartoon exhibition attracted a large number of young visitors from schools, colleges and universities. H.E. Mr Johan Frisell, the Swedish Ambassador and H.E. Ms Hanne Fugl Eskjaer, the Danish Ambassador in Bangladesh attended as guests of honour and distributed the prizes.



Participants of Youth Conference 2014

The 4th Anti-Corruption Theater Festival, celebrated during the World Theater Day 2014 on 27 March at Rabindra Shorobor Mukta-Mancha, was attended by a large number of youths, who also joined a candle light vigil to protest violence against women across the country.

PARTNERSHIPS

TIB believes that building effective synergies and linkages with other CSOs/NGOs can potentially expand the anti-corruption movement at the local and national level. Accordingly, TIB entered into issue-based alliances/ networks on various occasions on selected themes, e.g. education, land, RTI, human rights & governance and investigative journalism. Similar platforms are being explored for collaborative work on Climate Finance Governance issues.

At the national level, TIB partnered with national CSOs and INGOs to advocate with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs against controversial provisions in the draft Foreign Donations Act 2014.

TIB and ALRD joined hands to work on land governance. TIB's land sector network members (ALRD, BLAST, BELA, ASK, Nijera Kori and Adivasi Forum) held a press conference for sharing an investigative report on 'Illegal Land Acquisition (land grabbing) and Allotment' in different upazillas (sub-districts) of Gazipur and Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, Noakhali and Pabna districts.

MEDIA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

TIB continued to generate significant media attention by securing considerable media coverage following releases of research reports or policy statements. In addition, comments and op-eds on different issues by the Chair, Board of Trustees and Executive Director continued to feature prominently in the media.

The annual Investigative Journalism Awards for 2014 was bagged by Arup Roy of Daily Prothom Alo for his report that unearthed how more than 1000 police constables secured jobs using fake address and identities. H. M. Alauddin of Daily Purbanchol from Khulna won in the regional print media category for uncovering sorry state of health services in Khulna district. The award on electronic media category went to Sajjad Parvez of Jamuna Television for exposing malpractices by unscrupulous associations in the name of human rights promotion. He was joined by Mr Kamrul Hasan Selim, Mr Abdul Al Mamum and Mr Salahuddin Tareq who received awards as camera persons for their special contributions.

During a seminar on 'Contemporary Journalism in Bangladesh', key-notes by Mr. Khaled Mohiuddin, Head of News, Independent Television and Mr. Robaet Ferdous, Associate Professor, Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, University of Dhaka enthralled the audience. Three young journalists also shared their professional experiences highlighting the need for self-retrospection by the media leaders to improve the quality of journalism in the country. Professor Dr. Gowher Rizvi, International Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister who attended as Chief Guest, underscored the significance of freedom of expression and objective journalism for promoting good governance in the country.

TIB spelt out its stance over the newly adopted 'National Broadcasting Policy 2014' through a press conference observing that the NBP contains a few provisions which are inconsistent with Chapter 39 of the Bangladesh Constitution that ensures freedom of thoughts and conscience, freedom of speech and express, including the media freedom. It also demanded to form a fully independent National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) and enact law to facilitate the formation of NBC.



Winners of IJ Awards 2014

MEDIA STATEMENTS

TIB's policy stances on key issues are usually projected through media statements. TIB came up with a number of such statements in 2014. Notable among these are:

- a) Following media reports that the ACC Chairman laid foundation stones of two bridges, TIB urged upon the Commission to refrain from activities that are inconsistent with ACC's mandate.
- b) TIB became vocal against the government when it attempted to amend, once again, the ACC Act 2013 in ways that would empower the police to investigate money laundering and corruption cases. TIB believed that such amendment would curtail ACC's power and suggested that changes, if any, should be adopted through consultation with stakeholders and experts.
- c) TIB expressed deep concern over the growing trend of illicit transfer of money out of the country, and called upon the government to utilize the relevant national and international legal instruments including the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) to repatriate stolen assets and bring to justice those involved in this crime.
- d) TIB questioned the government's move to allow the unquestioned legalization of black money in the real-estate sector and demanded that such a decision should be scrapped in the national budget for 2014-15 fiscal year.
- e) In another policy stance, TIB urged the government to seek public opinion and consult with constitution experts, civil society & media personalities on its move to amend the Bangladesh Constitution aiming to restore the Parliament's authority to impeach Supreme Court Judges.
- f) TIB condemned the Chief Whip's sensational and unconstitutional remark – 'no crest only cash' at a local reception programme attended by mass people as the statement was seen as encouraging corrupt practices.
- g) TIB demanded a permanent ban of all water routes following the capsizing of an oil tanker near the Sundarbans that showed how risky the water routes are inside the Sundarbans. Besides, plying motorized vehicles inside the forest violates national and international rules and standards.

DESIGNATED INFORMATION OFFICERS AND APPELLATE AUTHORITY

As a stakeholder in people's right to information and in accordance with the RTI Act 2009 TIB's designated information request channels are: info@ti-bangladesh.org, or by phone or letter to: Manager, Resource & Information, phone: 01713065016.

Appellate Authority (Head Office and the CCC's)

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CCC Munshiganj brought out a rally to mark International Right to Know Day 2014

AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To

The Board of Trustees of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB)

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2014, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, and the Statement of Receipts & Payments for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Bangladesh Financial Reporting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Bangladesh Standards on Auditing. Those Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), as at 31 December 2014, and (of) its financial performance and its Receipts & Payments for the year then ended in accordance with Bangladesh Financial Reporting Standards and comply with applicable laws and regulations.

Dated, Dhaka;
16 April 2015



S.F. Ahmed & Co.
S.F. Ahmed & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB)

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL BANGLADESH (TIB)

Statement of Financial Position

as at 31 December 2014

		Amount in Taka	
Notes		2014	2013
Assets			
<i>Non-current assets</i>			
Property, plant and equipment	5	31,070,276	15,583,946
Intangible assets	6	1,233,649	1,320,584
		32,303,925	16,904,530
<i>Current assets</i>			
Advances, deposits & prepayments	7	8,396,781	2,710,342
Receivables	8	2,301,649	544,296
Cash & cash equivalents	9	276,939,682	135,721,855
		287,638,112	138,976,493
Total assets		319,942,037	155,881,022
Capital fund and liabilities			
<i>Capital fund</i>			
Advance donor contribution	10	263,995,217	112,078,016
		263,995,217	112,078,016
<i>Non-current liabilities</i>			
Deferred income-investment in PPE & Intangible asset	11	32,303,925	16,904,530
		32,303,925	16,904,530
<i>Current liabilities</i>			
Accounts payable	12	23,642,894	26,898,476
		23,642,894	26,898,476
Total capital fund and liabilities:		319,942,037	155,881,022

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements and are to be read in conjunction therewith.

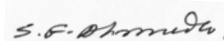

Treasurer

Executive Director

Chairperson


Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed.

Dated, Dhaka;
16 April 2015



S. F. Ahmed & Co.
Chartered Accountants

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL BANGLADESH (TIB)

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 31 December 2014

		Amount in Taka	
Notes		2014	2013
Income:			
Grants	13	309,423,182	314,608,584
Travel reimbursement		938,244	1,553,238
Local Contribution	14	-	12,200
Membership subscription	15	38,900	39,700
Bank Interest	16	878,171	921,816
Other income	17	1,168,452	277,973
Total income		312,446,949	317,413,511
Expenditure:			
Paribartan - Driving Change Project	18	236,121,355	302,261,372
General fund	19	1,121,074	1,663,604
NICSA	20	1,934,087	2,764,112
Road Map to Good Governance	21	1,301,456	-
FK Norway Exchange Programme	22	3,483,466	2,249,239
Climate Finance Governance Project	23	4,237,139	8,165,296
Bangladesh Water Integrity Network (BAWIN)	24	2,273,375	309,887
Building Integrity Blocks for Effective Change (BIBEC)	25	61,974,997	-
Total expenditure		312,446,949	317,413,511

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements and are to be read in conjunction therewith.



Treasurer



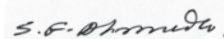
Executive Director



Chairperson



Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed.



S. F. Ahmed & Co.

Chartered Accountants

Dated, Dhaka;
16 April 2015

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL BANGLADESH (TIB)

Statement of Receipts and Payments

For the year ended 31 December 2014

	Notes	Amount in Taka	
		2014	2013
Opening balance			
Cash in hand		275,551	327,514
Cash at bank		135,446,304	75,357,833
		135,721,855	75,685,347
Receipts			
Foreign Grants	26	475,651,312	369,943,731
Travel reimbursement	27	938,244	1,008,942
Local Contribution		-	12,200
Membership subscription		38,900	39,700
Bank Interest		878,171	921,816
Other receipts	28	3,122,412	14,630,531
Total receipts		480,629,039	386,556,920
Total		616,350,894	462,242,267
Payments			
Paribartan-Driving Change Project		242,319,605	311,083,086
General fund		21,827,710	1,964,392
NICSA		1,897,287	2,764,112
Road Map to Good Governance		1,301,456	-
FK Norway Exchange Programme		3,630,710	2,435,679
Climate Finance Governance Project		4,013,838	7,447,677
Bangladesh Water Integrity Network (BAWIN)		2,278,415	825,466
Building Integrity Blocks for Effective Change (BIBEC)		62,142,193	-
Total payments		339,411,212	326,520,412
Closing balance:			
Cash in hand		283,648	275,551
Cash at bank		276,656,034	135,446,304
		276,939,682	135,721,855
Total		616,350,894	462,242,267

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements and are to be read in conjunction therewith.



Treasurer



Dated, Dhaka;
16 April 2015

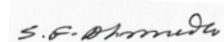


Executive Director

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed.



Chairperson



S. F. Ahmed & Co.
Chartered Accountants

TIB'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Ms. Sultana Kamal
Chairperson



Ms. Selina Hossain
Secretary General



Mr. Mahfuz Anam
Treasurer



Mr. Tawfique Nawaz
Trustee



Ms. Sayyada Ruhi Ghuznavi
Trustee



Mr. M. Hafizuddin Khan
Trustee



Dr. A.T.M. Shamsul Huda
Trustee



Ms. Rokia A. Rahman
Trustee



Prof. Syed Manzoorul Islam
Trustee



Dr. Akbar Ali Khan
Trustee

ACRONYMS

AAB	Action Aid Bangladesh
ACC	Anti-Corruption Commission
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AI Desk	Advice and Information Desk
ALRD	Association for Land Reform and Development
ASK	Ain O Shalish Kendro
BCB	Bangladesh Cricket Board
BCCRF	Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund
BELA	Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association
BIBEC	Building Integrity Blocks for Effective Change
BLAST	Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust
BM&DC	Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council
BSCCL	Bangladesh Submarine Cable Company Limited
BTCL	Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited
BTTB	Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board
CAG	Comptroller and Auditor General
CCC	Committees of Concerned Citizens
CFG	Climate Finance Governance
CPI	Corruption Perceptions Index
CTMS	Container Terminal Management System
DFID	UK Department for International Development
EC	Election Commission
EOD	Embassy of Denmark
F&A	Finance and Administration
IACD	International Anti-Corruption Day
IGW	International Gate Way
LDC	Least Developed Country
LGED	Local Government Engineering Department
LGI	Local Government Institution
MP	Member of Parliament
NBC	National Broadcasting Commission
NBP	National Broadcasting Policy
NBR	National Board of Revenue
NIS	National Integrity System
NGO	Non- government Organization
PDC	<i>Paribartan</i> —Driving Change
RTI	Right to Information
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SMC	School Management Committees
SWAJON	Swachhotar Jonno Nagorik (Citizens for Transparency)
TIB	Transparency International Bangladesh
TV	Television
UGC	University Grants Commission
UP	Union Parishad
UNCAC	UN Convention Against Corruption
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VoIP	Voice over Internet Protocol
YES	Youth Engagement & Support



Students at a school in Cox's Bazar taking anti-corruption oath

ANTI-CORRUPTION OATH

Inspired by and a commitment to uphold the spirit of
the glorious War of Liberation

I hereby solemnly pledge that I shall have the highest
regard for the independence, sovereignty, culture and values
of my beloved motherland.

I shall try my utmost to discharge my responsibilities and
duties towards my country.

I abhor corruption.

I am determined to refrain from all kinds corruption.

I shall refrain from adopting any dishonest means in all
aspects of academic and professional life and shall discharge
my responsibilities with integrity and accountability.

I shall be respectful to law and human rights.

I shall strive to resist discrimination and exploitation
against people.

I shall always try to actively participate in all initiatives
aimed at mobilizing anti-corruption social movements in Bangladesh.

Supported by:



Embassy of
Denmark



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



Transparency International Bangladesh

MIDAS Centre (Level 4 & 5)

House- 05, Road- 16 (New) 27 (Old)

Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209, Bangladesh

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/TIBangladesh

