



TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL
BANGLADESH

Social movement against corruption

Annual Report 2015



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FOREWORD

This report highlights efforts of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) during January-December 2015 to strengthen the social movement against corruption in Bangladesh. We faced many constraints and challenges as elaborated in what follows here, but we continued to intensify demand for promoting good governance, and sustained our efforts to amplify the voice against corruption which catalyzed positive changes in many cases.

The reporting period witnessed intensification of implementation of the project titled BIBEC (Building Integrity Blocks for Effective Change) that began in October 2014 aimed at promoting a more enabling environment for reducing corruption in Bangladesh. The project is supported by the Department for International Development (DFID) of UK, the Embassies of Denmark and Sweden and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

BIBEC is conceptually and strategically consistent with the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, as well as Perspective Plan 2011-2021: Making Vision 2021 A Reality, the National Integrity Strategy, the Seventh Five Year Plan (2016-2020), Bangladesh's commitment to UNCAC and Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 and the election pledges of the Government. Operating with the due approval of the Government of Bangladesh, TIB's mandate is to strengthen the capacity of the State in general and the Government in particular to prevent and control corruption and to promote of better governance.

To that end, TIB has intensified the demand for further legal, institutional and policy changes with special emphasis on key institutions of the national integrity system. Our national level research and advocacy have continued to attach priority to parliamentary effectiveness and a series of sectors and institutions of public interest, while our local level civic engagement has focused on reforming and strengthening public service delivery system with particular relevance to education health, local government, land and climate finance governance.

Our anti-corruption and governance research created increased awareness and demand for fighting corruption and establishing transparent and accountable governance. Release of research reports have been followed up by engagement and advocacy initiatives with concerned authorities for policy reforms and better implementation of existing policies. At local levels application of TIB's package of social accountability tools continued to positively impact service delivery in selected institutions. We have devoted special efforts to enhance the level of implementation of the Right to Information Act by engaging with both the demand and supply side. TIB's outreach efforts continued to building networks, alliances and partnerships for strengthening the anti-corruption movement, nationally and locally.

We do recognize that not all our efforts have yielded the desired results, especially in situations where the supply side was either nonresponsive or even in a state of denial. On occasions we were faced, as many times in the past, with acrimonious reactions from a section of the high and mighty. Such deficits and challenges couldn't prevent us from carrying on. We have learnt that there are failures, risks and challenges in the anti-corruption movement just as there are opportunities. We are also convinced that there are within the government and political space people who do support our work. Such opportunities and the

public interest and support for TIB's work have once again helped us continue the daunting task of challenging corruption and promoting better governance.

We would welcome suggestions and criticism of readers of this report to guide us in our journey ahead as we believe it is only through working together with all stakeholders that corruption can be effectively controlled and governance can be improved.

Iftekharuzzaman
Executive Director



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The year 2015 witnessed TIB's credibility as Bangladesh's leading anti-corruption think-tank reach new heights with increased engagement in research, advocacy and people engagement activities implemented under the banner of BIBEC (Building Integrity Blocks for Effective Change) project that began in October 2014. Being implemented with the due approval of the Government of Bangladesh and supported by the Department for International Development (DFID) of UK, the Embassies of Denmark and Sweden and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), BIBEC is aimed at promoting a more enabling environment for reducing corruption in Bangladesh.

Strategic advocacy initiatives with key policy-makers have encouraged relevant authorities to introduce new policy reforms or improve the implementation of existing policies. Twelve studies on different institutions/issues have revealed gaps in governance and prescribed recommendations on the basis of which TIB engaged with relevant government institutions and other stakeholders to lobby for reform.

Studies like the ones on the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General, public examination question paper leakage, and land and water sector management, revealed governance challenges resulting from legal, institutional and operational limitations causing widespread corruption. Major breaches in laws, ordinances and regulations in the land acquisition and environmental assessment processes of the two new coal-based power plants projects were also unearthed.

A follow up study on governance challenges of the readymade garment (RMG) sector on the occasion of the second anniversary of the Rana Plaza tragedy found examples of notable progress during the period in implementing initiatives taken by the government since the accident. These include, among others, amendment of EPZ law 2013; appointment of panel lawyers to help workers in the labour tribunal, finalization of labour rules and preparation of guideline for sub-contract factories. Similarly, progress was achieved by other stakeholders as well. Around 95% factories started complying with mandatory minimum wage. Most of the compliant factories completed issuing identity cards to their workers. However, the TIB report also identified a series of deficits still existed indicating a long way to go before good governance can be considered to have been achieved in the country's RMG Sector.

A study covering relation between women and corruption found that women were being forced to accept corruption as a way of life, and as much as being victims they were becoming agents and in some cases beneficiaries of corruption. The report on three city corporation elections - Dhaka North, Dhaka South and Chittagong - found serious violation of electoral law, rules and conduct, much of which was attributed to the deficits in the discharge of entrusted authority and responsibility by the Election Commission and law enforcement agencies with impartiality. Meanwhile, a survey on national youth integrity found that in spite of having a highly moralistic concept of integrity, significant portion of the Bangladeshi youth would still resort to unfair means for personal gains such as for a good grade (32%), for admission into a good school (42%) or a dream job (49%).

TIB's efforts to strengthen the demand for an effective parliament continued during the reporting period. A study on Parliamentary Standing Committees found that conflict of interest and ineffectiveness of the committees were contributing to the deficits of accountability of the respective ministries. The Parliament Watch study on sessions 2-6 of the 10th Parliament found

that critical among factors contributing to ineffectiveness of the parliament were the failure of the “main opposition party” in playing the due role to hold the Government to account, wastage of valuable time in discussing issues irrelevant to the proceedings and use of non-parliamentary language against political opponents; ineffective speakership; low interest and participation of MPs in legislative business, question-answer and issues of public importance. Critical views arising from the report were considered derogatory to the image of the Parliament by some MPs. TIB nevertheless continued to stress that the purpose of being critical of the way the parliament functioned was in fact to help enhance its effectiveness and thereby to build and strengthen its image.

Application of social accountability tools in local level engaging people with duty bearers continued to positively impact delivery in five key sectors: health, education, local government, land and climate finance governance. Citizens’ Report Cards (CRC), Advice & Information Desk (AI-Desk), Face the Public (FtP) events, Mothers’ Gatherings, Open Budgets, Street Theatres, Citizens’ Charters, Information Bill Boards, Complaint Boxes and the application of Right to Information (RTI) Act are the tools that TIB used during the period to take forward the anti-corruption efforts in selected institutions and/or projects in the above-mentioned five sectors.

In addition to its ongoing advocacy efforts to make ACC effective, under a two-year MoU with ACC several joint activities including public hearings to bring relevant officials face to face with victims of corruption in various sectors of public interest have opened important new windows for grievance redress and corruption control. Under this partnership TIB also provided technical support to designated information officers (DIO) of the ACC on the application of RTI Act 2009. Collaborative efforts with the Information Commission also continued to promote transparency and accountability through the application of RTI Act.

At the national level, various youth activities and competitions, such as, cartoon, photo, and essay competitions and a national debate were organized to generate anti-corruption awareness among the youngsters while in a residential camp organized for YES members developed for themselves new directions for the youth movement against corruption.

TIB continued to generate significant media attention by securing substantial media coverage following release of research reports or policy statements.

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 formulated ‘Formalin Resistance Act’ and ‘Food Safety Authority Act’.

Parallel with its national level advocacy efforts and project tracking for higher standards of accountability and transparency in the use of climate finance to confront challenges arising from global climate change, TIB continued to strengthen the demand for Bangladesh’s lead advocacy role in international negotiation forums such as COP21 held in Paris to ensure steady flow of climate funds for the affected countries as committed by the developed countries.

The year 2015 was another eventful year 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

An accredited national chapter of the Berlin-based Transparency International (TI), TIB is an independent, non-profit and nonpartisan non-government organization which envisions a corruption-free Bangladesh. TIB's mission is to catalyze 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. The goal of BIBEC, the core project of TIB titled, "Building Integrity Blocks for Effective Change" 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 strengthen citizens' capacity to challenge corruption.

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; and
- Outreach and communication for fostering citizen's support and building networks, alliances and partnerships for driving the anti-corruption movement.

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 the national level, it undertakes diagnostic and other studies to identify governance challenges in selected NIS institutions. 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 mobilization 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. The work of these volunteer groups is supplemented by auxiliary groups, namely, Swajon, YES Friends and Young Professionals against Corruption (YPAC).

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 sensitizing citizens and concerned authorities on 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.

EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH

TIB produced and disseminated a wide range of research products in 2015, primarily focusing on the contextual and causal analyses of corruption and recommending appropriate legal/policy measures. A total of 12 different types of studies released during the period created awareness and generated demand for fighting institutional corruption and establishing transparent and accountable governance. Some of study findings incurred sharp reactions from a section of the concerned authorities, for example, the parliament watch study, the garments supply chain study, water integrity baseline, etc. TIB credibly defended its findings and also managed to generate substantial public support in its favour.

12 Research Products in 2015

NIS Studies

- Effectiveness of Parliamentary Standing Committees of Bangladesh: Problems and Way Forward
- Parliament Watch Report on 2-6 sessions of 10th Parliament

Fact Finding Studies

- Rampal and Matarbari Power Projects: Governance Challenges in Environmental Impact Assessment and Land Acquisition
- Dhaka North, Dhaka South and Chittagong City Corporation Elections 2015: Tracking the Process

Follow-up Study

Good Governance in the Ready-made Garment Sector: Review of Progress During Last One Year

Comparative Study

National Youth Integrity Survey 2015

Diagnostic Studies

- Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh: Governance Challenges & Way Forward
- Governance of the Directorate of Drug Administration: Challenges & Way forward
- Land Management and Services: Challenges of Good Governance and Way Forward

On-demand Studies

- Women's Experience of Corruption: A Snapshot of Two Unions of Bangladesh
- Question Paper Leakage in Public Examinations: The Processes, Reasons and Way Forward

Baseline Study

Integrity in Water Management of Bangladesh: Present Perspective and Development Potential

The follow-up study titled 'Good governance in the ready-made garment sector: review of progress during last one year' assessed progress and implementation status of different initiatives and efforts undertaken to ensure the sector's good governance from April 2014 to March 2015. Major steps included, among others, amendment of EPZ law 2013; appointment of panel lawyers to help workers in the labour tribunal; finalization of rules under the new labour law and preparation of guideline for sub-contract factories. There were considerable progress in a number of initiatives undertaken by other stakeholders as well, such as maintaining wage board salary in 25% factories and issuing of ID cards to workers. However, various deficits still existed indicating that a lot needs to be done to consolidate reforms gained to establish good governance in the country's Readymade Garment sector (RMG).

The findings of the baseline study titled, 'Integrity in Water Management of Bangladesh: Present Perspective and Development Potential' revealed that the officials and employees of Dhaka WASA (Water Supply and Sewerage Authority) in collusion with political actors and brokers informally controlled the water supply in the capital. As usual, WASA authority rejected the findings of the baseline study. However, TIB was able to work with WASA to improve the situation.

TIB's Technical Assistance to LGED

Following the release of a study titled 'Local Government Engineering Department: Problems of Good Governance and the Way Forward' in August 2013, TIB was assigned with the task of providing technical assistance to LGED with support from ADB and specific approval of the government in identifying governance and fiduciary risks, and developing a road map to ensure good governance in LGED operations. A team of independent experts has been deployed by TIB to deliver the task through active engagement with the LGED and other stakeholders.

COP 21: Position Paper

TIB highlighted the need for Bangladesh's lead advocacy role in international negotiation forums such as COP 21 Paris Conference to demand steady flow of climate funds for the affected countries as committed by the developed countries. TIB's position paper containing 14-point demand was submitted to Prime Minister, Environment Minister and relevant stakeholders to place it in COP 21 in Paris. In the wake of TIB's advocacy, the Government changed its earlier announced stance to seek loan for climate finance and reverted back to giving priority to grant/compensation.

TIB's efforts to strengthen the demand for an effective parliament continued during the reporting period. *The Parliament Watch study on sessions 2-6 of the 10th Parliament* found that critical among factors contributing to ineffectiveness of the parliament were the failure of the "main opposition party" in playing the due role to hold the Government to account, wastage of valuable time in discussing issues irrelevant to the proceedings and use of non-parliamentary language against political opponents; ineffective speakership; low interest and participation of MPs in legislative business, question-answer and issues of public importance. Critical views arising from the report were considered derogatory to the image of the Parliament by some MPs. TIB nevertheless continued to stress that the purpose of being critical of the way the parliament functioned was in fact to help enhance its effectiveness and thereby to build and strengthen its image.

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, the 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:

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) implemented several initiatives following TIB's health sector study and national health consultation recommendations in 2014.

Directorate General of Drug Administration

The Drug Administration (DA) formed an internal committee to implement TIB's recommendations after MoHFW's directive.

Directorate of Primary Education

The Directorate of Primary Education transferred Office Assistants working at Upazila Education Offices for 5 years and above.

Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Food

Following TIB's recommendations in a study 'Safe Food Governance: Challenges and the Way Forward', the government enacted Formalin Resistance Act, 2015 and established Bangladesh Food Safety Authority.

OTHERS

- Office of the Chief Justice assured to actively consider and implement TIB's policy recommendations of 2011 and 2014 on Judiciary.
- TIB spearheaded the review process of FDR Act involving stakeholders. As a result, the original draft was improved though few concerns remained.

Climate Finance Governance

TIB's advocacy led to a number of initiatives on climate finance governance.

- Finance Ministry urged Ministry of Environment and Forest to review improper vulnerability assessment of Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund (BCCTF) funded projects.
- BCCTF Trustee Board involved Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) to evaluate 62 completed projects.
- BCCT assigned Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) to evaluate impacts of BCCTF projects.
- BCCTF formed an internal audit committee and introduced public hearing on climate change projects.

PEOPLE'S ENGAGEMENT

As a part of social movement, TIB applies tools and processes through which citizens can raise their voices against corruption. In addition to different 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), Advocacy and Legal Advice Center (ALAC), street theatres and cultural tools are used to mobilize citizens against corruption.

Collective action reduces corrupt practices at hospital

It was a regular practice for marginalized and deprived patients to make unauthorised payment for health services at a general (district) hospital, one of the oldest public service delivery institutions in Dinajpur district. TIB mobilized its Youth Engagement and Support (YES) members to get firsthand information of the malpractice. Through the Advice and Information Desks (AI-Desks) initiative, YES members were able to see for themselves that patients were being overcharged and then given fake cash receipts. The illegal charges were not only a burden to poor patients, but it also meant that the government was losing revenue due to the corrupt practices of the hospital officials.



People receiving information at AI-Desk

Armed with the evidence of fake receipts, YES members started campaigning against this malpractice, and with the help of the Concerned Committees of Citizens (CCC), an advocacy meeting with the hospital authority was arranged. After much persuasion by CCC and YES members, the hospital authority finally agreed to use serial numbers on the cash receipts and also committed to keep all such accounts transparent for the

benefit of the public. This outcome is in line with the aim of the AI Desk initiative to encourage people's empowerment through access to information and follow-up action for change.

The YES members demonstrated that submission to corrupt practices is not an option in the fight against corruption and that young people do have the potential and courage to effect change. The outcome is also proof that collective voice, raised through proper mechanisms, can yield positive results for the community. TIB is working in hospitals across 38 of Bangladesh's 64 districts as well as in 7 sub-districts.



Mothers Gathering aware mothers in reducing students drop out

During the reporting period TIB's YES campaigns continued in improving the access of the poor and disadvantaged to basic public services without harassment and without having to make any unauthorized payments. Several social accountability tools such as mothers' gatherings, AI Desk, street theatres, choose the right candidate programmes, right to information fairs, rallies, human chains, cartoon exhibitions, signature campaigns, essay and other competitions, oath taking, and various promotional and motivational initiatives are used to engage people to fight corruption. These measures have demonstrated that practical changes are achievable in service delivery in hospitals, schools, unions and municipalities.

Advocacy and Legal Advice Center (ALAC) is a newly-introduced initiative, being piloted in five CCC areas – Khulna, Lalmonirhat, Rangamati, Sylhet and Madaripur to provide advice and legal support to local people who are victims and/or witnesses of corruption. While ordinary matters are attended directly by ALAC Facilitators by providing relevant information and assistance to the victims, relatively complex matters are referred to the Panel Lawyers of ALAC. After reviewing the matters, Panel Lawyers provide legal advices to the victims. Regular follow-up is made, if necessary.



ALAC facilitates legal support to victims



RTI Fair encourages to be proactive discloser of information of service delivery institutions

During the reporting period, CCCs organized Right to Information (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 various service delivery issues. The importance of RTI law was highlighted through various cultural tools i.e. street theatre, and folk songs such as Gambhira and Palagan. While YES members provided hands-on-training to visitors on how to file applications for information using the RTI Act 2009, advocacy was carried out with respective institutions to appoint designated officers.

CCCs and YES groups also organized rallies, discussions, human chains, cartoon exhibitions, street theater shows, anti-corruption oath-taking, different competitions, and various outreach activities in 45 locations in the country to celebrate International Anti-Corruption Day 2015.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT



Winners of the debate competition

Debaters pledge to build a corruption free country

Some 300 debaters from schools, colleges and universities joined TIB-JUDO National Debate Championship 2015 jointly organized by TIB and Jahangirnagar University Debate Organization (JUDO) in the university premise and pledged to build a corruption free country. The four-day debate competitions from 6-9 May 2015 enhanced knowledge among debaters about various anti-corruption issues. They also pledged to raise youth's awareness to fight corruption using various tools and strategies.

International Youth Day

International Youth Day was observed on 12 and 13 August 2015 highlighting the theme 'Vigilant conscience, invincible youth shall surely resist corruption'. Mobilization activities included, among others, rally, quiz and extempore speech contests, discussion meetings, outdoor stalls and cultural performances. CCC and Dhaka YES members, students from different universities, volunteers of various youth forums, NGO professionals and media participated in these events. The day's observance created enthusiasm among non-YES youth also who gained knowledge about anti-corruption tools and strategies to fight corruption.

Promoting ethical values among young people

A four-day Anti-Corruption Youth Camp was held on 20-23 August 2015 in Koitta, Manikganj participated by 200 YES members from 59 YES groups. Engaging and inspiring sessions were held on topics such as ethical values, democratic spirit, governance and transparency. The youngsters drew up plans incorporating new programme insights to revitalize the anti-corruption movement across the country.

Raising transparency and accountability issues during COP 21



Human Chain at Patenga Sea Beach

Ahead of COP 21 summit in Paris, a campaign was organized that included an inter-university debate competition, a human chain at Patenga sea beach and television commercials in support of the demand for a legally binding agreement for industrialized and emerging countries to reduce carbon emission. Ahead of Global Climate March on 28 November 2015, TIB submitted a position paper containing 14-point demand to the Prime Minister focusing particularly on transparency and accountability

of climate finance. The campaign succeeded in influencing the government to move away from its earlier ambiguous position that climate funds would be acceptable, whether as grant or loan, to demanding that climate change funds should be given only as grant/compensation.

Inspiring Youth Leadership

On 29 September some 162 YES Leaders and Deputy Leaders from CCC and Dhaka received insights into various inspiring leadership techniques to develop innovative concepts on five thematic areas of TIB's interventions: education, health, local government, land and climate finance governance at a workshop.



Visitors at the exhibition

Anti-corruption cartoon and photo competitions

The annual cartoon competition and exhibition held on 7-14 December 2015 was marked by enthusiastic participation of young cartoonists of the country. In addition to the traditional cartoon competition, TIB introduced an exclusive cartoon competition on climate finance governance and an anti-corruption photo competition. The depth of information and strength of messages contained in these cartoons were

vivid instances of voice of protest and resistance against various irregularities and injustice occurring in the society. It also gave the participants an opportunity to communicate their understanding about corruption and raising demand against its affects.

The weeklong exhibition attracted a large number of young visitors from schools, colleges and universities.



CCC's rally on IACD

International Anti-Corruption Day

Promoting the theme 'vigilant conscience, invincible youth shall surely resist corruption', TIB celebrated this year's IACD with a series of activities both in the capital and 45 locations throughout the country. It demanded an end to the culture of impunity. It also demanded that the day is observed officially by the government to motivate people to raise their voices more in ensuing transparency and accountability in the public service deliveries.

14 YES groups in Dhaka carried out 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, in order to engage the wider student community in their respective universities.

New Initiative: Report Corruption

TIB launched an online initiative in November called Report Corruption to enhance people's engagement in the social movement against corruption. It is expected that by using this platform people will proactively and directly report incidents and experiences of bribery in key service sectors that fall within TIB's intervention areas, i.e. health, education, local government, land and climate finance governance. Such reporting of corruption will also help TIB to refer to and advocate with respective institutions such as the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to take action against the corrupt and thereby reduce corruption in service delivery in selected sectors.

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 maintain issue-based alliances/networks on education, land, RTI, human rights and governance. Under an MoU signed in May 2015, ACC-TIB jointly organized public hearings at Savar, Chakaria and Muktagachha and various collaborative activities with selected CCCs on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD).

The on-going partnership with Association of Land Rights and Development (ALRD) continued raising voices against land grabbing in different parts of the country.

Improving effectiveness of Anti-Corruption Agencies (ACAs) in the Asia and Pacific



Participant at the ACA workshop

Researchers from Transparency International Chapters of Bangladesh, Indonesia, the Maldives, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and Taiwan participated a workshop in Dhaka on 11-12 November to find ways for improving the effectiveness of Anti-Corruption Agencies (ACAs) in the Asia and Pacific region. Jointly organized by Asia Pacific Department of TI-Secretariat and TI Bangladesh, the participants were capacitated on techniques of using the ACA assessment tools, including research process and indicator framework; design work plan and advocacy strategies and form a practitioners' network to take this initiative forward in the region and beyond. TIB played the lead role in designing the study and providing the training to representatives of the participating chapters.



Winner of IJ Awards 2015

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

During a discussion on 'Media and Governance', Professor Dr Gowher Rizvi the International Affairs Adviser to the Prime Minister highlighted the significance of media freedom in promoting democratic values. He urged the media to discharge their responsibilities without fear or favour. Dr. Rizvi also distributed prizes to the winners of this year Investigative Journalism (15) Awards, the 17th in the series awards since TIB introduced it in 1999.

The Daily Prothom Alo's Senior Reporter Rozina Islam won for her report that unearthed irregularities in the crests for "Friends of Bangladesh Liberation War Award". Reporters Mizan Malik, Sajjad Parvez and camera person Kazi Mohammad Ismiel from Jamuna Television received the award for their report on the state of corruption in the education system in the private sector. For the first time, TIB introduced investigative journalism awards in Climate Finance Governance category. G. M. Mostafizul Alam, reporter and Jahangir Alam Ratan, cameraperson of Channel 24 got the award for exposing malpractices in the Power Development Board in different river development projects.

TIB also organized an orientation for 32 Dhaka-based female journalists from both print and electronic media to orient them about the linkages between gender and corruption aspects.

POLICY STANCES

TIB's policy stances on key issues are usually reflected through media statements. TIB came up with a number of such statements in 2015. Notable among these are:



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 2015, the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other 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 2015, 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;
31 March 2016

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

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL BANGLADESH (TIB)

Statement of Financial Position

as at 31 December 2015

	Notes	Amount in Taka	
		2015	2014
Assets			
<i>Non-current assets</i>			
Property, plant and equipment	5	37,312,110	31,070,276
Intangible assets	6	720,533	1,233,649
		38,032,643	32,303,925
<i>Current assets</i>			
Advances, deposits & prepayments	7	6,361,212	8,396,781
Receivables	8	3,394,786	2,301,649
Cash & cash equivalents	9	110,420,522	276,939,682
		120,176,520	287,638,112
Total assets		158,209,163	319,942,037
Capital fund and liabilities			
<i>Capital fund</i>			
Advance donor contribution	10	103,090,534	263,995,217
		103,090,534	263,995,217
<i>Non-current liabilities</i>			
Deferred income-investment in PPE & Intangible asset	11	38,032,644	32,303,925
		38,032,644	32,303,925
<i>Current liabilities</i>			
Accounts payable	12	17,085,984	23,642,894
		17,085,984	23,642,894
Total capital fund and liabilities		158,209,163	319,942,037

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;
31 March 2016


S. F. Ahmed & Co.
Chartered Accountants

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL BANGLADESH (TIB)
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
For the year ended 31 December 2015

	Notes/ Annex	Amount in Taka	
		2015	2014
Income:			
Grants	13	378,805,339	309,423,182
Travel reimbursement	A/6	1,378,971	938,244
Grant from TIS	14	426,650	-
Membership subscription	15	19,200	38,900
Bank interest	16	125,521	878,171
Other income	17	1,974,086	1,168,452
Total income		382,729,767	312,446,949
Expenditure:			
Paribartan - Driving Change Project	18	-	236,121,355
General fund	19	1,927,156	1,121,074
NICSA	20	-	1,934,087
Road Map to Good Governance	21	2,797,657	1,301,456
FK Norway Exchange Programme	22	3,902,154	3,483,466
Climate Finance Governance Project	23	390,475	4,237,139
Bangladesh Water Integrity Network (BAWIN)	24	4,154,681	2,273,375
Building Integrity Blocks for Effective Change (BIBEC)	25	368,174,364	61,974,997
Climate Finance Policy & Integrity	26	373,859	-
Strengthening Civil Society Networks to Address		1,009,420	-
Corruption in Asia Pacific	27		
Total expenditure		382,729,767	312,446,949

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;
31 March 2016


S. F. Ahmed & Co.
Chartered Accountants

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL BANGLADESH (TIB)

Statement of Receipts and Payments

For the year ended 31 December 2015

	Notes	Amount in Taka	
		2015	2014
Opening balance			
Cash in hand		283,648	275,551
Cash at bank		276,656,034	135,446,304
		276,939,682	135,721,855
Receipts			
Foreign grants	28	222,323,145	475,651,312
Travel reimbursement	29	1,378,971	938,244
Grants from TIS	14	426,650	-
Membership subscription	15	19,200	38,900
Bank interest	16	125,521	878,171
Other receipts	30	1,214,587	3,122,412
Other income received	31	1,701,986	-
Received against capital expenditure	32	204,327	-
Total receipts		227,394,386	480,629,039
Total		504,334,068	616,350,894
Payments			
Paribartan - Driving Change Project		-	242,319,605
General fund		10,630,664	21,827,710
Refund to TI-S-NICSA		175,899	1,897,287
Road Map to Good Governance		2,768,907	1,301,456
FK Norway Exchange Programme		3,888,191	3,630,710
Climate Finance Governance Project		115,067	4,013,838
Bangladesh Water Integrity Network (BAWIN)		3,843,282	2,278,415
Building Integrity Blocks for Effective Change (BIBEC)		370,681,803	62,142,193
Climate Finance Policy & Integrity		373,859	-
Strengthening Civil Society Networks to Address Corruption in Asia Pacific		974,420	-
Refund to TI-S-Climate Finance Governance Project		461,454	-
Total payments		393,913,546	339,411,212
Closing balance:			
Cash in hand		213,333	283,648
Cash at bank		110,207,189	276,656,034
		110,420,522	276,939,682
Total		504,334,068	616,350,894

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


Treasurer


Executive Director


Chairperson



Dated, Dhaka;
31 March 2016

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


S. F. Ahmed & Co.
Chartered Accountants

TIB'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Ms. Sultana Kamal
Chairperson, Board of Trustees



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

ABBREVIATIONS

ACA	Anti-Corruption Agency
ACC	Anti-Corruption Commission
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AI Desk	Advice & Information Desk
ALAC	Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre
ALRD	Association for Land Reform and Development
BCCTF	Bangladesh Climate Change Trust Fund
BIBEC	Building Integrity Blocks for Effective Change
BIDS	Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies
BWDB	Bangladesh Water Development Board
CAG	Comptroller and Auditor General
CCC	Committees of Concerned Citizens
CFG	Climate Finance Governance
COP-21	Conference of Parties-21
CRC	Citizens' Report Cards
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DA	Drug Administration
DFID	Department for International Development
DO	Designated Officer
DPP	Development Project Proforma
EOD	Embassy of Denmark
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
EVM	Electronic Voting Machine
F&A	Finance and Administration
FtP	Face the Public
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
IACD	International Anti-Corruption Day
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
LGED	Local Government Engineering Department
IMED	Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Department
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forest
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NIS	National Integrity System
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NWDP	National Women's Development Policy
PKSF	Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation
RMG	Ready-made Garment
RTI	Right to Information
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SWAJON	Swachhotar Jonno Nagorik (Citizens for Transparency)
TI	Transparency International
TIB	Transparency International Bangladesh
UNCAC	UN Convention Against Corruption
WASA	Water Supply and Sewerage Authority
YES	Youth Engagement & Support
YPAC	Young Professionals against Corruption

ANNEXURE

DESIGNATED OFFICERS OF TIB

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 Centre, phone: 01713065016.

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