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INTERNATIONAL
BANGLADESH

Social movement against corruption

BIBEC

BUILDING INTEGRITY BLOCKS FOR EFFECTIVE CHANGE



...NOW

A brief

BIBEC- Building Integrity Blocks for Effective Change

An accredited national chapter of the Berlin based Transparency International (TI), Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) is an independent, non-profit, non partisan and 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 completed the *Paribartan- Driving Change* (PDC) project (April 2009 - September 2014) which witnessed both setbacks and successes in influencing institutional policy setting and capacity building and raising demand for good

governance. Building Integrity Blocks for Effective Change (BIBEC) project (October 2014 - September 2019) 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, ethics and values and most importantly, the citizens of this country.

Goal, Objectives, Strategies, Outcomes

Goal

BIBEC's broader goal is to promote a more enabling environment for reducing corruption.

Objectives

- 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.

Outcomes

TIB's BIBEC project expects two major long term outcomes under which it wants to bring six immediate outputs:-

Outcome 1:

Strengthened institutional, legal and policy environment conducive to combating corruption.



Outputs

- 1.1. Anti-corruption knowledge enhanced
- 1.2. Partnerships/networks developed/strengthened to mobilize institutions for legal, policy reforms and implementations

Outcome 2:

Selected institutions/sectors (health, education, local government, land and climate finance governance) have improved transparency and accountability through citizens engagement.

Outputs

- 2.1. Information disclosure, dissemination and access strengthened in selected institutions
- 2.2. Participation of citizens including climate change affected communities, women, marginalized and CSOs in local level planning, implementation and monitoring
- 2.3. Ordinary citizens, civil society and media at local and national levels are engaged in combating corruption
- 2.4. Stakeholders' anti-corruption knowledge enhanced and capacity developed

The BIBEC project is fully consistent with key strategic priorities of the Government in which good governance and corruption control occupy a prominent position. The Government of Bangladesh's Vision 2021 and Perspective Plan 2010-21 place particular emphasis on transparency and accountability of all government institutions for eradicating corruption. Bangladesh's pledges as a state party to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the National Integrity Strategy (NIS) adopted in October 2012 also provide strong examples of consistency and complementarities of the project with the government priorities.

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

Working areas under BIBEC project

TIB's work at the local level will continue to focus on education, health and local government given the implications these sectors have for the poor and the marginalised and also in response to local level demands. Also, given that significant changes have occurred in the governance of these sectors in lieu of TIB's work during PDC, it is deemed necessary to amplify such engagement to spread the good practices achieved for replication by other institutions.

TIB has undertaken two additional issues for intervention during BIBEC- one is land and the other, climate finance governance. Both these sectors are known for their complex processes, corrupt dealings and irregularities which tend to affect poor and marginalised communities in terms of socio-economic advancement, survival and livelihood, the reduction of poverty and their overall security.

During BIBEC, TIB will strive to deepen the work of CCCs and YES and their auxiliary groups (Swajan, YES Friends, YPAC) by harnessing their influence, energies and local knowledge to focus more on transparent and accountable processes in respective institutions and responsiveness, rather than simply demanding from them service delivery. In the same vein, they will be encouraged to identify issues for intervention that have distinct

governance implications and which can subsequently be taken to the policy level for reform. Recognising that corruption has a distinct bias against the poor and socially vulnerable/excluded groups, such as women and minorities, TIB's interventions in terms of research, civic engagement and outreach and communication will attach priority to addressing their concerns.

Implications of BIBEC interventions for women, the poor and the marginalised

Corruption weakens state stability and human security by undermining the rule of law, equal treatment by the law and access to justice, particularly of the poor and disadvantaged categories, e.g. women and minority groups. It is believed that corruption disproportionately affects them in their attempts to access justice, public goods and services. This is compounded by the social, cultural, political and institutional discrimination these various groups face in their daily lives. Corruption undermines a level playing field for women and men in decision-making processes when political parties can be bought and sold, when officials are elected through vote-buying and when promotion within the civil service or the corporate sector rests more on personal connections rather than merit, women, the poor and the marginalised are less likely and able to participate freely in the public or private sectors.



Given that corruption in Bangladesh has a distinct bias against the poor and socially excluded groups, they are most adversely affected by malpractices in terms of accessing public services like education, health, justice, utilities and personal safety, all of which are subject to unauthorised payments. In addition to socio-economic, cultural and political discrimination, these groups are also acutely vulnerable to climate change induced disasters. Mal-governance in climate finance governance deprives them of the resources and support they are legally entitled to but are unable to access due to corruption and fraud in climate fund allocation, disbursement and use.

Programme strategies

Bearing these considerations in mind, TIB's programme strategies in BIBEC has included particular aspects impinging on women, the poor and the marginalised. To this end, TIB's various components and interventions will include particular focus on:

- Conducting research on the link between corruption and other cross-cutting issues such as poverty, livelihood and gender.
- Increasing the number of women, the poor and marginalised groups within the core actors in TIB's anti-corruption movement.
- Showcasing success stories involving women, the poor and other disadvantaged groups in anti-corruption movement.
- Media campaigns on effects of corruption on women, the poor and disadvantaged groups (e.g. indigenous communities, minorities, adivasis).
- Increasing engagement of disadvantaged groups including women and the poor with key actors in governance.
- Building the capacity of disadvantaged stakeholders through specialised training and orientation including ICT.
- Motivating existing champions of change (GoB, NGOs, media, etc.) to promote the inclusion in the national agenda relevant issues that would facilitate and empower women, the poor and the marginalised to challenge corruption and inequality.
- Incorporating pro-poor and gender dimensions in anti-corruption advocacy to raise awareness of all stakeholders about the rights and entitlements of women, the poor and the marginalised.
- Developing inclusive anti-corruption networks at the local level comprising, in addition to others, women, the poor and the marginalised for effective representation.

Monitoring and evaluation

TIB developed a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E system) including a database with specific quantitative and qualitative data that will be measuring and reporting on progress against the established indicators and milestones in the overall Results Chain Framework (RCF). TIB's M&E team is tasked with tracking progress of all interventions, and identifying gaps and challenges in meeting project targets at all levels (head office and 45 local offices).

A baseline study conducted in early 2015 generated data for the M&E system to capture and track progress and results achieved. This baseline study will also be utilised to provide comprehensive orientation on to all concerned staff and its core activists, on established indicators, milestones, M&E strategies and tools so in order to ensure delivery and capture of appropriate results. TIB will produce two types of reports every year:

- Six-monthly output-based progress reports and outcome based annual reports;
- Internal assessment/ annual M&E report to demonstrate the degree to which overall objectives and targets of the project is realised.

Mid-term and final external evaluations will be conducted to review contribution to objectives, outcomes and overall progress, and identify necessary support to enhance effectiveness of the project, sustainability and impact.

TIB's agents of change

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 38 districts and 7 sub-districts (Upazila) and 59 Youth Engagement and Support (YES) groups throughout the country to carry forward the anti-corruption movement. CCCs are the groups of 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, (Citizens for Transparency), YES Friends, Young Professionals against Corruption (YPAC) and TIB Members. 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. TIB believes that the leadership skills of CCCs and the energy and exuberance of youth groups and support of the auxiliary members will together contribute to the development of ownership and sustainability of the social movement against corruption.

Total estimated budget of BIBEC project is around 220 crore BDT (US\$ 29.6 million). Allocations of the estimated budget are: Civic Engagement - 49.38%, Research and Policy - 16.49%, Outreach and Communication - 13.67%, Climate Finance Governance - 5.13%, and Institutional Strengthening and Programme Support - 15.33%. The following are TIB's main source of funding: a) Trust Fund consisting of contributions of Trustees, Members, sale proceeds; and b) funds raised from donor organizations within or outside Bangladesh for implementing specific projects. TIB's current activities within the BIBEC project are funded by contributions from: UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Embassy of Sweden, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the Embassy of Denmark (EOD)/DANIDA. TIB raises funds only from development partners who share its anti-corruption values and goals. It does not accept funds that might impair the independence of

TIB, nor any contribution accepted that require TIB to do anything inconsistent with its mission. TIB's budget, financial reports and accounts are available on its website.

Proactive Disclosure

TIB observes a policy of proactive disclosure of information. All information related to governance, management, strategic and operations plan, on-going activities, reports and evaluations, all policy documents and manuals, budget, finance and accounts are subject of public information, available usually on website. Items of specific interest to any individuals or institutions that may not be accessible in website or in other publicized forms are available on request by email, phone call or any other form. As a stakeholder of 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 and Information, phone: 01713 065016.



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