



TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL
BANGLADESH

Social movement against corruption

Annual Report 2008



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Transparency International Bangladesh

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Foreword

The year 2008 was highly eventful for Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), and a period of extraordinary success. We present this report with a deep sense of satisfaction and humility as it reflects a flavour of the depth and breadth of our work during the year.

We have made substantial progress in strengthening the anti-corruption demand, which was among the key catalysts in bringing the issue of corruption to the centre-stage of public discourse. TIB continued to raise citizens' voice for transparency and accountability through research, communication, outreach and civic engagement activities nationally and locally. We also further strengthened our institutional capacity and catalyzed expansion of the anti-corruption constituency through partnerships and joint initiatives.

While our research and campaign helped institutional and policy changes, our emphasis on civic participation in demand creation through the Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC) and Youth Engagement and Support (YES) continued with much more vigour and dynamism than before. In addition to various programmes of public awareness at local levels, the CCCs and YES groups pursued numerous successful initiatives using tools and processes of social accountability to bring specific results in key institutions of service delivery, especially education, health and local government.

The social movement against corruption remains a hugely challenging task. We have made good progress, but remain far from having any sense of complaisance. We have a long way to go. We are convinced, however, that we are on the right track. Our key source of strength is a degree of confidence in the integrity and soundness of our work. Equally important is the support and inspiration of the people at large who are the victims of the menace of corruption, and for whom the anti-corruption movement means a lot.

In our journey ahead, we request you give us your thoughtful ideas, critiques and suggestions that could make our efforts more effective and more sustainable. We will continue to look at your support as the main source of our inspiration.

Executive Director

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Introduction

The year 2008 was yet another eventful and highly successful year for Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), the accredited national chapter of the Berlin-based Transparency International, the global coalition against corruption. This report presents information on activities implemented by TIB during the period January–December 2008. During this reporting period TIB continued to pursue its objective of raising greater public awareness and participation in anti-corruption activities by intensifying demand for institutional and policy changes at both national and local levels for ensuring accountability, transparency and efficient functioning of public and private bodies.

TIB's network of Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCCs) and the Youth Engagement Support (YES) in 36 locations throughout the country continued to be strengthened as key pillars of the social movement against corruption. The social movement against corruption was featured by extraordinary activism and vibrancy of the CCC and YES activists who are associated with the movement on a fully voluntary basis.

TIB succeeded in creating increased demand for transparency and accountability in governance. The issue of corruption occupied the centre-stage of public discourse in Bangladesh throughout the year, culminating in the period leading to the national election held on December 28. Control of corruption indeed became one of the key demands by the people of Bangladesh who raised their voice loud and clear articulated in the form of a national consensus in the context of the election to the Ninth Parliament.





The anti-corruption stance occupied the centre-stage of the election campaign by all political parties across the board. Influence of corruption and black money in politics was also among the prime public concerns that led to the amended Representation of the People's Order (RPO) achieved through some serious efforts by the Election Commission engaging various stakeholders including political parties, researchers, academe, civil society organizations, business and other professional groups. The election campaign and the result thereof demonstrated very clearly the crucial importance of challenging corruption to meet public expectation reflected in voters' choice in favour of the grand alliance that succeeded in capitalizing on the anti-corruption stance in their election manifesto.

The period also witnessed further expansion of issue and event-based partnerships of TIB with a number of other non-governmental organizations at both national and local levels in areas such as health, education, land, right to information, human rights and women's rights. TIB has played a key role in the adoption of the Right to Information Ordinance as a leading member of the Right to Information Forum as well as partnering with the Government in conducting public discourse on the draft Act. Similar leading contribution was made by TIB as a member of the Coalition for Universal Periodic Review, National Health Coalition, as well as the Partnership on Land Rights.

TIB activities have also had many significant direct and indirect impacts. Our research reports and advocacy work backed by growing public support continued to catalyze policy and institutional reforms at the national level; and at the local level visible and measurable positive changes in the quality of key service delivery institutions, especially in the health, education and local government sector. TIB is now synonymous with fighting corruption in Bangladesh and anti-corruption has become a central theme of public policy agenda.

Research for Policy Advocacy

TIB continued its robust research programme during the year aiming at diagnosing the challenges of governance, measuring corruption and on the basis of research output and recommendations conduct advocacy for institutional and policy change. Some highlights are:

Charter of Citizens' Expectations

TIB undertook a pioneering research on developing the Charter of Citizens' Expectations of the Parliament and the Members of the Parliament. The Charter became a powerful advocacy tool for campaigning for effectiveness of the Parliament and for the discharge of the due role by the Members of the Parliament to be able to meet public expectations.

The research report including the Charter was released through a national seminar where former MPs, politicians, academics and experts, media personnel, and members of civil society participated. Some of the key recommendations were reflected in the electoral reform that took place. These included amendment in the Representation of the People Order 1972 in terms of redefining the disqualification criteria of a candidate in the national election, disclosure requirements, reflection of the grassroots expectations in the candidate nomination process of the parties, making the political parties more accountable through mandatory registration and so on.

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Highlights of Citizens' Expectations

People want their MP to be:

- Honest & representing high and exemplary moral and ethical standard
- Respectful to rule of law and democratic values
- Patriotic and committed to the core values of our independence
- Open-minded & free from communal prejudice and respectful of the equal rights of people from all religions and ethnic groups.
- Committed to uphold the rights of the disadvantaged including women and persons with disability
- Having political background and closely associated with people and the community

People do not want their MP to be:

- Corrupt and owner of ill-gotten wealth and black money
- Loan and bill defaulter
- Detached from the people
- Abuser of power
- Oppressor of women
- War criminal
- Communal
- Involved in criminal or terrorist activities
- Land-grabber, illegal occupant of properties and destroyer of the environment.

On the other hand, the Charter was widely used in the pre-election “Choose the Right Candidate Campaign” conducted in selected CCC areas where candidates across the political parties were brought together to “face the public”. The result of the campaign was public commitment made by the candidates to refrain from corruption. The campaign also gave the opportunity to voters to make an informed choice when they went to vote.



Highlights of the Charter: The people want

- The Speaker to be neutral, who after being elected as Speaker, will resign from party position.
- The Deputy Speaker should be elected from the opposition party.
- The Parliament should be a forum for healthy political debate, ensuring participation of all MPs from ruling and opposition parties with an attitude of mutual tolerance and accommodation.
- All Parliamentary committees should be formed in the first session, with at least 50 percent of the standing committee Chairs including the Public Accounts Committee elected from the opposition party.
- The practice of boycotting the parliament must be abolished. All MPs and political parties should take necessary steps in this regard.
- Before enacting any law of public interest or amendment of the Constitution, public opinion should be sought through media and website and discussion with people.
- People are strongly against the trend of taking political disputes to the street, which should be resolved inside the parliament through discussion. While people are not against the right to protest through hartals and strikes, which can be exercised on sectoral basis, people do not want any disruption of the daily life of common people or damage of their life and properties through such activities.
- The discussion in the parliament should only be substantive, rational and represent established parliamentary norms, devoid any personal abuse, undue praise or criticism using expressions and gestures that do not conform to parliamentary conduct.
- People expect that there will be direct election for the reserved seats for women in the parliament.
- People expect that a standing committee be formed to deal with the issues related to religious and ethnic minorities, adivasis and physically challenged groups.
- While MPs should make all efforts to meet expectation of their respective constituency through laws, reforms, policies and budgetary allocations and undertaking projects, people do not want them to be directly involved in development work including project implementation, which should be left to the local government.
- MPs should be role models with high moral values and integrity. A Code of Conduct should be adopted and an Ethics Committee established to ensure a minimum standard of ethical conduct both inside and outside the parliament.
- Except valid cause such as physical illness and important state business, MPs will not be absent more than 30 work-days during parliamentary sessions.
- MPs must be able to uphold well-thought and independent position except for situations like no-confidence motion or budget session. To facilitate this Article 70 of the Constitution should be amended.
- People have to right to contact the MP of their constituency. In order to facilitate this, concerned MP should to be present in his/her own constituency when the parliament is not in session.
- People also expect introducing a system to recall an MP if s/he does not perform according to his/her commitments made during electoral campaign.



Tracking the Election Process 2008

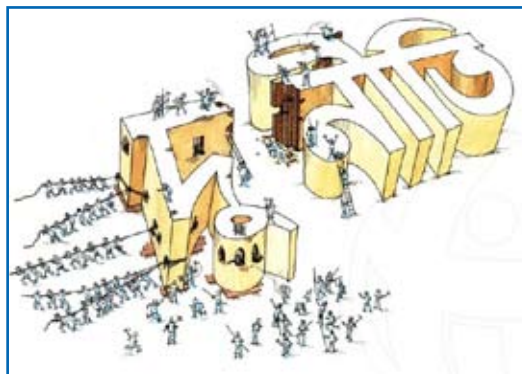
TIB as a watchdog body engaged in this action-research with an objective to assess the extent to which the political parties, candidates, EC and other stakeholders upheld the Representation of the People's Order (RPO) and the electoral code of conduct in the context of the 9th Parliamentary Election. The study revealed that most of the candidates started electoral campaign before the permissible period and spent large sums of money. Key recommendations made by TIB included:

1. Action should be taken by the EC to investigate and take due legal action against incidences of violation of electoral rules and the prescribed limits of expenditure for campaigning by the candidates.
2. The media through investigative reporting should be more proactive in producing reports on violations of the election code of conduct by the candidates including amount of money spent during campaign.
3. The political parties should prevent their candidates from violating election expenditure and electoral laws.
4. The civil society organizations working on election process monitoring should continue to be vocal against violations of electoral codes of conduct by the candidates.

National Household Survey on Corruption

TIB conducts the National Household Survey on Corruption once in every two years with the objective of measuring the nature and extent of corruption in essential service delivery sectors as experienced by households. The survey for 2007 was the fourth in this series covering the period June 2006 to July 2007. The sample size was 5000; the households were selected for interview through a multi-stage cluster sampling design. The survey results were released through a press conference on 18 June 2008 at the National Press Club.

The survey revealed that overall 66.7% households experienced corruption during interactions for receiving services in the selected sectors. Among the surveyed households 42.1% had to pay bribe for receiving services from different sectors. An average household in Bangladesh had to pay Tk. 4134 (\$1= Tk.69.50) as bribe in the reference period for receiving services from the selected sectors with per capita bribe amounting to Tk. 861. Bribery had claimed 3.84% of per capita household income. It was estimated that total amount of bribe paid nationally was Tk. 54.43 billion. One of the conclusions drawn from the survey results was that corruption is being increasingly institutionalized in Bangladesh. The incidence of corruption is indifferent to location (urban-local) and gender, indicating indiscriminate depth and breadth of the problem.



The incidence of corruption was highest in the law enforcement agencies in which 96.6% households of those who interacted with them during the period had experienced corruption. The other leading sectors from where households experienced corruption were local government (62.5%) and land administration (52.7%). The ratio of people who experienced bribery was also found to be highest in law enforcement agencies, with 64.6% households having such experience for receiving services from law enforcement agencies followed by land administration (51.1%) and judiciary (41.7%).

The survey brought out a comparative picture of prevalence of bribery during July-December 2006 and January-June 2007. The results were mixed. In some sectors corruption in the form of bribery increased, while it had decreased in some other sectors. The overall incidence of bribery was found marginally higher in July-December 2006 than January-June 2007. The incidence of bribery increased in education, health, land administration, local government and NGOs. The sectors that showed decline in incidence of bribery include law enforcement, judiciary, electricity, banking and taxation. This might have happened due to anti-corruption drive by the caretaker government which apparently impacted upon the second group of sectors more than others which remained largely unaffected by the drive. The survey, however, found that in both cases of increase and decrease of corruption during the compared period the changes were not statistically significant. On the basis of

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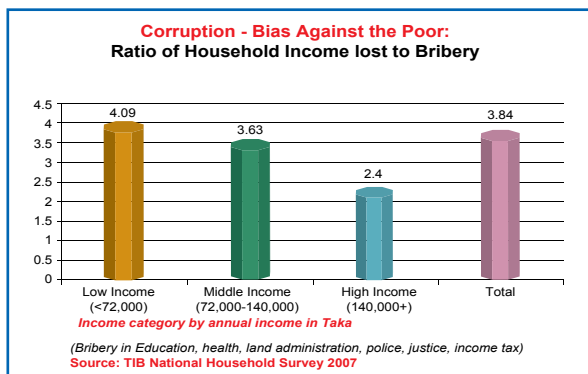
the findings of the survey, TIB made some recommendations for consideration of the Government and other stakeholders.

1. It has to be established that corruption is punishable offence in the society, irrespective of the level at which the act of corruption takes place.
2. In the drive against corruption, rule law must be ensured without fear or favour, and without deviating from due judicial process and transparency.
3. The process of checks and balances in use of power at every stage and every institution must be firmly established.
4. Strong transparency and accountability mechanism in every institution has to be in place and strictly practiced.
5. Every institution in the Government and outside should establish its own regular monitoring cell to address irregularities and corruption.
6. Appointments, promotions, postings and transfers in public service should be based on performance and merit and not on political influence, bribery and other means of influence. Effective legal and ethical standards have to be put in place with enforcement and monitoring mechanisms for zero tolerance against corruption. Salaries and benefits of public servants should be commensurate with the cost of living to prevent erosion of integrity and honesty. But such positive incentives have to be accompanied by negative incentives ensuring disciplinary action in case of deviations from rules and regulations and established codes of conduct.
7. Citizens' Charter has to be adopted in every service delivery institution in a participatory process including provisions for enforcement, specific measures to prevent deviation, and strict monitoring.
8. Independent and effective functioning of the watchdog bodies like the Anti-corruption Commission is indispensable. Equally, measures have to be taken to allocate necessary resources and to increase their skills and capacities. The office of Ombudsman should be created with sufficient resources and capacities in every Government Ministry and/or Department.
9. In addition to the watchdog bodies like the Anti-corruption Commission and Ombudsman's

office, the key institutions of democracy and National Integrity System (NIS) must work effectively, reflecting high degree of professionalism, impartiality, ethics and integrity.

10. Media should be allowed full freedom to report on corruption and create public awareness and demand for controlling corruption.

11. Access to information is a key to the effective prevention and control of corruption. People's right to information must be legally ensured and rigorously implemented.



Diagnostic Studies

Chittagong Customs House

A study on the Chittagong Customs House was released in June 2008 in Chittagong. The study, as a follow up on Chittagong Port, made an attempt to diagnose the problems that exist in the Custom House. After the release, a number of fundamental reforms and changes have been made that include introduction of automation of its operational activities, reduction in the transaction of bribe, and other irregularities. The Government cancelled the license of a PSI Company Cotecna due to its involvement in huge irregularities. Besides, for the first time in five fiscal years Chittagong Custom House had exceeded revenue target and was able to recover huge sums of outstanding payments.

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TIB put forward a number of recommendations which included complete automation of the Customs House. TIB also recommended early filling up of vacant posts and capacity building through training and skill development programmes; installation of a modern laboratory; amendment and updating of SRO regulations and Customs Act, 1969; making the process of granting bond license transparent and preventing its misuse; improving coordination between the customs and the port authority; and automation of the port activities.

Primary Education

A study on Primary Education was released in July 2008. The nature, extent and processes of corrupt practices in the sector was revealed. It was also drawn heavily from findings of a number of Citizens Report Cards on primary education at the local level conducted earlier so that the study provided a combination of local and national level inputs. The study recommended that:

- Integrity must be ensured in the process of appointment, promotion and transfer of teachers, which has to be based on merit, expertise and experience;
- Sufficient resources should be allocated for skills and capacity building of teachers;
- In order to improve the teacher-student new teachers should be appointed in vacant positions;
- Salaries and benefits of teachers and other officials and staff involved in education system must be enhanced to be consistent with cost of living;
- Positive and negative incentives must be in place for teachers such as rewards including promotion on the one hand and strictly enforceable disciplinary action on the other to prevent erosion of integrity in the teaching profession;
- As an incentive for teachers through the scope of promotion a new tier between assistant teacher and head teacher can be introduced - such as assistant head teacher;



- A 360 degree evaluation system should be introduced for all employees including teachers and other staff at various levels;
- Strict observance of free education for all must be enforced and duly monitored so that no unauthorized payments are collected from the pupils. If fees/subscriptions are required to be collected, they must be determined through consultations with guardians, teachers and upazila level education officials. However, all such payments must be fully documented and duly accounted for;
- Officials and staff employed at the management level in the directorate for primary education and local education offices should preferably have field experience. For those who lack such experience, field visits and appropriate trainings and orientation should be made mandatory so that there is a knowledge and ownership of problems. Vacant positions in management level should be filled up through due process including promotion of deserving candidates and direct recruitment, where necessary;
- The budget for primary education should be increased to meet soaring costs, but more so for training and capacity building of teachers and other costs involved in ensuring higher quality education.
- To reduce burden of teachers because of non-academic duties, an office assistant may be appointed in each school;
- The training materials and training allowance of sub-cluster training for the teachers may be distributed through Upazila Resource Centres;
- Allocation of fund for school visits by Upazila Education Officers should be raised to ensure more intensive monitoring and cost of such visits should be covered on actual basis. Proper monitoring system including tested tools and processes should be developed to ensure objectivity, honesty and professionalism in such school visits which should not be used as a means for corruption;
- Transparency and accountability must be ensured in all procurements and purchases, especially in selection of vendors for class-learning materials;
- To improve gender sensitivity, especially to promote rights and positive attitude towards women teachers and students inclusive programmes of gender orientation should be implemented for all teachers, guardians and managing committee members; Similar awareness programmes should be undertaken in schools to prevent discrimination on the basis of disability, ethnic and religious identity;
- Awareness programme about rights and entitlements of students and guardians should be undertaken to prevent deception for lack of information; Mothers' meetings, SMC activation, parent-teachers' interaction, and courtyard meetings involving various stakeholders could be used as processes. Citizens Charter for each school side by side with on for the sector as a whole should also be useful in this regards; and
- A Code of Conduct should be institutionalized for everyone involved in primary education should be adopted with built-in mechanisms for enforcement and monitoring on the basis of zero tolerance to corruption, negligence of duty and other irregularities and violations.

Public Pension

A study on Public Pension under the TIB Fellowship Program was released in August 2008. It revealed how retired government officers and employees suffer in getting their pension benefits. Key recommendations included:

- Reduction of paperwork and processing stages and automation of the process for drawing pension;
- Creation of digital database for the pension entitlement and delivery system including a modern record management system, which should be accessible to all those who are entitled to pension;
- Ensuring Transparency through updating the Pension Delivery Handbook and proper observance of the same;
- A Charter of Pension Rights and Entitlements, which will also indicate the basic information of the process and documentation needed for drawing pensions should be developed and made available to all who are entitled to pension;
- Institutional capacity with respect to delivery of pensions should be enhanced with the provision for specifically designated functionaries with clear job descriptions;
- Disclosure of information on pension delivery including periodic reports preferably on quarterly basis;
- Clear-cut complain and grievance mechanisms and processes should be established including the channels of reporting including steps for speedy disposal of pending cases;
- Reviewing implementation of the 2001 Order and its updating with a view to reforming the pension delivery system;
- Review of salaries and benefits of public officials which must be consistent with the cost of living. At the same time institutionalization of positive and negative incentives including rigorous application of disciplinary measures for violation of laws and rules; and
- Awareness programme for employees entitled to pension about their rights and entitlement with respect to pension as well as responsibilities, especially own record-keeping in order to avoid harassment.



Forestry Sector

TIB also conducted a diagnostic study on corruption in the Forestry Sector that revealed the nature and forms of corrupt practices within and outside the Forest Department as well as other stakeholders. Key findings of the study included corrupt practices with the connivance and participation of forest department personnel with regard to issuing licenses for logging and transporting logs, forest land grabbing, illegal collection of honey, fish and other forest products and resources, abuse and misuse of funds and resources in project implementation, and irregularities in appointment, promotion and posting. Key recommendations include:

- Adoption of a preservation-oriented forest policy moving away from the revenue-oriented forest policy. Revenue collection targets from forestry must be consistent with needs of protection and conservation of the forestry resources as well as overall environmental consideration;
- Institutionalization of integrity, impartiality in the process of appointment, posting and promotions in the forest department and other relevant institutions involved in the sector;
- Salaries and benefits system of the personnel serving in the sector must be reformed to be consistent with cost of living;
- Positive and negative incentives must be institutionalized providing rewards for integrity and honesty on the one hand and strict disciplinary action on the other to ensure that any violation of laws and rules including corruption is duly punished;
- Considering the depth and dimension of corruption and crime in the sector the possibility of setting up specialized forest courts with speedy trial provision;
- The forest department must also be sufficiently resourced to fight the legal battles against the criminals and the corrupt who are often more resourced than the department which makes it difficult to create the deterrence against corruption;
- Wealth record of personnel and their respective families must be disclosed and regularly updated;
- All saw mills, wood processing mills, brickfields installed around 10 km and all furniture outlets around 3 km of preserved forests must be evicted. Use of wood in brickfields should be stopped by setting rigorous enforcement of the relevant legal provisions which may be reformed, if necessary;
- Every wood-trader must obtain license from proper authority before participating in auction for wood at the behest of the Forest Division;



- Forest resource and management data base must be created in digital form with regular updating, which should be accessible to all;
- Infrastructure support, for instance, essential vehicles, fuel, security equipment including modern weapons and other vital logistic facilities must be ensured for effective forest management, especially at the local level;
- Capacity building projects must be undertaken for the personnel in the forestry sector including professional training as well as value and moral education; and
- Space must be created and expanded for active citizen and community participation through various social accountability tools and processes for protection and preservation of forests as well as prevention of corruption.

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Report Cards and Fact Finding Studies

TIB conducts report card studies as a tool for campaign to improve public services in such key sectors as health, education and local government. A total of 18 such report cards were released in 2008, with the participation of the concerned service providers, relevant government officials and other local level professionals, people's representatives, journalists and other civil society members. The report cards received extensive media coverage in both print and electronic media.

Three fact finding studies of different nature were released during the period. These were on the Bakhraabad Gas Systems Ltd., challenges faced by the salt cultivation farmers in Cox's Bazar and governance problems of the Badarkhali Cooperatives Society. These studies, especially the latter, and follow-up thereon took TIB's initiative directly to the poor and disadvantaged at the grassroots level.



Integrity in Humanitarian Assistance

TIB started its campaign on integrity in humanitarian assistance in December 2007. In the backdrop of the devastating Hurricane Sidr that hit the Southwest region of Bangladesh on 15 November 2007, TIB conducted a tracking research on Integrity in Humanitarian Assistance: Issues and Benchmarks.

The study analyzed challenges in humanitarian relief operation, identified entry points and nature of corruption and integrity lapse, and on that basis recommended measures for prevention including benchmarks of integrity in humanitarian assistance in the future.

Entry Points of Integrity Lapse

- Assessment: Urgency leads to exaggerated information, over-estimation and failure to focus and prioritize;
- Selection of partners: For high demand selection of implementing organizations may lack transparency and credibility;
- Selection of beneficiaries: Vested/political interests and patronage may guide selection of beneficiaries and distribution of relief. Remote areas may be left out;
- Procurement and management: Lack of transparency in the procurement process and failure to observe conflict of interest principle. Corruption in logistics, construction and payroll;
- Distribution of relief : Relief for political support, misappropriation, diversion, selling in black market, distribution of out-dated and inappropriate materials;
- Inadequate Monitoring : Lack of proper monitoring by stakeholder organizations – lack of internal control, poor financial management affect relief distribution; and
- Culture of secrecy: Reluctance to provide information and lack of a complaint handling system.

TIB has since been campaigning for promoting integrity in humanitarian assistance, and for promoting the following benchmarks engaging with various stakeholders



Benchmarks for Integrity in Humanitarian Assistance

- Disbursement Process Tracking: Mechanism to track flow of assistance – from all sources to all levels. Tracking reports to be regularly publicized;
- Monitoring and Evaluation: Strong monitoring and evaluation indispensable, both internal and external. Effective internal control system to support external professional auditing and evaluation;
- Citizens Participation: Public participation to address asymmetric relationship. Inform intended beneficiaries that it is their right to receive assistance rather than charity - entitlements - when, from what sources, in what form and by whom;
- Grievance Redress: Affected individuals should be provided with grievance reporting mechanism without any bias. Whistleblowers must be protected;
- Capacity Building: Strengthening the capacity of institutions – GO-NGO-INGO-Donors, especially financial management and internal control systems;
- Public Service Integrity: Mainstream integrity and anti-corruption codes in public service, especially among government officials who play key role in humanitarian assistance activities. Integrity in public service needs to be supported by positive and negative incentives;
- Due Diligence, Pledge of Integrity: Due diligence and self-regulation - a Humanitarian Assistance Code of Ethics with zero tolerance against corruption should be developed. Public pledge of integrity and commitment not to indulge in any form of corruption, to resist it, and to report it.

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Voice and Accountability

CCC-YES in higher level of vibrancy

TIB further strengthened the local level civic watchdog forums under the banner of Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCCs) through which the people have channeled their voice and demand against corruption. The civic engagement programme at the local level went beyond awareness, as the CCC-YES (Youth Engagement and Support) members took effective initiatives to hold to account officials working in essential public service delivery sectors: health, education and local government where real changes have been achieved in hospitals, schools and local government bodies. This has catalyzed new levels of transparency and accountability in selected institutions.

TIB's efforts under the banner of YES have been particularly successful in capturing the conscience and imagination of the young generation, who have joined in greater numbers in voicing their opposition to corruption, and committing to remain corruption-free as and when they enter professional life. The YES programme has also brought new dimensions of vibrancy and innovations not only to the anti-corruption movement, but established higher standards of integrity to youth volunteerism.

TIB's social movement during the year has indeed received new heights of success due to the energy and commitment of the CCCs and YES members. The credibility and capacity of the CCCs to engage with the authorities and other stakeholders were a befitting evidence of the very high potentials of citizens' participation in the anti-corruption movement. Their commitments to the cause of anti-corruption and preparedness to take on newer challenges on a voluntary basis, especially with the help of the YES activists have been highly commendable. By their youthful enthusiasm and creativity the YES groups of TIB have established themselves as indispensable movers of the social movement against corruption.





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All 36 local anti-corruption forums (CCCs and the various subcommittees) - the key pillars of TIB's social movement outside Dhaka have become fully operational. Affiliated with the CCCs were the Youth Engagement and Support (YES) groups who have been the prime movers in civic engagement. Together, the CCCs and YES groups implemented the planned activities as scheduled. The issue-based subcommittees of the CCCs like those on Education, Health, Local Government, Land Administration, Gender, YES etc., worked actively throughout the year. Besides implementing the planned activities for the year, many innovative and collaborative programmes were implemented with remarkable success.

The number of core members mobilized as the anti-corruption constituency in the CCC areas became 2031, of which 506 are CCC members and 1525 are YES members. Around 25 percent of the CCC and YES members are women. They engaged themselves with great enthusiasm in various types of anti-corruption campaigns, especially in the key public service delivery sectors such as education, health, local government and land administration.

CCC and YES members from across the country met in the Annual Convention held in Dhaka and reviewed their year's work and planned activities ahead. Besides, Conveners met twice in Dhaka for organizational review and planning. Two additional regional workshops were also arranged to facilitate mutual sharing and learning. During the period the CCCs held 495 meetings and the YES groups met 892 times as part of monthly





meetings including meetings on planning and management. All issue-based subcommittees of CCCs including those on CCC-level research, education, health, local government, YES, and Gender have been fully operational, and carried out the planned activities successfully. All sub-committees held 223 meetings which helped to strengthening operational capacity of the CCCs including leadership development and devolution of the institutional authority.

CCC-Friends groups have been further developed in the form of Citizens for Transparency (known in Bangla as Shajon) and YES-Friends Groups, the number of which are 516 and 685 respectively. A total of 47 Shajan meetings and 34 YES friends meetings were organized during the period. 54 School Management Committee (SMC) meetings were organized thanks to direct engagement of the CCCs with the authority. 14 CCCs School Watch Groups were formed to work with School Management Committees for enhancing SMC's effectiveness in managing the affairs of the schools with greater accountability. 33 face-the-public meetings were organized to create opportunities for public to raise questions with the local government authorities. In addition 67 different issue-based events like seminars and workshops on various themes including corruption and gender,



roundtables, dialogues, and opinion-sharing meetings were held with various stakeholders aiming at creating demands for transparency and mainstreaming anti-corruption in public discourse in local level.

The YES Groups took 265 additional initiatives which included anti-corruption debates, essays, cartoons, art and quiz competitions, wall painting, rallies, oath-taking and signature campaigns. The YES groups were prime

movers in organizing 58 Mothers' meetings empowering mothers to demand greater transparency and accountability in the schools. More than 250,000 young people, especially students of schools and colleges participated in the anti-corruption concerts held for the first time at the local level outside Dhaka.



AI-Desk and Satellite AI-Desk

The AI-Desks attached to the CCCs served throughout the year as the source of information and guidance to local people about their rights and entitlements in public service delivery systems so that they can avoid being victims of corruption. Fact-sheets and information booklet containing information related on basic entitlements from government/non-government organizations were made available for visitors/complainants to the AI-Desks. Posters and leaflets have been distributed for informing the people about the availability of services. The satellite AI-Desk has evolved in response to the need to disseminate information to those who are not in a position to come at CCC office, especially poor, illiterate and marginalized people. 360 Satellite AI-Desks were arranged in 2008.

AI-Desks and Satellite AI-Desks are managed essentially by the members of the YES groups who not only serve the visitors, often with the expert assistance of CCC members, but also produce the information materials and documentation. The YES members for instance produced and/or updated 72 fact sheets on health and education, and 115 leaflets on selected primary schools, hospitals & UP/municipality City Corporation.

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Anti-corruption Theatre

TIB has been successfully employing “Peoples Theatre” as an advocacy tool to create public awareness against corruption. 367 People's Theatre shows were held throughout the year in CCC areas. In addition, cultural shows, folk programs were also organized. On an average 300 viewers were present in each show and it therefore reached to more than a million people disseminating information and creating awareness against corruption in the country. The thematic focus of the



theatres is mainly on local administration, local government, education, health, lower judiciary and land administration. In 2008 TIB had enrolled 600 theatre activists, one-fourth of whom are female.

Anti-Corruption Cultural Alliance

Cultural alliances were also formed with different cultural groups who mobilized at least 50 cultural/ theatre groups to join TIB to observe the International Anti-corruption Day (IACD).

- i) Bidrohi Shishu Kishore Theatre, Panchagar;
- ii) Nagar Natya Dal, Tangail;
- iii) Cultural Alliance, CCC Kishorganj and
- iv) Cultural Alliance, Jhenaidah

Some CCCs like Jessore form anti-corruption alliance with 23 cultural groups, Chapai Nawabganj with the Gambhira Group Nalitabari for Palagan, while a number of CCCs also partnered with the Corruption Prevention Committees of the Anti-corruption Commission for observing the IACD.

Partnership on Choose the Right Candidate (CRC campaign)

In the context of national election to the 9th Parliament, TIB undertook a campaign titled “Choose the Right Candidate” (CRC) to facilitate an opportunity for voters to make an informed choice for exercising the right to vote. The campaign drew upon the findings of the Charter of Citizens on the Role of the Parliament and the Members of Parliament. The key findings of the Charter were used



as the main communication tool with various stakeholders including the Election Commission, the political parties and candidates. During the campaign candidates from the leading political parties were brought together in the same platform through face the public (FtP) programme. In addition information about the candidates including their antecedents as reported to the Election Commission were widely distributed and communicated to the voters. In nearly all cases the candidates participating in the CRC committed to Zero Corruption Pledge, if elected. For this campaign TIB partnered with the SUJAN (Citizens for Good Governance), and other organizations at the local level. Similar partnerships were also forged for CRC conducted later on in the context of the Upazila (sub-district) elections.

Transforming the Rajshahi Education Board

The office of the Rajshahi Education Board has been transformed into an island of integrity as a result of initiatives by the YES activists. They first completed a survey on the services provided by the Board office and based on that they prepared a fact sheet which they disseminated among the service seekers through satellite AI-Desk. Along with this initiative, CCC and YES members organized several consultative meetings with the Board authority persuading them to act against the irregularities in this office. As a result, harassments faced by the service recipients like teachers, students, and others who came from far and away were substantially reduced. Collection of illegal payments or bribe from the teachers and students has stopped. Collection and delivery of various documents which used to be in the hands of some corrupt members of the staff has now been moved to bank and special counters set up inside the boundary of the Board. Each booth provides services for clients of two districts.

To promote transparency in the services provided by the Board staff the authority has set up a monitoring team consisting of seven first class officers who are supervised by a college inspector of the board appointed as the Convener of the team. Service recipients are able to receive necessary information and advice from the Information Centre of the Board which was developed by the YES members through the satellite AI-Desk. An Information Display Board has also been set up in front the Information Centre. Security and order have been beefed up. The officers and staff are attending the office in time and signing in the register book regularly. Attendance register is now closed at 9:15 am on every working day. The authority has taken action against late attendance. The use of identity card has now become compulsory for members of the Board staff. Overall, the YES activists have transformed the Rajshahi Education Board into an island of integrity.

Many such good practice case stories were published separately in the July-December special issue of Nagorik Prottoy that highlighted one such story from each of the 36 CCC areas.

Social Accountability at Work

The Government of Bangladesh has introduced many Social Safety Net programmes during the last two decades, the most important ones being the VGD/VGF Cards for the destitute. But like most other public service delivery systems, corruption has not spared that delivery process of the VGD/VGF cards. Due to lack of transparency and accountability at the delivery end and in particular for the absence of effective mechanism to hold the public representatives at the Union Parishad (UP) level in whose hands rest the distribution and management of the Cards, these often land into those households who are not necessarily poor, but have connections with the powerful or are able to make unauthorized payments.

The problem drew that attention of the Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCCs) and members of the Youth Engagement and Support (YES) Groups created by the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB). They started campaign for proper distribution of the VGD-VGF Cards to those for whom it was meant to be. The campaign includes information and awareness of the target population about their rights and entitlement. A more direct tool is the Face the Public (FtP) events that bring together public officials and representatives to face questions and concerns raised by citizens in an open forum. People want to know from the public representatives, for instance, how many cards they received from the Government, how many were distributed, who got it and who didn't, and on what basis it all happened. It happens like an open court of the citizens where the representatives are eventually made to confess their follies and commit to exercise transparency and integrity.

The CCC Natore started the campaign in Laxmipur UP. The members of the YES group who work on a fully voluntary basis conducted campaigns on the basis of citizens report cards on the UP, arranged satellite Advice and Information Desk, street theatre shows, community discussions and above all the FtP.

Things changed since then in the Laxmipur UP. Local citizens became more empowered to whom the public representatives are held directly accountable. The poor started to get benefits of the social movement against corruption and the social accountability tool showed results.



Maleka Begum is the only income earner in a family of 3 comprised of her daughter and husband who is a physically challenged person unable to work. The family solely depends on proceeds of her home-made handicrafts sold in the local market, which is far from enough to eke out a living. The family often remained hungry without any meals when she fails to sell her products. To add to her miseries she was denied her VGD card because she didn't have anything to pay for enlistment to the Union Parishad Member who preferred to distribute the cards to those who had connections and/or could make unauthorized payments, even though the were much better off than Maleka. She had no one to go for help until she was motivated by YES members of TIB to join the "Face the Public" event that brought together women and men like her to have the opportunity to ask the UP Chairman and members to respond to issues and questions of public concern including integrity in process of distribution of VGD/VGF cards. She got the commitment at the meeting from the same UP member who earlier denied her the card that she will duly get it the next day. Maleka indeed got her card and happily came to the CCC office to share her sense of relief and joy for the family.



Bulu Khatun, another participant in the "Face the Public", had a similar story to tell. At 44, she has three children and her husband Ashraf, who couldn't pursue his profession of a day-labourer because of his heart and kidney disease. Like Maleka she failed to get any favourable response to her request for enlistment as VGD card holder because she had no one to help. She had no money to buy food for her three kids, not to speak of the capacity to bribe the UP Member. Then came the FtP following which she got her card her life line.



Amena Begum, 41, mother of two primary school going children. Her husband was lured by a manpower broker to borrow a large amount of money from a traditional money lender to avail the opportunity to go abroad and change his family fortune. He did leave the country but Amena didn't hear anything from him since, except that a neighbour one day she heard from a neighbour that he was imprisoned in the foreign land for trying to enter without valid papers. In the meantime, she was chased by the money-lender demanding the return of the amount he gave to her husband. She had to sell whatever she had and became a destitute, with nothing left except a tiny homestead. She started work as domestic aide in neighbours' houses but could barely manage meals for the family. Her children had to drop out because she couldn't bear the expenses. Like Maleka and Bulu she was denied the VGD Card for the same reason as Maleka and Bulu. Then came the FtP, organized by CCC and YES. Equipped with the information that she was entitled to the VGD Card, she went next morning to the UP Member who duly delivered it.



Maleka, Bulu and Amena were followed by at least 50 others in the same category who benefited by the move. By then everyone in Lakshipur union knew that VGD cards were for the poor and vulnerable only, and that the UP members had made the public commitment at the FtP to distribute the cars to only those who deserve.

A YES initiative to stop corruption in school

In January 2008, the YES members of CCC Gazipur came to know that the students of the 28 no Deshipara Govt. Primary School were being forced to pay 100 taka per head to the school authority for collecting books that were supposed to be distributed at no cost. They discussed the matter with the CCC Convener and members, and decided to act to stop it. The YES members visited the school on January 5, 2008 and found out that unauthorized payments were indeed collected by the school authority. The Head Master of the school confessed that the corrupt practice was going on.

YES members discussed the issue with the school authority, basically appealing to their conscience to stop collecting money from students for giving them what was their right and entitlement. The headmaster told the YES members that the School Management Committee (SMC) took a decision at a meeting held on January 01, 2008 to collect this bribe from all students. The YES members insisted that it was illegal and morally unacceptable for authorities in an educational institution to have such a practice. At last the school authority, especially the Head master called an emergency meeting of the School Management Committee and decided to withdraw the decision to unduly collect any payments from students. The Chairman of the SMC personally apologized for the unethical decision taken earlier. They pledged that never in the future will they repeat such bad practice and will strictly uphold integrity and honesty in the affairs of the school. The students who had already made the payments got their money back, others got the books free of cost.



Reaching Out

Issue-based Alliances/Networks/Partnerships

In order to expand the outreach and strengthen the anti-corruption institutional capacity TIB has significantly increased its network or issue-based partnerships. These include such issues as referral service arising from AI-Desks, and partnerships forged in connection with specific events.

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TIB continued to forge issue and event-based partnerships as a means of expanding its outreach and strengthening the anti-corruption constituency. Notable among them were the following:

- a. Partnerships for strengthening the AI-Desk service through referral, for reinforcing the demand for Right to Information and to mainstream gender in anti-corruption movement were arranged with 23 local level organizations;
- b. The International Anti-corruption Day was observed through partnership with 8 organizations;
- c. A national level roundtable on the problem of governance in the health sector was organized in partnership with the Daily Prothom Alo. A documentary on corruption in health service was produced and aired in partnership with a TV channel; A national level seminar was organized on “Citizen’s Charter, What, Why and How” in partnership with Manushar Jonno Foundation.
- d. TIB continued to play a leading role in the Right to Information Forum. A seminar titled “Right to Information: Why Now?” was organized under the banner of the Forum to mark the Right to Know Day 2008;
- e. TIB joined the Forum on Universal Periodic Review on Human Rights which included 15 other development and human rights organizations. TIB played an active role in the Forum; and
- f. TIB continued to partner with the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) within its jurisdiction and capacity for strengthening the initiatives for anti-corruption demand creation, particularly through a series of communication and outreach programmes for citizens’ awareness and engagement.



- g. As a follow up after the release of the diagnostic study on Challenges of Governance of NGOs TIB also created opportunities to work more closely with the NGO sector on the one hand and the NGO Affairs of Bureau, with the objective of promoting greater transparency and accountability in the NGO sector. The possibility of a joint initiative with the Bureau for a series of sensitization workshops for the government officials was taking shape. Similar prospect was expected with a number of donor organizations whose interest could be attracted as well as with a number of key actors within the sector.
- h. TIB has worked with the Election Commission in connection with reform of the electoral rules as well as promotion of observance of electoral laws and regulation by the political parties participating in the election.

Other Partnerships

As a part of 'Jago Manush' as well as regular activities, various youth engagement programs were arranged throughout the year. In many cases where direct engagement was not possible, technical support was extended.

- a) In Dinajpur, TIB supported to organize the first North Bengal Anti-Corruption Debate Festival on June 3.
- b) TIB also partnered with the first Children Film Festival of the country which took place between 28 Jan – 3 Feb in Dhaka. TIB published communication materials on this occasion and put up a stall to disseminate information to the young crowd. A cartoon exhibition was also organized at the festival premises in Public Library Auditorium.
- c) TIB joined hands with Aporajeyo, a student organization consisting of students from 22 leading schools of Dhaka City which organized a seminar on June 14 in Dhaka and a cultural program. The program was attended by over 2000 students in the age group of 14-16. A cartoon exhibition was also organized.
- d) TIB participated in a two-day long youth fair held during 1-2 April in Dhaka. A total of 60 NGOs took part in this event organized by IRI Bangladesh. A large number of students visited TIB's stall in the fair.
- e) 36 different cultural programs, folk-songs, and other forms of anti-corruption cultural activities such as Gombhira, Palagan, youth gathering, and mini concerts were organized at CCC level. These were in addition to the 51 debate competitions, 18 essay competitions, and 8 art competitions; 4 anti-corruption wall paintings & wall magazines; 43 study circles; 43 rallies and human chains, 14 cartoon competitions & exhibition and 38 award giving to recognize best performers in SSC & HSC level students and Oath taking programs arranged in the year.

Satellite AI-Desk at DMCH

AI-Desk activities were organized in the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, the country's largest public medical service institution, as a result of which 3,350 service recipients took advice and guidance. An observation report with recommendations, complaint books and a tally book documented for future reference was handed over to the authority of DMCH.



Youth Assemblies

7 Youth Assemblies in the form of anti-corruption musical concerts were held under the 'Jago Manush' campaign, of which one was in Dhaka and the remaining in CCCs areas for the first time (Patiya, Chapai Nawabganj, Satkhira, Rangpur, Barisal and Sreemongal). These gatherings engaged more than 250,000 youths directly. Each of these gatherings inspired the audience from all walks of life to take an anti-corruption pledge while they also participated in communicating various anti-corruption messages. Public officials from various local level Government institutions and departments also participated in these gatherings underscoring the increasing level of acceptability of TIB's anticorruption campaign among public officials. One remarkable feature of these events was enthusiastic participation of women and children. Another achievement was involvement of the YES members in organizing these mammoth events where number of audience ranged from 30,000 to 50,000.

In Dhaka, the youth assembly and concert was held to observe the International Women's Day with the theme 'anti-corruption movement and women's rights movement go hand in hand' and with slogan 'stand up for the rights of women'. TI Chairperson Dr. Huguette Labelle in a speech (which was read out for the audience) said that gender discrimination in the society increases corruption and one was linked with the other. A special TV message was also developed which was aired in TV and radio channels.



The youth rallies were dovetailed with a number of side initiatives to create anti-corruption wave, these included AI-Desk campaign, cartoon/art exhibitions/competitions, rallies, information fair, etc. In two such information fairs in Chapai Nawabganj and Sreemangal various government departments including the law-enforcement agencies and service delivery institutions of the local government took part. Information Fair was a unique approach to advocate for proactive disclosure of information by these institutions even without the Right to Information Law being in place. TIB's audio-visual messages which highlighted inter alia the massive loss of public resources due to corruption drew attention keen attention of the participants.

IACD Observance

This year TIB and CCC-YES observed the International Anti-corruption Day (IACD) with a series of programs starting from 4 December 2008. One of the key features of 'Jago Manush' campaign was observance of the IACD 2008. The IACD observance was indeed marked by the culmination of the campaign which was carried out over throughout the year. Apart from programs/events arranged in 36 CCCs the final event of the campaign was a grand rally in Dhaka, participated by more than 3000 people.

Anti-corruption Rally

The first ever Anti-Corruption Rally in Dhaka was jointly organized on December 4. Commencing from the South Plaza of Jatiya Shangshad Bhaban the rally was led by leading personalities from public life. More than three thousand people from all sections of the society including leading public and private sector representatives, NGOs, media and civil society at large physically challenged and underprivileged groups, schools, colleges and university students joined the rally to reaffirm their stand against corruption. More than fifty organizations including Dhaka Metropolitan Police, BNCC, Girl Guides, Rover Scout, Red Crescent Society, Rangers, CCCs and YES groups joined the rally to say "NO to Corruption". Similar rallies were organized all over the country aimed at creating greater awareness and catalyzing active citizens' participation in the social movement against corruption.



Noor Alam / DrikNEWS / Majority World



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Anti-Corruption Cultural Program at Rabindra Sarovar

As part of observance of the IACD another Anti-Corruption cultural program was organized on 5 December at the Dhanmondi Rabindra Sarovar. Nearly 8,000 participants joined the event and expressed solidarity with the anti-corruption cause by taking anti-corruption oath. The program was live webcast. Partnerships were forged in this connection with a number of media organizations including The Daily Star, the Daily Somokal, Channel i, Bangla Vision, Radio Today, and Radio Foorti.

Cartoon Competition & Exhibition

TIB organized an Anti-Corruption Cartoon Competition to observe the IACD. This was the 3rd such Competition. In addition, 6 Cartoon Exhibitions were organized, one at the national and the remaining at the local levels. As a part of TIB's YES program, the objective of the competition and these exhibitions was to create greater awareness and motivation among the young generation to say No to Corruption. It also gave the participants an opportunity to communicate their understanding of corruption and raising voice against this menace. The Exhibition displayed cartoons that received awards and special mention out of 791 entries to the competition by young cartoonists in two age groups of 13-18 and 19-35 years from all over the country. The week-long exhibition (28th Nov-4 Dec 2008) was also aired on-line in TIB's website, in which it continues to be available. The exhibition was viewed by around 5000 spectators of which 1500 gave written comments.



TIB observed the International Right to Know Day on September 28, in nearly every CCC area. The objective was to create awareness at local level about people's right to information, which is the key to fighting corruption. These local level events were observed with great enthusiasm. In most places people from all walks of life showed tremendous interest in carrying forward the demand for the Right to Information Law.

TIB's Communication with the media had been very successful. TIB activities throughout the year received huge attention from the media and were well covered. More than 500 reports covering news created by TIB activities were published in 2008 in the print media. Many more were reported in newspapers published from outside the capital. Side by side, around 350 news clips on TIB activities were aired for more than 600 minutes on 11 TV channels including BTV.

One of the strengths of Jago Manush campaign was the interest it was able to generate among people against corruption. TIB's regular electronic media campaign during 2008 was dovetailed with Jago Manush which included production and airing of TV & Radio messages on specific issues, production and airing of a theme song, production of TV documentaries on various programs and airing of TV talk programs.



- a) One TV message titled “Women and Corruption” was produced on the occasion of International Women’s Day and was aired on the major satellite TV Channels and BTV on a random basis. FM radio channels also aired the audio version of the Message.
- b) The Theme Song of TIB titled Jago Manush (both audio & video) was produced and aired on all TV channels of the country including the BTV. FM channels also aired the song on a regular basis. It has also been broadcast on complimentary basis in digital displays in various public places and business outlet.
- c) Four anti-corruption messages for electronic communication media were broadcast covering education, health care, roads & bridges and forestry issues. The messages focused on the amount of money lost due to corruption and showed the opportunity cost in terms of basic public services like health and education. The messages were also shown in public programs of TIB to the participating audience i.e. concert and youth gathering, seminar and roundtable, YES orientation program, members day/convention, CCC-YES convention. For the first time in Dhaka, these messages were shown in an outdoor LCD monitors in public places.
- d) TIB Chairman, Members of the Trustee Board, Executive Director and Staff members participated in at least 30 talk programs in TV and radio channels. These included live programs as well as special programs arranged following TIB initiation. These programs contributed to communicating to the public about TIB position on issues of public interest and building opinion against corruption.
- e) Executive Director delivered lectures on various issues related to corruption in a number of important public and private sector institutions like the Bangladesh Civil Service Academy, the Public Administration Training Complex, National Defence College, the Anti-corruption Commission, the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development, Bangladesh UNESCO National Commission, Academy for Planning and Development, National Academy for Education and Management (NAEM), The Asian News Network, BRAC University and University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. Apart from their educational value these were highly important initiatives in terms of bridge building between TIB and the highly important constituencies.

As the largest and most active TI Chapter in the world, TIB was also represented with great success and credibility in many international initiatives like the International Anti-corruption Conference in Athens and other regional and international anti-corruption conferences. In the Athens Conference TIB’s citizen’s participation and youth engagement programmes in particular drew the attention and highly positive response of many participants. The Executive Director gave the key-note address in the launching ceremony of the new Chapter of TI in Maldives.



Investigative Journalism Award

To promote investigative journalism in the country and to build up the capacity of journalists, TIB introduced Investigative Journalism Award. In 2008, 6 journalists received awards in 3 categories. Among them, 4 received the award in the category of TV report for their series of reports on the corruption of an NGO. The other categories were in print media for both national and local levels. TIB also initiated a forum for journalists who received IJ awards. The forum is expected to be officially launched by 2009.

Parliamentary Style Anti-Corruption Debate Competition

A Parliamentary Style Anti-Corruption Debate Competition was held on 5-6 August in Dhaka. The main theme of this debate competition was corruption as an impediment against governance. A total of 350 college & university level students participated in this highly successful event widely covered by the print and electronic media including a video documentary by the private TV Channel.





Inter-YES Debate Competition

The 1st Residential Workshop and Inter-YES Debate Competition were successfully arranged. YES members from 36 CCCs participated in the competition where male-female ratio was 65:38.

Membership Body

TIB's Membership body further strengthened as 41 new members joined during the year going through the regular screening process. With this the total membership rose to 320. Members continued to play active role taking part in the planning and evaluation of TIB activities through the quarterly Members' Day organized regularly and the Annual Membership Meeting.



Corruption Perceptions Index 2008

Bangladesh ranked 10th from below

On September 2008, the Berlin-based international anti-corruption organization, Transparency International (TI) released its annual Corruption Perception Index (CPI) for 2008. The index provides international ranking of countries in terms of perceived degree of prevalence of political and administrative corruption.

The results showed that Bangladesh has scored 2.1 points in a scale of 0-10, and has continued to be ranked low - 10th from below, which is 147th among 180 countries included in the index. In the same position with the same score are 3 other countries – Kenya, Russia and Syria.

Bangladesh was earlier placed at the very bottom of the list for the fifth successive year from 2001-2005. In 2006 Bangladesh was ranked in no 3, and last year 7th. With the score of 2.1, almost the same as that of last few years (2.0), Bangladesh's apparent upward movement in ranking from 7th to 10th did not necessarily indicate any notable better performance over last year, except that other countries may have performed worse.



Like 2007 Somalia remained at the bottom of the list implying that corruption in that country is perceived to be highest, followed by Myanmar and Iraq in the 2nd position while Haiti is in the 3rd position. Afghanistan is in the 4th position.

At the other end, Denmark, New Zealand and Sweden have been ranked at the top, each scoring 9.3, meaning that in these countries corruption is perceived to be lowest, closely followed by Singapore with 9.2, the only Asian country that has consistently been in the league of top 10. The only other Asian country to be among the top 20 countries is Hong Kong ranked at number 12 performing better than such highly developed countries as Germany, Norway UK, Japan and USA.

CPI: Performance of South Asian Countries 2007-2008

Sl	Country	Score		Rank (from below)	
		2007	2008	2007	2008
1	Bangladesh	2.0	2.1	7	10
2	Afghanistan	1.8	1.5	5	4
3	Pakistan	2.4	2.5	11	14
4	Nepal	2.5	2.7	12	16
5	Maldives	3.3	2.8	20	17
6	India	3.5	3.4	22	22
7	Sri Lanka	3.2	3.2	19	21
8	Bhutan	5.0	5.2	35	36

CPI: Bangladesh's score & rank compared to other low-scoring countries

Sl	Country	Score		Rank (from below)	
		2007	2008	2007	2008
1	Bangladesh	2.0	2.1	7	10
2	Kenya	2.1	2.1	8	10
3	Russia	2.3	2.1	10	10
4	Syria	2.3	2.1	11	10
5	Belarus	2.1	2.0	12	9
6	Central African Republic	2.0	2.0	7	9
7	Ivory Coast	2.1	2.0	8	9
8	Ecuador	2.1	2.0	8	9
9	Laos	1.9	2.0	6	9
10	Papua New Guinea	2.0	2.0	7	9
11	Tajikistan	2.1	2.0	8	9

Further details on CPI and related matters may be obtained from: www.ti-bangladesh.org and www.transparency.org

Institutional Capacity

TIB is the largest Chapter of TI, the global coalition against corruption. By the end of the year it had nearly 200 full-time staff employed in Dhaka and 36 offices outside the capital. The number of prime movers of the movement working voluntarily with TIB, the CCC members and YES activists taken together, crossed 2000 by the end of the year.

By meeting the targets of training and orientation of the staff and CCC-YES as planned under the project, the reporting period witnessed significant uplift of TIB capacity to take the anti-corruption movement to higher levels by deepening and widening of the coverage. By building issue and event-based partnerships TIB contributed to the expansion of the anti-corruption constituency. The coping capacity of TIB to work in challenging situations has also improved. TIB also moved ahead in mainstreaming gender in its social movement in terms of women participation in the movement, strengthening women capacity as well as making anti-corruption programming more gender-sensitive.

Towards Paribartan - Driving Change

The reporting period was the final year of the Making Waves project. Side by side with the successful implementation of the project TIB has developed its strategy for the new phase of 2009-14 on the basis of which the new project called Paribartan - Driving Change has been designed to commence from April 2009 and continue through March 2014.

Governance Manual and other Policies

TIB has a Governance Manual, a publicly available document, which delineates the roles, responsibilities and accountability principles and procedures of the Board, management, staff and others involved in TIB. It has an Operations Policy & Financial Rules, Human Resource Policy and Gender Policy, which are strictly observed to ensure transparent, accountable and participatory management.

Code of ethics

TIB has an institutional Code of Ethics which is applicable to everyone involved with TIB in various capacities – Trustees, Staff, CCC members, general members, YES members, fellows and interns. The Code is a public document, available on 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 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 (M&E) phone: 01713 065018 and Manager Resource Centre phone: 01713 065016.

Sources of Funding

Activities of TIB in 2008 were mainly funded under the Making Waves project by the generous support of DFID of UK, DANIDA of Denmark, the Norwegian Government and SIDA of Sweden. TIB also received a separate grant from UNDP during the period. TIB is grateful to all of them for their generous support and excellent cooperation throughout the year. To support the Paribartan - Driving Change project DFID, DANIDA and SIDA will be joined by SDC - the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency. TIB is grateful to them.

The following are TIB's main source of funding: a) Trust Fund consisting of contributions of Trustees, Members, project overheads and sale proceeds; and b) funds raised from donor organizations within or outside Bangladesh for implementing specific projects. TIB's current activities within the Paribartan – Driving Change project are funded by contributions from: DFID of the UK, SIDA of Sweden, SDC of Switzerland and DANIDA of Denmark. UNDP is also a source of fund for specific issue-based initiatives.

TIB raises funds only from donors who share its anti-corruption values and goals. It does not accept funds that might impair the independence of TIB, nor are any contributions accepted that require TIB do anything inconsistent with its mission. TIB's budget, financial reports and accounts are available on its website.

TIB commends the Government for facilitating the anti-corruption work. Most of all, TIB is grateful to all citizens of Bangladesh whose support and inspiration have made it possible for TIB to reach where it stands today – the catalyst for institutional and policy change, and the creator of an anti-corruption demand that by the end of 2008 occupied the centre-stage of public discourse in the country.

TIB Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of TIB is the policy making body of Transparency International Bangladesh. The Board defines the vision and mission of TIB, and periodically reviews and updates the same. It provides the leadership and guidance to the work of the organization. The Trustees are:



Chairman
Prof. Muzaffer Ahmad
Professor Emeritus
Institute of Business Administration
Dhaka University



Secretary General
Mr. Mahfuz Anam
Editor & Publisher
The Daily Star and
Publisher, The Daily Prothom Alo



Treasurer
Mr. M. Hafizuddin Khan
Former Adviser
Caretaker Government
and Comptroller & Auditor General



Member
Mr. Tawfique Nawaz
Senior Advocate
Bangladesh Supreme Court



Member
Prof. Khan Sarwar Murshid
Former Vice Chancellor
Rajshahi University



Member
Mr. Samson H. Chowdhury
Chairman
Square Group of Companies



Member
Syeda Ruhi Ghuznavi
Managing Director, Aranya



Member
Advocate Sultana Kamal
Executive Director
and Former Adviser
Caretaker Government



Member
Prof. Abdullah Abu Sayeed
President
Bishwo Shahityo Kendro

Office-bearers' tenure upto june 2009.
For updated list visit:
www.ti-bangladesh.org

Annual Report 2008

Transparency International Bangladesh

Executive Director: **Iftekharuzzaman**

Financial Statement

AUDITORS' REPORT

We have audited the accompanying Balance Sheet of Transparency International Bangladesh Chapter (TIB) as of 31 December 2008 and related Income and Expenditure Statement and Receipts & Payments Statement for the year then ended. The preparation of these financial statements is the responsibility of the organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an independent opinion based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Bangladesh Standards on Auditing (BSA). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements, prepared in accordance with Bangladesh Accounting Standards (BAS), give a true and fair view of the state of the Organization's affairs as of 31 December 2008 and of the results of its operations for the year then ended and comply with the applicable laws and regulations.

We also report that:

- we have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit and made due verification thereof;
- in our opinion, proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the organization so far as it appeared from our examination of those books;
- the balance sheet and income and expenditure statement of the organization dealt with by the report are in agreement with the books of account.


31 May 2009
Dhaka

Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury
Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury
Chartered Accountants

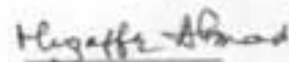
TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL BANGLADESH CHAPTER (TIB)
BALANCE SHEET
As at 31 December 2008

Particulars	Notes	Amount in Taka	
		31 December 2008	31 December 2007
PROPERTY & ASSETS			
Current Assets:		38,663,565	31,287,268
Cash in Hand	6	287,922	334,176
Cash at Bank	7	38,275,643	30,467,052
Advances and Deposits	8	100,000	486,040
Total:		38,663,565	31,287,268
FUND & LIABILITIES:			
Current Liabilities	9	24,535,430	16,286,681
Fund Accounts:		14,128,135	15,000,587
Opening Balance		15,000,587	8,879,153
(Under)/Over Fund Balance		(872,452)	6,121,434
Total:		38,663,565	31,287,268

Annexed notes form an integral part of this Balance Sheet


Treasurer


Executive Director


Chairman

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed


31 May 2009
Dhaka



Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury
Chartered Accountants

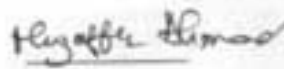
TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL BANGLADESH CHAPTER (TIB)
INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT
For the period from 01 January 2008 to 31 December 2008

Particular	Notes	Amount in Taka	
		2008	2007
A. Income:			
Grant	10	129,651,955	118,026,145
Membership Subscription	11	71,300	26,300
Other Income	12	822,825	1,348,774
Total Income:		130,546,080	119,401,219
B. Expenditure:		131,418,532	113,279,785
Making Waves (NIP Phase-II)	13	120,162,617	109,245,709
General Fund	14	28,675	16,232
Investigative Journalism Award	15	-	105,416
International Travel	16	886,257	519,074
BHC- Strengthening ACC	17	-	640,000
TI-WIN Workshop	18	2,100	2,256,688
CRINIS Project	19	181,723	-
CCPPR Project	20	5,236,981	-
ETP & CRC Project	21	1,440,099	-
Jago Manush Project	22	2,612,459	-
Other Expenses	23	867,621	496,666
C. (Under)/Over Fund Balance (A-B)		(872,452)	6,121,434
D. Total:		130,546,080	119,401,219

Annexed notes form an integral part of this Income & Expenditure statements


Treasurer


Executive Director


Chairman


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

31 May 2009
Dhaka

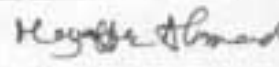

Aziz Halim Khair Choudhury
Chartered Accountants

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL BANGLADESH CHAPTER (TIB)
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS STATEMENT
For the period from 01 January 2008 to 31 December 2008

Particular	Amount in Taka	
	2008	2007
Inflow of funds:		
Opening Balance:	30,801,228	21,982,794
Cash at Bank	30,467,052	21,442,253
Cash in Hand	334,176	540,541
Receipts:	153,908,370	119,419,622
Grant	129,651,955	118,026,145
Membership Subscription	71,300	26,300
EOCB & EL Received from MW Project	23,361,169	-
Other receipts	822,825	1,348,774
Received from GF	1,120	-
Received from APO	-	18,403
Total:	184,709,598	141,402,416
Outflow of funds:		
Project Expenditure:		
Making Waves (NIP Phase-II)	111,812,209	106,568,232
General Fund	28,675	16,232
Investigative Journalism Award	-	105,416
International Travel	886,257	519,074
BHC- Strengthening ACC	-	640,000
TI-WIN Workshop	2,100	2,256,588
EOCB & EL paid to GF	23,361,169	-
Advance Payment from staff fund	100,000	-
CRINIS Project	181,723	-
CCPPR Project	4,834,198	-
ETP & CRC Project	1,440,099	-
Jago Manush Project	2,612,459	-
Payment to APO	18,403	-
Payment to MW	1,120	-
Other Expenses	867,621	495,546
Total Expenditure:	146,146,033	110,601,188
Closing Balance:	38,563,565	30,801,228
Cash at Bank	38,275,643	30,467,052
Cash in hand	287,922	334,176
Total:	184,709,598	141,402,416


Treasurer


Executive Director


Chairman

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed