



29/09/2019

H.E. António Guterres  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10017  
USA

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I am pleased to confirm that BRAC Bangladesh supports the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption. With this commitment, we express our intent to support the Global Compact advancing these principles, and will make a clear statement of this commitment to our stakeholders and the general public.

We also pledge to participate in and engage with the UN Global Compact in the following way(s): Resource Development, Events and networking opportunities, Local Engagement and Online partner matchmaking.

We recognize that a key requirement for participation in the Global Compact is the submission of a Communication on Engagement (COE) that describes our organization's efforts to support the implementation of the ten principles and to engage with the Global Compact. We support public accountability and transparency, and therefore commit to report on progress within *two years* of joining the Global Compact and *every two years* thereafter according to the Global Compact COE policy.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Asif Saleh'.

Asif Saleh  
Executive Director  
BRAC

## ABOUT BRAC

---

BRAC Bangladesh was established in 1972, in response to the post-war devastation of Bangladesh's liberation war. It has grown from a small relief operation in a few villages in the country to become the leading non-governmental organisation (NGO) in the world, operating in 11 countries and reaching nearly 126 million clients. BRAC's mission is to empower the poor through services and economic opportunities in order to address the root causes of poverty and realise the potential of the most disadvantaged people. In 2013, BRAC was named the number one NGO in the world in terms of impact, innovation and sustainability, by the Global Journal, polling a host of development professionals. Bangladesh is now looking ahead, working to achieve middle income status by 2021. As it slowly industrialises and urbanises, new areas of underdevelopment and pockets of poverty are emerging that need focus. BRAC wants to prioritise projects addressing urban poverty; climate change; youth unemployment; provide integrated services from different programmes targeting the households and villages in need of aid.

## VISION, MISSION AND VALUES

---

### Vision

A world free from all forms of exploitation and discrimination where everyone has the opportunity to realise their potential.

### Mission

Our mission is to empower people and communities in situations of poverty, illiteracy, disease and social injustice. Our interventions aim to achieve large scale, positive changes through economic and social programmes that enable women and men to realise their potential.

### Values

**Innovation:** BRAC has been an innovator in the creation of opportunities for the poor to lift themselves out of poverty. BRAC values creativity in programme design and strives to display global leadership in ground breaking development initiatives.

**Integrity:** BRAC values transparency and accountability in all its professional work, with clear policies and procedures, while displaying the utmost level of honesty in its financial dealings. BRAC regards these to be the most essential elements of its work ethic.

**Inclusiveness:** BRAC is committed to engaging, supporting and recognising the value of all members of society, regardless of race, religion, gender, nationality, ethnicity, age, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic status and geography.

**Effectiveness:** BRAC values efficiency and excellence in all its work, constantly challenging itself to perform better, to meet and exceed programme targets, and to improve and deepen the impact of its interventions.

## OUR WORK IN ALIGNMENT WITH UNGC'S PRINCIPLES

BRAC's approach has always been one of enabling the communities so they can address and conquer the inequalities and exploitation through appropriate channels of support. In the beginning, we addressed the most pressing need of poverty alleviation but the components of rights was always embedded within. As time progressed, different programmes within BRAC took the responsibility of addressing the prominent societal challenges through their expertise. BRAC Human Rights and Legal Aid Services upholds the quality of justice services through legal aid and legal awareness, strengthening the capacity of civil society, exercising equal and fair application of the law, promoting transparency in the judicial system, and upholding professionalism in service delivery, in order to ensure smooth access to justice. BRAC Migration Programme focuses on promoting safe, regular and responsible migration at every step and ensuring migrants know their rights and how to exercise them. Training and engaging volunteers, counsellors and para-counsellors to raise awareness on migration and reintegration issue. Providing financial aid, skills development to avail decent work and support reintegration upon return. BRAC Skills Development Programme makes way for the vast population of unemployed or underemployed youth to get decent jobs. It enables the youth to have an entrepreneurial mind and also promotes gender equality in workplaces. BRAC Climate Change Programme protects resources, improves quality of life and builds awareness approach about the environment in rural and urban communities. We provide people with access to the tools and knowledge to adapt and respond to adverse climatic impacts and adopt sustainable practices to combat impending climatic impacts. Our work with the private sector in

Bangladesh on the components of Human Rights, Labour and Environment has been outlined below.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

---

BRAC has had the involvement with private sector mainly through its urban interventions. In 2017 HRLS undertook urban intervention for RMG workers through 3 one stop service centres, run by BRAC Urban Development Programme under ERMG project. Through these centres HRLS provides legal assistance to the urban poor, especially the RMG workers. We also provide legal assistance to workers of Echotex factories under SCOPE project. HRLS has introduced a new component in 2019 named 'Social Compliance'. Under Social Compliance in 2020, we will be focusing on safety management system training to RMG and other industries, safeguarding training to industry, private sector and universities. We shall also be promoting play lab model and child care within industries.

In order to establish the rights of migrant people, BRAC Migration Programme engages media to raise awareness and influence policy. In this regard, BRAC initiated to award the journalists and media people in different categories to encourage them to cover more stories of migration. Workshops were also arranged for effective media reporting on migration and migrants for the media people.

## LABOUR

---

BRAC has been working on migration issues since 2006. From the most recent experience, BRAC Migration Programme has found that most of the women returnees are severely traumatized and they need emergency support like transport cost, food, medical care and socio-economic reintegration support etc. Even upon their return many of them are facing denial of acceptance from their family. These women need long term support to be reintegrated socially and economically. BRAC and Leathergoods and Footwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association of Bangladesh (LFMEAB) established an MoU on June 2018 to support the most

vulnerable women returnee migrants with an expectation to continue the partnership with mutual understanding. LFMEAB provided financial assistance to 22 most vulnerable women returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The amount of the assistance was BDT 100,000 (One lac) for each returnee. LFMEAB also provided training and job placement to the listed returnees.

BRAC Migration Programme organized 10 Migration Fairs in 10 different sub-district level. In those fairs the potential and returning migrants were informed about different income-generating opportunities within the country aligned to their acquired skills and experiences abroad. Also, they were referred to different skills training offered by different private agencies to assist them in achieving self-sufficiency in the country. They were linked with small and medium enterprises and other organizations for training on establishment of different small and medium enterprises. The fair created scopes for returnee migrants who require loan for enterprise establishment, to get linked with banks and other financial institutes.

The objective of the Abolombon project run by BRAC Skills Development Programme (SDP), is to create employable skills and create income-generating activities for vulnerable women. This BRAC-SINGER Bangladesh collaboration aims to facilitate 5000 women with free of cost tailoring & dress making training to develop sewing machine operation skills which will develop their capacity to earn through tailoring for their neighborhood or locality or local employment. The project commenced in January 2018 and the skills training is being provided to 15 training centers in 13 districts in Bangladesh. BRAC SDP has also been working as a partner with Google's startup incubator, Area120 on the KORMO project. KORMO is a digital platform, connecting employers and job seekers. BRAC, at the initial stage of product development, worked with KORMO in field research and eventually became a channel partner for job seekers and employer acquisition. As the KORMO app got more traction, BRAC has started advising its seekers on career development and eventually connecting them with different upskilling opportunities. As part of these upskilling activities, BRAC has developed soft skills based and trade specific online learning contents (Short lessons & Audiovisuals) for job seekers. Additionally, BRAC has organized offline training sessions through online acquisition for KORMO users (Urban youth; Age: 18-24). Presently there are approximately 1,40,000 active users in the platform. BRAC SDP has also partnered with sheba.xyz (the largest service platform in Bangladesh to provide skills upgradation training for 300 domestic care workers and place them in decent jobs through "Chacri" project. BRAC has also developed a competency based curriculum for domestic care workers which has been approved by

Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB). The project is being piloted in Dhaka since February 2019.

## ENVIRONMENT

---

BRAC's Climate Change team has been engaged in planning and strategising the process of mainstreaming climate change issues involving relevant BRAC programmes through staff capacity building initiatives on climate change adaptation and relevant policy formulation on climate change and environmental issues.

As a newly formed programme in 2019, CCP is carrying on the Climate Change mainstreaming activities as well as prioritise the promotion of climate resilient solutions to the climate vulnerable communities. The climate resilient solutions are including climate resilient housing and livelihood solutions, climate adaptive drinking water solution, tree plantation and promotion of low carbon technology. Besides, BRAC Climate Change Programme is implementing a project in CHT funded by UNDP Bangladesh titled 'Capacity Building of Implementing Partner's Project Staff and Community Leaders for 'conducting Community Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA), developing Local Resilience Plans (LRPs) and engaging communities and different stakeholders'.

BRAC wishes to continue working with the UN Global Compact spirit and initiate interventions in areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption in partnership with the local network.