

28/12/ 2021

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 principals 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 principals 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, Event 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 principals 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, the largest NGO in the world at present, was established in 1972. With the vision of creating a world free from all forms of exploitation and discrimination where everyone has the opportunity to realize their potential, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed laid the foundation of BRAC. It was declared the number one NGO in the world for the fifth consecutive year in 2020 by NGO Advisor. Over the decades since it was founded, BRAC worked to make a positive impact in the poorest Asian and African countries in the world, reaching more than 138 million people. BRAC is currently operating in 11 countries in the world. Bangladesh is now working to achieve middle income status and slowly industrialises and urbanizes, new areas of underdevelopment and pockets of poverty are emerging. 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. The COVID-19 pandemic arrived in Bangladesh in March 2020, and brought with itself a series of multifaceted challenges beyond the public health arena. BRAC's immediate short-term focus was prevention, through community engagement, behaviour change and mass campaigning. [BRAC's COVID-19 strategy](#) was aligned with the national COVID-19 strategy developed by the Government of Bangladesh.

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

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 promoted addressing legal needs and systemic shortcomings to ensure equal rights of the people who are disadvantaged and marginalized with special focus on women and children. BRAC migration program Upholds sustainable reintegration of men and women vulnerable returnee, Training and engaging volunteers, counsellors and para-counsellors to raise awareness on migration and reintegration issues. 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 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.

BRAC supported strengthening systems, through providing information, volunteers and resources to government and civil society organisations in Covid -19 Pandemic situation. This included supplying doctors to dedicated public hotlines, supplying field support teams at the community level, providing insights to government bodies on where communication gaps existed, and sourcing equipment for under-resourced hospitals. While the economy remained in shutdown, BRAC focused on ensuring short-term relief to low income earners and those living in poverty in cities and rural villages. BRAC, with the help of Leave no one behind Platform , gathered information about the measures taken in all districts on the public healthcare services and food and cash assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for the marginalised communities, by using citizens' [scorecard method](#). Our work on the components of Human Rights, Labor and Environment has been outlined below.

Human Rights:

BRAC focuses on making cities and informal urban settlements safe and sustainable for low-income communities. It has done this through developing models for low-cost

housing and other municipal infrastructure. However, emphasis will be given to work with the local government agencies such as municipalities to build their capacities to mobilise resources and invest in pro-poor infrastructure. Local government's capacity to improve Urban Disaster Risk Reduction, WASH facilities, access to healthcare, and access to skills and employment will be prioritised. Working with the city authorities, BRAC will also encourage the participation of the marginalised population in city governance and develop a forward-looking city and town planning.

BRAC continues to prioritize the development of demand-driven technical skills. The apprenticeship model continues to expand in partnership with government and other development partners such as UNICEF. Strong partnership with various private sector-led associations will ensure employment opportunities. Entrepreneurship training, along with a package of financial services, will be scaled up. BRAC will be developing programmes for persons with disabilities and offering appropriate services to ensure a women-friendly work environment for BRAC's participants. BRAC promotes the development of business, technical and entrepreneurial skills through various skills development initiatives. Priority is given to developing a support package for aspiring entrepreneurs, especially women entrepreneurs. BRAC is expanding the scope of existing support mechanisms such as the Urban Innovation Challenge, to encourage young people to start social enterprises.

BRAC Urban development Program and HRLS program started the ERMG project in 2017, across 30 factories and 38 low-income communities in Gazipur, Savar and Tongi workers with an aim of improving the wellbeing of 65,000 RMG Workers by giving them access to improved and on-demand critical services using a sustainable model that can be used to advocate for a system-wide change. [The One-Stop Service Centre](#) was initiated to stand as a bridge between the factory and the community pathway; a resource center to serve the demanded services by workers that include affordable primary healthcare, community-based Play-Lab Day-care Centre for female garment workers, legal aid services, skills development training, and job placement, and financial services, such as mobile banking, PS, and micro health insurance, operating in a convenient time of workers. During the timeframe, [HRLS](#) have provided legal assistance (Legal Advice, Alternative Dispute Resolutions and court case assistance) to 1,243 RMG workers. This initiative mobilized the female garments workers to seek for justice and the employers is being sensitized to take positive actions protecting human rights

During the Covid-19 Pandemic Workers in the [ready-made](#) garments industry were reached with awareness messages by BRAC to enhance their knowledge specific to COVID-19 pandemic. Banners at the garment facilities were hung to keep a constant nudge of life-saving information. Indigenous communities were supported with food, medical assistance, and necessary commodities such as menstrual hygiene kits for women and girls. A campaign was launched on crop security and health safety of

harvesters to support five upazilas under four [districts](#) (Kishorganj, Netrokona, Sunamganj, Habiganj) in the hard-to-reach haor (wetland) areas.

Labor:

BRAC's ongoing work to support returnees to reintegrate upon their return will continue to receive attention. Our involvement and engagement with all government and non-government stakeholders to promote internal norms and standards such as the Global Compact on Migration will continue. The [BRAC Migration Programme](#) has taken an initiative to develop BRAC's Reintegration model. The activities under this model are: immediate service at the airport/land port, psychosocial counselling, economic and social reintegration, and community awareness on reintegration. In 2021, 4,610 returnee migrants received economic as well as social and psychosocial services. It is assumed that due to COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a large number of returnee influx because of job loss and therefore, Migration Programme highly emphasizes on the reintegration in 2021. The Programme works with these COVID-19 affected returnees to help them recover their psychosocial wellbeing as well as economic loss. For creating awareness among the community people and potential migrants on safe, regular migration, and reduced human trafficking Community meetings, BRAC migration program works to create, cultural events like, Interactive Popular Theatre (IPT) and Pot song, video shows, courtyard meetings, school programmes, day observation, PEO/PDO orientation, etc. are the activities under this objective. MSEP offers pay-per service products to ensure safe, orderly, regular and skilled migration services to reduce dependency on middlemen and traffickers in disguise. [BRAC Probashbandhu Limited \(BPL\)](#), plans to seek Job placement demand from B2B overseas employers during 2021. BPL also supports to refrain the youth community from adopting unauthorized/irregular migration, avoiding the trap of the day dream sale of the middlemen. BPL also plans to support confirming employable skills, decent work opportunities for 300 Bangladeshi migrants (professionals, skilled and semi-skilled workers).

Environment:

The [BRAC Climate Change program](#) prioritizes economic recovery activities through innovative climate resilient solutions through establishing model(s) at the community level for the ultra-poor, poor, and other vulnerable households in the climate change hotspots. Activities that have been planned for implementation comprise of provision of alternative income generating activities as economic recovery including innovative cropping pattern, agricultural input, pond dyke farming, etc.; climate resilient housing facility, packaged improved sanitation facility and context specific safe water solutions; community and household level pro-poor context specific water technology; facilitate basic services for climate migrants and people at the risk of displacement for strengthening their adaptive capacity. CCP also looks into the effectiveness of interventions and innovations undertaken and does scope analysis for piloting green or



climate resilient business models. BRAC CCP developed BRAC [Environmental Policy](#) and [Environment and Social Safeguard Framework \(ESSF\)](#) for organizational level to guide BRAC's all activities to be environment friendly. CCP working collaboratively with team PRL to ensure Environmental risk assessment during the project development phase and ensure proper planning for managing those risk with sufficient allocation of resources in those projects. CCP conducted a study on effective management of medical waste amid COVID-19 pandemic to identify people's perception on medical waste, current management process, and provide a suggestion to ensure proper management of medical waste. CCP advocates for BRAC wide ban of single use plastic in all BRAC compounds. Due to CCP's initiative a Carbon Footprint Reduction Management committee is formed at HO to reduce carbon footprint through BRAC's activities. CCP planted more than 0.37 million saplings to promote carbon sequestration.

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