

United Nations Global Compact Communication on Progress 2021



Preparing for the Future of Media Development in the 4th Industrial Revolution
Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC | UN WSIS Prize Winner & Champion

United Nations Compact

Communication on Progress 2021

Statement of the Chief Executive Officer,

I am pleased to present BNNRC's 2021 Communication on Progress and to reaffirm its commitment to the United Nations Global Compact and its 10 principles.

Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) represents the community radio broadcasting sector to Government, Industry, Regulatory Bodies, Media and Development Partners from 2000.

BNNRC's approach to media development is both knowledge-driven and context-sensitive, and it takes into account the challenges and opportunities created by the rapidly changing media environment in Bangladesh including community radio development giving voices to the voiceless.

BNNRC is in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) accredited with World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), SDGs Media Compact of the United Nations and UN WSIS prize winner 2016, Champion 2017, 2019, 2020 and 2021 for media development. <http://www.bnnrc.net>

As an independent Platform, our mission is to make a lasting difference in Bangladesh by helping people improve their lives. We envision a world in which communities and societies become more prosperous, fairer and better governed, safer, healthier and environmentally more sustainable. In addition to environmental responsibility, we are committed to upholding human rights and labor standards, and to combatting corruption in all its forms.

In 2021, the environment—climate in particular—has been a point of emphasis for BNNRC. Last year, I ended my Statement of Support by noting that “responsible organizations must increasingly turn their attention to a pervasive threat that will remain the world’s biggest challenge long after COVID-19 has become a manageable disease: that threat is climate change.”

This year, we have invested significantly in our already robust climate capabilities. First, as you'll see in this document, we launched a Climate Airwaves. Climate work is nothing new at BNNRC—our partners and the media the projects we help them implement have been doing extraordinary work on climate mitigation and adaptation for many years. But under the leadership of longtime BNNRC climate and environment specialist, the Climate Airwaves is ensuring that we deliver a “whole of organization approach to our efforts, leveraging our climate programming across the wide range of BNNRC, technical disciplines and geographies to ensure that we are sharing knowledge and expertise across all our offices and projects, and helping to drive innovation. As we put it in announcing the practice, “Climate challenges cannot be addressed through ‘business as usual’ or through a single technical lens. They are multi-faceted and need to be approached holistically.”

Second, we are making sure that BNNRC itself operates in an environmentally responsible manner. On launching the new practice, with our development partners and communities.

That pledge committed BNNRC to emissions reduction targets that, if adopted by industry around the public place, would stabilize temperatures at 2°C above pre-industrial levels. BNNRC subsequently raised its sights by joining the Race to Zero campaign, which commits us to halve our emissions by 2030, in line with a 1.5°C future. And we are making public our environmental impacts through the Carbon Disclosure Project.

Most important, we continue to support our clients in their climate initiatives. In 2021, for example, we were entrusted with implementing the programs on SDGs emphasizing Goal-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13, 16 and 17. We also emphasize the NDCs lie at the heart of the Paris Agreement. Each country party to the agreement is required to prepare and execute a plan for how it will reduce its emissions and adapt to climate change—a set of climate actions known as the NDCs. BNNRC is providing technical assistance and policy advice to countries and bodies at the regional and global levels to help them upgrade and implement their NDCs.

Complementary to this work and also implemented on SDGs localization programs with the support from Switzerland for SDG-16 exclusively with 10 targets. Promoting Health Governance with the support of the Asia Foundation and other development partners like, American Centre, FNF Germany, UNWomen, GIZ, UNDP IFAD and local authorities shift to renewable energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. I was delighted to see WSIS Champion Award for BNNRC in 2021.

We are providing similarly vital support to other international donors and agencies. Given the relationship between global warming and the severity and frequency of natural disasters, we were proud to be selected this year to act as Management Agent for the U.K. Centre for Disaster Protection. The Centre will help its partner countries strengthen their pre-disaster planning and financial arrangements so they can respond more effectively when droughts, storms, or other disasters strike—for example, by developing risk financing tools and shock-responsive systems. BNNRC was selected to provide technical assistance and operational management for the Information Commission for visualization of data in VNR and SDGs Progress Report.

AHM Bazlur Rahman
Chief Executive Officer
BNNRC | www.bnnrc.net

Overview of BNNRC

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We are pleased to present BNNRC's 2021 Communication on Progress and to reaffirm its commitment to the United Nations Global Compact and its 10 principles.

BNNRC earned remarkable achievements and successes in the last 20 years through extraordinary strategic and visionary leadership and supported by a remarkable team, an engaging Board of Trustees, and an excellent group of implementing partners.

BNNRC believes that digital technologies can help everyone, everywhere, and help access the services that the community needs more transparently and quickly. Digital technologies can provide identities to people seeking services; anticipate where disaster-affected communities will need assistance and communicate with people in remote areas on different social and economic issues.

In recent years, BNNRC through its strategic transformative ideas in the field of community media attempted to understand, appreciate and embrace useful digital technologies to reach out to the larger community more effectively and efficiently.

Digital Bangladesh by 2021 vision of the Government proposes to mainstream ICTs as a pro-poor tool to eradicate poverty, establish good governance, ensure social equity through quality education, healthcare and law enforcement for all, and prepare the people for climate change. The key funding partners are aligning with building E-applications, E-agriculture, E-business, E-commerce, E-employment, E-environment, E-government, E-health, E-publishing, E-education and E-science in line with World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Action Line. A focus on digital public goods for ICT development is becoming mainstream, in particular through momentum from the United Nations Secretary-General High-level Panel for Digital Cooperation.

BNNRC's new Strategic Directions highlight five key areas of focus in delivering the new mission:

- Facilitate on-demand appropriate visual content.

- Foster social dialogue to establish development agenda through collaboration, knowledge exchange, and advocacy.
- Promote a people-centered approach that invests in human potential using media for inclusive societies to address the challenges of digital transformation.
- Enable equitable and fairer digitalization process
- Strengthen BNNRC as an organization

In each Strategic Direction, four Key Initiatives provided a framework around which actions will be developed to strengthen programs and achieve the vision.

The BNNRC Vision: Enable access to “on-demand” knowledge for all, using appropriate media to foster public debate for shaping their development agenda and assume responsibilities as citizens in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The BNNRC Mission: is to enable a media literate, informed and participatory society so that the underserved societies can shape their lives and livelihoods through the following:

- Fostering public debate, media pluralism and democracy using the power of information and communication
- Amplifying the voices of vulnerable, marginalized and excluded people in development debates
- Working with media and other information stakeholders to support people and communities to bring about positive changes in their lives and livelihoods

Through a **Theory of Change (ToC)**, we have explained how a given intervention, or set of interventions as designed by BNNRC, is expected to lead to specific development change, drawing on a causal analysis based on available evidence.

With the given new vision, mission and role, BNNRC need an all-encompassing organizational structure that involves and deploys the key strategic expertise/resources and specific project/program staff to fulfill the needs of a particular project/program. Competent managers and leaders will be the blocks on which BNNRC can build its future. Together they have to be able to make day-to-day decisions and handle issues that arise daily.

Based on the future program needs, we have suggested a matrix organization system for BNNRC which will be better utilization of skills and resources available. The team created could be dynamic and chosen to suit the project. Since people with specialized skills are pulled in, it could mean an increase in the depth of knowledge and skill set. This opens up new career paths for the employees involved in the project.

BNNRC COVID-19: Adaptation Priorities - Objectives & Broadcast Contents through Community Radio & Community Visual Radio in Bangladesh

Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) has been struggling for the last 20 years for opening up and strengthening the community media sector including Community Radio and giving focus on its vital role as voices of the voiceless rural people from 2000.

BNNRC has been mobilizing all community radios for developing and broadcasting awareness-building programs on COVID-19: contamination to protect lives and livelihoods from March 1, 2020, to 31 May 2020.

From March 1, 2020, to 31 May 2020 BNNRC has been working on COVID -19 covering the following issues: 1. Animate CSOs, Government, health service providers and communities for reinforcing collective action in pre and during COVID-19 2. Response for achieving keeping community people's daily life normal and livelihood function, 3. Mobilize further cooperation among government, CSOs, local market and communities' response

In times of crisis, information saves lives. In the response to Covid-19, we see how vital it is to get accurate and trusted messages to people so that they know what they need to do and where they can get help when they need it. Now 18 Community Radios stations in Bangladesh have been broadcasting 165 hours of Coronavirus prevention education with the active participation of community people. There are 1000 community youth and youth women community radio broadcasters broadcast programs for 6.5 million listeners and watchers.

From 1st June 2020 BNNRC has developed COVID-19: Adaptation Initiatives and Interventions according to Technical Instructions of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on COVID-19 Pandemic to Protect and Control Social and Institutional Contamination that can help to look at the response through an equity lens, focus on people's enhanced capabilities & follow a coherent multidimensional approach for achieving of the four specific objectives below:

Objective -01

Enhance the capabilities of affected communities through an equity lens for adapting/coping/surviving with the new normal situation

Broadcast Contents:

- Follow and exercise of Technical Instructions of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on COVID-19 Pandemic to Protect and Control Social and Institutional Contamination
- Develop and Broadcast programs through an equity lens for Dalit and disadvantaged communities (like Barber, sweeper, shoe shiner, blacksmith, fishermen, transgender/hijra, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable communities including unattended people and people out of the attention of the society etc.) of Community Radio Broadcasting areas
- Analysis impact of social safety net program of government and highlighted further steps for deprived people through virtual/online social dialogue with the participation of communities
- Promote better health governance to sensitize health interventions to reduce inequity and incoordination for equal and quality health services in line with communicable and non-communicable disease

- The program should be given on science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) with the participation of community people through multi-generation reach and multi-media presence

Objective -02

Focus on enhanced capabilities of Broadcasters and Stakeholders for exercising new normal and building resilience

- Follow and exercise Technical Instructions of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on COVID-19 Pandemic to Protect and Control Social and Institutional Contamination.
- Rethinking to build knowledge of community broadcasters through a massive open online course (MOOC) by effective access to present-day technologies
- Transform community radio stations to address the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic through online presence like Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter in line with reskilling, upskilling and deskillling
- Develop new skills for program development and behavioral change for pre & post-production and broadcasting creatively and innovatively among the stakeholders

Objective -03

Accelerate of ICT applications for benefitting community people in all aspects of life

- Develop and Broadcast integrated programs on education, primary health care, nutrition, employment and disaster shocks adaptation creatively and innovatively.
- Develop program and broadcast about use of ICT applications for maximizing health, social and economic benefits for a community like E-government, E-business, E-learning, E-health, E-employment, E-environment and E-agriculture
- Develop and broadcast program on access to local medical knowledge and locally-relevant content resources for strengthening primary health care and promoting reproductive health
- Develop and broadcast program to promote collaborative efforts of governments, health professionals, and stakeholders for creating reliable, timely, access to quality and affordable health services and information for protecting citizens' livelihood and right to privacy
- Develop and Broadcast program for continuous flow of income of rural community people focusing the multiple interconnected dimensions (economic and several social aspects and violence-free family)
- Programs develop and broadcast on the role of ICTs (positive and negative impact) and media/social media on community people's daily lives and work for combatting challenges caused by COVID-19

- To make the transition from the physical classroom to the virtual classroom, community radio broadcaster/teacher need to 6 main areas of skills and knowledge (1. environmental 2. Technical 3. Interpersonal 4. Pedagogical 5. Behavioral 6. motivational)

Objective -04

Effective access to reliable information through ICT and media for countering infodemic and keeping lives & livelihood easy

- Develop and broadcast programs using multimedia platforms for countering traditional myths, misinformation and disinformation through providing scientific information for helping prevent the spread of false information
- Encourage community people to the strategic use of the computer, mobile phone and social media (Facebook, YouTube, Imo, Viber etc.) to protect their income erosion/disruption and build knowledge, education and to find accurate information
- Program develop and broadcast on unequal access to present-day technology and media of community people and organize virtual/online and studio-based social dialogues between supply and demand side to reduce inequality

Community Radios stations, as one of the sources of information, helping to raise awareness on COVID- 19 and reinforce Behavior Change Communication (BCC) by CSOs, Government, health officials and locally elected bodies (LEB). Community Radio stations are building awareness to change attitudes among community people at different points in their daily lives. Community Radio stations, as a platform for those who involve in COVID -19 responses to update rural communities. They are also providing a channel for two-way communication with community people where listeners are sending SMS or call in with questions. Community Radio stations have been coordinating with the District and Upazila level Coronavirus Prevention Committees. Community Radio stations have assigned one broadcaster in each radio station as the focal person to coordinate COVID – 19 programs.

Community Radio stations are broadcasting programs on COVID -19 in local languages or dialects. Community Radio stations are producing content that speaks directly to localized issues and concerns, and features trusted local people in a way that nationally or regionally produced content cannot. It is working and has a very positive effect on rural communities. Community Radio stations help to reduce the panic of COVID – 19 gradually by broadcasting awareness programs. Now the community people are taking precautionary measures to prevent contamination of COVID – 19. People now understand more about COVID – 19. Community Radio stations have already been established as a well-trusted source of information for rural people of Bangladesh.

Promoting human rights and inclusiveness is the priority area of BNNRC, which is covering and contributing to empowering women and girls. Economic growth has been a central focus of development which eventually contributes to breaking the social discrimination and facilitating youth employment as well as the economic empowerment process.

BNNRC supports disadvantaged communities to draw the attention of the policy and decision-makers of the state for improving their life and livelihood.

In the last two decades, digital applications have come to affect almost every aspect of our daily lives as well as our plans for the future. The youths are getting the opportunity to use the computer in different ways- browsing the internet, websites, news portals, social media (YouTube, Facebook, etc.)

BNNRC supports the community people learned about the diversified culture which helps to reduce the social taboo and gradually increase inclusive culture.

BNNRC and SDGs

BNNRC is a National Apex Body on Community Media Development Working for Building a Democratic Society based on the Principles of Free Flow of Information, Equitable & Affordable Access to Information & Communication Technology (ICT) for remote & marginalized populations. BNNRC is in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) accredited with the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) of the United Nations from 2003 and WSIS prize winner 2016, Champion 2017, 2019, 2020 & 2021.

BNNRC intervention on SDGs and Targets

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

3. 8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services, and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and culture's contribution to sustainable development

Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

6.1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

9. c Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in the least developed countries by 2020

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime

16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

BNNRC utilizes the Power of Community Radio for amplifying Voices of Rural Disadvantaged Community

BNNRC has been addressing the community radio access to information issue for the last two decades, helping to bridge the information gap of rural Bangladesh. Community Radio is playing a significant role in empowering local communities, giving a platform to amplify rural voices, and influencing the power groups such as representing local government departments and elected members, civil society-based organizations, etc. Community Radio has now become part of the life of the rural disadvantaged communities.

The Community Radio Stations are currently covering more than 9 million listeners in the country, aiming to ensure empowerment and the right to information for the rural communities. They are broadcasting an altogether 165 hours program per day through localization and harmonizing of SDGs, information, education, local entertainment, and development motivation activities. Around 1000 Youth (46% female) are now working in those CR stations throughout the country as rural broadcasters.

Community Radio programs are quite supportive of the activities reflected in the 8th 5-year plan of the Government of Bangladesh, UN World Summit on the Information Society (UN WSIS) Action Plan, and UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) and UN Convention Against Corruption (UN CAC) to ensure leverage their free opinion in respect of social, economic, political, cultural and environmental issues including Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change & Adaptation (CCA).

BNNRC is Utilizing the Power of Community Radio for Inclusiveness, Access to Information & Knowledge for all in understanding their rights as well as raising their voices

In the broader aspects, the potentials of Community Radios in Bangladesh are:

Empowers People- More Trusted Inclusive & Independent Content provided by Community Radio Stations. Increasing effective political participation through Multi-Generation Reach by influencing knowledge & understanding discussion, efficacy & motivation skills, and changing of attitude, beliefs, norms, and behavior.

Creates Space-Developing a more inclusive public space through Multi-Platform Presence & Multi-Generation Reach that supports the mediation of state-market-society relations, Re-imagining of social relations, connectedness & bridging, and collective problem-solving.

Influencing Power– Improving the responsiveness from Power Holders by demanding issue-based solutions, supporting people to ask questions to locally elected bodies and others for Setting community agenda

Our work in stories:

1. COVID-19: Misinformation, Prevention and Health Campaign through Community Radios in Bangladesh
2. Countering misinformation & fake news about Covid-19 through Community Radio Stations in Bangladesh
3. COVID-19 Prevent Violence against Women, Create a peaceful Society through Community Radios in Bangladesh
4. Strengthening Lobby & Advocacy on Community Media Development in Bangladesh
5. Emergency Support Community Radio Boral due to Amphan cyclone
6. Awareness Campaign on prevention of Violence against Women, Child Rights and Community based Dispute resolution through Community Radio Show titled 'Khola Janala'
7. COVID-19: Coronavirus Prevention Education through Sixteen Community Radio Stations in Bangladesh
8. Ten Days Campaign for Engaging Father to Prevent Child Marriage at Communities through Community Radio Stations in Bangladesh
9. Community-led initiatives for climate justice and resilience in the islands and coastal areas of the Bay of Bengal in Bangladesh
10. Announcements are for the benefit of family farmers through Community Radio in Bangladesh
11. Media Campaign on Access to Justice and Reducing Violence against Women and Children through Community Radio-a partnership program
12. Rights for Gender Diverse Population through Community Radio (Third Gender)

Our Stakeholders:

Rural communities especially disadvantaged communities, ethnic and indigenous communities, persons with disabilities, transgender communities, academia, media personnel, govt. departments, local govt. institutions etc.

Our development partners:

Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) is supported by contributions from different development organizations worldwide who share a commitment to building a free, independent, and pluralistic community media of voices for the voiceless!

Strategic Direction		Goals
1	Facilitate the development of “on-demand”	Goal-1.1: To empower the community and social broadcasters on developing on-demand content.
	Appropriate Visual	Goal-1.2: To build an innovative and effective network at a hyper-local level using social media for participating in social

	Content improving life and livelihood.	for debate.
		Goal-1.3: To upgrade and reskill the capacities of social media holders to report on local-level issues.
		Goal-1.4: To address Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change issues through social and community media.
2	Foster Social dialogue to establish Development Agenda through collaboration, knowledge exchange and advocacy.	Goal-2.1: To develop strategic relationships/partnerships with local and national level like-minded organizations.
		Goal-2.2: To mobilize community media/ social media and other stakeholders to support community people to shape their development agenda.
		Goal-2.3: To develop knowledge materials through research and development for the policymakers and relevant authorities on emerging digital issues.
3	Promote a People-centered Approach that invests in human potential using media for inclusive societies to address the challenges of digital transformation.	Goal-3.1: To enhance the capacities of the community/social media and networking organizations on the upcoming digital challenges and opportunities.
		Goal-3. 2: To build content decoding skills and responsible strategies for applying content to daily life.
		Goal-3.3: To enhance inclusivity and tolerance, social harmony, cultural diversity, peace and inter-faith interactions through citizen engagement focusing on youth, women and vulnerable groups.
4	Enable an equitable and fairer digitalization process	Goal 4.1: Making it easier for people to choose and use appropriate technologies to deliver services in support of the Sustainable Development Goals
		Goal 4.2: Ensuring access to electronic delivery of government services, electronic commerce, social networks, and availability of online information in fora, blogs and portals for all)
		Goal 4.3: Keeping the community knowledgeable and safe from cybersecurity, privacy and data safety-related issues.

BNNRC believes in enabling access to “on-demand” knowledge for all, using appropriate media to foster public debate for shaping their development agenda and assuming responsibilities as citizens in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. It also enables a media literate, informed, and participatory society so that the underserved societies can shape their lives and livelihoods through the following:

Fostering public debate, media pluralism, and democracy using the power of information and communication

Amplifying the voices of vulnerable, marginalized, and excluded people in development debates

Working with media and other information stakeholders to support people and communities to bring about positive changes in their lives and livelihoods

It Enhances the capabilities of rural communities through an equity lens for adapting to the new normal situation. BNNRC focuses to enhance capabilities for building resilience and accelerating ICT applications for benefitting community people in all aspects of life. Public access to reliable and timely information through ICT and media for countering misinformation, disinformation, and mal-information and keeping lives & livelihood easy for community people is very significant.

In this perspective, BNNRC has been working for better adaptation and coping with the new normal situation of COVID-19 pandemic demands and resetting new objectives

Enhance the capabilities of affected communities through an equity lens for adapting, coping and surviving with the new normal situation

Focus on enhanced capabilities of Broadcasters and Stakeholders for exercising new normal and building resilience

Accelerate of ICT applications for benefitting community people in all aspects of life

Effective public access to reliable and timely information through ICT and media for countering infodemic and keeping lives & livelihood easy

The community radio should enhance capabilities for dissemination of trusted and reliable information to access quality health at all levels work for promoting high-quality education and encouraging effective access to present-day technology for resilience to unknown shocks.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)-16 focuses on inclusive societies, democracy, strong institutions, justice, and rule of law. SDG-16 is the key goal and the driver of all other sustainable goals. BNNRC aimed at fostering public debate for sustainable development for a peaceful and inclusive society. There is an intrinsic link between SDG-16 and SDG implementation. To foster public debate and sensitize stakeholders for convergence of these issues at the national and community level is very essential. Progress in the implementation of SDG-16 is much slower in Bangladesh due to the narrow focus of the Government on the

goal, shrinking civil society space to raise concerns that are sensitive for the Government, and also lack peoples' awareness on accessing their rights to information. Considering the importance of the issue BNNRC has been fostering public debates and sensitizing stakeholders at the national and community level with special emphasis on SDGs localization for a peaceful and inclusive society.

BNNRC has been working at the national level with the General Economic Division (GED) of the Bangladesh Planning Commission, Principal Coordinator of SDGs to the Prime Minister's office. It works as the NGO Focal of the Ministry of Information to work on the process of SDGs Implementation Report (SIR), SDG localization, and Voluntary National Review (VNR). BNNRC jointly submitted the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) with Free Press Unlimited, the Netherlands on SDG-16:10 in 2017 and in May 2020 on the Situation of COVID-19 Pandemic in Bangladesh. BNNRC is also working with the Information Commission continuously about SDG 16:10.

BNNRC is working at the regional level with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP) and Internationally with the United Nations and ECOSOC. After completion of the SDGs process and final selection of Goals, BNNRC started working with Community Radio Stations and other Stakeholders for its implementation. BNNRC provided training for stakeholders and prepared a handbook for community radios. BNNRC published a poster with the Information Commission highlighting SDG-16 and mobilizing the national level and involved with different initiatives of the government, i.e. VNR, UPR and the SIR.

SDG 16 is promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. SDG 16 as a Goal is both an outcome and an enabler of sustainable development since it is closely interlinked with other SDGs. Without peace, justice, and inclusion, achieving goals such as ending poverty, ensuring education, promoting economic growth can be difficult or impossible. At the same time, various SDGs can help or hinder the achievement of SDG 16.

BNNRC has recognized that SDG-16 with its 12 wide-ranging targets on issues around peaceful, just, and inclusive societies is linked with the achievement of the entire 2030 agenda. Fostering public debate and sensitizing the stakeholders on SDG-16 for creating a peaceful and inclusive society is essential for amplifying the voices of vulnerable, marginalized, and excluded people and involving them in the development debate.

The Voluntary National Review (VNR), Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Process, and the process of SDGs Implementation Report (SIR) have been providing information in line with the achievement of SDGs. But major challenges of SDGs implementation lie in aligning it with national planning and policy processes. The other challenges include management, coordination and leadership for SDG implementation; partnership and stakeholder participation including institutional arrangements; data-related issues and capacity of the national statistical agencies; financing and other means of implementation including systemic issues. To improve the above the following steps are to be taken under the proposed project.

Review the draft periodic reports, provide input, and find out ways to reach more untouched people by the government for effective implementation of SDG 16 especially 16:10 with emphasis to 16:10:2

Assess the progress of the SDG 16 goal in Bangladesh, capture the lessons, and provide feedback to the government

Fostering debate for effective implementation of SDG 16.10 at the national and grassroots level by the government

Find out challenges and way forward for the achievement of SDG 16 especially 16:10 with emphasis to 16:10:2

The interventions intend to sensitize mainstream and community media, youth, and other stakeholders who in turn will support disadvantaged people and marginalized communities. Such support enables the beneficiaries to learn, demand, and access their rights to information and services for bringing positive changes in their lives and livelihood. The initiative sensitized government officials, civil society, and policymakers through a participatory consultative process to identify policy gaps, provide recommendations, and initiate adaptive measures for the implementation of SDG-16.

The COVID-19 pandemic is much more than a health crisis and is threatening to leave deep social, economic and political scars for years to come. BNNRC developed a wide range of information collected from different sources including WHO, UNICEF, CDC, DGHS and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and disseminated for radio stations for conducting health education for raising awareness on prevention of COVID 19 pandemic. BNNRC is actively disseminating reliable and timely information, including scripts and backgrounders, about how to plan and produce effective COVID-19 radio programming; Creating or activating spaces, such as social media groups, to give radio broadcasters a place to learn from each other about best practices in COVID-19 community radio programming and new normal situations.

It is important to develop connections between broadcasters and health authorities in government, and civil society to ensure accurate, reliable and timely information goes out and myths are debunked. Interventions are essential for reminding community broadcasters of the steps they can take to stay healthy; commending community broadcasters and other journalists for being on the frontline and continuing to work in these conditions. Now it is essential to work with the COVID-19 pandemic for achieving the targets of SDG 16. Considering the global health crisis some national and local level initiatives are required to involve multi-stakeholders including youths in the process.

The main goal of the interventions is to create an enabling environment to fight against poverty and injustice to contribute to sustainable inclusive development through SDG:16.

The objective is to empower men and women and connected to making a just, inclusive, and peaceful society.

1. BNNRC Produced and Published Yearly Shadow Report on SDG-16

2. Produced and published Policy Brief about 10 targets of SDG-16 (Current Situation): A total of 10 policy briefs developed and published in both electronic and print versions.

3 Organized dialogues meetings with multi-stakeholders: Stakeholders included General Economic Division (GED) of the Bangladesh Planning Commission, Information Commission, Principal Coordinator of SDGs Affairs to the Prime Minister's office, Human Rights Commission and Law Enforcement Agencies such as RAB, BGB, Army and Bangladesh Police. Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Press Information Department (PID), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) and Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB). Challenges and way forward of implementation of SDG-16:

4. Produced and published SDGs Advocacy Practical Toolkit on SDG-16 - electronic and print both with all 10 targets e covered including health governance issue and COVID-19 issue.

5. Fellowship for Journalists on 10 Targets of SDG-16: Fellowship was awarded to 5 Journalists to work on 10 targets of SDG-16 for producing progress, challenges, and a way forward. Two mentors guided them to collect data, maintain the quality of data and produced quality reports. Before the publication of the report, the mentor will edit the reports. The two most senior and expert journalists have been selected in line with their experience.

6. Developed SDG-16 hub (www.sdg16bdhub.net): The website has been designed to allow all stakeholders with an interest in SDG-16 to learn about the key pillars related to SDG 16, share knowledge and collaborate. It includes resources on SDG-16 that are produced by UN agencies, governments, other stakeholders as well as multi-stakeholder initiatives. SDG-16 BD Hub created, preserved, disseminated and facilitate utilization of knowledge on SDG 16. The SDG 16 Hub will be designed to work as a one-stop service for knowledge and collaboration on SDG 16. It does so by offering a growing collection of resources on SDG 16 in a searchable database.

SDG-16 localization process

Organized Issue-based Social Open Dialogues through Community Radio:

The dialogues on SDG-16 organized both off-line and online basis with participation from local stakeholders along with local elected bodies, community people/youth, and youth women.

- The dialogues cover the following issues:
- Reduce violence and related deaths
- End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against children
- Access to justice for all
- Reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
- Birth registration

Public access to information: Health Governance and Integration of COVID-19 in SDGs for reliable and timely information for countering misinformation and fake news

The dialogue empowers people to increase effective participation through increasing knowledge and understanding about the discussion and changing of attitude, beliefs, norms, and behavior. It has been creating space for developing a more inclusive public that supports the mediation of state-market-society relations, re-imagining of social relations, connectedness, bridging, and collective problem-solving. It has been improving the responsiveness from the demand and supply side and set up their local agenda to support the people to ask questions to local elected bodies.

Developed and Broadcast programs on progress, challenges and way forward on the 10 Targets of SDG-16: All Community Radio Stations developed and broadcast the program and around 9 million listeners have been reached through the programs. The program formats were Magazine, Radio Talks, Dialogue and discussion meetings. The community people will be aware of the issues of governance of different government departments including health and integration of COVID-19 in SDGs 16:10 for reliable, scientific and timely information for countering misinformation and fake news about COVID-19. The relation will be established between the supply-side and demand side. The service providers will be interested in providing relevant information. The voice of voiceless people of the society will be raised.

Digital storytelling through Community Radio and Social Media on 10 targets of SDG-16: Most significant cases have been collected on the present situation, the changes made, and in the future about SDG-16 from the local and national levels.

Developed and Broadcast program on amplifying youth and youth women voices and participation in SDGs opportunities: The programs have been developed on varied issues including youth education, employment, youth entrepreneurship, start-up, Training Vocational Education and Training (TVET), gender disparity in youth education, involve youths for preventing COVID-19 pandemic at the community level, youth in marginalized communities and its progress, challenges, and way forward.

Fellowship provided for disadvantaged youth and youth women on SDGs localization: The fellowship to the disadvantaged community (Sweeper, Blacksmith, Cleaner, Dalits, Shoe shiner, Transgender, Persons with disabilities) youth and youth women for increasing their skills for harmonizing with community media operation (including anchoring pre and post-production, console panel handling, scriptwriting, and editing), claiming government safety net for community, write reports on the challenges of their community and way forward for influencing public decision making at a local level.

Produced and published a handbook for Community Radio on 10 targets of SDG-16 with emphasis on SDG 16:10 and integration of COVID-19 for protecting infodemic through scientific and timely information

Journalists and community media journalists/broadcasters have been using the toolkit for writing reports on the issue SDG 16. The handbook uses guidelines on how to write and publish accurate, fair and balanced reports on pandemics or any other emergency like COVID-19 and other future shocks.

Hyperlocal method for youth engagement (hyperlocal youth community radio listeners connect directly with the program through Zoom, Facebook, and Skype)

Hyperlocal is a process for relating to or focusing on matters concerning a small community or geographical specific area through social media or other means of communication. The ideas and information are disseminated to the hyperlocal youth through using Social Media like Facebook, YouTube, and online platform.

Social Media has been playing a significant role in the development of the youth community for connecting them and setting their agenda. The hyper-local people are being involved with the wider discussion about SDG 16 especially SDC 16:10 public access to information. The issue of health governance of COVID-19 pandemic highlighted for reliable scientific and timely information for countering misinformation and fake news among the community people.

The initiative has been increased effective participation through increasing knowledge & understanding of the discussion, beliefs, norms, behavioral change, and communication. It has been created a space for developing more inclusive support to the mediation of state-market-society relations, re-imagining of social relations, connectedness & bridging, and collective problem-solving. Improve the responsiveness of demand and supply side, and set up their local agenda by the youths to support them and ask questions to local elected bodies.

Strengthening capacity of Community Radio Station and Amateur Radio in the coastal belt of Bangladesh along with facilitating information and education as empowerment through community radio especially tailoring the need of adolescent, youth, women, children and help to cope with climate change. This will directly help the coastal burghers and government to secure Sustainable Development Goal no. 1,3,6 and 13.

Project Objectives:

- To increase and improve knowledge of community women and men including adolescent and young adults on sexual reproductive health rights (SRHR), climate change, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and cyclone preparedness through community radio programs
- To ensure the Right to Information for people living hard to reach the area in the coastal belt.
- To build the capacity of Community Radio Station Managers, Program Producers, and Broadcasters, in their ability to communicate and facilitate the impact of climate change on the people living on the coastal belt.
- Built and strengthened the network of Amateur Radio by the formation of Amateur Radio Clubs in the coastal belt.
- Set up a new Community Radio Station in Sandip (Chattogram) and provide all technical support to run that.
- Capacity strengthening of the staff of the new Community Radio Station and eight other existing Community Radio stations in the coastal area by arranging meetings.

- Built strong Amateur Radio network in the coastal belt and formation of 6 Amateure Radio Clubs in Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Bhola, Hatiya (Noakhali), Kutubdia (Cox's Bazar), and Bagerhat by providing equipment and training.
- Community awareness on DRR, Climate adaptations, protecting adolescents, youth women, and children raised in the islands and the vicinity of CRSs.
- Violence against women reduced.
- Adolescent dropouts from school and child marriage reduced.
- Adolescent, youth, and women empowerment are visible and they will take part in the decision-making process in families as well as in the community.
- Amateur radio/wireless networks will be active during the disaster period for emergency communication while mobile networks will be failed.
- A network of adolescents and women will be activated as dignified citizens having facilitated dialogue with policymakers at the national level.

The major focus of the initiatives is to aware & educate adolescents and women on sexual & reproductive health rights (SRHR), mitigate social disparity and build a strong network through Amateur Radio Club and Community Radio in coastal areas to acquaint them with disaster risk reduction and adaptation with climate change.

Sustainable and Inclusive involvement of community-led resilience building through community media. Representing youth and marginalized communities for utilizing access to information

- Adolescents, youth, women, children can cope with climate change through facilitating information and education as empowerment through community media.
- Amateur Radio plays a vital role to communicate to get proper disaster information and rescue service.
- To ensure the Right to Information for people living hard to reach the area in the coastal belt.
- To build the capacity of Community Radio Station Managers, Program Producers, and Broadcasters, in their ability to communicate and facilitate the impact of climate change on the people living on the coastal belt.

The Bangladesh government has also set up Disaster Management Act 2012 to reduce the overall disaster of the people, including the pre-preparation to combat the disaster, and to increase the capacity needed to manage humanitarian assistance, recovery, and rehabilitation programs for the distressed people more efficiently. National Disaster Management Policy 2015 has been approved following Article 19 of the Disaster Management Act 2012. To ensure the right to information about women's disasters through the promotion and practice of constitutional guarantees of equal rights; Increasing the number of women members in rural and local government departments from all disaster committees, empowering women, creating disasters and creating sensitive society, etc.

In the National 8th Five Year Plan (2020-2025), gender equality has been firmly stated. There is also a separate section on climate change and disaster management, where all the development of national development has been said to be gender-sensitive. The goals and objectives of this project, the program will play a positive role in those issues.

Also, in vision 2021 gender bias is defined and the importance of reducing the risk of climate change is discussed more than once. The project can also contribute to Delta 2100, by enabling socio-economic development under uncertain changing conditions, especially regarding climate change mostly

Empowering Dalit Youth Women in Community Media and Rural Journalism through Fellowship is a project designed by focusing on creating an enabling environment for Dalit youth women for empowerment.

The goal of the project is to create an enabling environment for rural Dalit youth women to amplify their voices through Community Media Fellowship in Bangladesh.

Promoting human rights and Inclusiveness is the priority area of the project which will cover and contribute to empowering women and girls. The project will increase the effective participation of fellows through multi-generation reach, creating space for a more inclusive public space and improving the responsiveness of power holders.

The objectives of the project are to increase the skills, knowledge on expanding and economic growth, and media engagement opportunities for rural Dalit youth women. Increase access to basic education, improve learning outcomes, and increase teaching skills to further increase the educational opportunities for creating unique learning opportunities.

The rural Dalit youth women from Barber, Cleaner, Shoe shiner, Blacksmith, and Fishermen family are the target audience. The Fellows are belonging to low-class poor families and also lower-caste families. The religions are Muslim, Hindu, Buddhists, and Christian. Dalit youth women are the most vulnerable and unattended people in society and deprived of education due to poverty. They are out of the attention of society and always ignored and left behind. A total of 120 Dalit youth women will participate in the Fellowship program aged between 18 to 30.

The community will recognize the problems by identifying and understanding the nature of the problem, through Community media and the local newspaper about the barriers of empowerment of rural Dalit youth women. Issues of the excluded communities' rural Dalit will be reflected in journalism and contributed to drawing the attention of the policy and decision-makers of the state for improving their lives and livelihood using local resources.

After competition of fellowship tenure, fellows will be linked with the local community radio stations as professionals: reporters, producers, and presenters. They will be provided support in linking with the national media (print and electronic) outlets so that their professionalism can grow and continue.

The innovation of the projects is in line with the following areas

Inclusive basic services: The Dalit and disadvantaged community are also remaining untouched in this venture due to our social malpractice. The situation of the rural Dalit communities is more vulnerable.

Through fellows' reporting and lobbying with the local Govt. administration and public representatives already a large number of disadvantaged Dalit people are enjoying the government's allowance under the social safety net program worth around 356,000 US dollars.

Inclusive Economy: Economic growth has been a central focus of development. But the economic situation of the Dalit communities is more vulnerable. Their distance from policy-making urban centers casts a double cloak of invisibility over women in this community. The number of Dalit youth women professionals increased in community and print media, which eventually contribute to breaking the social discrimination and youth employment as well as economic empowerment process.

Political inclusion: Through fellows' reporting the issues of the excluded Dalit communities are reflected in journalism and contributed to drawing the attention of the policy and decision-makers of the state for improving their life and livelihood. Now Dalit community can exercise their civic rights, freely and safely and without barriers.

Digital inclusion: The Dalits community in our country are extremely poor and they are obliged to work as manual laborers, thus they are extremely vulnerable, socially, economically, and politically.

In the last two decades, digital applications have come to affect almost every aspect of our daily lives, as well as our plans for the future. But unfortunately, the Dalit community is excluded from this sector also.

Through the fellowship, the youth women got the opportunity to use the computer in many different ways - a host of useful software and their operations. Browsing internet websites, news portals, social media (YouTube, Facebook, etc.), audio and video editing, picture editing, writing reports, translating documents through Google translator, live video chatting over Skype, and a host of other very useful software. In addition to all these, they are also exposed to many radio and broadcasting instruments and panels.

Inclusive culture: Through fellows reporting the community people learned about the diversification of the culture of the Dalit community by the Dalit people. As a result, the social taboo, and stereotype mentality on the Dalit community have been changed so the Dalit community is now exercising their cultural and religious rituals freely without any barrier.

In Bangladesh, only 18% of the people mentioned in the news are female and 16% of reporters are female (Ref: Global Media Monitoring Project-2015). This crisis has created the context for encouraging the entrance of women in the media with the development agenda. Besides, the Dalit are neglected and Community Radios can be the best platform for local youth women to be the entry point in media and journalism for establishing their rights.

Communication capacity and access to information will enable these youth women groups to lead a change by demonstrating the voice of the voiceless. To help access quality, evidence-based information and will provide access to different platforms to engage with experienced professionals to gain insights and share experiences and perspectives. The specific of the objective will be:

- Increase the skills, knowledge on expanding and economic growth and media engagement opportunity for rural Dalit youth women
- Facilitate in creating an enabling environment for the rural youth women to be enrolled in the media and journalism to develop as professional community media journalists and access to improve health, economic and educational opportunities for communities
- Improve health outcomes, preventative care to underserved rural and remote communities, and better sharing of information among healthcare facilities and build the capacity of rural Dalit youth women in working as a bridge for the disadvantaged and marginalized community.
- Access to basic education, improve learning outcomes and increase teaching skills to further increase the educational opportunities for creating unique learning opportunities