Communication on Engagement

United Nations Global Compact

BNNRC

Bangladesh NGOs Network for
Radio and Communication

20 years

Preparing for the Future of Media Development in the 4th Industrial Revolution

Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC │ UN WSIS Prize Winner & Champions

Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive Officer

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement: January 2022- December 2023

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.

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, 2021 and 2023 for media development and digital transformation.

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

I am pleased to confirm that Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labor, Environment, and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact.

BNNRC has been accredited by the UN Open-ended working group (OEWG) on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) 2001-2025.

BNNRC's endeavour is to media development, security of and in the use of information and communications technologies and Build confidence and security in the use of ICTs both knowledge-driven and ongoing issues of media, keeping in view the challenges and opportunities of the rapidly changing reality of media since 2000.

BNNRC's intervention is to increase knowledge and awareness of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and regularly inform policymakers and stakeholders about the rapidity and liveliness of the multifaceted impacts of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

BNNRC has been provided space and equipment for Executive Secretariat of the Bangladesh Initiative for Connecting, Empowering & Amplifying Unified Voices on

Global Digital Compact and Summit of the Future from 2022 and Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum 2006.

In this Communication on Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

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Overview of BNNRC:

BNNRC has already developed a new Vision, Mission and Strategic Goals and Objectives with the consultation of the multi-stakeholder.

Vision is:
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.

Mission is:
Our mission is to enable a media-literate, informed and participative society so that 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 Technology

- 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

Strategic Goals and Objectives
- **Facilitate the development** of "on-demand" Appropriate Visual Content for improving life and livelihood.
- **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 an equitable and fairer** digitalization process.

Approach

Working strategies are:

- **Communicating on the Public Sphere**: The role of communication and media in exercising democratic political participation in society

- **Communicating Knowledge**: The terms and means by which knowledge generated by society is communicated, or blocked, for use by different groups.

- **Civil Rights in Communication**: The exercise of civil rights relating to the processes of communication in society &

- **Cultural Rights in Communication**: The communication of diverse cultures, cultural forms, and identities at the individual and social levels.

Collaboration with Private Sector:
Promoting Skills and Support for Rural Youth and Youth Women for Empowerment through Community Engagement

BNNRC has been developed a partnership with GAP Inc. USA for Promoting Skills and Support for Rural Youth and Youth Women for Empowerment through Community Engagement. Goal is; Enhance capacity for rural youth women through foundational skill development for their empowerment in society and promote the youth community with gender equity in leadership, safety, and well-being through community engagement.

Project Objectives are
- To create opportunities to thrive with life skills, technical training, and support for women and adolescents
- To engage men and boys in giving women a voice and an opportunity to positively change the course of their lives
- To promote women's leadership by raising their voices to demand mediation

	Key Indicators	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
IMPACT			
Women are empowered through personal advancement and career enhancement for become self-reliant	Government Policy Makers are stimulated, and positive, and have initiated participatory plans for women's empowerment	Project completion report compared with the preliminary report	Natural disasters and delayed approval from NGO Affairs Bureau
Women increased knowledge of and participation in sustainable actions and initiatives Men's and women's engagement increased	Women increased involvement in decision-making vis-à-vis the use of sustainable practices at the household and community level	Project completion report compared with the preliminary report	
OUTCOMES			
Outcome-1 Institutions are engaged in providing support for women's empowerment	By the end of this project, 30% of targeted stakeholders were sensitized to the issue	Pre and post-assessment	
Outcome 2: Financial inclusion of Women increased and improved their ability to use personal and	By the end of this project, 30 % of youth women demand their issues to the powerholders	Assessment and Impact Report	

	Key Indicators	Means of Verification	Assumptions & Risks
household finances and assets

Voice youth women are enhanced and amplified | By end of this project, 30 % of women, girls, men, and boys show a change in gender attitudes | | |
| Output 1: Stakeholders enhance their participation and voice in the implementation process | By the end of this project, 20 % Stakeholders are capable of analyzing Reports and highlighting the reflection of the voice of the stakeholders in line with information consult and involve for improving responsiveness | Event report
A set of recommendations on programs
Participants list
Photographs | Political stability is remaining the same |
| **Voice youth women are enhanced and amplified** | | | |
| Output 2.1: Youth and society are involved in the process

Financial inclusion of Women increased and improved their ability to use personal and household finances and assets | By the end of this project,
60% of youth women, for creating a more inclusive public space and increasing effective participation in the process
By the end of this project, 40% of women had increased control of personal and household finances and assets
Participants increase access to finance, training and labor markets | Status report
Audio and paper clippings
Social Media Link
Event report
Participant's list
Photographs
Printed handbook
Profile of Fellows | Political stability remains the same, Natural disaster and social disasters |
| | | | |

Campaign on Counter-Trafficking In-person and COVID-19's Health and Safety Mandates through Community Radio

Implementing Partners | Project Brief

Aiming to disseminate the awareness messaging on Counter -Trafficking In-person and reduce Gender-Based Violence at various community and mass levels, Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) has signed an agreement with the Ashshash project of WINROCK International to implement a project 'Campaign on Counter - Trafficking In-person and Covid-19's Health and Safety Mandates through Community Radios.

As part of implementing the project, BNNRC carried out a series of Radio Talks through three community radios in observance of 16 days of activism against Gender-Based Violence, International Migrants Day, International Women's Day, and World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.

The talks were broadcast through radio and expected to reach out to the people living in community radio areas and also reach out to netizens through the web to increase community awareness against Gender Base Violence, and risks of Trafficking-in-Persons (TIP) by promoting women empowerment.

The duration of each episode was 30-45 minutes which the three guest speakers discussed. The main discussion points of the talks were the importance of gender equality, women's empowerment and protection of their rights, the current situation of gender discrimination and its impact on TIP, the process of safe migration, risks of illegal migration, Govt. and Non-Govt. organization (Ashshash project) services for safe migrations and self-employment of women, services for survivors of illegal migration, and experience sharing of a survivor. A total of 36 guests participated in these radio talks, The guests were the Representative from the Department of Women's Affairs, District Employment & Manpower Office, local level project coordinator from the Ashshash project and survivors.

The talks were moderated by a Senior radio presenter of the respective radio stations. The talk shows were streaming live on radio prime time. The programs were also rebroadcasted the day after broadcasting. The talk shows were streaming live (except Radio Naf) on Radios' Facebook page at the same time as radio broadcasting to reach out to the netizens.

Case Story
One of the goals of the Ashshash project is to raise awareness of the risks of Trafficking-in-Persons (TIP), so information on the prevention of TIP is paramount, regardless of the issue all of the radio programs under this project. So, after broadcasting the radio talk show on gender equality for a sustainable future, two local women came to Radio Sagar Giri station situated at Sitakunda in Chattogram.

One of them said that her husband had been trafficked to Saudi Arabia illegally. However, after moving there, her husband is facing various problems and torture. She listens to Radio Sagar Giri's talk show. So, she came to the station with one of her neighbors to find out how her husband could be freed from torture and brought back to the country. The radio program later referred them to Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) which organization that is working for Fairer Labor locally.

Promoting Health Governance through Capacity Building of Journalists and Involving Multi-level Stakeholders

Project Goal: The strengthened health governance system in Bangladesh

Project Objectives:

- Foster key investigative strategies for techniques specialized in verifying information on economic corruption in the health sector

- Reduce economic corruption in the health sector and quality health support for all

- Create an atmosphere in media houses for reporting on economic corruption of health

Major Interventions:

1. Training of Trainers on Fact-Checking and verification techniques on economic corruption of the health sector (one Training 20 participants for 3 days)

2. Media Fellowship for journalists on fact-checking and verification on economic corruption of the health sector (4 months fellowship for 30 journalists from print, electronic and online media)

3. Capacity building for print, electronic and online media journalists on fact-checking and verification techniques in reporting on economic corruption of the health sector (4 trainings with a total 80 journalists from Dhaka and outside of Dhaka will be trained for 2 days)

4. Engage and invite multi-level stakeholders in the dialogues and round tables including the Minister, Secretary, Director General of Health Services Journalists,

Policy Makers, Parliamentary Standing Committee Members, Chairman, Anti-Corruption Commission, National Editors, Senior Journalists, Health Journalist Forum members, Representatives from CSOs to increase interest for taking effective steps to establish governance in health sector reducing economic corruption for promoting quality health services for all. 4 (Four) Dialogues/round tables will be organized in Dhaka)

5. Advanced training for journalists on fact-checking and verification techniques on economic corruption of the health sector (one training for 20 journalists for three days)

6. Handbook publication for skill development of the journalists for reporting on economic corruption of the health sector (one handbook will be published)

7. National Seminar with Health Page Editors of Newspapers and Health Editor of Television Channels (one seminar for 30 Health Editors of Print and Electronic media)

8. Local-level Seminar with Multi-stakeholders to prevent economic corruption of health (6 seminars (half-day) will be organized with 30 people from CSOs, Government, offices, representatives from the Anti-Corruption Commission, journalist's teachers, and representatives from community people

Achievements

- Training of Trainers on Fact-Checking and verification techniques on economic corruption of the health sector (one Training 20 participants for 3 days)

- Media Fellowship for journalists on fact-checking and verification on promoting the health sector (4 months fellowship for 30 journalists from print, electronic and online media)
- Capacity building for print, electronic and online media journalists on fact-checking and verification techniques in reporting on economic corruption of the health sector (4 trainings with a total of 80 journalists from Dhaka and outside of Dhaka will be trained for 2 days)

- Handbook publication for skill development of the journalists for reporting on economic corruption of the health sector (is in the process)

- Local-level Seminar with Multi-stakeholders to prevent economic corruption of health (6 seminars (half-day) will be organized with 30 people from CSOs, Government, offices, representatives from journalist's teachers, and representatives from community people

Main results achieved

- Enhanced capacity of 24 journalists (male 14 female 10) on Fact-Checking and verification techniques for promoting the health governance

- Strengthened capacity of 30 journalists (male 17 female 13) through Media Fellowship for producing reports for promoting health governance

- Capacity building for 85 (male 66 female 19) print, electronic and online media journalists on fact-checking and verification techniques in reporting on economic corruption of the health sector for district-level journalists

- Around 250 Local-level multi-stakeholders are aware of promoting health governance issues at the local level

Case Story - 1

The Fellowship creates a new window in my in-depth report

Laboni Guha Roy is a fellow of the 1st batch under the Media Fellowship on Health Journalism. She is working as a Senior Reporter at Boishakhi Television. While she was talking about her experience in preparing the fellowship reports; she said that she had mixed feelings, "On-demand interviews are not always available when working in the field. This is a big problem. Again, the organization/media house does not always give importance to the subject I selected. So, the on-airing of the news is often delayed. Still, each task results in some new experience, which is helpful for the next task. There is an opportunity to learn more in detail about any subject. I have learned something new, which is a very good experience."

She can utilize this experience later because after preparing a report on a subject, one can be bold about it. The same communication is easy to practice later. About bringing positive changes in society as a result of her report, she says that this is reflected directly and indirectly. If the content of the report has to be changed immediately, the results are readily available. And if there are awareness matters, then positive success becomes slow in the context of that report. The same subject needs to be preached again and again.

Though she is not fully satisfied with her work and her expectations were not met; yet, she feels that her professional quality and growth have certainly been achieved. The collection of her works has been increased. She thinks that there were scopes to make more informative reports and it would be better if the selected subject was chosen considering the public interest. And the assigned mentor should be more involved. She also says that there are various issues to work on in the future keeping in view the contemporary public interest.

Building Media Professionalism for Road Safety through Constructive Journalism in Bangladesh

1. Objectives, outcomes

Objective: To increase media interest in and understanding of road safety as a critical health and development issue

Outcome 1: Improved the quality of reporting on road safety, particularly in the areas of data visualization, knowledge, and constructive journalism.

Outcome 2: Improved in-depth road safety reporting fellowships engagements aimed at building technical capacities as well as specific journalistic skills.

Outcome 3: Deepen Communications officers' knowledge, and skills and expand their access to the different public domains for raising interactive dialogue around critical – road safety issues.

Intervention strategy

Output-1

Mainstream journalists from print, electronic and online media improve their capacity to produce reports on the Road Safety issue

Output 2.

Fellows improve their capacity to inspire and encourage more reporting in the media on road safety tools, facts and new skills so that they can write and visualize confidently the problem and its solutions.

Output:3

Communications officers' and their institutions are engaged in reducing the number of road safety to contribute to efforts to save lives on the roads in line with context-sensitive and knowledge-driven.

Activities

1.1   Training 27 journalists for covering road safety reporting in one batch. (Prime media, print, online, and electronic)

1.2   Media Fellowship on Road Safety Journalism for 10 Journalists with 2 Mentors. Each journalist will have published at least 6 in-depth investigative and constructive reports on road safety during the fellowship. (Prime media, print, online and electronic)

1.3   Building capacity of the 10 Communications officers to get new skills so that they can write confidently about the challenges and their solutions.

The objectives of the project:

To increase media interest in and understanding of road safety as a critical health and development issue

Outcomes

Improved the quality of reporting on road safety, particularly in the areas of data visualization, knowledge and constructive journalism.

Improved in-depth road safety reporting fellowships engagements aimed at building technical capacities as well as specific journalistic skills.

Deepen Communications officers' knowledge, and skills and expand their access to the different public domains for raising interactive dialogue around critical –road safety issues.

Outputs

Mainstream journalists from print, electronic and online media improve their capacity to produce reports on the Road Safety issue

Fellows improve their capacity to inspire and encourage more reporting in the media on road safety tools, facts and new skills so that they can write and visualize confidently the problem and its solutions.

Communications officers' and their institutions are engaged in reducing the number of road safety to contribute to efforts to save lives on the roads in line with context-sensitive and knowledge-driven.

Major Interventions

- o Training journalists to cover road safety reporting in one batch. (Prime media, print, online and electronic) and 27 senior and mid-level attended the training
- o Media Fellowship for 10 journalists on Road Safety Journalism for Journalists. Each journalist published 4 in-depth investigative and constructive reports on road safety during the fellowship. (Prime media, print, online and electronic)
- o Building the capacity of the Managers and Communications officers to get new skills so that they can write confidently about the challenges and their solutions.

Empowering left-behind minority communities to effectively participate in the development process of Bangladesh through Community Radio

The overall objective of this project is – to empower local minority rights CSOs and networks in Bangladesh to effectively engage with left-behind communities and enable their participation in the local governance & development process.

Expected Results:

Directly reach more than 6 lakh people from marginalized communities and indirectly reach more than 18 lakh people.

Major Interventions:

Under this project, the community radios are producing and broadcasting Magazine Programs, Radio Talks, and Public Service announcements (PSA).

The magazine programs are developed in a combination of local news/reports, vox-pop (2-3 general people), short drama/radio spots, flock songs, expert opinions, interviews, and so on based on overall minority issues, facts, and findings at the community level. The duration of the program is 12-15 minutes each.

In the Radio Talks 2/3 local guests/representatives from minority communities, Change Agents – a group of people from the minority communities, CSO members, advocacy network members, LNOB platform members, and duty bearers are invited for a discussion on overall minority issues. The discussion sessions are moderated by a skilled radio presenter. In light of the discussion, a strong linkage would be created between the local authority and community radio as well as the community people through this program. They are lobbying and advocating with the authority to ensure the services and opportunities for the target community.

To increase outreach, achieve a better result, and create a link between duty holders and duty bearers, all the programs have been broadcast through social media, in the district where Community Radio is absent.

Besides the radio programs, a community media fellowship is provided to the youth and young women from minority populations, who have already been working as Change Agents under the ELMC project in the CR Coverage area through a formal procedure.

Achievement:

The voice of minority communities – Dalit, Ethnic Minority, Transgender, and Hijra is not heard. The rights of minority groups are systematically excluded, discriminated against, segregated from mainstream development, and denied recognition. The recognition of their capabilities, capacities and contribution to society and the economy is not appreciated. This project creates the opportunity for them – who are representatives

from the minority communities talk about their overall situations including COVID-19 context, human rights, access to services, and justice mechanisms, and thereby increasing awareness among minority communities and the population – as a whole.

This project creates 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.

Conclusion

BNNRC has been playing the role of a catalyst that explores support for the capacity building of community radios in Bangladesh. BNNRC has been providing various support for enhancing the capabilities of affected communities through an equity lens, focusing on enhanced capabilities of Broadcasters and Stakeholders for exercising building resilience and following an innovative and articulate multi-dimensional approach to overcome the impact. It would create effective access to Information and Communication Technology and media for countering the info-demic and for keeping lives & livelihoods easy by providing reliable information.

BNNRC Empowers People by increasing effective political participation through Multi-Generation Reach by influencing knowledge & understanding discussion, efficacy & motivation skills, and changing attitudes, beliefs, norms, and behavior. It creates space to develop a more inclusive public space through the re-imagining of social relations, connectedness & bridging, and collective problem-solving and influencing power for improving the responsiveness of Power Holders by demanding issue-based solutions, supporting people to ask questions to local elected bodies and others for raising the voice of voiceless people.

Measurement of Outcomes
Multi-stakeholders and civil society organizations enhanced with better understanding on digital governance, human rights, social justice and sustainable development and raise their unified voices, Opportunity created to reinterpret the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)'s action line and UN Internet Governance Forum to respond to the constantly changing digital society for empowering multi-stakeholders in line with the Smart Bangladesh process.

Multi-stakeholders realized and amplified the processes of internet governance and global digital cooperation for setting parameters for safeguarding transparency, inclusiveness, and accountability, Eyesight open and connect to the multi-stakeholders for a long-term vision for internet governance, and digital transformation and Stakeholders ensured their participation and raise voice on the implementation process of internet governance and digital transformation according our common agenda report.