

**Badabon Sangho – Strategic Plan
2017-2022**



February 2017

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1. Context

1.1 A changing Bangladesh

Bangladesh in which we work has been changing dramatically during the last couple of years. During the 1970s we could broadly divide the Bangladesh between a small number of rich individuals and everywhere else. The green revolution, growth of family planning and improved healthcare, youth population dividends, increase enrolment of girls in education and rapidly growing income of people have all made huge contributions to the fight against poverty. However, at the same time, widening social and income inequality, disaster, climate change has taken place resulting in a huge variation in the human, social and economic indicators of poverty within countries. Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is notable in Bangladesh. Widespread social exclusion and pocket poverty still dominates in the regional level in Bangladesh.

We need to appreciate that poverty in each regional level is increasingly contextual and is shaped by a complex set of factors including increased interdependence between climate, social norms and economic activities. To understand the underlying causes of, and potential solutions to, poverty will require us to look within and beyond regional boundaries.

1.3 The local contextual challenges

Bangladesh is located in South Asia, Bangladesh is in the low-lying Ganges-Brahmaputra River Delta Country has a tropical monsoon climate characterized by heavy seasonal rainfall, high temperatures and high humidity. Most of people in Southwest region consists of Muslim, Hindu and Christian who are lower caste and class treated by the mainstream peoples. The Bengali people depend completely on agriculture for subsistence, which makes times of drought or flooding particularly devastating. Large percentage of communities are living under poverty line and depends on natural resources for their livelihoods i.e. paddy cultivation, women collects wood, honey, fish and shrimp fries collection from Sundarban. Few years ago government started to establish a power plant (called Bangladesh India Friendship Power Company Ltd¹) which is huge public investment on land and canal. Targeting the power plant, number of private companies are also invested on land² and establishing their manufacturing factories and plant particularly LPG³ landing station. In addition, water and soil of this area (near the bay of Bengal⁴) have been adversely affected by the huge saline intrusion, water logging, cyclone and storm resulting of climate change. Day by day, women are becoming jobless as natural resources are taken by investors.

The prevailing insecure livelihoods has made women more vulnerable to social actors i.e. landowner, employer, rich etc and exposed to sexual harassment, abuse, physical torture and slavery.

As discussed above about the land investment, land owners are selling lands to the private investors. In most cases, lands transaction ignore and deprive women's share and money. Investors are grabbing the land and doing earthwork⁵ ignoring women land owners. Even the brokers of private investors are threatening women land owners not to go their land. Brokers with support of local elected

¹<http://infoc.com>
²http://www.google.com/search?q=infoc.com&rlz=1C11478161686276:infoc.com:681463001&as_s=infoc.com
³ <http://www.infoc.com>
⁴ <http://www.infoc.com/2014/02/20/infoc-com-announces-huge-scale-bangladesh-india-friendship-power-plant/>
⁵ http://www.google.com/search?q=infoc.com&rlz=1C11478161686276:infoc.com:681463001&as_s=infoc.com
⁶ <http://www.infoc.com/2014/02/20/infoc-com-announces-huge-scale-bangladesh-india-friendship-power-plant/>



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bodies/influential people are evicted few indigenous women households. Women moving from one land office to another land offices for collecting the land registration, mutation, deed and taxation documentations. Then women are trapped by brokers/land officials and exposed to harassment.

2. Badabon Sangho's contribution to development

The strategic review has clarified Badabon Sangho's contribution to development. This has a number of components that combine to explain the purpose of our work, our goal and the way that we work towards it. Critically, our understanding of how change happens within communities, beneficiaries and groups, the way that we work – that is our theory of change.

2.1 Overarching goal

To establish a society based on freedom of expression, in which women and girls have full and effective participation in the development process'

2.2 Theory of change

We believe in step by step achievement at the lives of the target groups through strategic support and participation. In order to plan the supporting tools and monitor the achievement we are always believing on Theory of Change.

2.3 Dimensions of change

We summarise our contribution in the development as our **dimensions of change**. These are the key areas where our work has direct and measurable outcomes.

- Educate women and girls on human rights particularly land, resources and worker rights
- Participation of socially excluded women and girls in determining their own development path

Our unique competency to help us deliver the above is **bringing socially vulnerable women and girls together to move ahead**. Underlying and drawing from this are five interrelated sub competencies:

1. **Motivating people to organise:** We enable social excluded women and girls to see how they can make a practical contribution to fighting poverty and create opportunities for them to do so. This includes the continuing organisational development, educate on human rights issues and collaborative actions.
2. **Understanding needs and works with them:** We listen to beneficiaries, understand their challenges and work with them to strengthen supports to make them more effective. We will develop such kind of projects that address beneficiary's needs and challenges.
3. **Support in both protection and service delivery:** Sometimes in the communities, what is most needed is simply the provision protection and delivery of basic services, often in legal service, water and land. This can be a valid contribution where our team will work, based on local provision.

3. Programmatic Strategic Directions

Women's organisation and voice raise: We the group put heads together to facilitate local level protest events to protect property rights, access to water bodies and drinking water, environmental justice and violence against women. In addition, continuous meetings, coaching and mentoring supports provide to committee members to enhance capacity in articulation, speaking and expression. A total of 3,320 women and girls were mobilised, organised and engaged in 66 women organisations.

- Facilitate courtyard sessions on development issues
- Protest events, rallies, meeting in case of human rights violence
- Facilitate training, coaching, mentoring for women's leadership development
- Support to women worker for migrant, formal and informal settings
- Policy advocacy

Women's control over land and property: Women especially single mother, separated, widow, divorce, victims of early/forced marriage are depriving from their land and state open water bodies resulting in displacement, illegal migration, harassment, family conflict and torture. The scarcity of safe/sweet drinking water really making lives impossible. We support women and girls to mobilise, organise and educate on land literacy, link them with land offices, support in land dispute resolution. The activities includes transfer of knowhow, information and tools for women beneficiaries organised in 'Women Organisation'. Our specific activities:

- a) Mobilization and Women Organisation formation, promote education on land literacy
- b) Collect data, documents and evidence on women's land ownership documentation in order to protect land ownership
- c) Assist to face land ownership and neighbor conflict and disputes
- d) Linking them with local land administration and district legal aid committees

Confront Violence Against Women and Girls: Women and girl regularly victims of abuse in communities by male due to lack of education and awareness. Women are aware, resulting in increased reporting of beat, sexual harassment, early and forced marriage, gender based violence, child labour, corporal punishment, maltreatment, land displacement induced violence. Local government, police station and land offices are not responsive and aware about the definition, types, nature and extent of violation. Our specific activities:

- a) Educate women and girls on VAWG
- b) Initiate wider campaign on women's land rights abuse
- c) Provide legal counseling support to girls who are survivors of VAWG
- d) Organise rallies, protest, human chain in case of women rights violation

Women in climate and environmental changes: In the Bay of Bengal belt and Sundarbans mangrove forest areas, women are adversely affected by climate and environmental changes i.e. intrusion of salinity, cyclone, water logging, sea level raise, and onwards land investment. Increased air pollution, enormous CO2 emissions, commercial attitudes and behaviour and growing marine traffic, negatively impacting on women's reproductive health, livelihoods and traditional events. Team facilitate local climate resilience planning with database and mapping. Technical skill transfer for income generation is one of the key tools, similarly creation of evidences and stories for policy discourse as well essential, we work for:

- Skill transfer training
- Meeting with stakeholders
- Facilitation of Women's Water Committee
- Evidences and stories documentation

- Policy discourse



4. Programmatic Approach

Below are five areas that stand out:

- We will make a **step change in putting women and socially excluded communities at the centre of our thinking**. Working directly with beneficiaries, citizen groups and service providers, we aim to be renowned for our commitment and investment in building their aspirations deeply into the very heart of our everyday work, in a way that results in better outcomes for poor women and men.
- Through this improved accountability to women and socially excluded communities, we will continuously **increase the quality and scale of our programme work**. Quality is important because we are committed to ensure our people have the very best combination of skills, approaches and values to respond to the people we seek to support.
- We have a **drive to make better use of our unique position of influence**, and we aim to be an local organisation of creating evidences. Drawing on the experience of our people, we are ideally placed to link disadvantaged women and men to centres of influence that can change in existing practices.

To do all the above, we need more resources, and so seek to **broaden and double our income base**. We will win financial support because of the quality and distinctiveness of our work, and the self-confidence with which we talk about it. We will invest in and nurture our fundraising activities, and develop alliances with donors and partners who can help us achieve more.

5. Balance and transparency

There are challenges to establish new management arrangements - from improved use of communications technology to considerable leadership competency and discipline from staff. We will

work through in detail the authorities and delegations to make this happen. However, the end result must be a **healthy balance between executive committee and implementation team.**

6. Governance

In order to become a truly non government organisation, it has been recognised by the local community, executive committee. Currently we are with social welfare department and NGO affairs bureau according to national regulation under which it operates. In addition, some of our activities are linked with business rather charity and so wish to have trade license. Thus will have clear demarcation within the job responsibilities of two types of staff.

Annex 1: Summary of key shifts for the strategic directions -2022

1. Women's control over on land:

Current situation

Currently Badabon Sangho has been working with 1,230 women through establishing 35 women organisations in four unions. Facilitating the courtyard meetings in order to educate them on women's land rights, girls child abuse and climate induced displacement. The commitment of organisation is to work in a way that ultimately create enabling environment for women particularly building awareness and social mobilization.

Strategic solution -2022

- Formation of 'Women Organisation' is ongoing activities in order to educate women on overall women's human rights particularly on land rights. By the end of the strategic plan duration, Badabon Sangho would document case stories of women landowners with evidences.
- Organise educational events on women rights through courtyard meeting where different kind of tools like posters, leaflet and flipcharts would use. It is noted that tools would be collected from the like minded organisations in order to supplement and complement each others.
- By the end of the 2019, Badabon Sangho would work with number of open data platform in order to support women's control over land through voluntary mapping and spatial data management.
- By the 2019, Sangho will start to provide legal counseling support to women land owners in case of violence, succession certificate, dispute on land, violence against women and other rights violation.
- By 2022, Badabon Sangho will connect the learning and evidence for sharing with national level policy advocacy

2. Confront VAWG:

Current situation

Strategic solution-2022


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Badabon Sangho would work with women and girls in order to educate them on definition, types, nature and report of VAWG

- The Badabon Sangho will identify the vulnerable women and girls particularly disable, widow, separate, dalit and educate them on definition, types and nature of violence. By the end of the 2019, the organisation would develop such kind of sustainable methods for southwest region with wider public awareness.
- As a rights based organisation, Badabon Sangho will continue to organise rallies, protest, human chain in case of VAWG.
- Badabon Sangho will promote communication and networking among women leaders in local government, police stations and land offices for confronting land displacement induced VAWG.
- By end of 2020, Badabon will educate women on land literacy, mapping and land ownership documentation.

END


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