



Bangladesh NGO Foundation



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■ *Formation*

Bangladesh NGO Foundation was established through a Government Resolution on 02 December 2004. Subsequently, on 04 August 2005, it was registered with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms under Companies Act of 1994. Thereafter it started functioning as a fully autonomous organization in accordance with the Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association under Finance Division of the Ministry of Finance. It is a not for profit organization and mandated to take up socio-economic development activities and poverty alleviation through NGOs having previous experience of implementing similar programmes. It provides financial grants and need-based support to develop their skills for stepping up such activities.

■ *Governing Board*

The Foundation has a General Body consisting of 34 members and a Governing Board consisting of 11 members for guidance of the Foundation. The General Body sits at least once in a year and the Governing Board is supposed to sit at least four times in a year.

■ *Source of Fund*

The government of Bangladesh has donated Tk. 1520 million during the period from 2005 to June 2012. Out of this fund the Foundation has spent some 10.70 million Taka to meet initial expenditure and invested Tk. 1503.30 million as endowment fund. It is mandatory that, each year 25% of the profit earned from the deposits must be added to the capital. Remaining 75% will come up to serve two-fold purposes, viz. 80% of it for grants and capacity building of the partner NGOs/CBOs and 20% for office expenditure. The total present deposit stands of Taka 1888.50 million.

■ *Steps followed for distribution of grants*

The Foundation follows a detailed but stringent procedure based on strict impartiality to provide grants to the NGOs. It invites applications always through open advertisement in national dailies. A sub-committee consisting of 05 members of the Governing Board shoulders the responsibility of sorting out & selection of prospective of NGOs for providing grants under specific guidelines.

An NGO will be disqualified for grants on any of the following grounds:

- Did not submit the application on the prescribed form or did not attach the prescribed form with it.
- It did not obtain registration from the respective agency of government at least two years back.
- Does not have budget of its own.
- Not audited by an authorized audit firm for the last two years and latest report is not enclosed.
- The chairman or chief executive of the NGO is an office bearer of a political party.
- Attested photo copy of registration is not enclosed.
- Bank account statement covering at least six month's transaction is not furnished.
- A certificate containing the names of the bank account operators from the Bank Manager is not enclosed.
- Two copies of photographs of the chief executive is not enclosed.
- Future work plan for 3 years is not enclosed.
- Spouse of the CEO of the applicant NGO is acting as CEO of some other NGO.
- Did not enclose affidavit executed before a Magistrate of the First Class or a Notary Public.
- Did not put Bangla and English signatures on the application form.
- The application is incomplete.

Priority will be given to the Programmes for--

- ✓ backward working area
- ✓ tribal or indigenous people
- ✓ women, children and physically challenged
- ✓ hardcore poor
- ✓ far reaching health hazards viz. arsenic problem
- ✓ a district where not more than 05 NGOs have received grant previously
- ✓ natural calamity prone area

Allocation will depend on targeted activities and its effectiveness. Constant monitoring will be practiced to assess proper utilization of the grant money.

If necessary, information regarding any particular NGO may be collected through PKSf/FNB/NGO network or any government organization.



■ *On going Programmes*

So far, BNF distributed Taka 580.9 million amongst 1047 numbers of Partner Organizations (POs) for various socio-economic development activities other than micro-credit. Out of these, 965 POs received 2nd installment, 735 received 3rd installment, 500 received 4th installment, 206 received 5th installment, 58 received 6th installment, 7 received 7th and 1 received 8th installment up to September 2012. The policy of BNF is that the NGOs that have received grant will continue to receive subsequent installments so long they perform as per their work-plan and as per the guidelines of BNF. Once a PO fails to comply with the guidelines it will be dropped from the list of POs and would not get any sort of grant or help in future.

Currently following field of activities are being covered by the POs:

- Promotion of agriculture.
- Women empowerment: to build and increase awareness.
- Motivation for schooling of children: pre-primary/dropouts.
- Motivation for use of sanitary latrine and to create awareness.
- Cultivation of vegetables and indigenous herbs: impart training and distribute quality seed/sapling.
- Social forestation to create pollution free environment.
- Promote poultry, fishery and goat farming: impart training and distribute free of cost.
- Create facilities for pure drinking water.
- Mother and child health care program.
- Technical training for disabled and distribution of physical aid.
- Development of tribal & indigenous people and schooling for children.

- Provide free medical facilities for the distressed.
- Integrated paddy cultivation and pisciculture.
- Education and training for working children.
- Train and build up awareness against child marriage and dowry system.
- Increase awareness on human rights and provide legal assistance favoring rights on land.
- Program to weed out women and child trafficking.
- Program on HIV/AIDS.
- Management program for hospital waste/household refuses.
- Training program for capacity building of various organizations as and when sought for.
- Program for promoting awareness on road safety and safe road communication.
- Preservation of nutritious food in hygienic method.
- Preservation of seasonal fruits for utilization round the year.
- Eradication of drug addiction through motivation and public awareness creation etc.
- Livelihood supports to Sidr affected families.
- House building for Sidr affected people of a village under Bagerhat District.

■ *Monitoring & Evaluation*

Bangladesh NGO Foundation likes to deal with partner NGOs firmly on the principles of transparency, trustworthiness and tangibility. Activities of the Partner Organizations are closely monitored and monitored at regular intervals. A panel of capable retired officers, university teachers and others has been prepared and entrusted with the job. BNF is trying to enlist the retired officers from the Government and Non-Governmental sectors, who have retired from the equivalent or above the rank or pay scale of the Deputy Secretary to the Government. These officers undertake regular field visits and submit independent views to determine next course of action. Prima facie extract from field visit reports appears favorable for the foundation, as none of the grant recipient NGO is found fake or non-existent. Field visit reports are weighed and valued.

Besides, Eight Firms of Chartered Accountants have been deployed for financial audit of the POs.

■ *Workshop & Training*

Simultaneously the Foundation has taken up programmes for development of skills of the personnel of the Partner Organizations (POs). At present the Foundation is running courses on Organization Development and Management for the Chief Executives of the POs; Maintenance of Accounts and Fund

Management for the personnel of the Partner Organizations, who are responsible for maintaining accounts; and Monitoring and Evaluation for the Field Workers.

We also share our learning and experience with the POs and other stakeholders. Usually, we sit in workshops, review ongoing programmes, share learning, prepare recommendations and take up steps for improvement.



■ *Achievements*

BNF cherishes a fervent desire to work for the people. Instead of setting up nation wide establishments it has chosen partner NGOs at grassroots level to work and collaborate with. It provides grants towards implementation of specific programmes. Half yearly activity report indicates the commendable performance of a number of NGOs. Obviously those NGOs will thrive and sustain. Some NGOs initially may not work well, but timely support undoubtedly will make them effective. The Foundation nurtures better hope for them for a better tomorrow. The Foundation wishes them a continuous progress so that they can reach their desired goal with steadfast devotion and fixity of purpose.