

Company Profile

April 2023

Unnayan Shamannay



**A Non-Profit Organization for
Research, Policy Advocacy, and
Cultural Learning**

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BACKGROUND

Unnayan Shamannay denotes coordination of developmental activities, not in the narrow sense, but in the wider context of all the aspects of a living society and human race reckoning with all the quantifiable and qualitative actions a society carries out. The members of Unnayan Shamannay have been striving to invigorate and further strengthen private sector initiatives for socioeconomic and cultural development of Bangladesh through a concerted grassroots approach.

It is an innovative non-profit research organization of resourceful professionals working in the arena of research and development. It is engaged in quantitative and qualitative research work, national plan development, training, communication and advocacy, cultural learning and developmental activities. The organization was incorporated in July 1994 under the Companies Act, 1913 (section 26) with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies under the Ministry of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh (The Registration number is C-345 (02)/94).

Unnayan Shamannay was conceived in the light of a felt need for an alternative socio-cultural trend, a trend that encompasses the struggle for survival thriving on the creative talent of the people. This trend does not seek to depict the country as poverty-ridden. Rather it seeks to uphold the country as a free and resilient entity, demonstrating creativity and innovation that is inherent in its rich cultural legacy. It attempts to delve into this ingenious force, establish a linkage of the well-endowed heritage to the present and understand the trend of development the future in a finer context.



ABOUT THE FOUNDER CHAIRPERSON

Dr. Atiur Rahman is an honorary Professor of the Department of Development Studies at Dhaka University. He is currently serving as the Chairperson of Unnayan Shamannay. In addition, Professor Rahman is also the Chair of the Executive Committee of Center for Advance Research on Arts and Social Sciences, University of Dhaka. Dr. Rahman was the 10th Governor of the Central Bank of Bangladesh. He is known as the 'Poor Peoples' Economist' and a 'Green Governor'. He occupied different positions in eminent research and academic institutions. Professor Rahman has published more than seventy books in English and Bengali, besides, numerous papers in national and international journals. The book titled **Peasants and Classes** (1986) jointly published by Zed Books, London, UPL, Dhaka and Oxford University Press Ltd, Delhi was widely acclaimed by students, teachers and multi-disciplinary scholars.

As the Governor of Bangladesh Bank, Dr. Rahman made significant contribution in Rio+20, COP18, and MDG Global Compact international negotiations. Dr. Rahman has won many national and international awards including, 'Indira Gandhi Gold Plaque-2011', 'GUSI Peace Prize International 2014', 'Best Central Bank Governor – Asia Pacific, 2015' and 'Bangla Academy Literary Award-2015 and Rabindra Award-2021'.

From a humble beginning almost 25 years ago, Unnayan Shamannay today stands as a pro-people research and advocacy organization acclaimed nationally as well as internationally. It is now collaborating with both local and international partners. In Bangladesh, this organization has pioneered research and research-based-advocacy in the fields of pro-poor public expenditure, environment and climate change, sustainable development, regional connectivity and trade, financial inclusion, and social innovation. Over the last two decades, while this organization has managed to retain some of its core staff who now have invaluable experience in the relevant fields, human resource developed here have also spread over to government, non-government and even international development organizations. In brief, Unnayan Shamannay as an organization has made critical intellectual contributions to the overall process of socio-economic development of Bangladesh and aspires to continue this journey.

AREAS OF WORK AND/OR INTEREST

Unnayan Shamannay covers diverse aspects of the society. Core areas of interest and/or work so far include (i) Environment, energy, and climate change, (ii) Agriculture, forestry, and isheries, (iii) Regional connectivity, trade and export financing, (iv) Microcredit, poverty and livelihood, (v) health, population and family planning, and (vi) National budget and governance

Areas of interest and/or work



National budget and public finance



Climate change, environment and energy policy



Agriculture, forestry and fisheries



Regional trade and connectivity



Poverty, and livelihoods



Health and education planning



Green finance and financial inclusion

The organization has been effectively and efficiently services in the said sectors with support and cooperation from operation of both government and non-government stakeholders. Providing quality research and advocacy services to numerous national as well as international organization has earned Unnayan Shamannay the reputation of a leading think tank of the country as well as the of the South Asia region. The organization has associated with a pool of experts constituted of young enthusiastic researchers as well as veteran development thinkers/practitioners with international exposure and reputation. The organization also maintains a rich set of core staff, a state of the art head office at Dhaka, Bangladesh, a strong and efficient administrative support team, and logistics capacities that match with the international standards.

OUR SERVICES

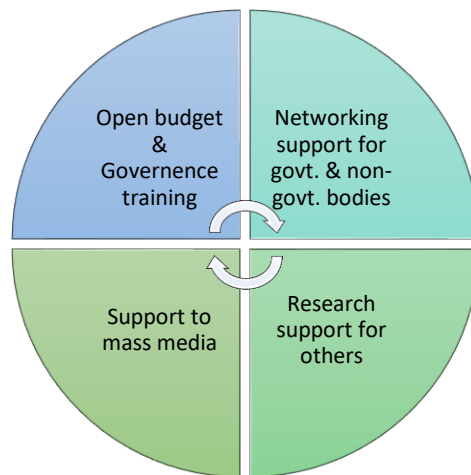
Unnayan Shamannay provides a wide range of services in the realm of socioeconomic research and study. These are as follow:

Issue (s)	Services
National planning documents	Preparing national planning document (like Education Sector Analysis, Education Sector Plan, Background Papers for Perspective Plan etc.)
Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA), Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA), Participatory Research (PR)	Conduct PRA Conduct RRA Conduct PLA (participation learning activity) Conduct study/research/survey through PR method
Analysis	Analyse data gathered from field Analyse cost benefit of projects Analyse implementation, institutional, operational, environmental and gestational aspects of projects
Survey and Census	Conduct socio-economic survey and census Conduct land use survey Conduct nutritional survey Conduct environmental survey
Monitoring and Evaluation	Monitor projects/programmes Monitor performance of organizations Monitor environment through participatory
Conceptualization	Conceptualize study/research project Conceptualize methods, techniques and tools for capturing people's/programme-participant's perception
Training and Facilitation	Provide training on research methodology Provide training on PRA Facilitate training on socioeconomic research/study Facilitate socioeconomic survey/study Facilitate PRA exercise
Advocacy	Advocacy events organized by Unnayan Shamannay are: Focus Group Discussion, National Policy Dialogue, Media Briefing Sessions, Seminar (national and sub-national level), Workshop (national and sub-national level), One-to-One session with key stakeholders . Participants of these events include policy makers (Ministers, Members of Parliamentary Standing Committees, Parliamentarians, Senior Govt. Officials), officials from government bodies (ministries, divisions, departments, commissions etc.), opinion leaders/think tanks, researchers, academic persons, media professionals, and development professionals.
Preparation of Project Document	Prepare Project Performance Audit Report (PPAR) Prepare Project Document through participatory method

Unnayan Shamannay as an organization focused on research and advocacy for promotion of pro-poor, participatory and sustainable development- does not limit itself in engaging works assigned by the donors/clients only. The organization engages in numerous other activities not financed by its own resources that contribute in achieving the organizational goal as well as ensure support services for other government and private entities working to achieve similar

goals. Support services (to the community) provided by Unnayan Shamannay are given in smartart.

Support services



Promotion of participatory development approach and leading by setting examples is one of the major achievements of Unnayan Shamannay in Bangladesh. The organization has been involved in such initiatives for almost two decades. During this time it has contributed in participatory fiscal policy formulation from the grass roots levels to the national levels. Support has been provided and still now being provided to government bodies (e.g. Union Parishads, Upazila Parishads, Budget Analysis and Monitoring Unit of the National Parliament of Bangladesh) as well as non-government bodies (e.g. schools, welfare clubs, youth clubs etc.). Lessons learned from the field level interventions are continuously shared with the policy makers at the national levels through communication events such as policy dialogues, workshops, seminars etc. These have already resulted in positive policy changes at the national, sub-national and organizational levels across the country. Unnayan Shamannay has earned reputation as a leading body in this sector at the international level as well. The organization continues its campaign to promote participatory budgeting and good governance through initiatives such as providing support during the Budget Session of the National Parliament; contributing in international research network (Global Development Network); providing data and analysis support to local government bodies, individuals and organizations that seek such support etc.

Due to its long experience in the development research and advocacy (almost twenty years); Unnayan Shamannay as an organization has a good relationship with key development sector stakeholders (both nationally and internationally). The organization aims to transmit benefits of this networks for other development organizations, private entities and even individuals who could utilize such relationship for the greater good. Unnayan Shamannay has been facilitating major alliances of development sector stakeholders which has ensured increased efficiency and coordination. The most recent example of such contribution is the National Char Alliance, which works as an umbrella body for different government and non-government actors that aim to sustainably improve the lives and livelihoods of the Char people of Bangladesh. Apart from conducting regular workshops for media professionals to ensure better development journalism, Unnayan Shamannay provides research support to many of the major

media houses working at home and abroad. The organization staff have been contributing in many of the major dailies by sharing their experiences and lessons learnt during implementing the numerous interventions.

Unnayan Shamannay believes in sharing its experience as well as resources with other individuals and organizations that tend to work for ensuring pro-poor, sustainable and participatory development. With this context each year it provides necessary support to many individual students, researchers as well as organizations (through immersion and internship programs).

OUR PARTNERS

Unnayan Shamannay because of long track record of collaborating with national and international organizations in implementation of research and advocacy interventions has good relationship with these organizations. The table below lists some of these partners. Unnayan Shamannay is still working in collaboration with some of these organizations.



Since inception, Unnayan Shamannay has been involved with the UN organizations in the capacity of research and development. It has completed a study commissioned by **UNDP** titled “Sirajganj Local Governance Development Project: Documentation of Innovation”. Unnayan Shamannay has published People’s Report on Bangladesh’s Environment of Bangladesh for the year 2001 and 2002-03 under its auspices of its long term project titled “Environmental Documentation and Dissemination from People’s Perspective (EDP)” which was a component

of Sustainable Environment Management Programme (SEMP) initiated Jointly by UNDP and Government of Bangladesh.

A team of Unnayan Shamannay was engaged in preparing a national document. Part of the project, Education Sector Analysis (ESA) was done and Education Sector Plan (ESP) for Bangladesh was prepared with the support of **UNESCO, Bangladesh**.

We, Unnayan Shamannay, partnered with Bangladesh Health Watch to conduct national health budget reviewing studies which was supported by **James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University**.

A recent study with a view to assess the quality public expenditure for primary education subsector has been conducted by Unnayan Shamannay with support from the **UNICEF**. This study resorted to two research instruments, namely- Public Expenditure Tracking Survey (PETS) and Quality Service Delivery Survey (QSDS).

Mainstreaming the issues of Char dwellers (extremely vulnerable in terms of engulfing by recurrent poverty traps and climate change) at the national level and uplifting the rights of the char people is one of the core research and advocacy agenda of Unnayan Shamannay. 'Improving the life and livelihood situation of Char Living People creating better advocacy platform' project, known as Alokito Char, financed by the **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**, was an impactful research and advocacy venture. Besides that, with the monetary support of **Concern Worldwide**, Unnayan Shamannay led a project earlier called 'Enabling Extreme Poor Households to Move out of Extreme Poverty in Selected Remote Island Chars of Bangladesh (Nodi O Jibon)'.

Public expenditure related research and advocacy work has been an area of special strength for Unnayan Shamannay. The 'Strengthening Institutions to Improve Public Expenditure Accountability in Bangladesh' project supported by the **Global Development Network (GDN)** is one such intervention where Unnayan Shamannay conducted Program Budgeting Analysis (PBA), Benefit Incidence Analysis (BIA) and Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) of different public sector programs. Under this project Unnayan Shamannay also facilitated public expenditure monitoring capacity building training for different stakeholders. The organization regularly provides research support to the **Budget Analysis and Monitoring Unit (BAMU) of the National Parliament of Bangladesh** (publicizing budget reaction papers, facilitating Budget Help Desk at the National Parliament each year during the Budget session etc.). It has also been publishing and circulating budget demystification documents on a regular basis which have been helping the mass people to better understand the budget and the budget making process.

Unnayan Shamannay has done commendable research and advocacy work related to governance concerns and has enjoyed invaluable support from the **USAID** in that front. 'Policy Research and Advocacy on Effective Decentralization in Bangladesh' is one of the flagship endeavors of the organization which was funded by USAID. This project aimed to give policy support on enhancing effective decentralization at UP and UZP levels.

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) has been a long term partner of Unnayan Shamannay. With funding support from the **DFID** and facilitation support from the MJF, Unnayan Shamannay implemented three phases of the Unnayan Manusher Jonno (UMJ) project. This project in its different phases promoted participatory budget making at different levels, conducted research to address public expenditure transparency and accountability issue, and facilitated advocacy campaigns to ensure leakage free allocations for SSNPs etc. This project also provided capacity building training for journalists.

JICA has been providing invaluable support in promotion of renewable energy solutions in Bangladesh through **IDCOL**. Unnayan Shamannay as an organization focused on sustainable development is keen on green energy solutions as well. This organization is currently providing monitoring and results management support as well as environmental and social impact assessment support to the JICA-REDP project of IDCOL. Two international consultants have been engaged who are being supported by an efficient research support unit.

CUTS International has been among the most valued partners of Unnayan Shamannay. These two organizations together have implemented numerous research and advocacy projects on trade openness, enhancing market competitiveness, regional trade and regional connectivity in South Asia. The latest initiative undertaken by this partnership is focused on research and advocacy to ensure better implementation of the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal Motor Vehicle Agreement (BBIN MVA).

EXPERTS ASSOCIATED WITH UNNAYAN SHAMANNAY

Unnayan Shamannay has a pool of experts drawn from different universities and institutes who regularly take part in its study/research projects. The number of experts varies according to the scope of work of the study/research project. Experts closely associated with Unnayan Shamannay either as advisors or as consultants include:

Name	Designation/Institution	Area of Expertise
Dr. Atiur Rahman	Chairperson, Unnayan Shamannay Professor, Dept. of Development Studies, Dhaka University, Former Governor, Bangladesh Bank, Founder Chairperson of Unnayan Shamannay	Economist, Financial Inclusion and Social Innovation Expert
Dr. AK Enamul Haque	Professor, Department of Economics, East West University Dhaka, Emeritus Fellow, Unnayan Shamannay	Economist, Environmental Expert
Dr. Shahana Rahman	Director, Unnayan Shamannay	Child Disease and Nutritional Expert
Dr. S.M. Zulfiqar Ali	Senior Research fellow, BIDS	Economist, Institutional Expert

Name	Designation/Institution	Area of Expertise
Dr. Mohammad Abdur Razzaque	Head of International Trade Policy, Commonwealth Secretariat	Economist, International Trade and Development Expert
Shah Md. Ahsan Habib	Professor & Director (Training) at Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BBIM)	Globalized Banking Systems and Green Banking Expert
Dr. Toufic Ahmed Choudhury	Director General, Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM)	Financial Inclusion and Bank Management Expert
S A Chowdury	Professor, Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM), Former Chairman and MD of Bangladesh Krishi Bank and Sonali Bank	Financial Inclusion and Bank Management Expert
Md. Abdul Matin	Former Executive Director, Bangladesh Bank Former Secretary General, Institute of Bankers Bangladesh (IBB)	Banking Supervision Expert
Dr. M Ismail Hossain	Professor, Department of Economics, North South University	Economist, Monitoring & Evaluation Expert
Dr. Niaz Ahmed Khan	Professor, Department of Development Studies, Dhaka University	Social and Human Development
Dr. Taiabur Rahman	Professor, Department of Development Studies, Dhaka University	Local Govt. Expert
Dr. Mohammed Abu Eusuf	Professor, Department of Development Studies, Dhaka University	Economist and Budget Analyst
Dr. Mahfuz Kabir	Research Director, BISS	Economist and Budget Analyst
Dr. Nazneen Ahmed	Country Economist, UNDP, Bangladesh	Trade Expert
Dr. Khondoker Mokaddem Hossain	Professor, Department of Sociology, Dhaka University	Sociologist and Climate Change Expert
Dr. M. Shamsul Alam	Professor, Daffodil University	Electricity, Energy, Solar Energy, Energy policy
Dr. Mahbuba Nasreen	Professor, Department of Sociology, Dhaka University]	Sociologist and Gender Expert
Dr. Mohammad Yunus	Senior Research Fellow, BIDS	Economist
Mr. Humayan Kabir	Associate Professor, Dhaka University	Local Govt. Expert
Ms. Suzana Karim	Assistant Professor, Dhaka University	Health Economist
Ms. Morium Khanam	Assistant Professor, Dhaka University	Health Economist

Snapshot of Recent Studies/Projects of Unnayan Shamannay

Unnayan Shamannay has accomplished more than 100 projects, covering diverse areas of socio-economic research. A number of projects completed recently are given with brief narrative.

Assignment Name: Facilitating policy discourse to increase tobacco product prices effectively through imposing supplementary duty (PDITP)		Country: Bangladesh
Location within Country:		Professional Staff Provided by Our /Firm/Entity (profiles): Project Advisor, Project Manager, Senior Researcher
Name of Client: Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK) under Bloomberg Initiative (BI)		
Address: Dhaka		Duration of Assignment: 12 months (Round-28) and 12 month (Round-30)
Start Date (Month/Year) January 2021	Completion Date (Month/Year): January 2023	Approximate value of services (in current Tk.): for Round-28 BDT 4,800,000 (USD 50,000) For Round-30 BDT 6,000,000 (USD 60,000)
Narrative Description and objectives of Project:		
<p>Ensure effective tobacco taxation through evidence-based advocacy - Specific Objectives: - 1) Engage with National Board of Revenue to push the effective tobacco taxation agenda - 2) Communicate the effective tobacco taxation agenda to the Prime Minister's Office and Finance Minister's Office with Members of Parliament - 3) Media (earned and social) advocacy to support the campaign</p>		

Assignment Name: Analysis of Health Budget Allocation and Expenditure (FY2020-21 and FY2021-22)		Country: Bangladesh
Location within Country: Dhaka		Professional Staff Provided by Our /Firm/Entity (profiles): Project Advisor, Project Manager, Senior Researcher
Name of Client: Bangladesh Health Watch (BHW), James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University		
Address: Dhaka		Duration of Assignment: 6 months
Start Date (Month/Year) February 2021	Completion Date (Month/Year): October 2022	Approximate value of services (in current Tk.): For Round-1 BDT 3,800,000 (USD 40,000); For Round-2 BDT 4,000,000 (USD 42,000)
Narrative Description and objectives of Project:		
<p>The main objective of the study is to assess and analyze overall allocations and spending of national health budget by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB) for FY20-21 and FY 21-22. The specific objectives of that report were-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing health equity, transparency, and inclusion in healthcare through analysis of health budget data (of FY20-21 and FY 21-22). • Portraying distribution of benefits of health budget allocations/expenditures within urban and rural areas. • Mapping the extent to which the election manifesto commitments (related to health sector) of the ruling political party has been reflected so far in the health budget. 		

Assignment Name: Exploring Landscape of Internet Safety Issues and Availability of Locally Produced STEM-Focused ECD Content in the Virtual World of Bangladesh		Country: Bangladesh
Location within Country:		Professional Staff Provided by Our /Firm/Entity (profiles): Team Leader, ECD Expert, Survey Coordinator, Research Associate
Name of Client: Sesame Workshop Bangladesh (SWB)		
Address: Dhaka		Duration of Assignment: 3 months
Start Date (Month/Year) March 2022	Completion Date (Month/Year): May 2022	Approximate value of services (in current Tk.): BDT 500,000
<p>Narrative Description and objectives of Project: The goal of the study was to explore current situation, challenges and scope of improvements regarding STEM focused ECD in the country in the context of safety of young learners in the virtual world. Specific objectives are mentioned below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrating the evolution of ECD/ECE related policy environment in the country • Pointing out the major achievements of ECD in the country • Mapping the key challenges for ECD in Bangladesh • Narrating the current situation of STEM education in the country • Mapping the current level of integration of STEM content in the ECD curriculum in Bangladesh • Exploring current situation of internet-based learning in the country in the context of global practices/standards • Revisit the experiences of e-learning in Bangladesh amid the COVID 19 pandemic • Exploring global concerns about and solutions to internet safety-related challenges • Narrating internet safety situation in Bangladesh 		

Assignment Name: Stakeholder Analysis for sssssss Transport Connectivity in Eastern South Asia (SARTC)		Country: Bangladesh
Location within Country:		Professional Staff Provided by Our /Firm/Entity (profiles): Project Advisor, Project Manager, Senior Researcher
Name of Client: World Bank Group and CUTS International		
Address: Dhaka		Duration of Assignment: 6 months
Start Date (Month/Year) March 2022	Completion Date (Month/Year): June 2022	Approximate value of services (in current Tk.): BDT 500,000 (USD 6,000)
<p>Narrative Description and objectives of Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main objective of the proposed study will be to assess the current landscape for MVA implementation and to identify by country the obstacles and potential solutions required to advance MVA, including at the state (state) level. Assignments will include stakeholder mapping, surveys, analysis, and preparation for discussion and promotion events. 		

Assignment Name: Baseline Survey and Annual Progress Review of Local Government Initiatives on Climate Change (LoGIC) Project		Country: Bangladesh
Location within Country: 72 Union, 19 Upazila, 7 Districts, Bangladesh		Professional Staff Provided by Our /Firm/Entity (profiles): Lead Researcher, Sector Specialist, Research Coordinator, Research Associate
Name of Client: UNDP Bangladesh		
Address: Dhaka		Duration of Assignment: 6 months
Start Date (Month/Year) September 2017	Completion Date (Month/Year): February 2021	Approximate value of services (in current Tk.): BDT 8,000,000

Narrative Description and objectives of Project:

The expected outcome of the project was improved and inclusive local level planning and strengthened financing mechanism for community-based Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) solutions through local governments. The project planned output were: (i) strengthened capacity of local governments, households and other local stakeholders to develop local plans that integrate climate change adaptation measures and disaster risk management (ii) established financing mechanism to fund local governments and communities for implementing climate change adaptation measures and (iii) experience and evidence, inform and contribute to further improvements in policies and practices for UPs and national systems related to climate change.

Assignment Name: Understanding The Housing Sector In Bangladesh Market Study		Country: Bangladesh
Location within Country: Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi		Professional Staff Provided by Our /Firm/Entity (profiles): Project Advisor, Project Manager, Senior Researcher
Name of Client: IFC		
Address: Dhaka		Duration of Assignment: 6 months
Start Date (Month/Year) June 2019	Completion Date (Month/Year): April 2020	Approximate value of services (in current Tk.): BDT 3,800,000
<p>Narrative Description and objectives of Project: a comprehensive assessment of the market for housing and housing sector finance in Bangladesh that will provide timely knowledge for the stakeholders so that they may ensure improve and/or create enabling environment for improvement of the housing market on both the supply and demand side. To attain the overarching goal, the study has to attain following specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a reliable set of baseline information about housing market in Bangladesh (current demand-supply of affordable housing and housing finance in urban areas). • Projecting future growth in demand for housing and housing finance in urban areas of Bangladesh (taking into account possible growth in urbanization in the medium- to long-term). • Identifying market bottlenecks and policy gaps that are hindering needed growth of housing and housing finance. • Putting forward a set of recommendations about how to improve access to affordable housing and housing finance especially for middle and low-income households in urban areas of Bangladesh. These recommendations will delineate the role/contribution expected from the public sector, the private sector and the development partners (including IFIs). 		

Assignment Name: Preparing the Education Sector Analysis (ESA) and Education Sector Plan (ESP) for Bangladesh, and Enhancement of Coordination for ESP by aligning with National Planning Document		Country: Bangladesh
Location within Country: N/A		Professional Staff Provided by Our /Firm/Entity (profiles): Team Leader, Lead Researcher, Research Coordinator, Research Associate
Name of Client: UNESCO		
Address: Dhaka		Duration of Assignment: 6 months
Start Date (Month/Year) September 2019	Completion Date (Month/Year): February 2022	Approximate value of services (in current Tk.): BDT 8,000,000

Narrative Description and objectives of Project:
Overarching goal of this assignment is to- conduct “Education Sector Analysis (ESA) towards developing an Education Sector Plan (ESP) for ensuring Quality Education and Lifelong Learning for All in Bangladesh. The specific objectives are given below:

- Present a holistic analysis of education sector of Bangladesh covering all sub-sectors and all initiatives undertaken by all actors.
- Assess the adequacy and/or inadequacies of the initiatives in the context of national policy objectives/perspective? & international commitment (SDGs).
- Develop a comprehensive long-term plan for ensuring quality education and lifelong learning for all through smooth coordination, coherence & linkages.

Assignment Name: Enabling a Political Economy Discourse for Multi-modal Connectivity in the BBIN Sub-region (M-Connect)		Country: India and Bangladesh
Location within Country: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal		Professional Staff Provided by Our /Firm/Entity (profiles): Project Director, Project Manager, Senior Researcher, Junior Researcher,
Collaboration: In partnership with CUTS International		
Name of Client: UKAID and ADB		
Address: Dhaka		Duration of Assignment: 20 months
Start Date (Month/Year) April 2020	Completion Date (Month/Year): December 2021	Approximate value of services (in current Tk.): BDT 4,809,300 (INR 4,182,000)
Narrative Description and objectives of Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing implementation challenges of the BBIN MVA • Identification of gaps in infrastructure policy and regulations, which can pose hurdles to multi-modal connectivity in this sub-region • Contribution towards formulating an inclusive transport and transit protocols for an effective multi-modal connectivity in this sub-region through a participatory approach • Organizing multi-level, multi-stakeholder advocacy and awareness generation to push for identified infrastructure development and policy, regulatory and procedural changes 		

Assignment Name: In-depth Analysis of Socio-Economic and Cultural Diversities in Bangladesh		Country: Bangladesh
Location within Country: N/A		Professional Staff Provided by Our /Firm/Entity (profiles): Lead Researcher, Sector Specialist, Research Coordinator, Research Associate
Name of Client: Sesame Workshop Bangladesh (SWB)		
Address: Dhaka		Duration of Assignment: 6 months
Start Date (Month/Year) September 2020	Completion Date (Month/Year): November 2020	Approximate value of services (in current Tk.): BDT 1,000,000
Narrative Description and objectives of Project: To conduct a ‘desk research’ to comprehensively map the socio-economic and cultural diversities in Bangladesh. The dimensions were assessed particularly on the income diversity, gender diversity, ethnic diversity, disability, geographic diversity, and other social diversities.		

Assignment Name: Enabling Extreme Poor Households to Move out of Extreme Poverty in Selected Remote Island Chars of Bangladesh (Nodi O Jibon II)		Country: Bangladesh
Location within Country: Bangladesh	Professional Staff Provided by Our Firm/Entity (profiles): Team Leader Project Coordinator Advocacy and Research Coordinator Associate Coordinator Advocacy Research Associate	
Name of Client: CONCERN Worldwide Bangladesh		
Address: Dhaka		Duration of Assignment: 5 Years
Start Date (Month/Year): 01 July, 2011	Completion Date (Month/Year): 30 June, 2016	Approximate value of services (in current US\$/Taka): 2,03,15,054
<p>Narrative Description of Project: To persuade the government of Bangladesh and the different types of donors to allocate additional resources and expand/support high quality services for moving out extreme poverty from island Chars.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collecting and processing data on important Chars issues and publish the results in a series of research reports. • Developing an active partnership with the Alliance (GoB, donors, NGOs and others partners). • Holding workshops at the different stakeholders' level to disseminate the information gathered on Chars livelihoods issues. • Conducting an annual review of the project's performance and assist the government/UNDP to carry out a mid-term evaluation. • Documenting the implementation process, results, impacts, lessons learnt and case studies. 		

Assignment Name: Border Haats Between India and Bangladesh as a tool to reduce informal cross-border trade of agricultural commodities (IBBH)		Country: India and Bangladesh
Location within Country: India and Bangladesh	Professional Staff Provided by Our Firm/Entity (profiles): Project Director, Senior Researcher, Junior Researcher, Project Coordinator	
Name of Client: CUTS International and DFID, India		
Address: Dhaka		Duration of Assignment: 24 months
Start Date (Month/Year) November 2018	Completion Date (Month/Year): September 2020	Approximate value of services (in current Tk.): BDT 7,247,854.94 (GBP 67,699)
<p>Narrative Description and objectives of Project: The main aim of this project is to improve livelihoods prospects of people, particularly women, living near the border areas of India and Bangladesh through the establishment of border haats as tool to reduce informal cross-border trade of agricultural commodities. The projects objectives are as follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To collect gender inclusive evidence including case studies to study the prospects of establishing border haats as a tool to reduce informal cross-border trade of agricultural commodities between India and Bangladesh. • To create awareness and generate consensus on the prospects of establishing border haats as a tool to reduce informal cross-border trade of agricultural commodities between India and Bangladesh. 		

Assignment Name: Documentation and Assessment of Financial Innovations of Bank Asia (DAFIBA)		Country: Bangladesh
Location within Country: Bangladesh		Professional Staff Provided by Our /Firm/Entity (profiles): Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist Environmental Specialist
Name of Client: Bank Asia Ltd.		
Address: Dhaka		Duration of Assignment: 13 Months
Start Date (Month/Year): August 2017	Completion Date (Month/Year): February 2019	Approximate value of services (in current Tk.): BDT 49,95,450.00
<p>Narrative Description of Project:</p> <p>The overarching goal of the activities to be conducted during the coming year will be to properly document and methodically assess the financial innovations of Bank Asia. The specific objectives here are as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a comprehensive multi-modal process documentation of the agent banking and other financial inclusion initiatives through field investigation at the agent and client level in different parts of Bangladesh. However, the main focus of the study will be on Agent Banking. • Conduct a comparative assessment of costing in agent banking to serve the under-banked in rural, remote and hard-to-reach areas vis-à-vis traditional banking. • Examine the socio-economic impacts of agent banking among cross-section of clients including women, disadvantaged populations and ethnic minorities with different stages of life cycle located in geographically heterogeneous areas. • Conduct an event based as well as mass media based advocacy campaign to disseminate the contribution of Bank Asia among wide range of stakeholders ranging from the grass roots to the policy levels. • Prepare a Policy Document on how to further efficiently operate remote (rural) branches of the bank through innovative HRM policy 		

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