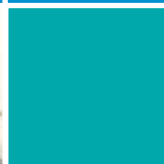
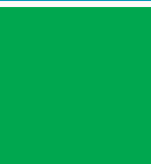
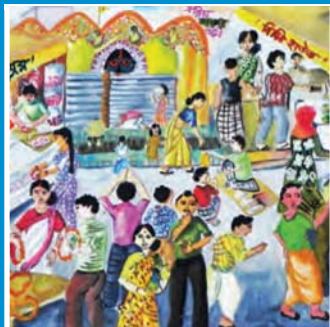




Dhaka Office

United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Dhaka Biennium Report 2014-2015

Learning | Diversify | Connect | Conserve

Published in 2016 by UNESCO Dhaka Office

© UNESCO 2016



This publication is available in Open Access under the Attribution–ShareAlike 3.0 IGO (CC–BY–SA 3.0 IGO) license

(<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/igo/>). By using the content of this publication, the users accept to be bound by the terms of use of the UNESCO Open Access Repository (<http://www.unesco.org/open-access/terms-use-ccbysa-en>).

The designations employed and the presentation of material throughout this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNESCO concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

The ideas and opinions expressed in this Publication are those of the authors; they are not necessarily those of UNESCO and do not commit the Organization.

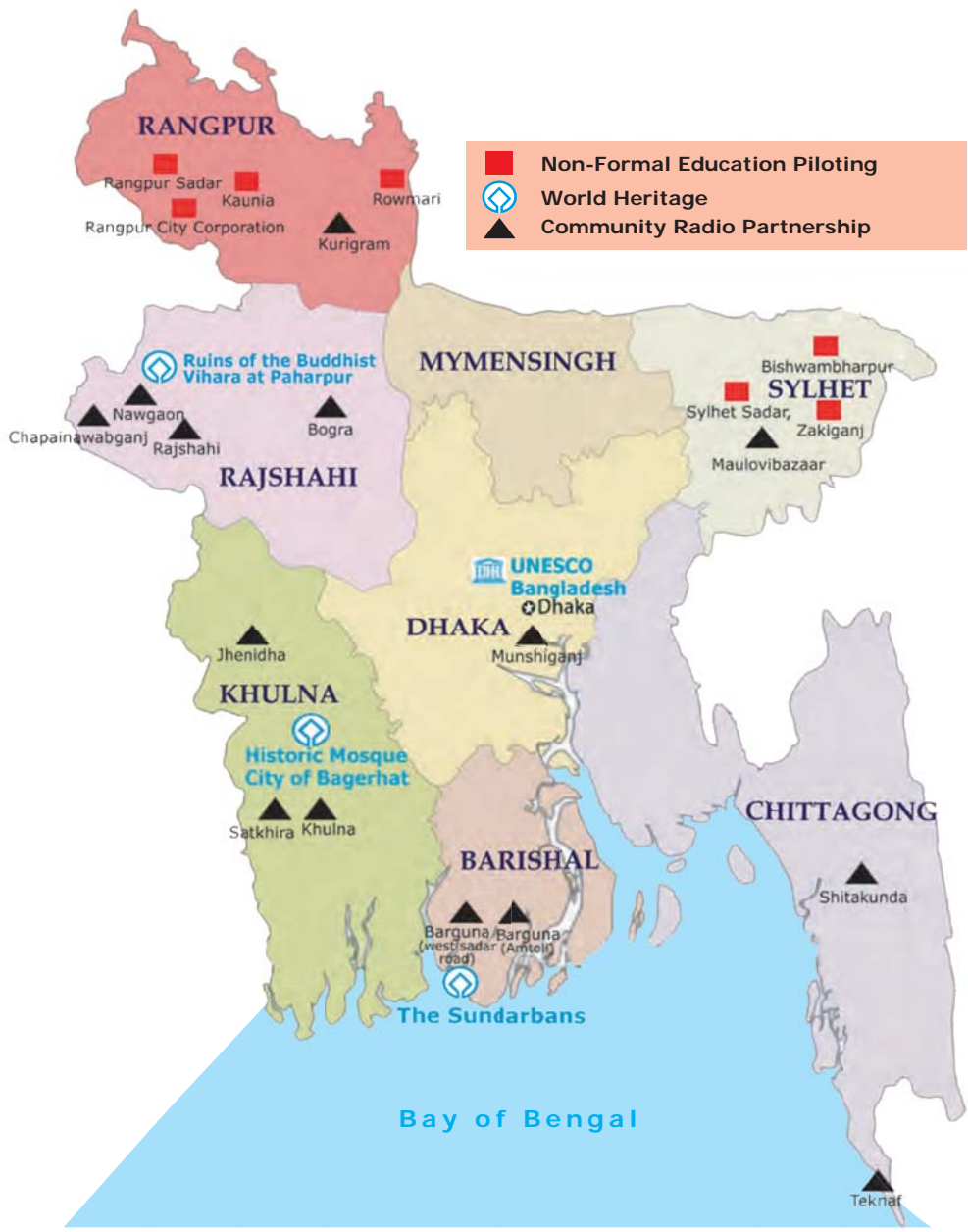
Editorial Team:

Beatrice Kaldun
Mozammel Haque Neogi
Mohammad Shazadul Karim
Sherin Sultana Snegdha
Sayem Mehmood

Printed in Dhaka, Bangladesh

Table of Contents

UNESCO Office in Dhaka	5
Programme Areas	
1. Education	9
2. Culture	19
3. Communication and Information	27
4. Science	37
Key Publications 2014-2015	42
Major Events of 2014-2015	44
How can I connect with UNESCO Dhaka?	45



Foreword



It is my pleasure to present the UNESCO Dhaka Biennium Report 2014-2015 that summarizes our efforts in furthering UNESCO's mandate in Bangladesh.

Our achievements are the result of cooperation with many entities and partners in addressing strategies outlined in the national development plans and UNESCO programme framework. The biennium witnessed the further expansion of our partnerships with academia, civil society, NGOs and private sector.

As a member of the United Nations family, we accompanied the UN as an integral partner. We worked closely with the UN Country Team (UNCT) in implementing the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and in the operationalization of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development through UNESCO's fields of competence.

Overall UNESCO Dhaka has sought to fulfill its commitment to UNESCO's programme areas in education, culture communication and information as well as science in a pro-active way to build a society in Bangladesh that is learning, diverse, connected and conserved.

I would like to express our firm commitment and readiness to contribute to national and regional efforts towards the implementation of the SDGs in Bangladesh through UNESCO's technical and policy support.

Beatrice Kaldun
Head and Representative
UNESCO Dhaka

UNESCO Dhaka Office



Programme and Management Staff during Staff Day Celebration in December 2014

The UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) was founded in 1945 as a specialized agency of the United Nations. By promoting international collaboration through its five major programmes—education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, communication and information—UNESCO contributes to peace and security, furthering universal respect for justice, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Established in 1996, as National Office in Bangladesh the UNESCO Dhaka Office is committed to contribute to UNESCO's mission in Bangladesh and the region, addressing the social, cultural, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainable development.

UNESCO Dhaka Office's programmes focus on education, culture, communication and information with

natural sciences being strengthened since late 2015.

Throughout 2015 UNESCO's 70 year anniversary was celebrated by UNESCO Dhaka Office and various partners in Bangladesh.



Celebrating 70th anniversary with the competition winners

UNESCO Dhaka Office works closely with the Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO, line

Facts and Figures

- ◆ Hosted National and International Volunteers
- ◆ Piloted Delivery Mechanism on Non-formal Education (NFE) in 3 districts
- ◆ Established Partnerships with 17 Community Radio Stations

2014

- ◆ Held an International Conference on International Literacy Day with presence of UNESCO Director-General
- ◆ 40th Anniversary of Bangladesh's Membership to the United Nations (17 September 2014)

2015

- ◆ International Mother Language Institute became UNESCO Category 2
- ◆ Celebrated UNESCO 70th Anniversary
- ◆ Awarded 4 Winners of UNESCO Anniversary Competition

ministries and government offices as well as academic institutions, development partners and NGOs.

The Office cooperates closely with other UN Agencies and actively participates in the UN Country Team (UNCT), Theme Groups, UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2012-2016 and Joint Programmes.

Cooperation and networking with UNESCO Bureaus of Education and Science in Asia and the Pacific and UNESCO international institutes and centers provide a conducive environment for inter-regional cooperation.

UNESCO Dhaka Office also provides opportunities for students and young professionals through internships to familiarize them with the day to day work of UNESCO at field office level.

UNESCO Dhaka Staff Capacity Development on UNDAF

For maximum UNESCO participation in the 'Work as One UN', UNDAF and related processes in Bangladesh, three in-house UNESCO Staff Capacity Building workshops were organized from November – December 2015 with guidance and staff support from UNESCO Hanoi, Jakarta, and New Delhi offices.

The workshops focused on (i) Education in the Post-2015 agenda (Hanoi), (ii) Climate change/Science (Jakarta), and (iii) Strengthening the Role of Communication and Information in the UNDAF (New Delhi) which are highlighted in the UNDAF and important for UNESCO involvement.

The objective of the workshops was to enhance collective understanding of

UNESCO's positioning in and contribution to UNDAF for better joint work in Bangladesh, through interactive peer-learning and exchanging knowledge and experiences among the participants, including sharing the information from Viet Nam, where the UN is practicing Delivering as One (DaO); and Jakarta experience where UNESCO is very active in the field of science.

The enhanced capacity would help UNESCO staff to provide and maintain dedicated staff time for upcoming UNDAF development and close cooperation and support to relevant UN entities and UNDAF relevant working groups.

The workshops were designed for two days. The first one and half day was exclusively for UNESCO staff and the second half of day 2 was joined by UN, DP, GO and I/NGOs. Useful recommendations and way forward resulted from the half day sessions.



UNESCO Dhaka Staff Capacity Development Workshop on UNDAF

Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO (BNCU)

National Commissions for UNESCO are unique and important partners in rolling out UNESCO's programme in their respective countries.



UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova and Secretary BNCU, 8 September 2014

The Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO (BNCU) was established on 27 October 1973 and works under the Ministry of Education (MOE) with the Minister of MOE, at present Mr Nurul Islam Nahid, Chair of BNCU, Secretary of MOE, Mr. Md Sohorab Hossain Secretary General of BNCU and the Joint Secretary of MOE, Mr Md. Monjur Hossain, Secretary of BNCU.

BNCU reports first and foremost to its government and together with the UNESCO Dhaka Office promotes UNESCO's ideals and principles.

The BNCU fulfills all its roles and responsibilities which are:

- ◆ advisory function
- ◆ contribution to UNESCO's planning and programming processes
- ◆ liaison and outreach
- ◆ implementation as well as information and advocacy function.



Celebrating UNESCO 70 Year Anniversary in Bangladesh

under the theme

“My Memories, My Experience and Our Expectation ”



UNESCO celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2015.

In Bangladesh, key partners of UNESCO including the Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO (BNCU) carried out various activities throughout the year including organising a UNESCO booth at the Ekushey Book Fair in February 2015 which featured UNESCO publications and materials.

In commemoration of the anniversary UNESCO Dhaka Office produced a set of items - a bag - a wall clock - a T-Shirt - a folder - all featuring the UNESCO anniversary logo with a special word cloud added by UNESCO Dhaka.

Highlight of the anniversary celebrations was the organisation of a poem and letter writing competition jointly by UNESCO Dhaka and BNCU under the theme: “My Memories, My Experience and Our Expectation” encouraging people in Bangladesh, especially the younger generation to use increasingly less popular forms of communication to share their thoughts and aspirations. UNESCO Dhaka and BNCU were pleased that winners of the competition were young women and men. The four winning letters and poems can be found on UNESCO Dhaka’s website.



Competition Winners



Nusaiba Meshquat
Outstanding Writer
Poem — First



Md. Hasan Iqbal
Excellent Writer
Poem — Second



Shazina Shehreen
Excellent Writer
Poem — Second



Boshir Ahmed
Best Writer
Letter — Third

Director-General on Official Visit to Bangladesh

The Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova visited Bangladesh in September 2014 on the occasion of International Literacy Day. During her visit the Director-General and the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurated the UNESCO International Conference on Girls' and Women's Literacy and Education, and presented the 2014 UNESCO International Literacy Prizes to five laureates.

The Director-General used the occasion of her visit to present the "Tree of Peace" to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina to honor her achievements in education especially to advance girls' and women's education.



Giving the "Tree of Peace" to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, 8 September 2014



The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina and Irina Bokova at the inauguration of UNESCO Literacy Conference, 8 September 2014



The Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Irina Bokova and Literacy Prize winners on International Literacy Day, 8 September 2014



The Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Minister for Cultural Affairs, Mr. Asaduzzaman Noor and Irina Bokova, admiring Jamdani weaving, a UNESCO ICH, September 2014



UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova, with students at Motijheel Government Primary School, Dhaka, 8 September 2014

The Education Unit partners with education stakeholders aiming to achieve the goals of Education for All (EFA) ensuring equitable access to inclusive and quality education towards lifelong learning.



*Literacy assessment in Hill tracks area,
Adult Literacy and Skill Training Programme*

Education

Learning



Community Planning Workshop

Education Unit

The Education Unit contributes to building a comprehensive and strengthened education system that caters to the needs of all the Bangladeshi people.

UNESCO Dhaka Office has been providing support to the education sector in Bangladesh by partnering with Government, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders to promote access to education, ensure equity and quality of Education for All.

UNESCO has provided technical support in capacity building, research and advocacy to promote pre-primary education, primary to tertiary education and literacy and non-formal education for out of school children, adolescents, women and men to ensure, promote and facilitate lifelong learning and sustainable development.

Key Achievements

- ◆ NFE Act 2014 approved by the Government
- ◆ NFE delivery model piloted in two districts
- ◆ Gender responsive monitoring guideline developed and shared with policy makers
- ◆ EFA 2015 Review conducted and findings shared with policy makers
- ◆ Equivalency education framework developed and used for developing the NFE Act
- ◆ Dhaka Declaration adopted on Literacy and Sustainable Development

EFA 2015 National Review Bangladesh

The closing year for Education for All (EFA) Goals was 2015. A country-level 'EFA Review' was undertaken to assess the achievements and unfinished agenda of EFA. Bangladesh undertook this national review with the leadership of Ministry of Primary and Mass Education and published the EFA 2015 Review Report Bangladesh.

In cooperation with Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO (BNCU) and Ministry of Education UNESCO Dhaka Office organized a launch event for EFA 2015: National Review Bangladesh on 25 October 2015. The key findings of the EFA Review were disseminated to key stakeholders and policymakers in Bangladesh and have significantly contributed in shaping the priorities of SDG4. Findings of the EFA Review were also shared at the regional level.

Education in the Post 2015 Development Agenda/SDGs

Following the 'Post 2015 Consultation' in 2012-2013, Bangladesh was selected for the global 2nd Phase 'Post 2015 Consultation' in 2014. Out of six UNDG proposed areas Bangladesh selected "Participatory monitoring, existing and new forms of accountability" for the national consultation.

As the member of UNCT Task Force on Post 2015 agenda, UNESCO Dhaka Office contributed through participating in all the consultations organized by the General Economic Division of Planning Commission (GED). Specifically, UNESCO provided inputs in identifying the Goal, Target and Indicator in different areas.

National level consultation meetings were supported with the leadership of Ministry of Education, Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MOPME)

while the existing situation was analysed to enhance the potential areas to achieve SDG4. The findings of the meetings were used at the 2015 Regional Asia Pacific Meeting on Education 2030 where the outcome document was mapped to the actions for the countries to implement SDG4 in 2016.

The 2nd consultation meeting focused on collaboration mechanisms for better planning, implementation, monitoring and documentation process of SDG4.

Key Findings of National Review Bangladesh

- ◆ NFE Policy 2006 and Strategies developed
- ◆ Education Policy 2010 developed
- ◆ National Skill Development Council established in 2011
- ◆ Early Childhood Policy 2013 at primary level developed
- ◆ Education Act 2014 Passed
- ◆ EFA National Plan of Action 1 and 2 approved and implemented.
- ◆ 40,000 Teachers, 1,600 Teachers Trainers and Supervisors trained
- ◆ 100,000 teachers appointed
- ◆ Learner's enrolment rate increased 97.3% at primary level
- ◆ 78.6% learners completed primary cycle
- ◆ All learners up to secondary level are provided with free textbooks
- ◆ 79% schools have safe water



EFA 2015 National Review Bangladesh publication ceremony in 2015

Inclusive Education

Promoting inclusive education to ensure quality education for all is a global agenda for UNESCO. UNESCO Dhaka Office organized the 2nd International Conference on Inclusive Education in 2015 in partnership with Asian Centre for Inclusive Education (ACIE), Plan International, Save the Children, Action Aid Bangladesh to enhance knowledge and skills of policymakers, educationists, students, parents and teachers.

UNESCO Dhaka Office in partnership with the Institute of Education and Research (IER), University of Dhaka and ACIE also translated into Bangla and adapted to the Bangladesh context the five Advocacy Guides on Promoting Inclusive Teacher Education developed by UNESCO Bangkok.

In addition, support was extended in developing a resource pool with government and NGO officials for doing advocacy on inclusive education using the adapted advocacy guides.

Early Learning Development Standards (ELDS)

The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) designated Bangladesh Shishu Academy (BSA) to develop a Comprehensive Early Childhood Care and Development Policy (CECCDP). A Working Group (WG) was formed on ECCD, with a Core Group and three technical teams namely: (i) Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS), (ii) Cross Sectoral Collaboration (CSC), and (iii) Guideline for Caregivers (GC) to help prepare the draft policy.

UNESCO Dhaka Office participated in the Core Group and three technical teams focusing initially on ELDS and updating of ELDS documents through workshops.

Enhancing Quality Literacy and Lifelong Learning

Enhancing Quality, inclusion and quality in literacy as targeted in EFA and MDG 4, UNESCO Dhaka Office works closely with the Government of Bangladesh to promote sustainable learning environment in the community, recognizing literacy as a human right.

Since 2011, UNESCO Dhaka Office has been working with the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME), the Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE) and NGOs to facilitate strategic planning in developing frameworks for Non-Formal Education (NFE) delivery mechanisms, equivalency education and capacity building among teachers.

Based on NFE delivery framework UNESCO Dhaka Office started a piloting of NFE delivery mechanism in 2013 in

two areas with the leadership of Bureau of Non-formal Education (BNFE) in partnership with two national NGOs. The pilot has been conducted through Community Learning Centres (CLCs) linking with local government bodies, universities and academia. Following are the outcomes of the pilot:

NFE Resource Centre (NRC): Fourteen NRCs were established at the Union Parishad (local government) premises, characterized as a resource and information centre for CLCs and local community. NRCs established confident relationships with government bodies, educational institutions, local community and some NRCs are integral part of the Union Parishad.



Skill Training at Khailapara Community Learning Centre, Chandanpat in Rangpur Sadar, Rangpur

Community Learning Centres (CLCs): The CLC is a hub and common platform of NFE linked with local government and other service providers mobilizing their own resources to address the needs of vulnerable people. Major components of CLCs include literacy, non-formal education, life skill and livelihood training, intergeneration learning.

E-mobile Library: NRCs have been operating 11 E-mobile Libraries to enhance reading habits and raise awareness in the community through issue based documentaries.

Resource Team: Resource Team consisting of 15-20 members from different NGOs, Government and local

academia have provided technical support to the community development activities of the CLCs and NRCs in planning, implementation and monitoring.

The Piloting of NFE delivery has created some good examples motivating BRAC, Save the Children and Stromme Foundation to replicate these in their existing learning initiatives in 11 districts.

Achievements of NFE delivery mechanism are: Direct beneficiaries **30,090** - Pre-primary graduated **47** - NFE graduated **1,780** - Adults graduated **1,992** - Received skill training **6,007** - NGOs replicated best practices – **3**.



Mobile library: distributing books, Mominpur, Rangpur

Interview



Abul Quasem
Director (Planning),
Bureau of Non-formal
Education (BNFE),
Ministry of Primary and
Mass Education

1. What is BNFE's relationship with UNESCO?

BNFE has a close relation with UNESCO especially in the field of financial and technical support for achieving EFA Goals, development of equivalence education framework, establishment of sustainable CLCs/Life long learning.

2. How is UNESCO contributing in achieving EFA in particular goal 3 and 4?

UNESCO has provided technical and financial support to BNFE to:

Develop curriculum for Prevoc-1 and Prevoc-2 in line with NSDP and TVET reform program.

Prepare and implement a TAPP titled "Capacity Development for Education for all (CapEFA)-Literacy and Non-Formal Education Program" in 4 Upazilas in Bangladesh.

Develop EMIS in Narail & Hobigonj district.

Prepare English version of NFE Act 2014.

Develop Action Plan to implement NFE Act.

3. What are the key challenges of NFE in Bangladesh and how and where UNESCO can contribute?

Some key challenges for NFE include:

- ◆ Need adequate number of CLCs in rural and urban areas;
- ◆ Improve database of the adult illiterates;
- ◆ Expand the scope for Life Long Learning;
- ◆ Need an NFE Board;
- ◆ Need sufficient number of learning materials for prevocational education;

We welcome and appreciate UNESCO's continued support, both technical and financial to address the above challenges.

International Mother Language Institute (IMLI)



The International Mother Language Institute (IMLI) in Dhaka, Bangladesh was awarded the status of UNESCO Category II by the UNESCO General Conference in November 2015.

Established in 1999 IMLI promotes linguistic diversity, putting emphasis on mother tongue and multilingual education.

IMLI promotes the right to education through mother tongue for every child, cultural pluralism and takes initiative for policy advocacy for greater involvement of linguist experts, learners and inheritors.

The aim of IMLI is to serve as a hub of knowledge and conduct research and contribute towards new forms of learning and mother tongue education in the region and across the world.

IMLI has established a Language Museum where national and international mother tongue based information, photographs, scripts are placed. The Language Museum of IMLI is open for all and many students of different academic institutions visit the museum for the enhancement of their academic learning.

IMLI conducted a large scale study from 2013 to 2015 on Minority Ethnic Languages across the country to explore the situation and status of ethnic minorities and their languages, which will be finalized in 2016.

IMLI organized a three-day long international conference from 21 to 23 February 2015 to celebrate International Mother Language Day, a historical day for Bangladesh, which discussed role and responsibilities of IMLI and other language institutions.

This included a seminar on the "Preservation and Promotion of Mother Language and Multilingualism: Scope to Make IMLI as Research Hub" organized by IMLI with many national and international scholars, senior government officials, university teachers, NGO and INGO representatives, members of civil society and artists participating and presenting their mother tongue related research and activities.



International Mother Language Institute (IMLI) in Dhaka

UNESCO Category 2

Category 2 Institutes and Centres are associated with UNESCO through formal arrangements approved by the General Conference of UNESCO. They are selected upon proposal by Member State(s), based on the strength of specialization in one of UNESCO's fields of competence.

Through capacity-building knowledge sharing and research, they provide a valuable and unique contribution to the implementation of UNESCO's strategic programme objectives for the benefits of Member States.

Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development (CCESD)

UNESCO is a specialized agency with mandates in various fields, especially Education and Sciences. UNESCO focuses on Climate Change Education (CCE) in the context of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) combined under a specific programme known as Climate Change Education for Sustainable Development (CCESD).

In the role-out of UNESCO's global initiative of CCESD, Bangladesh has included another essential dimension of disaster and its impacts. The focus was a CCESD and Disaster Study which resulted in a Report on CCESD produced jointly by UNESCO and Bangladesh Bureau of Education, Information and Statistics (BANBEIS).

The study focuses on data collection and generation in the areas of 'disaster risk reduction', 'climate change adaptation' and 'climate change education' and provides useful information generated by adopting a cluster survey method in pilot surveys carried out in twelve geographically distinct disaster and climate change vulnerable areas of Bangladesh.

This study together with the generated information and its 25 recommendations is useful in addressing climate change and disaster impacts in areas of education policy and planning, curriculum development, teacher-training, reforming the TVET (Technical Vocational Education and Training) programmes to ensure a climate change and disaster resilient education system in Bangladesh.

The study will be launched and disseminated in 2016.

Equivalency Education Programme

The NFE Policy in the section of quality assurance strongly stresses the need for establishing equivalence between the formal and non-formal education in order to ensure effective implementation and quality of the NFE programme.

The NFE Act 2014 reaffirmed the necessity of equivalency education and included the requirement of NFE board establishment. UNESCO Dhaka has been supporting BNFE, MOPME to develop equivalency programme of the country, in collaboration with NGOs, experts, UNICEF and ILO. As part of the process, core competencies for grade 3 and 5 were developed through the consultative process. The competencies related to skills have been aligned with the competencies of the pre-vocational level 1 and 2 of the National Skill Development Policy (NSDP). Provision has been made to the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in the systematic Equivalency Education system and a guideline for curriculum development, accreditation process of NFE providers and learning assessment including certification of the learners was developed which will be a component of the NFE Sector-Wide Policy and Planning (NFE-SWPP).

Development of Education Act

Education Policy 2010 anticipated a comprehensive education law to serve as the legal basis to guide the work in the education system. UNESCO Dhaka Office supported the Ministry of Education in preparing the draft Education Act which was prepared and put on the website for public comments going through several stages. The Education Act is expected to be finalized in 2016.



Signing ceremony of CCESD project

Review of Gender Responsiveness in NFE Sub-sector

UNESCO Dhaka Office in coordination with Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE) and Ministry of Primary and Mass Education conducted a review on Gender Responsiveness in Non-Formal Education (NFE) and skills training for out of school adolescent girls and young women.

The objective of the study was to review the gender situation of NFE and skills training and to develop a Guideline for Gender Monitoring Tools to strengthen the capacity of concerned stakeholders for improving gender equity, equality and sensitivity in the policy documents and practice level,

institutionalize the systematic capacity development of stakeholders regarding gender with a view to strengthen the gender responsiveness of NFE programmes.

Major finding of the review showed that NFE is still unparalleled to ensure basic education rights despite inequalities. Women's mobility increased, bringing changes in the community attitude towards women and increasing their scope to involve with livelihood options.

NFE paved the way for women to enter into market through skills training, though gender gap still persists. Based on the review findings a guideline for preparing gender monitoring tools has been developed for a varied range of users.

Multilingual Education (MLE)

As set in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2010, the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME) introduced Multi Lingual Education (MLE) for indigenous children under the Primary Education Development Programme-III (PEDP3).



*Learners in a multilingual school
© Save the Children*

With technical and financial support from UNESCO Dhaka Office together with Aga Khan Foundation (AKF), Save the Children International (SCI) and CAMPE as MLE Forum members and the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) formed a committee which conducted workshops with writers to customize and develop new MLE Primers for children in five ethnic minority languages.

A total of 95 local experts participated in these in-house workshops and developed and adapted all necessary teaching-learning materials, completed illustrations and conducted final checking. The MLE Primers will be ready for publication in 2016.

In addition to the MLE Primers Teacher Guides in five languages will be developed.



*Gender Responsive Study Findings Sharing Workshop. DG BNFE,
UNESCO Dhaka Office Representative and others*

Key Partners

- ◆ **Ministry of Education, Bangladesh**
Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education
Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS)
- ◆ **Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, Bangladesh**
Directorate of Primary Education
Bureau of Non-formal Education
- ◆ BRAC
- ◆ Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE)
- ◆ Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM)
- ◆ Friends in Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB)
- ◆ RDRS Bangladesh
- ◆ Save the Children International (SCI)
- ◆ Stromme Foundation

Future Focus

Education Sector-Wise Policy and Planning



UNESCO Dhaka Office will support the education sector in Bangladesh to enhance the sector's capacities in

sector-wise policy and planning towards the implementation of SDG4 in Bangladesh within the framework of Capacity Building for Education Development (CapED).

The support aims to strengthen national capacities to review/revise robust education development policies and plans and to effectively manage the education system progress towards education development objectives, including SDG4 implementation in Bangladesh.

Non-Formal Education and Literacy

According to the 7th Five Year Plan (2016-2020) Bangladesh has 3.25 million adolescent and adult illiterates who are the main target of NFE sub-sector. At the same time, Goal-2 in the National Plan mandated at least one CLC in each Union/Pourasova for continuous and lifelong learning; effective livelihood skill training included under the Goal-3. To achieve all the goals of 7th Five Year Plan of Bangladesh UNESCO Dhaka Office supports the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME) to strengthen the capacity of Bureau of Non-formal Education (BNFE) technically and financially.

This initiative will trigger change in the livelihood of millions of people that will ultimately in the long run contribute to national economic growth. Given its priority, UNESCO Dhaka Office will continue supporting the NFE sub-sector Program within Lifelong Learning Framework and SDG4.

ICT in Education

UNESCO Dhaka Office assists Bangladesh Government more specifically the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education (MoPME) in the effective implementation of "Master Plan for ICT in Education 2013".

UNESCO Dhaka Office will continue to provide technical support to Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) of MoE for developing training manual and imparting training for strengthening capacity of the pool of Teacher Trainers for Science Teachers in developing digital contents and using ICT on a broader scale.

UNESCO Dhaka Office will also continue technical support to MoPME and more specifically Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE) for using ICT in Non-Formal Education (NFE) and Skills which would include but not limited to conducting situation analysis of ICT and mobile based literacy, piloting of advancing mobile literacy and capacity building training for NFE related persons, so that they can develop digital contents based on the local needs and context.

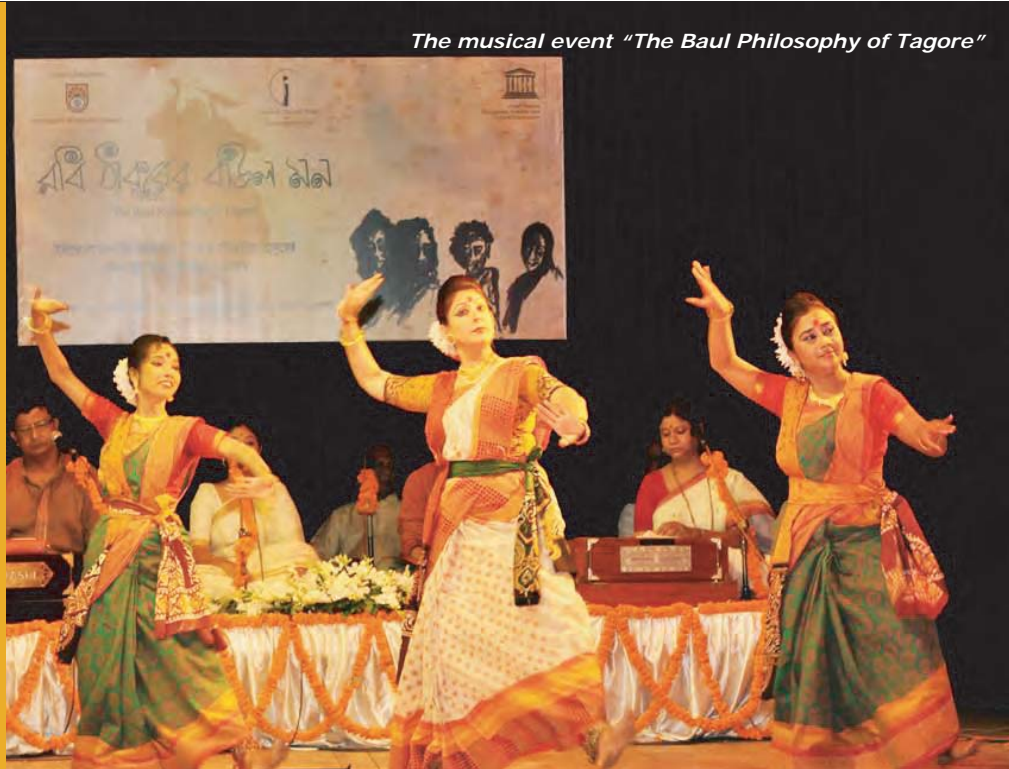
The Culture Unit contributes to safeguarding, promoting and transmitting heritage in all its forms, while nurturing creativity and the diversity of cultural expressions.



Cultural mapping of Old Dhaka by young students

Culture

Diversify



The musical event "The Baul Philosophy of Tagore"

Culture Unit

The Culture Unit contributes to safeguarding, promoting and transmitting heritage in all its forms, while nurturing creativity and the diversity of cultural expressions.

Through the solid foundation of its seven cultural conventions, UNESCO promotes culture, heritage and creativity as a means of achieving sustainable development and peace in the community.

UNESCO Dhaka Office, in line with the three ratified cultural Conventions in Bangladesh (1972 World Heritage Convention, 2003 Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2005 Convention for Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions) supports government authorities and relevant partners in the implementation of these Conventions.

UNESCO Dhaka Office is addressing and reinforcing the cultural impact in Bangladesh while ensuring capacity

enhancement, appreciation and awareness about heritage and its conservation, and supporting and fostering creativity and the development of culture for socio-economic development and social cohesion.

Facts and Figures

- ◆ World Heritage: 3
Cultural Heritage: 2
Historic Mosque City of Bagerhat
Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur
Natural Heritage: 1
The Sundarbans
- ◆ Intangible Cultural Heritage: 2
Baul Songs
Traditional art of Jamdani weaving

Cultural Heritage Conservation and Management

World Heritage

In Bangladesh, UNESCO is engaged in conserving, promoting and transmitting heritage and history for dialogue and development and ensuring the safeguarding and management of cultural and natural heritage; through the implementation of one of its key cultural Conventions - the 1972 Convention for the Protection of the World Culture and Natural Heritage.

UNESCO Dhaka Office supports relevant government entities such as the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the Department of Archaeology and non-government entities such as NGOs, academic institutions, researchers in developing strategies and enhanced practices of managing and conserving cultural and natural heritage by providing technical expertise.

UNESCO Dhaka Office supports the Department of Archaeology, ICOMOS Bangladesh and relevant stakeholders to provide local authorities with the means to contribute to conservation and the long term preservation of natural and cultural heritage sites, while also ensuring participation and income generation of the local community.

Capacity Building on Management and Risk Preparedness of Heritage

UNESCO Dhaka Office participated and facilitated participation of the Director General, Department of Archaeology to the UNESCO Conference on "Harmonizing Actions to Reduce Risks for Cultural Heritage in Asia and the Pacific" at Penang, Malaysia in December 2016 to enhance risk preparedness for the heritage of Bangladesh.

In order to raise technical capacity for World Heritage safeguarding in Bangladesh, UNESCO Dhaka Office has been actively involved and participated in dialogues and workshops organized by the Department of Archaeology and ICOMOS Bangladesh focusing on integrated and sustainable management and safeguarding the value of heritage sites.



Capacity Building workshop at Paharpur World Heritage site, May 2015

ICOMOS started its Journey in Bangladesh

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) is an Advisory Body to UNESCO for World Heritage, which works for the conservation and protection of cultural heritage. It is the only global non-government organization of this kind, which is dedicated to promoting the application of theory, methodology, and scientific techniques to the conservation of the architectural and archaeological heritage.

ICOMOS Bangladesh was re-established in June 2014 to promote and enhance professionalism in the conservation, management, planning and development of cultural heritage in Bangladesh.

ICOMOS Bangladesh initiated their activities with the first ICOMOS-Bangladesh Workshop on Heritage Conservation and Management in partnership with the Department of Architecture, Southeast University and UNESCO Dhaka Office in February 2015. Since then ICOMOS Bangladesh has become a key partner of UNESCO Dhaka on culture and heritage.

Interview



Dr. Sharif Shams Imon
President, ICOMOS Bangladesh
Assistant Professor, Institute for Tourism Studies, Macau
Visiting Assistant Professor, The University of Hong Kong

1. What is ICOMOS Bangladesh's relationship with UNESCO Dhaka Office?

As an Advisory Body to UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, ICOMOS works closely with UNESCO on cultural heritage matters worldwide. The relationship between ICOMOS Bangladesh and UNESCO Dhaka Office is an extension of that in which we cooperate and collaborate with each other both formally and informally.

2. In which context ICOMOS Bangladesh works with UNESCO Dhaka Office?

ICOMOS Bangladesh works with UNESCO in fields related to cultural heritage in Bangladesh. ICOMOS Bangladesh has been involved in preparatory planning of UNESCO projects so far, one of which is going to be implemented in 2016. Besides these, ICOMOS Bangladesh has been organizing training workshops to create awareness and enhance professional capacities on cultural heritage.

3. What are your perspectives and expectations for future cooperation with UNESCO Dhaka Office to promote and safeguard the heritage of Bangladesh?

The low capacity of the institutions responsible for safeguarding heritage and a lack of trained heritage professionals are two major stumbling blocks to heritage protection in Bangladesh. Under the new leadership at UNESCO Dhaka Office, important progress has been made in the cultural heritage field in Bangladesh. We hope UNESCO Dhaka Office will continue to play a leading role in institutional capacity building and provide support in developing regular training programmes especially at the tertiary level. ICOMOS Bangladesh will be very happy to extend its support in every possible way.

Heritage Education for the Young

On the occasion of UNESCO's 70th year anniversary celebration, UNESCO Dhaka Office and ICOMOS Bangladesh jointly organized the activity "Heritage Education for Youth in Bangladesh" mobilizing the youth of Bangladesh to ensure the appreciation, preservation and revitalization of cultural heritage, especially in historic areas like Old Dhaka.

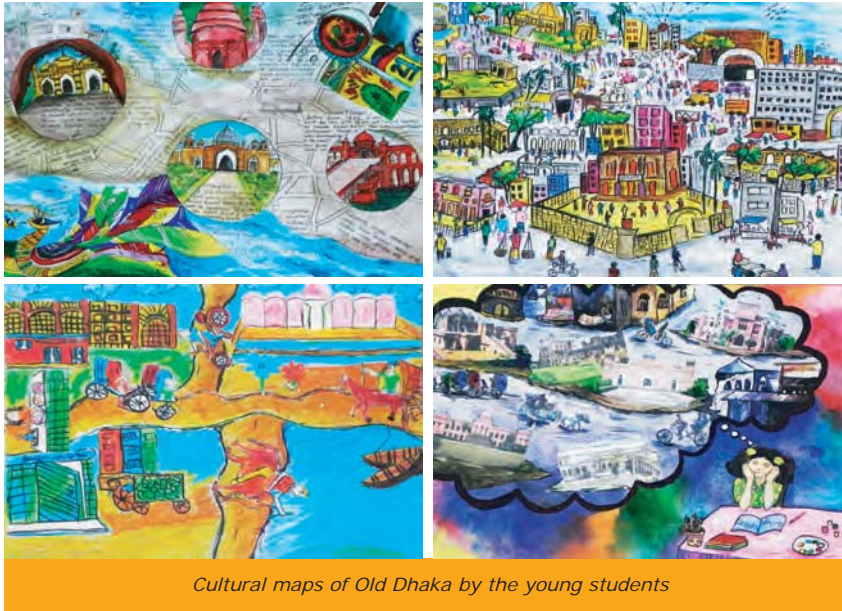
Based on several consultations and dialogues with relevant stakeholders, ICOMOS Bangladesh and UNESCO Dhaka Office aimed to introduce and encourage heritage education in creating a bridge for young people with teachers, heritage specialists and other stakeholders in a situation in which they can learn together and from each other. The aim was to generate knowledge and appreciation for their local heritage through development of edutainment heritage material, such as

cultural maps.

The mobilization of cultural mapping by youth was the fundamental objective of the project. Different groups of students developed cultural mapping on the basis of their learning during the Heritage Walks with the heritage specialists and teachers.

To provide an avenue to share and showcase the cultural maps and materials produced by the students a competition and exhibition was organized at Dhaka-Kendra in (Old) Dhaka on 17 December 2015 to display the creative heritage maps of the students to a larger audience including local communities, parents, family, heritage experts, media and relevant stakeholders.

Since schools and students expressed their interest to continue and be a part of such edutainment heritage education in the future, the process and mechanism of the heritage education activity has been summarized in a small publication.



Cultural maps of Old Dhaka by the young students

Promoting UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation

The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation were established in 2000 to recognize and encourage private efforts and public-private initiatives in successfully restoring structures of heritage value in the region.



The winning projects have set high technical and social standards for conservation in the region. They have increased local preservation efforts, inspiring local communities to take action to save their historic buildings.

Since, this prestigious award has received no participation from Bangladesh, UNESCO Dhaka Office with support from ICOMOS Bangladesh organized a media event on 9 February 2015 to promote the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation to relevant Bangladesh stakeholders and the media.



*Media Event on Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation
UNESCO Dhaka Office*

Safeguarding and Promoting Intangible Cultural Heritage

Bangladesh has a rich intangible cultural heritage, many of which are protected and transmitted as practiced over many generations.

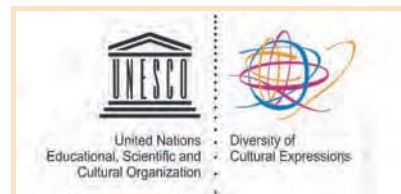
By sensitizing authorities, cultural professionals and practitioners to obligations entailed by the ratification of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage by Bangladesh in 2009 and supporting their relevant activities, UNESCO Dhaka Office ensures the continuous practice of Bangladesh's living heritage for future generations.

So far Bangladesh has two elements on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity - Baul Songs and Traditional art of Jamdani weaving.

Showcasing Baul Philosophical Expressions

In order to acknowledge and promote the contribution of Baul songs to Bangladeshi living heritage and the inscription of Baul songs on the Representative List of the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, UNESCO Dhaka Office, in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (National Academy of Fine and Performing Arts) and the Institute of Culture and Theatre for Development (ICTD), and supported by Ministry of Cultural Affairs organized the musical event "The Baul Philosophy of Tagore". The event featured Baul songs created by Rabindranath Tagore with dramatic fusion and philosophical interpretations by famous national singers, dancers and narrators manifesting the importance of Baul songs in Bangladesh today.

Fostering Cultural Diversity and Expressions



The emblem of the Convention is a graphic representation, visually exploring the relationships, concepts and ideas of the Convention and their interactions with one another. The use of the emblem constitutes an important, strategic outreach tool.

UNESCO Dhaka Office supports Bangladesh government's recent focus on protection and promotion of cultural diversity and cultural industries to implement the 2005 Convention for Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions which was ratified by Bangladesh in 2007.

2015 celebrated the 10th anniversary of the 2005 Convention. UNESCO Dhaka Office used this occasion together with the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development to raise awareness about the Convention.

"Investing in culture can transform societies. Creativity can change the world. This is our ultimate renewable energy."

Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO



Cultural event at Shilpakala Academy on Baul Philosophical Expressions of Rabindranath Tagore, September 2015

The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

Further to the adoption of UNESCO's Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity in November 2001, the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed 21 May as World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, UNESCO is continuing to strengthen its advocacy and action in favour of the link between culture and sustainable development.

A Round Table Discussion on the Built Heritage of Old Dhaka and in Bangladesh was organized on 21 May 2015 by UNESCO Dhaka Office in partnership with ICOMOS Bangladesh.

Within this context of The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, the relevant stakeholders, including government authorities, NGOs, academia and heritage experts exchanged and shared their understanding regarding the values of cultural diversity ranging from creative industries, sustainable tourism and cultural infrastructure to cultural heritage as drivers and enablers of sustainable development.

The stakeholders exchanged ideas on how to best manage the dynamic forces of rapid urban transformation, to maintain the essential physical fabric of historic areas of Old Dhaka while ensuring the social and economic viability as well as its long term sustainability. They highlighted the need for advocacy and awareness raising especially among the young generation through formal and informal methods.



Round table discussion on the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

Partnership with National Crafts Council of Bangladesh



Since 1985, National Crafts Council of Bangladesh has been involved in craft development and promotion

through research, documentation and providing support service to craftspeople.

UNESCO Dhaka Office has strengthened the partnership with the National Crafts Council of Bangladesh (NCCB) to safeguard and promote various craft forms, artisans and the cultural diversity of Bangladesh.



Representatives of UNESCO Dhaka Office with Ms. Ruby Ghuznavi, Craft Expert and Executive Committee Member, National Crafts Council of Bangladesh and Mr. Chandra Shekhar Shaha, Craft Expert and President, National Crafts Council of Bangladesh

Discussions focused also on a forthcoming project addressing crafts, craftsmanship and livelihood support at a World Heritage site in Bangladesh which will be started in 2016 with the technical support of the National Crafts Council.

Key Partners

- ◆ Ministry of Cultural Affairs
- ◆ Department of Archaeology
- ◆ Department of Forests (Ministry of Environment and Forest)
- ◆ Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (National Academy of Fine and Performing Arts)
- ◆ Bangladesh National Museum
- ◆ Bangla Academy
- ◆ Bangladesh National Crafts Council (NCCB)
- ◆ Center for Research on Arts and Culture (CRAC)
- ◆ Department of Theatre and Performing Arts, Dhaka University
- ◆ ICOMOS Bangladesh
- ◆ Institute of Culture and Theatre for Development (ICTD)
- ◆ International Bangladesh Friendship Education Society (Aamder Gram)
- ◆ National Academy of Fine and Performing Arts

Future Focus

Natural and Cultural Heritage

UNESCO Dhaka Office will continue to technically support Bangladesh authorities in strengthening the capacities of relevant stakeholders to ensure a better practice of managing World Heritage Sites.

Bangladesh authorities will be assisted by UNESCO Dhaka office in the preservation of cultural heritage.

At the Ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur World Heritage Site, UNESCO Dhaka Office will be providing local communities with the means to revive the traditional skills along with contemporary skills of making terracotta, thereby contributing to the conservation of the site while also ensuring participation and income generation of the local community.



Terracotta at the Paharpur World Heritage Site

Intangible Cultural Heritage

UNESCO Dhaka Office will support authorities in strengthening national capacities for safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage for sustainable development and the understanding of national stakeholders on how to safeguard the intangible cultural heritage of Bangladesh through the effective implementation of the 2003 Convention and its mechanisms. A project will be implemented with focus on capacity building, policy review and community based inventorying of ICH.



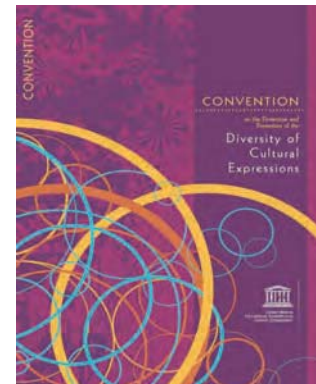
Traditional Art of Jamdani weaving

A pilot exercise will aim to join an Open Digital Library on Traditional Games in Bangladesh, introduced by UNESCO Beijing, through using ICTs to safeguard and promote indigenous and local knowledge for learning, development and the rapprochement of cultures.

Cultural Diversity and Expressions

To strengthen the development of creative industries and enhance access and participation of communities to cultural life, UNESCO will raise awareness and strengthen the policy environment that promote living heritage and creativity and support the diversity of cultural expressions.

UNESCO Dhaka Office will support the development of a comprehensive and integrated strategy for the development of cultural industries.



UNESCO 2005 Convention on Cultural Diversity and Expressions

The Communication and Information Unit works towards building inclusive knowledge societies; promoting freedom of expression; ensuring a free, enabling environment, as well as a professional and pluralist media to promote peace for lasting and sustainable development.



Communication and Information

Connect



Communication and Information Unit

Communication and Information Unit contributes to the promotion of policies for press freedom and media friendly laws, safety and security issues of journalists, and gender friendly pluralistic and diverse media development.

Media development, freedom of expression, independent and pluralistic media; as well as universal access to knowledge and information and innovative use of ICTs are key priorities for the Communication and Information Unit of UNESCO Dhaka Office. Direct beneficiaries of CI activities are media institutions, organizations, professional journalists, media NGOs, media and universities.

Key Achievements

- ◆ Translation of the National Broadcast Policy of Bangladesh Government
- ◆ Translation of the UN plan of action on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity"
- ◆ Capacity development of Bangladeshi Journalists on Safety and Security Issues
- ◆ Review, assessment and mapping of the state of Journalism in Bangladesh
- ◆ Development of a Basic and Technical Guideline for Effective (Public) Libraries in Bangladesh

Fostering Freedom of Expression

Right to freedom of opinion and expression

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 19: Universal Declaration of Human Rights

UNESCO Communication and Information programme and specifically Fostering Freedom of Expression means to promote “the free flow of ideas by word and image”. It works to foster free, independent and pluralistic media in print, broadcast and online which contributes to peace, sustainability, poverty eradication and human rights.

Within this context, UNESCO Dhaka Office is providing support to the Government of Bangladesh in various ways including institutional development, capacity development, journalism education, research and studies, media law policy advocacy and dialogues and community radio programme broadcasting.

UNESCO Dhaka has been supporting initiatives for policy advocacy supporting press freedom and media related laws and policies since 2006. It played a vital role in the formation and dissemination of Right to Information (RTI) Act, Community Radio Policy, and supporting the formulation of the National Broadcast Policy.

Numerous events and public dialogue sessions to promote freedom of

expression and press freedom issues have been organized by UNESCO Dhaka with different national media organizations and relevant stakeholders.

UNESCO Dhaka is working with community radio programming since the first launch in Bangladesh in 2011. It played a vital role in advocating media related laws/act in Bangladesh and is working closely with national media.

World Press Freedom Day



World Press Freedom Day focuses on media's importance in development; safety of journalists and the rule of law; and the sustainability and integrity of journalism.

It also includes good governance, transparency and access to information, empowerment of women and youth, ending poverty, and ensuring stable and peaceful societies.

Round tables, seminars and other offline and online events were organized on 3 May marking World Press Freedom Day, around the annual themes: in 2014 on “Free Media Contribute to Good Governance, Empowerment and Eradicating Poverty” and in 2015 “Let Journalism Thrive! Towards Better Reporting, Gender Equality, & Media Safety in the Digital Age”.

World Radio Day



World Radio Day is about celebrating radio, a day to remember the unique power of Radio to touch life and bring people together across every corner of the world!

With the National Radio of Bangladesh, UNESCO Dhaka Office celebrated World Radio Day on 13 February around the annual theme: in 2014 on “Radio in Times of Emergency and Disaster” and in 2015 on “Youth and Radio” .

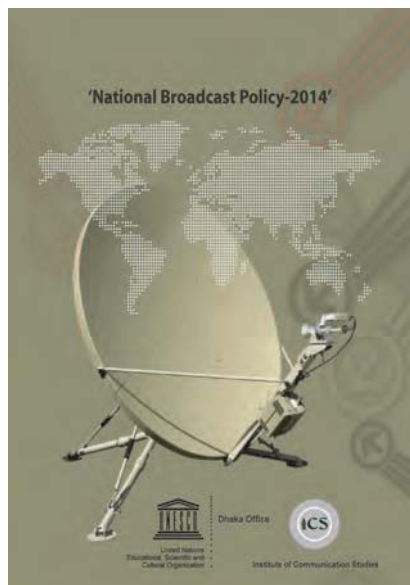


Both themes were of high interest in Bangladesh and the Days provided a platform for all relevant stakeholders on the producing and receiving end to share their actions, tools and creative ideas. In 2015 young people could showcase programmes created and hosted by them.

National Broadcast Policy of Bangladesh

UNESCO Dhaka has played a vital role in advocating media related laws in Bangladesh and closely worked with national media organizations and with the Government to ensure development and implementation of policies.

UNESCO Dhaka Office has supported the formulation of a National Broadcast Policy and organized various events with media organizations and professional journalists to provide the Ministry of Information with comments on the draft Policy. The Policy was finalized and approved by the Government in 2014.



National Broadcast Policy 2014

In 2015 UNESCO Dhaka Office supported the translation of the National Broadcast Policy into English aiming for broader understanding among media professionals about the policy.

In addition, two sharing sessions were organized with journalists to provide a platform to discuss implications of the policy and ways to operationalize it. One session was organized with Dhaka based senior journalists and another session with local journalists at the divisional level.



Discussion Meeting with the News Managers on National Broadcast Policy



Bangladesh National Broadcast Policy 2014

Highlights

The National Broadcast Policy is made to build an independent, pluralistic, accountable and responsible broadcast system and to bring all the broadcast media under a coordinated frame, following immense discussions with the stakeholders.

- ◆ Broadcast license
- ◆ News and programme transmission
- ◆ Broadcasting advertisement
- ◆ Broadcast Commission

Assessment and Mapping of Status of Journalism in Bangladesh



UNESCO Dhaka Office is providing support to the Government of Bangladesh in various ways including journalism education, research and studies. To strengthen its efforts and identify a possible new flagship activity fostering freedom of expression, including press freedom, in 2015 UNESCO Dhaka Office carried out a review, assessment and mapping of the state of journalism in Bangladesh.

The review and mapping includes popular journalism initiatives undertaken by public, private and development sectors and focuses on the State of Media in Bangladesh, key aspects of the Bangladesh media sector, how to create capacity building opportunities on professional development for journalists and news managers, media freedom advocacy and reform of media laws, regulation and the enabling environment.

The review serves as a useful baseline for addressing gaps, strengthening capacities and enhancing practices. It will be available in 2016.

UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity



The “UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity” advocates the safety of journalists as essential to guarantee article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which covers the right to freedom of expression. It is also essential to protect the right of all citizens to reliable information and the right of journalists to provide this information without fearing for their security.

Capacity Building on Safety and Impunity

Over the last decade, more than 500 journalists and media workers worldwide were killed, and many more wounded, while carrying out their professional responsibilities.

To ensure a safe and secure work place for journalists and to build their capacity on personal safety skills UNESCO Dhaka Office translated the “UN Plan of Action on the Safety of

Journalists and the Issue of Impunity” into Bangla.

To expand the use of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, UNESCO Dhaka Office organized two trainings in 2015 in Dhaka: A Training of Trainers for Senior Journalists of Dhaka and a Training for Journalists on Safety and Security Issues for mid-level journalists of Dhaka. More such trainings are planned for 2016 to reach all journalists.



Safety Training Participants with the lead trainer Mr. Monzurul Ahsan Bulbul

Interview



Ms. Shamim Ara Sheuli

Executive Director
Institute of
Communication Studies
(ICS)

1. What is ICS relationship with UNESCO Dhaka Office?

ICS is an organization by and for the journalists in association with media professionals and scholars dedicated to ensure freedom of expressions through the support, growth and nurturing journalists, protection of journalists, media research, advocacy and awareness building with a focus on empowerment of women and youths. ICS works with UNESCO, a major stakeholder in the area, as a development partner.

2. In which context does ICS Bangladesh work with UNESCO Dhaka Office?

UNESCO Dhaka Office is a major stakeholder of protecting freedom of expression: an essential condition for democracy, development and human dignity which is one of the main thematic areas in ICS works. ICS is the only media CSO that works to ensure safety and security for the journalists at workplace as well as at home in Bangladesh. This solidarity enabled ICS to work with UNESCO as a development partner to ensure freedom of expressions and safety of journalists in Bangladesh in a comprehensive way.

3. What are your perspectives and expectations for future cooperation with UNESCO Dhaka Office to promote freedom of expression in Bangladesh?

ICS has implemented a number of activities in collaboration with UNESCO Dhaka Office to promote freedom of expression and build up capacity of Journalists. ICS in collaboration with UNESCO Dhaka Office likes to organize safety and security training for female journalists and photo journalists separately who are more vulnerable at work.

Community Media for Sustainable Development

Radio is Powerful; it is a route of cohesion, education and culture. Radio helps to create a sense of community through the dissemination of information. It supports communities in breaking out of their isolation, in situations of armed conflict, political tension and humanitarian hardship and is a useful tool to access information and empowerment.

UNESCO Dhaka Office is working with community radios in various ways, connecting international and national partners (such as the Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication) together, to overall improve the situation and performance of community radios in Bangladesh. This also includes the role out of various trainings and workshops to staff, volunteers, and young people working at the community radios to educate them, sensitize them to relevant issues and improve contents of broadcasting.



Opening ceremony of HIV/Aids workshop

A major training was organized by UNESCO Dhaka in collaboration with Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) from 13-14 November 2015 entitled "Workshop on Combatting HIV/AIDS through Community Radio".



Training participants with Trainers at "Workshop on Combatting HIV/AIDS through Community Radio"

The workshop was a contribution to the International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (ICAAP) which was initially foreseen to be held end November 2015 and World AIDS Day on 1 December.

The workshop was designed for journalists, presenters and programme producers of 16 Community Radio (CR) stations and had a total of twenty-nine participants.



Group work session at HIV/Aids Workshop

A useful outcome of the workshop was that each participating community radio station developed a suitable radio programme to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS in the context of their local communities planned for 2015 to reach all journalists.

Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC)

Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) is a national networking body on alternative mass media working for building a democratic society based on the principles of free flow of information, equitable and affordable access to Information and Communication Technology for Development (ICT4D) and Right to Communication of remote and marginalized population.

BNNRC's outreach extends to local, national and international forums, including community radios. The working strategies are:

1. Communicating in Public Sphere
2. Communicating Knowledge
3. Civil Rights in Communication
4. Cultural Rights in Communication

UNESCO Bangladesh Journalism Awards 2008-2014

UNESCO has a unique mandate to act as the lead agency in promoting freedom of expression and universal access to information and knowledge. For this purpose, UNESCO has been supporting initiatives for policy advocacy, formulating media related laws and policies.

In Bangladesh, in celebration of the World Press Freedom Day observed on 3 May all over the world, UNESCO Dhaka Office took the initiative to promote constructive journalism by promoting Press Freedom situation through good governance and investigative reporting at the national level by organizing the “UNESCO Bangladesh Journalism Awards”. It is a contribution to promote freedom of expression and media development in Bangladesh.

The UNESCO Bangladesh Journalism Awards, introduced in 2008 and concluded in 2014, each year honoured a print journalist, a broadcast journalist, a television camera person and a photographer for their outstanding contributions in the area of Investigative Journalism and their effort in promoting freedom of expression through excellent investigative work promoting human rights in Bangladesh.

The Journalism Awards Programme raised awareness to the challenges faced by journalists in the implementation of the right to information legislation, to develop an efficient information management system in compliance with requests for



UNESCO Bangladesh Journalism Awards 2014

information, to raise public awareness about the right to know, to enable journalists to take the full benefit of the law and to provide opportunity to enhance their capacities.

In its final year in 2014, the UNESCO Bangladesh Journalism Awards was held on 17 May awarding the best investigative reports of 2013 both in print and electronic media.



Journalism Award logo for 2014

The joint winners in the print media category were Mr. Haider Ali and Mr. Joyanal Abedin, from Daily Kaler Kontho for their report “Shapla Chottor Obhijan” (Investigation of Shapla Chottor Landmark in Dhaka). Abhijit

Bhattacharya of Daily Kaler Kontho for his report “Shera Pach School e Shibirere thaba.”

Winners from the electronic media were reporter Mr. Ashiqur Rahman Chowdhury and camera person Mr. Shiek Nazrul Islam for their report “Kitnashoker Probbhab” (Impact of Use of Pesticides).

A special award for their report “Laundry service of Dhaka” was given to Mr. Mashudul Haque and Mr. Giash-Uddin Mamun.

Winners for photography were Mr. Kajol Hajra, from Daily Shomokal on the Rana Plaza tragedy and a special award for photography was given to Mr. Rashed Sumon, from the Daily Star for “a death of a dream” on the same incident.

The winners of the UNESCO Bangladesh Journalism Awards were presented with prize money; a crest with a certificate for their excellent work and the special category awardees received a crest and appreciation certificates.

Building Universal Access to Information and Knowledge Societies

Constructive participation and the development of democracy depend on satisfactory education as well as on free and unlimited access to knowledge, thought, culture and information. And public libraries, the local gateway to knowledge, provide a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development of the individual and social groups.

Support to (Public) Libraries

UNESCO Dhaka Office contributed to library enhancement in Bangladesh upon the request of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and in the context of UNESCO's Public Library Manifesto through the development of a basic and technical library guideline aimed to facilitate the running of libraries in the context of Bangladesh.

The guideline addresses issues ranging from library facilities to service provision, accessibility of library services which includes digital archiving, providing reading, learning, dialogue and interactive activities, ensuring sufficient availability of publications based on local context, skill enhancement of staff etc.

The guideline will be completed, printed and disseminated in 2016.

Open Solutions Perspectives and Mobile Apps for Sustainable Development

YouthMobile

By providing young people with basic technical skills and the confidence to develop, promote, and sell locally relevant mobile applications, the initiative aims to create employment opportunities and at the same time create solutions in different fields such as agriculture, health and education. These youth-made innovations can contribute to the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNESCO Youth Mobile global initiative is aimed to empower youth to resolve identified local issues of sustainable development and to reduce chronic youth unemployment through the creation and sale of smart mobile applications (apps), the formation of small businesses, and through acquisition of employability skills. The overarching objective is to have impacted young people worldwide, particularly young women, with the skills to develop, promote, and sell locally relevant mobile applications by 2017.




MAIN GOAL

"Teaching young girls and boys to create mobile apps for sustainable development"

The initiative builds on the experience of many worldwide projects that introduce young people to computer science programming (learning-to-code) and problem solving (coding-to-learn).

It also seeks to show these young people that such computing power can be used for directly addressing their personal challenges or the problems faced by their local communities.

Eventually groups of young people can create a business or demonstrate skills for applying to IT jobs in the local, national, or international market.

-  Identifying the world's best existing materials to develop mobile apps
-  Training youth trainers and teacher
-  Training a critical mass of young people in developing successful mobile apps for sustainable development

Bangladesh is included in this initiative and through UNESCO Dhaka Office implements this activity. As first step a comprehensive survey was carried out to identify the level of mobile apps development in Bangladesh and identify key elements for successful implementation in line with government plans.

The survey identified women engagement in mobile app development sector of Bangladesh is very low and in its beginning stages. Participation of women, especially students, in computer programming and mobile app development is almost at zero level. However, there are comforting signals showing some positive changes as government sector, private organizations and IT entrepreneurs have started under Digital Bangladesh to support such initiatives.

The UNESCO Youth Mobile initiative is timely and will support training and capacity building of young girls and women.

Key Partners

- ◆ Ministry of Information
- ◆ Bangladesh Center for Development, Journalism & Communication (BCDJC)
- ◆ Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC)
- ◆ Centre for Communication and Development (CCD Bangladesh)
- ◆ Department of Television and Film Studies, Dhaka University
- ◆ Institute of Communication Studies (ICS)
- ◆ International Institute of Media and E-Journalism (IIMEJ)
- ◆ Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI)
- ◆ Massline Media Centre (MMC)

Future Focus

Supporting Gender Sensitive Media in Bangladesh

Within a regional initiative under UNESCO New Delhi, UNESCO Dhaka Office will work with regional and national entities and NGOs to develop a "Gender-Sensitive Guideline for Women in Media in South Asia" which will lead eventually to a women friendly policy for female journalists and media professionals.

Safety of Female Journalists



Within the framework of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, UNESCO Dhaka

Office together with media entities and organizations will develop a safety guideline for professional female journalists to enhance their safety and security. A series of capacity building workshops will also be carried out.

Cyber Safety for Journalists

To foster digital citizenship through safe and responsible use of ICT and to combat cyber violence against women and girls UNESCO Dhaka Office will work with ICT professionals and media organizations to create awareness on ethical use of the internet.



UNESCO Dhaka Office together with national partners will use the UNESCO publication "Building Digital Safety for Journalism Global Survey Report" to develop suitable Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials for the mainstream and community media journalist community to ensure a sustainable Internet safe Digital Bangladesh.

Community Radio for Sustainable Development

UNESCO Dhaka Office will strengthen networking with international and national partners including BBC Media in Action and Deutsche Welle Akademie to advance the capacity of the community media sector of Bangladesh.

This partnership will work together to support the community radio sector by organizing an international forum on the development of the community radio sector to discuss and mitigate the challenges the community radio sector is facing in Bangladesh. In addition UNESCO Dhaka Office together with its partners will develop a comprehensive action plan for the CR sector of Bangladesh.

Empowering Girls and Women with Mobile Technology

UNESCO Dhaka Office will work with national organizations and ICT based private sector to build the capacity of girls and women in mobile applications.

The Science Unit is working towards a Sustainable Development through the promotion of science, technology and innovation applied to environment.



Sciences

Conserve



Science Unit

UNESCO's promotion of sciences, technology and innovation aims at the achievement of peace, well-being and human security.

UNESCO has an important role in providing information on global initiatives such as the Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme and through the World Heritage Centre to register biosphere reserves and natural heritage while also focusing on sustainable management and conservation.



7th SACAM Meeting

UNESCO Dhaka Office in collaboration with UNESCO New Delhi Office organized the 7th SACAM (South and Central Asia Man and Biosphere Network) meeting from 14-15 December 2015 in Dhaka. Over 25 participants from Bhutan, India, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh participated in the meeting.

Main focus has been on how to (i) strengthen Man and Biosphere (MAB) programme in Bangladesh, (ii) sharing of experiences of MAB and biosphere reserves/world natural heritage sites from across the South and Central Asian Sub-region, and (iii) SACAM participation in the upcoming 4th World Congress of Biosphere Reserves in Lima, Peru (from 14 to 17 March 2016).

The two-days long meeting had rich discussions and information sharing and formulated recommendations for

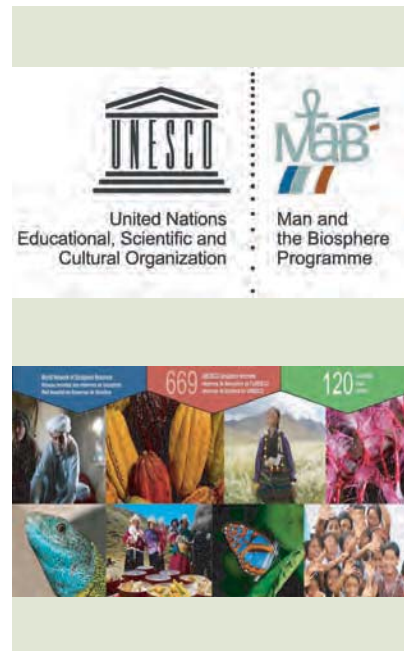


strengthening MAB activities in the South and Central Asia regions, and discussed the possibility for

Bangladesh to revive their MAB Committee and fully engage in MAB/SACAM.

Man and the Biosphere (MAB)

Launched in 1971, Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) is an Intergovernmental Scientific Programme of UNESCO that aims to establish a scientific basis for the improvement of relationships between people and their environments. MAB combines the natural and social science, economic and education to improve human livelihoods and the equitable sharing of benefits, and to safeguard natural and managed ecosystems. MAB's work engages fully with Sustainable Development Goals and the Post 2015 Development Agenda and addresses challenges linked with different interdisciplinary issues. This programme also provides a unique platform for cooperation on R&D, capacity-building and networking to share information knowledge and experience on three interlined issues: biodiversity loss, climate change and sustainable development.



South and Central Asia Man and the Biosphere Network (SACAM)

South and Central Asia Man and Biosphere Network (SACAM) was established in February 2001 during the "Regional Meeting of coordinators of MAB National Committees and Biosphere Reserves in South and Central Asia" in Dehradun, India. The 7th meeting of this network was held in Dhaka during December 2015. Currently the Network is represented by Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The main aim of this network is to strengthen the MAB activities in the South and Central Asia region focusing on facilitating collaboration and information exchange on issues related to biodiversity conservation, climate change and ecosystem management specifically in the context of biosphere reserves.

UNESCO UNDAF Science Exchange Session

As part of the capacity development for the preparation and implementation of UNDAF (2017-2021) UNESCO Dhaka Office organized in-house staff training on science from 30 November to 1 December 2015.

UNESCO Jakarta Office, the Regional Bureau for Sciences in Asia and the Pacific, provided their assistance to conduct the training sharing their long-term experience to implement the science programme in the region. The training provided not only a leverage for UNESCO Dhaka Office to prepare the upcoming UNDAF on science, technology and innovation related issues, but to learn from the experience of the Jakarta Office.

A half-day session with stakeholders in Bangladesh provided excellent opportunity to learn about key issues and concerns to be addressed both in the UNDAF and at UNESCO programme level.



UNESCO-UNDAF Science Exchange Session, 2015

Future Focus

Natural World Heritage "The Sundarbans"



UNESCO Dhaka Office will assist Bangladesh authorities in the safeguarding and management of "The Sundarbans" World Natural Heritage.

Man and Biosphere

UNESCO Dhaka Office will support authorities in Bangladesh to assess the feasibility of the MAB programme in Bangladesh and strengthen the existing national committee.

Science Education

UNESCO Dhaka Office will strengthen its support to quality science education in Bangladesh, in particular subjects related to life sciences, environment, climate change and Education for Sustainable Development, at secondary level. Girls will receive particular attention.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

UNESCO Dhaka Office will contribute to the efforts made by the authorities and development partners in knowledge exchange and management, as well as on capacity building for disaster preparedness and mitigation and the development of tools such as standard operating procedures.

UNESCO Dhaka Office in inter-sectoral cooperation and jointly with UN

partners, NGOs and Government will enhance the capacity of relevant stakeholders in coping with emergency situations under the framework of Education in Emergency (EIE).

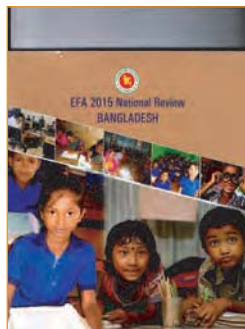
Water Management and Education

Linked to the natural World Heritage site in Bangladesh, UNESCO Dhaka Office aims to support authorities in the management of fresh water in the delta area especially increasing the flow of fresh water to mitigate the adverse impact of saline water intrusion.

In this context UNESCO Dhaka Office plans to develop IEC materials to raise awareness and educate local stakeholders in relevant water management issues.

Key Publications 2014-2015

Education



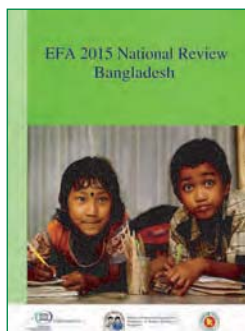
EFA 2015 National Review Bangladesh

This analytical report showcases the achievements based on the six EFA Goals, challenges, gaps and recommendations for the improvement of the educational system in Bangladesh. Available in English and Bangla.



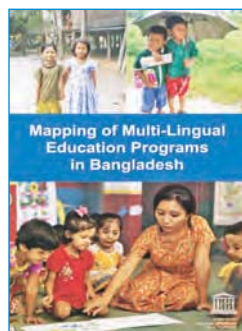
Summary of EFA Global Monitoring Report 2015: Education for All 2000-2015 - Achievements and Challenges

This report is the summary version of a full length report under the same title. Available in English and Bangla.



Brochure of EFA 2015 National Review Bangladesh

This brochure is a compilation and short version of the EFA 2015 National Review Bangladesh providing highlights of the six EFA Goals in Bangladesh, achievements, challenges, gaps and recommendations. Available in English and Bangla.



Mapping of Multi - Lingual Education Programs in Bangladesh

This report, shows the results of an analysis of the multilingual situation in the Chittagong Hill Track (CHT) area of Bangladesh. This report was jointly published in 2014 by UNESCO Dhaka, Save the Children, Multilingual Education Forum Campaign for Popular Education and Research and Development Collective. Available in English.



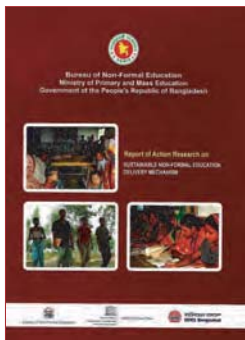
Summary of EFA Global Monitoring Report 2013/14 - Teaching and Learning: Achieving Quality for All

This report is the summary version of a full length report under the same title. Available in English and Bangla.



Promoting Inclusive Teacher Education

Advocacy Guides prepared by UNESCO Bangkok Office under Japan Funds-in-Trust were adapted and translated into Bangla as three publications: Policy, Curriculum and Materials as well as Teaching-Learning Methods. These guides were jointly prepared by Asian Centre for Inclusive Education, Institute of Education and Research, Dhaka University and UNESCO Dhaka.



Action Research on Non-Formal Sustainable Delivery Mechanism

This report reflects the results of a research conducted in Non-Formal Education (NFE) pilot districts of UNESCO and provides insights on the changes and adaptation of delivery mechanisms while also showcasing best practices. This publication was jointly published in 2014 by RDRS Bangladesh, Bureau of Non-Formal Education and UNESCO Dhaka. Available in English and Bangla.

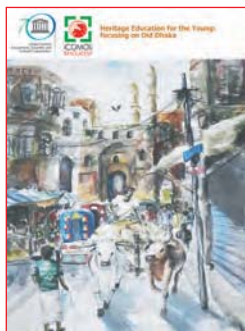
Education and UNESCO Dhaka. Available in English and Bangla.



Free Media for Good Governance

As a part of the celebration of World Press Freedom Day on 3 May 2014, Massline Media Centre and UNESCO Dhaka Office jointly published a compilation featuring twenty-four contributions from teachers, researchers, journalists, civil society representatives, intellectuals, writers and development workers on press freedom issues. Available in English and Bangla.

Culture



Heritage Education for the Young: focusing on Old Dhaka

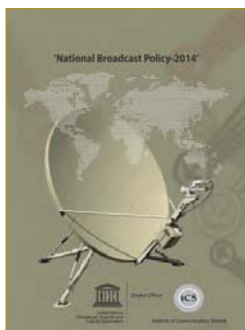
This document outlines the actions and stages of the activity and showcases materials such as maps and drawings prepared by the young people expressing their perspective of the culture and heritage of old Dhaka. Available in English.



English Translation of "UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity"

This publication is a translation from English into Bangla of the "UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity" which UNESCO Dhaka Office jointly facilitated with the Institute of Communications Studies (ICS) in 2015. Available in English and Bangla.

Communication and Information



National Broadcast Policy 2014

This publication is the translation from Bangla into English of the National Broadcast Policy of Bangladesh which was formulated and passed by the government in 2014. Both versions are to ensure a wider dissemination of the policy among the different levels of stakeholders. Available in English and Bangla.

Major Events of 2014-2015

2014 and 2015

World Radio Day – 13 February

UNESCO Dhaka Office together with the National Radio of Bangladesh celebrated this day in 2014 on the theme “Radio in Times of Emergency and Disaster” and in 2015 on the theme “Youth and the Radio”.

World Press Freedom Day – 3 May

With some of UNESCO’s key partners in Communication and Information a series of roundtables, seminars, off and online events were organized to focus this Day on the importance of media. In 2014 under the theme “Free Media Contribute to Good Governance, Empowerment and Eradicating Poverty” and in 2015 under the theme “Let Journalism Thrive! Towards Better Reporting, Gender Equality and Media Safety in the Digital Age”.

International Literacy Day – 8 September



On the occasion of International Literacy Day in 2014 Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina and

UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova jointly inaugurated the UNESCO International Conference on Girls’ and Women’s Literacy and Education under the 2014 ILD theme: Literacy and Sustainable Development, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and awarded the 2014 UNESCO International Literacy Prizes to five laureates.

Under the leadership of Ministry of Education ILD was celebrated in 2015 under the theme “Literacy and Sustainable Societies”, with Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina and Representative of UNESCO Dhaka Office as well as other dignitaries together with UN and NGO partners, civil society and various key stakeholders.

International Teacher’s Day – 5 October

UNESCO Dhaka Office celebrated International Teacher’s Day together with teachers’ associations, government officials, educationists, civil society, NGOs, students and media hosted at Dhaka University, remembering the great step made for teachers on 5 October 1966, when a special intergovernmental conference convened by UNESCO in Paris adopted the UNESCO/ILO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers.

In 2014 under the theme of “Invest in the Future! Invest in Teachers. In 2015 under the theme of “Empowering Teachers, Building Sustainable Societies”.

2014

UN Day Celebration

On 21 October 2014 UNESCO Dhaka Office joined other UN agencies under the leadership of UNIC in the celebration of UN Day at Cox’s Bazaar. Over 1,500 people celebrated UN’s birthday with flash mobs as a public event.



2015

International Mother Language Day – 21 February

In celebration of International Mother Language Day UNESCO Dhaka Office joined UNIC and Daffodil International University (DIU) in a seminar and cultural show on the 2015 theme “Inclusion in and through education: Language counts”.

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development – 21 May

In the spirit of UNESCO’s Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of 2001 and the 10th anniversary of the 2005 UNESCO Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, UNESCO Dhaka Office in partnership with ICOMOS Bangladesh organized a Round Table Discussion on the Built Heritage of Bangladesh with a focus on Old Dhaka.

How can I connect with UNESCO Dhaka?



Visit our website
www.unesco.org/dhaka



Follow us on our Facebook page
www.facebook.com/unescodhaka



As part of its Open Access Policy, UNESCO has adopted the IGO Creative Commons licenses, which is one of the existing copyright licensing systems that gives the public the right to re-use a work as freely as possible. Open Access means free access to scientific information and unrestricted use of electronic data for everyone.



Partners/Donors

UNESCO works with governments, the private sector, multilateral development banks as well as the UN system to increase the impact of its interventions in its mandated areas. For more information visit our website <http://www.unesco.org/dhaka> or contact us at dhaka@unesco.org



Media

Journalists interested in learning more or covering UNESCO and UNESCO Dhaka's projects and programmes can contact us at dhaka@unesco.org or find useful information on our website <http://www.unesco.org/dhaka> for forthcoming press releases and briefings as well as public events.



Researchers/Professors/Experts

UNESCO constantly seeks expertise in the areas of education, science, culture and communications. If you would like to receive regular updates about our ongoing projects and programmes or would like to have your resume included in our roster of consultants' send a completed consultant registration form and CV to dhaka@unesco.org, or please contact us at <http://www.unesco.org/dhaka>



Students/Interns

Students who wish to learn more about UNESCO's work for research and projects or who wish to apply for voluntary internships at the Dhaka Office should check our website <http://www.unesco.org/dhaka> or contact us at dhaka@unesco.org

Conservation Quality
 Democracy Education
 Advocacy Safeguard Millennium Development Goal
 Diversity Heritage Women Empower
UNESCO Tolerance
 advancing Inclusive
 Sustainable development science
education Gender Teachers
 science Pluralism Heritage
 Diversity Heritage Literacy **culture** Arts
and Freedom of Expression Human Rights
communication Creative Economy Communities Heritage
 Heritage Intercultural
 Biodiversity Empower
 Children Innovation Dialogue



United Nations
 Educational, Scientific and
 Cultural Organization



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNESCO Dhaka Office

- House: 122, Road: 1, Block: F
- Banani, Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Tel: +88-02-9873210
- Fax: +88-02-9871150
- Email: dhaka@unesco.org
- www.unesco.org/dhaka