

# ACHIEVEMENT REPORT



PROJECT: CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF  
INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE IN BANGLADESH

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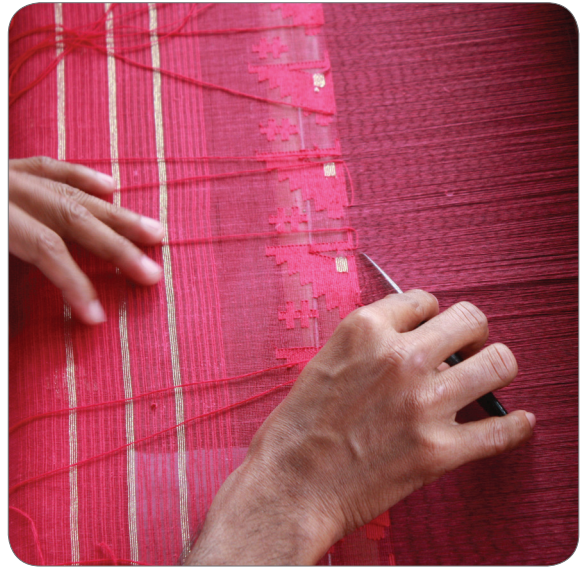
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# MESSAGE

**W**hile intangible cultural heritage has no specific motherland and exists in every country, Bangladesh is a country extremely rich in intangible cultural heritage and the country holds a very special place for it.

The Government of Bangladesh has ratified the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in 2009, demonstrating its commitment to establish mechanisms for the promotion and protection of ICH. Following the ratification, Bangladesh has so far inscribed four elements on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity: The traditional art of Shital Pati weaving of Sylhet in 2017, Mangal Shobhajatra on Pahela Baishakh in 2016, the Traditional art of Jamdani weaving in 2013, and Baul songs in 2008.

In order to best possibly safeguard Bangladesh's diverse ICH, Bangladeshi stakeholders recognized the need to reinforce their understanding of the implementation of the 2003 Convention, including getting a better understanding of best practices for the preparation of ICH nominations and the establishment of an ICH inventoring.

As a response, the UNESCO Office in Dhaka, with the generous contribution of the Government of Azerbaijan, implemented the capacity-building project entitled 'Strengthening National Capacities for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage for Sustainable Development in Bangladesh'.

Between 2016 and 2018, three national capacity building workshops were organized, building the capacity of more than 70 stakeholders representing different fields of ICH, including the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the Department of Archaeology, the Folk Art and Craft Foundation, the Bangladesh National Museum, the Bangla Academy, the Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka University, the Asiatic Society, the National Crafts Council, NGOs, tradition bearers, community representatives, and private sector entities.

As part of the implemented project, and to ensure long-term and sustainable support to a key safeguarding measure – ICH inventoring – a Guidebook on Community-based ICH

Inventoring (CBI), as well as an ICH Toolkit providing comprehensive support materials on the implementation of the 2003 Convention, Inventoring, and ICH Nomination process, were developed.

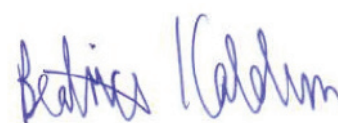
In addition to the three conducted capacity building workshops and developed training materials, relevant workshop information texts and 2003 Convention relevant materials were translated into the Bangla language to allow for a wider future use among stakeholders, to strengthen the implementation of 2003 Convention, and to enhance the capacity and understanding of national stakeholders and communities in promoting and safeguarding ICH in Bangladesh.

Through its participatory activities, the project created a platform for relevant stakeholders and community members to come together and to engage in dialogue on ongoing activities and programs that support the safeguarding of ICH in Bangladesh, as well as to identify areas that require further capacity building and engagement.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Government of Azerbaijan for enabling this project with their financial support, as well as to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of Bangladesh and to Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy for their valuable collaboration to accomplish the project successfully.

I would also like to thank the valuable participants and beneficiaries of workshops, ICH-based NGOs, ICH practitioners, as well as national and international ICH experts, for contributing to the successful organization and implementation of this project.

I am confident that the assistance provided serves as an important milestone and will inspire participants and stakeholders to continue safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage of Bangladesh for present and future generations.



Beatrice Kaldun  
Head and Representative



# 1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

Intangible cultural heritage is our living heritage, which is continuously recreated, and evolves as we adapt our practices and traditions in response to our environment. It provides a sense of identity and belonging in relation to our own cultures.

In 2003, the UNESCO General Conference adopted the *Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage* at its 32nd session, aiming to safeguard intangible cultural heritage, to ensure respect for it, to raise awareness about its importance, and to provide international cooperation on and assistance for the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.

Bangladesh demonstrated its commitment to the living heritage of Bangladesh through the ratification of the 2003 Convention in 2009 as well as through the inscription of elements on the Representative List of ICH of Humanity. However, the ratification of the Convention does not automatically ensure that the living heritage remains viable, neither that all stakeholders are involved, nor that the mechanisms of the Convention are fully understood by all concerned.

Recognizing the need for capacity-building on the 2003 Convention in Bangladesh and building on previous efforts, targeted action was decided in cooperation with UNESCO.

To ensure the sustainable safeguarding of Bangladesh's ICH, as well as an integrated effort towards the identification and inventorying of the ICH of Bangladesh, the project '*Capacity Building for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Bangladesh*' was launched as a response to the identified need.

Funded by the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Fund with a generous contribution of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the project, which was carried out from 2016 to 2018, strengthened the capacities of Bangladesh to safeguard its intangible cultural heritage through effective implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage with particular focus on the inventorying of ICH of Bangladesh.



On 16 March 2016, the Ministry of Finance (ERD) and UNESCO officially signed the project '*Capacity Building for Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Bangladesh*' for 2016-2018.

## 2 PROJECT OVERVIEW

### 2.1 Project Objectives

The objectives of UNESCO's intervention were to strengthen the capacities of Bangladesh to safeguard its intangible cultural heritage through effective implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. Specific project objectives included:



#### Enhancing Stakeholder Knowledge

Enhancing the understanding of national stakeholders of obligations and opportunities entailed by the ratification of the 2003 Convention and its implementation at national level.



#### Sensitizing Stakeholders

Sensitizing national stakeholders and the community about the importance and significance of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, including ICH elements in need of urgent safeguarding, by providing consultative guidance and ICH policy advice, and by reinforcing capacities on key mechanisms of the 2003 Convention, including inventorying and how to prepare nomination files for inscription on the Lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage.



#### Providing Tools

Providing tools to support the safeguarding of ICH in Bangladesh, including training materials and tools on the implementation of the 2003 Convention, on community-based ICH inventorying, and ICH nomination processes.

## 2.2 Project Activities at a Glance



### Enhancing Stakeholder Knowledge

Workshop 1:  
**Implementing** the 2003 Convention  
at National Level

Workshop 2:  
Community-Based **Inventoring** (CBI)  
of ICH Elements



### Sensitizing Stakeholders

Workshop 3:  
Preparing **Nominations** to the Lists of the 2003  
Convention



### Providing Tools

Development of a Guidebook on Community-  
based ICH Inventoring in Bangladesh

Development of an ICH Workshop Toolkit

Translation of the Operational Directives  
for the implementation of the Convention  
for the Safeguarding of the Intangible  
Cultural Heritage into Bangla language

Translation of Training Materials into  
Bangla language



## 3 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

### 3.1 Enhancing and Sensitizing Stakeholders on the ICH Convention and its practical application



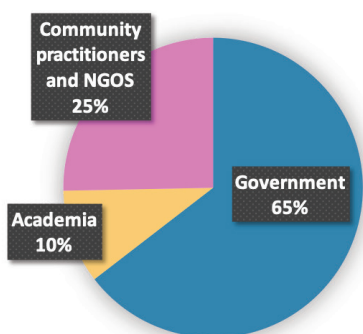
A key aspect of the project was the training of relevant Government institutions, NGOs, community representatives, and private sector entities in effective safeguarding measures as well as the development of resource tools for the safeguarding and promotion of ICH in Bangladesh. Activities under the framework of the project were implemented from April 2016 until December 2018 and included three capacity-building training workshops outlined on pages 11 –13.

Conducted capacity-training workshops provided participants with an in-depth understanding of the Implementation of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, Community-based Inventorying of ICH, and Nomination of ICH under the 2003 Convention to one of the two lists of the 2003 Convention. Conducted training sessions were attended by a wide range of stakeholders. Participation included the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, the Department of Archaeology, the Folk Art and Craft Foundation, the Bangladesh National Museum, the Bangla Academy, the Shilpakala Academy, Dhaka University, the Asia Society, the National Crafts Council, performing arts NGOs, practitioners, community representatives, and private sector entities.

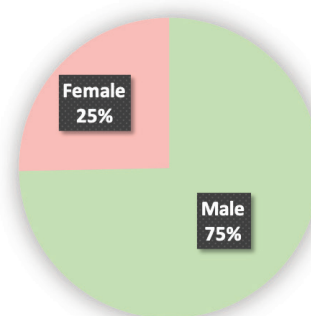
#### Workshop Participants Overview:

Workshop participants	Community practitioners and NGOs	Academia	Government	TOTAL
Workshop 1: Implementing the 2003 Convention at National Level	9	3	12	24
Workshop 2: Community-Based Inventorying (CBI) of ICH Elements	5	2	17	24
Workshop 3: Preparing Nominations to the Lists of the 2003 Convention	6	3	22	31
<b>TOTAL PARTICIPANTS</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>79</b>

Workshop Participants by Sector



Workshop Participants by Gender



## Workshop Trainers

The following UNESCO accredited experts on intangible cultural heritage, based in Asia-Pacific, facilitated the capacity-building workshops:



### **NORIKO AIKAWA-FAURE**

**JAPAN**

A social anthropologist and art historian, Ms. Noriko Aikawa-Faure was formerly the chief of the Intangible Cultural Heritage section at UNESCO headquarters.

Ms. Noriko Aikawa is one of UNESCO's accredited experts on intangible cultural heritage based in Asia-Pacific to facilitate capacity-building workshops on implementation of the 2003 Convention.



### **ALEXANDRA DENES, PH.D.**

**UNITED STATES**

Dr. Alexandra Denes is a socio-cultural anthropologist with over 15 years of research and professional experience working with academia, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations in Mainland Southeast Asia.

Dr. Alexandra Denes is one of UNESCO's accredited experts on intangible cultural heritage based in Asia-Pacific to facilitate capacity-building workshops on implementation of the 2003 Convention.



### **SUZANNE OGGE**

**AUSTRALIA**

Prior to becoming the Head of Heritage and Museum Projects at Studio Milou Architecture in Singapore, Ms. Suzanne Ogge was a consultant and project manager for the Cultural sector at UNESCO headquarters in Paris for 10 years.

Ms. Suzanne Ogge is one of UNESCO's accredited experts on intangible cultural heritage based in Asia-Pacific to facilitate capacity-building workshops on implementation of the 2003 Convention.



## Workshop 1: Implementing the 2003 Convention at National Level (Dhaka, 29 January – 1 February 2017)

The 4-day capacity-building training provided key heritage stakeholders with a foundational overview and understanding of objectives and key safeguarding concepts of the 2003 Convention, national obligations of States Parties to the Convention, as well as UNESCO tools and mechanisms for international cooperation. The training enabled participants to understand possible activities involved in implementing the 2003 Convention and offered a platform that allowed participants to reflect collectively on experiences and challenges in safeguarding ICH. Participants exchanged ideas and discussed policies, legal measures, institutions, approaches to inventorying, ICH awareness-raising, ICH transmission, as well as community-participation in safeguarding measures.

Participatory sessions instigated dialogue between national stakeholders and helped to identify areas of need for further capacity-building, engagement and mutual cooperation. Participants shared insights and local perspectives on successes and challenges of ICH safeguarding in Bangladesh from their respective heritage agencies and organizations. Community representatives presented specific past and ongoing safeguarding efforts. On the third day, participants engaged in a field exercise at a Jamdani weaving community which helped participants to put concepts and approaches of identifying ICH elements into practice.

The training fostered collaboration among ICH stakeholders, emphasized the role of communities in living, transmitting, inventorying and safeguarding ICH, provided hands-on tools, as well as showcased the need for enhanced communication between heritage agencies and cultural practitioners as primary stakeholders.

### Workshop sessions included:

Introducing the Convention

Who can do what in implementing the Convention?

Key Concepts in the Convention

Raising Awareness





## Workshop 2: Community-Based Inventoring (CBI) of ICH Elements (Dhaka, 24 – 28 September 2017)

Engaging stakeholders who are playing an active role in designing and conducting inventories of ICH in Bangladesh, the 5-day training equipped participants with in-depth knowledge and skills to design and facilitate community-based inventoring processes tailored to particular community circumstances. Workshop materials and agenda were designed in a way that heavily engaged participants: Participatory group discussions were followed by group presentations, which allowed participants to better understand the content of the workshop and to take part in the workshop more actively.

Participants shared insights from their respective heritage agencies, organizations, and communities, and presented past and ongoing ICH inventoring initiatives, pinpointing where further intervention and collaboration was needed.

On the fourth day a fieldwork practicum allowed participants to gain first-hand experience with inventoring and to put into practice what they had learned during the first part of the workshop. Therefore, participants visited different heritage sites in Dhaka and conducted inventoring exercises, specifically focusing on issues pertaining to the viability and measures for safeguarding.

### Workshop sessions included:

Identification and Inventoring	Ethical Principles for Safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage
Involving the Communities Concerned	Intangible Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development
Guidance Note for Inventoring ICH	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent





### Workshop 3: Preparing Nominations to the Lists of the 2003 Convention (Dhaka, 5 – 9 May 2018)

Focusing on the preparation of nomination files for ICH elements to be nominated to the Urgent Safeguarding or the Representative List of the 2003 Convention, the 4-day workshop allowed participants to become familiar with the mechanisms and criteria of nominations and to understand the nomination examination and evaluation processes. Engaging and participatory group work sessions combined with plenary discussions allowed participants to apply gained knowledge and to discuss past and ongoing Bangladeshi nomination efforts including lessons learned.

Participants gained an understanding of and experienced the different processes involved in a nomination of an ICH element, including different nomination mechanisms with respective nomination requirements, through case studies and past and present nomination dossiers. Working with 'live nomination files', had proven to be particularly effective as it provided a tangible example from the local context.

Further, as an exercise, participants drafted and reviewed proposals for UNESCO's Register of Good Safeguarding Practices as well as proposals for requests for International Safeguarding Assistance. The Register highlights successful safeguarding experiences and examples while the International Assistance is a tool of financial support.

#### Workshop sessions included:

Nominations: Overview

International Cooperation and Assistance

Developing a Nomination Summary

Nomination Forms & Request for International Assistance



## 3.2 Providing Tools for the Safeguarding and Promotion of ICH in Bangladesh

Reinforcing the capacity building component of the project, as well as aiming at reaching a wider audience and contributing to the sustainability of the project, a number of publications were developed and disseminated among stakeholders, as well as existing English language materials translated into the Bangla language.



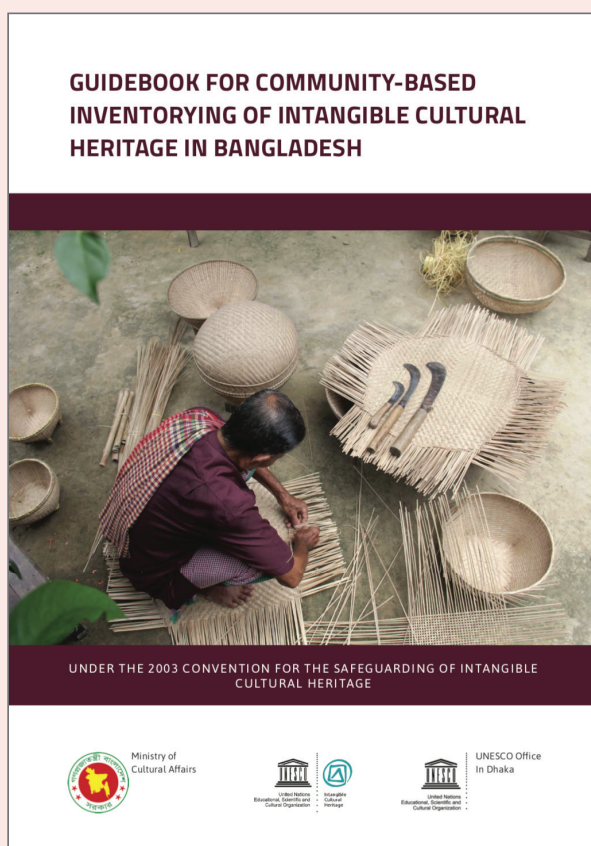
### Development of a Guidebook on Community-based ICH Inventorying in Bangladesh

A Guidebook for community-based inventorying of intangible cultural heritage in Bangladesh was developed which provides guidance to interested stakeholders on community-based ICH inventorying in Bangladesh. The Guidebook can be considered as a complementary non-official resource to the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage including its Operational Directives and introduces aspects of community-based inventorying (CBI).

The Guidebook explains the concept and purpose of inventorying, as well as provides concrete tools and techniques to allow communities and supporting facilitators to document the communities' intangible cultural heritage and traditions through community-based inventorying (CBI). It explains why communities are best situated to document their ICH and lays out practical steps of community-based inventorying processes, and includes a step-by-step guide and checklists that can be considered prior to and during community-based inventorying (CBI) processes.

The Guidebook includes concrete inventory country examples and explains the differences between Inventories and Nominations. Chapters on Admission Criteria and Principles for community-based inventorying (CBI), as well as on Ethical Principles, and the importance of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) provide important guidance and background understanding to the reader.

The Guidebook is available on the website of UNESCO as well as in hard copy at the UNESCO Office in Dhaka.



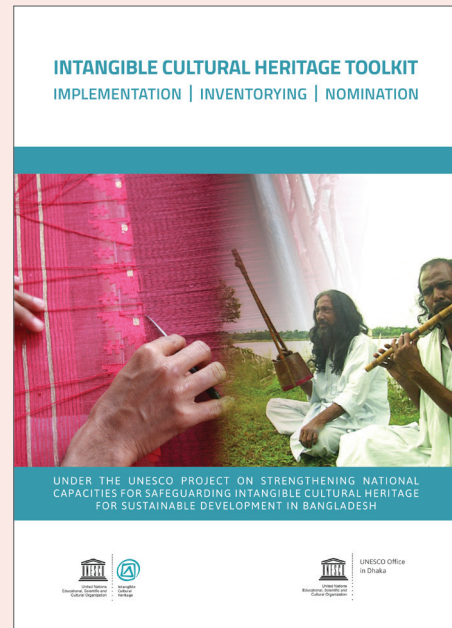


## Development of an ICH Toolkit

Summarizing the content of the three conducted training workshops, a comprehensive ICH Toolkit was developed. The Toolkit serves as a reference document to workshop participants, as well as provides guidance to all interested stakeholders on the implementation of the 2003 Convention, inventorying ICH, and the nomination of ICH elements to the Lists of the 2003 Convention.

Following the format of conducted training sessions, the Toolkit includes information texts, presentation slides, and case studies. It includes excerpts from the 2003 Convention and the Operational Directives to the 2003 Convention, and focuses on aspects of ICH inventorying and the nomination of heritage with examples from Bangladesh.

The Toolkit is available on the website of UNESCO as well as in hard copy at the UNESCO Office in Dhaka.



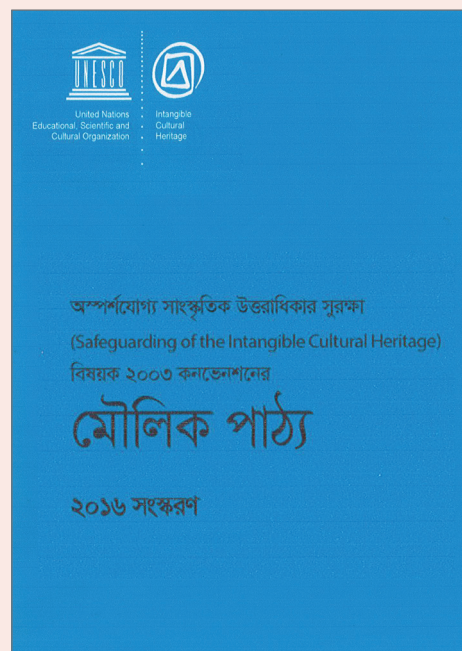
## Draft Translation of the Operational Directives for the Implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage into Bangla Language

The 2003 Convention includes Operational Directives (ODs) that provide guidelines and indicate the process and mechanisms for the various actions needed for the safeguarding of ICH.

Among other things, the ODs indicate the procedures to be followed for inscribing intangible heritage on the Lists of the Convention, the provision of international financial assistance, the accreditation of non-governmental organizations to act in an advisory capacity to the Committee, and the involvement of communities in implementing the 2003 Convention.

To provide access to this important information to a wider audience, the UNESCO Office in Dhaka facilitated the draft translation of the ODs (2016 Version) into the Bangla language.

The translated ODs is available on the website of UNESCO as well as in hard copy at the UNESCO Office in Dhaka.







## 4 PROJECT IMPACT & ACHIEVEMENTS

### 4.1 Impact

Implemented activities and developed publications strengthened the capacities of stakeholders to safeguard Bangladesh's intangible cultural heritage through effective implementation of the 2003 Convention. The impact of the project included:

- » Capacity building workshops **fostered better cooperation** between relevant authorities including government authorities, academia, community, NGOs and UNESCO to safeguard and promote the ICH of Bangladesh.
- » Activities **provided a platform** for relevant stakeholders and community members to engage in dialogue on ongoing activities and programmes that support the safeguarding of ICH in Bangladesh, as well as helped to identify areas of need for further capacity building and engagement.
- » Ministry of Cultural Affairs **ensured its support** to and lead in activities related to safeguarding and promotion of intangible cultural heritage in Bangladesh.
- » Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has been **reinforced** by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs as responsible organization for the safeguarding of ICH in Bangladesh.
- » Participants **ensured their institutional support** in safeguarding and promoting ICH in Bangladesh.
- » Bangladesh national authorities as well as project partners have **recognized the importance** of safeguarding ICH and the need of ICH inventorying, and are **keen in further partnership with UNESCO** in scaling up this approach.



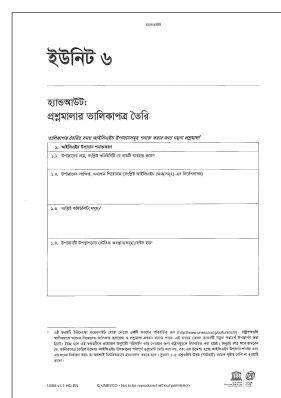
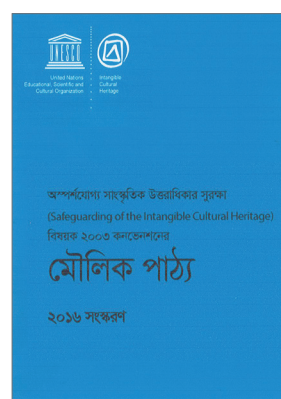
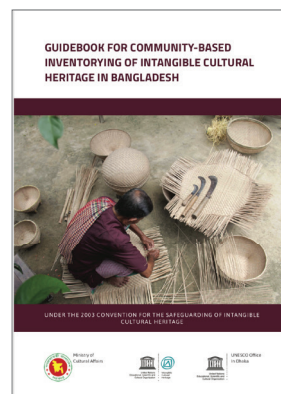
## 4.2 Achievements

The project has reached its aim to support the strengthening of institutional and human resources, both female and male, from government, civil society and communities, for the effective safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage of Bangladesh.

Activities were in line with and contributed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 (*Decent work and economic growth*) and the SDG 11 (*Sustainable Cities and Communities*).

Training participants went through an in-depth training cycle and could significantly enhance their knowledge of the ICH Convention and ICH Safeguarding measures. Project achievements include:

- » **Enhanced the understanding** of measures to safeguard Bangladesh's intangible cultural heritage through the 2003 Convention among relevant key stakeholders through conducted capacity-building training.
- » **Enhanced the understanding** of national stakeholders of obligations entailed by the ratification of the 2003 Convention and its implementation, as well as reinforced national capacities to allow Bangladesh to have a sustainable concept for the safeguarding of its intangible heritage and the implementation of the 2003 Convention.
- » **Sensitized national stakeholders and the community** about the importance and significance of safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, in particular of ICH elements in need of urgent safeguarding and representative ICH elements.
- » **Provided consultative guidance and ICH policy advise**, and **reinforced capacities** to prepare nomination files for inscription on the Lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- » With the support of international and national experts, **developed training and awareness raising tools** that promote the safeguarding of ICH in Bangladesh. Training materials include a Guidebook on Community-based ICH inventorying (CBI) and an ICH Toolkit on the implementation of the 2003 Convention, inventorying and ICH nomination. Further, existing English language materials were **translated into the Bangla language**.



## 5 ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES ON SAFEGUARDING ICH DURING PROJECT PERIOD

With the support of UNESCO affiliated ICH centres from the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Korea, a number of reinforcing and complementing activities could be conducted by the UNESCO Office in Dhaka during the project period. Activities included:



### Capacity-Building Workshop on Safeguarding ICH under the UNESCO 2003 Convention (Dhaka, 17 – 20 September 2018)

To further strengthen the understanding of the national stakeholders on ICH safeguarding measures, UNESCO conducted a capacity-building workshop on Safeguarding ICH in close collaboration



with the International Training Center for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region under the auspices of UNESCO (CRIHAP, UNESCO Category II Centre, China). The training equipped 20 participants from previous workshops comprising of ICH practitioners, NGO representatives, ICH based researchers, academia and government officials with relevant knowledge about ICH safeguarding measures in the context of the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, as well as with tools to develop safeguarding plans. To disseminate gathered training materials, a dedicated workshop Toolkit has been developed.



### Translation of UNESCO publications 'ICH and Sustainable Development' and 'ICH and Gender' into Bangla language

To strengthen the understanding of national authorities about the significance of ICH for inclusive social development, environmental sustainability, inclusive economic development, peace and security, as well as the relationship between and interconnectedness of ICH and Gender, UNESCO, with support of the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP, UNESCO Category II Centre, Republic of Korea), facilitated the translation of the UNESCO publication 'ICH and Sustainable Development' and 'ICH and Gender' into the Bangla language.



The translated publications are available on the website of UNESCO as well as in hard copy at the UNESCO Office in Dhaka.

## 6 DONOR AND PROJECT PARTNERS

To ensure ownership and sustainability of the project, UNESCO worked directly with focal persons at the Ministry of Cultural Affairs as well as other national and international partners and stakeholders which have been instrumental to the success of the project activities. International and national stakeholders and partners included:

### International:

DONOR

#### The Republic of Azerbaijan:

The Republic of Azerbaijan is a strong supporter of UNESCO's activities in safeguarding cultural heritage and has generously contributed to the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Fund to support UNESCO's capacity building efforts towards member states. This project is a result of the contribution by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan towards safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage for sustainable development in Bangladesh.

### National:

PROJECT PARTNER

#### Ministry of Cultural Affairs:



Ministry of  
Cultural Affairs

The Ministry of Cultural Affairs is a full-fledged national authority, dedicated to enhance and enrich the nation's intellect through preservation, research, development and promotion of native culture, history, and heritage, as well as the spirit of the liberation war and contemporary arts and literature of Bangladesh.

PROJECT PARTNER

#### Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy of Fine and Performing Arts:

Creative Bangladesh



**Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy**

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy of Fine and Performing Arts is the national partner of this project. Shilpakala Academy was established in 1974 as a statutory organization under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. Since then it has been working on promoting and protecting Bangladeshi arts and culture creating platforms and enabling environment for their development.



**3**

**TRAINING WORKSHOPS  
ORGANIZED**



**3**

**INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS  
INVOLVED AS TRAINERS**



**79**

**BANGLADESHI PROFESSIONALS  
TRAINED**



**4**

**PUBLICATIONS PRODUCED  
AND DISSEMINATED**





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