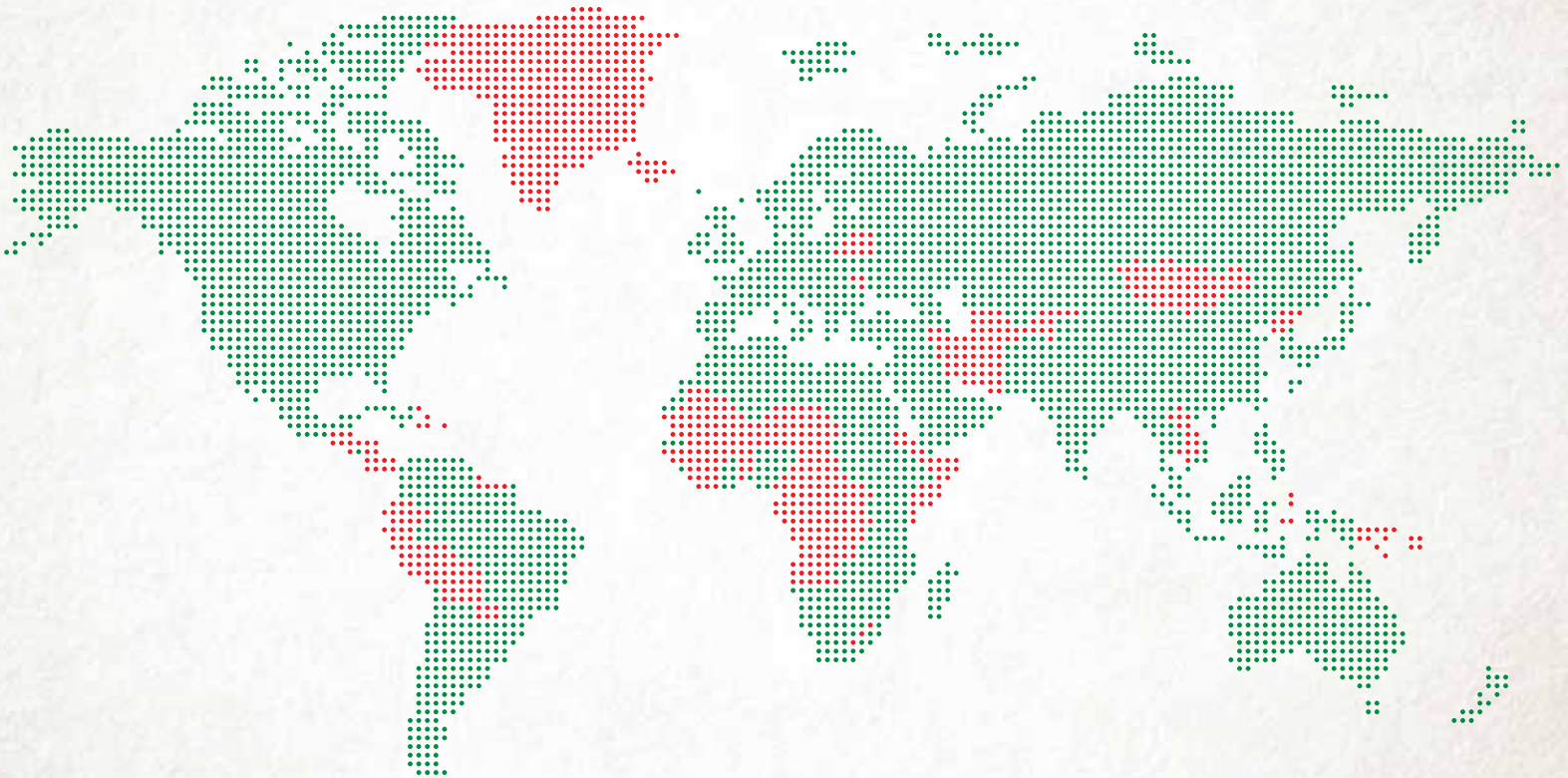




**The British Council in Bangladesh**

Celebrating over 60 years of impact



The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We work in 110 countries and territories across the world.



ACTIVE IN

**110 COUNTRIES**

# THE BRITISH COUNCIL

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. Our purpose is to create international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and to build trust between them worldwide. We work in four key thematic areas: the Arts, English, Education and Society.

We seek new ways of connecting with and understanding each other through the **Arts**. We strive for more widespread and better quality teaching, learning and assessment of **English** worldwide. Our goal is to enhance UK leadership and shared learning from interactive **Education**. We want to build **Societies** whose young people, citizens and institutions contribute to and benefit from a more inclusive, open and prosperous world.

We have over 7,000 staff working in over 190 offices in 110 countries and territories across the world.

The British Council was established in 1934, and our founding Royal Charter outlined our mission as *'promoting abroad a wider appreciation of British culture and civilisation by encouraging cultural, educational and other interchanges between the United Kingdom and elsewhere'*.



**£781 MILLION**  
GLOBAL ANNUAL TURNOVER



**92%**

SAID THAT WORKING WITH US  
HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THEIR  
PROFESSIONAL LIVES\*



**£1 → £3.56**

FOR EVERY £1 OF UK  
GOVERNMENT GRANT WE RECEIVE,  
WE GENERATE £3.56 OF INCOME FROM  
OTHER SOURCES

\*2012-2013 Ipsos MORI survey of 4000 participants of  
our programmes across 50 countries

# THE BRITISH COUNCIL IN BANGLADESH

**We have been working in Dhaka since 1951. Since then we have extended our presence to Chittagong and Sylhet. In all three locations we now offer a wide range of services, activities and programmes.**

We work with three main groups of people:

**Society and community leaders** who can bring about changes in social, education and cultural policy and help us make wider connections.

**Influencers**, including career professionals, the media, educators, artists, scientists and business leaders, who we partner with in order to help maximise the impact of their work and ours.

**Young people**, either in education or just starting out on their careers, who are opinion formers through their own social networks and are potentially the next generation of national leaders and influencers.

Our main office in Dhaka is situated within the grounds of Dhaka University. It is here where our recently refurbished Library is located and from where we project our operations across the country, and design and plan the implementation of our programmes. We teach English at three centres in Dhaka (Dhanmondi, Fuller Road, Uttara), Sylhet and Chittagong. We administer exams nationwide. We work in partnership with a large number of foundations, trusts and public, private, non-profit and non-governmental organisations to deliver a portfolio of projects that are vibrant and full of impact. We are strongly committed to equal opportunity and diversity in all aspects of our work.



**900,000**

PEOPLE ENGAGED THROUGH OUR  
DIGITAL PLATFORMS



**55,000**

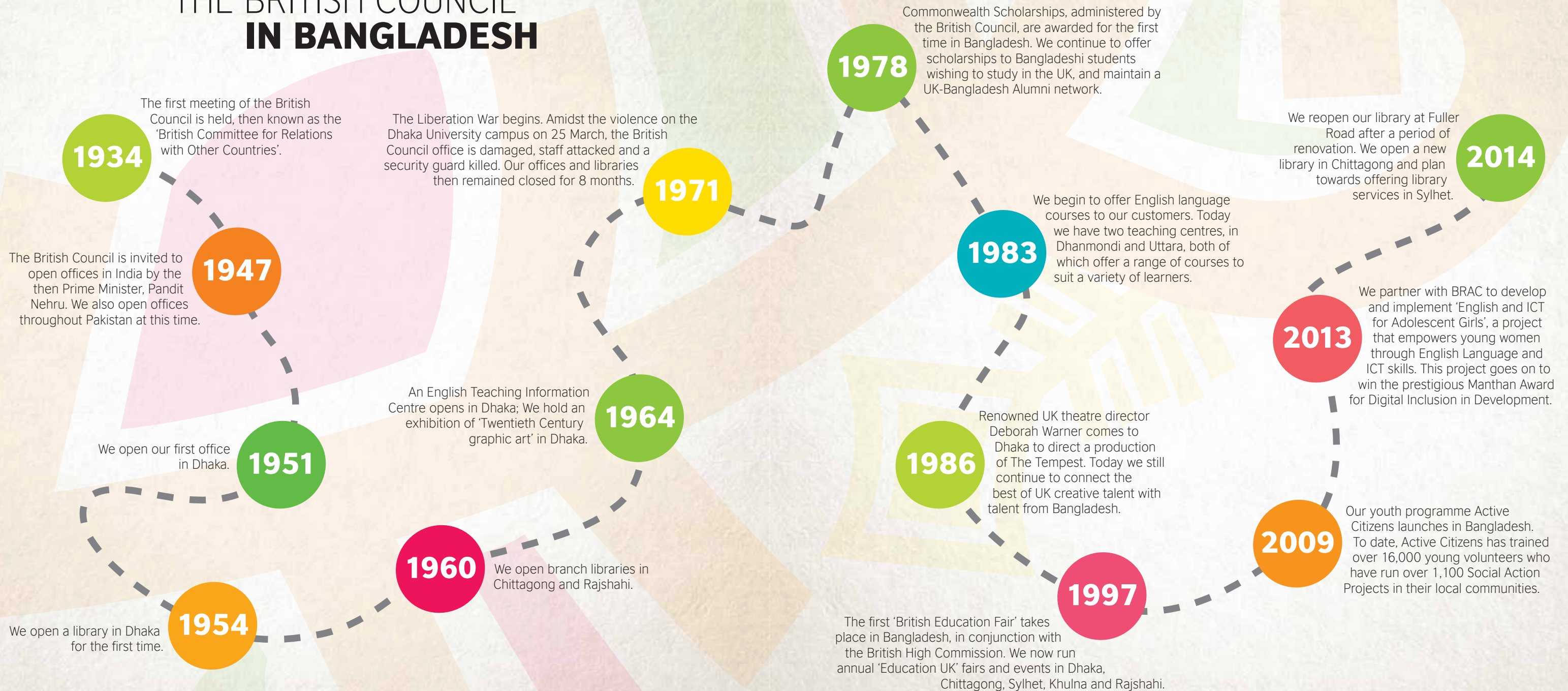
EXAMS CANDIDATES



**135,000**

ATTENDED OUR EXHIBITIONS,  
FESTIVALS, EVENTS  
AND PERFORMANCES

# THE BRITISH COUNCIL IN BANGLADESH



# OUR LIBRARIES

The British Council libraries in Bangladesh represent a cultural, convening, knowledge space that offers information opportunity for all. We have recently refurbished our libraries in Fuller Road, Dhaka and in Chittagong where we partner with Chittagong Independent University. We have plans to expand our library services to Sylhet.

Our collections include classical and contemporary English literature, authoritative guides on management, business, IT and the Arts, information about contemporary UK lifestyle and much more. We offer a wide selection of films, documentaries and British TV series on DVD. We have a special section for GCSE and A level text books. We also provide access to on-line information products, newspapers, journals and magazines. We have over 80,000 e-books and 14,000 e-journals in our online collection, which can be accessed from anywhere.

Our wide variety of programmes and activities include **Book Reading Competitions** in partnership with many educational institutions, **World Book Day** celebrations, **Reading Challenges** for children, **Young Learners' Club**, **support for IELTS candidates** and other language practice sessions. We provide networking space for professionals and a variety of events and activities for all sectors of the community, both within our libraries and through our outreach programmes across Bangladesh.



**2 NEW LIBRARIES**  
IN DHAKA AND CHITTAGONG,  
AND PLANNED IN SYLHET



**70,000**  
REACHED FACE TO FACE EVERY YEAR



**15,000**  
PARTICIPANTS IN OUR  
BOOK READING COMPETITIONS



Knowledge and Society

Knowledge and Society

# EXAMINATIONS

**Our examinations services allow people in Bangladesh to access educational and professional development opportunities from the UK and elsewhere.**

In school examinations we work with two of the largest global awarding bodies - Cambridge International Examinations and Edexcel. We work with nearly 300 UK curriculum English medium schools across Bangladesh. The British Council provides support to these schools to make the examinations' registration and administration processes as smooth as possible. The British Council has developed customised online registration systems for school examinations' candidates and these systems are now being used by our offices around the world.

**International English Language Testing System (IELTS)** is the world's most popular English language test. More than 2 million IELTS tests are taken each year. More than 8,000 organisations worldwide accept IELTS, including government, academic and employment institutions. We administer IELTS exams across Bangladesh.

**Cambridge English Language Assessment Exams** are known and recognised by schools, universities, private and public sector employers all over the English-speaking world. In Bangladesh we administer the Key English Test (KET), the Preliminary English Test (PET), and the First Certificate in English (FCE) from our centre in Dhaka.

**Aptis** is a modern and flexible English assessment system designed to meet the diverse needs of organisations and individuals around the world. Aptis is a business-to-business product which is used by organisations and institutions to benchmark the English language levels of their employees, potential employees, students or teachers. There are three different Aptis products available: **Aptis (General), Aptis for Teachers** and **Aptis for Teens**.

**Educational and Professional Exams.** We administer a large number of international professional exams on behalf of a variety of major UK examining bodies as well as UK Universities. This includes the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and the Universities of London, Northumbria, Derby, Nottingham and Heriot-Watt University.



**140,000**  
EXAMS CONDUCTED ANNUALLY



**55,000**  
EXAMS CANDIDATES ANNUALLY

**IELTS**  
MOST POPULAR ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
TEST IN BANGLADESH





## OUR WORK IN THE ARTS

**Our Arts team works with the best of British creative talent to develop innovative collaborations with the Bangladeshi cultural sector. Our focus is on individual Bangladeshi talent, institutional links, new networks and new connections that can blossom into sustainable, long term, creative partnerships.**

We partner with the **Hay Festival** in Dhaka to create opportunities for British and Bangladeshi writers to explore new expressions together and to create new international connections, to cross cultural and genre barriers and to foster mutual understanding and respect.

In collaboration with the **UK Graeae Theatre Company, Dhaka Theatre** and the **Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP)**, we are working with prominent UK and Bangladeshi directors to train young actors with special needs. We harness and showcase their artistic abilities.

In 2013 we initiated a nationwide bilingual **poetry competition** with our partner **Monsoon Letters**. The winners participated in the UK's largest literary festival in Ledbury in 2014. The competition is expanding with the introduction of performance poetry, photography and further partnerships.

In partnership with **the Ministry of Cultural Affairs** and the **Bengal Foundation** we brought the world famous Akram Khan's *DESH* to Dhaka in September 2014.

We are publishing the first ever anthology of bilingual **graphic literature** in Bangladesh.

We also have major programmes in film, music and the creative economy (fashion and design).



**135,000**

ATTENDED OUR EXHIBITIONS  
AND FESTIVALS DURING 2013-14



**750**

YOUNG POETS INVOLVED IN OUR  
NATIONAL POETRY COMPETITION



**125**

YOUNG BANGLADESHI FILMMAKERS  
DEVELOPED THEIR TALENT WITH  
PROMINENT BRITISH FILM DIRECTORS



# OUR WORK IN ENGLISH

**We recognise that the English language is an essential skill in today's globalised world, and we work to provide access to quality English language teaching and learning.**

Our Teaching Centres are world renowned for quality of instruction. With many decades of experience in teaching students of all ages, we ensure that all our courses have been carefully designed to deliver the most effective and practical learning process through a full range of general, business and exam preparation courses. For parents we offer peace of mind, as all the centres meet the highest standards for child safety and accessibility. We also offer corporate training customised to the needs of our clients.

We enable people to achieve more for themselves, and their communities by raising the standards of English for all. We aim to enhance the employment potential and lifestyle aspirations of young people (primarily youth and learners from rural sector communities and the vocational sector, including the ICT sector) by providing access to quality English language learning opportunities which relate directly to employability. As a result these young people develop their confidence, accuracy, fluency and communication skills.

Our current projects in English include:

**English and ICT for Adolescents (EITA).** We partner with the BRAC Adolescent Development Programme (ADP) to set-up and run community-based English and ICT learning centres for girls. This has created opportunities for the girls by developing their skills and reducing educational and social barriers. The EITA project won the 2013 pan-Asian Manthan award for digital inclusion and e-empowerment for women.

**Cadet Colleges Teacher Training.** In partnership with the British High Commission, we are running a two-year English language improvement project in all 12 Cadet Colleges across the country. The project develops the English language and pedagogical skills of Cadet College teachers and will provide them with increased professional development opportunities.

We also develop and implement products and methods that improve the teaching, learning and practice of English, including websites, online courses and mobile products. This includes a **mobile learning English platform for adolescent girls**, developed and implemented in partnership with BRAC and Robi. The content is linked to the garment industry, employability and TVET, and includes certification and accreditation for the girls.



**6000**

ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDENTS  
IN OUR TEACHING CENTRES ANNUALLY



**1000**

ADOLESCENT GIRLS TRAINED IN  
ENGLISH AND ICT SKILLS



**DIGITAL**

ONLINE COURSES, SMS,  
INTERACTIVE VOICE SERVICES  
AND MOBILE APPS FOR PEOPLE  
TO LEARN ENGLISH



# OUR WORK IN SOCIETY

In partnership with Bangladesh and UK civil society organisations and networks, our Governance, Human Rights, Social Enterprise and Gender empowerment programmes increase social impact opportunities for young volunteers, professionals and leaders. We aim to develop their leadership skills and enhance their capacity to engage with decision makers and bring positive social change in their communities and beyond.

Our Society programmes include:

**Community Legal Services (CLS).** We are a member of a consortium delivering the DFID-funded Community Legal Service Programme with a value of £17 million. The five year (2012-17) CLS Programme aims to provide greater access to justice for the poor, marginalised and socially excluded communities in Bangladesh. It has an ambitious target of reaching 10 million beneficiaries through NGOs.

**Active Citizens.** This global programme aims to bring about sustainable social change within communities by establishing a global network of young leaders. In Bangladesh we have trained more than 16,000 youth leaders in nearly 300 communities in 52 districts. We develop leadership skills and promote a global perspective on social development. We work with people who have already demonstrated local social responsibility, including youth workers, women's groups, educators and faith leaders.

**The Next Generation Research Series.** We create opportunities for 50 million young Bangladeshis to be heard. Our research and reports highlight the opinions and perspectives of young people in Bangladesh and bring them to the forefront of policy debates.

**Social Enterprise.** In collaboration with policy makers, investors, development agencies and the growing social enterprise sector we aim to facilitate an enabling policy framework through policy dialogue. We empower young entrepreneurs by providing education, training and incubator support.

**Child Parliament.** In collaboration with the UNDP, Save the Children, BRAC and The Hunger Project we have created a platform for the young people and children of Bangladesh to play an active role in political debate and the democratic decision making process.

Our programmes also address diversity and gender issues, including women empowerment.



**40 COUNTRIES**  
IN OUR ACTIVE CITIZENS NETWORK



**16,000**  
YOUNG BANGLADESHI ACTIVE CITIZENS



**500,000**  
BENEFICIARIES THROUGH  
ACTIVE CITIZENS' COMMUNITY PROJECTS



# OUR WORK IN EDUCATION

We work for more progressive Secondary and Higher Education systems and practices by bringing UK experience and international opportunities to policy makers, faculty members, researchers, principals, teachers and students. We promote curriculum development, research, leadership, and continuous development of teaching and learning. Our work to increase the quality of education contributes to the future prosperity of Bangladesh.

## Higher Education

**Opportunities in the UK.** Bangladesh sends over 4,000 students to study in UK universities each year. We actively help students and their parents to learn about study opportunities in the UK, including various scholarships. We advise them on their course selection by linking them with UK academic institutions and through our trained local agents. We organise Higher Education exhibitions, face to face briefings and consultation.

**Research Partnerships.** This programme strengthens academic and research partnerships by creating opportunities for universities in Bangladesh and the UK to conduct joint research.

**Global Education Dialogues.** This regional initiative brings together policy level practitioners and experts from across South Asia to discuss and debate contemporary issues in Higher Education.

**English Language Skills.** This major programme enhances the quality of English language in Higher Education throughout Bangladesh, including in the areas of academic application, employability and teaching.

**Centres of Excellence.** Together with the University Grants Commission we are developing a network of centres of academic excellence in Bangladeshi Universities in the areas of teaching and learning.

We have also pioneered a major project in university/community engagement and we are developing a UK Alumni Association in Bangladesh.



40

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS  
BETWEEN UK AND BANGLADESH  
HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS



4000

BANGLADESHI STUDENTS  
STUDY IN UK UNIVERSITIES EVERY YEAR



25,000

STUDENTS ENGAGED IN  
'CONNECTING CLASSROOMS'



## Schools

**Connecting Classrooms.** Through participation in our global education programme 'Connecting Classrooms', teachers and young students in Bangladesh benefit from access to UK education opportunities and teacher training programmes, and the chance to exchange and share international best practice. We link Bangladeshi and British schools, enabling students to learn about global issues and teachers to enhance their teaching skills and materials.

**School Leadership.** This programme provides leadership training to school principals and teachers. We also promote leadership in sport, climate change, and broader cultural relationships.

**Professional Development of Teachers.** We provide online courses to all teachers in Bangladesh to develop ideas around the theme of Global Citizenship. We also provide general courses for improving teachers' ICT and English skills.

**Social Action Projects** create opportunities for young students to explore their leadership capacity around social issues within their communities. We work with student councils, schools and communities on educational, environmental and community projects.

**Policy Engagement.** We organise policy engagement sessions with policy-makers and representatives from the Government and non-Government agencies to identify ways where we can work together to achieve Government education priorities.

We also have major programmes in international school awards, sport and music.



# EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND DIVERSITY

**We are strongly committed to Equal Opportunity and Diversity in all that we do. We aim to promote the UK's achievements in this area and to showcase relevant British Council work.**

We firmly believe that our Equal Opportunity Policy benefits all employees and helps achieve dignity at work and contributes to providing the best possible services to partners and clients.

Valuing and managing diversity within the British Council enables us to strengthen our work in the field of international cultural relations where positive engagement with difference is central.

## WHO DO WE WORK WITH?

**The British Council is a globally trusted brand and we help thousands of organisations achieve their strategic objectives in over 100 countries worldwide. In Bangladesh we work with a number of partners and donors who invest in our programmes, co-design and co-fund our projects and add value and impact to our work.**

We have an excellent relationship with the Government of Bangladesh and work closely with its Ministries and Departments to design and deliver our development programmes. We are linked with the UK Government and all our programmes support the British High Commission's mission in terms of development, trade, security and prosperity for the people of Bangladesh. We also work with public and private sectors, including commercial banks, multinational companies, many universities, and international and national NGOs. This puts us in a unique position to enable discussions which lead to new thinking and innovative solutions.

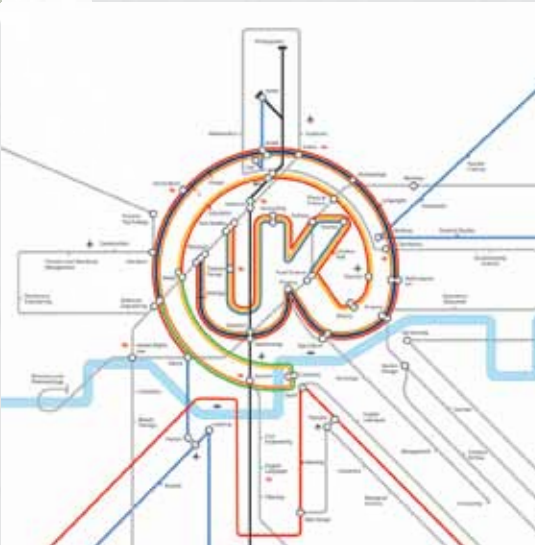
We manage a **£70 million** grant financing component of the DFID/SDC-funded **Economic Empowerment of the Poorest Programme/SHIREE**, which aims to enable **1 million people** to lift themselves out of poverty and achieve sustainable livelihoods.

In collaboration with key **Government Ministries, BRAC**, and the **Bengal Foundation** we are undertaking nationwide **research** into the enhancement of Library and Information Services in Bangladesh.

As an implementing partner on DFID/SDC's **£22 million Skills and Employment Programme – Bangladesh** to facilitate private-sector led training for **110,000 men and women** and support **71,500 people into employment**, we provide technical expertise in curriculum, gender and social inclusion, and communications.

We also work with trusts and foundations such as the Bengal Foundation and the Charles Wallace Trust to promote Bangladesh's cultural economy and to conduct research in various cultural sectors.





## **CONTACT US**

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[learnenglish@bd.britishcouncil.org](mailto:learnenglish@bd.britishcouncil.org)  
Phone: + 88 09666 773377

### **BRITISH COUNCIL DHAKA LIBRARY AND MAIN OFFICE**

5 Fuller Road, Dhaka 1000

Opening Hours:  
Saturday to Thursday 9:00 to 17:00  
Friday 15:00 to 19:00 (library only)

### **BRITISH COUNCIL DHAKA DHANMONDI TEACHING CENTRE**

754b Satmasjid Road,  
Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1205

Opening Hours:  
Customer Services: Saturday to Thursday  
8:30 to 21:30, Friday 13:00 to 19:00  
All Other Services: 10:00 to 16:00

### **BRITISH COUNCIL DHAKA UTTARA TEACHING CENTRE**

Plot-36, Road-5, Sector-13,  
Uttara Model Town, Dhaka-1230

### **BRITISH COUNCIL CHITTAGONG**

Rafique Tower, 8th Floor,  
92 Agrabad C/A Chittagong

Opening Hours:  
Saturday to Thursday 10:00 to 17:00

### **BRITISH COUNCIL SYLHET**

Surma Hall, Level-4, Rose View Hotel,  
Commercial Plot No-2, Block-D,  
Shahjalal Uposahar, Sylhet

Opening Hours:  
Sunday to Thursday 11:00 to 15:30



## British Council

5 Fuller Road, 1000 Dhaka, Bangladesh  
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Fax: + 88 02 861 3255

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