The International Strategic Partnerships in Education and Research in Bangladesh (INSPIRE) story starts back in 2008 with the launch by the British Council of a higher education programme designed ‘to strengthen significantly the relationship’ between priority countries in South Asia and the UK. In Bangladesh, the University Grants Commission (UGC) was co-sponsor of the programme. It determined the priority areas, helped choose the projects and provided constant support throughout.

This document tells of the institutional partnership aspect of INSPIRE. The evidence for this account has been taken from analysis of the project reports and from face to face, telephone and/or electronic communications with the project leads in Bangladesh and the UK as well as from interviews with the heads of the sponsoring organisations.

INSPIRE in Bangladesh has been a major success. As this document shows, it has already had a significant impact at the levels of the individual, institutions, the higher education sector and society more generally. The effects of the programme will be felt for a long time to come. INSPIRE has achieved all of the objectives set by the sponsors. It has done so on time and on budget. INSPIRE has provided the UK and Bangladesh with an excellent platform on which to build further collaboration.
Key Effects

UK - BANGLADESH

Optimised social gains from 23 projects

8 divisions have benefitted from one or more of the INSPIRE projects

87% Projects delivered on time and on budget

88 Exchange visits between UK and Bangladesh

10 Areas of project focus

Disaster Management 2
Informatics 1
Energy 1
Biotechnology 1
Higher Education 1
Climate Change 5
Environment 4
Health and Medicine 3
English Language teaching 3
Art 2
IMPACT ON SOCIETY

UK-BANGLADESH

Technology Transfer

Policy and Strategy Making

52% Projects led to policy change

Ministerial Involvement

39% Engaged and the responsible Minister

Enterprise and Innovation

61% Projects
Engagement with professions/industries/agencies/NGOs

- Health
- Journalism
- Art
- Banking
- Medicine
- Politics
- Meteorology
- Energy
- Aqua-culture

Key effects

- Health of people in Bangladesh
- Quality of urban and rural environment
- Disaster management systems and processes
- Food and water security
- Performance of the education sector
- Mitigation of effects of climate change
- Industry and commerce
- Improved performance of the education sector
IMPACT ON UK-BANGLADESH INSTITUTIONS

17% of UK’s 133 universities

4% of Bangladesh’s 80 private universities

46% of Bangladesh’s 35 state universities

Memoranda of Understanding

23% Projects have partner institutions

Curriculum

65% Projects involved major curriculum changes either in the Bangladesh or UK institutions or both

Sustainable Partnerships

65% Completed projects continued partnership beyond the funded life

Methods

87% Projects developed new teaching/research technique/supervising PhD students in both countries
Leadership

65% of projects involved Vice Chancellors and 17% were led by them

Additional Funding

£61% Projects attracted external sources

Key Effects

UK - BANGLADESH

- Institutional capacity building through development of significant numbers of senior staff on Leadership and Management programmes
- Global engagement for institutions
- Improved positioning of universities for pursuit of new project funding
- Improved teaching and learning
- Improved relationships with local communities including Bangladeshi communities in the UK
- Raised profile and status of universities for international rankings
**IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS**

- Number of **UK** staff involved in visits: 82
- Number of **Bangladesh** staff involved in visits: 120

**Publication**

- Project related publications: 79
- Peer reviewed journals: 18%

**Participants**

- Number of participants involved in community based research activities in both **UK** and **Bangladesh**: 2000+
UK-BANGLADESH

Engagement

Number of UK and Bangladesh PhDs involved: 23
Number of UK and Bangladesh research students involved in projects: 105

Benefits of UK-Bangladesh Collaboration

- Access to indigenous research data and researchers
- Breaking down cultural barriers
- Student employability in global market
- Capacity building at individual, institutional, sector and society levels
- Positioning for further project funding

Key effects

- Empowerment of individuals
- Cultural understanding, greater engagement of industry and society access for academics and research students to critical data and contacts
- Greater cultural understanding
- Greater engagement of industry and society

Improved and Developed
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