

Subject: Proposal on funding assistance to conduct country wide consultation to promote urge for SELF ACCOUNTABILITY and SELF COORDINATION among the Civil Society Organization (CSO) toward building an effective third sector to stand by to work for a humanitarian and democratic society in Bangladesh including promotion of demand side on localization and accountability agenda in view of WHS the Grand Bargain Outcome.

Summary : This is a project submitted by COAST (www.coastbd.net) a Bangladeshi local NGO/CSO who were actively involved in WHS and in other international network like CHS and NEAR, he is also national civil society focal person from GPEDC (www.effectivecooperation.org) to the government of Bangladesh. The project is aiming to popularize the outcome of Development Effectiveness, WHS and the Grand Bargain outcome to all possible stakeholders including governments, INGOs, donors, media, local and national NGOs in country wide (from national level to regional / divisional level) to promote the localization, accountability and all above as a sovereign and sustainable CSO sector in the country for promotion of a humanitarian and democratic society, which is the very much need of Bangladesh. As a part of the project an accountability charter of local NGO/CSOs will be declared through a national convention which will be prepared through a participatory way. All key materials on all those global process will be made brief and translated in Bangla. This is nine months (July 2017 to March 2018) project with the funding requirement of Bangladeshi taka forty one lac ninety two thousand six hundred fifty only or US \$ fifty one thousand eight hundred eighty three only. In this proposal, background, rationales, course of activities, process, a chart of actions by months, tentative budget, assumptions etc has been described. Responsibility and accountability of the project is lying with COAST who has got two time certification on accountability and quality management from HAP International at present which is CHS Allince (www.chsalliance.org) Geneva. As first event of this project, a national level open dialogue of this project has been planned in 19th August on the eve of World Humanitarian Day to be held in Dhaka, all related materials especially an planning / outline of this 19th August event is available for download from the notice board of www.coastbd.net and www.equitybd.net.

A. Background and Rationale

1. The Terminology

Civil Society Organization (CSO): We are refereeing here all the foreign or locally funded or non-funded non-government organization from national and local level as CSOs. We will use the term International CSOs (ICSO) in respect of international non-government organization who are working in more than one countries even who are originated from Bangladesh.

Self-Accountability: Self accountability meaning in this project that, through a bottom up process the CSOs will develop a declaration and which will be signed and declared through a national convention. This self-accountability charter will contain the issues related to participation, transparency, accountability, gender relation, human rights, democratic principles, mitigation of conflict of interest, mutual accountability etc.

Self-Coordination: This is an alternative to overhead coordination; overhead coordination mostly is being happened through formal network relationship. In view of broader objectives for CSOs as agreed

in Istanbul Principles there will be a charter on self-coordination, to strengthen informal coordination, avoidance of conflict as much as possible for the greater interest i.e., the interest to work for human right, social justice, humanitarianism and democratic principles in the society. This self-coordination charter might be integrated to self-accountability charter; let's see how it will be evolved.

Cooperation Agenda: Cooperation agenda meaning in this project is that the issues which is related to other stakeholders especially from government, donors and ICSOs, tailoring to sovereign, independent and sustainable growth of CSOs in Bangladesh

2. Theory of Trinity Factors in Developing Countries

It is all most an inference that due to the limitation or weakness of political party system who some time hardly represent appropriate people views, state agencies some time and somewhere or in some respect hardly able to reach people, which has in fact in history created emergence of CSOs with private but as nonprofit initiatives. Now a days CSO works both in service delivery and also in advocacy. Popular theory in this regard is that for a balance development of a nation, there is a need of interplay between three factors, i.e. state, market and CSOs, especially in developing countries where democratic institutions and state responsiveness yet to get maturity.

3. The Reality : Bangladesh Need

Bangladesh is a country of multi drivers in development since its inception, i.e., from 1971, most of the CSOs have had started work with relief and rehabilitation approach. Gradually the role of CSOs has changes, advocacy through networking and mobilization has emerged. Reality is that future development of Bangladesh with its spirit of liberation war (i.e., democracy, socialism, secularism and nationalism) is somehow depended upon balance interplay of this trinity factors (i.e., state, market and CSOs). It is also imperative for following two factors too, first, there are some quarters of policy makers perceived and promote a wrong perception "development is first and democracy is later". And in second, there are threats from fundamental group too, especially in respect of democratic principles and human rights issues, especially in recent time which is being propagated by related global groups too.

4. Aid effectiveness and development effectiveness : Istanbul Principles for CSOs

Paris Declaration (2005) has done by the state and different multinational organizations with the perspective of aid effectiveness. But in course of time it has become development effectiveness in the subsequent Accra (2008), Busan (2011) and in latest Nairobi (2016) declaration. In this respect they have recognized and given importance to the participation of civil societies. Taking this in perspective during 2008 and 2010 there were worldwide discussion among the civil societies and has developed CPDE (Civil Society Partnership in Development Effectiveness). Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness has come out with 8 principles (<http://cso-effectiveness.org/-istanbul-principles,067-.html>) from Istanbul Assembly (2010), which are (i) Respect and promote human right and social justice, (ii) Embody gender equality and equity while promoting women and girls' right, (iii) Focus on people's empowerment, democratic ownership and participation, (iv) Promote Environmental Sustainability, (v)

Practice transparency and accountability, (vi) Pursue equitable partnership and solidarity, (vii) Create and share knowledge and commit mutual learning, (viii) Commit to realizing positive sustainable change.

In view of the process and all most all government has established their development effectiveness section or department in their central level. Government of Bangladesh (GoB) has also formed development effectiveness wing in its External Resource Division with Planning Commission. Currently GoB is the Co-Chair of steering committee of GPEDC (Global Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation, www.effectivecooperation.org) represented by Honorable Finance Minister Mr Abdul Maal A Muhit along with Germany and Uganda. The committee has representation from state, civil society and private sectors. Mr. Reza the Executive Director COAST has been made civil society focal person in Bangladesh from GPEDC. The committee will have next meeting in Bangladesh during the period of 22 to 23rd October 2017. We do like to have event (may be a national seminar or national convention) in conjunction with this global steering committee on 21st October 2017. These will will pave more conducive environment for civil society growth in Bangladesh and also promote positive engagement with government too.

5. Global Humanitarian Platform, World Humanitarian Summit and Localization Agenda.

Global Humanitarian Platform which has been adopted by 40 INGOs, UN agencies, IoM, World Bank and Red Crescent movements during 2006, in acknowledging the fact that there are some gaps in this regard especially neglecting the role of local and national organizations. Please see the link <https://www.icvanetwork.org/principles-partnership-statement-commitment> . In short these are Equality, Transparency, Result Oriented Approach, Responsibility and Complementarity. These principles have been widely reviewed by ICSOs especially ICVA (www.icva.org) an apex body of voluntary organizations and others in whole over the world during 2013 to 2016 on the eve of UN initiated World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) process. Such a participatory open review process also have had held in Bangladesh too, please see the link for the statement, in <http://coastbd.net/principles-of-partnership-learning-and-way-forward/> . There was a final outcome report from the UN Secretary General on after the WHS, please see the report in the link, <https://worldhumanitariansummit.org/sites/default/files/media/A-71-353%20-%20SG%20Report%20on%20the%20Outcome%20of%20the%20WHS.pdf> please see the section C, where it has been given importance on supremacy of local and national organization. On the basis of this, all most all the ICSOs have signed Charter4change (www.charter4change.org) with a commitment to respect greater and sovereign role of local and national organization and channeling more direct fund to local and national NGOs. Please see this two outcome statements of Bangladeshi local NGOs demand in this regard, which was prepared jointly, presented both in national and international level http://coastbd.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/WHS-Flyer_Equal_and_Dignified_Partnership1.pdf , http://coastbd.net/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Final-WHS-flyer_7-Oct-20151.pdf.

6. The Grand Bargain Outcome

Along with this WHS there was a process of Grand Bargain lunched during May 2016, to reduce the financing gap in humanitarian sector especially through management efficiency in improving delivery. The process have been participated by 15 donors (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, ECHO,

Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UAE, UK and US) and 15 agencies (FAO, ICRC, ICVA, IFRC, Interaction, IoM, OCHA, SCHR, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WFP, WHO and World Bank). The Grand Bargain process came with 51 commitments with 10 mainstream, which are related to (i) Transparency, (ii) National and local responders (localization), (iii) Cash based programming, (iv) Reducing management cost, (v) Needs assessments, (vi) Participation revolution, (vii) Multi – year planning and financing, (viii) Reducing earmarks, (ix) Harmonized and simplified reporting requirements, (x) Strengthening engagement between humanitarian and development actors. Please see the outcome document “The Grand Bargain – A Shared Commitment to Better Serve People in Need” in following link,

<https://consultations.worldhumanitariansummit.org/bitcache/075d4c18b82e0853e3d393e90af18acf734baf29?vid=580250&disposition=inline&op=view>,

The process is continuing with follow up. More organizations INGOs (International Non-Government Organization) is lining and signing up with this Grand Bargain commitment, you will know more about the WHS outcome and the Grand Bargain process in the following site,

<http://www.agendaforhumanity.org/>,

B. What Bangladeshi CSOs Need to Understand and take Initiatives

Within above international and national perspectives, Bangladeshi CSOs need to realize as follows;

- (i) Need to play as effective third sector role must be embodied not only in service delivery (whether humanitarian or development) but also with advocacy issues making state accountable at the end.
- (ii) Need to promote human right, social justice, equity and all above the principles of democracy in society but also in its own governance first, and
- (iii) Strive for sovereign, inclusive and sustainable growth.

Bangladeshi NGOs have to take self-initiatives in this regard; they have two challenges in this regard. First one is they have to be self-accountability both in internal and external level both in down ward and upward., which will promote CSOs credibility among the common public domain and the second one is self-coordination, with other fellow CSOs striving for common cause.

Formal coordination by networking via organization virtually is dormant or hardly working in Bangladesh because of following two major factors, (i) formal organizational structure of different networks in fact working little as the leadership position being occupied by the people who has little time to take initiatives, (ii) the network leaders pre occupied with the operational leadership syndrome, as they are busy with managing projects /micro finance operations, they hardly manage time to update their knowledge or linking to global CSO development discourse.

C. Objectives and Possible Outcomes

Here we are providing objectives and possible outcome structure of this project as follows;

Objectives	Process / possible outcome
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1. Initiate a participatory process to implement an inclusive and open dialogue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small steering committee in national and divisional level - Advertisement and web based registration - Media reports from national and different regional dialogue which will have impact on all related internal and external stakeholders.
2. Prepare reference and easy reading bangla materials from GPDE (Global Partnership in Development Effectiveness) process, GHP, WHS and the Grand Bargain discourse, which will be tested, finalized and printed for wider distribution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Materials will be available in website and will also be distributed in regional and national events.
3. Conduct dialogue on actualization of the need on CSO development as third sector, identify action / demand points for self-accountability toward the society and also toward its own internal stakeholders (especially to the beneficiaries and staff members) and cooperation agenda from ICSOs / INGOs, donors and government stakeholders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Orientation of local facilitators - Pilot implementation of dialogue and improvement in implementation - Conducive but low cost dialogue environment and facilitation process - Divisional declaration and national charter publish in media and circulated in national and international level.
4. Conduct national conventions with all CSO stakeholders for dissemination of charter on self-accountability and self-coordination.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wider circulation of charter on self-accountability and self-coordination among the media and other relevant stakeholders especially among the ICSOs / INGOs, donors and governments.
5. Conduct national seminar with ICSOs / INGOs and government stakeholder on CSO expectations of cooperation agenda for effective and sovereign, inclusive and sustainable growth of CSOs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least two separate public seminar with ICSOs, donors and government stakeholders.

D. Course of Actions for Implementation for the project during July to December 2017

Here we have tentative course of actions as we have planned to implement the project during April to December 2017

Activities	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1. Communication for central coordination committee of the process, preparatory workshop and website development	*								
2. Material development, implementation planning workshop	*								
3. A national dialogue (19 th August World Humanitarian Day) for testing of ideas and arousing interest among important stakeholders		*							

4. Pilot divisional dialogue and press conference, review and improvisation of rest of the dialogues		*							
5. Implementation of the other divisional and district dialogue.		*	*	*					
6. National convention on CSOs self-accountability and coordination in conjunction with GoB GPEDC meeting may be on 21 st October in conjunction with GPEDC meeting of 22 nd and 23 rd October 2017.				*					
7. National seminar or dialogue with ICSOs, donors and government stakeholders.						*	*		
8. Project completion review, report and next course of actions, may be it will be extended up to January 2018								*	
9. Contingency month									*

E. Tentative budget

Activities	BDT (Bangladeshi Taka)
1. Two preparatory workshop in Dhaka with divisional representatives who will be acting as central coordination committee	50,000.00
2. One dinner meeting in Dhaka with CEO of central coordination committee members	50,000.00
3. A national dialogue for testing ideas and arousing interest among stakeholders, on 19 th August World Humanitarian Day with newspaper supplement	800,000.00 , (due to the place inavailability and for security reason, we have to shift the place in Baridhara Lakeshore, so we calculate that for supplement it will take 400 and for seminar 400)
4. One preparatory workshop with districts conveners.	50,000.00
5. Advertisement, materials and website development	70,000.00
6. Seven divisional dialogue and press conferences including pilot one	700,000.00
7. Seven dinners meeting with CEOs of divisional steering committee during prior evening of the open dialogue.	210,000.00
8. National convention with newspaper supplement	10,00,000.00
9. Two national dialogue with ICSOs/ INGOs, donors and government stakeholders	300,000.00
10. Travel, communication and stationaries	400,000.00
Sub total	36,30,000.00
11. Contingency, 5 %	1,81,500.00
Sub total	3,81,500.00
12. Overhead and administration, 10 %	3,81,150.00

13. Total in BDT and US \$ (1 US \$=BDT 80.81)	41, 92,650.00 BDT / US \$ 51,883.00
Bangladeshi taka forty one lac ninty two thousand six hundred fifty only / US \$ fifty one thousand eight hundred eighty three only.	

F. Assumptions

Here we have following assumptions in respect of implementing the projects and there by possible strategy we will be considering in implementation.

Assumptions	Possible implementation strategies
1. If we go for the implementation of this project by big MFI CSOs, then small and right based CSOs might be left out	- Need to take balance approach to take mid-level MFI CSOs along with right based NGOs also. There should also be space for independent / individual CSO activists too.
2. There might be occupying attitude from some CSO leaders in respect of different responsibility in respect of implementation of this project in different level.	- There should full transparent and open process in all level. Existing leaders from existing networks might be considered not to be included in the leadership level of implementation. Fresh and new leadership should be welcome.
3. There might be negative attitude toward ICSOs / INGOs, donors and governments.	- Coordination committee members have to be trained on how to react positively and why it is necessary to avoid antagonistic relation. We have to develop understanding on necessity of all stakeholders in inclusive process, whether they are local, national and international CSOs/NGOs in respect of achieving broader vision and mission, with complementary approach to each other in this regard.
4. Government and other networks might worry or misunderstand on the objectives of this project.	- Pre implementation face to face or one to one meeting should be done with all important networks and government stakeholders, formal letter will be solicited toward field level, from them for cooperation in all level.
5. There might be little attention in global level and which will have little impact in global policy makers label	- Regular implementation on this project will be given to different international CSO networks, Relief Web- OCHA, Grand Bargain Sherpa's, Dev. Ex, ICVA and others through newsletter etc. In final convention and other national events like 19 th August, there should be invitation to OCHA, IFRC, ICVA, NEAR and Amnesty. There will be try out on international media coverage in this regard too.
6. There might be lack of ownership among the involved CSOs as COAST is taking initiatives.	- For greater ownership in all level facilitation responsibility will be given to other then COAST. While COAST is working in

	background facilitating for quality implementation, learning accumulation and knowledge management.
7. There might be obvious urge from the participants for future progression in this regard and somehow a structure for network.	- COAST takes this as a learning project in ongoing implementation process. If the question comes up, then there will be informal coordination and networking will be worked out.

G. Advantage while COAST submitting the project and for implementation of this project.

There are several advantage in COAST for implementing this project, (i) COAST ED Rezaul Karim Chowdhury has been officially introduced as civil society focal person in Bangladesh to the development effectiveness wing of the ERD / Planning commission by CSO secretariat of GPEDC Asia Pacific. Mr. Reza has already several meetings with the wing chief and other staff and established a relation of cooperation. (ii) Mr. Reza have had actively involved in the WHS national regional and international process, accordingly he has personal relation with Grand Bargain Sherpa's especially with IFRC and its undersecretary general Dr Jemilah Mahmud. (iii) Mr. Reza is also the Treasurer of NEAR (Network for Empowering Aid Response, www.near.ngo), in the process of Grand Bargain so far NEAR has been considered as a spokesperson on behalf of southern NGOs, (iv) Mr. Reza is also the member of ICVA (www.icva.org) Strategic Planning Committee and Governing board member of CHS Alliance (www.chsalliance.org), and all above (iv) Mr. Reza so far in the country has tried to make a balance relation especially with local / national NGOs, international NGOs and also with government, not antagonizing the relation to each other's. We feel these will help to achieve the project objectives.

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The End
