

2025

Annual Report

Activity for Reformation of Basic Needs – ARBAN
Rajpara, Purbadhala, Netrakona, Bangladesh



arban
Activity for Reformation of Basic Needs

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

I am very proud of ARBAN, it has rapidly as an organization in the field. Mymensingh, the greater region is located in the north-western part of the country, rich in its own culture, language heritage and history of struggle, surrounded by natural beauty including white clay hills, haors, rivers, canals and chars at the foot of the Garo Hills. There are many legends in the region in the field of education and culture which are our source of encouragement and inspiration. The region is full of education, sports, cultural activities, geographical considerations and natural diversity but has not yet developed as expected.



ARBAN is committed to building a knowledgeable society by creating suitable human resources by ensuring the best use of potentials and resources by utilizing talents, thinking and qualifications to be self-glorified in a competitive world by creating opportunities for self-employment through education, health care, environmental protection, use of computer and modern technology, training, ensuring free flow of information and access to information, access to digital services, increasing the rights of marginalized people in land management, establishing good governance and human rights to meet basic needs, eliminating inequality natural disaster management, use of modern and relevant technology and entrepreneurship. Today is the age of information technology so we have taken several steps to make the youth of our region proficient in information technology. Urban also acts only as a partner for the poor and facilitates the fight against inequalities that stand in the way of justice and the establishment of a democratic social order. Urban is also working on a variety of issues such as education, health, women empowerment, agriculture, youth development, skills development and ICT based development in entrepreneurial development communities.

It important to create trained and self-reliant human resources to meet the challenges of the present century. In 2002, a number of creative and enterprising individuals made a concerted effort to build a technology-based, prosperous and knowledge-based society and establish good governance by improving the socio-economic status and human qualities by organizing the potential people by creating timely citizens and ensuring maximum utilization of talents and resources. An organization called Activity for Reformation of Basic Needs-ARBAN was launched.

ARBAN, like other years, implemented multidimensional development activities in 2019; these are - Education, skills development, social awareness are some of the activities implemented by ARBAN. I am grateful to the dedicated staff of ARBAN for their tireless work in the implementation of its activities. I strongly believed that ARBAN will achieve its goals to motivate resources, to deploy and strategize expertise.

Above all, respect to all the well-wishers who have contributed and supported the advancement of ARBAN.

Dr. Tarun Kanti Shikder
Chairman
ARBAN

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The greater Mymensingh region is located in the north-western part of the country, rich in its own culture, language heritage and history of struggle, surrounded by natural beauty including white clay hills, haors, rivers, canals and chars at the foot of the Garo Hills. There are many legends in the region in the field of education and culture which are our source of encouragement and inspiration. Although this region is full of education, sports, cultural activities, geographical considerations and natural diversity, it can be said that the expected development has not taken place here.



It is important to create trained and self-reliant human resources to meet the challenges of the present century. Therefore, in 2002, a number of creative and enterprising individuals made a concerted effort to build a technology-based, prosperous and knowledge-based society and establish good governance by improving the socio-economic status and human qualities by organizing the potential people by creating timely citizens and ensuring maximum utilization of talents and resources. An organization called Activity for Reformation of Basic Needs-ARBAN was launched.

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Syed Arifuzzaman
Executive Director
ARBAN

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About ARBAN

Activity for Reformation of Basic Needs-ARBAN is a Civil Society Organization involved in socio-economic research and development activities in Netrokona, Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Hobiganj, Sylhet, Dhaka, Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira districts of Bangladesh. Having its Head Office at Purbadhala under Netrokona District, there is a Liaison office at capital city Dhaka. ARBAN started its journey in June 2002. Since its inception, ARBAN works hard to achieve its objectives and maintains innovative, quality, relevance, efficiency, integrity and time lines whenever it embarks on any program initiatives to unfold itself as a people centered organization.

ARBAN acts merely as the poor people's partner and facilitates the process of combating the embedded inequalities that stand as roadblock to the formation of a just and democratic social order. Therefore, strongly trusting on "Holistic Approach" ARBAN has also diversified its activities based on the current reality and peoples need through assessment of its working area. To maximize project, impact the organization implements programs through integrated approach providing full cooperation to counterparts and other support as needed. To concretize the concept, the people's participation, ARBAN has been adopting non-directive participatory self- development approaches in its working strategy at all level.

ARBAN has become pioneer in ICT based interventions in the communities in different thematic areas like Education, Health, Women Empowerment, Agriculture, Youth Development, Skills Development, and Entrepreneurship Development. Considering the context, ARBAN has aimed to develop the community with motivation and skill so that they can find the ways to come out of the vicious circle of poverty and ensure sustainable livelihood. ARBAN specially emphasized on developing the skill of the local youth for effective use and utilization of IT devices in their day-to-day efforts. In short, ARBAN is contributing in the process of building a knowledge-based future society at the grassroots of Bangladesh.

ARBAN is a proud role player in achieving MDGs at grass-root level through contribution of the development projects implemented in its working areas. ARBAN is also committed to contribute in achieving targets of Sustainable Development Goals-SDGs focusing on Goal-1, 4, 5, 13 and 16, Vission-2021 and 7th 5 Year plan of the Government of Bangladesh at its level best.

ARBAN's Goal: Knowledge-based self-reliant society

Mission of ARBAN:

Implementing service delivery and rights-based activities through a participatory and multidimensional partnership approach to develop back-ward, deprived, underprivileged and marginalized people.

Vision of ARBAN:

ARBAN envision a democratic society with knowledgeable and skilled human resources which is free from exploitation with equal rights and respects for all in an equitable, justifiable and healthy environment.

Core values of ARBAN

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|-----|------------------------------------|
| ▪ Inclusion and Adaptation | ▪ Innovation | and | • Unity, Equity and Social Justice |
| ▪ Effectiveness and Quality | ▪ Creativeness | | |
| | ▪ Productivity | and | • Transparency and Accountability |
| | ▪ Sustainability | | |

ARBAN's Objectives



Research and Development

- **Develop research tools** and conduct studies on socio-economic development.
- Undertake skill development initiatives for youths.

Human Rights and Governance

- **Promote awareness programs** to establish human rights and good governance for deprived communities.
- **Assist marginalized groups**, especially women, through savings and initiating productive income-generating activities (IGA).
- **Facilitate indigenous communities** for mainstream integration, cultural preservation, and protection of indigenous peoples' rights.

Education

- **Build permanent institutions** for general and technical education in the working area.
- **Ensure universal education** so that all girls and boys complete free, equitable, and quality primary and secondary education.
- **Provide access to early childhood development**, care, and pre-primary education to prepare children for primary schooling.
- **Guarantee equal access** for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational, and tertiary education.
- **Increase youth and adult skills**, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship.
- **Eliminate gender disparities in education** and ensure equal access for vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations.
- **Achieve literacy and numeracy** for all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women.

Economic Empowerment and Poverty Reduction

- **Ensure equal rights** for men and women, particularly the poor and vulnerable, to economic resources, basic services, property ownership, inheritance, natural resources, technology, and financial services (including microfinance).
- **Eradicate extreme poverty** for all people living on less than \$1.90 a day in the working area.
- **Reduce poverty by half**, considering all dimensions according to national definitions.
- **Implement social protection systems** and measures for all, in line with government initiatives, ensuring substantial coverage of the poor and vulnerable.

Gender Equality and Technology

- Undertake projects to achieve gender equality using modern technologies and innovations.
- **Enhance the use of enabling technology**, especially ICT, to promote women's empowerment.

Climate Change and Resilience

- **Build resilience** of the poor and vulnerable to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social, and environmental shocks.
- **Improve education and awareness** on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning systems.

Justice, Peace, and Networking

- Promote justice and peace through new media.
- **Encourage information exchange** between local and national organizations, creating mutual opportunities and institutional relationships.
- **Establish partnerships and networks** in technology and capacity building.

Governance

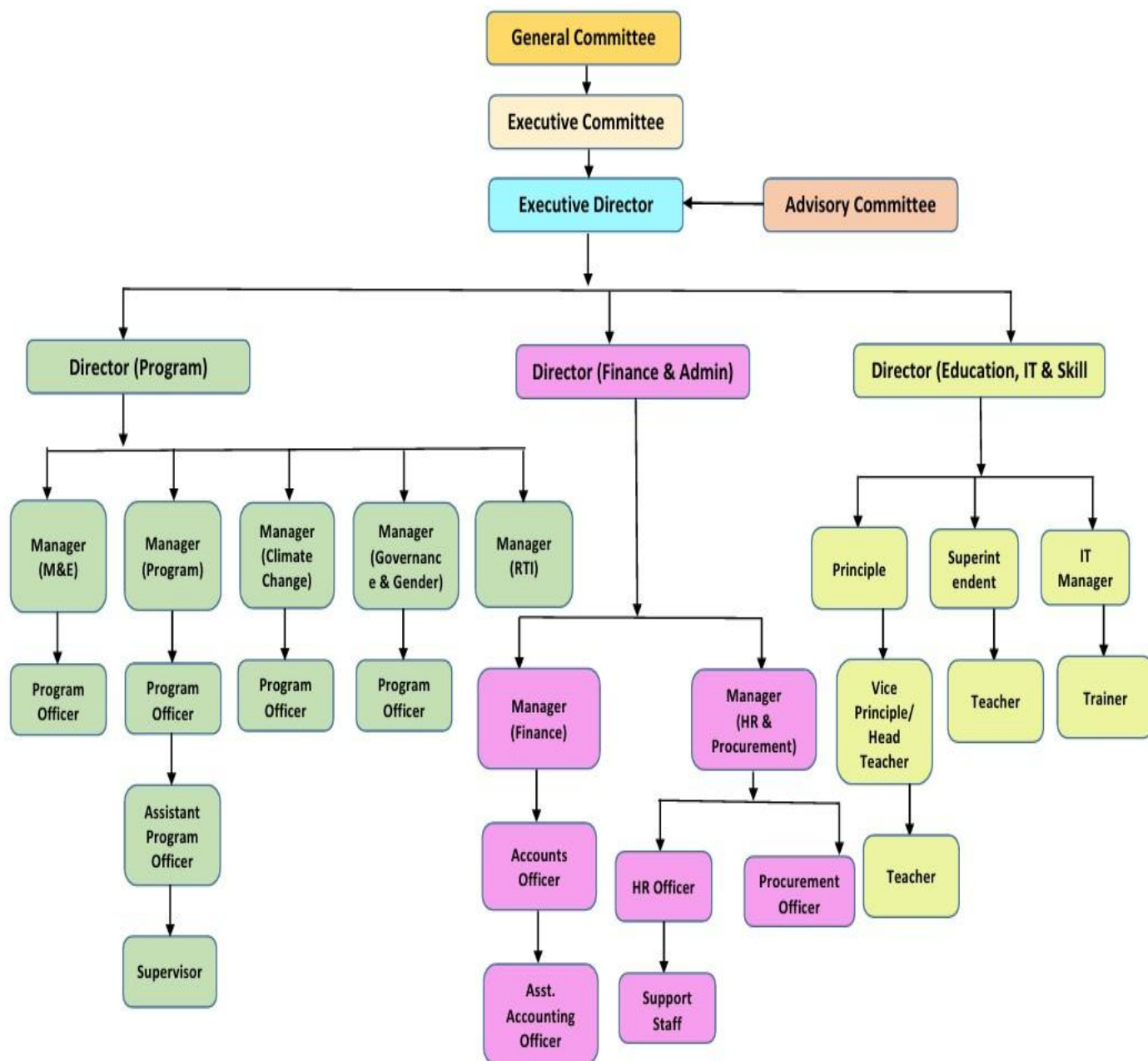
ARBAN is governed by a General Body (GB) and an Executive Committee (EC). GB is the highest authority to govern the organization. The organization is maintaining forum stair accountability strongly. On behalf of organization the GB is accountable to the beneficiaries, community people, any external audience and Government of Bangladesh.

The 21 members General Body (GB) meets two times in a year. GB assists EC to implement activities aligned with organizational goal, vision and mission. The GB guides the EC to perform as wheel force of the organization, evaluates performance of the EC, appoints auditor, review audit report as well as review and approves the Annual budget. Majority vote (two third) of GB accept any change/result of the organization.

Executive Committee (EC) meets four times in a year. EC is responsible to execute the program and policy of the organization. It makes decision in association with GB. The EC makes plan with the citizen support groups and project participants. It is responsible for designing, monitoring and evaluation of program and projects. The EC performs on budgeting, planning, reporting and presentation. The EC maintains linkage, liaison, coordination and communication with like-minded organizations. The EC provides efforts on fund raising for the organization. It prepares annual budget and takes approval from GB. The EC is responsible to form advisory committee(s) for the organization. The term or period of Executive Committee is 2 (Two) Years. The Executive Committee is formed through election process after ending every tenure.

The Executive Director is the member secretary of the Executive Committee. All projects/programs head are accountable to the Executive Director. Executive Director is accountable to the Executive Committee.

Organizational Chart



Legal Status

Sl. No	License/ Registration Authority	Registration No.	Date of Issue
1	The Director General, Department of Social Welfare	Netro-0358	17-06-2002
2	The Director General, NGO Affairs Bureau	3077	03-01-2017
3	The Director General, Youth Development Department	Netro-37	31-12-2017
4	General Manager, SME & Special Programs Department, Bangladesh Bank	BB/SMESPD/001	10-11-2015
5	Microcredit Regulatory Authority	53.01.0000.010.01.001.2014-340(13)	07-08-2014
6	Bangladesh Technical Education Board	BTEB/Ka/9Shortterm/2009/580	05-01-2010
7	Bangladesh Election Commission	SL. NO. 04	14-08-2023

ARBAN Family

ARBAN IT

With the promise of building information and knowledge-based society in 2007, ARBAN IT has been established by the Activity for Reformation of Basic Needs-ARBAN. Since its inception, ARBAN-IT has started various types of technology-based activities in its working area. In 2009, after the declaration of Vision-2021 for building Digital Bangladesh by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, ARBAN-IT took initiative to implement the technology-based activities in a comprehensive manner, coordinating with local administration as supportive force of government to build digital community with the support of donors and partners.



To combat the challenges of the current century, the key areas of ARBAN-IT for creating trained and skilled manpower are- digital education, e-health care, skill development training, creating digital applications, e- agriculture and thematic information and consulting services etc. The main focus of the organization is to improve the socio-economic status and potential of human society and to ensure the best utilization of talent and resources, to build a technology-based knowledge society. Creating Digital Application, Computer Training Center, Info-Peddler, Info lady, E-Health Services and Out Sourcing are the major activities of ARBAN IT.

ARBAN Craft

ARBAN CRAFT was established in 2010 to create income generating opportunities and employment through skill development by involving the rural young women in the activities of small and cottage industries.

ARBAN provides skill development training and small-scale capitals to rural women for making quality garments and handicrafts. ARBAN CRAFTS explores local and outside markets of manufactured products including block-boutiques, embroidery, hand-stitching. E-commerce is one of the most important initiatives to market the products launched by ARBAN CRAFT.



ARBAN Academy

ARBAN Academy, a new type of education institute, was established by a private initiative at Purbadhala upazila of Netrokona district in 2011 with the commitment of building a knowledge-based society through technology enabled modern education system. As a part of building digital Bangladesh and digital transformation of education, the ARBAN ACADEMY has been using the curriculum prescribed by the government, as well as technology-based modern education materials such as multimedia projector and educational content. As a prerequisite to set up full digital education system in primary education, ARBAN ACADEMY, with the overall supervision and technical support of BIJOY DIGITAL, delivered modern learning device mini laptops to 40 students of the first grade on December 28, 2015.



Classes are conducted with the help of BIJOY Digital Content. There is a 40-inch monitor for teachers in the classroom. Full-fledged digital classroom for primary education is an important chapter of introducing modern education system. Implementation of this system in different ways from conventional and traditional education system encourages all those who are involved with this such as students and teachers. On the other hand, many challenges are there in proper implementation of it.

Due to the introduction of animated content in the full-fledged digital classroom of first grade lessons are becoming very attractive to the students and they are more focused on the lesson. Digital Class has a very high attendance rate due to presenting lessons with the help of many interesting contents. With the help of straightforward content, students can master lessons in less time. The joyful atmosphere prevails

in the class room comprising teachers and students. In a short time, students can be taught the right pronunciation and correct speech of letters and words. The teacher can easily present the content to all students properly. A competitive attitude among the students can be created. Content can be delivered at similarly in a short time. For teachers the lessons are easier to present. Multimedia content works as a teacher's assistant. Teacher can create content suitable for classes. Teachers' competence enhances by using e-books and e-content.



A number of facilities were also created at the institutional level. All the students of the institution are paying more attention to their respective lessons. The efficiency and capabilities of the institution are increasing in technology-based education programs. With the visits of different levels of inspectors, opportunities for new ideas are increasing. In the technology-based education program, opportunities for connecting to different networks of the organization have been created.

Ajker Arban Dot Com



AJKER ARBAN DOT COM (www.ajker-arban.com) is an online news portal initiated by ARBAN based on the development and educational information of local, regional, national and international realms.

One of the most important efforts of AJKER ARBAN DOT COM is to join the mainstream of the development and the potential young people with a slogan "dream of touching the sky". AJKER ARBAN DOT COM has been emerged as an online-based news media for campaigning analytical news on various historical events as well art, culture, education,

agriculture, natural resources, heritage, people friendly public-private initiatives, prospects, political philosophy and national thinking in overall development, technology and youth society, women's initiative, sports, international perspectives.

By utilizing the concept of citizen journalism AJKER ARBAN DOT COM's commitment is to show everyone the 'dream' of becoming responsible for building a rich society through spreading the positive and objective news on analytical, investigating, development thinking and above all upholding the spirit and achievement of the Liberation War.

Arban Technical Institute

Arban Technical Institute, a subsidiary of ARBAN, has been implementing skill development programs since 2007. The institute currently conducts training activities approved by the National Skills Development Authority (NSDA) and the Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB).

To survive competitively globally, create overseas employment opportunities for youth, and ensure dignified jobs. The Government of Bangladesh has placed strong emphasis on skilled human resources. In line with this national priority, Arban Technical Institute is offering a range of training programs.



Following the completion of necessary preparations, such as obtaining government accreditation, and forming a pool of qualified and experienced trainers, the institute now provides training in approximately 20 different trades. Beyond training, it also facilitates assessment, job placement, and internship opportunities. To date, Arban has trained around seven thousand youth, contributing to their employment and livelihood development.

The institute operates simultaneously through its campuses located in Dhaka, Netrakona, Bandarban, Cox's Bazar, and Purbadhala.

Arban Technical Academy

Since its inception, Activity for Reform of Basic Needs (ARBAN) has been implementing general education, adult literacy, and rehabilitation programs for school dropouts as part of its broader initiatives. To promote quality education, ARBAN has gone beyond project-based interventions by establishing permanent educational institutions, ensuring access to sustainable and long-term learning opportunities.

Drawing on its extensive experience in running educational programs, ARBAN recognized the growing need for modern technical and vocational education. In response, it established the Arban Technical Academy in 2022 with the approval of the (BTEB).



Arban Technical Academy offers courses such as *IT Support and IT Basics*, *General Electronics*, and *Apparel Manufacturing Basics* for students in grades 9 and 10. These programs equip students with practical, technology-based skills to enhance their competence and confidence in the future job market. Located in a permanent campus in Purbadhala Upazila, Netrokona District, the academy operates with well-equipped laboratories, classrooms, and supporting infrastructure suitable for both practical and theoretical instruction. The institution is also preparing to introduce technical education courses from grades VI to XII. This initiative aims to develop skilled human resources at both local and national levels, foster technology and industry-oriented employment, integrate education with skill and career development, and ensure inclusive education for dropout and marginalized students.

Through this expansion of technical education, Arban Technical Academy has opened new opportunities for learning and empowerment in Netrokona and its surrounding areas.

Arban Nari Jagaron



Arban Nari Jagaron is a women-led development organization registered under the **Department of Women Affairs**, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Government of Bangladesh. The organization has been working consistently to improve the quality of life of adolescent girls, young women, and women by promoting their rights, empowerment, and safeguarding their dignity within families and society.

At the grassroots level, Arban Nari Jagaron implements a wide range of awareness and empowerment initiatives, including courtyard meetings (*Uthan Boithok*), community discussions, seminars, rallies, and workshops. Through

these activities, the organization seeks to enhance women's awareness of their rights, strengthen their leadership capacity, and foster active participation in social and community development processes.

With the objective of making women self-reliant and promoting self-employment, the organization provides various skill development and livelihood-oriented training programs. These include training in computer technology, tailoring and handicrafts, beautification and cosmetology, and other market-relevant vocational skills. Such initiatives contribute to creating employment opportunities for women and young females, reducing wage disparities, and enabling them to establish themselves as entrepreneurs and income-generating individuals.

In addition, Arban Nari Jagaron conducts continuous advocacy, awareness campaigns, and stakeholder consultations to prevent child marriage, combat violence against women and children, and reduce social violence. Through sustained community engagement and sensitization efforts, the organization works to build a safer, more equitable, and inclusive society for women, children, and marginalized groups.

The Arban partners

Arban works with a huge amount of partners. Here are the logo's.

OUR PARTNERS



Recognition

ARBAN has received awards from several nationally and internationally reputed organizations as recognition of its contribution made in the working area through technology-based activities.

- ❖ In 2011, ARBAN received National Innovation Award under the category of e-Agriculture & Livelihood for its Infolady program. The award was given by the Department of Information and Communication Technology of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- ❖ In order to contribute in building knowledge-based society ARBAN's Infolady program has been given the Asia-based prestigious Manthan Award in 2011 in the category of e-Livelihood.
- ❖ In 2013 ARBAN has won the honor of participating in the South Asian Youth Solution competition jointly organized by World Bank and Microsoft at Sri Lanka's capital Colombo as a finalist from Bangladesh, recognizing the contribution in technological skill development of grassroots women.
- ❖ In 2016, 2017, 2018, ARBAN ACADEMY has earned recognition from Netrokona District Administration as the best educational institute for its contribution in digital education.
- ❖ In 2017 ARBAN ACADEMY has been honored in a national level colorful event jointly organized by NETIZEN LIMITED and BIJOY DIGITAL with the recognition of launching the first ever full-fledged digital class room for the primary education in the country.
- ❖ In the year 2018, Executive Director of ARBAN was given the Sher-e-Bangla Padak-2018 as recognition of his contribution in social services.
- ❖ The Honorable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, awarded Syed Arifuzzaman, Executive Director of arban, as the country's youth organizer by the Directorate of Youth Development under the Ministry of Youth and Sports in 2019.

ARBAN Activities in 2025

1. The Indomitable Journey Towards a SMART Bangladesh: Challenges and Potentialities of Tourist Police

The study, implemented by Arban, explored the role, challenges, and potential of the Tourist Police in fostering a safe, inclusive, and sustainable tourism environment in Bangladesh, in line with the nation's vision of becoming a more advanced, tourist-friendly country. The research identified key limitations faced by the Tourist Police, including restricted authority, limited resources, and public perception, while emphasizing the importance of enhancing visitor experiences through improved facilities, transport, and security measures.



The study also highlighted opportunities to transform the Tourist Police into a strategic driver for Advanced Bangladesh by introducing reforms in policy, capacity building, technology adoption, and public engagement. Such improvements are expected to strengthen national branding, increase visitor satisfaction, and enhance the resilience and sustainability of Bangladesh's tourism sector. The research covered Sylhet, Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, Bandarban, and Chattogram districts, providing insights relevant to key tourism hubs across the country.

2. Program on Agricultural and Rural Transformation for Nutrition, Entrepreneurship and Resilience in Bangladesh (PARTNER)

Arban, in partnership with the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), recognized the urgent need to address Bangladesh's geo-climatic challenges, growing population, and national food security concerns. To meet these demands, both organizations established a collaborative initiative focused on hybrid rice technology cooperation to enhance rice production, strengthen food security, and promote sustainable agricultural development.

The project was implemented across multiple districts, including Netrakona, Mymensingh, Sherpur, Jamalpur, Sunamganj, Kishoreganj, Kurigram, Moulvi Bazar, and Habiganj, targeting improved productivity, adoption of



innovative farming practices, and capacity building among local farmers. Through this initiative, Arban contributed to creating a resilient and sustainable rice production system to support the nation's long-term food security objectives.



3. Joining Forces : CSO and Media for Accountability in Bangladesh

Joining Forces: CSO and Media for Accountability in Bangladesh” project has been implementing to improve coordination and to improve the relationship between the local journalists. The project has been implementing in 6 regions of Bangladesh with the funding from EU. Free Press Unlimited and Article – 19 are overall leading the project and it will continue till the end of December 2024. C-CAB, as the lead, is working for Mymensingh zone (having Mymensingh, Netrokona, Jamalpur and Sherpur Districts as the working areas) and Ajker ARBAN, the registered online portal is the media partner at the grassroots level.

4. Enterprise based Training (EBT) Project

The Enterprise Based Training (EBT) Project, implemented under the ASSET Project and administered by the Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB), aims to develop market-oriented technical skills and promote sustainable employment. The project contributes to national efforts to strengthen the TVET sector and reduce unemployment through demand-driven training.

Arban is implementing the EBT Project in four key occupations: Computer Operation, Graphics Design, Digital Marketing for Freelancing, and Beautification. The training follows BTEB-approved curriculum with a strong focus on practical, competency-based, and enterprise-linked learning to enhance employability and self-employment opportunities.



Through this project, Arban supports youth and women, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds, to gain relevant skills for wage employment, freelancing, and entrepreneurship, thereby contributing to income generation, economic self-reliance, and inclusive development.

5. Recognition Prior Learning (RPL) Project

The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Project is being implemented under **the** Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB) as part of the Government of Bangladesh's skills development initiatives. The project aims to formally assess, recognize, and certify the competencies of individuals who have acquired skills through non-formal or informal means, enabling them to gain nationally recognized certification and improve their employability and professional status.



Arban is implementing the RPL Project in two key occupations: Digital Marketing for Freelancing and Graphics Design. Through this project, skilled individuals without formal certification are assessed and certified in accordance with BTEB standards, allowing them to enhance their competitiveness in the digital labor market and freelancing platforms.

By recognizing existing skills and providing formal certification, the RPL Project supports youth and women in strengthening their income-generating opportunities, career progression, and self-employment prospects. The project aligns with Arban's mission of skills-based empowerment and contributes to the expansion of inclusive and

sustainable digital employment opportunities.

6. Teachers education improvement program

In June 2025 we have executed a special program with the help of an external consultant, Robert Wijers from PUM, to improve the education skills of the IT teachers within ARBAN. Based on an internal and external analysis of the current environment, changing to the curriculum have been implemented.

Special attention was given to the alignment with the job-market where some student struggle to get employed. Therefore additional training on social skills have been added to the curriculum and now an integral part of the lessons.



Achievements until 2025

ARBAN's Impact: A Look at Our Beneficiaries

Empowering Livelihoods



5,000+

Farmers & Laborers Supported

Empowering shrimp, prawn, and agricultural workers to build sustainable livelihoods.

20,000

Rohingya Refugees & Host Community Members Aided

Providing critical support to one of the largest beneficiary groups.



1,400+

Entrepreneurs Launched

Fostering economic independence for small, youth, and women entrepreneurs.

Supporting Families & Youth



Over
40,000

Individuals Reached in Large-Scale Programs

Demonstrating a commitment to gender parity with equal numbers of male and female beneficiaries.

Nearly
8,000 Children & Students Assisted

Programs focused on the education and well-being of boys and girls.



2,800+

Mothers Supported

Providing targeted aid for poor, pregnant, and new mothers.

Future plan of ARBAN

Strategic Context

In 2025, ARBAN has been working on its business plan for the period 2025–2028. This plan reflects ARBAN's belief that it can create significant value for its stakeholders while remaining fully aligned with the broader company strategy. In an environment where governments, NGOs, and local initiatives are driving a high volume of activities, ARBAN recognizes the need for focus and clarity. To achieve this, ARBAN will cluster its programs and services into five strategic pillars, each closely connected to the organization's core strengths and built on years of experience in the field. These pillars define the direction for the coming years and position ARBAN's existing companies within a coherent framework.

Strategic Pillars and Company Positioning

1. Academic Education

ARBAN's commitment to Academic Education extends beyond traditional schooling. We aim to build permanent institutions equipped with modern facilities that are child-, disability-, and gender-sensitive, ensuring safe and inclusive learning environments. Programs will integrate IT and 21st-century skills, bridging gaps for out-of-school children and providing early childhood development opportunities. By focusing on quality primary and secondary education, ARBAN prepares learners for higher education and dignified employment.

The following ARBAN families are part of this pillar

- ARBAN School
- ARBAN Early Learning Center

2. Technical Education

The Technical Education pillar focuses on delivering job-oriented vocational and IT training aligned with NSDA/BTEB frameworks. ARBAN will offer specialized tracks in IoT basics, electrical work, apparel manufacturing, graphic design, digital marketing, and mobile app development, supported by modern labs, competency-based assessments, and internships. By integrating technology-based innovation, ARBAN enables learners to access digital platforms for freelancing and entrepreneurship.

The following ARBAN families are part of this pillar

- ARBAN Technical Institute
- ARBAN IT Academy

3. Handcraft Education

Through the Handcraft Education pillar, ARBAN empowers rural women and youth via ARBAN CRAFT, offering training in tailoring, embroidery, block/boutique design, and hand-stitching. Beyond skills development, ARBAN provides access to finance through microcredit and seed capital, enabling participants to start and grow businesses. Support for branding, quality assurance, and e-commerce enablement ensures artisans can reach broader markets.

The following ARBAN families are part of this pillar

- ARBAN Craft Center
- ARBAN Women's Enterprise

4. SDG Projects & Consultancy

The SDG Projects & Consultancy pillar positions ARBAN as a trusted partner for NGOs, government bodies, and development organizations. ARBAN will design and implement evidence-based programs in areas such as education, livelihoods, health, climate resilience, and governance. Services include strategic advisory, MEL frameworks, policy advocacy, and action research.

The following ARBAN families are part of this pillar

- ARBAN Development Consultancy
- ARBAN Climate Action Unit

5. Media House & Knowledge Hub

The Media House & Knowledge Hub serves as ARBAN's platform for citizen journalism, knowledge sharing, and advocacy. Through AJKER ARBAN, the organization promotes transparency, rule of law, and participatory decision-making. The digital hub curates toolkits, case studies, and datasets, supporting practitioners and learners.

The following ARBAN families are part of this pillar

- AJKER ARBAN Media
- ARBAN Knowledge Hub (see following chapter for details)

Knowledge Hub

ARBAN Knowledge Hub – Driving Smart Bangladesh 2041

Bangladesh’s ambition to become a knowledge-based, high-income nation by 2041, under the Smart Bangladesh vision, requires a fundamental shift in how knowledge and data are managed. Despite significant government initiatives, systemic fragmentation of information across ministries, academia, and industry remains a major barrier. This limits the quality of skills development, slows policy innovation, and creates inefficiencies in implementing national programs.

The ARBAN Knowledge Hub (KH) is positioned as a strategic interoperability layer and institutional accelerator to overcome these challenges. Its core purpose is to standardize knowledge assets, ensure traceability of innovation, and provide evidence-based feedback loops for policy refinement. By leveraging ARBAN’s strong presence at both grassroots and national levels, the Hub bridges the gap between local realities and policy-level decision-making.

Key Contributions of the Knowledge Hub:

- **Digital Governance & Data Integrity:** Establishes frameworks for ethical AI, cybersecurity, and IP management, supporting secure and interoperable government services.
- **Human Capital Development for 4IR:** Centralizes curriculum standards and certification tracking to ensure quality and portability of skills for millions of professionals by 2030.
- **Climate Adaptation & Green Skills:** Integrates local adaptation knowledge with scientific data to strengthen vocational training for climate-vulnerable sectors.
- **Policy Transformation:** Converts fragmented data streams into actionable insights, enabling targeted resource allocation and improved governance.

First Steps for Implementation:

1. **Develop the Digital Repository:** Create a centralized platform to store and share policy documents, research papers, toolkits, and innovation case studies.
2. **Standardize Training Modules:** Begin curating and validating 4IR skill content and green skills curriculum in collaboration with national platforms like MuktoPaath.
3. **Launch IP Registration Framework:** Establish mechanisms for cataloging innovations and assigning unique identifiers to ensure attribution and traceability.
4. **Pilot Data Governance Standards:** Implement initial protocols for cybersecurity, ethical AI, and interoperability to align with the ICT Division’s roadmap.
5. **Engage Stakeholders:** Organize policy-level webinars and virtual meetings to connect government, academia, and industry for collaborative input.

Aligned with the ICT Division Reform Roadmap (2025–2030) and Vision 2041, the Hub supports critical national targets, including full digitization of government services, ICT contributing 20% to GDP, and scaling ICT exports and employment. It also reinforces Bangladesh’s commitments to SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships) by fostering collaboration between government, academia, and industry.

The ARBAN Knowledge Hub is not just a repository—it is a dynamic engine for policy innovation, workforce readiness, and sustainable development, making it a cornerstone for achieving Smart Bangladesh 2041.

Completed Projects of ARBAN

ARBAN has a vast experience on research, survey, design and implement the different skills & social development program, skills development (technical skills, life skills and social development) training program, social development and employment creation, business skills development and financial management training program, entrepreneurship development training program, capacity building training program for local entrepreneur, training need assessment, training manual and module preparation, financial management, business designing, trade facilitation, planning and management etc. ARBAN completed a similar project on a large-scale consulting service to design and implement a skills and social development program, which builds social development and employment pathways for targeted beneficiaries across various projects in Bangladesh.

1. Eradication of Hazardous Child Labor in Bangladesh (4th Phase)

The project was actively implemented with the support of Arban. The project aimed to eliminate hazardous forms of child labor and ensure the protection, education, and rehabilitation of children engaged in dangerous work. Adopting a comprehensive, rights-based approach, the initiative focused on withdrawing children from hazardous work environments and reintegrating them into safer and dignified livelihood pathways.



Under this project, Arban provided children involved in hazardous labor with non-formal education and skills development training, enhancing their employability and for self-employment and safe income generation. In addition, the project engaged families and communities to raise awareness about the harmful effects of child labor and the importance of education.

Through these interventions, the project contributed to improving the socio-economic conditions of beneficiary children, child-friendly livelihoods. It was implemented in Mymensingh City Corporation, where it played a key role in eradicating hazardous child labor and strengthening community-based child protection mechanisms.

2. Out-of-School Children Education Program

The Out-of-School Children Education Program was implemented with the active support of Arban in Atpara Upazila, Netrakona from March 2021 to March 2024. The program aimed to reintegrate children aged 8–14 who had dropped out of the formal education system by providing pre-primary education, ensuring they acquire foundational literacy, numeracy, and life skills necessary to rejoin formal schooling.

During the project, 1,700 children (800 boys and 900 girls) benefited from the initiative. Implemented in partnership with the Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE), the program also engaged families and communities to raise awareness about the importance of continuous education.

Through these efforts, Arban contributed to improving educational access, reducing dropout rates, and creating sustainable pathways for children to continue their formal education.



3. Pre-primary and Non-formal Education Activities

The project was implemented by Arban from January 2008 to December 2010 in collaboration with NFPE, BRAC. The initiative aimed to reintegrate disadvantaged children who had dropped out of school into the mainstream education system by providing pre-primary and non-formal education. Special focus was given to children under six years of age and those who had previously left school, ensuring they acquired foundational literacy, numeracy, and life skills.

Through these activities, the project successfully brought marginalized and dropout learners back into formal education, laying the groundwork for their future academic development and lifelong learning opportunities. The initiative also engaged families and communities to raise awareness about the importance of early education and non-formal learning pathways.



4. English and ICT Club

The English and ICT Club project was implemented by Arban in Purbadhala from March 2013 to June 2014 in collaboration with the British Council. The initiative aimed to improve the English language proficiency and technical skills of secondary-level students in rural areas by forming dedicated clubs.

Through the clubs, students were provided with resources, and practical opportunities to enhance their communication, digital literacy, and ICT skills. This initiative empowered young learners, preparing them for future academic success and career opportunities, while fostering a culture of learning and technological engagement.

5. Campaign for Preventing Dropout of Children

The Campaign for Preventing Dropout of Children was implemented by Arban from January 2012 to March 2016 in collaboration with Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE). The project aimed to reduce school dropout rates among children from disadvantaged communities through awareness-raising campaigns and community engagement activities.

Over the course of the project, 1,200 children (500 boys and 700 girls) benefited from the initiative. By involving families, community leaders, and schools, the importance of continued education, helping more children remain in school and creating pathways for better educational outcomes and long-term opportunities.



6. Livelihood Development for Ethnic Community

A large population of the ethnic community live in the greater Mymensingh region. Among them, Garo, Hajong, Coach, Banai and Dalu indigenous people have been living in border areas for a long time. These very simple people have many problems in their daily lives. ARBAN has undertaken program for improving the lives of the indigenous people. With the support of Oxfam, ARBAN implemented a program for building organizational capacity of indigenous people, their education in mother language and conservation of traditional land rights. The program has been implemented from 2010 to 2012 in the Garo and Hajong community of Durgapur and Kalamakanda upazilas of Netrokona district and Dalu community of Nalitabari upazila of Sherpur district.



7. M-Health Services

From 2012 to 2014 ARBAN implemented "Sumata" and "MAMA" projects partnering with Dnet funded by Grameen-Intel and USAID for safe delivery of pregnant mothers and health safety of new born babies in Netrokona Sadar and Purbadhala Upazilas.

The program was implemented by four women health workers under the supervision of Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer of Upozila Health Complex of Purbadhala upazila and a paramedic doctor at Netrokona Sadar upazila. Under this project registered mothers are getting services since beginning of the pregnancy.

The services include free of cost weekly health messages (Mobile SMS) from specialized physician through women health workers, online connection with doctors for advice, e-mail communication with specialized doctors, visiting doctors physically for prescription and field visit of doctors in emergency.

7. Info-Lady

Infolady is a successful model of women entrepreneurship invented by Dnet. Infolady programs were started in two places of the country, including Purbadhala. ARBAN started Infolady Program for creating access to all types of information services at grassroots level based on technology with the assistance of Dnet and funded by Manusher Jonno Foundation. Infolady is a self-employed independent woman in rural areas equipped with netbook, digital cameras, full-time Internet connectivity, first-aid box. Providing door step services through cycling especially among women, school-college students, elderly people, including the help of implementing information rights, consumer products and technology-based services, is one of the sources of revenue of Infolady.



In Netrakona Sadar and Purbadhala Upazilas 12 Infolady's provide multidimensional services locally among groups and individuals. They earn money by selling cosmetics, garments and providing services including photography, videography, blood pressure measurement, sugar screening, soil testing, university admission forms, internet browsing, CD-DVD writings, Skype communication etc.

In fact, there are about 50,000 rural people who are getting direct services in different areas of action since 2010. Infolady is currently running in different areas of the country named Kalyani.

8. Telecenter

ARBAN is operating a Telecenter, ICT access venue at Purbadhala upazila sadar where all types of livelihood related updated information are available for general people. ARBAN is also playing vital role in supporting Information and Service Centres at union, upazila and district levels by offering training, technical guidance and sharing resources. ARBAN initiated a ARBAN IT Affiliated by Technical Education Board from a simple ICT Club (CLICK).



9. Corporate Social Responsibility



ARBAN established computer labs for two schools with the CSR fund from of Bank Asia and Dnet.

ARBAN also trained the computer teachers and provide educational e-content. BANK Asia also provide the old computers which ARBAN refurbished and provide to five education institutions in Purbodhala, Netrokona. Along with Intel Corporation and Bangladesh Telecentre Network, ARBAN established a computer lab for a school which was in electricity off grid area. This computer lab was powered by solar system.

10. Disaster Management

Natural disasters such as storms, cyclones, floods, draughts damage homes and crops of many people every year. In rural Bangladesh floods in advance occur almost every year. Ability to overcome disaster and disaster aftermath of low-income people is not enough. ARBAN takes active participation in various natural disasters and rehabilitation programs including distribution of relief, pure water, ore-saline, tube well, house building, distribution of winter clothes and significant rehabilitation activities. ARBAN has implemented number projects with the support from philanthropist and several partner organizations including NGO Forum for Public health.

11. Water and Sanitation

ARBAN implemented Safe drinking water supply and sanitation project in collaboration with NGO Forum and HISWA Project from February 2006 to December 2008. A total of 320 males, 160 females 1250 boys and 1200 girls of disadvantaged community in Netrokona were directly benefited through this project. Major activities of the project were arranging fair congregating 5000 community people, installation of 100 deep Tube-wells, Supply of 2,000 health-hygienic sanitary latrines, conducting yard meetings with 5000 women, arranging rally, Discussion meeting, training etc.



12. Housing

ARBAN works for the rural community of low income in the disaster-prone areas of Bangladesh. ARBAN implemented housing project in Netrokona district financed by Housing Fund of Government of Bangladesh. The project was implemented in the period 2008-2012. Under this project total 280 safe shelters were built worth taka 7 million for 280 families who lost their houses due to severe storms, floods and inability to manage repairing costs.

13. Rat Management

In absence of proper maintenance, about 10-15 percent of the crop produced by farmers is wasted due to outbreak of rats every year. Farmers adopt different techniques to protect crops from rats. In order to invent an effective way of protecting crops from rats in rural areas, ARBAN implemented Rat management program from 2012 to 2014 with the support of Aid-Comilla funded by DFID. Under this program a number of activities including training on rate management at village level, preserving paddy in the field and granary.



14. Vegetable Gardening

In order to increase marginal farmers' income, ARBAN provided assistance in the homestead vegetable gardening and provides training, good quality seeds, support to establish contact with agriculture department and getting proper market price of the produces. With the support of Development Wheel and Trade Craft, the program has been implemented from 2010-2014 in Purbadhala and Durgapur upazilas of Netrokona district by ARBAN.

15. National Parliament Election Observation 2024

As a non-governmental organization, Activity for Reform of Basic Needs-ARBAN has been working for a long time to protect democracy, good governance and human rights, including various development activities, by properly following the laws and related policies of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. For your kind information, I would also like to mention that the organization has been playing an important role as an observer organization in the past national parliamentary elections, including local government elections, after obtaining registration from the Election Commission.

Arban is playing the role of an election observer organization in the 2024 national parliamentary elections. Arban firmly believes that the initiative of election observation through local non- governmental organizations, with the support of the Election Commission of Bangladesh, has been playing an important role in strengthening the democratic system and organizing transparent, accountable and acceptable elections.



16. Social Forestry

Tree plantation is an important activity to protect the environment. Since its inception ARBAN puts importance on social forestry. In the house courtyard, fruit tree plantation has contributed to increase the supply of nutrients, increase household income and above all, to balance the environment. ARBAN has been participating in public-private tree planting activities every year since 2010. As of now, ARBAN distributed about 25 thousand saplings.



17. Develop and Deploy Digital Application

In the current global system of technology to increase its self-capacity, Bangladesh has been stepped ahead in web and mobile-based applications development. Through the implementation of multi-dimensional in association with donors and partner organizations, universities and research institutions, ARBAN has been focusing on developing web-based applications and websites & portals for a long time. ARBAN has started to develop mobile Apps.

With the collaboration of University of EXETER, UK and research organization CEFAS; ARBAN has already deployed three mobile base survey applications. Three applications are- FARMS in order to treat diseases in Bagda-Galda shrimp cultivation, DNA in order to diagnose rheumatism, Pangas and Tilapia cultivation and DNA2 for the collection of fish farming data of Worldfish in Malawi. Besides, ARBAN provides technical services for maintaining online survey to local universities and research organizations.

18. Info-Peddler

After conducting ten years' action research, ARBAN invented Info-Peddler model. Info-Peddler is rural young women with the necessary technology and research knowledge to provide ICT based services to rural people to researchers. In light of the experiences of providing technical services at the field level in the past, ARBAN has particularly appreciated the need for skilled and trained women workers for the successful implementation of education, health, agricultural and research activities at grassroots level. In this context ARBAN's Info-Peddler model was invented in 2016.



Info-Peddler is skilled in the use of technological tools and specializes in computer and Android based technology. By providing multi-dimensional e-services with the help of all types of mobile applications and web portals, they play an important role in improving the lives of marginalized people. One of the strengths of the ability of Info-Peddlers is data collection for research and conducting online and offline survey. Meanwhile, the ARBAN Info-Peddler model played an important role in the collection of essential data for two aquaculture research activities with Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), WorldFish, UK-based research firm CEFAS and University of EXETER.

19. Movement for Preserving Culture and Heritage

ARBAN is committed to the creation of knowledge-based society through forming the educated nation. ARBAN is working to build a better society by enriching the history and heritage-based knowledge of the citizens. In addition to subject-based educational programs for the youth and students ARBAN preserves and promotes history of liberation war, nationally important events, history of movements and struggles, local successes through leaflets, pictures and videos.



20. Climate Change

As a result of global development, due to climate change, the whole earth is flooded by various kinds of natural disasters, including premature floods, drought, etc. Bangladesh is one of the most risk prone areas in terms of natural risk. Global organizations, states and all development partners are playing a very responsible role in climate change issues. Being attached with CSRL network ARBAN has been carrying out promotional activities and campaigns financed by Oxfam.

21. Research

Currently, our development sector is moving forward. It is now necessary to look at research programs on equal application of modern technologies in diversified sectors including education, agriculture, and health. Apart from the development activities ARBAN is further focusing on research activities. ARBAN operates a number of basic research and action research programs in collaboration with several universities and research institutes. Among them, ARBAN is working with the UK's renowned university, University of Exeter, research institute CEFAS jointly with Bangladesh Agricultural University and Worldfish for conducting research work on shrimp, lobster and tilapia, pangasius fish diagnosis and use of antibiotic.

22. Right to Information (RTI)

ARBAN works to ensure effective implementation and promotion of the good governance using Right to Information Act 2009 of its working area. ARBAN has campaigned with the Local Government and other stakeholders to implement and promote the RTI Act 2009. ARBAN is ensuring the people's access and right to information in accord with the provisions of the Act. ARBAN has already educated 15,250 rural people to use RTI procedure for seeking information.

23. Hygiene Behavior Change to Combat Covid-19

ARBAN is implementing a 360° communication campaign to deliver a comprehensive set of Behavior Change and Community Engagement interventions in Cox's Bazar in order to raise awareness and improve hygiene behavior in response to COVID-19.

The interventions consist of four distinct, but interrelated, pillars:

- Development and dissemination of highly contextualized Public Service Announcement (PSA) and Information Education and Communication (IEC) material
- Community Engagement through Mass Media, Digital Media and Social Media outreach; Household counselling, and through Community Influencers such as Imams
- Orientation of field workers and volunteers on better communication with vulnerable communities
- Distribution of Hygiene kits that will help beneficiaries practice what they learned



24. Improving Biosecurity in the Shrimp Industry

ARBAN is producing instructional videos and animation as part of a behavior change initiative to strengthen biosecurity in the hatcheries along the coastal belt. The project aims to reduce the disease burden in the shrimp industry, a vital growth sector in Bangladesh.

ARBAN in Media

Many news and reports have been published in local and foreign print and electronic media on ARBAN's technology based activities. The Executive Director of ARBAN has been interviewed by TV Show [Ranga Shokal](#) of Masranga Television to brief all initiative of ARBAN. A report was aired on ARBAN's Infolady in the TV Show [Hridoye Mati O Manush](#) of Channel-I anchored by renowned producer and director Shaikh Siraj. ATN News's journalist Munni Saha screened a program on late Mishuk Munir, ATN News's Chief Executive Officer' with [ARBAN's Infolady](#). News and special reports were published in different national newspapers such as The [Daily Star](#) and [Star Magazine](#) on INFOLADY, the Daily Prothom Alo on [Digital Class](#) and [Manthan Award](#), the [Daily Samakal](#), the [Daily Janakantha](#), the [Daily Vorer Kagaj](#), the [Daily Sangbad](#) and the [Daily Manabkantha](#) on Digital Class. Two Documentaries are available online on [Digital Classroom](#) and Celebration of [Pohela Boishakh 1425](#) by ARBAN.

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