

1/1/2021

Annual Report



Activity for Reformation of Basic Needs – ARBAN
College Road, Purbadhala, Netrakona.



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.

Jamil Mostaque



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.

The organization 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.

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Syed Arifuzzaman

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, 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 programmes 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, Vision-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 Creativeness*
- *Unity, Equity and Social Justice*
- *Effectiveness and Quality*
- *Productivity and Sustainability*
- *Transparency and Accountability*

Legal Status:

Sl. No	License/ Registration Authority	License/Registration No./Memo 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 Programmes 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. 36	20-05-2018

ARBAN's Objectives:

- To develop research tools and conduct researches on socio-economic development;
- To undertake skill development initiatives among youths;
- To initiate and promote awareness program for establishing human rights and good governance for deprived people of the society.
- To assist marginalized especially the women through savings and initiating productive IGA projects.
- To facilitate indigenous community for mainstreaming in the society, supporting cultural preservation and indigenous peoples' rights.
- To building permanent institutions for general and technical education at its working area
- To ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education
- To ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and preprimary education so that they are ready for primary education
- To ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education
- To increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship
- To eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations
- To ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy
- To ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance.
- To eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, measured as people living on less than \$1.90 a day in its working area
- To reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

- To Implement social protection systems and measures for all undertaken by Government of Bangladesh and achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
- To undertake various projects for achieving gender equality through utilizing modern technologies and innovations.
- To enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- To build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters
- To improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.
- To promoting justice and peace through New Media
- To encouraged to exchange free information between the local and national level organizations and to create mutual exchange opportunities and establish institutional relationships.
- To establish partnerships and networking in the field of 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.

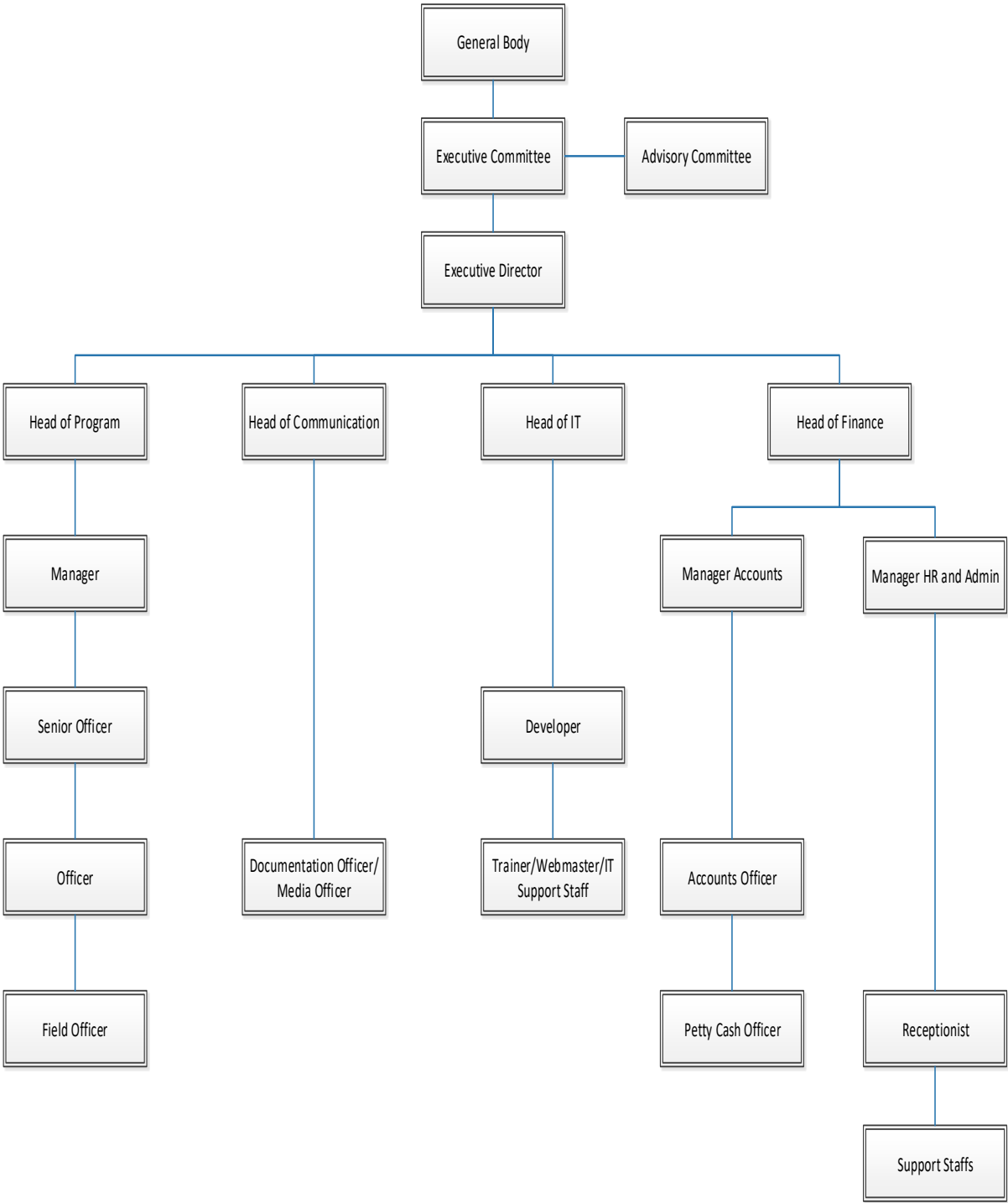
The 21 members General Body (GB) meets two times in a year. GB assists EC to implement activities aligned with organizational goal, vision and mission. The GB guides the EC to perform as wheel force of the organization, evaluates performance of the EC,

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



ARBAN Activities in 2021

Computer Training Program



Training Center

ARBAN has started computer training program in Purbadhala since 2007 as an initiative to educate young people in the field of computer. The journey was started by introducing various customized packages at the initial stage. In 2010, ARBAN IT introduced three trade courses for three months and six months as an institution affiliated by the Bangladesh Technical Education Board. Every year about five hundred young people are receiving training from the ARBAN Computer Training Center. There are many customized packages according to training needs. From the ARBAN Computer Training Center, more than five thousand students successfully completed various courses in the last decade, and many of them are engaged in prestigious professions in public and private organizations including educational institutions.

ARBAN IT Project

ARBAN has launched a number of training programs on computer. Under the **ARBAN IT Project 2021**, various courses of six months and three months duration have been started. Already 35 people have been trained on IT Computer Office Application course, of which 60% are girls and 40% are boys. Also 65 people have been trained on database programming and 70 people have been trained on hardware networking. 15 people have been trained on graphics design for a period of three months with our own funds. 10 people have been trained on outsourcing. Thus ARBAN, Netrokona has worked to improve the skills of young people in the district and increase their knowledge of information technology.

Serial No.	Courses	Batch Duration	2018-2019		Total Number of Trainee in a year
			Female	Male	
1.	IT Computer Office Application	Six month (2 Batches in a year)	21	14	70
2.	Database Programming	Six month (2 Batches in a year)	21	14	70
3.	Hardware and Networking	Six month (2 Batches in a year)	21	14	70
4.	Graphic Design	Three month (one batch in a year)	8	7	15
5.	Outsourcing	Three month (one batch in a year)	5	5	10

Non formal education

In partnership with Bureau of Non-Formal Education under Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, Government of Bangladesh ARBAN started in Non-Formal education program In Kendua and Madan upazilas of Netrokona district in 2019. Under this project, total 660 non-formal education centers have been set up (340 in Kendua upazila and 320 in Madan upazila). In each of the centers Basic literacy has been provided to 30 men and women aged from 15 to 45 years.

Disaster preparedness training program

10 ARBAN's staffs and volunteers have been trained on disaster preparedness training program, the training imparted by **World Vision** in 2019. Bangladesh is a country of natural disasters. Every year floods, droughts and other natural calamities cause huge losses in Bangladesh. ARBAN has taken a number of steps under the Natural Disaster and Recovery Program. These are-

- ✓ Distribution of relief, pure water and ore-saline,
- ✓ Set up a tube well,
- ✓ Distribution of clothes and
- ✓ Significant rehabilitation activities.

Skilled development training on Blockbatic

In 2019, three-month blockbatic training program was started in Purbadhala upazila of Netrokona district. The first batch started in February and the second batch started in April. A total of 80 adolescent girls were trained in two batches. As a result, teenage girls are able to earn a living at home.



Course Name	Batch No.	Time Duration	Number of Trainee (female)
Skilled development training on Blockbatic	First	February-March,2019	40
	Second	March-April,2019	40
	Total Number of Trainee in a year		80

Training on tailoring on swing program

A team of 40 housewives and teenagers was formed in 2019. They were given a training on tailoring. In the training production, their products were sold through Urban Craft. Under this project, it is possible to make **40** women self-reliant.

ARBAN Networking program

ARBAN organizes meetings and seminars as part of its networking activities with its membership. Department of Aquaculture, Bangladesh Agricultural University, U K-Aid, University of Exeter, (Cefas), Bangladesh Bank, Election Commission of Bangladesh Government ,Department of Women Affairs ,these are project partner of ARBAN.

ARBAN health project

Twelve hundred and fifty (1250) maternity women are provided maternity training and allowances under the Department of Women's Affairs. Pregnant women during pregnancy are provided training on nutrition, healthy food and reproductive health awareness. Under this project registered mothers are getting services since beginning of the pregnancy.

Aquaculture for small scale farmers program



The project was implemented jointly with the Bangladesh Agricultural University to combat the disease of Pangash and Tilapia fish farmers in the greater Mymensingh region and to encourage non-use of antibiotics in fish farming with Waldfish in the greater Khulna region and Bagda and lobster farmers. Exeter University, a UK-based institution, studies this activity. Urban has already developed three mobile applications to collect DNA and Worldfish fish farming data in the African country of Malawi to diagnose Pangasius and

Tilapia. Experience sharing workshop on “Production without medicalisation” held on 7-10th May at CSS Ava center, Khulna. University of Exeter-UK, Cefas-UK, WorldFish and ARBAN jointly organized the workshop. Farm owner, government people (DoF), representative from BFRI, leader from different association, University teacher, researcher from national & international institutions and other respective stakeholders attended in the workshop. Participants also enjoyed the presentation on Mobile App developed by Arban.





Other Activities

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 activities in association with various 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 based application. With the collaboration of University of EXETER, UK and research organization CEFAS; ARBAN has already deploy 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.

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.

Education

ARBAN introduces new type of education institutes for building a knowledge-based society through technology enabled modern education system using the curriculum prescribed by the government, as well as technology-based modern education materials and educational content. In 2011 ARBAN established ARBAN ACADEMY with full-fledged digital classroom. ARBAN is operating 10 Non-Formal Primary Education centers aiming to

mainstreaming around 300 children from disadvantaged families every year. ARBAN is awarded to implement Basic Literacy Project (BLP) at Kendua and Madan Upazila of Netrokona District of Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE) under Ministry of Primary and Mass Education Government of Bangladesh.

Microfinance

Creating employment opportunities involving income generating activities through Microcredit is a common and recognized concept. ARBAN has been operating the credit program since 2016 in creating self-employment for low income people. Receiving approval from the Micro Credit Regulatory Authority (MRA) ARBAN initiated credit program. ARBAN provides training for skill development and distributes loan as capital through organizing rural women for creating self-employment opportunities. As of now ARBAN distributed loans among 1365 women nearly amounting to 6 million Taka.

Election Observation

One of the main tools of overall development is the practice of democratic system of any country. And how strong democracy is, depends on how people's opinion reflects through the elections of that country. If local and national elections are not strong, sustainable development is never possible. Since the Independence of our country, various steps have been taken to reflect on people's opinion in the election process. The initiative has been taken to increase voter participation in acceptable elections.

Voters' participation is not limited to voting on a polling day only. Choosing the right candidate, keeping the polling environment beautiful and after all polling in a bias-less environment is most important. In our country the government has taken different efforts through engaging volunteer organizations and development partners for the fair elections.

ARBAN is aware of the upholding democracy and freedom of expression of the people. In view of which, ARBAN has been involved in election monitoring partnering with monitoring agencies in the local and national elections in coordination with the people and organizations associated with voting. ARBAN is acting as an observer agency of the Bangladesh Election Commission in all kinds of elections of Bangladesh.

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.

Outsourcing

As an over populated country with burden of high rate of unemployment Bangladesh has to search for alternative employment opportunities for new generation labour forces. The scope of the wide range of technical work has been created because of educated youth society and internet facilities in Bangladesh, especially in the field of entrepreneurs who are well-versed in technology. Currently ICT is a fast growing sector. In Bangladesh, due to significant progress made in this sector, a lot of out-sourcing work area has been created.

ARBAN organizes training programs for skill development, market linkage and transaction methods for all these purposes.

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.

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.

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.

DAY OBSERVATION:

ARBAN held cultural program and celebrate these days-

- International Mother Language Day - February 21,
- International Women's Day- March 8,
- Victory day of Bangladesh- December 16,
- Independence Day of Bangladesh - 26 March,
- International Day for Universal Access to Information - September 28,
- National Youth Day - 8 December

Completed Projects of ARBAN

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 Upazila 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 advise, e-mail communication with specialized doctors, visiting doctors physically for prescription and field visit of doctors in emergency.

Info-Lady



Infolady Health Services

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 Netkona Sadar and Purvadhala Upazilas 12 Infoladies 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.



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).

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

ARBAN Enterprises

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, Infolady, 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 content. 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 as 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.

Development Partners of ARBAN

SL. No	Project Title	Donor/Development Partner/Lead Organization	Project Duration	Target Beneficiaries	Remarks
1	Novel Molecular Approaches for Advancing Prediction and Mitigation of Disease Outbreaks in Aquaculture for small scale Farmer.	U K-Aid, University of Exeter, Cefas	January'16 to January '19	Shrimp and Prawn Farmer	Ongoing
2	Production without medicalisation: a pilot intervention in global protein production	U K-Aid, University of Exeter, Cefas	January'17 to December'18	Tilapia and Pangasius Farmer	Ongoing
	WSSV Risk Factors	Department of Aquaculture, Bangladesh Agricultural University	January'18 to December'18	Shrimp Farmer	Ongoing
3	Basic Literacy Project (64 Districts)	Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, Bangladesh Government	June'18 to May'19	Male and Female addled People	Ongoing
4	Entrepreneur Development	Bangladesh Bank	November'15 to November'18	Youth, Women and ICT based Entrepreneurs.	Ongoing
5	Election Observation	Election Commission, Bangladesh Government	June'18 to May'23	Voter, Journalist and Civil Society	Ongoing
6	Maternity Allowance for Poor Mothers	Department of Women Affairs, Bangladesh Government	January'18 to December'18	Poor Mothers	Ongoing
7	Microfinance	Micro Credit Regulatory Authority, Bangladesh Government	January'15 to be Continued	Small Entrepreneur and Women Entrepreneurs.	Ongoing

SL. No	Project Title	Donor/Development Partner/Lead Organization	Project Duration	Target Beneficiaries	Remarks
8	Research	University of Exeter (UK), Bangladesh Agricultural University, Dhaka University, Cefas (UK), WorldFish	March'12 to be Continued	Fish Farmer, Internet user at rural level	Ongoing
9	Right to Information	Dnet, Manusher Jonyo Foundation, Information Commission of Bangladesh	April'10 to be Continued	Government Office, NGO, Educational Institution	Ongoing
10	Computer Education and Web Development (Arban-IT)	Bangladesh Technical Education Board	January'7 to be Continued	Youth and Entrepreneurs	Ongoing
11	Educational Institution (ARBAN Academy)	Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, Bangladesh Government	January'11 to be Continued	Students from Paly Group to Class Eight	Ongoing
12	Online News Media (www.ajker-arban.com)	Ministry of Information, Bangladesh Government	December'16 to be Continued	Online news readers	Ongoing
13	Handicraft (Arban Craft)	Department of Youth Development, Bangladesh Government	January'15 to be Continued	Youth Women Entrepreneurs	Ongoing
14	DEAR INFOLADY and Promoting info lady of building inclusive information and knowledge system (PILBIIKS)	Dnet, Manusher Jonyo Foundation	October'10 to June'13	Children, Adolescents, Housewives, Young women, widow, divorce, old aged etc.	Completed
15	Safe Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation	NGO Forum and HISWA Project	February'6 to December'8	Disadvantaged community	Completed

SL. No	Project Title	Donor/Development Partner/Lead Organization	Project Duration	Target Beneficiaries	Remarks
16	Pre-primary and Non-formal education activities	NFPE, BRAC	January'8 to December,10	Children under six and dropped out	Completed
17	Campaign on rewarding contribution of women for food security in Bangladesh	CSRL, Grow, Oxfam-GB	June'15 to May'16	Women farmers	Completed
18	Adibashi Development project	Oxfam GB	January'9 to December'11	Hajong, Garo and Dalu ethnic community	Completed
19	Rat Management	DFID, AID Comilla	July'10 to June'12	Female Farmers	Completed

SL. No	Project Title	Donor/Development Partner/Lead Organization	Project Duration	Target Beneficiaries	Remarks
20	Campaign for preventing dropping out of children	Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE)	January'12 to March'16	Disadvantaged Community	Completed
21	Housing loan	Bangladesh Bank	January'7 to December'11	Rural community of low income	Ongoing
22	M-Health Service	Dnet, Grameen, Intel	April'14 to March'15	Pregnant mothers	Completed
23	English and ICT Club	British Council, Dnet	March'13 to June'14	Students from class 6 to 10	Completed
24	Sustainable Livelihoods for Poor Producers (SLIPP)	Development Wheel (DEW), Trade Craft	August'7 to December'12	Vegetable growers	Completed
25	ARBAN Rural Information and Technology Learning Centre	Dnet, Microsoft	October'7 to September'16	Mass people at Rural Community	Completed
26	Mobile Alliance for Maternal Action (MAMA) Project	Dnet	January'11 to December'13	Pregnant mothers and infants under 10 months age	Completed

SL. No	Project Title	Donor/Development Partner/Lead Organization	Project Duration	Target Beneficiaries	Remarks
27	Corporate Social Responsibility	Bank Asia, Dnet, Intel Corporation	March'12 to June'15	Higher Secondary School	Completed
28	Disaster Management	Oxfam-GB, FHD, Local Government	May'4 to December'14	Marginalized People under Disaster prone area	Completed
29	Social Forestry	Self-funded	April'6 to Jun'8	Poor and ultra poor	Completed
30	Improved cook stoves	GTZ	March'8 to June'9	Users of wood-logs in cooking.	Completed
31	Campaign program on climate justice.	Karmajibi Nari, Grow, Oxfam	January'13 to March'14	Agricultural laborer	Completed

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.

Future plan of ARBAN

ARBAN has multi-dimensional plans for sustainable development and building a rich nation. ARBAN has played a major role in pushing for sustainable development at the local level. Aided by advances in information and communications technology, ARBAN has helped to focus attention on the social activities. Much of the credit for creating these trends can be taken by ARBAN at its working area. ARBAN's following future plan is to contribute in achieving targets of Sustainable Development Goals-SDGs (Goal-1, 4, 5, 13, 16, 17), Vision-2021 and 7th 5 Year plan of the Government of Bangladesh at its level best:

1) Institutional Development

One of the key supports for effective development is institutional infrastructural development. ARBAN will play active role through building permanent institutions for general and technical education at its working area. So that, students at the local level can get all kinds of modern facilities and youth can become capable to create opportunities for self-employment. ARBAN aims to build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, nonviolent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

2) Human Resource Development

To build a suitable citizen for coping up with the developed world, ARBAN will work to build skilled and prosperous Human Resources. Proper and responsible leadership is needed to guide the potential population along with youth towards the path of prosperity. ARBAN wants to gain the ability to play role in helping everyone of a trained team. ARBAN is highly committed to contribute in achieving the targets of SDG-4 by 2030 at its working areas to ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education, all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and preprimary education, equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations and all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.

3) Technology-based Innovation

ARBAN will be motivated to achieve the capability to develop applications that are suitable for successful implementation of all types of research and development activities. Initiatives will be taken so that farmers, students, patients can easily be connected with specialists sitting in the village through using modern technology.

4) Access to Finance

ARBAN is committed to contribute in achieving the targets of SDG-1 by 2030 at its working areas to ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, measured as people living on less than \$1.90 a day, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions and implement social protection systems and measures for all undertaken by Government of Bangladesh and achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

5) Achieving Gender Equality

ARBAN will undertake various projects for achieving gender equality through utilizing modern technologies and innovations. ARBAN envision contribute in achieving the targets of SDG-5 by 2030 at its working areas aiming to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere, eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation, eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate; ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life; ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences; undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

6) Climate Change

ARBAN aims to build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters that will contribute to achieve one of the targets of SDG-1. Besides ARBAN also committed to contribute in achieving relevant target of SDG-13 on improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

7) Research

ARBAN is kin to utilize its past experiences and lessons learned. Based on the experience of action researches in the field of impact and utilization of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) in rural communities' livelihoods ARBAN is planning to build and continue strong collaboration with Research Institutions and Universities. Enabling environment will also be created for field research of thesis, MPhil, PhD and post doctoral students.

8) Promoting justice and peace through New Media

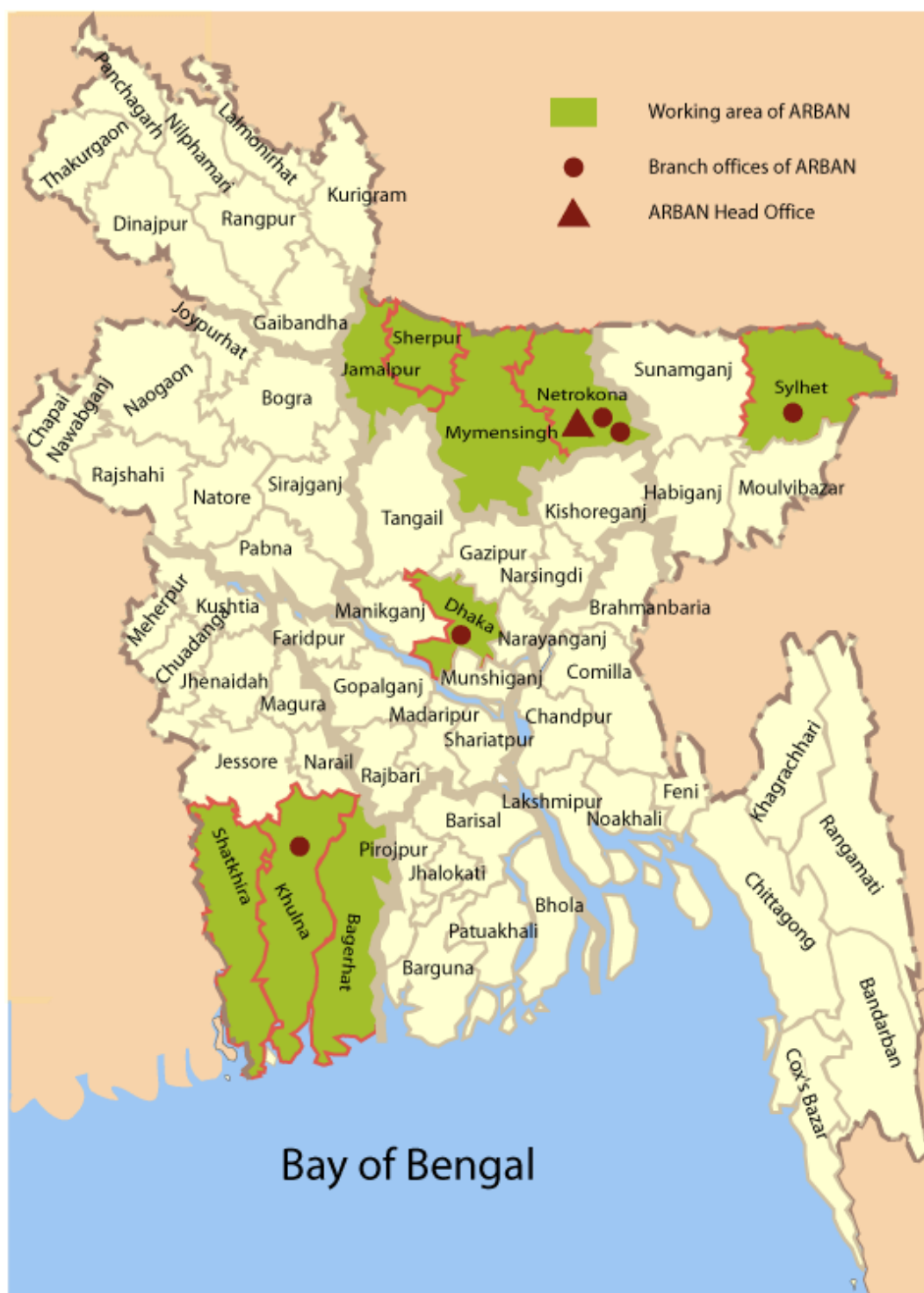
By utilizing the concept of citizen journalism ARBAN initiated AJKER ARBAN DOT COM. It's commitment is to show everyone the 'dream' of becoming responsible for building a rich society. Making access to information through AJKER ARBAN DOT COM, ARBAN dreams to contribute in achieving targets of SDG-16 in its working areas to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all, substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms, develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels, ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels, ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements and promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.

9) Networking and Partnership

ARBAN will be encouraged to exchange free information between the local and national level organizations and to create mutual exchange opportunities and establish institutional relationships. To make its mission successful

ARBAN will establish partnerships and networking in the field of Technology and Capacity building. In line with the targets of SDG-17 ARBAN will promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies as well as seek international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in Bangladesh to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals.

Where ARBAN works



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