

MONTHLY UPDATES, AUGUST 2012

'Giving Youth A Voice' – Dissemination Workshop on the findings of Bangladesh Youth Survey



A dissemination workshop titled, “Giving Youth A Voice” was held on 9 August 2012 at BRAC Centre Inn. The workshop was organised by the Institute of Governance Studies, BRAC University to disseminate the findings of the results obtained from the Bangladesh Youth Survey research.

The aim of the workshop was to gather a national group of scholars, policy makers and development partners for the analysis and brainstorming of youth issues from policy perspective. The researchers involved in the BYS project – Research Assistants, Nazmul Arifeen, Fatema Samina Yasmin and Rigan Chakma, Senior Research Associate, Syeda Salina Aziz and Research Fellow, Dr. Elvira Graner made a presentation on the findings of the project which was followed by a question and answer session.

The event was chaired by Dr. Ishfaq Ilahi Choudhury, Registrar, BRAC University. The chief guest of the ceremony was Rasheda K. Chowdhury, Executive Director, Campaign for Popular Education and the special guests were Urs Herren, Ambassador of Swiss Embassy in Bangladesh and Stefan Priesner, Country Director of UNDP, Bangladesh. Participants from media, civil societies, development partners, policy makers, NGO’s and academics from various sectors were present at the event.

Partnership with Social Impact (SI), Inc. on Democracy and Governance Programme Evaluation (DGPE)

IGS has entered into a partnership with the Social Impact (SI), with a 4-year long period project on Democracy and Governance Programme Evaluation, implemented by the USAID-Bangladesh. The activities of the project are comprised of a series of evaluative studies conducted for the guidance of the programme implementation and impacts that are brought out by the project.

Piloting of Third Party Monitoring of Public Procurement

IGS has finalised a work plan for conducting a third party monitoring of the public procurement exercise under the Public Procurement Reform Project-II in accordance to the World Bank review mission. The purpose of the work plan is to assess the feasibility of third party monitoring and acquire experiences from field work to develop a strategy on it. As part of the assignment, IGS organised a meeting at LGED with its representatives who are voluntarily assisting in this exercise. Primary information was collected in this meeting. The pilot exercise will be conducted in Narayanganj and Chapainawabganj district respectively for a period of 4-5 months. IGS team members include Mohammad Sirajul Islam, Research Associate; Farhana Razzaque, Research Associate; Rubayet Hamid, Research Assistant; Jannatul Fardosh, Research Assistant and Munir Uddin Shamim, Senior Programme Manager of IGS.

Workshop held at IGS

IGS hosted a workshop on Medefinancieringsstelsel II which is a Dutch project on 8 August 2012. The project is being conducted with the University of Bath, UK. The workshop was held to present the aspects of the project to the Dutch donors. Four team members from IGS are working on the project namely Research Assistants Rubayet Hamid and Rigan Chakma and Research Associates Faiz Ahmed Chowdhury and Mariha Khalid.

Affiliated Network for Social Accountability- South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR)

Community Radio programme on “Raising Awareness for Citizens Participation and Engagement in Budget Process at Chapainawabganj



A three days community radio programme recording on “Citizens’ Involvement in Budget Preparation” took place respectively at Belbari, Gobratola Union Parishad; Ranihati Union Parishad;

Upazilla and Zilla Parishad of Chapainawabganj from 31 August to 2 September 2012. The programme was organised by Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC). The ANSA team headed by its Programme Manager Nuzhat Jabin, has recorded correspondingly the sync of the Union, Upazilla and Zilla Parishad Chairmen on Ensuring Citizen's participation in budget process. The combined team of BNNRC and ANSA recorded the Vox Pop of indigenous people of Belbari, Gobartola Union Parishad. The community radio programme recording sessions were designed to incorporate mass awareness songs, indigenous form of music-Ghambhira, Vox Pop of the community people and interviews of the elected representatives on citizens' involvement in budget preparation. The lyrics of the songs and Ghambhira have been well devised to convey the message on budget process and aware the community people to participate in budgeting. The recorded programme will be aired on the 3rd week of September by 14 community radio stations in thirteen districts.

ANSA-SAR announces partnership with the Indian magazine, "Governance Now"

Naimur Rahman, Chief Operating Officer, ANSA-SAR, announced a partnership with the Indian magazine, "Governance Now" on 13 August 2012. In the process it is expected that grassroots reporting in Saranda would be scaled up. It was decided latter to the partnership that the magazine will hire four reporters who will spend six months in a rural setting and monitor governance from the grassroots level. These reporters will track and report the progresses of four different flagship projects being implemented by the government in India on a regular basis of six months. It is expected that the constant reportage and monitoring will create an impact in New Delhi and pressurise the authorities to implement projects with more care and speed than usual.

Published Articles

Two articles of two IGS staff have been published in August. Please see the link below for the articles:

The Daily Star: [Arresting regulatory failure in the financial system](#) by M. Shahidul Islam, 31 August 2012

The Daily Star: [Regime change, geopolitics and Syrian lesson](#) by Sultan Mohammed Zakaria, 18 August 2012