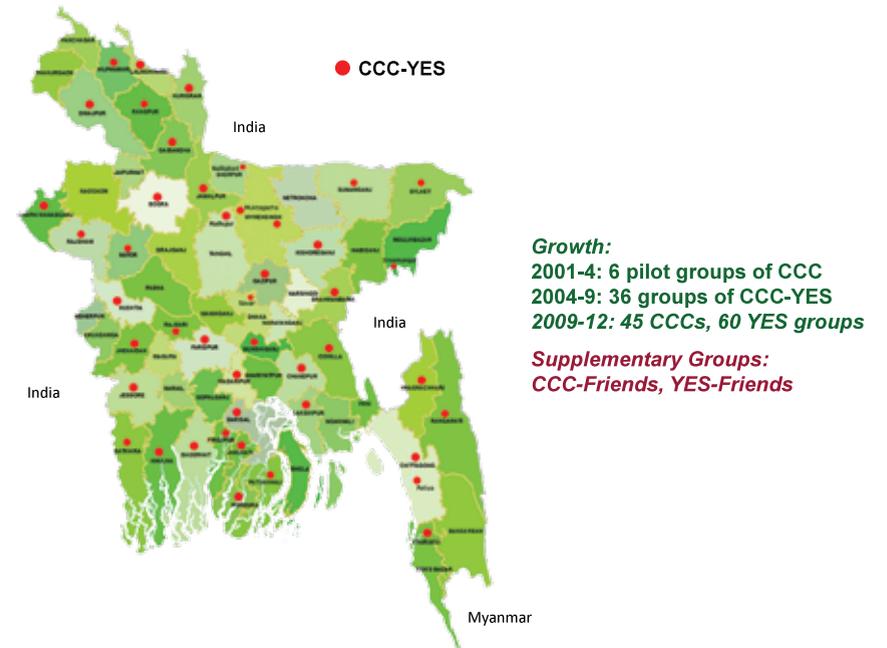




# Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC) Youth Engagement & Support (YES)

## CCC-YES National Coverage



Anti-corruption activists representing the Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCCs) and the Youth Engagement and Support (YES) are the key pillars and prime movers respectively of the social movement against corruption spearheaded by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).

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Transparency International Bangladesh is the accredited national chapter of Transparency International, Berlin.

**Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB)** is a social movement against corruption with a vision of Bangladesh in which government, politics, business, civil society and the daily lives of the people shall be free from corruption. TIB's mission is to catalyze and strengthen a participatory social movement to raise and strengthen voice and intensify demand for accountability.

Unique in the TI family of ninety-plus chapters all over the world, TIB has created a strong footing of the anti-corruption constituency of public engagement through the Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC) and Youth Engagement & Support (YES).

The key focus of the movement is on contributing to strengthening institutions, laws and practices and establishing an efficient and transparent system of governance, politics and business. TIB's research, dissemination, campaign, advocacy initiatives – all engaging the public in one form or other - are geared to policy and institutional change for controlling corruption, and thereby contribute towards reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development.

#### **Working Nationally and Locally**

TIB's activities are implemented at two levels - national and local - through processes of civic engagement, research and advocacy. At the national level its work is designed to bring the issue of corruption into sharper focus of public discourse and contribute to the strengthening the pillars of democracy and National Integrity System.

At the local level, TIB has established this network of 45 CCCs at district and sub-district levels all over the country. The total number of YES groups is 60 which in addition to 45 CCC-based such groups include 15 institution-centric groups created in and around the capital. The YES movement consists of young people – mainly college and university students.

Each CCC consists of 11-21 members while each YES group consists of 35-50 young members. By August 2012 the total number of these anti-corruption activists engaged with TIB on a fully voluntary basis who include the CCC members, YES members, YES Friends and Shojon (Citizens for Transparency) has crossed 5500. This is a social movement driven by volunteers who challenge the notion that corruption could be a way of life.

#### **Catalyzing Change**

TIB's activities have had significant direct and indirect impacts of two main types – institutional, legal and policy reforms to promote integrity and good governance; and improvement in the content and quality of key public services at the service delivery level especially in education, health and local government. In these later at the local level, the CCC-YES have played the most crucial role.

TIB is now identified as being synonymous with tackling corruption in Bangladesh



and, through its work, anti-corruption is part of the public discourse and central to the public policy agenda. Primarily due to TIB and the active participation of CCC-YES, control of corruption became one of the key demands by the people of Bangladesh who raised their voice loud and clear in the form of a national consensus in the context of the election to the Ninth Parliament.

TIB has catalyzed or has been involved in key institutional and policy changes, the most notable of which are: setting up and reform of the Anti-Corruption Commission; Bangladesh's ratification of the UN Convention against Corruption; reform of the Public Service Commission; reform of the electoral rules and the Election Commission; advocacy for making Parliament effective; adoption of the Right to Information Act and Whistleblower Protection Act; catalyzing improvements in the functioning of Chittagong Port and automation of the Chittagong Customs House; inclusion of anti-corruption education in secondary and higher secondary text books; integrity in the public procurement system; campaign for transparency, integrity and accountability in the education, health and local government services, empowerment of the local government; integrity in the water sector; strengthening of the Information Commission and National Human Rights Commission, drafting of the national integrity strategy and a draft Code of Conduct of Members of the Parliament. Much of these have been possible due to voice raised through various campaigns and advocacy work of engaging with stakeholders and champions with and outside the Government, emboldened by public support generated by orchestrated campaigns at the CCC-YES level.

### Voice and Accountability

As a part of social movement TIB applies tools and processes through which citizens can raise their opposition to corruption. In addition to various public awareness initiatives, these include a tool for participatory accountability at the level of service delivery by instruments like Integrity Pledge achieved in a process consisting of social accountability tools like Citizens Report Card (CRC), Face the Public (FtP), Open Budget, Budget tracking, Advice and Information Desks (AI-Desks), Street Theatres, etc. Working in specific fields and institutions of delivery of public services like health, education and local government CCC-YES have demonstrated that real changes are achievable in hospitals, schools and municipal services.



TIB has captured the social conscience of young people and provided them with a way of raising their voice of opposition to corruption, and engaging in volunteer work to catalyze visible and measurable results of improving transparency and accountability affecting daily lives of the citizens, especially improving access of the poor and disadvantaged to the basic public services without harassment and unauthorized payments.

### INTRODUCING CCC - YES

The CCCs are groups of citizens with high degree of credibility, integrity, social acceptability, courage, and leadership capacity to inform, motivate and mobilize citizens in various activities for curbing and preventing corruption and promoting good governance. Members of the CCCs are committed to values, vision, mission and Code of Ethics of TIB. They work on a fully voluntary and non-partisan basis.

### OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the CCCs and YES are to:

- Raise awareness and generate public opinion against corruption, build up and provide leadership to the anti-corruption movement at the local level;
- Ensure active and widest possible participation of citizens, including the youth, in the social movement against corruption;
- Measure, assess and monitor corruption in the process of service delivery by public, private and other service sectors and/or institutions;
- Undertake various campaign and advocacy initiatives in selected local level service delivery institutions, particularly in health, education and local government sectors, to improve service quality and reduce the scope of corruption;

- To inspire service providing institutions to become “Islands of Integrity”, and
- To strengthen the base and scope of sustainability of anti-corruption movement.

## PROGRAMMES

### Awareness and Demand Raising

Arranging various awareness generating and demand-creating activities on implications of corruption and deficit of good governance, especially in sectors which affect the daily lives of the general masses most adversely, like education, healthcare, local government, land administration, and law enforcement agencies.



### Measuring & Curbing Corruption

With the help of surveys and “Report Cards” on selected sectors or institutions of public service assess the nature, extent and implications of corruption, and use the findings as tools for informed campaigns against corruption engaging various stakeholders particularly the service delivery authorities.

### Monitoring & Advocacy

Organize various monitoring and advocacy initiatives – workshops, roundtables, meetings, rallies and human chains, press briefings & conferences, etc. - involving relevant officials, institutions and concerned citizens with the objective of reducing corruption, improving the quality of services and promoting accountable and efficient governance.

### Face the Public

Organize specific programmes in which common citizens have an opportunity to meet the public representatives and officials to discuss selected matters of public interest. Thanks to face to face questions and answers method, these “face the public” events are effective means of ensuring accountability of officials and public representatives to the members of the public.

### Sensitizing the Youth

Undertake various programmes to inform and sensitize the young generation about ill effects of corruption so these future leaders start to hate corruption and prepare themselves to be capable of rejecting and fighting corruption.



### Catalyzing Islands of Integrity

Undertake motivation campaigns for establishing accountability, transparency and good governance in various public and private service providing organisations. Attempts are made to transform selected institutions as “islands of integrity” through sustained efforts of monitoring and participation for management excellence so that other organisations in similar footing are motivated to follow suit.

### Access to Information

Function as Advice & Information Desks (AI-Desks), including mobile service - source of information and guidance to citizens at the local level on key areas of public service. Members of the public are provided access to basic information and advice on key areas of public service and their rights and duties through thematically organized user-friendly fact-sheets.



### Using Cultural Media

Involving the youth, especially students, organize various cultural events such as street theatre, folk songs, rallies, essay & debate competitions, with corruption and anti-corruption as the focus.

### Others

Observe various national and international days of importance throughout the year including the International Anti-Corruption Day with an underlying effort to relate the spirit of every such occasion with the importance of fighting corruption and promoting accountable governance.

Regular CCC-YES Conventions (national as well as cluster-wise) are also organized to facilitate evaluation of their own work, peer learning, and strategizing for the future.



## STRUCTURE OF CCCs

### Advisory Committee

Comprising of senior and eminent citizens, an Advisory Committee is formed to provide guidance and advice to the main CCC. There are usually upto 7 members in the Advisory Committee. The members of the Advisory Committee must meet the same criteria as applied in case of CCC membership.

The Advisory Committee provides overall guidance and support to the CCC, and advises on policy directions and programmatic priorities. It meets at least once every three months, if not more frequently. The proposals and advice of the Advisory Committee are taken into consideration by the CCC with high importance. Advisors are also invited to attend CCC-YES meetings and Conventions.

### Committees of Concerned Citizens

The main Committee of Concerned Citizens, equivalent to an executive committee, provides leadership and participates actively in devising strategies, preparing plans, budget and implementing programmes of the CCC. Once a CCC is formed, this committee takes over all responsibilities and determines its own programmatic priorities, in which TIB provides only technical and financial support.

The number of members in CCCs is usually at least 9 and upto 21. The committee consists of members of various professional groups and reflects best achievable diversity in terms of gender and other markers of identity.

A President is elected from among the members, who is acceptable to all, possesses leadership qualities, and is enthusiastic to give the necessary time and effort. The tenure of the President is two terms of years each provided that at the end of every year members shall review the work of the President and renew his/her tenure, or hold re-election, if necessary. Two Vice-Presidents are elected one of whom must be woman.

### Sub-committees

The CCC constitute various issue-based sub-committees comprising of 3 to 5 members. The sub-committee would have a President who should also be a member of the CCC, while other members of sub-committee can be from outside the CCC. The members of the sub-committee should have qualifications similar to the CCC members. The CCC determines the terms of reference and tenure of the sub-committee.

In each CCC there is a Gender Sub-committee striving to promote women participation and mainstreaming of gender in CCC activities. Other subcommittees include health, education, local government, YES, procurement, finance, cultural affairs, etc.

### YES Groups

Attached with CCCs, youth groups are called Youth Engagement and Support (YES) organized with the objective of sensitizing and engaging the young generation in the anti- corruption movement and developing virtues of good citizens - honesty, integrity, ethics, patriotism and social responsibility.

YES members are usually in the age group of 15-25. By undertaking various activities complementing the above-mentioned activities of CCCs the these youngsters learn



core values of volunteerism and prepare themselves as future leaders of anti-corruption social movement.

By their creative, vibrant and innovative efforts they have also been emerging agents of current change. They also develop the commitment, courage and leadership qualities needed to expand and strengthen the anti-corruption constituency.

Major activities of YES groups are-

- Conduct awareness and motivational campaigns to strengthen the anti-corruption constituency at the respective command area of CCC or the affiliating institution;
- Identify corruption and irregularities in selected institutions in education, health and local government and take part in collecting information and conducting research/report card surveys;
- Take part together with CCCs in different initiatives to campaign for accountable and transparent governance;
- Organize and take part in various nation-wide activities organized by TIB such as national and regional conventions and campaigns, essay, debate and cartoon competition, rallies, seminars, etc.;

- Organize study circles and peer-learning discussion sessions on issues related to corruption and governance;
- Organize and take part in various cultural programmes focusing on themes of anti-corruption movement.
- Observe national and international days of importance including annual international anti-corruption day;
- Organize and conduct the AI-Desk campaigns including mobile (satellite) services; information disclosure services, particularly aimed at enforcement of the Right to Information Act, strengthening the demand side of disclosure and openness by organizing various appropriate activities such as Information Fairs, training for information seeking, etc., and
- Write anti-corruption articles, stories and features in their own magazines as well as local and national newspapers;

### Anti-corruption Street/People's Theatre

Often merged with YES groups, street theatre groups are a part of special efforts to use the cultural media to sensitize people at large, especially young generation in particular, about the ill effects of corruption and motivate them in taking active part in anti-corruption movement. The theatre activists of YES are amateur theatre volunteers who are given training in writing, directing and performing in tailor-made theatres. Working hand in hand with YES and YES Friends groups, theatre groups stage anti-corruption cultural events in various CCC areas on a regular basis.



### Advice and Information Desks

YES members are the lifeline of access to information campaign in respective CCC areas. Information being the key to creating awareness and preparing the citizens to resist corruption and preventing themselves from falling victims of corruption, TIB has set up the Advice and Information Desks (AI-Desks) attached to the CCCs. AI-Desks are essentially a source of information and guidance to citizens at the local level about issues of corruption and ways to confront the same including referral services with partner organizations. Members of the public are provided access to basic information and advice on key areas of public service and their rights and duties through thematically organized user-friendly fact sheets. Legal advice and



referral service are also available in some cases. The information and advice can be obtained through personal visits to the AI-Desk in the concerned CCC or via phone calls, letters and in some cases emails. All services are provided free of cost.

#### **PROCESS OF CCC FORMATION**

- Primary selection of possible areas in a geographical cluster and field investigation on the feasibility of forming Committees in each of those areas.
- In selecting areas for CCC priority is given to district/divisional levels. However, depending on specific circumstances committees are also formed at the sub-district level.
- After selection of areas preparation of a long list is prepared of potential CCC members with all relevant information through intensive field work;
- After rigorous checking and cross-checking of credentials, antecedents, reputation, acceptability and credibility a shorter list is created by a process of elimination under selected criteria. Provisional selection of an Advisory Committee then takes place who are extensively consulted by investigating team for preparation of a final list of CCC members from the shorter list, which is in turn finalized at the first meeting of the Advisory Committee. The CCC is formed in this meeting;
- At this meeting of advisors joined by members of the final list signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the CCC and TIB takes place including the consent to adopt the CCC Manual;
- President of the CCC, Vice Presidents and sub-committees are formed at the same meeting. Members take anti-corruption oath, and sign a pledge to uphold TIB Code of Ethics.



- Implementation of the CCC activities starts, as part of which in addition to implementation of plan of work drawn by themselves regular monthly meetings are held to mobilize various activities. TIB also provides a series of trainings and orientation throughout the year on organizational as well as thematic issues.

#### **Membership Criteria**

A CCC member should be:

- A person of high integrity and honesty free from any allegation of corruption and;
- Widely respected and acceptable to all for contribution to local public life;
- Politically non-partisan having no direct or formal involvement in partisan political activity and having proven capacity to ensure that political and/or other likings and disliking would not be brought to affect the affairs of CCC and or TIB;
- Active and interested to work voluntarily;
- A person who shares the vision, mission, values and objectives of TIB and is committed to TIB Code of Ethics;
- A permanent citizen of Bangladesh and resident of the CCC area;
- Involved in bona fide legal activities;
- Income tax payer with legal income from a known source; and
- Conscious, enlightened, tolerant, balanced, proactive, patriotic and optimistic.



S/he should not be:

- A person with any record of involvement in corruption;
- Convicted of a criminal offence involving moral turpitude;
- A public servant enjoying any special status granted by law;
- Actively involved in party politics;
- Guilty of default of any public dues determined by a court of law;
- Less than 30 years nor more than 75 years of age; and
- Immediate family member of the executive director of TIB and any other full-time member of the TIB staff.

Once a CCC is formed YES members are selected by CCC members in a rigorous selection process with the support of TIB ensuring that except the age and experience the selected YES members represent same characteristics, values and principles. YES members also take anti-corruption oath on the day of formation and commit to uphold the Code of Ethics of TIB.

Implementation of the YES activities starts, as part of which in addition to implementation of plan of work drawn by themselves with the help of the relevant CCC (or concerned institution in case of Dhaka-based YES) regular monthly meetings are held to mobilize various activities. Trainings and orientations are also organized by TIB in various stages throughout the year for YES members on organizational as well as thematic issues related to programme implementation.

### CCC-YES OFFICE AND STAFF

Each CCC has an office with a full-time Area Manager, Assistant Manager (Finance & Administration) and Office assistant. Their salaries and other expenses including office rent, furniture and equipment as well as programmatic and operational expenses are covered by TIB. Although employed as TIB staff attached to the Civic Engagement Division of TIB, in day-to-day functioning and discharge of responsibilities, the field-based personnel also report to the CCC President and other members.

### Shojon (Citizens for Transparency) & YES Friends

In response to growing popularity of CCC and YES supplementary groups called Shojon (Citizens for Transparency) and YES Friends have been created in nearly all the CCC areas following the same principles as for forming the CCC and YES. They support the activities of CCC and YES respectively. Among regular organizational activities are the quarterly 4-party meetings while CCC-YES have at least one monthly meeting each, complemented by open-ended number of meetings depending on the intensity of work.

### RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TIB AND THE CCC

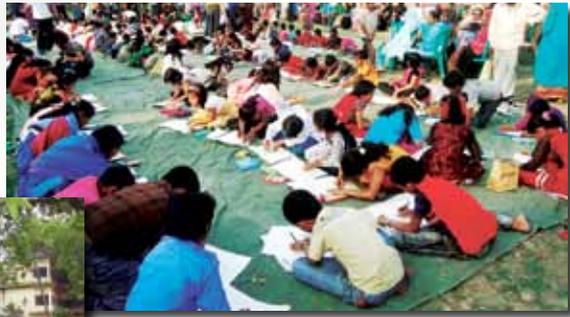
Once the Committees are formed, the CCC President and members guided by the Advisory Committee assume the full authority and responsibility to develop their own programmatic strategy, work plan and budget within a broad framework provided by TIB. Specific budgeting and implementation plan are the jurisdiction of CCCs. In addition to the financial support, TIB basically plays a supportive role, and where applicable provides technical assistance.

In case of professional risks or security problems while implementing CCC programmes, TIB and CCC provides legal and other support to each other within their respective capacity and as per CCC Manual.

### SUSTAINABILITY OF CCC-YES

CCCs are formed for an open-ended tenure with TIB bearing the programmatic and other expenses (subject to availability of funding). Depending on the level of success of programmes implemented by CCC-YES it is expected that a sense of ownership of the Committee would be developed among the local people, which would facilitate its continued work even after withdrawal of TIB support.

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Corruption increases poverty & injustice,  
let's fight it together, now...

## Committees of Concerned Citizens (CCC) Youth Engagement & Support (YES)

