

A profile



Pollibir UnnayanSangstha



পল্লী বীর উন্নয়ন সংস্থা



Welcome words from the President

The Pollibir Unnayan Sangstha (Pollibir Development Organization (PBD0)), is dedicated to promoting sport in rural areas, rural health, high quality strategic and applied research on socio-economic, agriculture and rural development and conduct of nationwide surveys on self-rated poverty, hunger and food insecurity. It considers health and sport as critical for human development and self-rated poverty, hunger and food insecurity data relevant for appropriate pro-poor and people centred policy formulation. Integration of objective and subjective indicators, it believes, represent an additional dimension towards understanding the level and depth of poverty and food security and contribute to better policy formulation.

Pollibir has a number of unique characteristics that has evolved into its activities, research culture, including close teamwork, getting data right through its own primary field work and rural surveys, and close dialogue with policy-makers. I invite you to visit our website where you will find rich information about us, our contribution to rural health and sports and findings related to self-rated poverty, hunger and happiness in Bangladesh.

Saifullah Syed



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Background

Background

Pollibir Unnayan Sangstha (in English: Pollibir Development Organization) was established in 2009 as a voluntary social welfare organization in Thakurgaon, Bangladesh. It was conceived by a group of committed social workers, elected local government officials, school teachers and medical doctors from the district of Thakurgaon, to promote rural socio-economic development, sports and health. Its foundation is based on the realization that:

- Local participation needs to take centre stage in advocating policies and programmes that promote growth and development for lifting rural communities out of poverty and providing improved quality of life and environmental sustainability.

- Sports and physical health play an important role in human development at all levels of society. Individual sport enhances one's personal abilities, participation, inclusion, sense of belonging and self-confidence.

«There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.»

John Holmes





Mission, objectives and activities

Mission, objectives and activities

In view of the above-mentioned realizations, Pollibir was established with the following objectives:

- Improve understanding and broad based debate at the local level on policy, programme and investment options, based on applied research and analysis of the fundamental issues, through socio-economic surveys in rural areas.
- Formulate and implement pragmatic programmes and projects with focus on finding local solutions, based on successful experiences and best practices.
- Promote partnership among communities to facilitate harmonious participation and in making development mutually beneficial to all.
- Implement different development programmes which are socially sound, economically

compatible and environmentally sustainable for the disadvantaged community.

- Promote sports among the rural population along with provision of healthcare, particularly, pre-natal care and prevention of child injuries.

In order to achieve these objectives, Pollibir:

- Provides sports facilities and training for the rural youth, both boys and girls to enhance sporting spirit, health and to keep the youth away from addiction to drugs and delinquency.
- Provides health care facilities in rural areas for maternity services and prevention/care of child injuries.

- Provides facilities to the needy, destitute, disable, exploited and marginalized people to attain better life and livelihood;
- Promotes environment-friendly sustainable activities and behaviour through making the young generation aware of the environmental issues and concerns;
- Promotes sustainable livelihood opportunities for the poor and the marginalized people, particularly the most vulnerable, such as widows and disable people.

«Empower rural people to have the self-confidence to emancipate themselves and not to wait for others to emancipate them.»

S. Syed





Organizational structure

Organizational structure

As per its Constitution (Article 11, Para-a-c) the organizational structure of Pollibir consists of:

- A General Assembly
- An Executive Committee
- A Technical Advisory Committee

The General Assembly (GA) consists of all its members. The GA is empowered to:

- Amend or revise the constitution
- Elect an Executive Committee (EC)
- Supervise and approve its budget
- Approve the work programme and budget of the EC

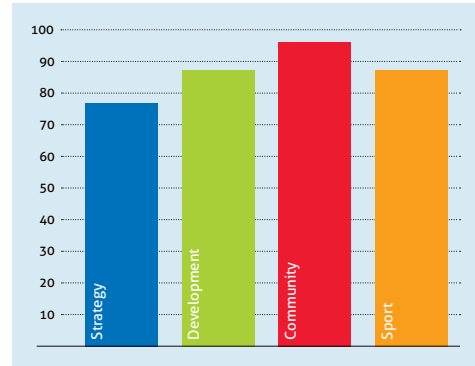
As per the Constitution (Article 15 Para-1) the Executive Committee (EC) will consist of the

following, all of which will be elected by the GA:

- One president
- One vice president
- One general secretary
- One vice general secretary
- One treasurer
- Two members

The responsibility of the EC includes:

- Prepare and submit the annual budget to the GA for approval.
- Hire workers required for the running of the organization and manage/supervise all employees.



- Arrange for regular auditing of the activities and budget of the Organization.

The Technical Committee is an advisory body. It reviews the work and activities of Pollibir and provides advice and guidance. All Pollibir's projects require the Technical Committee's approval, as well as its continuous supervision. The members are nominated by the EC and endorsed by the GA.



«Every company has two organizational structures: The formal one is written on the charts; the other is the everyday relationship of the men, women and children in the organization.»

Harold S. Geneen



Legal and administrative status

Legal and administrative status

Legal status

Pollibir is legally registered as an NGO with the Ministry of Social Welfare and the NGO Bureau, Prime Minister's Office, Government of Bangladesh.

Legal name

Pollibir Unnayan Sangstha
(Pollibir Development Organization-PBDO)

Year of establishment

2009

Date and year of registration

- 19 March 2009 with the Ministry of Social Welfare. Registration No. Thak-236/09
- 29 September, 2009 with the NGO Bureau, Prime Minister's Office, Government of Bangladesh. Registration No. 2483

Place of establishment

Thakurgaon Road, Thakurgaon

Banking details

Pollibir Unnayan Sangstha
Current A/c No. 1442/6
Thakurgaon Sugar Mills Branch
Sonali Bank
Thakurgaon, Bangladesh

ADDRESS:

Head office:

Thakurgaon Road, Thakurgaon
Tel: 01817380906
E-mail: Pollibir@gmail.com
Website: www.pollibir.org

Liaison Office:

567 (2nd Floor), East Kazipara
 Begum Rokeya Sarani, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216
 Phone: 02-900581, 01674206619
 E-mail: Pollibir@gmail.com
 Website: www.pollibir.org

Elected office bearers, who cannot draw honorarium

President

Dr Saifullah Syed, Ph.D, M.Sc (Econ), University of London and Ph.D in Economics, University of Paris-Dauphine, France
 Former Chief of the Policy Assistance Branch
 FAO Regional Office, Bangkok, Thailand and
 Senior Economist, FAO Investment Centre

Vice President

Mr Bachchu Khan
 Rahimanpur, Thakurgaon

General Secretary

Mr Syed Ahmed Raja
 Thakurgaon Road, Thakurgaon

Vice General Secretary

Mr Mojdul Haque, B.S.S
 Paharvanga, Rahimanpur, Thakurgaon

Treasurer

Mr Mahmud Hasan (Sohel), M.Sc. (Math)
 Islamnagar, Thakurgaon Road, Thakurgaon

Members

Mr Afzal Hossain, B.A. B.P.ED
 Mr Zakir Hossain (Shamol), M.A.
 Mr Mahmud Hasan (Sohel), M.Sc (Math)





Technical advisory committee

Technical advisory committee

Chairman

Dr Motlubur Rahman, Ph.D

Members

Dr Pk. Md. Motiur Rahman, Ph.D. Professor
Institute of Statistical Research and Training (ISRT)
University of Dhaka

Dr Ismail Hossain, Ph.D. Professor
Department of Economics
Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Team Leader, Programme for PRSP Preparation,
Planning Commission

Dr M. Habibur Rahman, Ph.D (Econ) Associate
Professor
Department of Economics, Jagannath University
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Dr M. Shamim Z. Bosumia
Ph.D, PENG, FIEV, MBSGE; MBES
Professor of Civil Engineering, (retd)
Bangladesh University of Engineering and
Technology (BUET)

Engr Zahirul Islam
B.Sc Engg (Civil), FIEB

Dr Kazi Iqbal, Ph.D, Research Fellow
Bangladesh Institute of Development Research (BIDS)
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Mr Shamsul Haque, B.A., B.Ed.
Head Master, Riverview High School
Thakurgaon (Retd)



Collaborative partner institutes

Collaborative partner institutes

PARTNER INSTITUTES

- | | | |
|---|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ✓ | CCAP: | Chinese Center for Agricultural Policy, China |
| ✓ | APPC: | Asia-Pacific Policy Center, Philippines |
| ✓ | APAPF: | Asia Pacific Agricultural Policy Forum, Republic of Korea |
| ✓ | ARDC: | Agricultural Research and Development Center, Yangon, Myanmar |
| ✓ | ERUSMA: | Euro-Asian Center for Policy Studies and Management, Rome, Italy |
| ✓ | PARC: | People's Agriculture Research and Development Center, Kathmandu, Nepal |

Management

Management

Chief Executive Officer

Engr Zahirul Islam, B.Sc Engg (Civil), FIEB

Assistant to Chief Executive

Mr Zikrur Rahman B.A (Hons), M.A in English
Officer and MBA (major in HRM)

Director, Health

Dr M. A. Momin, M.B.B.S, BCS (Health)
DPH/MPH,
Dhaka

Director, Sports

Mr Afzal Hossain, B.A. BP.Ed

Director, Agriculture and Rural Development

Dr Ismail Hossain, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Economics,
Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka, Bangladesh;
Team Leader, Programme for PRSP Preparation,
Planning Commission, Govt of Bangladesh

Director, Survey of Opinion Polls

Dr Pk. Md. Motiur Rahman, Ph.D. Professor,
Institute of Statistical Research and Training (ISRT),
University of Dhaka

Chief Economist

Dr Kazi Iqbal, Research Fellow, Bangladesh
Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), E-17
Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka



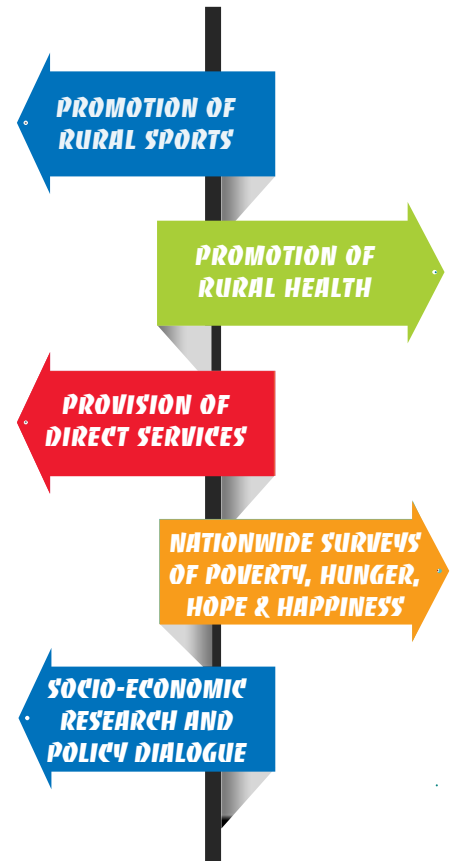
Core activities

Core activities

Pollibir is working with local communities in five main areas: health, sports, capacity-building, human development, research and opinion survey, through participatory approach and in collaboration with other relevant local institutes. It's core activities include:

- Promotion of rural sports
- Promotion of rural health
- Provision of direct services to the vulnerable population in the community
- Nationwide surveys of self-rated poverty, hunger, hope and happiness in Bangladesh
- Socio-economic research and policy dialogue

CORE ACTIVITIES ■





Promotion of rural sports



Development

Sports and physical education occupy an important role in human development at all levels. The lessons that children learn in sports are priceless. It enhances confidence and an ability to lead, teach persistence, team-spirit and how to manage essential steps in life such as victory or defeat, and encourages participation, inclusion, and sense of belonging.



Team spirit

In most developing countries, particularly Bangladesh, the rural children (boys and girls) have no access to proper sports facilities and training. They lack the opportunities to regularly play, compete and evolve as inclusive members of a team with confidence, determination and above all winning spirit– *the spirit of sports*.



Persistence

They play in muddy open yards as and when they can, without any organization, supervision and guidance. They play barefoot and with make-shift equipment. There are also no facilities for medical care should they get hurt or injured.



Determination

In order to improve the situation and in particular to give the poor rural children opportunities for human development through sports, Pollibir Unnayan Sangstha assisted in the establishment of the Pollibir Sports Center, a charitable organization, on 6 hectares of land, in Rahimanpur Village, Thakurgaon, Bangladesh.

Sports related activities

Pollibir Sports Center provides training to the rural children in all kinds of sports. The trainers are qualified coaches. It also organizes four tournaments each year. These include two football tournaments - one is the Pollibir Cup and the other is the Shamsul Haque Cup, funded by the Syed Welfare Trust (SWT), Thakurgaon; one handball tournament for the girls, funded by Mme Françoise Janicaud, St. Etienne, France, and one cricket tournament, funded by the SWT. It also organizes athletic competitions each year on 16 December for the school children to celebrate the independence day of the country.

«The objective and vision for promoting sport is to imbue the children with pride, determination to win, develop team spirit and something continuous to look forward to. It allows them to be part of a continuing healthy and motivating process and contributes to keeping them off the street, drugs and violence.»



1st, 2nd and 3rd Prizes to the winners and covers participating costs, equipment and training for all teams.

The Center's facilities are open to all the rural children. Currently, 350 boys and girls participate regularly in playing football, handball, volleyball and cricket under the supervision of the coach, his assistants and the volunteers.

Pollibir also provides sports equipment to the children, including football shirts, boots, shorts and tracksuits. The Rome-based Diplomatic and International Golf Association (DIGA) have been helping in this regard for several years.

It encourages the rural boys and girls to form teams and organizes tournaments for these teams to participate and compete in on a regular basis. The Center provides



Pride

Promotion of rural health and provision of maternity services



Moimuna Mata-Shishu hospital

Lack of access to proper medical facilities are among the leading causes of infant and child mortality, maternal mortality, and prevalence of wide-spread treatable physical deformities (split lips, abscess, cataracts, etc) in most of the developing countries.



Training

Mata-shishu provides information and training on pregnancy and childbirth. The trainees will pass on their knowledge to the village women and encourage them to come to the hospital instead of relying on non-professional care when serious complications arise.



Free health care for the poor

The hospital also provides free medicine to the poor, whenever available through the donations received.



Ambulance service

It also has an Ambulance, which provides emergency services.

Services provided

The hospital's main focuses are:

- Pre-natal and post-natal maternity/child care. It is equipped with modern obstetric equipment for high quality care during pregnancy and delivery to reduce maternal and infant mortality.
- Child injuries. This is a serious problem in Bangladesh. In the rural areas, whenever a child suffers burns, cuts, broken bones, twisted limbs, drowning and/or gets seriously hurt, parents do not have access to affordable and proper care. They resort to traditional village healers or do nothing at all. As a result, lots of children die due to injuries which can be easily cured if treated on time and amongst those who survive, large numbers live with some form of deformity and/or scars for the rest of their life.

Mata-shishu also provides information and training on pregnancy and childbirth. The trainees will pass on their knowledge to the village women and encourage them to come to the hospital instead of relying on non-professional care when serious complications arise.

It has a Pathological laboratory for basic tests of blood, urine, stool etc.

It has a X-Ray facilities, donated by Major Taneem Hassan (Retd), Managing Director, Blue Star Ltd, Dhaka, Bangladesh and his brother Tazeem Hassan (Babu), Ontario, Canada.

The hospital also provides free medicines to the poor, whenever available through the donations received.

It also has an Ambulance, which provides emergency services with minimum charge to cover fuel and driver's salary only.

Management of the hospital

The hospital is managed by a local committee, in collaboration with the local government authorities and staffed by trained doctors, nurses and mid-wives. Dr A. Momin, MBBS and with a post-graduate degree in public health, Retired Civil Surgeon of Thakurgaon district Hospital, is the current director of the Hospital. Dr Lutfa Begum, MBBS, specializing in gynecology is the President of the local committee.

It provides almost free medical services to all patients. A token fee of Taka 20 (less than US cents 20) is charged to discourage abuse and cover some basic running cost.

Hospital location

The hospital is located in Rahimanpur Village, Thakurgaon Road, Thakurgaon. The village is located in a rural area which connects Baliadanghi, Ruhea and Thakurgaon. It is about 15 Km from the

district town Thakurgaon and about 500 Km from the Capital, Dhaka (see map below).



Direct services to the vulnerable people of the community

Pollibir provides support to the rural poor people in livelihood generation and provision of warm clothes, blankets and shelter during the winter.

This activity is funded by Pollibir Unnayan Sangtha's own resources and donation in cash and kind from the local people, SWT and the migrants from the area living abroad. It is implemented in collaboration with the Pollibir Sports Center, which provides shelter and premises to the poor in the winter.

Recently it mobilized support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for providing goats to 80 female headed households in Thakurgaon district. List of widows receiving goats is available on request to: Pollibir@gmail.com.



Support



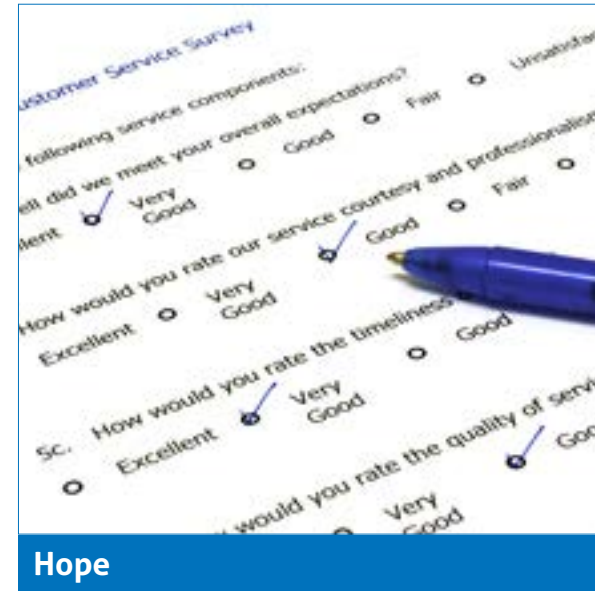
FAO Representative - Mr Mike Robson



Distribution of books to poor, needy children

Surveys of self-rated poverty, hunger, hope and happiness

The number of poor people going hungry and/or food insecure is often estimated, using highly aggregated income data, without ever determining whether the person/family actually experienced hunger (and how often, during the course of the year). Such lack of actual information and absence of estimate of self-classification as poor and food insecure, contributes to misplaced policy and programmes for poverty eradication and improvement of food security. While income is a highly significant predictor, subjective economic welfare is influenced by many other factors including health, education, assets, relative income in the area of residence and expectations about the future. Therefore, Pollibir considers that that self-rated poverty, hunger and food insecurity data are very relevant for appropriate pro-poor and



Hope

people-centred policy formulation. Integration of objective and subjective indicators will represent an additional dimension towards understanding the level and depth of poverty and food security and contribute to better policy formulation.

The sample size used for survey is 3 850 households, 550 in each of the seven administrative divisions of the country. Each administrative division is considered as stratum. From each stratum ten clusters (mauza/village) are selected at random. The community series of population census report 2001, was used as sampling frame. In each selected village, a list of household was prepared for selecting final sampling unit. The list of households in each selected cluster (mauza/village) are used as sampling frame at the second stage.

These surveys, based on sound statistical sampling design and methods, provides a better understanding of the rural people's opinion on the issues affecting their lives, particularly on issues

related to hunger, hope and happiness. For more details about the survey results and findings, please contact: pollibir@gmail.com



Happiness

Research and development activities

The focus of the on-going research work of Pollibir is related to the socio-economic and institutional reforms necessary in the agro-rural sector for Bangladesh to emerge as a middle income country and move beyond, including adapting to climate change and the global trading environment. For more details kindly contact: Pollibir@gmail.com.



Adapting to climate change



Research

COMPLETED	
✓	Technical paper on the strengths and weaknesses of the trade policy-making process and mechanisms in Bangladesh. December 2013. [Report available with Pollibir and FAO].
✓	Technical paper, titled " what next after the Doha round of WTO for the developing countries.- the implications of the failure of Doha - with focus on trade and development on trade policies of the developing countries". [Report submitted to and available with Erusma: www.erusma.org].
✓	Synthesizing results from existing available surveys and preparation of an analytical paper on savings and investment behaviour of the agricultural households for better policy formulation to enhance food security and reduction of poverty in Bangladesh. Paper Title: An analysis of savings and investment of the farming household in Bangladesh, February 2013. [Report submitted to FAO. Available at: http://www.fao.org/investment/investment-policy/en/].
✓	Preparation of a programme for Bangladesh to implement the recommendations of the final report of the Japanese trust Fund Project on Promoting Investment in Agriculture for increasing production and productivity, March 2013. [Prepared for FAO and available with FAO at: http://www.fao.org/investment/investment-policy/en/].
✓	Level, Trend and Sources of Financing for Investment in agriculture: A Review and Analysis of available sources of data. June 2012. Prepared for FAO. [Report available at: http://www.fao.org/investment/investment-policy/en/].

COMPLETED	
✓	Organization of regional workshops on "Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA) practices and how to mainstream CSA in policies making, planning and their implementation", carried out on behalf of FAO in collaboration with Rural Development Academy (RDA) Bogra, Bangladesh, 6-8 February 2012.
✓	International Conference of the countries of the Commonwealth on the impact of Migration and Remittances on sustainable food security, agriculture and rural development: 9-10 February 2012.
✓	Literature review of analysis of the impact of Migration and Remittances on socio-economic development, agriculture and food security. July 2011. Prepared for the Overseas Filipinos' Society for the Promotion of Economic Security (OF SPES), 11039 Kanluran Road, College, Los Banos, Laguna, Philippines. [Document available on request].
✓	Preparation of an analytical report on foreign investment in agriculture and their impact on food security and rural development. March 2011. Prepared for Euro-Asian Center for Policy Studies and Management, (Erusma), Rome, Italy. [e-mail: erusma@erusma.org ; web: www.erusma.org].
✓	Preparation of policy document for increasing domestic capital formation, including human capital for agriculture and rural development in Bangladesh. December 2010. [Report available with FAO at: http://www.fao.org/investment/investment-policy/en/].
✓	Rapid Situation Assessment on Agriculture and Migration in Bangladesh, June 2010. This exercise was carried out for the Bangladesh Country Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Staff



Pollibir has core group of professional staff which includes economists, sociologists, rural development experts, statisticians and trade policy experts. Its core staff also include doctors, engineers and sports specialists/trainers.

In addition, it maintains an active roster of highly qualified people in all areas relevant for socio-economic development, health and sports and mobilizes them for work as and when required.



Staff



Get in touch with us now!



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