

BRAC Response to Independent Review Panel's Feedback

Environmental sustainability (EN16, EN18, and EN26)

BRAC recently drafted the Environmental Policy, Environmental and Social Safeguard Framework (ESSF) and Climate Change Strategy 2016-20. This ESSF affirms BRAC's commitment to sustainable development. The Framework focuses on BRAC's - a) projects and programmes, b) policies and strategies, c) facilities, management of operations, and d) implementation/execution partnerships. The framework is now waiting to be approved by BRAC governing body.

BRAC has also drafted the Climate Change Strategy 2016-2020 to transform BRAC into a Climate Smart Organisation. The strategy is adopted to empower the people/communities to adapt and respond to the effects of climate change while working to mitigate future impacts through sustainable development practices. BRAC's climate change activities aim to integrate with development initiatives to improve quality of life, protect resources and build awareness in the communities we serve.

BRAC is fully committed to improving environmental performance and responsibilities across all our development activities, and we encourage our staff, development partners, clients and stakeholders of the wider community to join us in this effort. We are committed to implementing and providing quality services in a manner that ensures a safe and healthy environment for the community people and a healthy workplace for our employees and minimise potential impact on the environment. The BRAC Environmental Policy 2016 aims to minimise our environmental impact and maximise future generations' ability to live, work, and play in a shared natural environment, with equal access to clean air, clean water, and natural resources. The Policy demonstrates goals and values to manage organisational operations by minimising environmental impacts. It sets standards for organisational etiquette, strategy and implementation, while cutting the carbon footprint of activities.

Managing impact on communities (SO1)

All BRAC programmes operating at the community level do follow a basic guideline for community engagement as well as focuses on community empowerment. As such and as per our plan, we are scaling back on several of our community interventions because the local capacity to provide services that we used to offer is created. For example, we are now cutting back on the number of primary schools, upgrading the range of health advisory services, etc. We are currently working on consolidating the policy frameworks of various programmes into an institutional policy statement.

Anti-corruption practices (SO3)

BRAC is known for its zero tolerance to fraud and corruption. BRAC has two separate and independent committees to investigate and recommend both 'Sexual Harassments' and

'Grievance and Complains' Management, the later covers complains received on various complains including abuse of power, conflict of interest, etc.

BRAC's "Standard Operating Procedure" for Fraud Management guides our work to represent out values of Performance Excellence, Integrity, Professionalism, Teamwork and non-bureaucratic approach. The SoP covers programme units' internal monitoring and investigation, work of the independent monitoring unit, Internal Audit Unit, Internal Investigation Unit as well as the Grievance Management unit. The SoP ensures proper recording, compliance to policies and rules, maintain highest standard of ethics, and, safe keeping of BRAC's assets and funds.

BRAC keeps log of all reported frauds and irregularities and produces period reports on the reported fraud as well as the management of such incidences. Such report is shared with all of our partners including the DFID and the DFAT, our strategic partners.

We have a full-function Risk Management Unit that independently monitor BRAC's operational as well as strategic risks. The unit produces regular report for the governing entities and senior management.

It is because of our consistent implementation of such standards, BRAC was rated as 'AAA' by Bangladesh Credit Rating Agency.