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FRUGAL INNOVATION FORUM 2013 //
PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Access to Information (A2I) Programme (UNDP)
www.a2i.pmo.gov.bd/

The Access to Information (A2I) Programme aims to increase transparency and to improve governance and service delivery within Bangladesh. The A2I Programme seeks to achieve these objectives by: (1) strengthening existing e-services and launching a second generation of integrated, inter-operable e-government applications; (2) sensitizing government officials, training service providers, and expanding digital literacy among the general public; (3) forging strong policy and strategy links to ensure implementation of necessary regulatory changes in support of the project; and (4) promoting innovation in the delivery of e-services.

The A2I Programme is sponsored by the UNDP, the UN's global development network. Working in 166 countries, the UNDP offers global perspective and local insight to help empower individuals and build resilient nations.

Amadeyr Cloud Ltd.
www.amadeyr.org

Amadeyr Cloud Ltd. (ACL) was founded by a diverse group of professionals with expertise in infrastructure, project financing, public policy, and legal and regulatory frameworks, who came together to develop creative solutions to complex problems. Over the past two years, ACL has focused on solutions to the problem of bridging the digital and literacy divide in Bangladesh and maximizing information efficiency.

Currently ACL has three systems that it has developed to improve information flow: Amadeyr Delivery System (ADS), Amadeyr Digital Survey System (ADSS), and Amadeyr Remote Management System (ARMS). ADS is a platform to provide users of all literacy levels with access to essential public information on topics such as legal rights, disaster preparedness, health, education, agriculture, etc. ADSS collects and transmits data for any type of survey (baselines, mid-line, end-line, etc.). ARMS is a digital infrastructure for management systems that is customizable for any organization, enterprise, or institution.

Asia Foundation

www.asiafoundation.org/

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Informed by six decades of experience and deep local expertise, our programs address critical issues affecting Asia in the 21st century: governance and law, economic development, women's empowerment, environment, and regional cooperation. In addition, our Books for Asia and professional exchange programs are among the ways we encourage Asia's continued development as a peaceful, just, and thriving region of the world.

Headquartered in San Francisco, The Asia Foundation works through a network of offices in 17 Asian countries and in Washington, DC. Working with public and private partners, the Foundation receives funding from a diverse group of bilateral and multilateral development agencies, foundations, corporations, and individual donors. Internationally recognized for our commitment to Asia's development, the Foundation brings together the local individuals, communities, and governments who are shaping Asia's future.

BoP HUB

www.bophub.org

BoP Hub is a non-profit venture that aims to provide a global platform to forge strategic partnerships between the private sector, social enterprises, subject matter experts, and the BoP community in order to give individuals at the base of the pyramid a chance to participate in marketplace activities as consumers and entrepreneurs.

To achieve this, BoP Hub draws on two primary competencies: (1) Venture Building: By aggregating distribution networks, connecting companies and social innovators, conducting market-based assessments, and launching and managing projects, the BoP Hub creates tangible opportunities across demographics; and, (2) Platform Building: BoP Hub engages in advocacy work and awareness-building through conferences, workshops, and trade missions.

BRAC

www.brac.net

BRAC is the largest non-governmental development organization in the world. Its driving mission is to empower people and communities in situations of poverty, illiteracy, disease, and social injustice. BRAC's interventions aim to achieve large scale, positive changes through economic and social programmes that enable men and women to realize their potential.

BRAC adopts a holistic approach to poverty-reduction and implements programmes across a diverse range of sectors. These programmes are detailed below:

Advocacy

www.brac.net/content/advocacy-social-change

BRAC's Advocacy Programme seeks to influence and inspire policy makers and service providers - as well as individuals, communities, and organisations - to bring about positive changes in the lives of the poor. The programme employs social communication, media mobilization, and national advocacy in its efforts to change social behavior and promote policies that will improve conditions for marginalised communities. BRAC's advocacy efforts in Bangladesh are currently focused primarily on three issues: extreme poverty, safe migration, and health.

Agriculture

www.afsp.brac.net/

Operating in eight countries, BRAC's Agriculture Programmes partner with governments to improve basic food security. The programmes undertake a variety of activities, including 1) building systems of production, distribution, and marketing of quality seeds at fair prices; 2) conducting research to develop better varieties and practices for the agricultural sector; 3) offering credit support to poor farmers; and 4) promoting the use of efficient farming techniques and proven technologies. BRAC's Agricultural Programmes are currently operating in Bangladesh, Uganda, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, Liberia, South Sudan, and Haiti, helping these countries to become more self-sufficient in their food production through environmentally sustainable practices.

Community Empowerment

www.cep.brac.net/

BRAC believes in the need to build and strengthen community institutions and to make local governments more transparent and responsive to the needs of the poorest. To achieve these aims, the Community Empowerment Programme (CEP) works to develop the capacities of the rural poor, particularly women, to access information, advocate for their rights, and play a more active role in public life. The CEP currently reaches nearly 1 million people through a combined set of interventions: 1) Community Institution Building, 2) Strengthening Local Governance, 3) Access to Information, and 4) Addressing Violence against Women.

Disaster, Environment, & Climate Change

www.decc.brac.net/

A relatively new endeavour, BRAC's Disaster, Environment, and Climate Change Programme is working in partnership with the Government of Bangladesh, non-governmental organisations, and communities to build resilience and preparedness for the natural disasters and extreme weather Bangladesh will likely face in the coming years. The programme's fundamental goals are to enhance BRAC's institutional capacity to respond to natural disasters; to build competence at the community level in disaster preparedness and response; and to conduct predictive research, information transfer, and education related to environment, climate change, and natural disasters.

Education

www.education.brac.net/

BRAC has built the largest secular, private education system in the world, with over 700,000 students currently enrolled in BRAC schools across six countries. In Bangladesh, BRAC's wide range of education programmes offer opportunities for students of all ages and at all phases of life. These programmes include pre-primary education, primary education, livelihood and life-skills training for adolescents, and multi-purpose community learning centres. BRAC also works with the Government of Bangladesh to strengthen the mainstream school system, providing subject-training for teachers, mentoring training for secondary school student leaders, and management training for head-teachers and School Management Committees.

Gender Justice & Diversity

www.gender.brac.net/

BRAC has worked for decades to integrate gender justice into its programmes and eliminate gender injustice in society. The Gender Justice and Diversity Programme works simultaneously within the organisation and with communities. Within BRAC, the programme strives to create a gender-sensitive and inclusive working environment. At the community level, the programme works to improve gender relations and empower women, as well as to ensure that both girls and boys are equitably nurtured to their full potential from pre- primary through secondary school. Finally, at the national level, the programme works to promote gender equality and tackle violence against women by influencing government policies and agendas, organising public forums and events, and leveraging national and international alliances for gender justice.

Health, Nutrition, & Population

www.brac.net/content/about-brac-health

Health has remained an integral component of BRAC's approach to development since its inception in 1972. BRAC's Health Programme promotes a broad concept of health among disadvantaged communities through a combination of preventive, curative, rehabilitative, and promotional health services. Our unique door-to-door approach using frontline community health workers has created a bridge between communities and the formal health systems through partnership with the government and the private health sector. By improving the health of people, especially the poor, and promoting the capacity of a community to deal with health problems, the Health, Nutrition and Population Programme contributes to achieving BRAC's twin objectives of poverty alleviation and empowerment of the poor.

Human Rights & Legal Aid Services (HRLS)

www.hrls.brac.net/

BRAC's Human Rights and Legal Aid Services (HRLS) Programme is dedicated to protecting and promoting the human rights of the poor and marginalised through legal empowerment. The programme's activities include legal education delivered by 'Barefoot Lawyers,' legal aid service provision via Legal Aid Clinics, counseling, legal referrals, staff training, and capacity building. With over 500 Legal Aid Clinics in 61 of Bangladesh's 64

districts, the HRLS Programme is the largest NGO-led legal aid programme in the world. The Programme seeks to create an enabling environment for the poor and marginalised to seek equitable justice through formal and informal systems.

Microfinance
www.microfinance.brac.net/

Innovative, client focused, and sustainable, the Microfinance Programme is a critical component of BRAC's holistic approach to support livelihoods. Over the course of the last four decades, BRAC's Microfinance Programme has grown to become one of the world's largest providers of financial services to the poor, providing tools which millions can use for the betterment of their lives. The Programme covers all 64 districts of Bangladesh and has, over the last ten years, branched out into Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Uganda, Liberia and Tanzania.

Safe Migration
www.migration.brac.net/

BRAC's Safe Migration Programme works to ensure the rights of migrant workers by creating easy access to the education and services that may help them avoid exploitation. The programme adopts a comprehensive package of interventions seeking to support workers both before and during their migration, as well as to ease their reintegration on their return. The Safe Migration Programme also seeks to strengthen the National Alliance for Migrants' Rights, Bangladesh and to disseminate best practices to other national and international organizations working for the rights of migrants.

Social Enterprises
www.enterprises.brac.net/

BRAC currently operates 18 financially and socially profitable enterprises across the health, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, education, green energy, printing and retail sectors. These industries make a significant contribution to the local economy by creating market linkages, nurturing entrepreneurs, and providing employment opportunities. By creating profitable and scalable businesses, BRAC enterprises have been able to fulfill their social mission to provide livelihood opportunities for the poor, while also providing BRAC with a financial surplus that has helped to reduce the organisation's dependency on external donors and allowed for continued experimentation and innovation.

Social Innovation Lab
www.brac.net/content/social-innovation-lab

Launched in October 2011, the Social Innovation Lab seeks to institutionalize innovation at BRAC and create an inclusive space where ideas are shared, nurtured, and translated into action. The Lab looks for ways to better align BRAC's activities with its overall strategic priorities and better take advantage of emerging opportunities. While the Lab does not implement any pilots on its own, it provides internal support to pilots when needed. The Lab's long-term goal is to enhance BRAC's overall capacity for managing internal innovation and to foster organizational-wide dialogue and mobilisation.

Targeting the Ultra Poor

www.tup.brac.net/

Initiated in 2002, BRAC's Challenging the Frontiers of Poverty Reduction - Targeting the Ultra Poor (CFPR-TUP) Programme is specifically designed to meet the needs of ultra poor households who are too vulnerable to access the benefits of traditional development interventions such as microfinance. The programme emerged out of BRAC's three decades of experience with rural poverty alleviation programmes. The groundbreaking Ultra Poor Programme focuses on improving the economic and social situation of extremely deprived women and their households. Upholding BRAC's holistic approach to development, the programme creates opportunities for the most disadvantaged to overcome extreme poverty through careful selection; intensive integrated support including asset grants, skill development, and personalised healthcare support; and improving their social security through community mobilisation. The objective of the CFPR-TUP Programme is to assist the ultra poor population to graduate from extreme poverty, gain access to mainstream development programmes, and establish sustainable livelihoods.

Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene (WASH)

http://wash.brac.net/

BRAC's Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Programme works toward achieving the seventh Millennium Development Goal to reduce the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 50% by 2015. The programme, which to date has reached over 38 million people, provides sustainable and integrated WASH services in rural and isolated areas, breaking the cycle of disease caused by unsanitary latrines, contaminated water, and unsafe hygiene practices. The WASH Programme ensures the sustainability of these interventions by encouraging community ownership, developing linkages with local governments, and encouraging local entrepreneurs to supply low cost hardware.

BYLC Graduate Network (BGN)

www.bylc.org

The BYLC Graduate Network (BGN) is formed and run by graduates of the various leadership-training programs held at the Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC). The BGN provides a space for the graduates to continue the social & youth development projects initiated during their training, connect with one another, share ideas, and discuss new ventures. The BGN also offers career development and leadership training follow-up programs for graduates so that they may continue their personal and professional development. The Network's aim is to create an enabling platform for graduates to exercise and hone their leadership skills and to bring together the brightest young leaders of the country.

Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP)

www.cgap.org

The Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP) works to create a world in which everyone has access to the financial services they need to improve their lives.

CGAP helps create innovative solutions for financial inclusion through practical research and active engagement with policy makers, funders, and financial service providers. Established in 1995, CGAP combines a pragmatic research agenda with cutting-edge communications and a global advocacy platform that helps advance poor people's access to finance. Our global network of members includes over 35 development agencies, private foundations, and national governments that share our vision.

Digital Green
www.digitalgreen.org

The Digital Green system combines technology and social organization to improve the cost-effectiveness and broaden the community participation of existing agricultural extension systems. The unique components of the Digital Green system include (1) a participatory process for local video production, (2) a human-mediated instruction model for video dissemination and training, (3) a hardware and software technology platform for exchanging data in areas with limited Internet and electrical grid connectivity, and (4) an iterative model to progressively better address the needs and interests of the community with analytical tools and interactive phone-based feedback channels. Unlike some systems that expect information or communication technology alone to deliver useful knowledge to farmers, Digital Green works with existing, people-based extension systems and aims to amplify their effectiveness.

Digital Green was incubated as a research project in Microsoft Research India's Technology for Emerging Markets group in 2006, then spun off as an independent non-profit - registered in both the U.S. and India - in 2008. Based on Digital Green's positive experience in India, the organisation has begun to expand its efforts beyond agriculture into health and nutrition related content. Digital Green is also expanding into new geographies, including Ethiopia and Ghana.

Dimagi, Inc.
www.dimagi.com

Dimagi is a privately held social enterprise founded in 2002 with its headquarters in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Dimagi believes that many of the world's problems can be addressed through low-cost technological solutions, and works specifically to provide innovative, open source technologies to improve healthcare in developing countries.

Government Innovation Unit, Prime Minister's Office

The Governance Innovation Unit (GIU) has been established in the Prime Minister's Office to provide strategic support and guidelines to seven government ministries in order to facilitate successful implementation of public sector reforms. The seven ministries involved include: the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Land, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives, and the Ministry of Primary & Mass Education.

These ministries have been selected primarily because their activities are most 'citizen-centric.' Putting citizens first, and improving the quality of services they receive, is at the core of this unit.

IDidNotReport

www.ididnotreport.in/

IDidNotReport is a mobile-based platform for location-based citizen journalism, developed specifically to enable women to come forward and report incidents of sexual harassment or violence committed against them. Women very often fail to report such incidents because of fear, shame, and social stigma, or because they lack the knowledge of how to do so.

The main objective of IDidNotReport is to catalogue all such incidents of gender-based violence experienced by women in the form of a geographical map. IDidNotReport uses a combination of voice, SMS, and social media to engage all women from the top to the bottom of the socioeconomic pyramid and encourage them to report any act of sexism or harassment, no matter how minor. IDidNotReport leverages the vast penetration of mobile phones and the growing usage of IVR (Interactive Voice Response)/SMS to reach women, especially those in communities with low literacy levels who are the least likely to report their experiences.

Janaagraha

www.janaagraha.org

Janaagraha is a non-profit organisation based in Bangalore. Janaagraha works to strengthen the efforts of both the Government of India and Indian citizens to improve the quality of urban infrastructure and services, to promote active citizenship, and to transform Indian cities. Citizen participation is encouraged through our online initiatives Ipaidabribe (www.ipaidabribe.com) – which has revolutionized public participation in addressing graft – and our new civic portal ichangemycity (www.ichangemycity.com), which promotes civic action at a local neighbourhood level.

Kemp & Watson

www.kempandwatson.com

Kemp & Watson is an international consulting firm that aims to strengthen leadership and boost effectiveness in non-profits and NGOs. The firm's three focal areas are leadership development, talent strategy, and change management.

Metta-Myanmar

www.metta-myanmar.org

The Metta Development Foundation was established in 1998 to assist communities in Myanmar recover from the devastating consequences of conflict and humanitarian emergency. The driving force and ethos behind the organization is embodied in the word 'metta,' which gives the organization its name, meaning 'loving kindness.'

Metta relies on people's potential and works to build on and conserve the resources that communities already possess. Metta believes in the fundamental value of self-reliance and supports initiatives to develop people's capacity and enable them to determine their own futures.

Metta works in six states and four regions of Myanmar and implements programs in the following six sectors: Agriculture and Forestry, Education, Health, Livelihood, Emergency and Development, and Capacity Building.

NewsCred
www.newscred.com

NewsCred is a technology startup that connects brands and publishers with the world's best journalism. NewsCred licenses, curates, and syndicates full-text news articles, images, and videos from over 1,500 of the world's highest quality sources - ranging from original work by award-winning columnists to captivating editorials from publishers like The Economist, CNN, Forbes, Bloomberg and many more.

NewsCred's editorial team and powerful semantic technology filters and customizes thousands of articles every day for each of their clients' specific needs, however broad or niche. With one platform, one license, and one bill, NewsCred makes publishing simple, affordable, and instant.

Nidan
www.nidan.in

Nidan organises informal workers into different types of legal entities – including associations, cooperatives, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and even small businesses – thereby greatly increasing their bargaining power vis-à-vis the state and the private sector. Nidan further acts like an umbrella, under which the various entities are nurtured and offered access to financial services (savings, loans, insurance, pension, etc.), legal services, and education for members' children.

By tapping into the wealth of the poor – primarily their numerical strength – and then aggregating them into economies of scale, Nidan is able to build profitable businesses and organizations that are led by workers from the informal sector. This process of 'collectivizing' generates social capital and promotes representation and a voice for the poor. To date, programmes launched by Nidan have brought together 700,000 workers from the informal sector and positioned them as legitimate competitors in markets opening up throughout the country.

One Degree Initiative
www.1di.org

The One Degree Initiative Foundation (1° Initiative) is a non-profit youth organization that mentors young people to become more influential, more professional, more informed, and most importantly, more socially engaged. The Initiative strives to create and nurture the next generation of leaders and change makers, entrepreneurs, and innovators by equipping them with the right tools and opportunities to drive their communities towards positive change. The Initiative's innovative mentorship model has been replicated in Australia, Nepal, Canada, and Iraq.

Pratham

www.pratham.org

Pratham is one of India's largest NGOs working in education. Established in 1994 to provide pre-school education to the children in the slums of Mumbai, Pratham has since grown tremendously both in scope and geographical coverage. Pratham now reaches millions of children living in both rural and urban areas through a range of interventions. Pratham believes that every child should be in school and learning well and strives to raise enrollment rates and learning outcomes. To this end, Pratham works with communities and schools and collaborates with governments at different levels in order to achieve large-scale change.

Rural Support Programmes Network

www.rspn.org

The Rural Support Programmes Network (RSPN) is comprised of 11 member Rural Support Programmes (RSPs), organisations seeking to alleviate rural poverty in Pakistan through a process of social mobilisation. The RSPN's members all possess extensive experience in participatory development approaches and in harnessing rural people's potential to generate change.

The RSPN provides programme, strategic, and capacity building support to its member organisations. To promote replication of the cost-efficient delivery models developed by its members, the RSPPN works to institutionalise linkages between its member RSPs and the government at various levels. The RSPN also engages in advocacy at the national level and works to disseminate best practices and lessons learned by its RSP members.

Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP)

www.srsp.org.pk

The Sarhad Rural Support Programme (SRSP) is the largest non-government organisation working in the conflict-affected regions of KP and FATA in Pakistan. SRSP's vision is to eradicate poverty by mobilising and building community institutions. SRSP's approach therefore focuses on developing community capacity and includes programmes in education, natural resource management, community investment funds, and microfinance. In recent years, because of the scale of its outreach and presence in rural communities, SRSP has played a prominent role in disaster relief and recovery efforts in response to the earthquake of 2005, the IDP crisis of 2009, and the floods of 2010.

Simpla Networks

www.simpanetworks.com

Simpa Networks makes modern energy simple, affordable, and investible for the 1.5 billion people in the world who lack access to electricity. The innovation is enabled by our patent-pending technology platform, which is composed of two parts: 1) a low cost, tamper-proof, prepaid energy meter and 2) a centralized software solution in the "cloud", accessible via mobile phone and over the internet for payment processing and accounts settlement.

Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction (UPPR)
www.upprbd.org/

UPPR is the largest urban poverty reduction initiative in Bangladesh and one of the largest in the world. Its goal is to reduce urban poverty and to improve the livelihoods and living conditions of the 3 million urban poor in Bangladesh, especially women and girls.

The key objectives of the programme are: (1) to mobilize urban poor communities to form representative and inclusive subgroups and prepare community action plans; (2) to support urban poor communities in securing healthy, safe living environments; (3) to assist the urban poor in acquiring the resources, knowledge, and skills to increase their incomes and asset; and (4) to develop partnerships and urban development strategies to influence pro-poor local and national-level policies and practices.

UPPR is supported by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and UNDP. The implementing partners are the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) under the Local Government Division; the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development, and Cooperatives; UNDP; UN-Habitat; and respective municipalities and city corporations.