

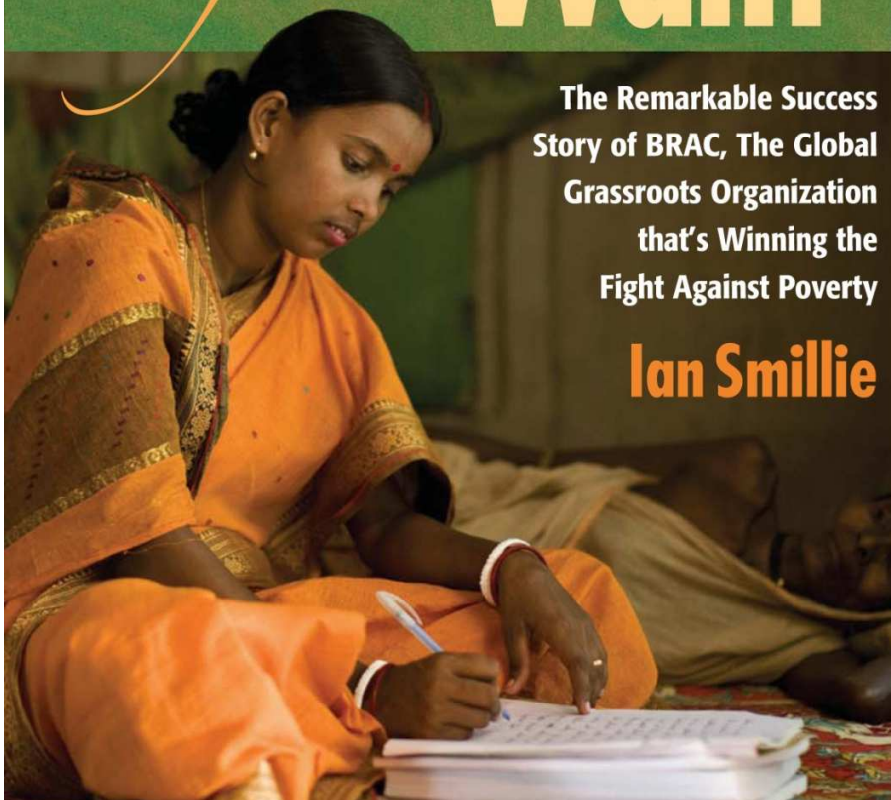
"The billion dollars in micro loans that BRAC extends each year to poor people is just the beginning of the story of this remarkable organization. Smillie writes about how determination, ingenuity and enterprise can end poverty."

- George Soros

Freedom *from* Want

The Remarkable Success
Story of BRAC, The Global
Grassroots Organization
that's Winning the
Fight Against Poverty

Ian Smillie



Freedom From Want traces BRAC's evolution from a small relief operation launched in Bangladesh in 1972 into the largest non-profit organization in the developing world. Today BRAC reaches more than 110 million people with its holistic approach to addressing poverty by providing micro-loans, self-employment opportunities, health services, education and legal and human rights education. BRAC's story shows how social enterprise can trump corruption and how purpose, innovation and clear thinking can overcome the most entrenched injustices that society can offer. It is a story that ranges from distant villages in Bangladesh to New York's financial district on 9/11, from war-torn Afghanistan to the vast plains of East Africa and the ruins of Southern Sudan. Partly an adventure story, partly a lesson in development economics, partly an examination of excellence in management, the book describes one of the world's most remarkable success stories, one that has transformed disaster into development and despair into hope.

Ian Smillie is an Ottawa-based development consultant and writer. He has lived and worked in Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Bangladesh. He was a founder of the Canadian development organization, Inter Pares, and was Executive Director of CUSO. In 2000 and 2001, Smillie served on a UN Security Council expert panel investigating the links between illicit weapons and the diamond trade in Sierra Leone. Today he serves as Research Coordinator on Partnership Africa Canada's 'Diamonds and Human Security Project' and is a participant in the intergovernmental 'Kimberley Process,' which is developing a global certification system for rough diamonds.



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The book will be available starting April of this year.

To pre-order the book on Amazon, go to <http://tr.im/37zf>

Order directly from the publisher by going to <http://www.styluspub.com/>

"Ian Smillie insightfully chronicles the work of BRAC and its founder, Fazle Hasan Abed, whom I was proud to present with a Clinton Global Citizen Award. BRAC's enormous contributions to health, education, and economic development have improved the lives of over 100 million people across the globe. Dr. Abed's story proves just how much people with vision and commitment can change the world."

William J. Clinton, Former President of the United States

"In this beautifully written book, Smillie examines perhaps the most successful program in the world for empowering women and families and truly alleviating poverty in a sustainable way. He shows the trial, error and analysis that eventually created a program that has changed Bangladesh and is now spreading to other countries in South Asia as well as Africa. The book confirmed my strong conviction, born of countless visits to remote villages and urban slums, that when ordinary people are given a chance, they seize it to change their lives, and extraordinary results follow. It should help convince those who still doubt that empowering people is key to successful economic, social and personal development."

James Wolfensohn, former President, World Bank Group

"Ian Smillie's excellent book on BRAC is a gripping account of how the practical intellect of a person and the trail-blazing activities of an organization have been able to achieve something close to a miracle".

Amartya Sen, Nobel laureate

"This is a great international story about what I consider the world's most successful and unusual non-governmental development organization, advancing the frontiers of health, education and microfinance, with a particular focus on women. It truly is an astounding record."

Allan Rosenfield, MD, Former Dean Emeritus, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

"We support BRAC because they invest in the "girl effect" and are one of the world's most effective champions for poor women and their families. We've seen BRAC in action in Bangladesh and can attest that Smillie's book captures the magic of the organization and the transformation that happens person by person."

Jennifer and Peter Buffet, NoVo Foundation

"This book is a must for anyone who thinks that foreign aid doesn't work, that ordinary people can't pull themselves out of poverty, or that sustainable development can't happen at a large scale. This is why I asked BRAC to come to Liberia at the Clinton Global Initiative. Its inspiring story gives us hope that Liberia can use citizen power to rebuild and transform the lives of the poorest to bring about health, wealth and greater well-being."

Ellen-Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia

"BRAC is the most astounding social enterprise in the world. This story combines the raw excitement of how a huge business can spring from one man's acumen with the emotive charge that comes when poverty and oppression are routed. Business can be exhilarating, and reading why can be a pleasure."

Paul Collier, author of The Bottom Billion

"This is the inspiring story of a person and an organization that have expanded the boundaries of the possible. When BRAC began, no one could have dreamt of what it would become. Now we can appreciate as never before the astonishing scale, diversity and spread of its activities and achievements in Bangladesh and in other countries. This book has been crying out to be written. It is a powerful counterblast to cynics and pessimists. It challenges all of us working in development to raise our sights, aim high, and aspire to do the undoable."

Robert Chambers, Institute of Development Studies, Sussex, author of Rural Development: Putting the Last First

"BRAC's entrepreneurial approach to creating decent work for poor people is sorely needed in the world today. BRAC has created 8.5 million opportunities for self employment in Bangladesh and is now helping to create better livelihoods elsewhere in Asia and in Africa. Smillie reveals BRAC's success in organizing the most vulnerable, particularly poor women, for their own self-empowerment, rights, protection, work and collective voice."

Juan Somavia, Director General, International Labor Organization

"If BRAC was a business, it would be the darling of Wall Street, but BRAC instead stands as one of the world's most important anti-poverty organizations. Day after day, BRAC shows how to be innovative, effective, and fast-growing in tough environments. "Freedom from Want" cuts through complexities to share BRAC's remarkable story with clarity and style."

Jonathan Morduch, co-author of Portfolios of the Poor: How the World's Poor Live on \$2 a Day

"Women and girls are center-stage in the story of BRAC. This is an encouraging tale of dedicated people who overcome enormous obstacles to improve the lives of millions. Ian Smillie shows how BRAC has turned development orthodoxy on its head, challenging 40 years of conventional thinking about how to end poverty and, in the process, how it reached tens of millions of people with good education, better health and sustainable livelihoods."

Mary Robinson, President, Realizing Rights, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and President of Ireland