

Subject: EquityBD Campaign course of actions for 2012 to 2015 (revised on January 2013)

Vision: We look for a world with equity and justice where human rights and democratic practice is a culture.

- Mission:**
- (i) As government is the biggest representation of people, we shall provide possible cooperation to the government with positive but critical engagement;
 - (ii) We shall disseminate the national and international policy debates to the micro and local level and vice versa bring micro level feedback to the national and international level;
 - (iii) We shall work especially with the young for their education and awareness in order to implant values related to equity, justice, human rights and democratic principles; and
 - (iv) We shall try out to promote an accountable, pro-active and a sustainable civil society movement in the country in favor of equity and justice.

Built in strategies in campaigns i.e. common/ crosscutting strategies for effective and result oriented campaign;

- (i) Taking specific position based on **Policy Research**;
- (ii) Organizing campaign events with as much **inclusively** as possible with other credible CSO and providing them appropriate level of ownership;
- (iii) As the **Policy Leaders** (especially the members of parliament, chairmen of different parliamentary standing committees, Ministers and influential opposition party leaders) are to be convinced, the highest level of effort should be given to engage them in campaign events as guests or speakers;
- (iv) Building up a **Critical Mass** who, in fact, work like a countervailing force behind the policy leaders or inside the political system;
- (v) Organizing events in the manner of **Lowest Possible Cost with No Luxury** (e.g. no program in an aristocrat restaurant or in a three or five star hotel, no printed invitation card, no lavish food or refreshment packet, no allowance for the guest speakers and participants) to pay the highest respect to tax payers' money and to the concern of poor people;
- (vi) Giving importance to **University** and equivalent **Educational Campus** based programs to attract students, as much as possible, as an important stakeholder in such campaigns;
- (vii) Giving high importance to the creativity in **Cyber Activism** and alternative **Social Media** based campaign for dissemination, getting feedbacks and creating critical mass (e.g. instantaneous press releases both in English and Bangla uploaded in www.equitybd.org, disseminating group e-mails for different stakeholders in national and international level with the e-link of media coverage)

Sector and sub sector	Rationale / Need	Process	Probable Impacts
<p>a. Climate Justice</p> <p><i>Major Objectives: To make the climate planning integrated and to make the climate finance pro poor</i></p> <p>a1 finance monitoring (maybe not so directly like TIB is doing)</p> <p>a2 integration with national planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need of building awareness on climate issues based on human rights and justice framework as because the common understanding on climate is just based on fate. • There should be a critical CSO on climate/ development finance, integrated planning and also in respect of international negotiation so that the govt. would take a pro poor position. • Building up local level CSO is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting continuous and consistent CSO demand for a National Climate Commission and for the democratic ownership on climate finance at national level. • Monitoring the annual planning and budget for climate integration. • Promoting specific project based investigative journalism and critical CSO awareness to ensure the effective use of climate/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical mass and CSO pressure put on the national policy stakeholders for appropriate and integrated adaptation planning, pro people positioning in international and regional negotiation, transparent and participatory project implementation. • More voices in international level for a new UN protocol on

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<p>and budgeting</p> <p>a3 international negotiation (both in UNFCCC and regional level)</p> <p>a4 climate migrants' rights</p> <p>a5 building awareness among youth/ students</p>	<p>also a critical need in order to promote transparent and participatory project implementation, ensuring effective use of public and aid money in development projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An international CSO alliance and solidarity to demand a new UN Charter on climate migrants is much needed as well as a national policy on climate displaced people within the country. • Students in higher education level should be aware on climate justice and promote social media based cyber activism 	<p>development finance through different alliance and others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building CSO alliance and organizing pre and post CoP events both in national and international level based on the specific position. • Organizing events in cooperation with international CSOs to demand a new UN protocol on climate migrants' rights. • National level campaign for policy on internally displaced people/ climate migrants. • Half yearly or annual events with media/ students in different university campus/ districts on climate justice campaign and promotion of social media based campaign. 	<p>climate migrants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More national policy stakeholders taking position for national policy in favor of the internally displaced people. • Promising future leaders are aware on climate justice and campaign using social media.
<p>b. Economic Justice</p> <p><i>Major Objectives: To promote a justice based local resource mobilization and responsible development/ public finance.</i></p> <p>b1. Campaign against VAT that is a regressive tax.</p> <p>b2. Campaign on whitening Black money and against illicit transfer of capital money.</p> <p>b3. Campaign on tax justice in internal resource mobilization.</p> <p>b4. Campaign on spending justice,</p>	<p>As the foreign aid is shrinking, the government has planned for more local resource mobilization where the major source is the tax system. EquityBD believes that the development finance of Bangladesh could be based on its own financing. But the tax system has to be based on justice, in other words, VAT is a regressive tax; there should be more focus on personal, property and corporate tax. There are also tax evasions especially from corporations and illicit capital transfer through over or under invoicing. So there should be more research, positioning and campaign in this regard. Government, nowadays, is showing more inclined to supplier credit especially from China, Russia, India and Malaysia, while IFIs (international financial</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To organize campaign and public events on VAT, Black Money, illicit money transfer etc. and on enhancing revenue from personal, property and corporate tax. • Research on tax evasion by corporations and also on tax system, especially on its impact. • Campaign and education for giving tax and ensuring accountability. • Networking with regional and international organizations on tax justice campaign. • Sensitization of policy stakeholder on sovereign democratic and responsible (SDR) financing. • Organizing public events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical mass and CSO has been developed on tax and local revenue system based on justice, so that there will be less and less tax pressure on poor people. • Government and policy stakeholders feel opinion pressure on having more revenue from personal, property and corporations. • There will be critical mass and CSO on responsible financing on development projects, so that there will be less public debt. • Government will be aware on spending justice and provide more and more allocation in essential public services.

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<p>especially government to invest more on essential public services.</p> <p>b5. Campaign on sovereign democratic and responsible financing.</p> <p>b6. Building critical CSO discourse on pre and post annual budget preparation.</p> <p>b7. Monitoring public debts and conditionality.</p> <p>b8. Building critical mass on public audit system.</p>	<p>institutions, e.g., World Bank and International Monetary Fund) are putting more and more conditions especially in strengthening integrity. But these supplier credit agreements happened to be hardly with openness, discussion in parliament and all above putting public in worse condition of debt liability. So there should be campaign on responsible financing, so that there will be a consensus for less public liability, especially in respect of debt.</p> <p>Government's public spending is not also rationalized and less accountable. There should be more critically active CSO in this regard especially in district level. Climate finance should not be considered isolated from total development finance. A changing image i.e. Bangladesh is showing seriousness to eliminate corruption or CSO is playing a vibrant role in it, is indispensable.</p>	<p>on campaign against supplier credit and others which are creating more public indebtedness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing pre and post national budget CSO discourse especially to promote pro poor expenditure and justice in development finance. • Promoting investigative journalism especially in district/ division level to create a local level movement for a corruption free and participatory project implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local media and local mobilization has link with the case by case analysis of development finance monitoring.
<p>c. Food Sovereignty</p> <p><i>Major objectives: To promote critical civil society for protecting or prudent use of agricultural land, preservation and promotion of local seeds and against health hazards related to pesticide, GMO and hybrid.</i></p> <p>c1. Campaign against land grabbing to stop reducing agricultural land.</p> <p>c2. Campaign against GMO and campaign for appropriate promotion and preservation of local seeds.</p>	<p>Food security is one of the highest threats in respect of climate change problem. Every year Bangladesh is losing 1% of its agricultural land due to erosion and other factors like urbanization. But the land has to be saved/ protected to keep on desired agriculture production and the nation has to be self sufficient in food production. Companies are aggressive in promoting technologies and products to make farmers dependent on hybrid seed though the local seeds are more appropriate, eco-friendly and low cost for the local agro production. Farmers should be assisted to be less dependent on seed market. Companies are also aggressive in making farmers dependent on pesticide which is causing health hazards too. There are many local</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with different farmers' organizations who are free from partisan politics. • Networking with different farmers' networks in regional and international level. • Policy research and national and local level campaign against agricultural land grabbing for urbanization. • Finding out and liaise with model farmer experienced on locally appropriate agriculture (e.g., Maria Model) particularly on local seeds preservation and IPM. • Organizing promotional activities on local seeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A critical mass and CSO has emerged on preservation of agricultural land for attaining national food security, government will go for land zoning. • Farmers start preserving local seeds in household and community level. They are also critical on GMO and profit based seed market led by companies. • Government has taken initiative on appropriate farmer-friendly seeds certification regime. • Government has also taken steps to aware farmers on harmful use of pesticide and banning of serious

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<p>c3. Campaign against pesticide and campaign for promotion of integrated pest management.</p> <p>c4. Strengthening IRWD (International Rural Women's Day) network</p>	<p>technologies which are cost effective and eco-friendly and also user friendly. Farmers should be aware on this and use locally available ingredients and approaches appropriate to integrated pest management (IPM). There are independent farmers' networks and organizations who need assistance in policy research and coordination to promote independent farmers' movement in the country.</p> <p>We have the decade of experience of promoting rural women rights and issues through IRWD network virtually with almost no donor support. The network should continually be facilitated as a sustainable and pro active institutional means to raise food, and rural women related issues with highest level of participation and highest possible number of promising CSO women leaders.</p>	<p>preservation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign against GMO as it makes farmers dependent on the market and companies. • Policy research and campaign on appropriate and farmer-friendly seed certification regime. • Campaign against pesticide use and campaign for promotion of integrated pest management. • Raise concern and issues of rural women. 	<p>health hazardous pesticides too. Critical mass and farmer awareness is built up on chemical pesticides. Promotion of integrated pest management in local level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy leaders take steps on concern on rural women.
<p>d. Right Based Approach and Climate Change Integration With Micro Finance</p> <p><i>Major Objectives: To promote integration of right based approach, climate change appropriateness and coordination.</i></p> <p>d1. Integration of RBA/ Social Performance.</p> <p>d2. Policy to address Climate Change impact in MF sector.</p> <p>d3. Policy for coordination among MFI.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micro finance sector in the country is minimalist and dominated by financialization. But it has been observed that Right Based Approach could be integrated in the sector, which in fact will diminish its disrepute. e.g. organizational and staff behavior could be reformed in view of human rights, participation of staff and group members could be formally integrated in the institutional management, necessary social programs including campaign and mobilization could be done with micro finance income on sustainable basis. • Competition is making micro finance institutions (MFI) more aggressive, there are already overlapping which in fact is making poor people more indebted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagements with different MFI networks in national and international level and pursuing them on the concern. • It is already observed that, there are growing 'Micro Finance Plus' or 'Minimalist Approach' which work on integration of social performance and right based approach. • There must be human rights and accountability approach so that appropriate levels of social and political acceptability of MFI are found. • Research will take place; campaign events will be organized to be pursued to the MF practitioners and policy makers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MFI are going with micro finance plus or necessary social program on sustainable basis. • MFI integrated human rights approach in the organizational behaviors. MFI have also integrated downward accountability approach. They are considering group approach not only as credit and saving mechanism, but also as right claiming mechanism. • MFIs are aware of their disrepute in the whole sector due to the unlimited competition and felt need for coordination with each others for better services to the poor.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘One size fits all’ approach is being maintained from the micro finance regulatory bodies and whole sale agencies. But it has been observed that MFIs who are working in coastal areas are facing difficulties as they have to face climate change impacts in front line. So there should different regulations in view of climate change impact in future. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory and wholesale lending bodies are considering special facilitating rules for MFI who are working in climate hotspots to address climate catastrophes. • Regulatory and wholesale lending bodies are preparing rules to facilitate MFI on integration of social performance, right based approach and reciprocal coordination.
<p>e. Coastal Livelihood Security</p> <p><i>Major Objectives: To promote policy alternative and support for protecting life and livelihood of climate vulnerable coastal community especially of fisherman.</i></p> <p>c1. Increased allocation and appropriate policy support for coastal development/ adaptation</p> <p>c2. Safe river way mobilization</p> <p>C3. Protection of market and price support to the local salt producers.</p> <p>c4. Fishermen’s rights and livelihood security</p> <p>C5. Budget analysis for pro poor adaptation first in coastal development.</p>	<p>Coastal areas (19 out of 64 districts) of Bangladesh are the most vulnerable to the climate change impacts. Submerging lands due to sea water raise, frequent cyclones, river erosion, and salinity intrusion are already vivid in the area. But there are not enough attention for adaptation and supporting livelihood of the coastal people in this situation. So, there should be critically active CSO in this concern.</p> <p>In view of need, past experiences and strength, we feel interventions are required in the following fields: (i) budget allocation and national level planning; (ii) safe river way to facilitate easy and low cost migration and transport; (iii) policy support to salt growers for logical price as they are under threats of importing salt from India and Myanmar; and (iv) policy support to fishermen groups so that they would have secured livelihood options.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing pre and post budget events on appropriate planning for adaptation and budget analysis concerning coastal areas. • Monitoring and study on launch accidents and organizing events to influence policy stakeholders to promote a safe river way. • Monitoring and study on salt price situation, organizing events to influence policy stakeholders so that the salt farmers get appropriate prices. • Monitoring and study on fishing boat accidents, fishermen’s lives during ban on fishing, sea piracy, etc. and organizing events for bringing policy changes to ensure measures like life support equipments in each fishing boats, identity card for each of the fishermen, and alternative livelihood options for fisherman community. Forming a country wide fishing folk solidarity forum prior to organizing countrywide consultation on drafting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical mass and CSO are taking position for coastal people so that there are more appropriate adaptation planning supports for coastal vulnerable population. • Coastal people will be able to move safely through the river way with the lowest possible cost. • Existing around 20 million fishermen will get better adaptive and secured livelihood support. Policies will be formulated to protect coastal natural resources, including offshore fishing for the support to coastal fishing communities. • Voices from coastal poor people and fishing communities will be heard in national and regional level.

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		<p>guideline on sustainable fishing folk community supported by FAO and IFAD. Networking with WFF (world fisher folk forum) and other regional (e.g., Bay of Bengal basin) fisher folk networks. There will be continuous link and dialogue with the forum to identify issue based campaign and engagement.</p>	
<p>e. Building Credible And Sustainable CSO for Aid Effectiveness</p> <p><i>Major Objectives: To promote a credible, coordinated and sustainable CSO sector and activism especially for aid effectiveness.</i></p> <p>d1. building capacity of CSOs on effective movement building and networking</p> <p>d3. promoting CSO development / aid effectiveness for partnership in line with international movement</p>	<p>Credibility of the CSO is a political question because of its lack on transparency, governance and value orientation. But an effective CSO sector is inevitable nowadays especially in Bangladesh where political institutions are hardly responsive to the mass people especially to the poor and vulnerable. There is international movement on Open Forum on CSO Development Effectiveness in conjunction with Bussan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. Istanbul Principles on CSO Development Effectiveness is a part in this regard. CSO in Bangladesh should be trained and discussed in this and should be motivated to form a credibility alliance. MFI NGO has potentiality to invest their surplus in right based activism, and then can also promote people's organization who will claim their legitimate rights in local level for strong accountable relation between state agencies and mass public.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organizing sensitization workshop with CSO in division/ district level on the Istanbul Principles of CSO Development Effectiveness. • Organizing national level public events based on the feedback from those workshops and if possible building up a consensus to form a national level CSO credibility alliance. • Organizing annual capacity and network building workshop of national level CSO. • Networking with regional and international level for promoting development/ aid effectiveness through partnership between all possible actors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSO are taking concern more and more on their effort to build credibility and sustainability. Possibly there will be a credibility alliance in this regard. • CSOs are getting skilled through sharing best experiences in respect of campaign, movement and network building. • MFI NGOs are investing there surplus for integrating right based approach in their work for engaging more institutions like people's organizations who will be claiming their legitimate demands and rights i.e. strengthening accountability relationship of the local level institutions. • CSO are having collaborative partnership with all possible stakeholders for effective development/ aid partnership.