



2023

 UNOPS

Annual Report

UNOPS Bangladesh Office

About Us

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) is an operational arm of the United Nations, dedicated to implementing and managing projects in the world's most challenging environments. UNOPS supports the successful implementation of its partners' peacebuilding, humanitarian, and development projects around the world. With over 20 years of experience in Bangladesh, UNOPS is committed to contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the country.



The Under-Secretary-General of United Nations and Executive Director of United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Jorge Moreira da Silva visited Bangladesh in October 2023

Our Team

UNOPS Bangladesh Team: A Tapestry of Diversity and Sustainability

At UNOPS Bangladesh, our team thrives on a vibrant tapestry of diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. We foster an inclusive environment where everyone feels empowered to contribute, igniting a collective passion for sustainability. This dynamic synergy fuels innovative solutions, ensuring each project we undertake embodies our commitment to both environmental and social well-being.

UNOPS Bangladesh Office Management Team



Sudhir Muralidharan
Country Manager



Berhanu Assefa Tegegne
Manager,
Partnerships &
Project Management



Iftekhar Ahmed
Senior Infrastructure
Specialist



Samudika Imbulpe Dhananjani
Head of Procurement



Mohamed Infiyaz Hyder
Project Manager



Shahana Begum
Project Manager



Nasrin Chowdhury
HR Senior Assistant



6.2M

UNOPS Bangladesh successfully surpassed the annual engagement target, securing 6.2 million USD in contracts for 2023. This represents a remarkable achievement, exceeding the initial goal of 5 million USD.

গণালয়
শ্রী সরকার

PARTNERSHIPS HIGHLIGHTS

In essence, our performance in 2023 has been commendable. We surpassed targets, actively built new pipelines, and effectively managed existing partners. This bodes well for continued success in the coming years.

UNOPS actively fostered partnerships through targeted outreach and participation in key UN, government, Bi & Multi-laterals and NGO events. This strategic networking approach built relationships, showcased expertise, and opened doors to collaboration, amplifying impact and furthering the mission.

In 2023, UNOPS Bangladesh fostered robust partnerships, exceeding 80 visits with key stakeholders. Collaborations materialized through a partner survey and culminated in the signing of three MOUs with LGED, ICTD, and MOPA, solidifying a foundation for impactful project development.

UNOPS partnered with EIF, USAID and DGHS to fund crucial projects in Bangladesh, addressing disaster management, capacity building of Bangladesh peacekeeping missions, gender and healthcare support in Cox's Bazar. Two projects secured funding, and two more are anticipated next year, solidifying our commitment to collaborative impact.



UNOPS Visibility

We've developed a comprehensive communication strategy that guides all our outreach efforts. This strategy forms the foundation for numerous communication and visibility activities, ensuring consistency and effectiveness. Alongside we've dedicated a specific guideline for effectively utilizing our Facebook page.

In 2023, UNOPS Bangladesh employed a multifaceted communications strategy to amplify its visibility. Over 50 targeted factsheets, impactful AV content, and image libraries were produced, showcasing expertise and commitment. A dedicated gender equality campaign on 16 days of activism further highlighted UNOPS' values. This data-driven approach demonstrably enhanced UNOPS presence in Bangladesh.

UNOPS Bangladesh actively engaged the stakeholders through more than 12 events in 2023, promoting gender equality, climate action, and sustainable development. Collaborations with UN Women, BIMSTEC, and Zonta Clubs addressed women's vulnerabilities and empowered communities. Project launches, MOU signings, HR Day and UN Day participation showcased UNOPS's expertise and commitment to the SDGs.

Media Coverage

UNOPS Bangladesh made a big splash in the local media landscape in 2023, garnering a whopping 162 mentions across various events and initiatives. This enormous reach reflects the organization's active engagement and significant contributions to Bangladesh's development goals. From launching the SDG Cafes series to hosting high-profile visits, UNOPS stayed in the news, earning coverage in editorials, print & online news, interviews, TV news, and Diplomat Magazine. UNOPS engaged Bangladeshi actress Sabnam Faria, that further enhanced events visibility and reach. Monthly newsletters and increased Facebook engagement helped keep staff informed.

UNOPS co-branding campaign with UNFPA for Women's Day reached new audiences.

Finally, website and intranet updates ensured brand consistency, and ensured a unified message.





ENHANCING LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

UNOPS Bangladesh had a successful year in 2023, signing a Host Country Agreement, revising its strategic plan, and actively participating in UNCT platforms.

The Bangladesh Office successfully hosted the newly appointed Executive Director of UNOPS, Jorge Moreira da Silva, during his visit to Asia. He met with top officials, including the Prime Minister, visited project sites, had dinner with donors and stakeholders, and held discussions with staff.

The Asia Regional Director, Sanjay Mathur along with the SAMCO Director, Charles Callanan had also visited the Bangladesh Office in March 2023 and had discussions with ministers and high government officials and planted tree in the office premises to promote greenovating cultures.

Team building initiatives like Pohela Falgun celebration, UNOPS family dinner, mentorship programs and staff retreat further fostered a positive work environment.

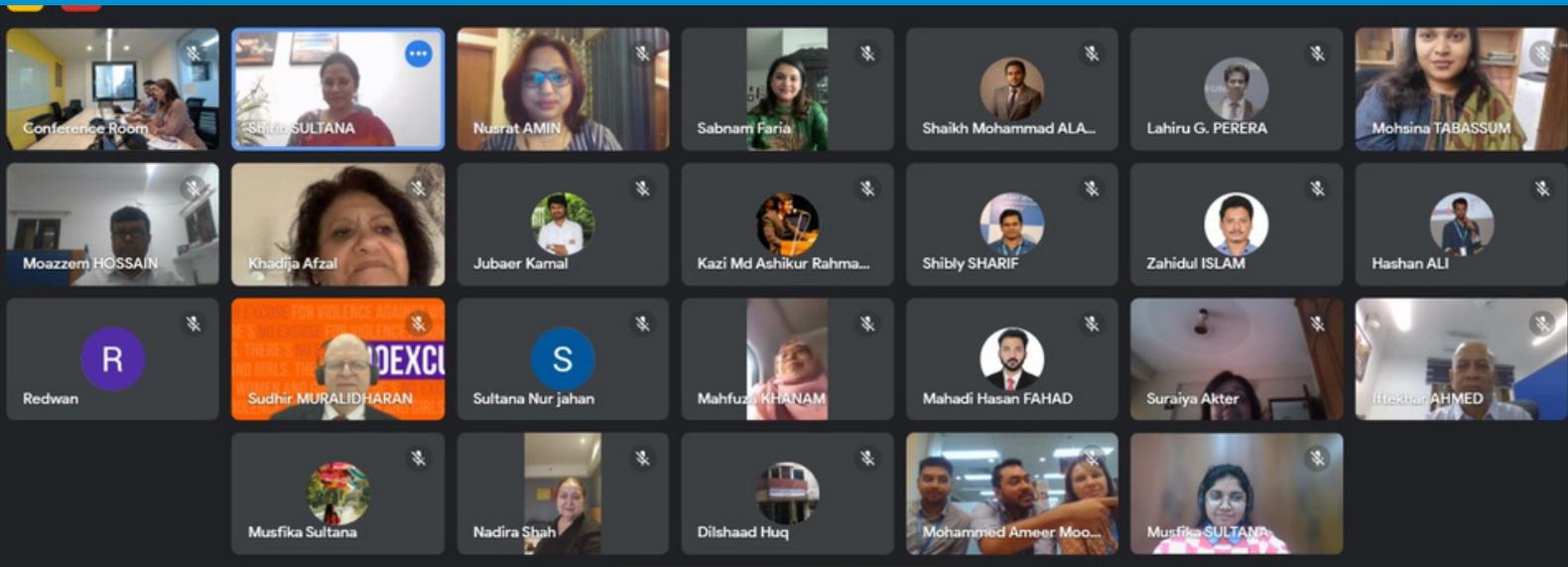
GESI & PSEAH

UNOPS Bangladesh actively promotes Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment (PSEAH) through various events and initiatives.

UNOPS Bangladesh celebrated International Women's Day with a focus on technology and gender equality. In 2023 UNOPS partnered with universities to educate young professionals on GESI & PSEAH. UNOPS Bangladesh office also updated the GESI action plan.

To raise awareness, UNOPS Bangladesh hosted a webinar, social media campaigns, and participated in interagency assessments. For PSEAH, we briefed site engineers, distributed training materials, posted information on site, and translated materials to the local language.

Through these efforts, UNOPS Bangladesh strives to create a safer and more inclusive environment for everyone.





PROJECT MANAGEMENT



EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT FOR THE DGDA, BANGLADESH

UNOPS Supports Bangladesh in Combating COVID-19 with Medical Equipment and Services. Responding to the pandemic's challenges, UNOPS partnered with Bangladesh's health ministry to strengthen the Directorate General of Drug Administration's (DGDA) capacity. Funded by the World Bank, the project procured essential lab equipment, furniture, and services.

Through competitive bidding, UNOPS achieved significant cost savings, enabling the purchase of additional equipment and HR services. The project delivered 37 types of lab equipment, furniture, reagents, IT items, and expert support.

UNOPS aided the DGDA in enhancing the capability of its vaccine testing services by supplying equipment and refurbishing the infrastructure of the vaccine testing laboratory to meet the Biosafety Level 2 laboratory standard. Highlights include enhanced testing capacity, upcoming WHO certification for the upgraded labs, and a streamlined reporting system through the implemented LIMS software.

Challenges included managing multiple purchase orders, delays in MoU amendments etc. Despite these, the project is on track for completion by June 2024. This project was a journey through SDG 3, revealing its potential to pave the path towards a healthier future.

OXYGEN PLANT INSTALLATION

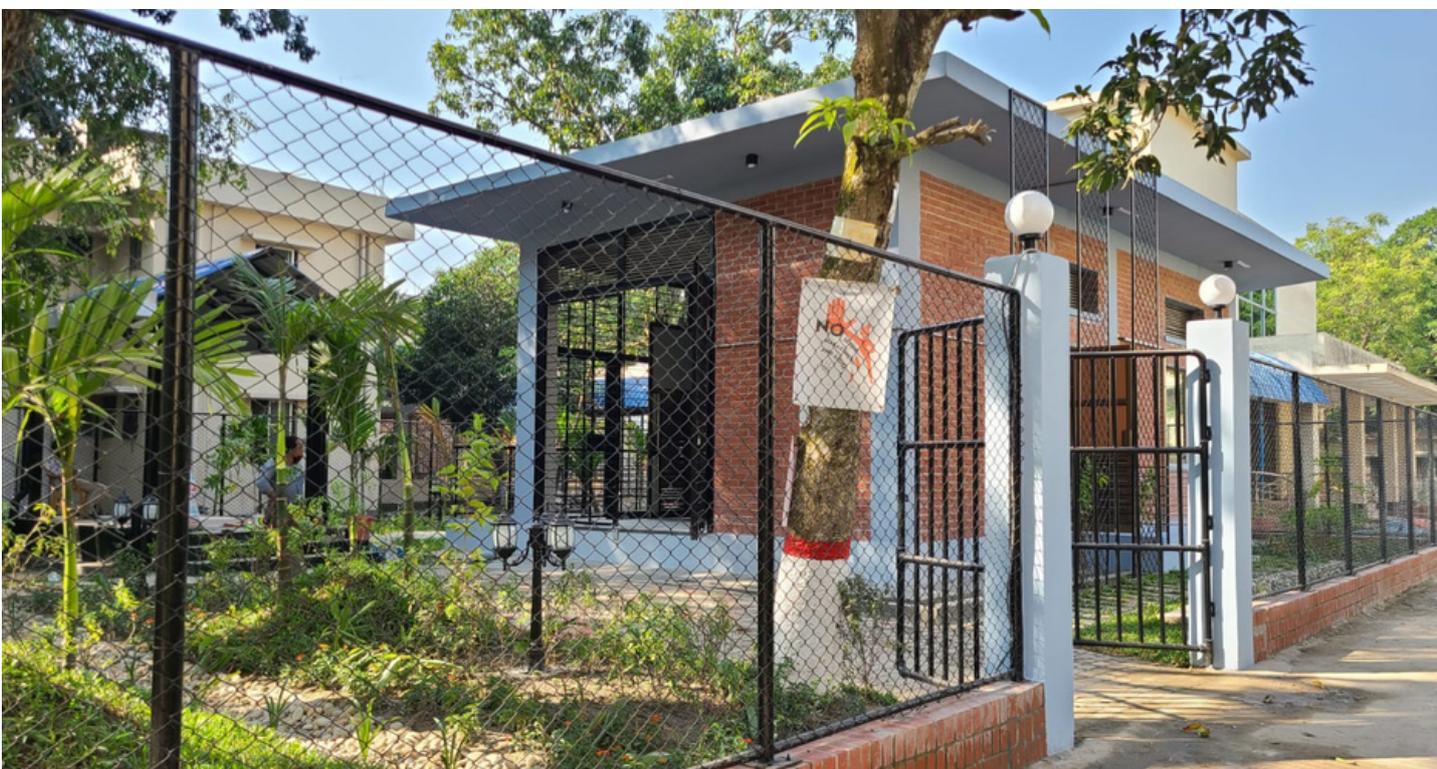


When COVID-19 struck Bangladesh, oxygen supplies dwindled, threatening lives. UNOPS, partnering with the government and Global Fund, intervened. The project procured and installed 25 (of 29 planned) Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) plants in hospitals across the country, ensuring uninterrupted medical oxygen supply.

The primary objective of this project is to provide the Directorate General of Health Services with equipment and infrastructure to improve treatment facilities. The availability of the key equipment will strengthen the ability of the Bangladesh health system to effectively treat COVID-19 cases.

The project scope is the Procurement of Equipment (PSA Plant and other related equipment) and infrastructure in 29 government hospitals across Bangladesh. Currently the project activities are moving well despite significant challenges imposed by different aspects.

UNOPS secured competitive prices, managed contracts expertly, constructed shelters for PSA plants and delivered vital equipment, including generators, cylinders, and masks. This not only saved lives but also boosted healthcare capacity and earned project partner satisfaction. By August 2024, all 29 plants will be operational, a testament to UNOPS' swift and effective response.





HEALTH AND GENDER SUPPORT PROJECT FOR COX'S BAZAR DISTRICT, BANGLADESH (HGSP)



The Health and Gender Support Project (HGSP) in Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh, funded by the World Bank and executed by the Ministry of Health and Family Affairs, aims to enhance Health, Nutrition, and Population (HNP) services and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) response for both host and displaced Rohingya populations. UNOPS is assisting in the Emergency Response Component, focusing on immediate health crisis interventions. With a project tenure initially until February 29, 2024, it's expected to extend till May 30, 2024, utilizing project savings for additional procurement.

UNOPS has provided approximately 7 million tablets of anti-tuberculosis medications, along with 115,000 diagnostic kits and assorted medical supplies, as well as six specialized pieces of equipment (X-ray and GenXpert machines) to the Cox's Bazar District throughout the year.

The initiative emphasizes procuring lab and medical equipment, TB medicines, and surgical consumables for Tuberculosis Control. The ultimate goal is to improve healthcare access and utilization, positively impacting the communities in Cox's Bazar.



ASIA REGION INVESTMENT FUND

ADVISORY SUPPORT TO ENHANCE THE ICT SYSTEM OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT (LGED) OF BANGLADESH

UNOPS and LGED have a longstanding history of collaboration across various functional areas. In January 2023, the two organizations entered into an MOU to extend their cooperation into broader areas. UNOPS support to develop a roadmap for LGED to attain institutional excellence in digitalization aligns with the MOU provisions. This initiative was supported through the UNOPS Asia Region Investment Fund.

To facilitate this collaboration, UNOPS engaged an ICT Advisor to conduct a comprehensive assessment of LGED's existing ICT system and prepare a roadmap for its further enhancement and improvement over the years ahead. In summary, LGED and UNOPS partnered to build a digital roadmap for LGED based on best practices.

This roadmap will guide LGED in modernizing its technology and services to achieve Bangladesh's vision of "Smart Bangladesh by 2041". The road map is designed to serve as a guiding framework for LGED as it endeavors to align itself with the government's vision of 'Smart Bangladesh by 2041'.

In a landmark collaboration, UNOPS and LGED successfully concluded a six-month-long effort to develop a comprehensive road map for LGED's institutional excellence in digitalization. The joint initiative reached its culmination with a dissemination session on December 13, 2023, at the LGED Auditorium, attended by over 200 top and middle management members of LGED.

NATIONAL SDG COMMUNICATION STRATEGY 2024-2030

In partnership with the SDG Affairs Unit of the Prime Minister's Office, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) is actively crafting the National SDG Communications Strategy (NSCS) for the 2024-2030 period. The government underscores strategic communication in SDG affairs, emphasizing dialogue characterized by both information dissemination and attentive listening.

The NSCS 2024-2030 serves as a comprehensive roadmap and actionable blueprint designed to inclusively engage diverse demographic segments, including marginalized communities, youth, students, rural, urban, and coastal residents, local governmental bodies, private sectors, media outlets, and civil society organizations.

Leveraging a 4C Action Model (Collaboration, Communication, Campaigns, and Coordination) alongside a 360-Degree Edutainment Campaign, the strategy will drive national and local outreach initiatives, prioritizing SDGs requiring immediate attention.

UNOPS has been assisting in enhancing SDG localization and information dissemination by aiding in the development of the SDG communication plan, encompassing budgetary requirements and actionable elements for implementation.



GREENOVATING UNOPS BANGLADESH OFFICE

The Greenovating UNOPS Bangladesh project successfully transformed an office space into a haven for both people and the planet. By strategically incorporating green elements and energy-efficient appliances, the project achieved its objectives.

Created captivating green areas like the UNOPS Green Terrace, Zen Backyard, and Green Gardens, offering employees refreshing spaces for work, breaks, and events.

The project solidified UNOPS Bangladesh's commitment to sustainability, attracting recognition from partners and visitors. The initiative directly addressed SDGs 3, 7, 12 and 13 through its focus on health, renewable energy, resource conservation, and climate-friendly practices.

Overall, the Greenovating UNOPS Bangladesh project serves as a model for organizations seeking to create sustainable and employee-centric workspaces that contribute to a healthier planet.



13 CLIMATE ACTION





USAID - RC SUPPORT FOR THE HUMANITARIAN COORDINATION

Throughout 2023, the UNOPS Bangladesh team played a crucial role in securing and managing USAID funding effectively.

This included navigating new procedures due to the recent agreement between UNOPS and USAID. Key achievements include: Ensuring financial transparency and facilitating project closure, Meticulously reviewed amendment details, secured approvals, and updated relevant systems for seamless integration into project activities.

Overall, the UNOPS Bangladesh team demonstrated strong project partnership capabilities and commitment to efficient and transparent project management.

Our Key Partners



Government of Bangladesh



The World Bank



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



The Global Fund to Fight AIDS,
Tuberculosis and Malaria



United Nations Residents
Coordinators Office

Work with Us

UNOPS supports the government of Bangladesh and other key development partners in achieving their goals and objectives in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Since 2003, UNOPS has supported several national projects in capacity development and infrastructure building with a focus on procurement, human resources management, finance, and project management.

Together with partners, we help build national capacities, improve the resilience of communities across the country and support the implementation of the SDGs.



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