

HealthBridge Final Report

Name of Project: Promoting Environment Friendly Livable Cities in Bangladesh

Name of Partner: Work for a Better Bangladesh Trust

April 2013 -March 2014

Background

WBB Trust has been working on issues of urban transport planning since 2004, and since 2006 directly on ecocities, with the financial and technical support of HealthBridge. The health of the Bangladeshi population is greatly affected by the state of its cities. The government is very focused on ensuring that the city is supportive of cars rather than on pedestrians. Evidence of this can be found when looking at both the state of the non-motorized transportation (NMT) environment and at the budgets allocated NMT. Public transportation options, including national rail travel is poorly coordinated and there is a serious lack of routes in Dhaka and in the country. Parks and public spaces are poorly managed and under constant threat of privatization. Water bodies are being polluted by industry and by human negligence. Car and truck drivers use high volume horns, which creates noise pollution and as a result people are losing their hearing.

Low-income countries, like Bangladesh, are facing important challenges as a result of increasing urbanization. The way our communities are built impacts non-communicable diseases (NCDs), injury, air pollution, climate change, our ability to be gainfully employed, and our ability to interact and build relationships with our neighbors. As Bangladesh tries to tackle these major problems, ensuring cities are livable, which creates supportive environments for healthy behaviors, is critically important.

While much is negative in the current situation, the potential for positive action is also significant. With the experience gained from its many years of successful work in tobacco control, WBB Trust knows how to address policy issues and promote positive change.

Vision:

In all cities in Bangladesh:

- Children can play in the street and walk to school safely
- Everyone can walk to a local park to visit with the neighbors and enjoy nature
- Everyone can walk to stores and services
- Everyone can cross the street easily and safely
- Cycling is common for recreation and for transportation

- When people need to leave their neighborhood, they can take public transit
- Everyone has access to clean drinking water
- Water is treated as a precious resource
- Lakes, rivers, parks and streets are free of pollution
- People hear children laughing not cars honking
- People breathe clean air
- People have access to healthy foods

Goals:

The overall goals of the project are:

- Decreased morbidity and mortality due to injury, chronic diseases and communicable diseases.
- Decreased emissions of air pollutants leading to poor air quality and climate change.

Executive Summary:

WBB has successfully achieved some of its key objectives during the April 2013-March 2014 project year. In this project, we decided on five key priority areas such as walking, rail, water, network development and park research. Throughout our work, we have achieved some key outcomes including: a commitment from Rail Minister to implement Dhaka Tongi 3rd and 4th rail line; information collected about railway workshops¹ and strengthened capacity of stakeholders for rail improvement; created demand to form NMT cell; a firm assigned by the government to make a detailed design that will implement the walkability pilot projects; a provision in the Water Act 2013 stating that citizens are the owners of the country’s water resources; and, an increase in the number of organizations working on livable cities issues, which is resulting in increased livable cities projects throughout the country. We were trying to achieve the following components under the project:

Table 1: Project Summary Table for April 2013-March 2014

Component		Status	Activities	Remarks
Walkability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government will form a Non-Motorized Transportation Cell. 	On going	Organized campaign to demand NMT cell in 11 cities in Bangladesh. Sent 40 memorandum letters to the Prime Minister through Deputy Commissioner/Thana	It is not possible to achieve NMT cell in one year of a project. Experience from the Rail Ministry campaign

¹ Bangladesh Railway has workshop for maintaining and repairing Rolling Stock and Locomotives. It is one of the pillars of Bangladesh Railway to run rail sector smoothly.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government will form a Non-Motorized Transportation Cell. 	On going	Nirbahi Officer. Distributed leaflets among citizens.	suggests that it can take five to 10 years to achieve such changes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy and enforcement for: 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safe crossings 	On going	Seminar, workshops, demonstrations, letter campaign, sent observation reports to relevant agencies, face-to-face meetings, networking, media, materials produce and distribution, sent pedestrian alert to relevant agencies etc	14 new zebra crossings in Dhaka. Observation report is very effective tool to convince concerned authorities.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eliminate obstructions 	On going	Seminar, workshops, demonstrations, letter campaign, sent observation report , face to face meetings, networking, media, materials produce and distribution, sent pedestrian alerts etc	it is basically enforcement issue. But also related to policy and executing agencies. Dhaka Metropolitan Police tried to stop car parking on footpath. Also put pillars on footpath to stop motorbike riding on footpath in front of Prime Minister's office.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Toilets 	On going	View exchange program, seminar, workshops and sent observation report	3 public toilets environment have been improved.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pedestrian Improvements (such as ensuring footpaths on all high traffic volume roads) 	On going	Seminar, workshops, demonstrations, sent observation report, sent pedestrian alerts etc	Some footpaths were widening and repairing nicely.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of ADB pilot projects 	On going	- Organized workshop with relevant government agencies,	Gov. appointed a firm to create a detailed design of

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visited project area with design team, - Discussed with ADB mission team and project director of BRT project (LGED part) - Provided document to the consultant who is assigned by the firm to make detail design 	the pilot project.
Rail	Dhaka-Tongi 3rd and 4th line	On going	Face to face meeting with Minister and Secretary of Ministry of Railway, Director General of Bangladesh Railway and other relevant persons.	Rail Minister committed to implementing this project very soon.
	Strengthening capacity of stakeholders to do advocacy for rail improvement	On going	View exchange meeting, Face to face meeting,	
	Better coordination and functionality	On going	View exchange meeting, Face to face meeting	
	Collect information about income and services of rail	Not to start yet	Visited railway workshop	Collecting information about railway workshop instead of income and services. Because railway workshop is one of the main pillar to run rail sector. For this reason we tried find out the constraints and potentialities of railway workshop to prepare recommendations. The Government has planned to expand rail line and adding more rolling stocks. But railway workshop is not

				strong enough to maintenance them now.
Water	• Water policy revised to ensure poor can access water	On going	Working with CSE and prominent lawyers.	
	• Water related policy and law implementation	On going	View exchange meeting, Observed Buriganga River and Hatirjheel area (water bodies), Sent findings & recommendations to relevant agencies, Networking, media, letter & face to face meeting etc	The Prime Minister gave statement to save Buriganga river unitedly and that is milestone for the movement of save water bodies.
	• Building Code Changes	Not started		
Network Development	• 25% of partners was actively involved in 3 LC issues	On going	- Workshops, seminar, demonstrations, face to face meeting, materials distribution, - Developed observation report on pedestrian environment and sent to relevant agencies etc	
NCD/LC Research	• Increased understanding of the park environment	On going	Research completed. Report writing underway.	
	Park law 2000 will be implemented and enforced to save park including: -Eliminate obstructions -Provide facilities	On going	View exchange meeting, Face to face meeting, letter campaign etc	Instantly got feedback from city authority to activated lights at Boishakhi playground because of the letter sent by WBB.
	Improve accessibility to park	Not to start yet		

Table 2: Network activities

Completed Activities (What did you do and	Reach - numbers (How many people	Reach – percentage (What percentage	Result/Immediate Outcome	Impact/Intermediate Out comes (is anyone better off	Variance (is this activity, result or
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<p>12 face to face meetings with network members each month</p>	<p># 150 NGOs (most of the existing members among them)</p>	<p>25% (estimate approximately 600 Organizations could do LC Work)</p>	<p>100 organizations are working on livable cities issues</p>	<p>100 organizations sent letter to government on LC issues and also distributed materials among citizens by some of them 16 organizations organized campaign on rail issue 11 organizations organized campaign on NMT cell issue 10 organizations were observing pedestrian environment by using the observation survey tool. 10 organizations involved in organizing a leaflet campaign in front of schools to call for “walk to school, don’t use car” on the event of World Car Free Day 2013.</p>	
<p>3 editions of newsletter on NCD, Rail and NMT cell issues are distributed for a total of 3000+2000+2500=7500 copies</p>	<p>1200 NGOs, 700 to govt. officers, 64 Libraries, 50 institutions, teacher, students, individuals</p>	<p>100% (broader group of NGOs – not just those could do LC work)</p>	<p>1200 NGOs have increased awareness of on-going activities related to LC.</p>		

3 editions of newsletter on NCD, Rail and NMT cell issues are distributed for a total of 3000+2000+2500=7500 copies	1200 NGOs, 700 to govt. officers, 64 Libraries, 50 institutions, teacher, students, individuals	100% (broader group of NGOs – not just those could do LC work)	1200 NGOs have increased awareness of on-going activities related to LC.		
Leaflet on urban issue and significantly mention walking and cycling issues there.	12 NGOs	2%		Network organizations demanded more materials so they can organize their own campaign.	
Leaflet on walking and car control issue	10 NGOs	2%	Increased awareness in community level		
Leaflet on NMT cell issue	11 NGOs	2%	Created demand in society for the government to form an NMT cell		
Leaflet on rail issue	12 NGOs	2%			
Leaflet and poster on	1 Vendor		Increased awareness		It is related to

Table 3: Advocacy and awareness related activities

Completed Activities (What did you do and how much of it did you do?)	Reach - numbers (How many people were directly reached?)	Reach – percentage (What percentage of the target audience does this represent?)	Result/ Immediate Outcome (What has changed as a result of this activity or combination of activities?)	Impact/ Intermediate Outcomes (Is anyone better off from having done these activities? How do you know?)	Variance (is this activity, result, or impact different from what you projected? If so, how?)
Improving Public					It is not our

Transportation system and car control					planned work but community expected to give voice on support to arise this issue from our side.
2 Discussion meeting -1 presentation -2 press release	40 representatives from NGO's, 20 journalists, 15 representatives from Universities, CSO's, Government offices and Institutions.	7% NGOs representatives 4% journalists	Increased supporters. Increased media attention on this issue.	Government has been added total 989 new buses and 530 CNG, 290 double decor, 50 articulated and 88 AC among them. Developed a good relationship with Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA). Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has begun charging fines to stop illegal parking. Policy makers and Government officials are more sensitized on this issue.	
1 Press conference -1 presentation -1 press release	12 NGOs 29 journalists	#2% NGOs #6% journalists	Increased knowledge among participants. Increased media's understanding about the implication of the traffic law.		
1 Workshop -7 presentations -1 press release Centre for science and environment (CSE) provided support to organize the workshop.	# 50 NGOs # 5 journalists # 15 government officials and professionals	#8% NGOs #1% journalists	Increased understanding of the participants to make environment friendly transportation system.		
10 Demonstrations	# 6 NGOs each event	1% NGO	Message was conveyed to		

<p>programs organized demanding “walk to school, don’t use car”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Distributed 500 copies of leaflet per program - 10 press releases 		representatives	guardians of the children		
<p>1 Demonstration program on the event of World Habitat Day 2013 to demand improving the public transport to discourage use of private transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Distributed 500 copies of leaflet - Press release 	# 11 NGOs	2%	Increased awareness among citizens by direct interaction with us as well as through the media. 7 newspapers published news on this issue.		
<p>1 Radio program demanding improved public bus system and car control for reduction congestion</p>	4000000 listeners	Estimated 3% of Bangladesh population	Increased awareness among general public about issues.		
<p>Sent 6 letters to relevant agency/authority demanding improved public transport system and car</p>	18 stakeholders per letter	100% (Policy makers, bureaucrats and CSOs representative who are relevant	Increased awareness among policy makers, government officials and CSOs		

control		in this sector)			
11 face to face meetings			<p>Increased participation of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) agreed to jointly organize workshop.</p> <p>Engineer Anisur Rahman, Project Director, CASE project, Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) agreed to give a presentation in our workshop on current initiative of Gov. for improving transportation system.</p>		
Pedestrian Facilities					
<p>2 Workshops meetings on Pedestrian environment</p> <p>-2 presentations</p> <p>-2 press releases</p>	<p>ADB: Minister of ministry of communication were present</p> <p>35 NGOs</p> <p>35 Government officials</p> <p>30 Journalist</p> <p>Pedestrian Environment</p>	<p>6% NGOs</p> <p>6% journalists</p>	<p>Increased understanding among participants about pilot project to improve pedestrian environment.</p> <p>Increased research skills of 12 NGOs to conduct the observation of the pedestrian environment study.</p>	<p>Gov. appointed a firm for detail design of the pilot project.</p> <p>City authority improved footpath (including ramp in car exit/entry point) in four places at Dhaka and improvements are continuing.</p>	

	observation: 12 Organizations			City authority provided zebra crossings in three areas of Dhaka city.	
1 training -1 presentation -1 press release	20 more participants from B-SCAN (online-based voluntary organization which is work for rights of disabled people.		Increased capacity of the participants to observe the pedestrian environment.	Traffic police have begun enforcing the zebra crossings by stopping vehicle before zebra crossing in some places.	
Organized campaign to demand to form NMT cell in 11 places -Distributed 1000 leaflet per program -Press releases -40 memorandum letters to the Prim Minister	# 5 NGOs in each event	1%	Created demand in the society to form NMT cell	Developed good relationship with ministers, police and others government officials. Debra and Maruf included in the list of ADB official team on BRT progress meeting (including pedestrian)	
4 Radio Program on Pedestrian issues including public toilet	16000000 listeners	Estimated 12% of Bangladesh population	Increased awareness among general public about issues.	3 public toilets were improved.	
7 letters send to the relevant agencies, which are working on transport issue directly and indirectly.	18 stakeholders per letter	100% (Policy makers, bureaucrats and CSOs representative who is relevant in this sector)	Increased awareness among policy makers and media personality and advisor of transport project.	Footpaths were widened and repairing nicely in Banani, Dhanmondi-27 and Agargaon areas.	
18 face to face meeting with Gov.,			Met 10 personalities of Government agency such as		

Non-Gov. and International organizations officials-			<p>ministries/departments, including: Ministry of Communication, Local Government Engineering Department, Gazipur City Corporation, Dhaka North City Corporation, Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority, ADB, Department of Environment and others agencies and agreed to organize an workshop on pedestrian issue.</p> <p>The Directorate General Health Services gave support to organize workshop on ensuring safe environment for pedestrians.</p>		
Sent pedestrian alert regularly (pedestrian death news by road accident)	6 government agencies		Relevant authorities are more sensitized about pedestrian/vehicle collisions. Increased knowledge about the way to prevent such collisions.		
Observed walking environment in 16	10 NGOs	#2%	Raised awareness among government officials about		

places and sent reports including letter with findings and recommendations to relevant agencies such as ministry of local government and rural development, ministry of communication, ministry of planning, ministry of finance, ministry of home etc.			the condition of local footpaths and road crossings.		
Rickshaw and Bicycle					
Gave information to ADB to develop a project on Bicycle and Pedi-cab services along BRT corridor			ADB plans to introduce this program in 2014 and will give WBB the chance to work on this issue.		Not in original proposal
2 letters sent on improving management for rickshaw and providing infrastructure for cycle	18 stakeholders per letter	100% (Policy makers, bureaucrats and CSOs)	Increased awareness among policy makers, government officials and CSOs	Rickshaws continue to run in Dhaka without threat. Also rickshaw allowed to run in front of Nilkhet (Before a year Dhaka Metropolitan Police ban	

				rickshaw on that road).	
Noise					
1 discussion meeting -1 press releases	14 NGOs 6 journalists	2% NGOs 1% journalists	Created awareness among general population to reduce noise pollution.		
Measured noise level in 6 places in Dhaka and sent the result to relevant agencies to take action to reduce sound pollution	6 government agencies	33%	DoE arranged mobile court to stop honking.		
1 Radio Program on Reduce Noise	400,000 listeners	Estimated 3% of Bangladesh population	Raised awareness among general public about issues.		
Rail					
1 view exchange meeting -1 presentation -1 paper -1 press release Suggested to improve railway workshop by giving sufficient budget, spars and recruiting new manpower	42 NGOs each event 25 journalists each event 15 Different stakeholders each event	7% NGOs each event 5% journalists each event	Increased knowledge among participants. Bangladesh railway informed us by letter they would organize a railway workshop that examines how to create an effective rail system.	Bangladesh railway started to create awareness to encourage residents to stop throwing stones at running trains. Strengthened relationship between labor and government officials	This is not planned work but in this moment situation is dangerous. Each month 30 to 35 incidents are happening with rail.
3 railway workshop visited			Increased understanding about railway workshop	Ministry of Railway committed to improving	

<p>-Three reports -Wrote a draft book (unpublished)</p>			<p>Increased understanding about railway workshop</p>	<p>railway workshop</p>	
<p>Organized 19 Demonstration programs to demand implement Dhaka-Tongi 3rd and 4th rail line soon and take united action to stop to throw stone to rail -Leaflet -19 press release -21 letters</p>	<p># 7 NGOs in each event</p>	<p>1%</p>	<p>Raised awareness among citizens by direct interaction and through media</p>	<p>Rail Minister committed to try to implementing the 3rd and 4th rail line project.</p>	
<p>8 letters sent to the relevant agencies/authorities such as ministry of rail, home and others on rail issues like such as to take initiative to save rail properties, improving rail workshop, Dhaka-Tongi 3rd and 4th rail line, land management and take initiative</p>	<p>14 stakeholders per letter</p>	<p>#100%</p>	<p>Raised awareness among policy makers, NGOs, and teachers on related issues.</p>		

against throwing stone to rail.					
35 face to face meeting with Rail Minister, Parliament Members, Secretary of Railway Ministry, Director General of Bangladesh Railway, Directors other officials of Bangladesh Railway, trade union leaders on rail issues. Sometime we met same person on different issues.	# 20		Raised awareness among stakeholders about issues.		
3 Radio Program on Railway development issues	12000000 listeners	Estimated 9% of Bangladesh population	Raised awareness among general public about issues.		
Published an article in Ittefaq	Ittefaq circulation= 150,000		Raised awareness among general public and policy makers about issues.		
Water					

<p>1 View exchange meeting with Directorate of Environment -1 presentation -1 press release Participants discussed ways to save water and ways to properly utilize water sources.</p>	<p>18 NGOs 6 journalists 20 Gov. officials</p>	<p>3% NGOs. 1% of journalists</p>	<p>Increased understanding among participants.</p>	<p>According to Water Act 2013 citizens are the owners of the country's water resources.</p> <p>DoE hold mobile court against pollutants and encroachers of the water bodies and take penalty from them who are pollutants.</p>	
<p>1 View exchange meeting on "Call for Action to Implement Laws and Policies to Protect Water Sources" organized by Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA), Poribesh Bachao Andolon and WBB -Presentation -Press release</p>	<p>22 NGOs 7 journalists each event 11 Different stakeholders each event</p>	<p>3% NGOs 1% journalists</p>	<p>Increased understanding among participants</p>	<p>The Prime Minister gave a statement to save Buriganga river and this is milestone for the movement to save water bodies.</p>	
<p>2 sites visited that one is Hatirjheel lake and another one is Buriganga river (Journalists were present there). Also</p>	<p>#12 (Policy makers and government officials)</p>	<p>66%</p>	<p>Newspapers published news on the level of pollution of Buriganga river and The High Court gave direction to take action on the basis of that news.</p>		

prepared report and sent to relevant agencies.					
3 letters sent to relevant agencies	16 stakeholders per letter	100% (Policy makers, bureaucrats and CSOs representative who is relevant in this sector)	Raised awareness among policy makers and influential personality		
-1 Radio Program	4,000,000 listeners	Estimated 5% of Bangladesh population	Raised awareness among general public about issues.		
6 face to face meeting with director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority and Directors of Department of Environment.	# 3	18%	Increased participation among staff of DoE to save water bodies.		
Urban Structure (Park, Open Space)					
Research (Data collected from field and started to analyze data)				We have very strong movement/group to save playground in Dhaka	Report being prepared but has been delayed.
1 view exchange meeting on	19 NGOs 5 journalists each event	3% NGOs 1% journalists	Increased understanding among participants about	City authority activated lights in Boishakhi	

“Importance of save and develop park and playground in Dhaka” joint organized by Bangladesh Institute of Planners (B.I.P) and WBB Trust. -Power point presentation -Press release	12 Different stakeholders each event	3% NGOs 1% journalists	park and playground issues	playground	
1 Demonstration program to save Dhanmondi-8 playground	# 50 NGOs	# 8%	Community people engaging to save the playground		
8 letters sent to relevant agencies such as Deputy Commissioner office, City Corporation, LGED, Ministry of Sports etc.	12 stakeholders per letter	100% (Policy makers, bureaucrats and CSO’s representatives	Raised awareness among policy makers and influential personality		
-1 Radio Program	4000,000 listeners	Estimated 3% of Bangladesh population	Raised awareness among general public about issues.		
- Others					
1 view exchange meeting collaboration with	36 NGOs 11 journalists 16 Gov. officials	6% NGOs 2% journalists	Department of Environment officials willing to listen from us		

DoE on the event of World Environment Day 2013			more than before		
4 proposals developed on various issues such as pedestrian, water, noise pollution and NCD.			Developed skills of LC team on how to write and format proposals		Only one organization responds that our theme didn't match with them.
Supported to Director General of Health (DG Health) to prepare presentation focusing on walking issue to present in workshop to prepare action plan for road safety			Pedestrian got priority in road safety action plan		
Commented on National plan for The Decade of Action for Road Safety Bangladesh 2011-2020 from WBB Trust			They adopted some of our suggestions		
Attended to two live TV talk shows, 11 TV reports and gave speech on LC issues from WBB			Developed skill to speak publicly through medias Raised awareness among general public about issues	Increased awareness of WBB's staff expertise	

1 Demonstration program on “Call for action to reduce air pollution immediate” organized by WBB, Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA) and others	17 NGOs 25 journalists	3% NGOs 5% journalists	Raised awareness among general public about issues.		
-2 Radio Programs on Dhaka’s environment and “How we can make our city livable”	8000,000 listeners	Estimated 6% of Bangladesh population	Raised awareness among general public about issues.		

Professional Development:

Increased capacity of the team members of the livable cities program in communication, research and proposal writing.

Effectiveness

Mentioned an effective measure to achieve goal by Promoting Livable Cities Program in Bangladesh through advocacy, research and awareness campaigns in this part.

Pedestrian: The pedestrian issue has become a priority issue in both government and media levels. City authorities have started to build new footpaths and have begun repairing old footpaths. They have also begun drawing zebra crossing in some areas. However, we have found that there is still a lack of improvement of quality pedestrian environments in the city and that the government’s efforts are not enough at this time. WBB Trust continues to pressure the relevant agencies to make and maintain the footpaths properly. We are also working to ensure at-grade crossings in Dhaka. WBBT has also studied the pedestrian environment and sent report to government authority. In August 2013, WBBT organized orientation training for other organizations to study the pedestrian environment from different corners of the city. Twelve organizations learned the methods for observing, 10 organizations observed from 10 spots, and 10 reports were completed. These organizations have indicated they are willing to continue studying the pedestrian environment and we believe this will increase our reach with this program.

Lessons Learned

In order to achieve positive changes, it would be better to involve others. For better results we need to develop their capacity on the issues that we are looking for changes. In addition, we have learned that persistence is necessary and remaining focused on our objectives helps us achieve results. We have been working on the pedestrian project for many years and as a result of our 2011 study, we have seen many positive changes. We continue to remain focused on this issue, which increases the likelihood that we will see a better an environment for pedestrians.

Sustainability

Day by day stakeholders' capacity increases for rail improvement, which will ultimately allow us to transition this issue to other organizations and free up our time to spend on other topics.

Recommendations

Our program is functioning at a high capacity and we are meeting our objectives. We will continue to work on existing issues.

List and copies of Materials**Leaflet;**

Leaflet on urban (Adorsho Nogor) issue and significantly mention walking and cycling issues.

Leaflet on NMT issue

Leaflet on rail issue

Leaflet on walking and car control issue