



Uttaran

Grant Making Policy

Community Mobilization

Poverty Eradication

Environmental Justice

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Pretext


Uttaran does believe in working together to have synergy and shared strength. For this grant making is the most important thing. Since 1986, Uttaran from its experiences of working in the southwest coastal region of Bangladesh; located from greater Khulna district to lower part of greater Jessore district apprehends that joining hands with local community-based organizations, likeminded NGOs, civil society platforms broaden the coverage and create accentuated opportunity to achieve the intended mission of alleviating poverty. Uttaran had a long experience of working with and for the disadvantaged and oppressed people and on wetland issues and concerns. However, when Uttaran finds that many NGOs in this southwest part of the country do not have any regional level platform to confront regional problems such as waterlogging, women trafficking, caste (religio-ethnic minority), environment and ecology, shrimp farming, *khasland* (public land) issue, river siltation and arsenic issues and concerns collectively. Moreover, these local level people-oriented organizations have a long felt need to consolidate relations; develop organizational/institutional capacity, exchange ideas, views and information; undertake collective effort to confront regional problems and fund constraints; establish a secular democratic society. For the purpose of working collectively to operate various projects and to collect fund Uttaran outlines a **Grant Making Policy** which can be referred as organizational framework to embark on grants. In addition, this **Policy** has been followed when Uttaran intends to form collaborative framework of funds for a specific project or programmatic intervention to initiate innovative programs or to upscale, mainstream, or sustain earned learning.

Rationale

The rationale for formulating the **Grants Making Policy** to for Uttaran and Southwest regional Development Organizations on the following capital grounds, which are among others:

1. Initially this policy is for the organizations working in the rural areas of the coastal region of Bangladesh. And, if not, in principal, contradictory will be followed or extended for even national level Partnership based Network. A platform of the like minded organizations could provide its member organizations a formal institutional forum to exchange ideas and experiences among themselves to their mutual enrichment. It could also help them innovate, and adapt good development intervention models and experiment.
2. There are remarkable similarity of many NGOs in respect of their vision, mission and strategies. Even they exclusively address a common kind of audience of programme participants comprising of landless, land poor marginal farmers, widow, divorced, abandoned, disabled, outcaste, and other resource poor and disadvantaged sections of the rural population.
3. Good things of a society are retained by its value system. Every NGO works for a set of good values. All the values upheld by the different NGOs comprised most of the good values of the society. Interaction among the NGOs with sharpens their value system which has a direct linkage on the values of the society.
4. The NGOs are aware and confronting of the regional problems such as waterlogging, women trafficking, caste (religio-ethnic minority), environment and ecology, shrimp farming, *khasland* (public land) issue, river siltation and arsenic issues and concerns.


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5. The confidence gained through the success of the recent struggle on *khasland* in Satkhira has heightened the moral of the landless people. This spirit should be maintained otherwise the poor people will be heavily suppressed by the landlords and reactionaries. People's organizational strength developed by the NGOs can keep it up.
6. The leadership of the poor need to be developed to keep up the social change process, development initiatives and to save bio-diversity. Only capable and skilled local NGOs can play effective role in it. A network could help to keep up this spirit.
7. The small NGOs spend smaller resource in implementing their program than the bigger ones. Donors are shifting their priority as a result small NGOs are suffering from shortage of fund. A network could help to mobilize both external and local resources.
8. The conflicts among the small NGOs are very high. It is due to non-existence of a common platform. A network could provide them a common platform to work together to develop interrelationship and to avoid conflicts and misunderstanding.
9. Many NGOs work for bringing basic social changes in the community. They sensitize people against all injustice and exploitation. A network can enable them to uphold social justice process in the community.
10. Many NGOs are not quite aware about the organizational/institutional (OD/ID) development issues and concerns. It would be relatively more pragmatic and cost effective to develop a common proposition on OD/ID intervention for all, rather than each and every individual organization.
11. A network of the like minded micro level NGOs would mean emergence of a broad based organization, with enhanced institutional capacities, enabling it to address regional and national issues strategically on a larger scale across the entire southwest coastal region.
12. Solidarity of the member organizations means solidarity of the rural poor of the entire region which should play a crucial role of a strong countervailing force in asserting their rights and protecting their gains and interests against the ruling rural power and various vested interests. This should help the rural poor stand up on own feet and take charge of their own development.
13. A network is envisaged to emerge as a compact interdependence of the member organizations. It would enable its member organizations to pull their resources together and thereby reinforcing their individual as well as integrated institutional capacity to combat rural poverty and underdevelopment in a more concerted way. It would provide ample scope for its member organizations to complement and supplement each other to their mutual benefits in better understanding and implementation of their program activities.
14. The small NGOs function with minimum establishment and overhead expenditures as they emerge from the same locality and work with voluntary spirit. Their cost of operation is low. A network could help them to uphold their voluntary spirit.
15. It would be more relatively easier and more cost effective to monitor and manage a network of like minded organizations as a whole, rather than a number of individual organizations on the part of the prospective funding organizations from a financial management point of view. Moreover, collective accountability is supposed to minimize wastage or abuse of resources, and ensure better transparency in administration of things.
16. Convergence of like minded NGOs is likely to encourage many similar others in the local areas and elsewhere to undertake similar collective endeavors and thereby set a process of multiplier effects in motion.


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17. Background

- 17.1. Although a National Chapter of Uttaran, unlike most other international NGOs, UTTARAN is not funded by the Berlin-based Uttaran Secretariat except for small specific research and/or other collaborative initiatives and from time to time conference participation;
- 17.2. UTTARAN has a Trust Fund, which is too small to support its operation;
- 17.3. UTTARAN does not operate any income-generating activity, except for small amounts earned from sale of publications, and bank interest which is also rolled into the relevant project fund;
- 17.4. For fundraising as for any other purpose, UTTARAN must not risk jeopardizing its reputation for independence, neutrality, honesty, openness and integrity; and
- 17.5. Its reputation will be compromised if UTTARAN received funding from sources that were perceived to be pursuing activities inconsistent with UTTARAN's mission.

18. Funding Policy

18.1. It is UTTARAN's policy to accept funds as voluntary contributions, whether monetary or in kind, from public, private, institutional, individual, foundations, national or international and other sources in the following manner:

1. Direct core funding as endowment or other unrestricted forms;
2. Project funding or restricted funds including core support;
3. Project funding without core support but including overhead support;
4. Project funding without core support and without overhead support;
5. Crowd-sourcing through conventional and online means; and
6. Other means approved by the Board.

18.2. UTTARAN will accept funds from the above sources and in the above manner provided that acceptance does not:

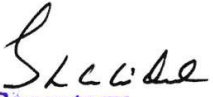
1. impair UTTARAN's independence to pursue its mission; and
2. endanger its integrity and reputation.

19. Guidelines

In raising funds UTTARAN will follow the above policy and comply with the following:

1. Funds to enable UTTARAN's work should be sought from as wide range of sources as possible;
2. Care should be taken to ensure that no funding contribution results in undue influence over UTTARAN's work, stance or policies;
3. Subject to maintaining UTTARAN's independence and reputation, UTTARAN may accept funds from all kinds of sources mentioned above provided that such funding does not endanger UTTARAN's reputation, credibility, independence and neutrality;
4. UTTARAN should list all donations over Taka 10,000 by source and publicly disclose through annual audited statements of accounts in UTTARAN's website and Annual Report and to the NGOAB, or any other relevant authority;


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5. If there is a risk that receiving funds from a particular source would impair UTTARAN's independence or reputation, then funds from that source must not be accepted by UTTARAN;
6. Any donation to UTTARAN must be able to stand up to public scrutiny. UTTARAN's independence requires that a donor may be subject to the same criticism or scrutiny by UTTARAN as any other organisation or individual in a comparable situation. If a donor to UTTARAN is accused of having been involved in corruption or any other form of irregularity they can expect no protection or favour from UTTARAN;
7. UTTARAN can receive funds from corporations and other donors from the private sector. This does not imply any endorsement of a donating company's policies, performances or records;
8. UTTARAN can accept donations from a corporation or private company and individual provided that the donor affirms its commitment to integrity consistent with Code of Ethics of UTTARAN before any donation from that entity is accepted;
9. UTTARAN shall not accept donation from a company that is found to have engaged in corruption. UTTARAN shall accept private donations with the understanding that they are committed to ensure an environment in their respective entities which practices zero tolerance to corruption and bribery;
10. It is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees, management and staff of UTTARAN to ensure that UTTARAN's independence and reputation are not jeopardized in the process of fundraising; and
11. If anyone involved with, or aware of UTTARAN, is concerned that there is a threat to UTTARAN's independence or reputation from donations already received, or about to be received, the person(s) should be welcome to draw this to the attention of the Executive Director who will act immediately to take the appropriate action including separation of relationship with the relevant donor.

20. Adoption and amendment

This policy was adopted at the 2025 meeting of the Governing Board of UTTARAN. Unless warranted more frequently for any specific reason, this policy will be reviewed usually once in every three years.


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