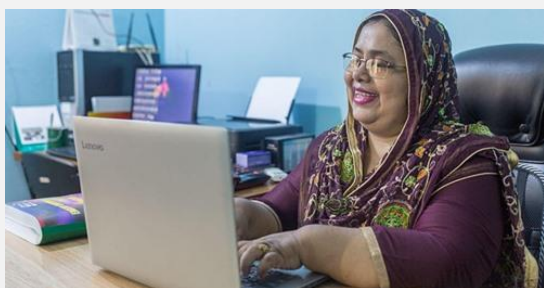


Launch of the I2i Career Advisor



The Innovation to Inclusion (i2i) programme - funded by the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and managed by a consortium led by pan disability charity Leonard Cheshire, the Bangladesh Business and Disability Network (BBDN) and the Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID) launched the i2i Career Advisor on 17th December, 2020.

i2i Career Advisor is an online space designed to support the employment journeys of people with disabilities in Bangladesh, helping them get the best career advice, access high quality training and be matched with jobs. It is a new, accessible and inclusive digital platform, opening up career services and jobs for people with disabilities. It provides information in Bangla and English and a simple registration and assessment process. i2i Career Advisor links jobseekers with bdjobs.com, the career platform used most by Bangladeshi employers, giving easy access to job opportunities across the country. Employers can tap into a new talent pool through i2i Career Advisor and BDjobs.com.

i2i Career Advisor informs, inspires and empowers people with disabilities, helping them dream big, set ambitious goals and truly take ownership of their careers. We want jobseekers and employees with disabilities to forge successful, rewarding careers. Please go to this link to access the i2i Career Advisor:

<https://www.i2i.net.bd/home>

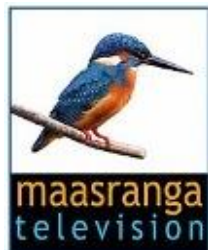
BBDN Won the Zero Project Award



The Zero Project, headquartered in Vienna, Austria, announced BBDN as one of their award winners in the category of Innovative Practices in Employment from the Business Sector, for the year 2021. The awardees were announced on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, 3rd December, 2020.

From 475 nominations across 47 countries, 178 nominations made it through to the shortlist and 66 received the prestigious awards on Employment. The approach of the Zero Project is to research and share Innovative Practice and Policies worldwide, by engaging with a worldwide cross-sectoral network of innovators, decision-makers and opinion leaders on the issue of disability inclusion. More than 5,000 experts, with and without disabilities, in over 150 countries, have been actively contributing to the Zero Project in the past years. Its mission is working for a world with zero barriers.

BBDN is humbled and encouraged by this honour and truly excited about some new initiatives being undertaken in an effort to carry forward the work that has been recognized. BBDN would like to express its sincere gratitude to the Zero Project, all valued BBDN Members, partners and well-wishers. Without the strong support and commitment of all stakeholders, it would not have been possible to win this award for facilitating employment opportunities for people with disabilities.



With the support of UKAid, Leonard Cheshire and the i2i (innovation to inclusion) project, a 3-episode TV series was aired on Maasranga television from 7th to 9th December at 11:00PM BST that addressed the topic of education & skills for people with disabilities, employment opportunities for people with disabilities and I2i Career Advisor. Speakers from our employers, partners and OPDs participated in the show and enhanced its significance.



Radio Show on Building an Inclusive Workforce



Radio Shadhin in association with BBDN broadcasted three episodes on Building an Inclusive Workforce, on 3rd, 10th and 17th December, 2020 at 09:00 PM BST on Radio Shadhin, 92.4 FM. The topic of the shows was “Building an Inclusive Workforce”, where many speakers from OPDs, NGOs and employers shared their experiences on disability inclusion in the workplace.

This initiative was supported by UKAid, Leonard Cheshire and the i2i (innovation to inclusion) project.

All the shows can be viewed on [BBDN Youtube Channel](#).



BBDN is working as an implementation partner of the Skills 21 project under International Labour Organization (ILO). The project aims to increase productivity and better employment opportunities for youth through institutionalizing an environmentally conscious, inclusive, demand-driven, and interlinked education and skills development system responding to the needs of the labour market.

BBDN has conducted a 3 days long training of trainers on Disability Inclusion in TVET Institutes, from 23rd to 25th November, 2020. Nine TVET institutions actively participated in the training. These TVET institutes as well as many OPDs also participated in a role orientation workshop by BBDN on 29th November, 2020.

BBDN is also working towards signing memorandum of agreements among the TVET institutions and OPDs in addition to preparing action plans for every TVET institutions.

Success Stories

Story of Mustakim



Bkash, the largest mobile financial services company in Bangladesh, has been actively engaged by BBDN for the innovation to inclusion (i2i) program led by Leonard Cheshire. Bkash offered a few vacancies in the call centre agent post for trained candidates. CSID, who is a BBDN Resource Member and i2i partner, identified suitable candidates with disabilities and arranged call centre training through My Outsourcing, a business process outsourcing company.

Mustakimur Rahman, who is from Chattogram and has completed graduation in Business Administration from Govt. Commerce College of Chattogram, went through the 3-day training and successfully got the job at Bkash. After facing much discrimination throughout his life, whether with regards to participating in extra-curricular activities at school, being rejected at job interviews despite having the necessary qualifications or being offered a lower salary than a non-disabled person for the same job because of a congenital disability in one hand, Mustakim is now happy with his career and aims at greater achievement in the future.



Mohammad Mustakimur Rahman,
Call Center Agent, Bkash





"To me, internship is the first step to get a real-life job experience and the sense of economic independence"
-Nayem Molla

Nayem Molla, Intern, Unilever Leadership Internship Programme (ULIP)

Unilever has been actively engaged by BBDN for both the Inclusion Works (IW) and i2i program. Part of the engagement involves the Unilever Leadership Internship Program ([ULIP](#)), which is a three-month internship program, where screened applicants are given an opportunity to work and lead live business projects at Unilever Bangladesh Limited. Unilever ran a training and screening session with potential interns with disabilities. One of the interns who finally got the prestigious internship after a five-stage selection process is Nayem Molla, who was assisted by the [IW program](#) led by Sightsavers and ADD International.

Nayem has always been bright and excelled in his academics. After graduating from school and college with remarkable grades, he graduated from Dhaka University. The lack of accessibility on the university premises and hostel posed a barrier due to his congenital physical disability, which motivated Nayem to begin advocacy efforts to ensure disability inclusiveness. Nayem shared that students with disabilities often aim and prepare themselves for development sector or government jobs as they perceive the corporate sector to be less receptive to hiring persons with disabilities. Through his experience at Unilever, he now sees that the situation may be improving for the better.



Advisors: Murteza Khan, CEO, BBDN;
Aziza Ahmed, Head of Operations, BBDN;
Editors: Mahfuza Aktar, Programme Officer, BBDN;
Rubaiya Sultana, Programme Officer, BBDN