

# Bangladesh

A Glimpse into the Food Security Sector and Social Enterprise -  
Mapping Supporting Ecosystems by Society Works and  
BetterStories Limited

18th October 2016



# Contents of this presentation

## Background

The Background will briefly explain Bangladesh, The methodology we used.

## Analysis

This will be the section where we explain the in field situation, analyse the survey results and the Focus Group Discussion.

## Recommendations

This section we briefly talk about what we like to recommend from the learning.



# Background



Bangladesh



8th Largest Population - 160 Million People  
GDP - 195 Billion  
Poverty Rate - 31.5 %

Source: The World Bank



# Methodology

## Pre-Plan

Timeline - 5 Weeks

Develop connections with the local Dutch Embassy

Use public information as the base of our research

Collect 50 Surveys, short list the best 30

1 Focus Group Discussion

## Survey

Collect Secondary Data using desk research

Create an online tool to collect the survey

Use the ushahidi tool to map the SEs in the country

## Focus Group Discussion

Host a Focus Group Discussion with individuals that filled out the survey, contacts that the local embassy thinks are relevant and organizations that are supporting or working with SEs in Bangladesh



# Analysis



*“There is No Legal  
Recognition for Social  
Enterprises in  
Bangladesh”*

One of the Biggest Concerns we  
have received after analyzing the  
survey and FGD

Let's dig deeper





# Survey

## Learnings

1. Survey was initially planned to be used but later changed to google forms for better usability
2. Secondary data either old redundant or in appropriate
3. People did not want to fill out the survey themselves
4. Embassy contacts provided minimal information on SEs, meaning they also don't have information on SEs
5. Phone Surveys had more conversions
6. No legal recognition for SEs in Bangladesh



# Survey

Results relevant to research

1. 19 Surveys filled out
2. 13 Male, 6 Female
3. 63% Used own capital to start their business
4. 52% are registered under partnership
5. 36% make profit/surplus
6. 42% have said that they have received help from support organizations (BRAC, Farmers Network etc)



# Focus Group Discussion

An Overview



# Focus Group Discussion

An Overview

Participants info:

2 Phone Surveyors

2 from Care Bangladesh

2 Organizations that have filled out our survey and fall into our criteria of SE

1 Facilitator - Muhaimin Khan



# Focus Group Discussion

## Main Questions Asked

1. What kind of opportunities do you see in the Food Security Sector?
2. What kind of challenges do you see in the Food Security Sector?
3. Do you think there are opportunities for Social Enterprise in this sector?
4. What kind of support systems do you think are important to —create sustainable Social Enterprises in this industry?



# Findings

We are going to look at what kind of findings we found after analysing the Survey and FGD



# Main Challenges

1. Concept of SE is very new to Bangladesh
2. Not being able to be recognized by the Government as a Social Enterprise
3. There is no database or approved authority where we can get a clear database to find the SEs of the country.
4. No incentive for them to be a SE as they are no benefits available.
5. Support organizations for the SEs are mainly supporting them with very little Finance or providing them with products, very minimal business advice.
6. Skill Gap - In this developing and fast moving world there is a major skill.
7. Very low barrier to industry which can create problems for other enterprises.



# Main Opportunities

1. Growing Market
2. High Export Opportunity
3. Low barriers to entry.
4. The growing population who are not educated can easily be provided with employment.





# Recommendation

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# Overall Market

1. Majority of the organizations want legal recognition of being an SE.
2. There should be a authority or a one stop shop to equip entrepreneurs who want to be in the Social Enterprise domain.
3. Support from Financial institutions who can provide them with working capital or investment who specifically would like to work with this sector.
4. A reliable database of SEs or potential SEs. need to be created. For example Contacts from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bangladesh provided us with minimal information.
5. The concept of SE is very new to the country so a perspective or knowledge base of the government needs to be updated.



# Enterprises

1. There should be a local accelerator/incubator/information center that can disburse knowledge for the existing entrepreneurs or potential entrepreneurs.
2. Networking opportunity should be created for the SEs through events or conferences.
3. Training for the people in regions outside of main cities for entrepreneurs to have access to skilled manpower.
4. A revolving fund or a access to easy grant must be created to keep up the motivation of the entrepreneurs.



# In Conclusion



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Bangladesh has a lot of opportunity in the Social Enterprise sector of Food Security, but as the industry is new and the lack of knowledge from the policy side and no recognition from the government is creating a major barrier for SEs to sustain, if that can be resolved the ecosystem will adapt.

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**Thank you**

**Any Questions**

