



# NOREC EXCHANGE PROJECTS IN BANGLADESH

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NOR $\rightarrow$ EC NORWEGIAN AGENCY FOR  
EXCHANGE COOPERATION



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All the images portrayed are real people working in a Norec project and their colleagues from all over the world. Consent has been granted to Norec to use these images to visualise our exchange projects and their effect.

For more information regarding specific photographs or any other content in this pamphlet, contact [norec@norec.no](mailto:norec@norec.no)

# About Norec

The Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (Norec) is Norway's only competence centre for international exchange. As an executive body under the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we are a key part of Norway's integrated approach to achieving the UN's sustainable development goals.

## Grant Management

Norec's uniqueness lies in supporting work exchanges that provide global learning opportunities for staff and organisations. With a grant for a Norec exchange project, workplaces send employees and volunteers on exchange to another country.

As of 2024, Norec also administers the grant Democracy Through Partnerships, which supports Norwegian political parties and their youth wings in their work to promote democracy globally.

## The UN and World Bank

Norec coordinates recruitment of Norwegian citizens to positions funded by the Norwegian government at the UN and the World Bank. This includes positions as Junior Professional Officers and United Nations Volunteers, as well as other secondments. We are currently funding around 40 Norwegian citizens working for various UN agencies, the World Bank and the Asian Bank on all continents. Norec conducts pre-deployment trainings and follows up the secondees throughout their contracts, with an overall goal of increasing the number of Norwegian citizens in international organisations.

## Training and Learning

Norec has an interdisciplinary team of trainers. They facilitate learning for staff and partnerships that work internationally. Yearly, Norec arranges between 35-40 courses with over a thousand participants. Norec's courses are interactive and inclusive in order to accommodate people from diverse and multicultural backgrounds.

## Building Knowledge

In addition, Norec conducts action-based research to expand and build knowledge in the field of international work exchanges. Multi-method data collections are regularly carried out to inform and improve our trainings and programmes.

As a centre of competence, we strive to build and expand knowledge on how to conduct successful work exchanges – and how to build strong global partnerships.

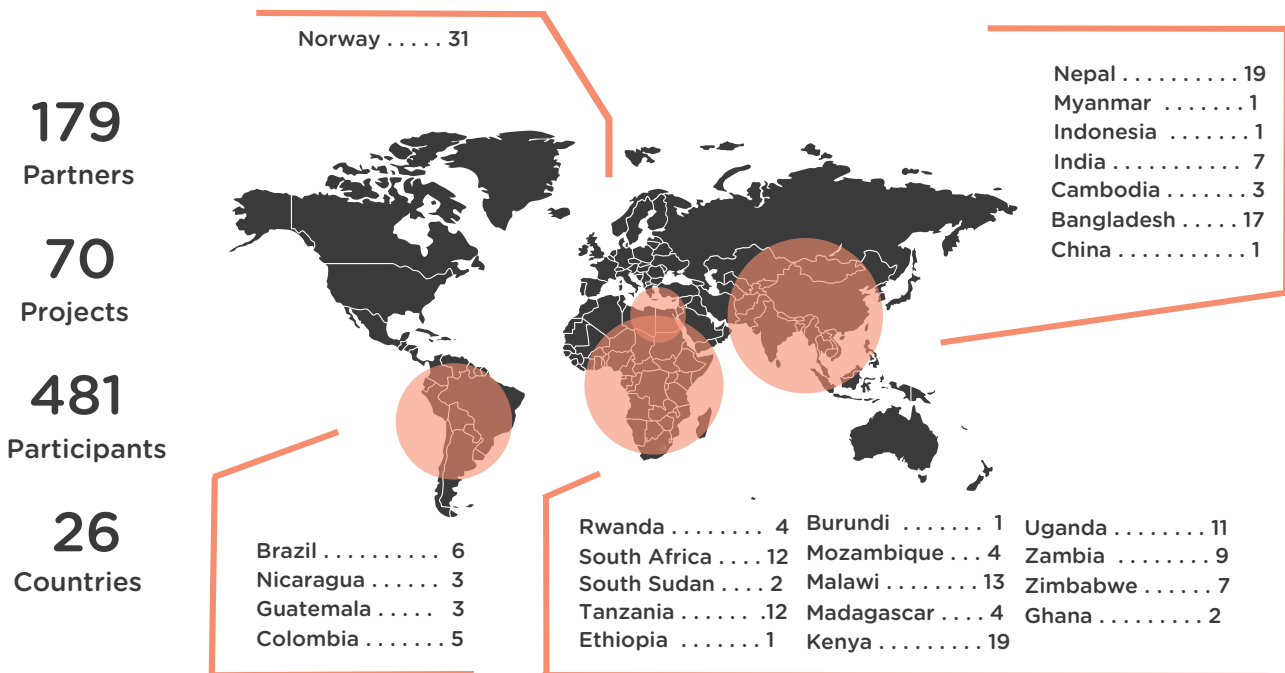
# Norec exchange projects

Yearly, over 175 organisations send their staff to work abroad to learn from partners in other countries, creating new or stronger partnerships through practical experience in different contexts and specialisations.

Norec is founded on the principle that collaboration is essential for addressing global challenges. Whether the partnerships are formed with like-minded or different organisations, they strengthen international alliances and work to reach the UN's sustainable development goals.

The majority of the staff that travel abroad in Norec supported projects, gain valuable work experience. Learning and skill transfer gives exchanged project staff professional growth, which upon their return, contributes to their organisations' efficiency and innovation. Over time, the skills and learning are transferred between those that have been on an exchange, the new staff received on job-exchange and the institutions' staff as a whole. This process also promotes organisational and community advancement.

Norec emphasizes the importance of bridging power imbalances and fostering international relationships as essential strategies for solving global issues. It fosters a sense of unity and shared purpose among diverse groups, laying the groundwork for long-term cooperation and mutual benefits. Through a Norec exchange project, organisations gain the expertise needed to achieve their objectives and push for impactful changes, showcasing Norec's dedication to cross-cultural cooperation in global problem-solving.



## Former Norec exchanged staff Jeromie and her story

Jeromie Akinyi Obwar grew up in an informal settlement in Kisumu, Kenya. She says this about her work exchange to Norway: “That is when I had my self-identity for the first time. I knew who I was. I knew the potentials that I had.”

Upon returning, she volunteered to inform young people about sexual health rights: “We realised that there was something going wrong in our community. The community members could not reach the higher people. We became the ladder for them to use.”

Jeromie was selected into the Health Management Committee: “that to me is so big. I can meet with those people. I can now influence change directly.”



## Partner Youth Alive! Kenya (YAK) and achievements

Staff from Youth Alive! Kenya learnt how to conduct action research while on exchange with Youth Empowerment Transformation Trust in Zimbabwe. YAK applied this method to map the situation for youth in Kenya. A report was compiled, which highlights the gaps in current policies as well as youths’ views of what should to be done differently. YAK used the findings to draw attention to the need for change in the electoral process to bring young people out of voter apathy and into politics. The government used key findings from the report to inform governmental youth-focused outreach programmes.

NOREC TRAINING IN NEPAL 2023  
CREDIT: MAIKEN SOLBAKKEN, NOREC



# The Norec Network — a resource bank

Since we started in 1963, Norec has supported the exchange of more than 13 000 staff and volunteers between different organisations. These individuals are a resource we want to continue to support. Therefore, we launched the Norec Network in 2023.

We enable the members of Norec Network to share knowledge and expertise, expand their professional network and join physical and digital network activities, and this way, we help keep their engagement going even after their exchange period has ended.

This network works as a resource bank for Norec, where we can gather advice and input from the members. They have helped with facilitation, logistics and interpretation for trainings we have conducted in their home countries.

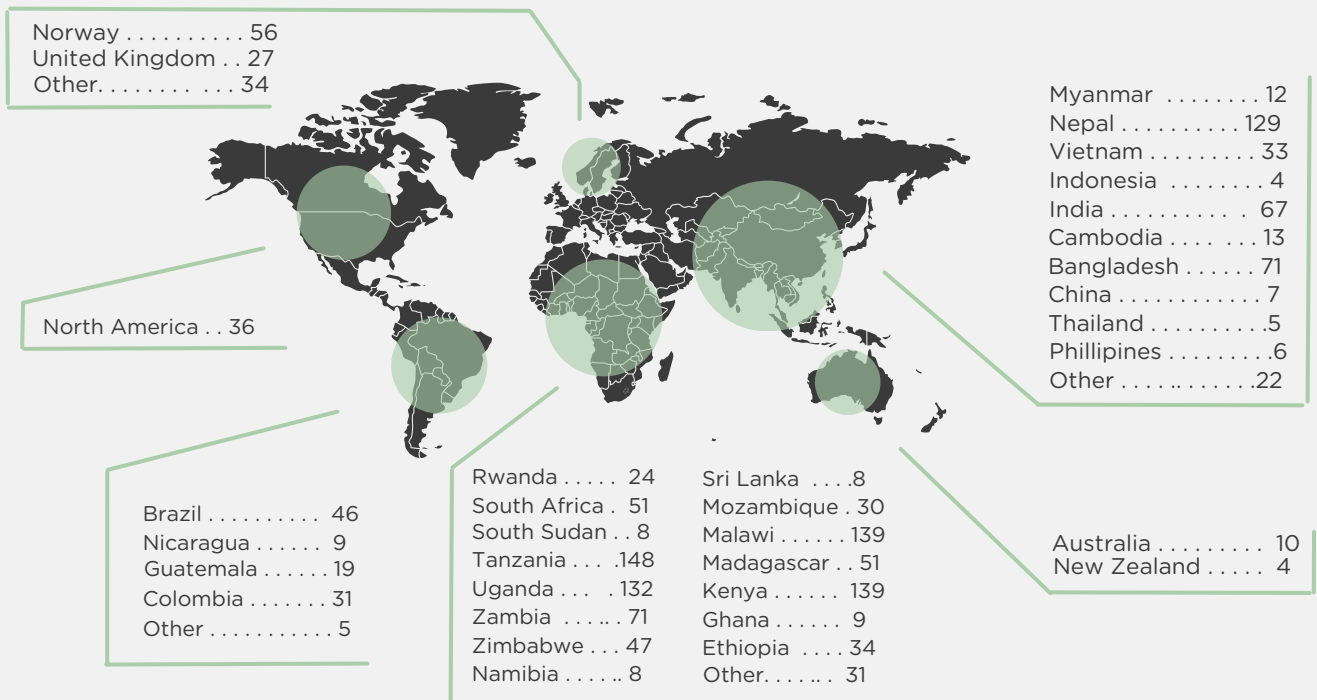
The Norec Network is available for the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and associated embassies to utilise as a resource.

If you wish to get further information on how you can utilise this resource, or have any questions related to the network, please contact [training@norec.no](mailto:training@norec.no).

## Norec Network members as of april 2024

# 1,638

### Home countries of members of Norec Network as of 2024







Overview

# Norec exchange projects in Bangladesh

# The numbers

## Total grants to organisations in Norec supported projects

The 14 projects with Norec support in Bangladesh, received funds totaling one million USD in 2023.

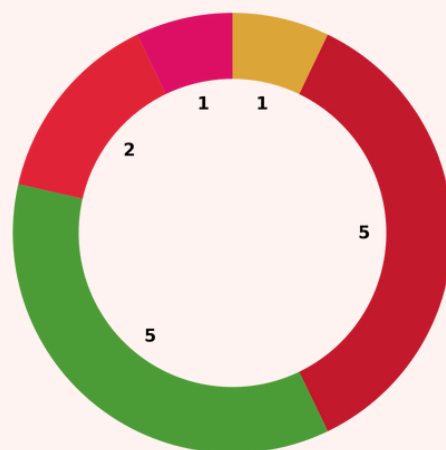
Out of the 14 projects in Bangladesh, 12 are with civil society organisations (CSOs) one project is within the private sector and one is within the public sector.

**\$1,03M**

## Projects and their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

All Norec projects promote sustainability goal 17, both by strengthening the tools and methods used to achieve results, and by supporting new global partnerships for sustainable development.

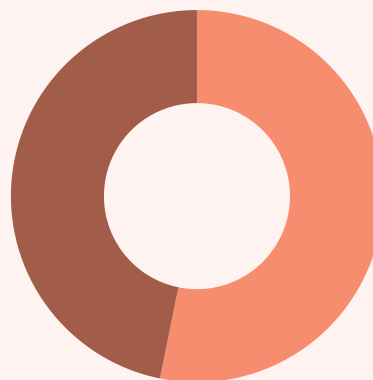
In Bangladesh, the most prevalent sustainable development goal is number 5 Gender Equality and 3 Good Health and Well-Being.



- 2 Zero Hunger
- 4 Quality Education
- 3 Good Health and Well-Being
- 5 Gender Equality
- 10 Reduced Inequalities

## Norec staff and volunteers from and in Bangladesh

there are 47 staff members from or in Bangladesh, receiving Norec support. 25 of them are Bangladesh working abroad in a Norec exchange project, while 22 are Norec staff from other countries working in Bangladesh in 2024.



## Organisations have partners in the following countries

In a partnership supported by Norec, organisations, public institutions and private business from over 25 countries cooperate to promote the Sustainable Development Goals.

For the projects in Bangladesh, the collaborating organisations are spread over the countries listed to the right.

Brazil  
Cambodia  
Burundi  
Madagascar  
Kenya  
Ghana  
Malawi  
Norway  
Zimbabwe

Nepal  
India  
Rwanda  
Tanzania  
Myanmar  
Uganda  
Colombia  
Indonesia  
Zambia



# Exchange projects

## 136403S Amra Kaj Kori 2023-2025

### DAC Sub Sector

31165  
Agricultural  
alternative  
development

### Sustainable Development Goal

2. Zero Hunger

Through this agricultural project, the partners will cooperate to overcome challenges of climate change, and to work to ensure food security in their countries. They will cooperate to introduce environmentally friendly production methods and technology, and reduce emission.

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Exchanged project staff	Project start	Project end
\$24100	8	2023	2025

### PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

- Amra Kaj Kory (AKK)
- Building Community Voices (BCV)

### COUNTRIES

- Bangladesh
- Cambodia

## Promoting Sexual & Reproductive Health Education through Exchange Expertise

### DAC Sub Sector

13020  
Reproductive  
health care

### Sustainable Development Goal

3. Good Health  
and Well-Being

The project promotes sexual and reproductive health education. The exchange participants will share knowledge on good practices on menstruation, puberty changes and prevention of sexually transmitted infections, and share this knowledge with their organisations. Additionally, the project will work on how the partners can ensure reproductive health for specially challenged people and vulnerable groups in the face of natural disasters or other crises.

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$37845	12	2022	2025

### PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

- Agrogoti Sangstha
- Aawaaj

### COUNTRIES

- Bangladesh
- Nepal

## Capacity Building of The Leprosy Mission Personnel

**DAC Sub Sector**

**12220 Basic health care**

**Sustainable Development Goal**

**3. Good Health and Well-Being**

The project will improve treatment and inclusion of people with leprosy and other disabilities. The partners will do so through working with local communities and groups, improving their research capacity, improving their online services and focusing on social integration directly with patients.

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$90252,5	33	2023	2027

### PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

- The Leprosy Mission International Bangladesh
- The Leprosy Mission Myanmar
- The Leprosy Mission Nepal

### COUNTRIES

- Nepal
- Myanmar
- Bangladesh

## Empowering Persons with Disabilities through Mutual Learning

**DAC Sub Sector**

**16010 Social/welfare services**

**Sustainable Development Goal**

**4. Quality Education**

Both in Bangladesh and Nepal, the perception of people with disabilities are largely negative, especially in rural areas. To increase quality of life for this group, the partners work to promote disability inclusive societies. They focus on disability inclusive education, advocacy and responsible media coverage in both countries.

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$10190,8	8	2023	2025

### PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

- Prochesta
- Nepal Disabled Human Rights Center (DHRC-Nepal)

### COUNTRIES

- Bangladesh
- Nepal

## Uphold Community Voice to Public Health-related Policy and Practice in Bangladesh and Nepal

### DAC Sub Sector

12261 Health education

### Sustainable Development Goal

3. Good Health and Well-Being

The purpose of the project is to enable marginalised and minority citizens understand their public health rights, and make informed demands from local government authorities. The project use community radios and broadcasters to spread the word, and to encourage citizens to demand better public health facilities. The idea is that in turn this will have an effect on the national level in Bangladesh and Nepal.

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$26339,9	8	2020	2024

### PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

- Rupantar
- World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (AMARC) Asia-Pacific

### COUNTRIES

- Bangladesh
- Nepal

## Mutual learning for Improving Health and Nutrition Scenario in Bangladesh and Nepal

### DAC Sub Sector

12220 Basic health care

### Sustainable Development Goal

3. Good Health and Well-Being

The partners will share ideas and practices on how to promote health and nutrition in local communities. The partner ERA will learn how partner RICOD uses existing networks and schools to reach its target groups, despite challenges created by the regions' mountainous terrain, while RICOD intends to adapt how ERA works with volunteers, how they mobilise communities and work with women's groups to reach their goals.

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$49500	12	2023	2026

### PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

- Efforts for Rural Advancement (ERA)
- Rural Institution for Community Development (RICOD)

### COUNTRIES

- Bangladesh
- Nepal



## Interact

DAC Sub Sector

Democratic participation and civil society

Sustainable Development Goal

4. Quality Education

The project aims to create youth and organisations that are better equipped to address the challenges in their societies. The project works to strengthen young people through multicultural experiences. They support and cultivate young participants, making them more confident in their skills and becoming better leaders for their organisations.

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$2124709	22	2022	2027

### PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

- Bible Students Fellowship of Bangladesh (BSFB)
- Aliança Bíblica Universitária do Brasil (ABUB)
- Unidad Cristiana Universitaria Colombia (UCU)
- Fellowship of Christian Unions (FOCUS Kenya)
- Union des Group Biblique de Madagascar (UGBM)
- Norges kristelige student- og skoleungdomslag (NKSS)

### COUNTRIES

- Bangladesh
- Brazil
- Colombia
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Norway





## The YESS Girls Movement

The project aims to create an empowering environment for young women, where young women will be leading, raising their voices and making a difference on issues important to them at local, national, regional and global levels. The project exchanges both professional staff and volunteers.

DAC Sub Sector

15170 Women's  
equality  
organizations  
and institutions

Sustainable  
Development  
Goal

5. Gender  
Equality

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$550360,6	240	2021	2026

### PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

- Bangladesh Girl Guide Association
- Burundi Girl Guides Association (BGGA)
- Ghana Girl Guides Association
- Kenya Girl Guides Association (KGGA)
- Fanilon'i Madagasikara
- Mpanazava Eto Madagasikara
- Malawi Girl Guides Association (MAGA)
- Nepal Scouts
- Rwanda Girl Guides Association
- Tanzania Girl Guides Association
- Uganda Girl Guides Association (UGGA)
- The World Association of Girls Guides and Girls Scouts (WAGGGS)
- Zambia Girl Guides Association
- Zimbabwe Girl Guides Association

### COUNTRIES

- Bangladesh
- Burundi
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Nepal
- Rwanda
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

## Tourism Based Vocational Skill Development of Youths to Promote Gender Equality

### DAC Sub Sector

11230 Basic life skills for youth and adults

### Sustainable Development Goal

4. Quality Education

The partners share knowledge of tourism, administration and ICT. While both partners aim to improve the economic situation for disadvantages groups, they have different methods: SUF targets income-generating skills to young people, while EWN empower Nepali women through training in tourism, entrepreneurship and through scholarships.

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$25000	8	2022	2025

### PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

- Society for Underprivileged Families (SUF)
- Empowering Women of Nepal

### COUNTRIES

- Bangladesh
- Nepal

## Mutual Cooperation for Developing Educational Institutions

### DAC Sub Sector

11110 Education policy and administrative management

### Sustainable Development Goal

4. Quality Education

The overall objective of the project is to enhance quality education in Bangladesh and Cambodia through mutual learning and cooperation, and capacity building of educational institutions in the two countries. The two partners will exchange teachers in an effort to enhance the education the respective schools offer.

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$21597,2	8	2023	2024

### PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

- Nobo Jibon
- Kampuchea Action to Promote Education (KAPE)

### COUNTRIES

- Bangladesh
- Cambodia

## Improving women's empowerment through best practice learning between Indonesia and Bangladesh

### DAC Sub Sector

15170 Women's equality organizations and institutions

### Sustainable Development Goal

5. Gender Equality

This project aims to empower women and promote gender equality in Indonesia and Bangladesh by enhancing economic opportunities and leadership roles for women. Through collaborative learning between partners Jago Nari and PKPA, the initiative focuses on family economic programs and the empowerment of women's groups to lead and influence policy-making. The ultimate goal is to reduce poverty and vulnerability among marginalized groups, aligning with key sustainable development goals.

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$12900	8	2023	2025

### PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

- Jago Nari
- Yayasan Pusat Kajian dan Perlindungan Anak (PKPA)

### COUNTRIES

- Bangladesh
- Indonesia

## Enhanced Nutritional Security through Reciprocity (ENSR)

### DAC Sub Sector

12261 Health education

### Sustainable Development Goal

3. Good Health and Well-Being

The partners raise awareness, share knowledge and pass on skills related to nutrition. The project focuses on increasing knowledge and competence at both the individual and organisational level to improve maternal and child nutrition. Each organisation also teach each other specific tools and methods. By the end of the project, the intention is that all three partners will have integrated each others' approaches into their nutrition promotion interventions.

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$13666,6	6	2022	2024

### PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

- ASPADA Paribesh Unnayan Foundation
- Krousar Yoeung Association (KrY)
- Pahal Jan Sahayog Vikas Sansthan

### COUNTRIES

- India
- Cambodia
- Bangladesh

## Championing Rights of Marginalized Communities through Mutual Learning

**DAC Sub Sector**

**15160 Human rights**

**Sustainable Development Goal**

**10. Reduced Inequalities**

The project, 'Promoting Dalit Rights through Mutual Learning' aims to promote the human rights of Dalits and marginalised communities collectively in Nepal and Bangladesh by mutually sharing and learning between the partner organizations.

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$167745,2	8	2023	2024

### PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

- Nagorik Uddyog
- Samata Foundation

### COUNTRIES

- Bangladesh
- Nepal

## Digital Learning Solutions for Young People in Bangladesh

**DAC Sub Sector**

**25010 Buisness support services and institutions**

**Sustainable Development Goal**

**4. Quality Education**

The partners Zabai AS in Norway and Zabai Bangladesh cooperate to increase access to digital basic education, and technical and vocational education and training courses. Additionally, the partnership believes that digital learning solutions in developing countries represents untapped pedagogical potential. The partners will cooperate to develop a digital learning platform and digital content within basic education and skills training.

### PROJECT KEY FACTS

Estimated total grant	Total staff and volunteers	Project start	Project end
\$816509,7	18	2023	2026

### PROJECT ORGANISATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS

- Zabai Bangladesh Ltd.
- Zabai AS

### COUNTRIES

- Bangladesh
- Norway

# Norec partners in Bangladesh

Organisation	City	Contact person	E-mail	Start	End
Agrogoti Sangstha	Satkhira	Abdus Sabur Biswas	agrogoti@gmail.com	2022	2025
Amra Kaj Kory (AKK)	Jhiltuly	M.A. Jalil	akk.majalil@gmail.com	2023	2025
ASPADA Paribesh Unnayan Foundation	Dhaka	Elias Habib	ed.aspada@gmail.com	2022	2024
Bangladesh Girl Guide Association	Dhaka	Nawrin Fatemi	bgguidesho@gmail.com	2021	2026
Bible Students Fellowship of Bangladesh (BSFB)	Dhaka	Lasar Banargee	info@bsfb.org	2022	2027
Efforts for Rural Advancement (ERA)	Sunamganj	Psyche Islam	era.haor.org@gmail.com	2023	2026
Jago Nari	Barguna	Md. Duke Ivn Amin	jago_nari@yahoo.com	2023	2025
Nagorik Uddyog	Dhaka	Nadira Pervin	info@nuhr.org	2023	2024
Nobo Jibon	Satkhira	Md. Fahim Khan	nobojibon1998@gmail.com	2023	2024
Prochesta	Kulaura	Ali Naki Khan	prochesta.kulaura@gmail.com	2023	2025
Rupantar	Khulna	Saki Rejoana	rafiq@rupantar.org	2020	2024
Society for Underprivileged Families (SUF)	Dhaka	Tipu Sultan	dhakasuf@gmail.com	2022	2025
The Leprosy Mission International Bangladesh	Dhaka	Jiptha Boiragee	dco@tlmbangladesh.org	2023	2027
Zabai Bangladesh Ltd.	Dhaka	Zihanur Raman	post@zabai.no	2023	2026



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