

# Corporate Social Responsibility

As a responsible corporate citizen we understand the need to invest in the society we operate in for bringing about changes that impact lives in positive ways. Our corporate social responsibility is a reflection of our commitment to our society and we put in our best efforts in living according to the values we wholeheartedly believe in. Our attempt has always been to make a positive impact in everything that we do.

We always strive to live up to the principles of the United Nations Global Compact as this is globally recognized cornerstones of corporate responsibility. We also firmly believe that without a principled approach to do business, sustainability cannot be ensured.

## Our corporate citizenship strategy

We apply the same corporate governance standards to our corporate citizenship programs as we do to our business dealings. For us good governance is the foundation of our strategy.

All project proposals relating to CSR are evaluated based on a standardized governance framework and scorecard. We have a Board approved CSR policy framework and we do everything necessary to ensure transparency of our investments. Our CSR policy clearly outlines our engagement strategy.

- We take utmost care to ensure that the CSR allocations do not end up financing militancy and terrorism.
- Our CSR engagement programs are mostly in the area of education and healthcare. Our aim is to spend 40% of our fund for awarding scholarships for underprivileged students from renowned educational institutions and 25% to healthcare for underprivileged population of the society.
- We strongly feel that sports, arts and culture are key components for a healthy and sustainable society. We, therefore, have committed 10% of our CSR allocations to the development of sports and arts and culture of the country.
- The remainder 25% of the budgetary CSR expenditure is allocated for emergency disaster relief, upgrading facilities and lifesavings equipment in emergency rescue services like the fire brigades etc., infrastructure improvement for disadvantaged communities in far flung areas.

## Education: Key to social and economic development

We believe education is the great leveller and also the best way to raise aspiration in the society and instil inspiration to achieve greater heights in life. In this globalized and knowledge-based world, education is key to address humanity's major challenges.

Our major CSR activity involves in tertiary education because we believe that it is where youths are prepared for entering into the job market. For the economic development, our society needs skilled

workforce and people who embrace critical thinking. Education is also crucial to social cohesion, because it enables people from a disadvantaged background to earn an income that can provide a better quality of life and inspire future generation. As a responsive corporate citizen, we have anchored our CSR initiatives on education. Our initiative is based on two pillars: strengthening youth confidence by raising aspirations and providing pathways to education and employment opportunities.

To reach out to meritorious and disadvantaged students of the University of Dhaka, we began a fruitful partnership with Dhaka University Alumni Association (DUAA) in 2007. We are proud of this collaboration. We began by offering a minimum of four scholarships to all 74 departments of University of Dhaka helping the meritorious but disadvantaged young people to pursue higher education and grow as skilled workforce.

On the 10th year of our scholarship program, we more than doubled the scholarship amount from BDT 2.30 million to BDT 4.5 million. This BDT 4.5 million is given to 150 deserving students for their outstanding academic performance and each to get BDT 30,000. DUAA works closely with all the departments of University of Dhaka for the selection of the scholarship award.



*EBL in partnership with Dhaka University Alumni Association (DUAA) provides scholarships to the meritorious and disadvantaged students of the University of Dhaka.*

Every year we reboot and recycle our desktop computers and donate them to set up IT labs to different educational institutions. We helped to set up the IT lab of Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Government Girl's College by donating 20 units of computers. All these contributions made us strongly feel that it is our prime responsibility as a corporate citizen to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of the human rights through education.

## Promoting human welfare

EBL considers the society we operate in as our extended family. We are always at their side when they are in distress and need our help most. The society we belong to and operate in is the place where all our responsibilities lie.

We always stand by the people who are suffering or in difficulties. Every year we give a cheque of BDT 480 thousand to a family of one of the officers killed in the BDR carnage. We kept our commitment and have successfully provided this support for ten years till 2018.

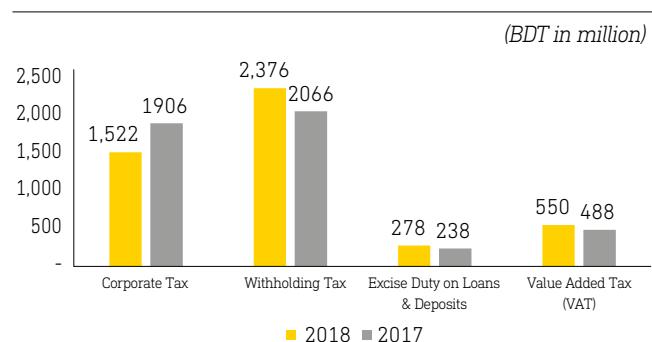
We also donated fifty thousand pieces of blankets worth BDT 17 million to Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund and BDT 50 million to Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund through Bangladesh Association of Banks (BAB) as a part of CSR activities.



Mir Nasir Hossain, Director of EBL handing over a cheque for BDT 50 million to Honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund as part of CSR at Ganabhaban.

## Contribution to national exchequer

Being a responsible and tax abiding corporate citizen, EBL regularly pays corporate tax on time, sometimes even before it falls due as withheld tax and VAT to govt. exchequer on time deducted from employees' salary as well as payments to customers and vendors. Following graph shows our contribution-



## Women empowerment

It is now globally accepted that empowering women facilitates economic growth. We are a great believer of women empowerment. We have special products for women entrepreneurs at special discounted loan pricing to provide growth support. Women clients can avail EBL Mukti loan up-to BDT 25 Lac without any collateral and up-to BDT 50 lac with collateral. EBL not only provides financing but also guides women clients on various business issues such as financial record keeping/accounting, sales routing through bank account, trade license, taxation, marketing, insurance etc.



EBL and Shahin's Helpline sign an agreement to provide services for business related papers for its entrepreneur customers.

Moreover, to empower women, every year we celebrate international women's day to celebrate womanhood while calling for greater equality. This year, EBL also organized a function at the head office in Dhaka on March 08. We had amongst us fashion designer Maheen Khan, Farzana Chowdhury, Managing Director Green Delta Insurance, Chayanika Chowdhury, actor and director; and Rubaba Dowla, founder and Managing Director, Pulse Healthcare Services to share stories of their lives.



EBL Celebrates Womanhood at Head Office on 8th March, 2018

## Environment-friendly Bank

We believe that every small 'GREEN' step taken today would go a long way in building a greener future. As an environment-responsive bank, we initiated Go Green campaign in our Bank. After reducing the use of electricity and paper at the office, EBL is now gearing up for carbon trading to show its commitment to environment-friendly funding. Some of our branches and ATM's of the bank now run on solar power.

The Bank also ensures that customers having production facilities susceptible to damage environment has due environmental clearance certificate from the concerned ministry while granting or renewing credit facilities. EBL is the first bank in Bangladesh to offer sustainable energy finance loan product with assistance from the South Asia Enterprise Development Facility (SEDF), managed by IFC in partnership with the UK Department for International Development and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation to help companies implement energy-saving measures and boosting the competitiveness of private enterprises.



A Sustainable Finance Project financed by EBL

## Disaster management

Our corporate values tell us to stand by the people in need and reaching out to them in crisis. The society we belong to and operate is the place where all our responsibilities lie. We have always come forward with support. Our society is our first preference: be it distributing blankets to cold-hit people of the country, reaching out relief to flood-affected people and responding to any national emergency.

We always feel that our responsibility towards the society is not limited to banking only. We set up a team from our colleagues to visit and understand the need of the moment of the cold affected victims of the northern district. We were quick to respond to the need of the sufferings of humanity and donated more than seven thousand pieces of blankets costing BDT 2.45 million among cold-hit people of North Bengal areas.

