HMDC Presents...

Country Profile: Bangladesh

Committee: SOCHUM: Role of NGOs, Foreign Aid and Local Institutions

AT A GLANCE

Capital	Dhaka (World Bank, Last Accessed: November 2026)
Population	About 175.7 million people in 2025 (World Bank, Last Accessed: November 2026)
Region	South Asia (World Bank)
Famous local NGO	BRAC, founded in 1972

WHY BANGLADESH MATTERS IN SOCHUM

Bangladesh is home to BRAC, one of the world's largest NGOs, and to a huge refugee response where local groups do much of the work. It also has strict rules for NGOs that receive money from abroad.

WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS

- BRAC began in 1972 in northeastern Bangladesh, giving emergency relief and helping returning refugees rebuild their lives. BRAC says its work has reached over 145 million people in 15 countries. (BRAC, Last Accessed: October 2026)
- Under the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act of 2016, an NGO may not accept gifts from abroad until the NGO Affairs Bureau approves the project. (Laws of Bangladesh, October 13, 2016)
- The 2026 Rohingya refugee response plan aims to reach 1.6 million people in Bangladesh, and half of its 98 partners are national organizations. (United Nations Bangladesh, May 20, 2026)
- In December 2025, CIVICUS rated civic space in Bangladesh "repressed," scoring it 29 out of 100. (CIVICUS Monitor, Last Accessed: October 2026)

OUR POSITION IN ONE SENTENCE

In Bangladesh, where BRAC began in 1972, half of the 98 partners in the 2026 Rohingya refugee response are national organizations.

THREE IDEAS OUR DELEGATE CAN PROPOSE

1. Funding local groups directly: more aid money goes straight to trusted local organizations, not only through big international groups.

2. Fair, clear NGO rules: simple registration and approval steps with clear time limits.

3. Learning from BRAC: local NGOs share how they grew so others can copy what works.

CAREFUL NOTE

Bangladesh amended its foreign donations law, with changes in force since December 11, 2025, so we always read the newest text.

QUESTIONS WE STILL ANSWER OURSELVES

1. Does our country give aid, receive aid, or both, and how much goes through NGOs?

2. Which local organizations help people in our country, and how do they get money?

3. Which law registers NGOs, and what extra rules apply to money from abroad?

WHERE WE LOOK

Civic Freedom Monitor: https://www.icnl.org/resources/civic-freedom-monitor

CIVICUS Monitor: https://monitor.civicus.org/

Every fact above names its source and date. We do our own research and write our own position paper, as the conference rules require. This profile is a starting point, not a script.