

PROJECT GOAL:

The people of Bangladesh bringing practical and spiritual change to their country while preserving their ethnolinguistic identities

LOCATION:

Bangladesh, South Asia

POPULATION:

150 million

TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED:

\$13.5 million

TIMELINE:

Eight years

BANGLADESH

Dhaka

Vision

Speaking their language



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Last Languages
Campaign

THE BANGLADESH ADVANCE
CLEARING A PATH TO THE HEART OF A NATION



PROJECT SUMMARY

One local church leader in Dhaka was inspired by a course on cross-cultural ministry conducted by *The Bangladesh Advance*. He returned to his church and told what he had learned, and the church decided to collect a regular monthly offering for outreach. Now, donors from that church are providing an important part of the funding necessary to translate more cross-cultural ministry material into the national language and send interested young people on short-term outreach trips.

In the 1790s, William Carey, the father of modern missions, brought the gospel to Bangladesh. Two hundred years later, Bangladesh remains one of the least-reached and poorest countries in the world, and its mainline churches have seldom sent out international workers. Christian leaders worldwide recognize that the transformation of Bangladesh's communities will not be achieved primarily by foreign-led initiatives. For true change to take place, local people must become agents of transformation.

To that end, *The Bangladesh Advance: Clearing a Path to the Heart of a Nation* partners with natural networks to facilitate the emergence of local movements and develop leadership capacity in the people of Bangladesh.



CURRENT SITUATION

Bangladesh is home to forty-nine different language communities—yet only one of those communities has access to public education in a language that is clearly understood. As a result, literacy rates across the country are as low as thirty percent.

As a common proverb states, “An empty stomach has no ears.” People who don’t have access to development and education have a great deal of difficulty understanding and using the Word of God. In addition, less

than one half of one percent of Bangladesh’s population claims to be Christian, and of those Christians, very few have been equipped for cross-cultural work.

Conditions in Bangladesh are grim, but there are Bangladeshis who want to take on the tasks of language development, Scripture use, and cross-cultural ministry. Through the creation of networks and partnerships, the work will become sustainable by the local people.

THE PLAN: Facilitate Local Movements

In *The Bangladesh Advance*, local people are the heroes of the story. Progress is measured by the extent to which locally-owned movements are emerging, growing in their capacity, and transforming their communities.

Specifically, the project partners with the government and other agencies to create language-development programs that empower individuals to do the work. Working closely with organizations that are already committed to evangelistic efforts, the project facilitates spiritual outreach to less-reached communities. It also partners with mainline churches in

the developing world to empower every believer in Bangladesh to live out whatever form of Great Commission obedience is most appropriate in their life.

The Bangladesh Advance enters every partnership with the ability to truthfully say to the partner, "We are committed to your success."

EXPECTED RESULTS

✦ *Social and Linguistic Development:* Language communities in Bangladesh will partner with civil networks to achieve their self-determined development goals while maintaining their identity.

✦ *Scripture Use:* Supported by Bangladeshi churches and believers, language communities in Bangladesh will have the capacity to engage with the gospel in ways relevant to their ethnolinguistic identities.

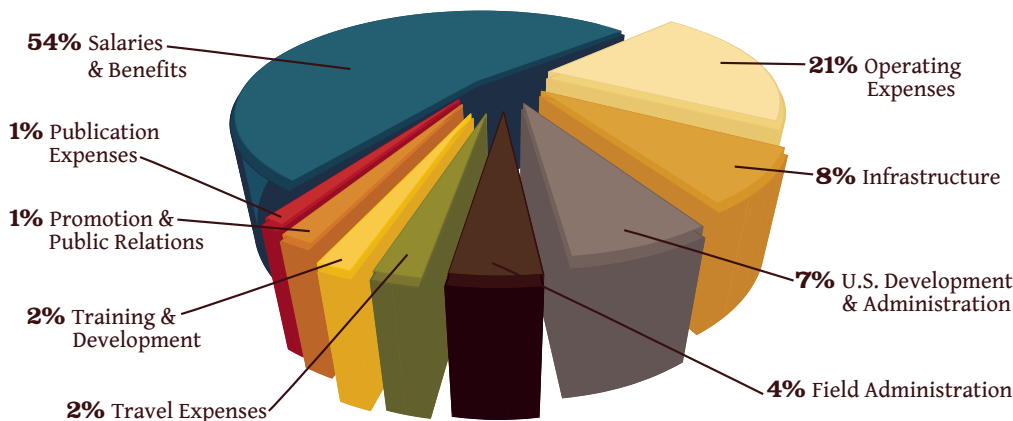
✦ *Great Commission Involvement:* Christian churches and individuals in Bangladesh will participate fully in a movement to see every nation reached with the gospel.

EIGHT-YEAR BUDGET: 2008-2015

Comprehensive Project Eight-Year Budget: \$29,409,835
Funds Secured: \$15,860,291

Total Grant Request: \$13,549,544

Project Budget Diagram:





Since 2006, *The Bangladesh Advance* has been performing awareness-raising and ministry-training activities for members of local bodies in and around Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh. Some have announced that they intend to create teams and send out short-term workers beginning in 2009.



HOW TO FUND THIS PROJECT

To partner with the Bangladeshi people in transforming their country from the inside out, please contact:

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