Sustainability and Partnership to Reduce Inequalities

With the vision of empowering societies, Grameenphone has the ability to deliver solutions which can address social, economic and environmental problems in order to close the inequality gap in the countries it operates in. In 2016, Telenor Group has made a commitment to the UN SDG #10 – Reduced Inequalities. This commitment is based on the fact that Telenor is able leverage digital services and connectivity in innovative ways to address social and environmental challenges.

The sustainability agenda for Grameenphone is clearly defined by global directions – mitigate business risks, design digital solutions to empower society at large and anchor our agenda within the framework of SDG #10. Within that framework Grameenphone's commitment to the society is to partner with responsible and impactful social partners to reduce inequality and empower society within the field of expertise.

Partnering to promote safe digital participation and Create Access to Quality Education

In line with Grameenphone's new Sustainability Direction, we aim to create opportunities for meaningful and safe digital participation for everyone. Bangladesh has a large and relatively young population of 74.65 million young people under the age of 24 who are starting their digital journey. Being the largest mobile ISP in the country it is imperative that we ensure a safer internet experience.

In 2017 alone, Grameenphone reached out to more than 52,000 school children in over 250 schools across the country to create awareness and educate children on personal online safety, in partnership with BRAC, with its Child Online Safety Program. Since 2014, Grameenphone has educated over 140,000 children through 600 schools across Bangladesh and directly engaged with 35,000 parents, teachers and guardians. 400 of our employees participated in the program directly in different regions as ambassadors to the program.

Supporting Book Reading Program

Grameenphone's commitment to supporting SDG #10 has specific goals to use our connectivity to reduce inequalities through scalable and sustainable initiatives. "Alor Pathshala" (School of Enlightenment: www.alorpathshala.org) is the first online book reading program launched by Bishwo Shahitto Kendro (BSK), with support from Grameenphone, on 19 March 2014. Under this service, students have the opportunity to read local and international classics published online by the BSK. Till the end of 2017, the site has had a total of 1,134,717 books downloaded and more than 1,215,605 visitors. Grameenphone has also supported the School Book Reading Program and recognized 19,647 students amongst 185,678 students from 1,453 schools.

Online School

Grameenphone has been a partner in bringing Online School concept since 2011 where teachers take classes using video conferencing technology in ten remote schools across the country. Today there are 1,200 students studying in 10 Online Schools for free.

Supporting through Disaster Response

In 2017 Bangladesh was hit by series of disasters starting from Cyclone Mora in the coastal belt of Chittagong, landslide in Chittagong Hill Track, to devastating floods that swept through more than half of the country. As a responsible corporate citizen, Grameenphone has stepped forward to provide support during all the calamities in different forms. Through the emergency disaster response activities Grameenphone has reached out to over 300,000 people. Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) was the implementation partner.

Employees voluntarily assisted directly in the relief distribution efforts in the affected areas. Moreover, more than 1,000 employees have also stepped up to provide financial support along with the contribution provided by Grameenphone.

Leading Dialogues for Private Sector Participation in UN Sustainable Development Goals

Grameenphone and Telenor Group jointly hosted events titled "Partnering for Reduced Inequalities: How business can contribute to the UN SDGs" at GPHouse. A range of stakeholders, including government agencies, development organisations, and private sector companies were brought together to discuss the way forward in achieving together the UN SDG targets for Bangladesh. The importance of participation of the private sector for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was emphasized and concrete arenas of work were identified. UNICEF, UNDP, BRAC, A2i, FICCI, Telenor, Grameenphone and DNet participated in the discussion. GP has actively sought out arenas where telecommunication and Information Technology entities can contribute to achieve the targets set for the country.

Efforts for the Environment

To deal with the energy crisis in Bangladesh, Grameenphone initiated the renewable energy project in 2007 to ensure uninterrupted voice and data communication services to its customers. By end of 2017, 1,200 base station sites are running on solar power.

Grameenphone manages its obsolete electronic wastes following the international policy and fully complying with laws of the country. Till the end of 2017, more than 642 tons of e-waste (GSM and microwave antennas and other electronic accessories) has been recycled through our recycle partner. The recycling is completed in Bangladesh and overseas in accordance to ISO 14000, OSHAS 18000, and R2 standards.

Grameenphone Accelerator Program

Grameenphone Accelerator continues to position itself as the epicenter of startup ecosystem in Bangladesh and aims to be the gateway for Bangladeshi startups for expansion and sourcing of investments to/from rest of the world. The initiative was launched in October 2015 to empower tech startups with the resources they need to build, grow, and Go Beyond. The program graduates have made strides in different national and global competitions - 3 out of 10 winners of the National Demo Day, 2 out of 3 for Bangladesh StartUp Awards and Slush Local Round winners.

It has also become a platform for engagement with key government stakeholders at Ministerial and private sectors. The Valuation has grown 16 times from the startup phase to BDT 40.8 million currently (up to batch-3) with tech initiatives focusing on online service channeling, education, health, data analytics and mobile marketing.

Overview

Business Performance

Sustainability

Governance

Financial Analysis

Additional Information