



Commonwealth Finance and Investment Forum for ICTs
15 - 16 November 2012
America Square, London, UK

Organisers



COMMONWEALTH
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ORGANISATION



Country Case Study: Bangladesh

SOCIAL OBLIGATION FUND



Bangladesh Social Obligation Fund Regulation is still in draft stage

Country Case Study - Bangladesh

Social Obligation Fund



**Population:161.6 M
(Estimated 2012)**



Area:147K sq. KM



**Population under
poverty level:
25.1%**



**Per Capita Income:
USD 700**



**Literacy rate:
55.08%**



**Rural-Urban
Ratio:73:27 (2008)**



**Inflation:5.2%
(Nov'09)**



**GDP Growth Rate:
6.32% (2010-11)**



Country Case Study - Bangladesh

Social Obligation Fund

1997
3 / 64 Districts

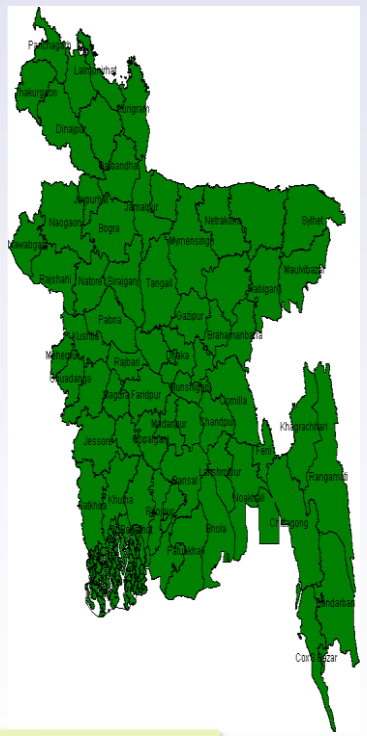
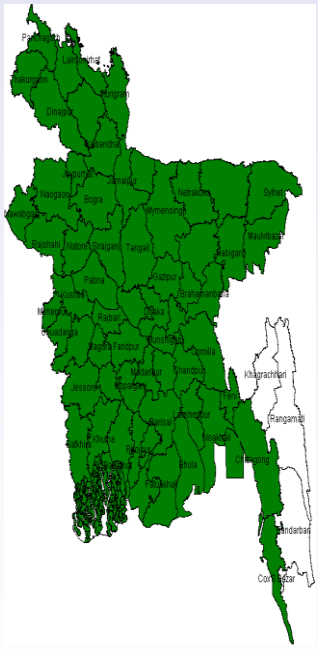
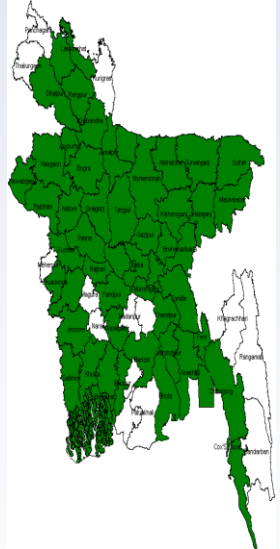
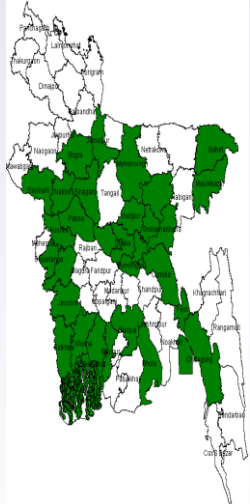
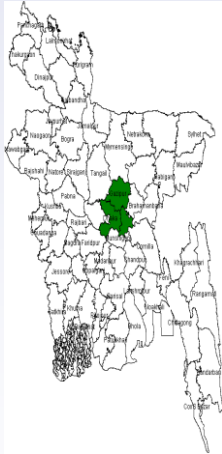
2000
30 / 64 Districts

2002
50 / 64 Districts

2004
61 / 64 Districts

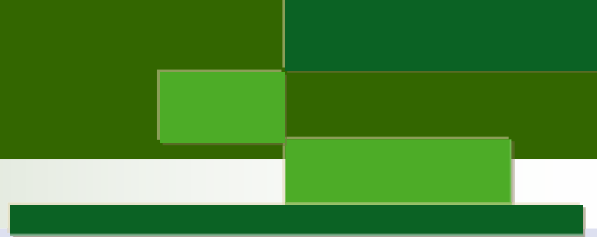
At present
64 / 64 Districts

Wireless Network Coverage



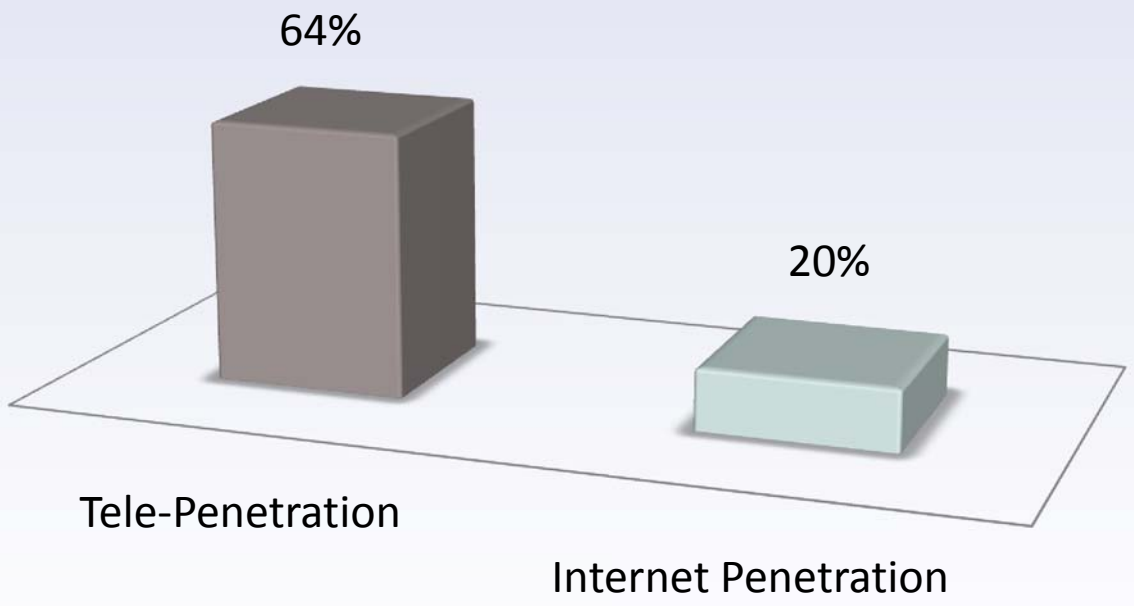
❖ 06 Mobile, 02 BWA Operator and ISPs
❖ Mobile Coverage : 95% Geographical and 99% Population





ICT Indicators

- Tele-density is more than **64%**
- Internet Penetration is more than **20%**
- Over **98 M** Telecom Subscribers
- More than **31 M** Internet users.



1. Enactment of SOF Regulation:

As per the provisions of Section 21(A) of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulation Act, 2001 as amended in 2010 (gazette notified and applicable from 01/08/2010)

2. Usage/Disbursement of SOF:

BTRC shall use the SOF and the SOF shall only be used for the development of Telecommunication and ICT related service/infrastructure/consultation etc

It has to be spent in underdeveloped and region/places where the profitable business case for any particular type of service/license is absent.

3. Sources of Fund/Donation:

BTRC shall only collect the fund/donation for SOF from the following sources:

- i. Donation from Government of Bangladesh*
- ii. Donation from any domestic/international entity including UN organizations*
- iii. Subscription fee from the licensed operators*
- iv. Any other legal aid/contribution and/or interest/benefit coming through fund-management*

4. Collection of SOF:

BTRC has mandated the requirements, application & modality of SOF in every Licenses it issues and have issued after the introduction of SOF in BTRA, 2001 (as amended in 2010)

BTRC is collecting 1% of an operator's annual gross revenue (against Social Obligation Fund).

The operators are required to maintain a separate account for this SOF contribution. [As per the Regulation 10 of the BTRC Social Obligation Fund Regulations, 2012]

4. Development Planning and Implementation using SOF:

BTRC shall plan, develop and implement development projects using SOF.

Laid down detailed instructions on how it will be audited and reported.

Process of tendering the projects to serve the underserved area.

5. Organization of SOF:

BTRC shall initiate, create and maintain the SOF via Social Obligation Fund Management Committee presided by one of the Commissioners.

BTRC shall not mix the SOF with any other regulatory accounts (Revenue/Fund and/or alike) maintained by it.

Thank You

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