



Expanding Horizon

A Human Development Organization

Policy Paper

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Introduction

It is an undeniable fact that we live in a world that is marked by an almost unbridgeable gap between the minority of people who are well off and the overwhelming majority that suffers intolerable poverty and lack of resources. This gap is reflected both on a global scale between the so-called western countries and the so-called Third World countries and on a local scale between the poor masses and the sometimes extremely rich ruling classes.

For us this is an intolerable situation and we feel it is a question of human dignity not to resign ourselves to this glaring disparity between us as human beings. Not only because it goes against our sense of justice but also because we consider it as a tragic waste of human potential that so many of us do not have the opportunity to fully develop their capacities. We can all see that the inequality and underdevelopment of large parts of the world population is undermining the future of human society as a whole.

At the same time there is a huge potential lying in the reservoir of untapped capacities that are dormant in the masses of the world population. This potential is utterly indispensable if we want to avert the detrimental effects that the exclusion of large parts of the world population has on the situation of this planet.

Expanding Horizon wants to commit itself to the unfolding of this potential.

KOOS PALMBOOM

EXPANDING HORIZON

Aim

Expanding Horizon wants to contribute to the unfolding of human potential and creativity that in the present circumstances of poverty have no fair opportunity to come to fruition.

Objectives

Expanding Horizon wants to promote economic, social and cultural development of the poor people of Bangladesh.

Focus on Bangladesh

Ever since its foundation **Expanding Horizon** has focused on Bangladesh. This is due to the fact that one of its cofounders originated from this country. Bangladesh is one of the poorest countries in the world and a lot of the problems its population is facing are typical of other developing countries in the world. **Expanding Horizon** has been active in Bangladesh for more than seven years and has built an extensive network.

As stated above poverty is at the root of the exclusion of a large part of our fellow human beings from fair opportunities to lead a self-reliant life.

Expanding Horizon wants to make it as its policy to run projects that:

- in the long run will be financially self-reliant.
- are anchored in the local communities.
- draw from the local knowledge and expertise.
- are in accordance with the local culture and state of development.

Although some international funding will be indispensable **Expanding Horizon** will seek support from local people and organizations to finance these projects.

Expanding Horizon main interest is sharing the power of knowledge and cultural exchange rather than fundraising and transferring money.

Programs

In its programs **Expanding Horizon** wants to focus on two areas: ICT programs and cultural programs.

1. ICT programs

Expanding Horizon sees huge potential in ICT development.

ICT technology is widely used and developed to improve business processes and generate more profit. The successes in these areas convince us that ICT can play a major role in development work. It can provide jobs, it can be a major factor in the dissemination of information and improvement of governmental transparency, it can facilitate educational and health programs. It can give access to information and knowledge to various social communities; it can mobilize and unite underprivileged people and give voice to the call for rights and social justice. Their message can quickly reach a wider audience all over the world through the Internet.

Expanding Horizon has initiated and supported the successful project IT Exploration for Children run by the local organization CPD in Mohammadpur, Dhaka.

2. Cultural activities

Besides the emphasis on technology **Expanding Horizon** has a vivid interest in being involved in cultural work and exchange. The exchange of cultural thoughts and ideas of different societies can play a major role in stimulating change in people's mode of thinking and way of life. On the one hand cultural development and appreciation of one's own culture will raise a sense of self-esteem and on the other hand it can open one's mind to new possibilities.

Cultural exchange is of major importance in the approach of **Expanding Horizon**. Respect for the local culture is of key importance in this. For further development and for the continuity of cultural values and identity it is essential to support the tradition of tolerance and cultural diversity that is part of the Bangladeshi heritage. Also in this IT can be a helpful medium: educational projects, creating websites, e-mail contact can help to create an atmosphere of exchange and mutual learning.

Target groups

The poor and underprivileged people of Bangladesh are the target groups that **Expanding Horizon** wants to work for. But in addressing the problems of these target groups other groups of the Bangladesh society will be involved as well.

Expanding Horizon wants to work together with local NGO's and partner organizations. **Expanding Horizon** wants to organize fund raising and wants to interest young ambitious professionals and students to commit their skills to the welfare of the poor people of their country.

Another issue that **Expanding Horizon** considers of paramount importance is gender equality. In Bangladesh society the imbalance of power between women and men is enormous which makes women very vulnerable. **Expanding Horizon** would like to contribute to change this situation.

Expanding Horizon also wants to raise consciousness in the West of the problems that poor people are suffering and of ways to help them.

Organization

Expanding Horizon is organized as a foundation based in Amsterdam and is be registered at the Chamber of Commerce of that place under number KvK 34242609.

Nature

Expanding Horizon passionately believes in equality of every human being in society, irrespective of race and religion. To achieve these goals, we must pursue principles of pluralism and openness. To bring people together in a harmonious social relationship we must reject religious biases and all sorts of dogmatism.

Status

Expanding Horizon will operate as a full-fledged legal institution. Given the nature of its activities, it will acquire all necessary and required legal permissions from concerned authorities in both countries where its head office is based and the target area where it may operate project activities. In case of **Expanding Horizon** working

with a partner organization, it makes sure that the partner organization also fulfils all legal obligations of the respective countries. **Expanding Horizon** has ANBI status which means that it is a non-profitable charity organization that pursues exclusively and directly non-profit aims in the sense of the clause “tax privileges of charitable purposes” of the tax statute.

Finances

Resources

Financial resources of the foundation will be found by:

- Donations
- Subsidy/funds from relevant bodies
- Sponsorship
- Other possible resources

Staff and remuneration

Expanding Horizon is run by volunteers on a non-payment basis. It is policy that only in the target countries salaries are being paid to local staff of the projects in accordance to the local tariffs. These salaries are always included in the budget of the projects.

Payments are done by the local partner organizations that implement the projects.

For volunteers only expenses are covered.