Relationships are essential to everything we do at SIL International Bangladesh. One of our most important relationships is with the Government who are keen to ensure accountability for the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) working in Bangladesh. This means that as well as providing monthly and annual reports on our activities, we are inspected regularly by Government representatives. An SIL representative also attends a monthly NGO Coordination Meeting to answer questions about our activities. Occasionally we are asked to make a presentation about our projects and achievements. This is an opportunity for us to share our encouragements, as well as to raise awareness about ethno-linguistic communities in Bangladesh.

SIL Bangladesh gets involved in national programs and events like the celebration of Independence Day, Victory Day and Women’s Day. We are invited to various seminars and meetings organized by the NGO Affairs Bureau, covering issues such as the role of NGOs in the socioeconomic development of the regions in which we work.

It is important for us to get the Government involved in our development initiatives. One way that we do this is to invite local officials to visit the events that we organize, such as teacher training workshops, the training of volunteers for the learning circles, school opening programs, graduations and sports days. This strengthens the relationship between the communities we serve and their local government representatives, as well as helping the Government to understand our work better. One local official who visited a teacher training workshop commented on our sustainable approach. He was pleased to hear that SIL is providing part of the teachers’ salaries and

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is encouraging the local community to provide the rest, with the aim that the community will be able to run the program independently in future.

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Written by: Japhet Mihir Chowdhury

SIL Bangladesh helps communities achieve their development goals while retaining their ethnolinguistic identities.

SIL Bangladesh is an organization in SIL International’s LEAD Asia network — Language, Education, and Development.