

STRONG CITIES NETWORK: BANGLADESH LOCAL COORDINATOR

Role	Strong Cities Network: Bangladesh Local Coordinator		
Division	Research, Policy and Cities	Team	Strong Cities Network
Reports to	Deputy Head, Strong Cities Network	Direct reports	0
Budgetary responsibility	n/a	Resource responsibility	n/a
Contract	Fixed-term 9 months consultancy		
Salary	Competitive, based on experience		
Location	Dhaka, Bangladesh		

About ISD

ISD is a global counter-extremism organization dedicated to powering solutions to hate and extremism. ISD has established itself as one of the leading global authorities on extremism and security. Combining research and analysis with government advisory work and programme delivery, ISD has been at the forefront of forging real-world, evidence-based responses to the challenges of integration, extremism and terrorism.

As a global non-profit organization with teams in London, Beirut, Toronto and Washington D.C., ISD enjoys strategic partnerships with the world's leading technology companies and supports more than a dozen prominent governments and institutions in stemming the rise of violent extremism and hate speech.

About the Strong Cities Network (SCN)

Launched at the United Nations in September 2015, the Strong Cities Network (SCN) is the first ever global network of mayors, municipal-level policy makers and practitioners united in building social cohesion and community resilience to counter violent extremism in all its forms.

Led by ISD and comprised of nearly 140 cities, the SCN builds collaboration between mayors, political actors and frontline teams to tackle polarisation, hate and violence in local communities in every major global region. The network catalyses, inspires and multiplies community-centric approaches and action to counter violent extremism through peer learning and expert training. It operates with a set of fundamental principles, agreed by all members, that protect and promote human rights and civil liberties in all aspects of its work to prevent violent extremism.

SCN in South Asia

The SCN has been active in South Asia since its inception with Mumbai, India serving as founding members. Currently the SCN has 8 members across the region, including three of the project locations. Since 2015 the SCN has engaged in several activities to which seek to promote community resilience and social cohesion against violent extremism strengthening partnerships between communities and local government, promoting peer-to-peer learning and providing capacity building support. These activities have included a regional practitioners workshop in Kolkata, India where 14 cities participated, city consultations in Pakistan and Bangladesh, a city exchange between

Peshawar, Pakistan and Birmingham, UK as well as two local innovation grants to civil society organisations in Pakistan and India.

The SCN is embarking on a new exciting phase of programming in South Asia with the City Corporations of Dhaka North, Dhaka South and Narayanganj in Bangladesh. Working with these four city administrations, we aim for the learning and development achieved to offer an example to the wider region, with good practices highlighted as an inspirational model for cities throughout South Asia. Activities in 2020 are intended to build the awareness raising, peacebuilding and multi-stakeholder coordination capacities of city governments through partnerships with civil society organisations. To support a coordination and awareness role, the SCN does not want to create new entities or institutional bureaucracies, but rather harness existing structures, such as standing committees and city resilience projects.

Role Purpose

ISD seeks to engage a Consultant to work with the ISD and SCN team in delivering this work in Bangladesh. Acting as a Local Coordinator, the Consultant will serve the project as an on-the-ground point of contact responsible for logistical coordination of SCN activities, day to day stakeholder management of city officials and coordination support to four civil society partners.

The SCN Local Prevention Coordinator will work closely with the City Corporations of Dhaka North, Dhaka South and Narayanganj in Bangladesh with the support and expertise of the wider SCN team based in London. The successful candidate will be based in Dhaka. Frequent travel within the region will be required, as well as occasional trips to ISD's office in London.

Responsibilities

The Consultant will need to work independently in the region and will be responsible for:

- Ongoing coordination and relationship building/management with City/Municipal Corporation officials, government and multilateral engagement
- Coordinating and engaging with civil society organisations and the international community
- Weekly coordination with four civil society grantees, one in each city, providing technical support to their projects on a needs basis
- Supporting regional and local research and evaluation of online extremist speech
- Contributing to the content and drafting of training materials to be piloted at the regional workshop including the translation of documents into local languages
- Co-facilitating both the city exchange and regional workshop alongside SCN staff
- Local logistical support for a city exchange involving 20 people from the four cities
- Local logistical support for a regional workshop involving 40-50 people from across South Asia
- Supporting comprehensive monitoring and evaluation during exchange and regional workshop
- Contributing to other SCN project activities in Bangladesh, South Asia and potentially further afield as required.

Person Specification

We seek an experienced, proactive and dedicated Consultant to work with the SCN team to ensure our ambitious plans in the region are achieved. The successful candidate will be a collaborative and solutions-focused professional with the ability to work to deadline and produce outputs to a high quality. We welcome applications from Consultants who meet the following criteria:

Essential

- Significant experience in developing and delivering community-based peacebuilding/ social cohesion projects with a range of stakeholders from different faiths and backgrounds
- Previous experience working in and/or with government/municipalities
- Knowledge of national P/CVE strategies, policies, programmes and priorities in Bangladesh
- Experience in implementing P/CVE projects
- Experience in organising and delivering meetings, events, trainings and activities
- Highly organised with the ability to be flexible, multi-task and respond proactively
- An understanding of and commitment to SCN's core mission
- Intercultural and interpersonal awareness
- Native Bangla speaker, with excellent verbal and written language English

Desirable

- Experience of delivering training workshops/seminars and developing training materials
- Experience in conducting open source research on extremism
- In-depth knowledge of regional online extremist-related discourses
- In-depth knowledge of prominent social media platforms and news websites
- Experience translating materials / conducting simultaneous translation

Application Process

To apply, please send a copy of your CV and a covering letter (no more than 2 pages) to vacancies@isdglobal.org by 20th March 2020.

Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted and applications without a covering letter will not be considered.