# strong cities network: bangladesh local coordinator

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| **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** | Part-time (3 days/week); fixed-term consultancy contract for 9 months |
| **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](https://www.isdglobal.org/) 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 Bangladesh

Building on engagement and training activities across South Asia since 2015, the SCN is implementing an exciting new project focused on building multi-agency and multi-stakeholder local coordination to prevent violent extremism (PVE). Following initial engagement and assessment with three City Corporations (Dhaka North, Dhaka South and Narayanganj) in 2019, the SCN will support a programme of work aimed to build cooperation and engagement on PVE between City Corporation leaders and officials, relevant public services and local civil society organisations.

Rooted locally and with a strong contextual understanding of drivers of extremism and communal violence, local governments and their partners have an overwhelming focus on service delivery and yet have little means to coordinate on important awareness-raising and community engagement on PVE issues. Our project seeks to identify and build the capacity of key administrative departments and committees at a City Corporation level that could serve as effective, credible and meaningful coordination forums between local government, civil society and relevant services on PVE. With coordination mechanisms established and trained, the project will seek to support locally-led awareness-raising and community outreach activities that undermine divisive and extremist narratives and foster peacebuilding and social resilience. Through a small grants programme to civil society groups, an exchange between city officials, and a regional workshop, our project will aim to deliver training and expertise tailored to local contexts and intended to inspire leading local-level PVE practice throughout the region.

This project is distinct from other PVE efforts in Bangladesh with its unique focus on local government partnerships and local coordination with City Corporations. Success will depend on building cooperative partnerships at all levels of national and local government, cooperation and collaboration with other PVE efforts across the country where important, and fostering strong relationships and dialogue with city corporations and between government, public services and civil society. This coordination will be integral to the impact, credibility and ultimately the sustainability of our activities.

In light of the ongoing response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic and local restrictions on movement and gatherings, strong coordination of partners, agility to adapt to new operational norms and modalities, deliver training and coordination online where necessary, and respond to fast-past change in the environment will be all the more essential to this project’s success.

## 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, partners and relevant authorities, and coordination support to our civil society partners and grantees.

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. It is also possible that the project remit will allow growing involvement from other city, district and local governments across additional locations in Bangladesh, by agreement with our partners. Coordination with officials and partners in additional locations may also be required accordingly. The successful candidate will be based in Dhaka, or the wider Dhaka Metropolitan Area. Frequent travel within the region, when permitted, will be required. International travel restrictions permitting, we would also envisage at least one coordination/collaboration visit to our HQ offices in London, UK.

## Responsibilities

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

* Consistent daily coordination and relationship building/management with mayors and local government officials, national government ministries and authorities and multilateral engagement
* Identifying key project stakeholders and beneficiaries on an individual and administrative level across all local governments engaged
* Coordinating and engaging with civil society organisations and the international community
* Weekly coordination and project monitoring with civil society grantees, providing technical support to their projects on a needs basis
* Supporting regional analysis and project monitoring and evaluation activities as required
* Contributing to drafting of training materials to be piloted at the regional workshop, including the translation of documents and materials.
* Co-facilitating both the city exchange and regional workshop alongside SCN HQ staff
* Local logistical support for a city exchange involving an estimated 20 individuals from partner cities
* Local logistical support for a regional workshop involving an estimated 40-50 people from across the South Asia region.
* Contributing to wider SCN activities and informing project strategy and scope 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 backgrounds
* Previous experience working in and/or with government/municipalities
* Knowledge of national PVE strategies, policies, programmes and priorities in Bangladesh
* Experience in implementing PVE 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, with acute political, religious and cultural sensitivity
* Native Bangla speaker, with excellent verbal and written language English

### Desirable

* Prior background of engagement with key PVE stakeholders in Bangladesh, including with government ministries
* Developed understanding of City Corporation/ local government structures and administrative organisation
* Experience of delivering training workshops/seminars and developing training materials
* 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 1700 GMT on Friday 29th May. Please include an indication of your pay expectations in your cover letter, using a USD day rate.

Interviews are planned for the week of 1st June. Please note that only short-listed candidates will be contacted and applications without a covering letter will not be considered. ISD reserves the right to appoint before this date where required.