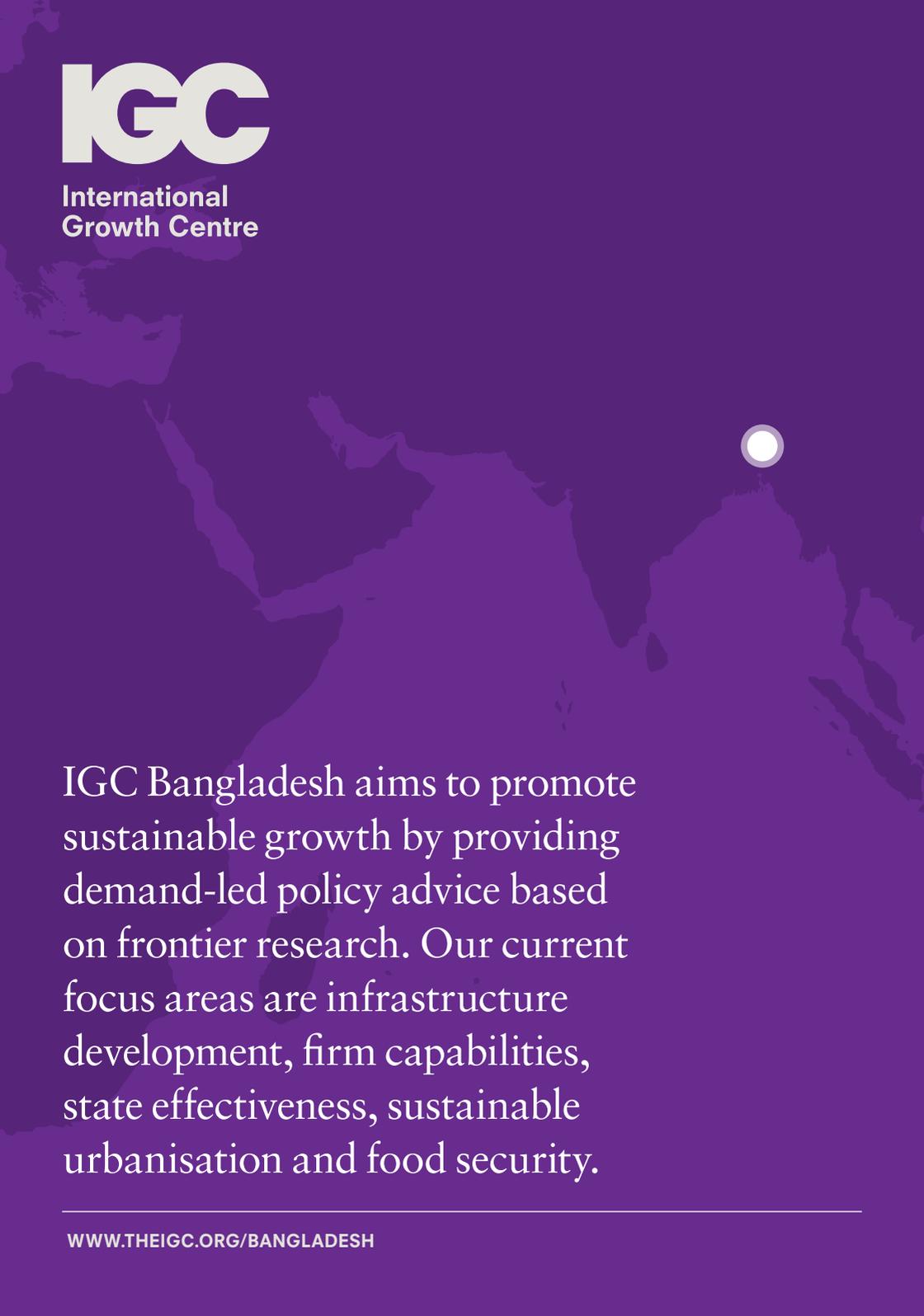




International
Growth Centre

A stylized world map is shown in a light purple color against a dark purple background. Bangladesh is highlighted in a darker shade of purple. A white circle with a dark purple outline is positioned over the map, centered on the location of Bangladesh. The text below is in a white serif font.

IGC Bangladesh aims to promote sustainable growth by providing demand-led policy advice based on frontier research. Our current focus areas are infrastructure development, firm capabilities, state effectiveness, sustainable urbanisation and food security.

Sultan Hafeez Rahman

Country Director, IGC Bangladesh



Since its inception in 2009, the IGC Bangladesh Programme has been working to provide solutions to the economic growth challenges in Bangladesh. The team has collaborated with key policymakers and senior government officials in the Prime Minister's Office, National Board of Revenue (NBR), Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and researchers from distinguished universities to deliver practical proposals aimed at influencing public policies.

A study by Yale and Harvard University, in collaboration with the NBR, identified a free-cost strategy to increase VAT revenue collection through social incentives and peer pressure mechanisms. The Ministry of Planning also requested that IGC Bangladesh contribute to the national economic agenda by drafting a background paper for the 7th Five Year Plan. The programme has also contributed to the economic debate and to the development of local capacity in economic analysis through a series of public lectures, seminars and workshops focussing on disseminating rigorous economic research methodologies.

HISTORY OF THE PROGRAMME

The IGC Bangladesh Country Programme was officially established in 2009. Since its inception, the Country Team has based its activities upon dialogue with the Government, research institutions and the private sector to assess the most urgent constraints to economic growth in Bangladesh. Since Phase I, the Country Programme has focused its efforts on preparing a work plan through discussions with key policymakers and senior government officials in the Prime Minister's Office, National Board of Revenue (NBR), Ministry of Commerce, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS); establishing partnerships with civil society organisations, such as BRAC, universities and autonomous research institutions, such as the Institute of Microfinance (InM).

IGC Bangladesh is currently hosted at the BRAC Institute of Governance and Development (BIGD). The IGC Bangladesh Phase II Programme has identified five areas



of research that are important to sustain and accelerate economic growth – i) State Effectiveness ii) Firm Capabilities iii) Food Security iv) Infrastructure Development and v) Sustainable Urbanisation in Bangladesh.

The support of Professor Mushfiq Mobarak (Yale University) and Professor Fahad Khalil (University of Washington), serving as Lead Academics, ensure the academic rigor of the research work while Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, former Country Director and current Senior Advisor to IGC Bangladesh, has been critical in ensuring maximum policy engagement.





Political Strikes and their Impacts on Trade: Evidence from Bangladeshi Transaction-Level Export Data

Dr Kazi Iqbal et al. (*Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies*)

This research project studies the transaction level data of exports and imports for Bangladesh, linking “hartals” – frequent political strikes in Bangladesh – and trade delays, and the resulting impact on economic growth.



Free Provision and Demand for Health Products

Dr Minhaj Mahmud et al. (*BRAC Institute of Governance and Development*)

The main purpose of this study is to investigate whether providing health products for free of cost (full subsidy) affects users’ demand for the product in the future and to what extent governments should subsidise healthcare products.



Infrastructure, Misallocation and Economic Growth in Bangladesh

Professor Mark Pitt et al. (*Brown University*)

This research aims to estimate how the provision and improvements in roads and

bridges and the provision of electricity to rural areas affect growth by reducing spatial wage disparities.



Infrastructure and Well-being: Impact of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge on Jobs and Livelihood in Bangladesh

Professor Yasuyuki Sawada et al. (*University of Tokyo*)

This project aims to evaluate the impact of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (JMB) on jobs and livelihood in the interested areas.



Understanding Blackouts: Analysing detailed blackouts information of Dhaka, Bangladesh

Professor Abu Shonchoy (*University of Tokyo*)

Managing insufficient electricity is a big challenge for economic growth. The research will draw the distribution of load-shedding and analyse how to improve electricity management in Dhaka city.

IGC Bangladesh is currently engaged in a number of projects with leading academics from around the world.



Effect of E-Procurement System: Evidence from Bangladesh

Professor Wahid Abdallah
(BRAC University)

The e-Government Procurement (e-GP) is one of the initiatives of the current government towards 'Digital Bangladesh'. The study will evaluate the performance of the current e-GP system, highlight its successes and identify loopholes.



Managing Shocks: Workers' Well-being and Firm Productivity in the Bangladeshi Garment Sector

Professor Christopher Woodruff et al.
(University of Warwick)

A central characteristic of workers in manufacturing in low-income countries is the need to adjust to continued and varied shocks. These shocks cause output to fall behind the production plan, leading to pressure to increase output and stress in factories. The project will quantify the relative benefits of a variety of policies directed at improving workers' wellbeing in the eady-made garments sector in Bangladesh.



Taxpayer Recognition Program

Professor Mushfiq Mobarak et al.
(Yale University)

The project studies the role of social incentives in firm decision-making regarding tax payments. The project experiments with a strategy of leveraging the power of social recognition to encourage voluntary tax compliance.



Technology Adoption and Food Security in Rural Bangladesh

Professor Asadul Islam et al.
(Monash University)

The proposed research aims to introduce and evaluate "System of Rice Intensification" (SRI) practices. It will generate rigorous experimental evidence on the productivity and broader socio-economic impacts of SRI adoption and investigate alternative policies, strategies and incentives for facilitating adaptation and adoption.

CONTACT THE TEAM



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The International Growth Centre (IGC) aims to promote sustainable growth in developing countries by providing demand-led policy advice based on frontier research. The IGC directs a global network of world-leading researchers and in-country teams in Africa and South Asia and works closely with partner governments to generate high quality research and policy advice on key growth challenges. Based at LSE and in partnership with the University of Oxford, the IGC is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

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