

Annual Review - Summary Sheet

PROGRAMME TITLE: Professionalisation of the Bangladesh Armed Forces		
Country/Region:	Bangladesh	
HMG Partners (LEAD in bold)	MINISTRY OF DEFENCE	
Total Budget:	ODA: None	Non-ODA: £0.8m
Start Date: APR 2015		End Date: MAR 2018
Outputs		Score
Bangladeshi Armed Forces completing UK-based courses		A
Bangladeshi Armed Forces completing in-country UK run courses		A
Bangladeshi Armed Forces value relationship with UK Defence		A
Outcome: Officers trained understand professional values and the military’s place in the democratic system. Officers who have undergone UK led training do not attempt to overthrow the democratically elected government. The UK’s influence and insight is enhanced in Bangladesh.		
Outcome Score: A		Risk: LOW /MED

Summary of Programme Performance

Year	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Programme Score	A	A	
Risk Rating	LOW - MED	LOW - MED	

What support is the UK providing?

The UK provides professional education, mentoring and advice to all three branches of the Bangladesh Armed Forces, to assist with their development programme and to highlight governance, transparency and oversight of all military activities. The programme focuses on group training courses delivered in Bangladesh, with a small number of selected individuals studying on longer residential courses in the UK. The UK is providing advice on manning structures and force development, as well as specific assistance for capabilities such as the integration of military disaster response into the wider civilian, national and international effort. Education covers all aspects, from the conceptual level for senior officers and decision-makers, through to tactical level advice for more junior commanders. The Bangladeshi military employs both men and women across all ranks with the exception of the combat arms, which aligns with gender specific considerations when allocating CSSF funding.

Summary of progress and lessons learnt/actions taken since last review

An informal review was conducted by the DA for the first year of the programme. No formal feedback was received as a result of his report. The programme has continued to train Bangladeshi military personnel against the specified outputs. The financial planning of the programme is managed monthly, as recommended in the previous annual review; it continues to be externally reviewed on a quarterly basis.

Summary of recommendations for the next year

The programme is a critical aspect of both the bilateral military relationship and for the wider High Commission Engagement programme. If additional funding was available there are further opportunities for military engagement, which would continue to build on the firm bilateral foundations already established. Although the political situation remains relatively calm, the elections in 2018 present the potential for future unrest. It is important that the UK continue to engage with the military to ensure they do not consider undemocratic intervention and that they support the government of the day by upholding the democratic institutions.