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## Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry

# Progressive Women, Prosperous Bangladesh



**10 June 2026 | ADB Business Opportunities Seminar | Dhaka**

## About BWCCI

### **Vision**

To build a prosperous Bangladesh through progress and economic empowerment of women.

### **Mission**

To evolve as a national platform for urban and rural women entrepreneurs with an aim to enhance their contributions in all spheres of life through attaining sustainable financial strength, recognition in family, society, economic and public life.



## About BWCCI

- ▶ The first Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh working solely for women.
- ▶ Established June 2001 | 5,000+ members nationwide
- ▶ Registered under Ministry of Commerce, GoB
- ▶ Affiliated with FBCCI — the apex trade body of Bangladesh
- ▶ 14-member Board | 10 Standing Committees | 8 Divisional Bodies
- ▶ Active in all 64 districts | 38+ projects | 62,000+ women trained

## Major Partners

- ▶ Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, GOB
- ▶ Ministry of Women & Children Affairs (MoWCA), GOB
- ▶ Ministry of Commerce, GoB
- ▶ Directorate of Technical Education, GOB
- ▶ Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- ▶ UNDP | USAID | FCDO | EU | CUTs International, World bank  
DFID-UK | UNFPA
- ▶ BRAC | Asia Foundation
- ▶ CIPE (Centre for International Private Enterprise)
- ▶ Meta (Facebook)
- ▶ Swisscontact

## Services for BWCCI members

- ▶ **Training and Capacity Building**
- ▶ **Access to Finance**
- ▶ **Policy Advocacy**
- ▶ **Access to Market**
- ▶ **Business Mentoring**
- ▶ **E-Commerce**

**BWCCI delivers these services through 38+ projects, 10 Standing Committees, 8 Divisional Bodies — reaching all 64 districts of Bangladesh**

## Facilitating access to finance and market for women-owned businesses

- ▶ Advocated with stakeholders for collateral-free low interest loans for women entrepreneurs under the ADB Refinancing Scheme from 2008.
- ▶ Trained 20,000+ women entrepreneurs on bank readiness.
- ▶ Advocated for women-dedicated desks in all scheduled banks.
- ▶ Achieved collateral-free SME loans at single digit interest rates.
- ▶ Supported 10,000+ women through national and regional trade fairs and export readiness.
- ▶ Forward and backward linkage development through trade fair participation and exposure visits
- ▶ Market linkage support under GoB, ADB, SEIP, SICIP projects across Bangladesh.

## ADB–BWCCI Collaborations | Completed Projects (2010–2016)

### Promoting Women's Entrepreneurship in Bangladesh

*Sep 2010 – Aug 2013*

900

Women Trained

6

Districts Covered

- ▶ 900 women entrepreneurs trained —access to finance, marketing and skill development.
- ▶ 39 Banks and financial institutions participated in seminars and workshops with a view to creating women-friendly environment in banks.
- ▶ Collateral-free SME loans for women; low interest rate

### Promoting Women in Renewable Energy Sector – Hatiya Island

Aug 2013 – Oct 2014 | Hatiya Island, Noakhali

- ▶ 400 poor and vulnerable women trained in ICS installation, sewing, candle making, livestock.
- ▶ 15%+ women enhanced energy-based livelihoods through own enterprises.
- ▶ 3,000 households received gender-sensitive user education module

### Enhanced Access to Energy – Hatiya Island

Oct 2015 – Sep 2016 | Hatiya Island, Noakhali

- ▶ Formed a cooperative society for Hatiya Island women entrepreneurs.
- ▶ Launched group enterprises for sustainable income generation

# Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP)- Ongoing projects

*ADB | Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, GoB | 2017–2023*

**8,025**

Women Trained

**13**

Districts Covered

**18**

Training Institutes

**89.35%**

Job / Enterprise  
Placement

## 5 Skill-Based Training Trades (60-Day Courses):

- ▶ Beautification and Entrepreneurship Development
- ▶ Fashion Design, Product Dev. & Entrepreneurship Development
- ▶ Food & Beverage Production & Entrepreneurship Development
- ▶ Mobile Phone Servicing & Entrepreneurship Development
- ▶ IT Outsourcing & Entrepreneurship Development

**WIELD (Women Institute for Entrepreneurial & Leadership Development) — 8-storeyed BWCCI residential training centre, Gazipur under this project 50 trainees graduated in 2023.**

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# Skills for Industry Competitiveness and Innovation Program (SICIP)

*ADB | Ministry of Finance, GoB | 2025–2028 (Ongoing)*

**10,000**

Target Women

**3,575+**

Trained (by Jun 2026)

**~78%**

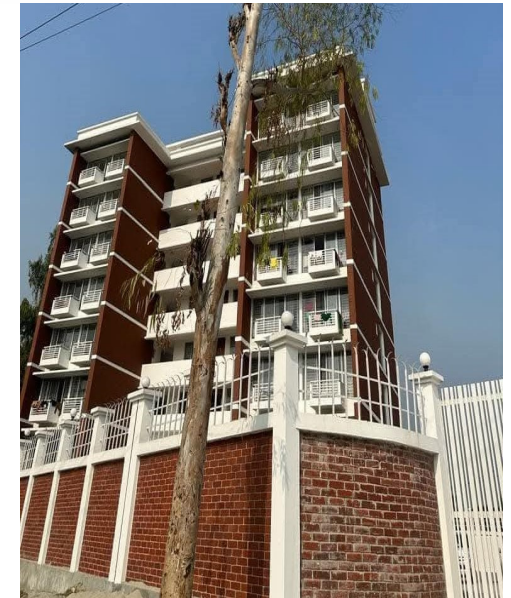
Job/Enterprise  
Placement

**21**

Training Institutes

## 5 Training Trades (54-Day Courses):

- ▶ Beautification and Entrepreneurship Development
- ▶ Fashion Design, Product Dev. & Entrepreneurship
- ▶ Food & Beverage Production & Entrepreneurship
- ▶ Digital Marketing & IT Freelancing
- ▶ Graphic Design & Entrepreneurship Development



**WIELD, Gazipur** — BWCCI's own 8-storey residential training institute: Women from across Bangladesh reside for 54-day skill training in beautification & fashion design. Trainees return home as entrepreneurs with industry-ready skills.

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## Strategic Fit: BWCCI with ADB and GoB Priorities

### **Alignment with ADB**

Directly supports ADB priorities on human development, gender equality, and social-sector resilience — and builds a new export-ready workforce for global care markets.

### **Alignment with the Government of Bangladesh**

Reinforces the national agenda on women's empowerment, social protection, and financial inclusion — and strengthens Bangladesh's position in regional and global care economies.

## Our future priorities: Digital and AI skills for women

- ▶ Expanding women-owned businesses with AI-enabled modules — e-commerce, freelancing, graphic design, and digital marketing — preparing women for the next decade of digital work.
- ▶ Developing BWCCI Mobile App that integrates capacity building, financial management, market linkage, regulatory issues and access to finance for women entrepreneurs.

# Pillar 1 — Digital and AI-Ready Women Entrepreneurs

## **The Ask**

Train 25,000 women over 5 years in AI, digital marketing and freelancing. Strengthen WIELD as a national digital skills hub. Integrate digital payments, DFS and e-commerce.

## **Possible Outcomes**

- A measurable rise in formal SME registrations among graduates.
- New women-led enterprises with formal banking relationships.

## Pillar 2 — Care Economy and Health Workforce

### **The Ask**

Establish a Care Skills and Certification Program at WIELD training 5,000 caregivers, nursing assistants and community health workers over 5 years, with ethical migration pathways co-designed with host countries.

### **Possible Outcomes**

3,000 women placed in domestic care roles, 1,500 placed in ethical overseas positions, and 50,000+ elder-care beneficiaries served inside Bangladesh.

## Impact Summary — A Model for Inclusive Growth

**Together, these pillars create a replicable model for inclusive, sustainable, women-led growth — and position Bangladesh as a regional leader in the care and digital economies.**



## **"Progressive Women, Prosperous Bangladesh"**

**We believe economic growth and independence means having a voice in society and public life with an aim to build a better Bangladesh and attaining global peace and happiness.**

# **Thank you!**

**Sangita Ahmed**

Senior Vice President

Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BWCCI)