

**Independent Auditor's Report and
Audited Financial Statements
of the Project
"Strengthening news media freedom and
accountability in Bangladesh"**

**Implemented by: Media Resources Development
Initiative (MRDI)**

In partnership with: The Asia Foundation (TAF)

**As at and for the period from
02 March 2025 to 31 March 2025**

**Independent Auditor's Report and
Audited Financial Statements
of the Project
“Strengthening news media freedom and
accountability in Bangladesh”**

**Implemented by: Media Resources Development
Initiative (MRDI)**

In partnership with: The Asia Foundation (TAF)

**As at and for the period from
02 March 2025 to 31 March 2025**



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Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Co

Chartered Accountants

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT To the Board of Directors of Media Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements of Strengthening news media freedom and accountability in Bangladesh

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of “Strengthening news media freedom and accountability in Bangladesh” (the “Project”), implemented by Media Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) (the “Entity”) and funded by The Asia Foundation (TAF), which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025 and the Statement of Income and Expenditure and Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period from 02 March 2025 to 31 March 2025, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the Balance Sheet of the Project as at 31 March 2025, and its Income & Expenditure and its Receipts & Payments of the Project for thirty (30) days' period then ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) and other applicable laws and regulations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Project in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Bangladesh, and we have fulfilled our other responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Management and those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) and other applicable laws and regulations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Project or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so as disclosed in the financial statements.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.



Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.



Sk Md Tarikul Islam, FCA

Partner

Membership no:1238

Firm's Registration # CAF-001-057

Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Co

Chartered Accountants

DVC: 2505251238 AS 923495


Dhaka, 25 May 2025




Project Name: Strengthening news media freedom and accountability in Bangladesh
Implemented by: Media Resources Development Initiative (MRDI)
In partnership with: The Asia Foundation (TAF)
Statement of Financial Position
As at 31 March 2025

	Notes	Amount in BDT 31 March 2025
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	3	30,000
		<u>30,000</u>
Fund and liabilities		
Unutilized donor fund	4	-
Provision for expenses	6	30,000
		<u>30,000</u>

The accompanying notes (1-6) form an integral part of these financial statements.


Md. Mominul Islam
Manager, Accounts


Hasibur Rahman
Executive Director


Sk Md Tarikul Islam, FCA
Partner
Membership no.: 1238
Firm's Registration # CAF-001-057
Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Co
Chartered Accountants

Dhaka, 25 May 2025


DVC: 2505251238 AS 923495



Project Name: Strengthening news media freedom and accountability in Bangladesh
Implemented by: Media Resources Development Initiative (MRDI)
In partnership with: The Asia Foundation (TAF)
Statement of Income and Expenditure
For the period from 02 March 2025 to 31 March 2025


	Notes	Amount in BDT 31 March 2025
Income		
Grant income	5	1,815,000
		<u>1,815,000</u>
Expenditure		
Programme cost	6	1,815,000
		<u>1,815,000</u>

The accompanying notes (1-6) form an integral part of these financial statements.


Md. Mominul Islam
Manager, Accounts


Hasibur Rahman
Executive Director

Dhaka, 25 May 2025



Sk Md Tarikul Islam, FCA
Partner
Membership no.: 1238
Firm's Registration # CAF-001-057
Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Co
Chartered Accountants
DVC:2505251238 AS 923495





Project Name: Strengthening news media freedom and accountability in Bangladesh
Implemented by: Media Resources Development Initiative (MRDI)
In partnership with: The Asia Foundation (TAF)
Statement of Receipts and Payments
For the period from 02 March 2025 to 31 March 2025

	Notes	Amount in BDT 31 March 2025
Opening balance		
Cash at bank		-
		-
Receipts		
Fund from Donor	4.1	1,815,000
Total receipts		<u>1,815,000</u>
Payments		
Programme cost	6	1,785,000
Total payments		<u>1,785,000</u>
Closing balances		
Cash at bank		30,000
		<u>1,815,000</u>

The accompanying notes (1-6) form an integral part of these financial statements.


Md. Mominul Islam
 Manager, Accounts


Hasibur Rahman
 Executive Director


Sk Md Tarikul Islam, FCA
 Partner
 Membership no.: 1238
 Firm's Registration # CAF-001-057
 Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Co
 Chartered Accountants

Dhaka, 25 May 2025

DVC: 2505251238 AS 923495



Project Name: Strengthening news media freedom and accountability in Bangladesh

Implemented by: Media Resources Development Initiative (MRDI)

In partnership with: The Asia Foundation (TAF)

Notes to the Financial Statements

As at and for the period from 02 March 2025 to 31 March 2025

1.0 About the organization and project

1.1 About the organization

Media Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) (the "Entity") to support the development of a strong and independent media that exercises excellence in journalism, and to empower all people including the marginalised to freely enjoy their right to information, working with partners in Bangladesh and beyond.

Media Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) is registered with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies and Firms, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh under the Section 28 of the Company Act, 1994 having Incorporation Number is C-544(57)/2003 dated 13 May 2003 as a company limited by guarantee. It is also registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau having registration number 1962 dated 21 September 2004 under the Foreign Donations Regulation Ordinance 1978, registration renewed on 24 July 2019 for a period of ten years up to 20 September 2029.

Name of the organisation is amended from Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) to Media Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) with effect from 16 August 2023 for RJSC&F registration with new incorporation number T-544 and for NGOAB with effect from 23 November 2023 with the same registration number 1962.

The mission of the organization is "To support the development of a strong and independent media that exercises excellence in journalism, and to empower all people including the marginalised to freely enjoy their rights to information, working with partners in Bangladesh and beyond".

1.2 About the project

Strengthening news media freedom and accountability in Bangladesh is a 30 days project starting from 02 March 2025 to 31 March 2025. The project is funded by The Asia Foundation (TAF). The project aims to draft an ordinance to establish an Independent Media Commission for protection and safeguard of news media professionals and address grievance by consumers to bring accountability in the industry and draft a comprehensive Journalist Protection Ordinance that will ensure legal and professional security of journalists and media workers in Bangladesh while promoting a conducive environment for press freedom and ethical journalism.

1.3 Objectives of the project

A. Overall objective

1. To draft an ordinance to establish an Independent Media Commission for protection and safeguard of news media professionals and address grievance by consumers to bring accountability in the industry.

2. To draft a comprehensive Journalist Protection Ordinance that will ensure legal and professional security of journalists and media workers in Bangladesh while promoting a conducive environment for press freedom and ethical journalism.

B. Program Activities

Support the Media Reform Commission according to its needs before submitting final recommendations to the Interim Government.



1.4 Project period

Total duration of the Project is for thirty (30) days covering from 02 March 2025 to 31 March 2025.

2 Summary of significant accounting policies

2.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared using accrual basis of accounting except statement of receipts and payments. Most of the IFRS are not applicable for the NGO in the preparation of financial statements. ISA-20 has been followed fully while IAS-1 has been partly followed.

2.2 Accounting for grants

International Accounting Standard (IAS) 20 "Accounting for Government Grants and Disclosure of Government Assistance" has been followed during the period under audit for recognition of grant income.

As per IAS 20, grants received are initially recorded as liability. Grant amount used for Project expenses has been recognized as income to the extent of expenses incurred.

2.3 Allocation of common staff salary

As per decision of the board and practice of the Entity, staff salaries and common cost like utilities, printing and stationeries are allocated based on number of exiting projects implemented by the Entity.

2.4 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents for the purpose of the receipts and payments comprises of cash and bank balance. Cash and bank balance includes donations received through donor grants which are available for the use of Entity without restrictions.

2.5 Reporting period

The financial statements of the project cover thirty (30) days starting from 02 March 2025 to 31 March 2025.

2.6 Reporting currency

The financial statements are presented in Bangladesh currency.

2.7 General

Amount rounded off in nearest BDT.



Notes	Amount in BDT
	31 March 2025

3 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank	3.1	30,000
		<u>30,000</u>

3.1 Cash at bank

Prime Bank PLC Asad Gate Branch, Dhaka, A/C # 2138315008259		30,000
Total		<u>30,000</u>

The Project does not maintain separate bank account for itself. The Project has maintained its cash at bank balance amounting to BDT 30,000.00 in MRDI Operational Account No. 2138315008259. The Project period is only 30 (Thirty) days from 02 March 2025 to 31 March 2025. Therefore due to short period of the Project, a separate bank account in the name of the project is not maintained.

Particulars	Amount in BDT
	Balance as on 31 March 2025
Core bank account	2,905,760.49
Under this Project	30,000.00

Notes	Amount in BDT
	31 March 2025

4 Unutilized donor fund

Opening balance		-
Add: Donor fund received during the period	4.1	1,815,000
Less: Grant income recognised	5	(1,815,000)
Total		<u>-</u>

4.1 Fund from Donor (Mother account - Southeast Bank PLC, Dhanmondi Branch)

Date of receipts	Installment	Amount in BDT
13-Mar-25	1st Installment	1,089,000
24-Mar-25	2nd Installment	726,000
Total		<u>1,815,000</u>

4.2 Fund from Donor (Core account - Prime Bank PLC.)

Date of receipts	Installment	Amount in BDT
16-Mar-25	1st Installment	1,089,000
27-Mar-25	2nd Installment	726,000
Total		<u>1,815,000</u>



Amount in BDT
31 March 2025

5 Grant income
Grant income

1,815,000
1,815,000

Amount equivalent to total expenditure incurred for the period has been recognized as grant income for the period according to International Accounting Standard (IAS)-20.

6 Programme Cost

Programme Cost
Audit fee

1,785,000
30,000

As per Statement of Comprehensive Income-Income and Expenditure Account


1,815,000

Less: Provision made during the period (Audit fee)

(30,000)

As per Statement of Receipts and Payments

1,785,000



Md. Mominul Islam
Manager, Accounts



Hasibur Rahman
Executive Director



Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Co

Chartered Accountants

FD-4 Form Certificate issued by CA Firm

I undersigned to certify that our CA Firm, Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Co., Chartered Accountants has completed the audit of the project "Strengthening news media freedom and accountability in Bangladesh" of below mentioned organization's project for the period from 02 March 2025 to 31 March 2025. During the audit, required books of accounts, bills, voucher and necessary evidence have been verified. According to the financial statement audited, relevant information is as follows:

1. Name of the NGO : Media Resources Development Initiative (MRDI)
2. Registration Number : 1962
3. Address (with telephone number, website & email) : 8/19 Sir Syed Road, Block-A, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207. Phone: 02-41022772-4
Website: www.mrdibd.org, E-mail: info@mrdibd.org
4. Name and duration of the project : Strengthening news media freedom and accountability in Bangladesh
For the period from 02 March 2025 to 31 March 2025
5. Audit period of the project : 02 March 2025 to 31 March 2025
6. Opening balance of the period : Taka Nil
7. Foreign donation received during the audit period : Taka 1,815,000
8. Foreign donation utilized during audit period : Taka 1,815,000
9. Balance of unutilized foreign donation at the end of audit period : Taka Nil

FD-4/1 statement has been prepared appropriately as per line items of approved budget of the NGO Affairs Bureau.

Declaration

I hereby declare that I have read all the related rules and regulations and all the information in the Statement of Expenditure found true and accurate.



Sk Md Tarikul Islam, FCA
Partner

Membership no: 1238
Firm's Registration # CAF-001-057
Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Co
Chartered Accountants

Date: 25 May 2025

DVC: 2505251238AS 923495



Annexure-A/1

Project Name: Strengthening news media freedom and accountability in Bangladesh

Implemented by: Media Resources Development Initiative (MRDI)

In partnership with: The Asia Foundation (TAF)

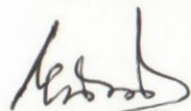
Budget Variance

For the period from 02 March 2025 to 31 March 2025

Amount in BDT

Code	Particulars	Budgeted amount	Actual expenditure	Variance	Variance in %	Reason for variance
1	Programme Cost					
1.1	Programme cost	1,785,000	1,785,000	-	0%	
1.2	Audit fee	30,000	30,000	-	0%	
	Grand total	1,815,000	1,815,000	-	0%	

Total Expenditure as per FD-4/1 (Annexure-A/1)		1,815,000
Less: Current year provision		(30,000)
Add: Payment for prior year provision		-
Foreign donation paid during audit period		1,785,000



Md. Mominul Islam
Manager, Accounts



Hasibur Rahman
Executive Director



Project Name: Strengthening news media freedom and accountability in Bangladesh
Implemented by: Media Resources Development Initiative (MRDI)
In partnership with: The Asia Foundation (TAF)
For the period from 02 March 2025 to 31 March 2025

A. Reconciliation of unutilized fund as per Financial Statements and Cash and bank balance

Particulars	Amount in BDT
Unutilized Fund as per Financial Statements	-
Add: Provision of expenses	30,000
Add: Reserve fund-bank interest	-
Cash and cash equivalents	30,000



Md. Mominul Islam
Manager, Accounts



Hasibur Rahman
Executive Director



**Media Resources Development Initiative (MRDI)
Compliance with Instructions of NGO Affairs Bureau**

Name of the Project : "Strengthening news media freedom and accountability in Bangladesh"
Audit Period : 02 March 2025 to 31 March 2025
Project Approval No. and Date : Project approval letter no.
Approval No 03.07.2666.662.69.100.2024-86,
Dated 26 February 2025
Revised letter no.
Approval No 03.07.2666.662.69.100.2024-108,
Dated 13 March 2025

Our observations in compliance with the conditions laid down in the Circular # 03.07.2666.657.43.253.17-2458, dated- 24 December 2023 issued from the NGO Affairs Bureau, Prime Minister's Office, and Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is listed below:

Condition- 1

The CA firm has to play the most responsible and impartial role in the audit of NGOs. Reports should be prepared using Excel/Access software.

Observations and Comments

We have conducted the audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) and performed our role with utmost responsibility and independence in case during our audit. Report has also been issued using MS Excel/Access Software.

Condition- 2

Every firm, while auditing the accounts of NGOs, must make sure that the Project has been implemented in accordance with the terms of the "Foreign Grants (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act 2016" and the FC-1 regarding Project approval, issued for NGOs, and give an opinion after completing the audit.

Observations and Comments

During our audit of the financial statements, we have checked whether the NGO has implemented the Project in the compliance of the requirements of the Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act, 2016, FC-1 related to the approval of the Project and the terms & conditions of Project approval and did not observe any non-compliance.

Condition- 3

The CA firm must furnish the audit report on receipt and expenditure of foreign grants in Form FD-4 and Annexure A/1 as prescribed by the Bureau along with the audit report. All information in FD-4 regarding foreign grant should be presented on cash basis, not accrual basis. That is, no amount related to foreign grants should be shown as negative or receivables. The difference between the



approved budget and the actual expenditure in FD-4, the total amount should be mentioned as total. Annexure A/1 should describe these in detail, i.e. Khatwari sanctioned budget, actual expenditure, variance as percentage and reason for variance. The sector/sub-sector mentioned in Annexure A/1 and the budget against it, shall be as per approved Project (Annexure-C).

Observations and Comments

The Form of FD-4 along with Annexure-A/1 has been issued in the prescribed format of the Bureau. All the information of Foreign donations in the FD-4 has been provided on cash basis not accrual basis and no receivables pertaining to foreign donations have been taken into account. The actual amount spent and the reasons for any variances are detailed in Annexure-A/1 of the FD-4.

Condition- 4

A separate audit report should be prepared for each Project and the report should be based on the Project period (maximum 12 months). If there is any local income/donation in the Project, it should be shown separately in a separate column and the source of the local grant should be mentioned as per the provisions of the "Foreign Grants (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act 2016". Incomplete feedback will be considered a breach of terms.

Observations and Comments

The audit report has been prepared separately for the Project "Strengthening news media freedom and accountability in Bangladesh" for the period from 02 March 2025 to 31 March 2025 with a separate approval of Approval No 03.07.2666.662.69.100.2024-108, Dated 13 March 2025 (Revised). The Project does not have any local income/donation.

Condition- 5

In the audit report, the goals, objectives, and main activities of the Project shall be mentioned briefly and the following information should be mentioned in the prescribed form:

1. Date of enlistment of CA firm for conducting of the Audit;
2. Name of the Project;
3. Duration of the Project;
4. Memo no. and date of approval of the Project;
5. Memo no. and date of fund release;
6. Amount of fund release (including installment);
7. Amount of foreign donation received;
8. Whether any withdrawal was made from the mother account before the fund release clearance from Bureau;
Whether foreign donations have been received in the mother account;
9. Audit period (Project period);
10. Project area (District, Upazila); and
11. Number of beneficiaries.

Observations and Comments

The brief Project description is as follows:

A. Overall objectives:

1. To draft an ordinance to establish an Independent Media Commission for protection and safeguard of news media professionals and address grievance by consumers to bring accountability in the industry.



2. To draft a comprehensive Journalist Protection Ordinance that will ensure legal and professional security of journalists and media workers in Bangladesh while promoting a conducive environment for press freedom and ethical journalism.

B. Program Activities:

Support the Media Reform Commission according to its needs before submitting final recommendations to the Interim Government.

Specific information pertaining to the Project is given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Implementation Agency	Media Resources Development Initiative (MRDI)									
1	Date of enlistment of CA firm for conducting of the audit	Circular # 03.07.2666,657.43.253.17-2458 Date-24 December 2023.									
2	Name of the Project	Strengthening news media freedom and accountability in Bangladesh.									
3	Duration of the Project	02 March 2025 to 31 March 2025.									
4	Memo no. and date of approval of the Project	Project approval letter no. 03.07.2666.662.68.100.2024-86, Date: 26-02-2025 and Revised letter no 03.07.2666.666.68.100.2024-108, Date: 13-03-2025.									
5	Memo No. Date of fund release	Approval no. NGOAB -03.07.2666.666.68.100.2024-108, Date: 13-03-2025 (Revised).									
6	Amount of fund (including installment) release	<p>Total amount of fund/money release of the Project by NGOAB and the fund were received to Core account (Prime Bank PLC.) from donor by the Project through following installment:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date of receipts</th><th>Installment</th><th>Amount in BDT</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>16-Mar-25</td><td>1st Installment</td><td>1,089,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>27-Mar-25</td><td>2nd Installment</td><td>726,000</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Date of receipts	Installment	Amount in BDT	16-Mar-25	1 st Installment	1,089,000	27-Mar-25	2 nd Installment	726,000
Date of receipts	Installment	Amount in BDT									
16-Mar-25	1 st Installment	1,089,000									
27-Mar-25	2 nd Installment	726,000									
7	Amount of foreign donation received to Core account (Prime Bank PLC.) during the audit period.	BDT 1,815,000.									
8	Whether any withdrawal was made from the mother account before the fund clearance from Bureau release. Whether local donation has been received in the mother account.	No fund was received before NGOAB approval.									
9	Audit period (Project period)	02 March 2025 to 31 March 2025.									
10	Project area (District and Upazilla)	Dhaka (as per FC-1).									
11	Number of beneficiaries	Media Reform Commission, MRDI and the Funding Parter (as per FC-1).									



Condition- 6

Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Account, and Receipts & Payments Account should be the part of the audit report and these statements should be signed by the authorized person of the NGO and the Name of the authorized person needs to be mentioned. If in any case the presentation of the Balance Sheet is not required, then an explanation should be included. The auditor should confirm whether the Receipts and Payments Account was prepared based on the ledger items maintained by NGO. In the items where the accumulated amount has been shown, (such as contingency and others), a detailed breakdown should be shown in notes.

Observations and Comments

Balance Sheet, Statement of Income & Expenditure Account and Statement of Receipts & Payments are part of the audit report and these statements are signed by the authorized person of the NGO and the Name of the authorized person are mentioned. The Statement of Receipts & Payments has been prepared in accordance with the ledgers maintained by the NGO. In the notes to the financial statements, breakups for each accumulated amount are provided for the items of the balance sheet, Statement of Income & Expenditure, and Receipt & Payment Statements.

Condition- 7

Every page of the NGO's audit report should contain page number. Initial of the authorized person of CA firm along with common seal should be provided in every page of the audit report. However, at the beginning of the report auditor's certificate, Balance Sheet, accounts statements, FD-4 certificate and report as per TOR should contain the full signature of the auditor. Below the signature of the auditor, full name, designation and enrollment number should be mentioned. The following consistency should be maintained in the audit report of NGOs:

First part

- Auditor's certificate including scope, opinion, etc.;
- Balance Sheet;
- Income and Expenditure Account/ Statement;
- Receipts and Payments Account/Statement;
- Notes to Financial Statement; and
- Schedule/Appendix/ Other Statement.

Second part

- FD-4 certificate;
- Annexure-A/1;
- Notes of FD-4 (if any); and
- Report should be prepared in line with TOR of NGOAB (sequence of conditions of the TOR should be followed as it is).

Observations and Comments

Page number has been inserted on every page of the report. Each page of the report is also initialed by us with common seal. Auditor's full signature has been given in Auditor's Report, Balance Sheet, Statement of Income and Expenditure, Statement of Receipts and Payments, FD-4 and the report



prepared as per ToR. Below the signature of the auditor, full name, designation and enrollment number is also mentioned. Audit Report has been prepared serially as follows:

First Part

- Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements;
- Balance Sheet;
- Statement of Income and Expenditure;
- Statement of Receipts and Payments; and
- Notes to the Financial Statement.

Second Part

- FD-4 certificate;
- Budget Variance-Annexure A/1;
- Reconciliation of unutilized fund-(Annexure A/2);
- Report as per requirement of NGOAB;
- Statement of Tax and VAT deduction and deposit (Annexure B); and
- Schedule of Property, plant and equipment (Annexure C).

Condition- 8

In the case of multiple years of Project audits, the audit report should contain whether it was audited in the earlier year, if yes, whether the report was submitted to the NGOAB. In the case of the continuous Project i.e. the Project continued in the same name/same type in the earlier year, whether it was audited in the earlier year, if yes, whether the report was submitted to the NGOAB.

Observations and Comments

The Project "Strengthening news media freedom and accountability in Bangladesh." is a thirty (30) days Project starting from 02 March 2025 to 31 March 2025.

Condition- 9

After completion of the audit, one copy (Original Copy) of the audit report in a sealed envelope should be sent directly to the Director General (Grade-1), NGO Affairs Bureau, Dhaka.

Observations and Comments

After completion of the audit, one copy (original copy) of the audit report in a sealed envelope will be sent directly to the Director General (Grade-1) of the NGO Affairs Bureau, Dhaka.

Condition- 10

The number and date of the first registration of the NGO with NGOAB should be mentioned along with the latest date of renewal of registration.

Observations and Comments

The NGO's first registration No. 1962, dated 21 September 2004, renewed on 30 November 2023, which will expire on 20 September 2029.



Condition- 14

The bank interest (exchange gain) on foreign donations should be shown in the accounts separately and it should be mentioned whether permission has been obtained from the NGO Affairs Bureau for use of it. The said bank interest cannot be refunded to the donor. If necessary, it should be spent by the NGO on another Project.

Observations and Comments

During the audit period of the Project (02 March 2025 to 31 March 2025), no bank interest was earned and not shown in the accounts. It is also mentioned that, no bank interest was refunded to the donor.

Condition- 15

It should be reported whether the accounts of NGO are maintained under double entry system of book-keeping and cash book, bank book, ledger book, stock register, fixed asset register and other registers are maintained properly in line with Section-12 of Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act 2016.

Observations and Comments

As per section 12 of The Foreign Donations (Voluntary Activities) Regulation Act 2016, the organization has maintained its accounts according to the double-entry system and books of accounts like cash book or bank book, ledger, stock register, asset register and others are maintained properly. The organization kept its financial records of the Project with Tally Software.

Condition- 16

It should be reported whether a separate Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) for each donor (including earlier Programs) is maintained and whether RLF is audited by independent auditors each year. If RLF from Foreign Donation is not recorded separately and the loan disbursed from the audited program, then it should be ensured that the service charge is recorded as receipts.

Observations and Comment

The NGO does not have any Revolving Loan Fund (RLF).

Condition- 17

It should be mentioned whether the NGO has obtained a license from Micro Credit Regulatory Authority (MRA) for implementing micro credit activities.

Observations and Comments

The NGO was not listed with Microcredit Regulatory Authority.

Condition- 18

If any expenditure is made in foreign currency out of the receipt of donation, a detailed description should be given in the report.

Observations and Comments

The organization has not incurred any expenditure in foreign currency during the period under audit.



Condition- 19

It should be mentioned whether any amount of a certain head of account spent beyond budget and adjusted with other head of accounts, or any unapproved amount of expenditure amount has been adjusted with the regular head of expenditures. If yes, whether approval was obtained from NGOAB in support of the excess expenditures.

Observations and Comments

In FC-1, Approval No. NGOAB-03.07.2666.666.68.100.2024-108 (Revised), dated 13 March 2025, the budget is consolidated into a single line item titled Programmed Cost, showing only the total amount. The budget variance report (Annexure-A/1) is prepared in accordance with FC-1. During our audit we found that, the overall budget was not surpassed by actual expenses.

Condition- 20

Whether any amount of the salaries and allowances of the officer/staff and other expenses above Taka 10,000 were paid through the bank account.

Observations and Comments

During the audit period, we observed that no salary and benefits was paid to the staff and other expenses in all cases were excess of Taka 10,000 are paid in account payee cheque or bank transfer.

Condition- 21

If the Project is implemented through the taking of loan, then the reason for taking the loan with the source of loan and the information regarding prior approval of NGOAB and approval of Executive Committee of the NGO should be furnished.

Observations and Comments

The Project has not taken any loan during the audit period.

Condition- 22

Detailed information along with the approval of the Executive Committee of the NGO should be furnished if the members of the general body or executive committee receive salary or honorarium. Moreover, detailed information of salary/remuneration should be given if the Chief Executive of the Program received any full/part salary/ honorarium from the audited program and other programs.

Observations and Comments

No member of the Board of Directors of the NGO has received any pay and allowances or honorarium from the Project.

Condition- 23

It should be mentioned whether the internal control system of the organization is satisfactory or not.

Observations and Comments

Based on our assessment and review of the internal control system of the NGO, it appears to be at a satisfactory level.



Condition- 24

Whether any money is refunded to the donor, if refunded, whether approval is taken from NGOAB, details are to be given.

Observations and Comments

No amount has been refunded to the Donor Agency from this Project during the period under our audit period.

Condition- 25

Comment has to be given whether VAT and IT were properly deducted from the bill/vouchers according to the government laws and regulations and deposited to Government Treasury and whether revenue stamps were affixed on bill/vouchers in respect of the transitions of the Project by the organization. The amount of deducted and arrear of VAT and IT against the Project expenditure should be mentioned as per the following format:

Sl. No.	Detail of expenditure with subhead as per Annexure A/1	Amount of expenditure	Deductible Amount		Deducted amount		Deposited to Government Treasury		Arrear amount		Treasury/ Mushak Challan no, date, bank name and branch
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Total											

Observations and Comments

Based on the results of our audit of transactions, carried out on a sample basis, in our opinion, Income Tax and VAT have been deducted at source from payments against bills/vouchers and have been duly deposited into the Treasury. Details for VAT and TAX referred to Annexure-B.

Condition- 26

It should be reported whether the NGO, as a legal entity, submits income tax return to NBR every year as per Income Tax Act 2023. If any foreign employee is working in the NGO, it should also be mentioned whether the foreign employee pays tax on a regular basis and his last income year's tax assessment has been completed. Due to the significance of VAT and Income Tax, the concerned Firm and NGO must disclose the complete information.

Observations and Comments

Media Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) has obtained Tax Identification Number (TIN) 5735-7494-4393. Media Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) as a legal entity submits Income Tax Return as per Income Tax Act, 2023 for each year. The organization has also submitted Income Tax Return for the assessment year 2024 - 2025 to the National Board of Revenue in accordance with the Income Tax Ordinance, 1984. No foreign employee is working in the NGO under this Project.



Condition- 27

The audit report should state whether any Income Generating Activities (IGA) is included with the concerned Project. If so, mention whether taxes are paid properly on income from such IGA with the name of the source or whether the organization has collected any Income Tax Exemption Certificate from the NBR.

Observations and Comments

The Project does not have any Income Generating Activities (IGA).

Condition- 28

It should be reported whether any officer/employee/member of the Executive Committee or the General Committee went on foreign travel by availing, air ticket/any other facility by utilizing the funds received from foreign sources. If so, the details of such travel and whether permission from NGO Affairs Bureau was taken in respect of the travel should be given.

Observations and Comments

During the period under audit, no officer/employee/member of the Executive Committee or General Committee of the Media Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) had traveled abroad by using the foreign donation received for the Project.

Condition- 29

The audit report should contain a description of Fixed Assets (along with value) owned by the NGO and it should be mentioned whether relevant fixed assets/ deed/ office rent agreement/ donated land/ vehicle and other assets are reported in the name of the NGO.

Observations and Comments

No fixed assets purchased under the Project for the period ended 31 March 2025. Moreover, the total fixed assets schedule of the NGO as of 30 June 2024 is provided in Annexure-C.

Condition- 30

Whether immovable/moveable assets purchased under this Project have been sold-out/transferred? If so, whether approval is taken from NGOAB to be reported.

Observations and Comments

No fixed assets/moveable properties were sold/transferred during the audit period.

Condition- 31

The CA firm should issue a management letter mentioning the irregularities/ineligible cost/unauthorized expenditure/unapproved budgeted expenditure to the management of the organization after completion of the audit. A copy of the management letter should be submitted to Deputy Director (Inspection and Audit). It should be mentioned if such report is not required.

Observations and Comments

No significant issue was identified during our audit period and no management letter has been issued.



Condition- 32

A CA Firm cannot consecutively audit the same Project of the NGO for more than five (5) years. For this reason, the CA Firm should certify that they did not audit the audited Project of the NGO.

Observations and Comments

We conducted the audit of the “Strengthening news media freedom and accountability in Bangladesh.” Project for the period from 02 March 2025 to 31 March 2025 for thirty (30) days.

Condition-33

A list of the members of the organization’s Executive Committee/Governing Body/Management Communities should be provided.

Observations and Comments

Details of the members of the organization have been shown in the following table:

Sl. No.	Name of the Member	Designation
1.	Farid Hossain	Chair
2.	Hasibur Rahman	Executive Director
3.	Md. Nazrul Islam	Director
4.	Syed Ishtiaque Reza	Director
5.	Sakiul Millat Morshed	Director
6.	Dr. Azizunnahar Islam	Director
7.	Mainul Alam	Director
8.	Dr. Shamim Imam	Director
9.	M.B.M. Lutful Hadee FCA	Director
10.	Shahana Huda Ranjana	Director
11.	Miraj Ahmed Chowdhury	Director

Condition- 34

It should be mentioned whether all the expenditures relevant to the audit of the Project are bore from the Project/organization.

Observations and Comments

All the expenditure of the audit of the Project has been borne from this Project.

Condition- 35

The audit report should contain the memorandum number with the date of the firm's enlistment and renewal.

Observations and Comments

Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Co., Chartered Accountants is enlisted with NGO Affairs Bureau by Enlistment/Renewal Memo No: # 03.07.2666.657.43.253.17-2458, dated - 24 December 2023, (Sl. No. 59).



Condition- 36

The auditor should include opinions on whether the entity's all financial transactions are free from money laundering and terrorist financing activities.

Observations and Comments

Based on our verification on a sample basis, we did not find any indication that the NGO is involved in money laundering and terrorist financing activities.

Condition- 37

Detail opinion along with evidence should be given on whether the conditions of approval of the Project have been dully followed and the local administration has been involved in the implementation of the Project.

Observations and comments

MRDI complied with all the conditions of Project approval and involved the local government in the implemented Project. Details are as follows:

SL No.	Conditions	Status
1.	The NGO has to involve the concerned District Commissioner and concerned UNO on the Project. For this purpose, a copy of FC-1 has to be submitted to District Commissioner and within the following 15 days evidence of agreement of receipt shall be submitted to NGO Affairs Bureau.	Complied
2	The NGO has to submit an annual progress report after the end of the Project period to NGO Affairs Bureau, related District Office.	Submitted
3	Legal action will be taken against the NGO if the NGO/any Project employee/officer is involved in any kind of anti-state/anti-government activity.	Not Applicable
3	The Project audit report has to be submitted to the NGO Affairs Bureau and Statistics Department of Bangladesh Bank within 2 (two) months after the Project's period -end.	Will be submitted after completion of audit.
4	Income Tax/VAT has to be deducted as per the National Board of Revenue Circular.	Complied
5	List of beneficiary should be submitted to NGAOB.	Complied
6	The details of the budget of the Project must be uploaded on the website of the organization.	Complied

Condition- 38

It should be mentioned whether the audit has been completed within the deadline, if not, logical reason for the delay to be mentioned.

Observations and comments

As per the condition of Project approval of NGOAB, the audit has been completed within two (2) months from the period end.



Condition- 39

Document Verification Code (DVC) needs to be disclosed in the audit report.

Observations and comments

Document Verification Code (DVC) for this Project is 2505251238AS923495, dated – 25 May 2025.

Dhaka, 25 May 2025



Sk Md Tarikul Islam, FCA

Partner

Membership no:1238

Firm's Registration # CAF-001-057

Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Co

Chartered Accountants

DVC:2505251238AS 923495



Project Name: Strengthening news media freedom and accountability in Bangladesh

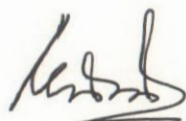
Implemented by: Media Resources Development Initiative (MRDI)

In partnership with The Asia Foundation (TAF)

Statement of Tax and VAT deposited for the period ended 31 March 2025

Amount in BDT

Sl. No.	Head of expenditures	Actual expenses	Deductible amount		VAT		TAX	
			VAT	IT	Challan No./ Tracking No.	Date	Challan No./ Tracking No.	Date
1	Programme cost		-	-				
1.1	Programme cost	1,785,000	-	130,000			2425-0027417054, 2425-0029243940	10.03.2025, 09.04.2025
1.2	Audit fee	30,000	-	-				
	Total Project Cost	1,815,000	-	130,000				



Md. Mominul Islam
Manager, Accounts



Hasibur Rahman
Executive Director



Media Resources Development Initiative (MRDI)
Schedule of Property, Plant and Equipment
As at 30 June 2024

Annexure-C

Sl. No.	Particulars	Cost				Rate (%)	Depreciation					Written down value
		Opening balance	During the year				Closing balance	Opening balance	During the year		Closing balance	
			Adjustment	Addition	Adjustment /disposal				Adjustment	Charged		
		BDT	BDT		BDT		BDT	BDT	BDT	BDT	BDT	BDT
1.0	Furniture and fixture:											
1.1	Table	430,080	(7,252)	-	10,430	20%	357,260	(9,033)	42,609	10,428	380,408	31,990
1.2	Chair, sofa etc	343,560	63	-	2,050	20%	273,449	(269)	27,541	2,049	298,672	42,901
1.3	Shelf, paper stand, notice board etc.	375,129	5,391	-	7,500	20%	348,715	6,058	16,046	7,499	363,320	9,700
1.4	Interior decoration	269,951	75,000	-	-	20%	344,951	82,262	-	-	344,937	14
	Sub-total (A)	1,418,720	73,202	-	19,980		1,242,099	79,018	86,196	19,976	1,387,337	84,605
2.0	Office equipment:											
2.1	Monitoring set up	206,334	(135,407)	-	-	30%	206,333	(135,409)	-	-	70,924	3
2.2	Fax machine, scanner, TV, recorder etc.	39,630	20,550	-	3,600	30%	39,628	20,546	-	3,599	56,575	5
2.3	Power generator (Honda)	102,250	-	-	-	30%	102,249	-	-	-	102,249	1
2.4	Electric fans	64,713	425	-	-	30%	65,138	405	2,100	-	65,110	28
2.5	Air cooler	658,193	-	-	74,000	30%	651,077	7,105	-	73,999	584,183	10
2.6	Telephone and internet connectivity	127,243	(36,393)	-	-	30%	127,242	(36,402)	-	-	90,840	10
2.7	Camera	56,539	(32,162)	-	-	30%	24,377	(32,162)	-	-	24,376	1
2.8	Mobile and telephone set	378,360	(134,078)	195,894	110,000	30%	352,677	(127,513)	67,810	109,999	182,975	147,201
2.9	Access & Attendance Control Device	55,000	-	-	-	30%	54,999	(1)	-	-	54,998	2
	Sub-total (B)	1,688,262	(317,065)	195,894	187,600		1,653,348	(303,431)	69,910	187,597	1,232,230	147,261
3.0	Computer, printer and multimedia											
3.1	Tower server	180,360	-	-	-	33%	180,359	-	-	-	180,359	1
3.2	Desktop computer	675,390	(30,180)	-	69,114	33%	674,707	(29,519)	-	69,112	576,076	20
3.3	Laptop computer	888,799	(156,320)	-	94,450	33%	887,449	(156,327)	1,342	94,448	638,016	13
3.4	Laser printer	200,035	(8,140)	-	62,900	33%	199,624	(8,144)	407	62,898	128,989	6
3.5	UPS, IPS and stabilizer	291,333	(97,475)	-	-	33%	131,275	(97,418)	52,800	-	86,657	107,201
3.6	Multimedia projector	191,225	-	-	-	33%	191,224	(3)	-	-	191,221	4
3.7	Computer networking	78,680	-	-	-	33%	78,679	(1)	-	-	78,678	2
	Sub-total (C)	2,505,822	(292,115)	-	226,464		2,343,317	(291,412)	54,549	226,458	1,879,996	107,247
4.0	Other assets											
4.1	Books	25,930	-	-	-	20%	25,929	(16)	-	-	25,913	17
4.2	Paintings	40,000	-	-	-	20%	39,999	-	-	-	39,999	1
4.3	Tally ERP 9 Gold	-	124,800	-	-	20%	-	124,800	-	-	124,800	-
	Sub-total (D)	65,930	124,800	-	-		65,928	124,784	-	-	190,712	18
5.0	Project assets											
5.1	FOJO IQJB Project	5,549,714	-	472,271	143,442		-	-	4,349,969	143,442	4,206,527	1,672,016
5.2	TAF JSMA Project	601,898	-	-	-		-	-	493,043	-	493,043	108,855
5.3	TAF MIMA Project	148,419	-	-	-		-	-	142,117	-	142,117	6,302
5.4	EU-MSD Project	431,212	-	-	-		-	-	142,301	-	142,301	288,911
5.5	MRDI-TARA-CEM	-	-	240,690	-		-	-	-	-	-	240,690
5.6	MRDI-TAF-JFD	-	-	139,230	-		-	-	-	-	-	139,230
	Sub-total (E)	6,731,243	-	852,191	143,442		-	-	5,127,430	143,442	4,983,988	2,456,004
	Balance as at 30 June 2024	12,409,977	(411,178)	1,048,085	577,486	-	5,304,692	(391,041)	5,338,085	577,473	9,674,263	2,795,135
	Balance as at 30 June 2023	12,397,101		1,193,885	1,181,009		5,312,907		600,569	608,784	5,304,692	7,105,285
Right-of-use asset												
	Balance as at 30 June 2024	4,245,198	-	-	-		4,245,198		849,039	-	4,245,198	-
	Balance as at 30 June 2023	4,245,198					4,245,198		849,040		3,396,159	849,039

Md. Mominul Islam
Manager, Accounts



Hasibur Rahman
Executive Director