

CSOs and NGOs working for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples¹



Name of Organisation: Ethnic Community Development Organization (ECDO), Bangladesh, 2002

Website of Organisation: <http://www.ecdo-bd.org/>

Facebook of Organisation: <https://www.facebook.com/ecdo.bd/>

Organisation of DTP Alumni Y/N: Yes

ECDO is a non-government and not-for-profit voluntary organization working for the development of different Indigenous communities in Sylhet Division (the northeastern part of Bangladesh).

ECDO's aim is to ensure the realization of equality and empowerment amongst Indigenous peoples and to eliminate the discrimination against these communities from mainstream society. ECDO has good connections with the leaders of local Indigenous communities, given the fact that the employees of ECDO are Indigenous peoples themselves. ECDO benefits from having this unique link and bond of trust with its target beneficiaries. ECDO utilizes this advantage by involving the communities in all of its decision-making processes. From its inception, ECDO has formed its mission and vision from the opinions and needs of the Indigenous peoples.

ECDO's philosophy is to utilize everything from high-quality academic research to regular open-forum discussions in villages to try and understand the situation and needs of the Indigenous people. ECDO encourages the communities to participate in the discussion and ensures that there is a sense of community empowerment, ownership, and long-term sustainability to projects. ECDO has a right-based approach to development.

ECDO's Vision

ECDO envisages a society where the Indigenous peoples in Bangladesh are empowered, educated, and have the knowledge and the capacity to alleviate struggles from discrimination, poverty and exploitation.

Contact address: 17 Urmi (1st floor), West Shibgonj, Sylhet, Bangladesh

Email: N/A

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¹ The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) is an NGO affiliated with the Faculty of Law at UNSW in Sydney. Since 1990, it has provided training to over 2600 human rights defenders and community advocates. These individuals work for a wide range of organisations working to promote shared values of human rights – in different ways. This profile is part of a series developed by DTP (www.dtp.unsw.edu.au) to illustrate the richness and diversity of the organisations working to promote the rights of Indigenous peoples more broadly.