

National Symposium in observance of The International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Title: Empowering Persons with Disabilities through Enhanced Accessibility and Digital Inclusion

Theme: Accessible Infrastructure & Digital Inclusion

Submitted by: Access Bangladesh Foundation

Date: 4th December, 2025



Organizational Overview

Access Bangladesh Foundation | National level OPD | 4th January 2008



Vision

Building an inclusive society where children, youth, women, men with disabilities as well as other marginalized groups can participate equally in all areas of life.



Mission

Promoting equity for children, youth, women, men with disabilities as well as other marginalized people through inclusive education and skills, entrepreneurship development and wage employment, arts, culture and sports, health, SRHR and mental health services, ending GBV, legal assistance, DRM and CCA and ICT.

Core Working Areas



Inclusive Education



Inclusive Livelihood



Digital Inclusion



Accessible Infrastructure



SRHR



DRR and CCA



Access to Justice



Research, Campaign
& Advocacy



Advisory Services

Geographical Coverage



29 districts in 8 divisions
partnership with 65 OPDs



Headquarter in Savar, Dhaka



3 project offices

1. Dhamrai
2. Shyamnagar and
3. Chilmari, Kurigram



Focus and Thematic Areas

Thematic Title: Empowering Persons with Disabilities through Enhanced Accessibility and Digital Inclusion

Theme of this Paper: Accessible Infrastructure & Digital Inclusion

Focus & Thematic Areas

**Accessibility
Assessment,
renovation and
improve accessibility
of Information &
Feedback Centers in
humanitarian context**

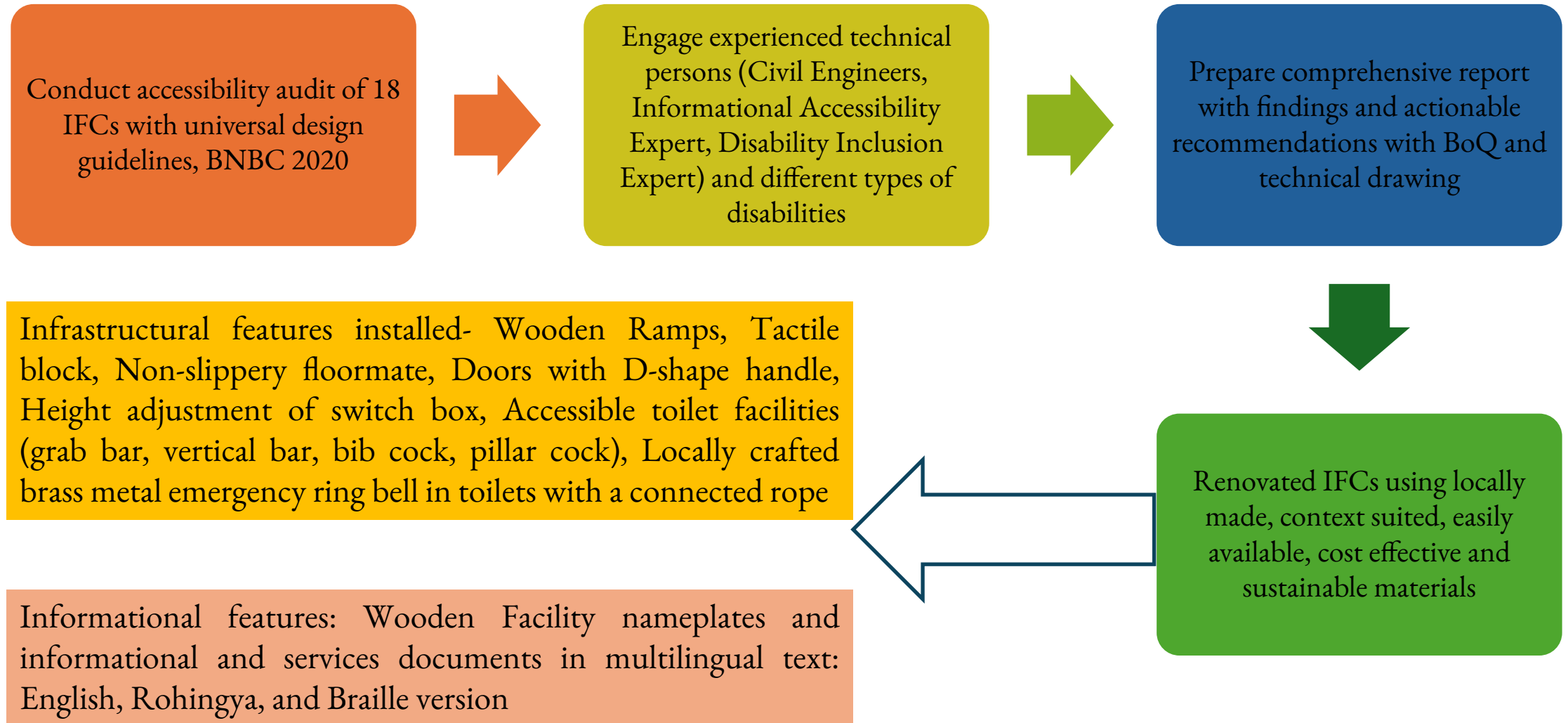
**Promote digital
inclusion through
skills development and
employment
generation for youth
and women with
disabilities**

**Accessible online
learning and
e-commerce platforms**

Major Project on Accessible Infrastructure:

Renovation work in 18 Information and Feedback Centers in Rohingya Camps and Host Communities for making them more accessible to persons with disabilities

Working Model: Accessibility Assessment, Renovation and Improve Accessibility

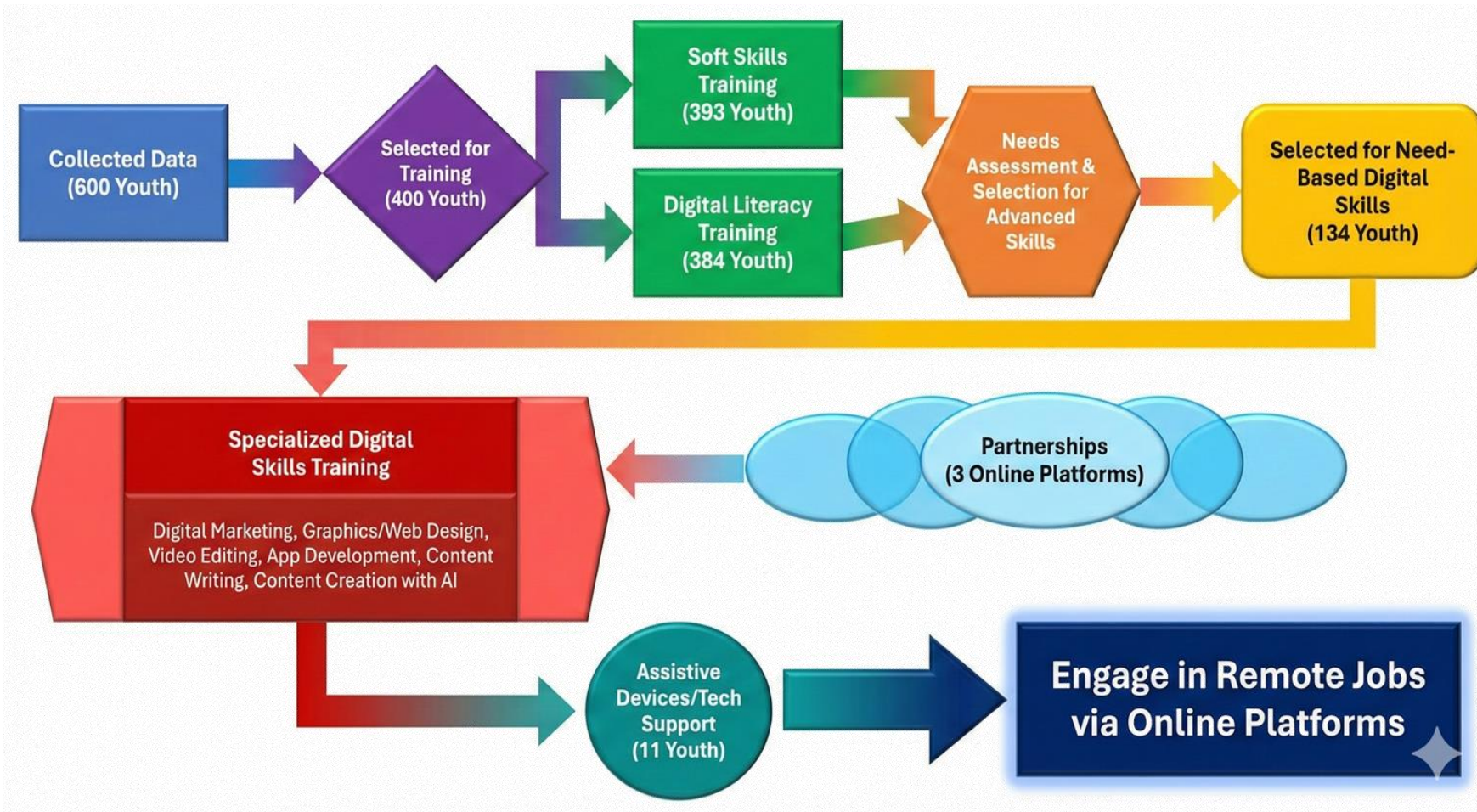


Major Project on Digital Inclusion:

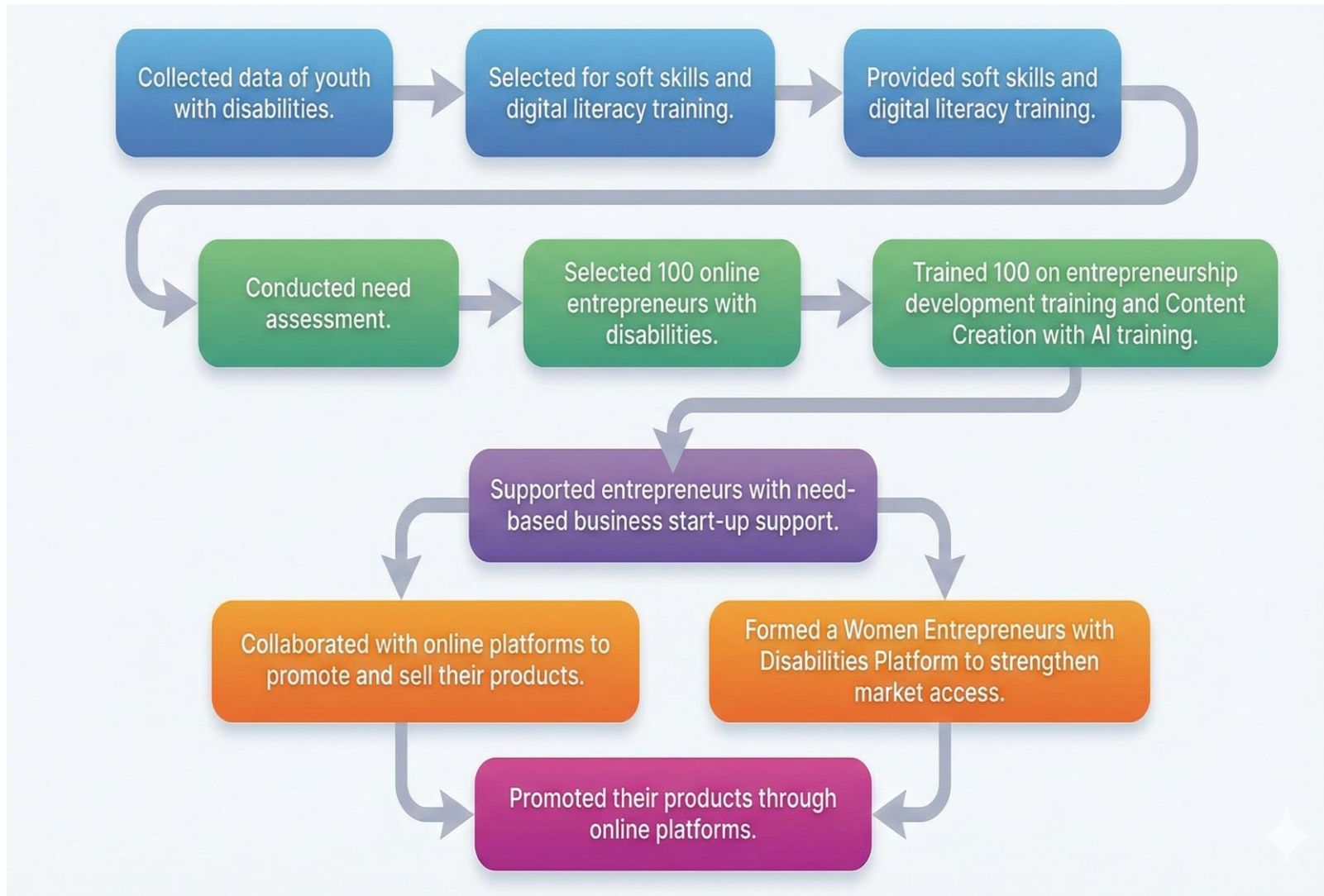
Making digital skills accessible for youth with disabilities and promoting their economic inclusion in Bangladesh

Increase access of women entrepreneurs with disabilities in e-commerce platform

Working Model: Promote digital inclusion and skills training for youth with disabilities



Working Model: Accessible online learning and e-commerce platforms



Key Achievement and Good Practices

- Renovated UNICEF's 18 IFCs with improved accessibility features, covering both infrastructural and informational aspects.
- Used locally available and low-cost materials appropriate for the context (local craftspeople produced wooden ramps, nameplates, and emergency bells made of brass).
- Developed multilingual and accessible information materials, improving access for Rohingya and host communities, individuals with lower literacy levels, and persons with different types of disabilities.
- Introduced an online-based skills development system, enabling youth with disabilities including those with severe disabilities to access training from anywhere in the country.
- Created online-based job opportunities for youth with disabilities, enabling them to work remotely and participate in the digital workforce.
- Supported the creation of digital entrepreneurs with disabilities, enabling them to run online businesses and participate in the digital economy.

Collaboration and Partnership

- **Government:** NGO Affairs Bureau, RRRC, Ministry of Social Welfare, a2i
- **Donor Agencies:** UNICEF, Internet Society Foundation, APNIC Foundation
- **OPDs:** Strategic and Funding Partnership with 65 OPDs
- **Online training platforms:** Creative IT Institute, ISD-Brac, & Learning Bangladesh
- **E-commerce platforms:** Daraz, WE
- **Media** both electronic and print

Challenges

- Theft and damage of infrastructure materials
- Access to digital devices is limited for most persons with disabilities due to negative attitudes towards them and economic constraints.
- Limited digital literacy and educational gaps hinder effective use of basic devices and internet resources
- Social and cultural barriers affecting women with disabilities in entrepreneurship.
- Limited skilled workforce for accessibility modifications

Lessons Learned

- ✓ Community engagement is critical to protect and maintain accessible infrastructure
- ✓ Comprehensive digital skills training must be combined with assistive technology support

Way Forward

- ❖ Expand accessible service centers
- ❖ Strengthen capacity of OPDs to monitor and maintain accessibility standards.
- ❖ Scale up inclusive digital skills training youth and women with severe disabilities with assistive technologies
- ❖ Improve e-learning and e-commerce platforms with accessibility features including captions, screen-reader support, and sign language
- ❖ Advocate for the effective implementation of accessibility and digital inclusion policies