

## Messages



Bangladesh, with its 160 million people is a land of endless potential. The progress we have made on various human development indicators has been praised by many across the globe. These strides have been accompanied by advances in economic growth, urbanization and industrial development. Through active participation of skilled youth can advance this development further. Hence developing the country's workforce through providing advanced skills training is one of the national priorities. I congratulate Chevron not only for its contribution to the country's economic growth by ensuring reliable and low-cost energy supply but, also because of its contribution to the society through its Corporate Social Responsibility programs. Uttoron is such an example of excellence where Chevron has partnered with Swisscontact to build the skilled workforce for Bangladesh in collaboration with Ministry of Finance's Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP).

#### Mr. Nasrul Hamid MP

Honorable State Minister
Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Jalal Ahmed Executive Project Director (Additional Secretary) Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP) Finance Division, Ministry of Finance Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Public-Private Partnership is a catchphrase in this current era. We highly appreciate Chevron for coming forward to forge a partnership with Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP), a government project, to roll a project like Uttoron. We thrive in cooperation.



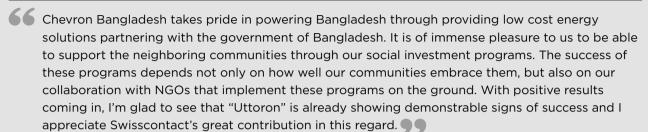
**Kevin Lyon** President Chevron Bangladesh



Chevron Bangladesh is proud to be able to work with the Government of Bangladesh to provide affordable energy and support the growing Bangladesh economy. Chevron is also committed to improving the lives of the communities where we work. In an excellent showcase of Chevron's commitment, "Uttoron", under the workforce development component of our Corporate-sponsored Bangladesh Partnership Initiative, directly addresses technical skills shortages by working with Swisscontact, the Government of Bangladesh's Ministry of Finance and the Asian Development Bank. I'm very proud of the fact that this program will not only enable 1,400 community youths to access high-quality training programs, but will also link them with reputable employers.

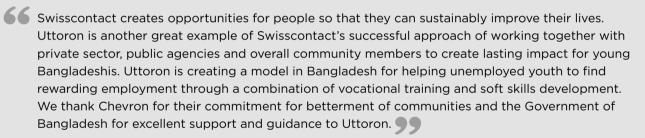


**Ismail Hossain Chowdhury**Director, Policy, Government & Public Affairs
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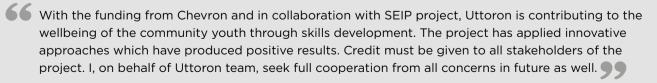


**Anirban Bhowmik**Country Director, Bangladesh
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### About Chevron

#### The Largest Producer of Natural Gas

Chevron is one of the world's leading integrated energy companies, involved in virtually every facet of the energy industry. Through Chevron subsidiaries in Bangladesh, the company operates three fields in the northeast of the country – Bibiyana; Jalalabad and Moulavi Bazar– under production-sharing contracts with the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, represented by Energy and Mineral Resources Division under the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources and Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla). Chevron is the largest producer of natural gas accounting for over 55% of total domestic production of natural gas. We also produce about 85% of the domestic condensate production from our facilities.

Chevron is working on projects to harness the country's natural resources for its future energy security. For all our operations, we strive to demonstrate our commitment to safety and environmental stewardship, which are among Chevron's core values. Innovative technology plays a key role in helping us deliver affordable, reliable energy that fuels human progress and economic growth. The technologies we deploy not only help us cost effectively find and commercialize new oil and gas fields, but also help us recover more resources from existing fields.

Corporate Social Responsibility is a core value of Chevron's global business practice. In Bangladesh Chevron has been sponsoring social investment programs since 2006. Our community development initiatives focus on economic development, education, and health.



## About Swisscontact

Swisscontact, founded in 1959 as a Swiss private and independent operating foundation based in Zurich, works exclusively in international cooperation and development. It has maintained close ties with the private sector since the inception. With the support from various international donors, Swisscontact is currently implementing over 100 projects in 37 countries across the globe. In Bangladesh, Swisscontact is registered as an international non-governmental organization (INGO) under the NGO Affairs Bureau, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Swisscontact promotes economic, social, and environmental development by supporting people in their efforts to integrate into local economic life. Swisscontact acts as facilitators in project implementation by supporting the creation of an entrepreneurial environment and access to information, skills, and markets. Swisscontact implements own as well as mandated projects in the following core areas:

- **Skills Development:** Productive employment and earning an income through market-oriented vocational training and improved labor market access.
- **Enterprise Promotion:** Strengthening productivity and competitiveness of small and mediumsized enterprises through sustainable value chain interventions, improved market access and local economic development.
- **Inclusive Finance:** Empowering entrepreneurially-minded people by improving their access to financial products, services and financial literacy trainings.
- **Climate-Smart Economy:** Creating green jobs through the efficient use of natural resources and clean production.



## About Uttoron

Uttoron - skills for better life is a skills development project that aims to create gainful employment opportunities for 1.400 community members in three north-eastern districts of Bangladesh (Sylhet. Moulavibazar and Habigani). The three-year project, commenced in 2016, is funded by Chevron under the Bangladesh Partnership Initiative (BPI) and implemented by Swisscontact. The project supports community members to qualify for industry-driven trainings and positioning them for new or improved employment opportunities. On receiving market-valued skills and rewarding jobs, these community members are getting the opportunity to increase their income and improve their living standards.

Uttoron works with community members to raise their awareness on the benefits of participating in skills training. With Uttoron's support, interested community members receive training on technical skills as well as relevant soft skills. A combination of these trainings prepares the community members for jobs in regional and national industries or to start their own business. A portion of the target beneficiaries are supported in their acquisition of higher skill set and gain access to formal trainings offered by 'Skills for Employment Investment Program (SEIP)'. SEIP is being implemented by Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh and funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Uttoron's inclusive approach focused on suitable employment opportunities encourages women and minority (ethnic or religious) community members to participate.

"Karigor: Success Stories from Uttoron Project" contains stories and pictures of the training graduates. The stories illustrate their transformation through trainings and employment. The book is expected to provide a unique perspective on the lives of the Uttoron trainees.



# 66 My family is **proud** of me now 99

fter failing the secondary school exams, Metaly was despondent and depressed. Her father tried to get her to take the exam again, but she refused. She imagined herself to be useless, a burden to her poverty-stricken family. It was then that she had the opportunity for a two-months long training in garments machine operation at the TMSS training centre under the Chevron-supported Uttoron project. Not only was this free of cost, but she received travel costs too as an added incentive to complete the training.

Upon completion of her training. Metaly got a job at the JIC Suit Ltd. factory in Aushkandi with help from the project. Metaly says, "The training experience has given me self-confidence. I am endeavouring to earn well and help my family. My family is now proud of me. I shall be ever grateful to Chevron and Uttoron."

Metaly Rani Das Machine Operator (Garments) JIC Suits Ltd. Habiganj



66 I wouldn't have had to face the pains of unemployment if i had taken this training earlier "

Giaul Islam Machine Operator PRAN-RFL, Habigani

ike any other unemployed young man, Ziaul was looking for a job. The eight members of his family were all looking towards him to get a job and run the family. But where were the jobs?

He had applied to so many places but in vain. Then one day he saw a banner about the Chevron-supported Uttoron project - a chance for free training. He wasted no time in coming to the UCEP training institute in Sylhet. The twoday motivational class filled him with hope. He chose to take the electrical trade course. Within two months of completing the training he got a job with a monthly pay of BDT 8,300 as a machine operator with the Pran-RFL Group.

Speaking about his work experience. Ziaul says, "When I joined this training course, I realised that there is a much higher demand for technical education than conventional education. I picked up work at the company must faster than my co-workers who had no training. The Chevronsupported Uttoron project brought me here in such a short span of time and at no cost. I wouldn't have had to face the pains of unemployment if I had taken this training earlier."



66 I didn't realise how important it is to have proper training, skills and a certificate >>

Shahnur Miah Electrical Assistant

L&T Power Plant, Habiganj

hahnur couldn't continue studies after passing the higher secondary certificate examination in 2012. Being the eldest son in an eight-member poor family, he had responsibilities. He helped his family with the meager wages he earned as an assistant to a local electrician. He was constantly thinking about ways to increase his income

One day a friend told him about free training being provided with support from Chevron. He turned up at the Uttoron project training camp. He registered in his favourite subject. the electrical trade. He underwent four months of hands-on training at the TMSS training centre in Habiganj.

Shahnur excelled in the training and successfully completed the course. In hardly any time at all he got a job at the L&T Power Plant. The training had turned his life around.

Shahnur says, "I didn't realise how important proper training, skills and a certificate were for a job. This job has given me and my family dignity." He looks forward to a promotion and eventually becoming an engineer. He is extremely grateful to Chevron and Uttoron for creating such an opportunity for so many others like him.



66 want to face the competition and get a iob on my own merit >>

mina's family comprises her mother, two sisters and a brother. Her father passed away three years ago. Her sister does tailoring work to run the impoverished family. Amina too wants to support her elder siblings and earn for the family. It was with this dream that Amina went to the UCEP training centre in January this year and was admitted to the machinist (lathe machine operation) training course under the Uttoron project.

She says, "Some of the neighbours make fun of me for taking a training course that is not conventional for a girl." But Amina is determined and says with self-confidence, "I do not differentiate between a man's work and a woman's work. I am fully focused on my training. I have to go far in life, I have to take care of my family and myself. The Uttoron project has given us an opportunity and I must use this opportunity at any cost."

Amina says that training in the Uttoron project is imparted with much care. She is confident that after this training she will be able to get a job on her own merit. She says, "On the very first day of our training we were told that if we can successfully complete the training, it will be very easy to get a job. Perhaps, initially, it won't be a very high-up job, but with that modest job and my own merit, I want to carve a niche for myself in society."

Amina Begum **Uttoron Trainee** Talepara, Khadimnagar, Sylhet



66 Uttoron has helped my family come out of poverty\*\*

want to acquire these skills, work and be something in my life. I want to help my family out of poverty, Miah had said during the motivational class. Miah has kept his word.

After his father died, Miah desperately wanted to help his mother and five siblings to come out of poverty and despair. He had passed the madrasa fazil exams, but couldn't get a job in two years. Then one day over the megaphone in the local market he heard about free technical training being provided by the Chevron-supported Uttoron project. He eagerly registered himself and took training in welding at the Caritas, Srimangal training centre.

He then got a job as a welding and fabrication fitter at the Fresh plant in Meghna Industrial Park in Sonargaon, not far from Dhaka. He has a starting monthly wage of BDT 8.000 and there is ample scope for promotion and a raise in his wages. His family's financial troubles have been assuaged to a great extent.

Mia is now confident. He says, "One must pay full attention to training in order to acquire practical education. Time can't be wasted. One must keep one's eyes on the goal." He expresses his gratitude to Chevron and Uttoron for giving him this opportunity to change his life, "Uttoron helped my family come out of poverty."

Md. Miyar Miah Welding & Fabrication Fitter Meghna Industrial Park, Narayanganj



## 66 I look forward to studying again >>

hen his father was diagnosed with cancer, Shamsul and his impoverished family were distressed. They had to run the family and bear the costs of his father's treatment and so his mother took up work as a domestic help while he began working as an electrical assistant.

With his father's death, Shamsul gave up his studies and took responsibility of the family. Then one day over the public address system he heard about free training being offered under the Uttoron project. He registered in the course and took three months' electrical and electronics training at the TMSS technical training center in Inathgani of Habigani. As he had previous experience working as an electrical assistant, once he finished his training he took up an electrical contract business.

Helper Shamsul is now an experienced contractor with an average monthly income of BDT 12,000. He dreams of becoming an even bigger contractor one day. Shamsul says, "I have learnt to look at life anew. I look forward to studying again and have applied for college admission. I'll continue my contract work alongside my studies. I look forward to a secure future for my family and myself."

#### Shamsul Islam **Electrical Contractor** Inathgani, Nabigani, Habigani



## 66 I am much more selfconfident now **99**

overty prevented Tonni from continuing her studies further beyond the secondary school certificate exam. She was determined to do something for her family. Her sister one day told her about a banner she had seen in the union office, about training under an Uttoron project. Tonni decided to take this opportunity for training, but her parents were hesitant about the prospect of such trainiings. But Tonni firmly said, "Let me start from something small and work my way up."

Seeing their daughter's enthusiasm, Tonni's parents complied. She underwent a three-month electrical and electronics training course at the TMSS technical training centre and now works as an assistant operator at the melamine department of Pran-RFL with a monthly wage of BDT 8, 300.

Tonni is a new person now. During the motivational course she had hardly been able to utter her own name, but now she has overcome all fears and is working with courage and confidence. She dreams of going far in life. She says, "The biggest challenge I had to face was actually joining the training programme. I managed to overcome that and now have a job. I am ready to take on any other challenge that may arise. I am much more self-confident now."

Tonni Rani Das Assistant Operator Pran-RFL, Habigani



66 There are no words to describe how I felt when I got my salary and sent money home 99

Md. Shaiful Islam Machinist Digital Engravers, Gazipur could never imagine that one day I would leave Sylhet and get a job near Dhaka in Gazipur," said Shaiful from Srimangal.

Even at an early age, Shaiful had always been eager about technical trainings. He studied at the Moulavibazar Government Technical School and College up till grade nine, but couldn't continue any further due to poverty. Then one day he heard about the Uttoron project over a megaphone in the local market and also read a leaflet about it. His interest in technical training resurged in full swing.

With support from Uttoron he got admitted to the Caritas Technical School in Srimangal, He successfully completed the hands-on four-month training in the machinist trade and immediately got a machinist's job with a BDT 7,000 monthly wage at Digital Engravers in Gazipur.

Shaiful says, "There are no words to describe how I felt when I got my pay for the first time and sent money home. I will never forget the support of Chevron and Uttoron."



## 66 There is no shortcut to success,

arek is the local football star. However, he needs money more than his football talents to support his poverty-stricken family. His family would explain that he needed an income. Having passed the madrasa dakhil exam. Tarek was looking for a means of earning.

Tareg's elder brother learnt about the Chevron-supported free training and advised him to go to the Uttoron project's training selection camp. Tarek went there and was selected. He looked forward to achieving something and so took part in a three-month training on a trade of his choice, tiles and marble works at the Bangladesh Technical Training and Development Centre (BTTDC) in Sylhet. He eagerly concentrated on his training in measuring and fitting tiles. He later joined up with a friend, working on contracts for tile work.

He now has earned good reputation for himself, working in various houses and establishments in Sylhet. So alongside being a skilled footballer, Tarek is now also a skilled tile fitter. He runs his family and his siblings' education with his earnings. Tarek dreams of becoming a successful contractor one day.

Md. Tarek Monuar Chowdhury Tiles Fitter Hatkhola, Sylhet Sadar, Sylhet



66 This training is just the first step of my success >>

here was a time when Lukman kept to himself. He hardly ventured into doing anything on his own initiative. After passing the higher secondary school exam, he spent three years futilely searching for a job. He felt frustrated.

Then one day a friend told him about a free training course. He went along with his friend and got admitted at the UCEP Sylhet center with help from the Uttoron project. He successfully completed the four-month electrical training course and got a job as an electrical assistant with a monthly pay of BDT 9,400 at Square Denim. He hasn't looked back since then

He says, "This training equipped me for employment and brought me success. I have a lot of faith in myself now. I believe that there are many more steps to go to reach a higher level. This training is just the first step to my success. I look forward to a promotion and doing even better."

Lukman Ahmed Chowdry Electrical Assistant Square Denim Ltd., Habiganj





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