

REMEMBERING ABED BHAI

When people ask me now what BRAC stands for, I like to think that we stand for an idea — an idea of a world where everyone has an equal opportunity to realise their potential.

WHO WAS ABED BHAI?

Born in 1936 in Bangladesh, Abed Bhai studied accountancy in London, qualifying as a cost management accountant in 1962. While working as a senior corporate executive at Pakistan Shell, the 1970 cyclone and 1971 Liberation War in Bangladesh dramatically changed the direction of his life. He left his job and moved to London, where he helped initiate Action Bangladesh and HELP Bangladesh in support of the Liberation War.

[Click here](#) to read his full biography.





HOW DID BRAC START?

In 1972, Abed Bhai returned to a newly independent Bangladesh, finding the economy in ruins and in need of urgent relief and rehabilitation efforts for the 10 million refugees who had returned from India. Abed Bhai established BRAC to address the needs of refugees in the remote area of Sullá in north-eastern Bangladesh, guided by a desire to help the poor develop their own capacity to better manage their lives. BRAC is now one of the largest NGOs in the world, operating across 10 countries in Africa and Asia.



WHEN WAS THE START OF BRAC INTERNATIONAL?

With roots in Bangladesh, BRAC has ventured outside to help people of the Global South with programmatic interventions in healthcare, education, youth empowerment, agriculture, emergency preparedness and response, and inclusive access to financial support and savings through BRAC International in 2002. Abed Bhai's grounded, empathising and human-centric approach towards development has enabled BI to successfully adapt its unique integrated programmes across different geographic and socioeconomic contexts.



WHAT WAS ABED BHAI'S VISION?

Abed Bhai envisioned a world free from all forms of exploitation and discrimination, where everyone had the opportunity to realise their potential. He founded and led BRAC with the conviction that people living in vulnerable situations can be agents of change if they are empowered with the tools, skills, and hope they need to change their lives.

A TRIBUTE TO SIR FAZLE HASAN ABED BY THE GUARDIAN

Founder of Brac, one of the world's largest non-profit development organisations, which began its work in Bangladesh



[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

Thank you, Abed bhai.

*Thank you for showing us how meaningful
one's life can be.*

We will not say 'rest' in peace.

*The Abed bhai we know, would not rest
until we build a more equal world.*

We promise to be worthy of your legacy.



5:10 / 5:30



[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO](#)