



Impact Report

Honesty | Integrity | Service

2024

www.hopefoundationbd.org

HOPE
Foundation
For Women & Children of Bangladesh

26 Years of Service



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Every mother deserves access to quality care, ensuring her health and her child's future. At Hope Foundation, we strive to make this vision a reality—empowering women, saving lives, and building healthier communities.



Rose Joseph, MD
Board of Directors

Message from Our Founder

At the Hope Foundation for Women and Children of Bangladesh, our journey has always been guided by a singular mission: to bring hope and health to those who need it most.

For over two and a half decades, we have stood alongside women, children, and families, striving to break barriers in healthcare and foster a brighter, healthier future for our communities. Year 2024 was no exception, we have provided 203,279 essential services, among these are 1,849 safe deliveries, 1587 newborn care, and vaccinated 1624 community members

In 2024, we empowered communities through 35,702 family planning services, supported 899 gender based violence victims, provided life changing obstetric fistula surgery to 96 women, and graduated 31 midwives. We also provided critical health services to 61,351 Rohingya refugees and flood recovery support to 11,829 women, children and men in 2024

As we reflect on our accomplishments, we also look to the challenges ahead. We believe, good health is a foundation for sustainable development, gender equity, and social progress. Every life we touch represents not only a triumph for an individual but also a step toward a stronger, more resilient society.

Our vision would not be possible without the unwavering support of our partners, donors, and dedicated team. Together, we have turned hope into action and dreams into reality. In this impact report, we reaffirm our commitment to serve with compassion, innovation, and a relentless drive for excellence. Thank you to our supporters for believing in our mission and being part of this transformative journey.



Warm regards,

Dr. Iftikher Mahmood

President and Founder

2024 Impact

203,279

TOTAL SERVICES

1,053

**Normal
Delivery**

796

**Cesarean Section
Delivery**

11,337

**Antenatal
Care**

3,488

**Postnatal
Care**



899

**Support Services
to GBV Survivors**



1,624

Vaccinations



35,702

**Family Planning
Counseling/Services**



36,830

Lab Test Services



96

**Obstetric Fistula
Surgeries**



19,534

**Mothers Club
Meeting Participants**



2,030

Mental Health Care



31

Midwives graduated



1,587

Newborn Care



8,224

**People benefited from
food distribution events**



11,829

People received flood relief support



Message from **Our Board**

Hope Foundation's commitment to maternal and child health continues to transform communities, ensuring that every woman has access to safe childbirth and every child receives the care they deserve. These milestones are not just numbers or achievements; they are stories of hope, resilience, and brighter futures.

We extend our deepest gratitude to the donors, partners, volunteers, and dedicated staff whose tireless efforts make this progress possible. Your belief in our work fuels our ability to expand our reach, innovate, and address pressing challenges in healthcare delivery.

As we look ahead, our resolve remains unwavering. We are committed to strengthening our programs, fostering new partnerships, and advocating for systemic change to uplift the lives of women and children in Bangladesh. Together, we can create a world where healthcare is not a privilege but a right for all.

Thank you for standing with us on this journey of hope and transformation.

With appreciation,



James Howell, MD, MPH
Board of Directors

Testimonials

Working as a researcher alongside Hope Foundation has shown me the transformative power of accessible healthcare for Rohingya refugees and the Bangladeshi host community. I've witnessed how Hope Foundation bridges gaps between urgent humanitarian response and sustainable development. Their data-driven approach ensures resources reach those most in need, while their community engagement fosters trust. Their commitment to long-term solutions, like training local community health workers and midwives, ensures sustainable change. Hope doesn't just treat illnesses—they restore dignity and hope in a landscape where both are scarce. Ultimately, they exemplify how local leadership can drive humanitarian innovation.



Sincerely,

Bree Akesson LMSW, RSW, MPH, PhD

Canada Research Chair (Tier II) in Global Adversity and Wellbeing

Professor, Faculty of Social Work

Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada



I'm so excited to share my personal experience with the Hope Foundation for Women & Children of Bangladesh. Witnessing the incredible work they do at the Women and Children's Field Hospital in Kutubalong refugee camp, Hope Hospital in Cox's Bazar, and the upcoming hospital in Gorakghata has been truly inspiring. The team's unwavering dedication to improving healthcare in these communities is nothing short of exceptional. I'm particularly thrilled about our future plans to implement point-of-care ultrasound in the field hospital and conduct research based on the results in collaboration with FinnEM, the Finnish emergency medicine organization. I eagerly anticipate continuing our collaboration in rural emergency medicine education in the future. A heartfelt thanks to Dr. Iftikher Mahmood, MD, K M Zahiduzzaman, and Golam Hafiz for their outstanding contributions and for taking the time out of their daily routines to show me the hospitals and the incredible efforts they make to improve the lives of local people and refugees. I am deeply grateful for this experience.



Sincerely,

Eeva Tuunainen, MD, PhD

Specialist in Emergency Medicine, Finnish Emergency Medicine FinnEM org

Finnish National Patient Insurance Center Consultant, Senior Researcher Helsinki University

“The Greatest” Boxing Champion Muhammad Ali’s Wife Visits Hope

November, 2024



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Thank you, Dr. Khalilah Camacho Ali, for visiting Hope Hospital. We are honored by your presence and deeply grateful for your support of our mission to serve women and children in need. Your visit has inspired our team and brought hope to the community we serve.

Hope Foundation Team

Dr. Khalilah Ali was accompanied by Florida businessman Mr. Saif Chowdhury Nantu during her visit. She expressed deep admiration for the life-saving work of the midwives trained at the Hope Midwifery Institute, highlighting their dedication and impact on vulnerable communities. Dr. Khalilah was particularly moved by the commitment and compassion of the graduates, whose services are often the difference between life and death for mothers and newborns. Her visit reaffirmed the importance of investing in skilled maternal health professionals and expanding access to quality care in underserved areas.



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Respectful care means recognizing the dignity, voice, and rights of every person—because quality care is not just about medicines, but about how we treat people.

Dr. Nrinmoy Biswas

Chief OBGYN Consultant and Advanced Fistula Surgeon (FIGO)



Health Programs

Obstetric Fistula Program



In 2024 Hope Fistula Team conducted successful outreach surgical camps in: Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital, Barishal, Mamota Private Hospital, Barishal, Rangamati Medical College Hospital, Rangamati, Brahman Baria Sador Hospital, Crescent Private Hospital, Brahman Baria

96
Surgeries
in 2024

Obstetric fistula is a severe childbirth injury characterized by a hole forming between the birth canal and the bladder and/or rectum. This condition arises from prolonged, obstructed labor, often resulting in fetal death and tissue necrosis in the birth canal. Tragically, it disproportionately affects women from poor socioeconomic backgrounds who lack access to emergency obstetric care, maternal health education, and decision-making power. Bangladesh's high rate of child marriage exacerbates this crisis, as many young girls, physically underdeveloped for childbirth and chronically malnourished, face heightened risks.

Women suffering from obstetric fistula endure not only physical pain and disabilities but also urinary and/or fecal incontinence, depression, anxiety, and social stigma. Often labeled as “cursed,” they are ostracized by their families and communities. The resulting shame, trauma, and poor nutrition further deepen their already dire socioeconomic challenges.

According to The Lancet (2022), an estimated 17,457 women in Bangladesh currently suffer from obstetric fistula, with new cases arising annually. The actual numbers are likely much higher, as many victims remain hidden, suffering in silence.

Since 2011, the Hope Foundation's Fistula Team, which includes two FIGO-trained fistula surgeons, has been dedicated to addressing this critical health issue. Our team has successfully performed fistula surgeries, restoring hope and dignity to countless women. In recent years, the Fistula Surgery Program has expanded into the Barisal Division and Chattogram Division.

Through these efforts, the Hope Foundation is not only transforming individual lives but also contributing to breaking the cycle of stigma and suffering associated with obstetric fistula in Bangladesh.

Story of Gul Meher Fistula Patient



Tell us more about your birth experience. What difficulties did you encounter that led to your injury?

When I was seven months pregnant with my first child, I went into labor. I endured excruciating pain at home for three days and nights, unable to deliver. Eventually, I was taken to the hospital, where I gave birth to a stillborn baby boy. After delivery, I experienced prolonged menstrual bleeding and a continuous flow of urine after the catheter was removed.

For the past ten years, I have been suffering from this condition, and despite multiple pregnancies, I have endured the heartbreak of four more stillbirths. The physical challenges were compounded by deep emotional and social struggles. My condition led to isolation and humiliation—people avoided me due to the persistent odor, and I felt ashamed to face others. The stigma surrounding my condition made it difficult for me to engage with my community, leaving me feeling alone and unwelcome.

Yet, despite these hardships, I hold onto hope for healing and a better future. My journey has been one of pain, resilience, and the determination to find a solution—not just for myself but for others facing similar struggles.

How has having a fistula impacted your life on a day-to-day basis?

Living with a fistula has affected every aspect of my daily life. Simple tasks became difficult, and I struggled with constant discomfort. At home, I felt isolated, unable to interact freely with family members. Outside, I was always anxious, fearing embarrassment due to my condition. My clothes would often become wet, forcing me to change frequently and clean myself, even in cold weather.

My health suffered, and I was often unwell. Social gatherings and family events became impossible for me to attend. I felt like a burden, weighed down by sadness and shame. The emotional toll was overwhelming, and I withdrew from the world, battling deep depression.

Despite these challenges, I continue to hope for a better future—a future where I can heal, regain my confidence, and live without fear or shame.

Who lives with you?

A few years after I was diagnosed with this condition, my husband passed away, leaving me completely alone. With no one to care for me, I have had to find a way to survive on my own. I gather wood from the forest and sell it in the market to cover my basic needs. Every day is a struggle—physically, emotionally, and financially.

Managing my life alone has been incredibly difficult. There is no one to support or care for me in times of illness or hardship. The loneliness is overwhelming, but I continue to push forward, determined to sustain myself despite the many challenges I face.

Yet, even in my solitude, I hold onto hope—hope for healing, dignity, and a better future.

What is the source of your family income?

There is no stable source of income in my family. I could

have never paid for surgery myself. To survive, I have worked tirelessly—chopping wood, laboring in betel gardens, and doing whatever small tasks I could find. Life was filled with hardship, and affording even basic necessities was a daily challenge.

Later, Hope Foundation provided me with a small grocery shop, which brought me financial stability for a time. The income from the shop allowed me to support myself with dignity. However, being in a rural area, sales declined, and eventually, I lost my capital.

Now, I raise ducks and chickens to sustain myself. Though it is not easy, I continue to work hard, determined to rebuild my life despite the many obstacles I have faced. My hope remains strong—that one day, I will regain my health and financial stability.

How did you learn about treatment? How were you able to get to the hospital for treatment?

For years, I endured the pain and isolation of my condition, unaware that treatment was possible. One day, a staff member from Hope Foundation came to my village, making announcements with a microphone about free treatment at Hope Hospital. It was the first time I heard that there was hope for people like me.

Shortly after, a fistula field staff member visited and examined me. They confirmed my diagnosis and arranged for me to be taken to the hospital for treatment. For the first time in years, I felt a sense of relief—knowing that I was not alone and that there was a chance for healing.

What are your hopes for the future once you return home?

Once I return home, I dream of living a healthy and fulfilling life. Free from pain and isolation, I will be able to reconnect with my community and live in harmony with others, just as I once did. I look forward to regaining my independence—working without difficulty, moving freely, and earning a stable income to support myself and my family.

With renewed strength and dignity, I hope to rebuild my life and embrace the future with confidence and hope.

Do you have anything you want to say to the doctors that treated you or to the donors that supported your care?

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the doctors, nurses, and the entire Fistula and Hope Foundation teams who provided me with exceptional care during my treatment at Hope Hospital. The professionalism, kindness, and dedication of everyone involved in my care truly exceeded my expectations. As someone who has faced numerous financial hardships, I never imagined that I would receive such high-quality treatment at no cost.

The comprehensive services, including free medical treatment, accommodation, food, and the surgery itself, have been life-changing for me. I am deeply thankful to the Fistula Foundation and Hope Foundation for their invaluable support, which made it possible for someone like me, who could never have afforded such care, to receive it.

Translated by Hope Team.

Safe Motherhood Program



The Hope Foundation's **Safe Motherhood Program** ensures that every underprivileged woman within our catchment area has access to comprehensive maternal health services. These services include antenatal care, safe delivery, postnatal care, nutrition counseling, and family planning, all provided by skilled and knowledgeable health professionals, such as certified midwives.

As part of this initiative, the Hope Foundation introduced the "**Golden Chain Model of Maternal Care**," a concept that symbolizes the seamless and essential care women need from conception to postpartum. This model ensures there are no gaps in care, acting as a strong chain securing women's health and well-being.

Supported by **Every Mother Counts, USA**, this program is dedicated to making safe and healthy pregnancies a reality for all women, regardless of their socioeconomic status.



"The Hope Safe Motherhood Program is a model of frontline humanitarian care—bringing skilled birth attendants, emergency services, and respectful support to women who would otherwise face childbirth alone. In some of the world's most fragile settings, it ensures that every mother has a chance not only to survive, but to thrive."



Johanna Hansing
Program Manager

Rural Birth Centers



Hope Birth Centers are a vital component of the Hope Foundation's commitment to ensuring safe and dignified childbirth for women in underserved communities. Located in remote and rural areas, these centers provide accessible, high-quality maternal healthcare services to women who would otherwise face significant barriers to safe delivery.

Each Hope Birth Center is staffed with skilled health professionals, including certified midwives, and equipped to offer comprehensive care such as antenatal services, safe delivery assistance, postnatal care, and family planning. The centers are designed to provide a safe and nurturing environment for mothers, ensuring they receive the care they need during one of the most critical moments of their lives.

In addition to addressing immediate healthcare needs, Hope Birth Centers also serve as hubs for maternal health education, empowering women with knowledge about nutrition, newborn care, and the importance of regular health check-ups.

These centers reflect our commitment to reducing maternal and infant mortality, promoting healthier pregnancies, and building stronger, healthier communities in Bangladesh.

"The Rural Mothers' Club gives women the knowledge, confidence, and community they need to protect their health and their children's future."



Dr. Siraj Ul Islam
Board of Directors

Rural Mothers' Clubs



For many women, pregnancy and childbirth are extraordinary life events filled with joy and excitement. However, in rural areas, these moments often come with significant risks, including disease, injury, and even death.

Recognizing these challenges, the Hope Foundation reinforces the importance of bringing maternal and child healthcare to remote, rural areas. After years of developing strategies to reach underserved communities, we established the “Mothers’ Clubs” to address these critical issues.

The Hope Mothers’ Clubs (MCs) play a vital role in educating community members, raising awareness about maternal and child health, dispelling harmful myths, and promoting healthy practices. These clubs have become a cornerstone of health education and support in the Cox’s Bazar district of Bangladesh, empowering women with the knowledge and resources they need for safer pregnancies and healthier families.

“The Hope Rural Mothers’ Club empowers women in remote communities to become health champions, creating a powerful ripple effect of knowledge, support, and resilience. These mothers are not just recipients of care—they are leaders in protecting the health of their families and neighbors.”



Rashmi Murthy
Board of Directors

Free Cleft Lip and Palate Surgery with Smile Bangladesh



The Hope Foundation for Women and Children of Bangladesh is thrilled to continue its partnership with **Smile Bangladesh** to provide free cleft lip and palate surgeries to those in need. This life-changing initiative offers renewed hope and confidence to children and adults born with these conditions, who often face significant physical, social, and emotional challenges.

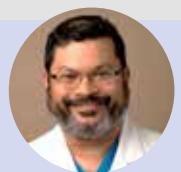
Cleft lip and palate are treatable conditions, yet many individuals in underserved communities lack access to the necessary surgical care. Together with **Smile Bangladesh**, we are committed to ensuring that no one is left behind due to financial constraints or limited resources.

Through this collaboration, we aim to transform lives by restoring smiles and improving the quality of life for patients and their families. This program also highlights our shared commitment to equitable healthcare and our belief in the transformative power of compassionate medical intervention.

We extend our gratitude to **Smile Bangladesh** for their dedication and expertise, and we invite everyone to support this remarkable initiative that continues to make a profound difference in the lives of so many.

36
Cleft
Repairs
in 2024

Smile Bangladesh is a U.S. based non-profit organization founded and led by **Dr. Shahid R. Aziz**, DMD, MD, FACS, FRCSEd, Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial at Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine.



"A single surgery can change a child's life forever—restoring their smile, speech, and hope for the future."



Mr. Syed H. Hasan
Board of Directors

New NCD Programs Launched at the Hope Field Hospital



Tackling the Growing Burden of Non-Communicable Diseases(NCD) and Mental Health Needs in the Rohingya Refugee Community

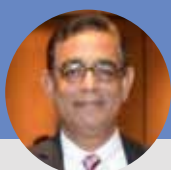
The HOPE Foundation for Women and Children of Bangladesh is pleased to announce a new program in partnership with **The Refugee Foundation, Netherlands (Stichting Vluchteling)**. This collaboration is dedicated to delivering quality healthcare to Rohingya refugees—one of the most vulnerable and underserved populations in the world.

The Rohingya community faces immense challenges in accessing essential healthcare. This partnership enables us to strengthen Hope Foundation's medical services for all people in the camps, with a particular focus on lifesaving health interventions, and the long-term management of disease.

One of the most pressing and under-addressed issues in the refugee camps is the rise in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as hypertension, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and mental health disorders. Recent assessments indicate that over 20% of adult Rohingya refugees suffer from hypertension, while 15% live with diabetes or prediabetic conditions—conditions made worse by poor nutrition, stress, and lack of continuity in care. Mental health burdens are also severe, with an estimated 1 in 3 adults exhibiting symptoms of depression or trauma-related disorders. This partnership will help build stronger systems to address these silent but growing threats to health.

The Refugee Foundation, Netherlands (Stichting Vluchteling) brings valuable expertise and resources to this effort, complementing HOPE Foundation's longstanding commitment to serving marginalized communities in Bangladesh. Together, we aim to reach more people with comprehensive, compassionate, and culturally responsive care.

"This partnership brings important mental health support to those who've endured unimaginable trauma—bringing healing, dignity, and hope where it's needed most. By integrating mental health into humanitarian care, we're addressing the full spectrum of needs for displaced and vulnerable refugees."



Mr. Masud Hasan
Board of Directors

Mental Health Program



At the HOPE Foundation, we believe that good physical health is impossible without good mental health—yet mental health remains one of the most neglected areas of care in Bangladesh. According to the World Health Organization, 17% of adults in Bangladesh suffer from a mental health disorder, while only 6% of those affected receive any treatment. Among children, the rate is estimated at 13.6%, with a severe

lack of child-focused mental health services in rural and refugee contexts. In response, HOPE launched its **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support** (MHPSS) Program in 2019 to fill this urgent gap and offer lifesaving support.

HOPE's MHPSS program serves both Rohingya refugees and vulnerable host communities in Cox's Bazar through a holistic, compassionate, and culturally adapted approach. Our trained professionals use globally recognized tools such as **Psychological First Aid**, **WHO's mhGAP**, and **Problem Management Plus** (PM+) to provide psychiatric consultations, individual counseling, and group therapy. We also offer stress management, psychoeducation workshops, and caregiver support, equipping families and frontline workers with the tools to cope with emotional distress. For those with severe conditions, we provide medication management and long-term monitoring, while peer support groups and wellness sessions promote resilience and self-care. Through this integrated model, HOPE is restoring dignity, healing, and stability to communities impacted by trauma and displacement.

2,030
patients
received
care in
2024

Congratulations to Hope researchers and all researchers involved for their important publication adding light into the scientific world of the Rohingya Refugee Mental Health Status .

Mental health services among Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh: perspectives from field service providers.
International Journal of Migration, Health and Social Care, Vol. 21 No. 1, pp. 17-35. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJMHS-11-2022-0112>

Telehealth Program

Expanding Access to Specialized Care



Some Telemedicine services provided are:

- Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Internal Medicine
- Dermatology
- Neurology
- Pulmonology
- Pediatrics

These cutting-edge devices were generously donated by **World Telehealth Initiative** (WTI), in collaboration with **Direct Relief**, both renowned humanitarian organizations based in Santa Barbara, California.

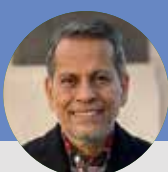
Through these telehealth devices, Hope Foundation hospitals are connected to a global network of highly skilled, specialized physicians. Patients receive virtual consultations from experts in various medical fields without the need for costly and time-consuming trips to major cities, where such services are often prohibitively expensive and inaccessible.

This innovative solution has provided countless patients with:

- **Timely Diagnosis:** Immediate access to expert opinions for critical cases.
- **Specialized Care:** Consultations in areas such as cardiology, neurology, and pediatrics.
- **Cost-Free Support:** Removing financial and logistical barriers to quality healthcare.

The telehealth program exemplifies the Hope Foundation's commitment to leveraging technology to bring equitable healthcare to underserved communities, ensuring that no patient is left behind due to geographic or financial constraints.

Telehealth has become a vital bridge between vulnerable communities and lifesaving care. At Hope, we've seen firsthand how this simple innovation can overcome distance, disaster, and poverty—ensuring that no one is left without support when it is most needed.”



Mohammed Akbar Hossain
Board of Directors





Humanitarian Response

Rohingya Refugee Camps Health Services in Cox's Bazar



Photo credit: Museum of Humanity

61,351
Total
Services
provided
to the
Rohingya
Refugees
in 2024

In the field hospital, a Mom is about to be discharged with her new baby accompanied by Grandmother.

The Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar represent one of the largest humanitarian crises in the world, housing over 1.5 million individuals who have taken shelter in Cox's Bazar fleeing violence and persecution in Myanmar in 2017. These camps face immense challenges, including overcrowding, limited resources, and inadequate access to healthcare, education, and sanitation.

The Hope Foundation has been at the forefront of providing essential healthcare services to the Rohingya population. Our efforts focus on addressing the unique needs of this vulnerable community, particularly women and children who are at heightened risk of malnutrition, disease, and maternal health complications.

Through our healthcare facilities and partnerships, we provide:

- **Maternal & Child Health Services:** Safe delivery, antenatal care, postnatal care, and family planning.
- **Emergency Medical Support:** Addressing urgent medical needs and treating preventable illnesses.
- **Non-communicable disease prevention and treatment program**
- **Health Education:** Raising awareness about hygiene, nutrition, and disease prevention.
- **Mental Health Services**

The Hope Foundation remains committed to ensuring that the refugees receive the care and dignity they deserve, striving to create a healthier and more hopeful future amidst the challenges of displacement.

Hope Field Hospital

Rohingya Refugee Camps, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar



Hope Field Hospital for Women provides the following services 24/7:

- Cesarean Section
- Normal Delivery
- Newborn Care
- Maternity Care
- Emergency Services
- Fistula Screening
- Family Planning Services
- Laboratory Investigation
- ECG
- Ultrasound
- Pharmacy
- Outpatient Care
- Mental Health Care
- Dermatology
- Physical Therapy and Rehab Counseling Services
- Cleft Surgery
- Dental Health Care
- Telemedicine Care

The Hope Field Hospital located in Camp 4, provides comprehensive healthcare services to Rohingya refugees around the clock, and includes mobile health clinics, emergency transportation, emergency obstetric and pediatric health care, and mental health services. Moreover, Hope team has provided medical services and necessary supplies such as first aid kits, medications, water purifying packs, and vitamins.



King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Program for Charity Work (KAAP)

"The HOPE Field Hospital is where critical care happens—day and night, in emergencies and every routine moment. It's a lifeline for thousands who have nowhere else to turn."



Dr. Sultan Salahuddin Ahmed
Board of Directors

Flood Support in 2024: Bringing Relief to Bangladesh



The Hope Foundation for Women and Children of Bangladesh was engaged in supporting communities affected by the devastating floods of 2024 in Greater Kumilla and Noakhali. Our relief efforts aimed to address the urgent needs of vulnerable families and help them rebuild their lives.

Through the generous support of our partners, the **Bangladesh Medical Association of North America** (BMANA), and **Humanity Beyond Barriers**—we have launched initiatives focused on:

11,829
People
receiving
flood relief
support

- **Food Distribution:** Providing essential food supplies to families facing hunger and malnutrition.
- **Clothing Distribution:** Ensuring that flood victims have access to clean, weather-appropriate clothing.
- **Livestock Support:** Helping families rebuild their livelihoods by replacing livestock lost in the floods.
- **Cash Assistance:** Offering direct financial aid to empower families to meet immediate and personal needs.
- **House Repairs:** Assisting in the restoration of damaged homes to ensure safe and secure living conditions.

These collaborative efforts are a testament to the power of partnership and compassion. Together, we strive to bring hope and stability to those impacted by this natural disaster.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our sponsors for their unwavering support and to everyone who continues to contribute to this critical mission. Your generosity fuels our ability to bring relief and recovery to those in need.

"In the face of devastation, Hope Foundation was one of the first on the ground—delivering medical aid, clean water, and dignity to families who had lost everything. Supporting Hope means knowing your contribution reaches the people who need it most, exactly when they need it."



Dr. Bashir Ahmed

President, BMANA (Bangladesh Medical Association of North America)

Be A Light Project

Distribution of Solar Lights



A Singaporean organization brings light to the rural villages in Cox's Bazar and Rohingya Refugee Camps through Hope Foundation.

The **"Be A Light"** Project, initiated by **Discovery House Distributors, Singapore**, aimed to enhance the living conditions of vulnerable families in Cox's Bazar by distributing solar light devices. The Hope Foundation for Women and Children of Bangladesh Inc. led the implementation, ensuring the lights reached households most in need.

In total, 480 solar light devices were successfully distributed to households lacking access to reliable electricity. The initiative provides special attention to households with pregnant women, young children, elderly, etc. Community leaders and beneficiaries expressed deep appreciation, noting improved safety, extended hours for evening activities, and enhanced well-being across the recipient communities.

"At Be A Light Project, we believe that even the smallest light can bring hope in the darkest places. Partnering with Hope Foundation to distribute solar lights among needy families has been deeply meaningful. Together, we are not just lighting homes—we are restoring life, safety, and a sense of normalcy for those who have endured deep hardship."

Albert Lee

CEO, Discovery House Distributors



Education Trainings Research

Hope Midwifery Institute



31
Midwives
Graduated
in 2024

Melissa Gradilla, Director, Grantmaking at Every Mother Counts, visiting the Hope Midwifery Institute in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

The Hope Foundation's Midwifery Institute is a cornerstone of our efforts to improve maternal and child health in underserved communities across Bangladesh. By training and empowering skilled midwives, we ensure that women have access to safe, high-quality care during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum.

Our students learn comprehensive services, including:

- **Antenatal Care:** Ensuring expectant mothers receive regular check-ups, nutritional guidance, and education about pregnancy.
- **Safe Delivery:** Skilled support during childbirth to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality.
- **Postnatal Care:** Monitoring the health of both mother and baby after delivery, addressing complications, and offering breastfeeding support.
- **Family Planning Services:** Helping families make informed decisions about spacing and timing of pregnancies.
- **Newborn Care**
- **Health and Well-being Counseling**

Midwives trained through this program are not only healthcare providers but also trusted partners within their communities. They play a critical role in educating families, dispelling harmful myths, and promoting healthier practices.

The Midwifery Institute also emphasizes capacity building by collaborating with international organizations and medical institutions to provide cutting-edge training and resources. Through these efforts, the Hope Foundation continues to reduce maternal and infant mortality and foster healthier, more resilient communities in Bangladesh.

The Inspiring Journey of Rekha Moni - Student Midwife

I am Rekha Moni, a determined young woman from the remote village of Purba Paner Chara, Ramu, Cox's Bazar. Growing up in a family of six, with four brothers and myself, life took a challenging turn when my father, Zafar Alam, passed away in 2012. My mother, Hashina Akter, a dedicated housewife, took on the immense responsibility of supporting our family, but financial hardships made it difficult to sustain our education and daily needs.

Despite these challenges, a turning point came when my cousin introduced my family to PHALS Bani Academy, a private NGO in France dedicated to supporting orphans' education. With their support, I was able to continue my education from the sixth grade onward. The NGO not only covered my academic expenses but also extended financial assistance to my family. Their encouragement fueled my ambition to pursue higher education and make a meaningful impact on society.

Growing up in a village, I witnessed the devastating consequences of maternal and child mortality due to the lack of proper healthcare. This inspired me to become a skilled midwife and contribute to safe childbirth practices in my community. With the support of a kind sister from my village, I enrolled in the Midwifery Program at the Hope Foundation. Once again, PHALS Bani Academy stepped in to cover my educational expenses, allowing me to chase my dream without financial worries.

Midwifery is more than just a career for me—it is my calling. My goal is to ensure safe deliveries and reduce the risks faced by mothers and newborns. Throughout my journey, I have remained diligent, actively engaging in social activities to enhance my knowledge and skills. The Hope Midwifery Institute has been instrumental in shaping my path, providing me with the necessary training and guidance to excel in this field.

I aspire to become an accomplished midwife, serving both in my country and beyond. My mission is to make a difference, offering compassionate care and support to mothers and babies. The unwavering support from PHALS Bani Academy and the Hope Foundation has not only alleviated my financial struggles but has also strengthened my determination to achieve excellence.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunities I have received, and I am committed to using my skills to serve my community. By becoming a skilled midwife, I hope to be a source of support and a beacon of hope for those in need. My journey is just beginning, and I am ready to make a lasting impact in maternal and child healthcare.



Health Assistant Program for the Young Refugee Women at the Hope Field Hospital



30 Total Health Care Assistants Completed the Course in 2024

The **Health Care Assistance Program**, launched by the Hope Foundation, is an innovative pilot initiative designed to train young Rohingya women from the refugee camps as lay health workers. These trained health assistants will work closely with doctors and midwives in community outreach programs, offering essential care and support to mothers, newborns, and the refugee population at large.

For decades, the Rohingya community in Myanmar faced severe marginalization, with limited access to education and healthcare services. This program seeks to address these challenges by equipping young women with vital healthcare knowledge and practical skills, empowering them to take an active role in improving the well-being of their communities. Research has consistently highlighted the effectiveness of lay and community health workers in enhancing healthcare access and outcomes in refugee settings, making this initiative particularly impactful.

The training program spans nine months and includes comprehensive modules covering reproductive health, basic anatomy and physiology, nutrition, maternal and newborn care, and other essential health topics.

By building a network of skilled health assistants within the camps, the program not only strengthens healthcare delivery but also fosters greater community resilience and self-reliance.

This initiative represents a crucial step toward improving healthcare accessibility in the Rohingya camps while simultaneously creating opportunities for young women to gain education, professional skills, and a sense of purpose in serving their own communities. With continued support and expansion, the Health Assistance Program has the potential to make a lasting difference in both individual lives and broader public health outcomes.

Humanitarian Logistics Management Training



Hope Foundation partnered with **HELP Logistics** to deliver a three-day Humanitarian Logistics Management Training in Cox's Bazar, bringing together **30 participants** from UN agencies, INGOs, and local NGOs. The training equipped frontline professionals with foundational knowledge in humanitarian supply chain operations, including sourcing, procurement, warehousing, and inventory management. Participants engaged in interactive modules—such as the Business on the Move board game—to deepen their understanding of the differences between commercial and humanitarian logistics, and to apply real-world decision-making tools. This training strengthens local capacity to respond to crises efficiently and ensures critical goods and services reach affected populations without delay.

For **Direct Relief USA**, delivering care to vulnerable populations is not just a responsibility, but a vital commitment, especially during times of crisis. In a country like Bangladesh, where the impacts of climate change are increasingly evident, Hope Foundation's partnership with Direct Relief has become even more critical. Together, we strive to provide essential medical support and logistics that empower communities to navigate the challenges they face.

During a crisis, access to basic healthcare services can mean the difference between hope and despair. By donating medicine and strengthening the logistical capabilities of the Hope Foundation, we are ensuring that life-saving resources reach those who need them most, when they need them most. Our collaborative efforts are not only focused on alleviating immediate health needs but also on building resilience within these communities, enabling them to withstand future adversities.

"As we continue to stand together in the face of these challenges, we reaffirm our commitment to health equity and the belief that everyone deserves access to quality care, regardless of their circumstances."



Gordon Willcock, PhD

Regional Director, Asia Pacific – Direct Relief

Donor Appreciation



Rotary Global Grant

With this Rotary Global Grant, Hope Hospital will provide **comprehensive treatment and prevention services for uterine prolapse** at Hope Hospital, focusing on underprivileged women who are at risk or currently suffering from this condition. Despite the establishment of a specialized unit for provision of a discount on surgery costs, financial constraints remain a significant barrier for many women who are suffering from uterine prolapse. The Rotary Global Grant provided **necessary equipment for an OR** at the Hope Hospital which has been instrumental in offering critical surgical care for underserved populations. Through Global grants, Rotary clubs worldwide collaborate to fund sustainable and impactful projects, addressing significant health challenges like uterine prolapse in low-resource settings. The proposed support for the uterine prolapse treatment for the poor women at Hope Hospital aligns with Rotary's mission to improve health outcomes and enhance the quality of life for the vulnerable women in the community.



Fistula Foundation Team's Visit to Hope Hospital

The Fistula Foundation's visit to Hope Hospital marks a significant moment in our ongoing campaign to end obstetric fistula in Bangladesh. Since 2011, their invaluable support has helped Hope build and expand its fistula program, transforming it into a national leader in fistula treatment and prevention. Today, Hope's program stands at the forefront of efforts to eradicate obstetric fistula from the country, restoring dignity and hope to countless women. This visit reaffirms our shared commitment to ensuring that no woman suffers needlessly from this preventable condition.

Thank you Fistula Foundation!



From Left to Right: Jan W.C. de Ridder, Expert of PUM, Netherlands; Most. Sarmin Nesa, Vice Principal, Hope Midwifery Institute; Keerthana Rajagopal Shanthi, Fistula Foundation USA; Dr Nrinmoy Biswas, Fistula Surgeon, Hope Hospital; Alexa Smith, Fistula Foundation USA; Lindsey Pollaczek, Fistula Foundation USA; Kanata Akter, Midwifery Coordinator, K M Zahiduzzaman, County Director, Hope Foundation; Dr Mohd. Nur Islam, Chief Medical Officer, HOPE Hospital; Dr Golam Hafiz, Research Fellow, Hope Foundation

Fistula Champion Highlight: Lindsey Pollaczek



Lindsey Pollaczek second in place surrounded by Fistula Foundation team members and Obstetric Fistula survivors who went to meet her during her visit to Hope Hospital.

Obstetric fistula is one of the most devastating injuries a woman can endure. It robs her of her health, isolates her from her family and community, and too often leaves her to suffer in silence and shame. No woman should have to live this way.

At Fistula Foundation, we are committed to ensuring that no woman suffers a life of misery and isolation simply for trying to bring a child into the world. Fistula surgery—a highly cost-effective intervention for one of humanity's most disabling injuries—offers benefits that reach far beyond the operating room. On average, fistula surgery gives a woman more than 40 years of healthy life, restoring her sense of self, her role in her family, and her hope for the future.

That is why our partnership with Hope Foundation matters so deeply. As one of our longest-standing partners, we've worked together for over 15 years to provide fistula care to more than 1,000 women. Hope Foundation plays a vital role in delivering high-quality surgeries, expanding community outreach to remote areas, and raising awareness in communities where too few people know this condition is treatable, while also working to ensure all women have access to quality and timely maternal health services to prevent new cases.

We are honored to continue our partnership with Hope Foundation as we work toward a fistula-free Bangladesh—ensuring that no woman is left behind—and deeply grateful for the incredible commitment of the entire Hope Foundation team, who work tirelessly every day to make this vision a reality.”



Lindsey Pollaczek

Chief Partnerships Officer, Fistula Foundation
San Francisco, California, United States





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At HOPE, our mission is simple but urgent—to reach as many people in need as possible, with compassion, dignity, and quality care. Every life we touch is a step closer to a healthier, more just world.”



Mr. Ali N. Munju
Board of Directors

Dr. Iftikher Mahmood joins Aurora Team as Featured Speaker at Clinton Global Initiative



Left picture: Dr. Iftikher Mahmood meeting **President Bill Clinton**.

Right top picture: Dr. Iftikher Mahmood with **Dr. Denis Mukwege, 2018 Nobel Peace Prize Winner**.

Right bottom picture, Dr. Iftikher Mahmood speaking at the Clinton Global Initiative sharing panel with **Armine Afeyan (CEO of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative and Aurora Prize)** and **Chelsea Clinton (Vice Chair of the Clinton Foundation)**.

As a featured speaker at the **Clinton Global Initiative Leaders Stage**, Dr. Mahmood and Aurora Humanitarian Initiative's CEO Armine Afeyan joined Dr. Chelsea Clinton, Vice Chair of the Clinton Global Initiative to discuss the great challenges and way forward amidst the growing humanitarian crisis globally.

Dr. Iftikher Mahmood also spoke at the **Aurora Dialogues** panel in New York City, held during UNGA Week 2024. In observance of the "International Day of Peace", the event brought together global humanitarian leaders under the theme "**Leaving no one behind.**"

In both events Dr. Mahmood shared powerful insights from over two decades of work serving marginalized populations in Bangladesh, particularly women and children in refugee and rural communities. He emphasized the critical importance of locally-led, culturally-informed healthcare solutions in addressing long-term humanitarian crises.

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“We strive to provide global standard healthcare to the local community.”



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