



Annual Report 2019

Islamic Relief Bangladesh

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Who we are

Islamic Relief Worldwide is an independent humanitarian and development organisation. Founded in 1984, with headquarters based in Birmingham, UK, we have a presence in around 45 countries.

We support the world's most vulnerable people in the fight against poverty and suffering. We do this regardless of race, political affiliation, gender or belief, and without expecting anything in return.

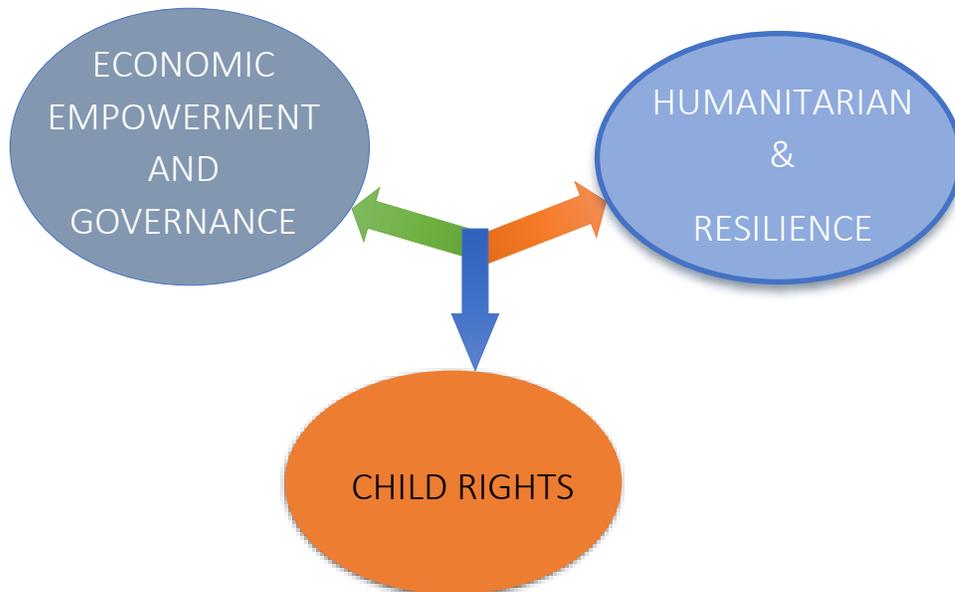
As a registered charity, we are open and transparent. We continually assess our work and how we operate to improve our impact and effectiveness.

Islamic Relief has been working in Bangladesh since 1991, when we provided emergency relief and supported communities to rebuild in the wake of a devastating cyclone. Since then, we have expanded our programmes to focus on both humanitarian and development challenges.

What we do

Our innovative integrated approach sees us work closely with the vulnerable communities that we serve. They identify the problems and are part of the solutions. As a result, our programmes often encompass many interlinked areas.

These include Economic Empowerment and Governance, Child Rights and Protection, Water and Sanitation, Education, Humanitarian Response, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation.



Our vision

We envisage a world where communities are empowered, social obligations are fulfilled and people respond as one to the suffering of others.

Our mission

Exemplifying our Islamic values, we mobilise resources, build partnerships and develop local capacity as we work with the aim to:

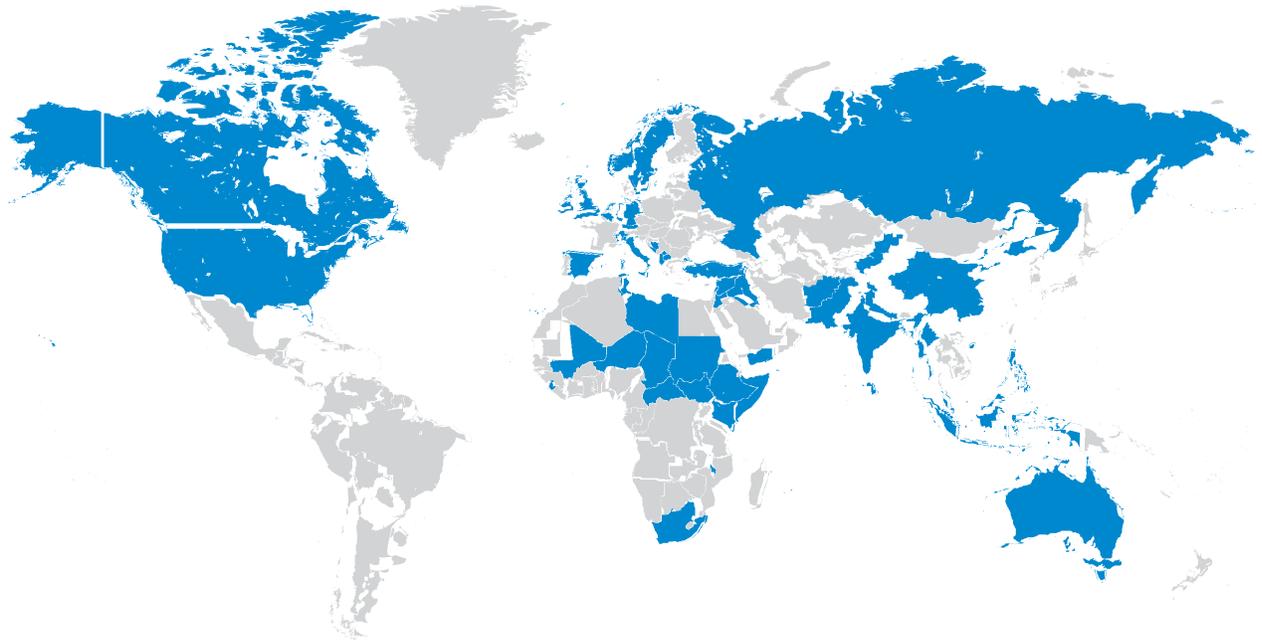
- Enable communities to mitigate the effect of disasters, prepare for their occurrence and respond by providing relief, protection and recovery.
- Promote integrated development and environmental custodianship with a focus on sustainable livelihoods.
- Support the marginalised and vulnerable to voice their needs and address root causes of poverty.

Our values

We remain guided by the timeless values and teachings of the Holy Qur'an and the prophetic example (Sunnah), most specifically:

- **Sincerity (Ikhlas)** – In responding to poverty and suffering, our efforts are driven by sincerity to God and the need to fulfil our obligations to humanity.
- **Excellence (Ihsan)** – Our actions in tackling poverty are marked by excellence in our operations and the conduct through which we help the deserving people we serve.
- **Compassion (Rahma)** – We believe in the protection and well-being of every life is of paramount importance and thus we join with other humanitarian actors to act as one in responding to sufferings brought on by disasters, poverty and injustice.
- **Social Justice (Adl)** – Our work is founded on enabling people and institutions to fulfil the rights of the poor and vulnerable. We work to empower the dispossessed towards realising their God-given human potential and develop their capabilities and resources.
- **Custodianship (Amana)** – We uphold our duty of custodianship over the Earth and its resources, and the trust people place in us as a humanitarian and development practitioner to be transparent and accountable.

The Islamic Relief Global Family



1. Bangladesh
2. UK
3. India
4. Kenya
5. Pakistan
6. Russian Federation
7. Turkey
8. Australia
9. Belgium
10. Canada
11. Germany
12. Ireland
13. Italy
14. Malaysia
15. The Netherlands
16. Norway
17. South Africa
18. Spain

19. Sweden
20. Switzerland
21. USA
22. Afghanistan
23. Albania
24. Bosnia Herzegovina
25. Chad
26. Ethiopia
27. Indonesia
28. Iraq
29. Jordan
30. Kosovo
31. Lebanon
32. Libya
33. Malawi
34. Mali
35. Nepal
36. Niger

37. Palestinian Territories
38. Philippines
39. Somalia
40. South Sudan
41. Sudan
42. Tunisia
43. Yemen
44. Central African Republic
45. China
46. Macedonia
47. Myanmar
48. Sierra Leone
49. Sri Lanka
50. Syria

Coverage 2019





Child Rights Programme

Islamic Relief in Bangladesh has been working for ensuring the rights of children for many years. Over the years, we have developed a strong niche on working with orphan & vulnerable children. Our integrated community-based programme focusing on the rights of orphan children has recently been recognized through conferring with the BOND International Development Award 2019, UK. Islamic Relief strongly advocates for developing and creating community-based integrated care system to protect the rights of the most vulnerable children. We advocate and uphold the rights of children as enshrined in the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of Child (UNCRC-1989). We closely work with civil society groups and national level networks to promote the rights of children. Islamic Relief works with communities & local government institutions and develop innovative programmatic solutions which can address the rights of children in a sustainable manner. We believe in strengthening families & communities who are the immediate care givers. We closely work with different arms of the government to make them accountable towards children. Our current portfolio under the child rights programme consists of over 6000 direct children beneficiaries with over BDT 150 million cash transfer every year in their accounts.

Beneficiaries

Direct- 9375

Indirect- 140516



Major Achievements

- 28,488 (cumulative) orphan children and their siblings & guardians received health checkup from community clinic.
- 63 motivational sessions were arranged for the examinees of public examinations (PEC, JSC, PSC, SSC) where 2050 (cumulative) examinees attended.
- 1,369 leaders of Mothers' Groups received training on group dynamics, leadership and financial management.
- 1,368 guardians of the orphan children received skill training on various IGAs.
- Qard-al-Hasana of BDT 20,373,200 was distributed among the guardians of orphan children.
- BDT 13,975,420 was deposited as savings in the individual accounts of the mothers' groups.
- 1,364 leaders of mothers' groups received training on CP.
- 637 sponsored children passed PEC examination and 435 passed JSC examination.
- 213 (out of 244) sponsored children passed in Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination and 9 children obtained GPA 5 (out of 5).
- 30 (out of 45) sponsored children passed in Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSC) examination and 5 of them got GPA 4.
- 7 Shishu Kallyan Boards (Child Welfare Board) were activated at Upazila level.

Programme Impact

- **Education:** 100% of the targeted orphan & vulnerable children have been enrolled in formal & non-formal schools, and they are continuing their studies. Their school attendance rate has increased, and so is the quality of education. Parents are more involved in their children's school life; they make regular school visits to monitor school performance. The project-supported educational stipend encourages spending on coaching, purchasing school supplies and uniforms, and helps with fees.
- **Women's Rights & Empowerment:** There are life changing gains in women's rights & empowerment for the beneficiaries of OSP & other projects. This results from SHG formation, learning and mutual support activities. The gains come in the form of decision-making and stronger capacity in economic matters, their children's education, social relationships such as marriage; levels of confidence, dignity and respect for themselves and from others in their community; mobility and tapping into supportive linkages with key government institutions and emerging leadership among the groups of women.
- **Protection:** Widows are vulnerable to economic abuse, sexual harassment and other gender-based violence and abuse including pressure for Early Child Marriage (ECM) of their children. Women members of SHGs are having much greater protection over the project period. They have a better understanding of their rights, less isolation, ability to support each other and draw in greater protection and support from their key allies in government and the school system.
- **Child Club:** The Child Clubs (CC) are resulting in children mutually supporting each other in their educational needs, better attitudes and behaviour with their parents & elders, and a stronger understanding of their rights & obligations in civil society. There is an improving trend line in their happiness, protection, health, education and rights. Some CCs' outreach into the community has resulted in improved sanitation practices in households.
- **Financial Upliftment:** The average monthly income of the beneficiaries has increased. Income Generating Activities (IGA) is the driving force here, along with sources of capital through savings & interest-free loans and training, for reducing poverty. Household expenditure has increased too. The average savings held by households has increased.



Programme Impact

- **Food security:** The project participants are having three meals a day round the year. When a family struggles for food, the SHGs support them through interest-free loans or in-kind support.
- **Health:** The overall health of the beneficiaries has improved significantly. They have better knowledge, mobility and financial resources to access the appropriate medical institutions. Use of sanitary latrines by the HHs has grown. Practices such as washing of hands after toilet use have increased; as a result, water-borne disease has decreased.
- **Linkage with Govt. & Non-Govt. agencies:** Beneficiary linkages to supportive government & non-govt. agencies such as Community Clinic, Upazila Health Centre, Cooperative Office, Livestock Office, Bank, Social Welfare Office, etc. are strengthened by the greater understanding & initiatives of SHG members to avail those services.
- **Access to services from institutions:** Due to established linkage with Govt. & non-govt. agencies, project participants are getting access to various services such as skill trainings, various allowances from Govt. social safety-net programs, medical treatment from community clinics, etc. Most of the primary level children are enjoying monthly stipend from government. Greater access comes from greater knowledge of the benefit and the ability group action to secure spots on the government quotas for the benefit.
- **Safe & secure home free from abuse:** Families are aware of the demerits of early marriage, dowry, gender discrimination, abuse (physical & mental), etc.





Humanitarian and Resilience Programme

Since its inception Humanitarian and Resilience (H&R) Programme has been working in most vulnerable areas in Bangladesh to save lives, reduce sufferings and increase resilience against manmade and natural hazards. H&R programme has adopted an integrated approach to address disaster and climate risks. In partnership with government, academic institutions, civil society, communities and the private sector, we are working to support a vibrant, thriving and resilient Bangladesh. We give special emphasis to socially excluded and marginalised people, women, and older persons. We help local communities and institutions to build and scale up their capacity. IRB has been working on Climate Justice Agenda to promote human right based approach in climate action. We also invest in advocacy and actively develop the leadership capacity of vulnerable people. This makes sure that poor people have their voices heard, and their priorities and concerns are included in local and national planning. In addition, we work with mandated disaster management agencies including Department of Disaster Management (DDM), Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (FFWC), the Fire Service & Civil Defense to achieve a stronger, coordinated emergency response. This includes developing trained community volunteers, as part of an overall response and recovery strategy.

Beneficiaries
Direct- 198690
Indirect- 520064



Major Achievements

- 700 most vulnerable households of two coastal districts (Satkhira and Khulna) are practicing climate resilient livelihood practices along with knowledge on preparedness, climate changes adaptations, nutrition, health, hygiene and other social issues.
- Vulnerable communities of 4 Unions under Koyra, Shyamnagar and Galachipa Sub-district are empowered through more than 100 Self Help Groups with better capacity on climate resilient livelihood activities such as bag gardening and drip irrigation to fight salinity.
- 4 Unions have increased their capacities through developing and revitalizing their disaster management committees at Union level. Shyamnagar, Koyra and Galachipa Upazila disaster management committees are functioning very well.
- Around 90000 people from Koyra Sadar, Gabura, Ramjannagar Union are benefited from different project interventions such as strengthened cyclone early warning system, repaired embankment, sweet water canal, connecting roads etc.
- As a part of improving urban resilience, IRB has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Dhaka North and Sylhet City Corporation. Under these MOUs, targeted Wards of Dhaka North and Sylhet City Corporation have been developed and risk reduction action plan has been revised as well.
- Around 242 poor households, most of them are climate migrants received capacity and cash support to make their livelihood adapted to urban area considering disaster and climate risks.

Major Achievements

- 700 most vulnerable households of two coastal districts (Satkhira and Khulna) are practicing climate resilient livelihood practices along with knowledge on preparedness, climate changes adaptations, nutrition, health, hygiene and other social issues.
- To fight Dengue outbreak, campaigns were organized and 370 mosquito nets were distributed
- 30 community groups have been formed in DNCC and SCC and are functioning to demonstrate adaptation to climate change and other hazards.
- Sylhet City Corporation were supported with 54 garbage collection vans as a part of waste management system development to reduce water logging.
- Flood forecast-based early action, which is a new idea in the area of disaster resilience has been introduced with Jamalpur District Administration and Islampur Upazila Administration and disaster management committees.
- To establish a system consisting of better, location specific flood early warning system with improved dissemination system flood vulnerability maps have been prepared, community consultations were organized. Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (FFWC) under Bangladesh Water Development Board and Department Disaster Management (DDM) were engaged with the forecast based early action.
- Humanitarian had its remarkable reach to fortify safe water and proper sanitation for over 50,000 people in Sylhet, Tangail and Mymensingh Districts. Such action mitigated the water scarcity among the vulnerable communities. It acted as a social rehabilitation for the project beneficiaries.
- Life-saving acts have created a tremendous platform for Islamic Relief Bangladesh in the country. Its outstanding support to the most affected population in the monsoon flood and Cyclone was highly appreciated by the actors and government authorities. Over 45,000 people were given life-saving aid to get back into their lives after the devastating flood. Livelihood support, agricultural input support, hygiene/dignity kits, emergency WASH support, Multi-purpose Cash Grants, shelter support have given for fresh start to the severely disaster affected population in Jamalpur and Satkhira Districts.
- Humanitarian Unit has reached over 50,000 vulnerable people in terms of food security through the Seasonal programmes. These projects have significant impacts on the national food security. Ramadan Food package, Qurbani and Aqeeqa meat distribution have reached the most vulnerable families who strive for daily food intake. These steps were implemented in 32 Districts across the country.
- Islamic Relief Bangladesh has been elected to lead the SPHERE community in Bangladesh. Hence, being the country organizational focal point now IRB is in charge of the SPHERE community secretariat. IRB has been providing technical support to the NAWG and clusters and forums and relevant actors.

Programme Impact

- To increase resilience of coastal communities, more than 100 community-based groups have been formed. All the groups are better empowered with knowledge of climate change adaptation and the groups also lead savings and interest free loan management among group members.
- Most climate vulnerable communities of Shyamnagar, Koyra are practicing innovate way of adaptation through bag gardening, tower gardening, saline tolerant agricultural practices etc.
- Sylhet and Dhaka City Corporation both have improved disaster management system by forming technical teams, committees and mainstreaming risk reduction action incorporating their development plans.
- IRB along with other organization has been successful in advocating for revision of Standing Orders on Disaster (SOD) and inclusion of Ward Disaster Management Committee (WDMC)
- IRB has been active in different networks and forums such as National Char Alliance, Urban INGO Forum, Gobeshaona, etc.





Economic Empowerment & Governance Programme

With the aim to create “Poverty and hunger-free gender-sensitive empowered and resilient community (SDG 1, 2, 5 & 6)” the EEG Programme (former Livelihood & Community Development Programme) started its operation in 1995 focusing poor and ultra-poor community. EEG programme’s integrated approach focuses on creating employment, increasing income and ensuring structural development of government and social body in the aspect of good governance so that they can earn a decent, sustainable living. Based on the focused area, the EEG programme has set the new objectives in 2019 as “To enhance integrated sustainable development through economic empowerment and social protection & governance of the marginalized poor, extreme poor and the disadvantaged communities living in the poverty-stricken areas in Bangladesh”. The Programme considered the poverty-stricken areas of Bangladesh and developed poverty mapping by targeting disadvantage, marginalized & extreme poor households who are living in below poverty line regardless of race, nation & religions. Through this programme IRB works at household and community levels to identify the needs of vulnerable families. Under EEG programme, nearly 60,000 vulnerable Poor & Ultra poor families have been graduated to decent, better and sustainable livelihoods options that significantly increased their income and socio-economic status.

Through our programmes support has been extended to targeted beneficiaries- Increased the performance of HHs SHGs and Cooperatives bodies, Increased HH income and expenditure, Improved housing condition, Improved access to sanitation and safe drinking water, Ensured long term sustainable food security and nutrition status, Ensured child schooling and numeracy literacy, Improved access to rights and services, Improved decent life with dignity and honor and Enhanced political inclusion and empowerment.

The EEG programme prioritised in three key strategic areas as 1) Empower the most marginalized & extreme poor by creating sustainable livelihoods opportunities and linking them with social protection & safety net. 2) Empower socially excluded communities through building their social leadership to access rights and entitlement and 3) As an active player IRB played its role on SDG & Human Rights discourse through building strategic engagement with key CSO groups and engagement in different national forums.

The EEGP ultimately ensures a sustainable livelihood for the most vulnerable communities by providing different types of integrated sustainable development interventions which contribute in eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. Thus, EEG provides support to strengthening livelihoods, especially ensuring food security and increasing income opportunities for local communities. Tremendous impacts have resulted in food security and poverty reduction under different implemented projects. Moreover, the self-help groups are more functional than ever, sustained as a full-fledged body. EEGP mainly focuses on right-based approach, community empowerment, social mobilization, strengthening peoples' organizations and sustainable livelihoods.



Beneficiaries
Direct- 13863
Indirect- 160790



Major Achievements

- Since the inception of EEG/Livelihood programme; support has been provided close to 60,000 vulnerable families. This support has ensured their decent & sustainable livelihoods that significantly increased their income and socio-economic status.
- Total 9 different projects have been implemented under EEG in 2019 with the financial support from institutional donors and IRW partners.
- Around 12,700 Direct beneficiaries and households (including 57,159 hhs members) have received livelihoods support from EEG Programme in 2019 under different projects.
- Significantly improved the lives of extreme poor households as their average monthly income have gone up around 250- 400% during the project period compared to their baseline income.
- A proven and tested poverty alleviation model named- Elimination of Extreme Poverty in Rural Bangladesh- EEP has been developed with the aim to replicate other areas as well.
- ISD Climb UP project (Integrated Sustainable Development) funded by IR Germany has successfully been completed in 2019. The final evaluation revealed that the average monthly income has been increased @363% from their baseline of 3,000 ultra-poor beneficiaries.
- Through increasing and enhancing their skills, capacities and resources the SHGs, cooperatives and cooperative alliances have been institutionalized.

Major Achievements

- Livelihood interventions are mainstreamed as integrated sustainable development approaches considering all components like livelihoods, education, WASH, community awareness, CLTS, Child protection, Gender, DRR, Emergency support, CFW, Nutrition, PWD, market linkage & value chain.
- Almost 100% Self Help Groups (SHGs) are formed and functioning with the aim of forming community-based empowered organizations which in course of time will run independently.
- Enhanced capacity of 360 SHGs (around 1000 group leaders) and Apex body leaders on group management, leadership and financial management issue.
- Around 3,700 HHs provided skill development training on their preferred livelihood options in different Income Generating Activities.
- Provided livelihood means/cash support to 3500 households in 2019 for start-up business capital for income generation.
- Distributed seeds for kitchen gardening and fruits saplings to 2,800 households for providing nutritional support to decrease malnutrition.
- Facilitated 12,500 waste/garbage management plant of targeted households in project area for green and clean environment.
- Conducted around 1,730 mass awareness sessions at community level and around 15,500 session at SHG level on various issues- human rights, women rights, child rights, health, hygiene, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, environmental and social issues.



Programme Impact

- Around 60,000 vulnerable and disadvantaged households have been graduated by the EEG Programme, they are having decent & sustainable livelihoods that significantly have increased their income and socio-economic status;
- Significantly improved the lives of extreme poor households as their average monthly income has been increased up to 400% during the project period compared to their baseline income;
- Expanded & promoted group-led approach and interest-free Islamic financial practice (Qard Al Hasana loan system) and revolving fund management system which subsequently helped in building solidarity among the SHGs;
- Established 2,000 community base empowered organization/SHG in different implementing areas across Bangladesh. These are also considered as role model for others to influence. Playing an important role to strengthen existing organizations by building unity of the community and utilizing their capacities and resources.
- Established and ensured cooperative approach among the SHG's following the formation as a legal entity from government cooperative department.
- Mainstreamed the inclusive approach of involving the older, widow, ethnic & religious minorities, People with disability and socially excluded people in economic and social development process under different projects across Bangladesh.
- Knowledge and consciousness both have increased among the targeted community on various social, health and protection issues such as- human rights, women empowerment, gender, health, HIV/AIDS, dowry, immature marriage, child and women trafficking, domestic violence, violence against women, etc.
- Focused on urban based livelihoods support to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities for reducing community sufferings and for a decent and sustainable life.
- Livelihood interventions are mainstreamed as integrated sustainable development approach applied considering all components like livelihoods, education, WASH, community awareness, CLTS, Child protection, Gender, DRR, Emergency support, CFW, Nutrition, market linkage & value chain.
- Increased employment opportunities of the targeted households through integrated and adaptive livelihoods development;
- Empowered women by enhancing their economic independence as well as their control over their incomes and resources; helped to increase their confidence level and encouraged them to participate actively in decision making process both at household and community level; increased their mobility;
- Playing the leading & facilitating role to establish livelihoods operations among the other programmes in IRB as well as shared the expertise to different IR countries.
- EEGP has developed a proven and tested poverty alleviation model named- Elimination of Extreme Poverty in Rural Bangladesh- EEP for the replication.

Programme Approach

People-Centered	The community people have been engaged in all cycles of interventions to improve their self-reliance, participatory decision making and social justice.
SHG/Community-led	Community-led approach is followed; all activities are done by SHG members and/or community people.
Social Inclusion	The most vulnerable women, elderly people, persons with disability, ethnic minority and such socially excluded peoples are the right-holders of our projects.
Partnership	Effective & functional partnership and collaboration is maintained with government office, NGO, and civil society at local, regional and national level.
Women Empowerment & Leadership	Women are the direct beneficiaries of all projects. Their role lies at the center of community empowerment. SHGs also enhance women's participation and leadership both at family and community level. This gender-sensitive & women-inclusive strategy leads to advancement and social change.
Multi-hazard approach	In all activities of resilience, there will be mandatory multi hazard risk assessment to better integration of resilience approach within the scope of the development projects
Low cost and innovative adaptation & mitigation	To engage and scale up wider communities, IRB always prefers low cost and innovate adaptation and mitigation techniques.
Enhancing early warning systems	Early Warning is one of the key tools for managing disasters effectively. As such IRB strengthens early warning system in partnership with the mandate of government organizations such as FFWC, BMD, local administration etc.



Programme Approach

Engaged Policy Advocacy at national and local level	IRB effectively prioritize and engage in policy advocacy along with its networks and alliances.
Sustainability and Exit	Ensuring sustainability of each action, handing over responsibility to communities & groups, and following a proper exit strategy – all are considered as very important programmatic approach.
Community Empowerment	Strengthening the unity of the community utilizing their capacities, resources and contributions for empowering the poorest groups of people with rights & dignity.
Income & Employment Generation	Increasing income & employment opportunities for the poor and extreme poor households through transferring productive assets along with skills, inputs & extension services
Group-led Sustainable Microfinance Services	Promoting self-help & small-scale enterprise financing using Islamic finance principles, and strengthening Islamic microfinance.
Value Chain and Pro-poor Market Development	Stimulating pro-poor market for the small producers to promote their benefits through collaboration with market actors.
Climate Adaptive Livelihoods Development	Promoting climate adaptive livelihood options and techniques among the climate vulnerable community.
Advocacy, Networking, Partnership and Knowledge Management	Strengthening advocacy, networking, partnership and knowledge management for the benefit of the poor and ultra-poor people.



Good Practices and Lesson learned

- Leaders are conducting Self Help Group (SHG) meetings independently.
- School teachers are taking extra care of the orphan & vulnerable children.
- Impressive result found when widows & vulnerable women organise and mutually support each other in SHG groups.
- SHGs are depositing savings in scheduled banks regularly.
- Provision of small loan for the SHG members is very effective as it allows member to avail loans during emergency. It has eased the lives of large number of SHG members.
- Communities are paying attention to the orphan families.
- Development activities like group formation contribute wellbeing of vulnerable children and together they can support each other in learning. Eventually this helps improving their relationships with parents and guardians, they become aware about their civic duties and serve to their communities.
- Participatory decision making is taking place at grass root/community level.
- Intensive group training, and mentorship and coaching in livelihoods of SHG members can lead to high rates of participation in IGA and significant growth in savings, use of loans, income, assets and expenditures to support their basic needs.
- Adolescents are acquainted with reproductive health issues through peer education.
- Complaint Register Management (CRM) system has been effectively functional.
- Sustainable access to group-led financial services for managing IGA.
- Risk fund for coping up with major shocks and damages.
- IGA diversification and multiplication.
- Food banks initiative at SHG level found very effective as it ensures food security and social dignity of the ultra-poor HHs during the lean period.
- Group-led savings mobilisation.



Good Practices and Lesson learned

- No age limit for beneficiary, inclusion of elderly women and nominee provision.
- Beneficiaries' access to finance and linkage with government service providers.
- Participatory beneficiary selection following rigorous process.
- Synergy with other GO and NGO projects.
- Strong Complaint Register Management (CRM) system to ensure transparency and accountability.
- Qard-al- Hasana as an alternative microcredit delivery mechanism as well as worthy solution to get rid of conventional interest base loan system.
- Good and effective linkage and coordination between project and various government departments & local government authorities has been set up.
- Through Role play session on DRR and WASH, school children are now acquiring knowledge and effective learnings as volunteers and can provide support during disaster.
- Floating vegetation and tower vegetation have been proven as an alternative technology against sudden storm.
- Follow-up and tracking system should be in place after termination of sponsorship to guide them towards a successful and dignified life and livelihoods and identification of impact of the programme.



Partnership and Networking



- Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies (BCAS),
- Center for Participatory Research and Development (CPRD),
- International Center for Climate Change and Development (ICCAD)
- Department of Disaster Management (DDM),
- Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR),
- Department of Environment,
- Bangladesh Water Development Board,
- Flood Forecasting and Warning Center (FFWC),
- Department of Agriculture Extension, Fire Service and Civil Defense
- University of Dhaka,
- Sher E Bangla Agricultural University
- Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC)
- Sylhet City Corporation
- NARRI,
- Urban INGO Forum,
- CANSA,
- National Char Alliance,
- Gobeshona
- Central Sharia Board for Islamic Banks of Bangladesh (CSBIB)
- The National Market Development Forum-MDF
- Leave No One Behind-LNOB
- EPRG-DFID Shiree
- National Girl Child Advocacy Forum (NGCAF)
- Child Rights Advocacy Coalition in Bangladesh
- Child Protection National Cluster
- Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum



Success Stories



Empowered Anjoli Rani

Anjoli Rani is a dweller of Purbo Doiljor village under Aditmari sub-district of Lalmonirhat district. She got married at the age of 16 and became a widow at the age of 25. Her husband, an agricultural day labour left nothing but 66 decimals of agricultural land for the family. After losing her husband she was in great distress. Being a young widow, she was not allowed to go outside to pursue any work. She had to live only the farming land which she inherited and used to get paddy from it. Sometimes she received financial support from her parents as well as in-laws though it was not enough.

Considering her vulnerability, she got selected as a participant of ALO project. She became a member of SHG, and started attending the meetings of SHG as well as depositing a small savings in SHG account. She was very regular in group activities. As such she got elected as the General Secretary of the SHG.

“We received various awareness messages from our SHG meetings. Personally, I received trainings on group dynamics, leadership and group management. I also got entrepreneurship development & business management training (EDBM), skill development training and livestock rearing training. After receiving EDBM training, I developed a business plan considering my resources, skill, experiences and capacity taking assistance from project staffs”, shared Anjoli. I received cash grants of BDT 18000 from the project to start IGA. My child was given BDT 500 per month as educational stipend.

“We formed Union Self-help Women Forum (USWF) of Shaptibari Union consisting of all the SHGs under this Union. I have been elected as the Chairperson of the forum. Afterwards, we - the forum members - sat together and identified our next plan of action. We requested the UP Chairman and managed an office room for our USWF in UP complex. We also got allocation for 50 orphans HHs from different government social safety net facilities. During this time, I also got membership in Upazila Self-help Women Forum (UzSWF) and was elected as an organizing secretary in the executive committee.”

“We have tried to motivate our orphan guardians to be aware of their rights such as child rights, women rights and specially land rights. Being encouraged, few of our orphan guardians claimed their rights to their fathers and fathers-in-law. Child abuse has been reduced in our orphan households. No early marriage took place in the orphan families under ALO project. I have also got my husband’s assets from my brother-in-law. I do participate in different government and non-government programs, raise voice and make others aware.”, Anjoli described.

In 2018, Anjoli Rani was selected as one of the best social workers in Aditmari Upazila, and achieved ‘Joyeeta’ award. This reward has encouraged her to do more for vulnerable & disadvantaged women like her. “I am grateful to Islamic Relief Bangladesh. I dream of a society where no girl child in our community will be abused or married off at an early age. Women will get their entitlements from family and society.”





Miracles Done by Reshma in Salty lands

Reshma Begum (32) resides in the Koyra Upazila who had to suffer from tremendous hardship in her life with two (2) daughters and a son. Her husband was a day labourer who could hardly afford three meals daily. Unfortunately, she had more tougher days when severe cyclonic storm Sidr and Aila hit at their locality and she had to lose her livelihood and land. She tried her luck in agriculture but could not grow crops as her land was intruded with saline water. As such, they were desperately trying to sustain with the little earnings of her husband. She couldn't start a small business due to lack of capital. She was very upset as well as frustrated, desperately trying to cope up with the situation though it was even difficult for her as she was mentally challenged.

During this difficult time Islamic Relief Bangladesh (IRB) extended support to her. IRB followed the process of beneficiary selection by analyzing the condition of the poverty and marked them accordingly with the help of Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC) and Ward Disaster Management Committee (WDMC). They chose the village Uttor Bedkashi. Subsequently IRB staff conducted house hold survey to validate the primary list. This was followed by several processes including plan development, IGA development, bank account opening, skill training to the beneficiaries, money distribution, follow-up which paved the way for the beneficiaries starting

integrated farming and other IGA activities. Thus, Reshma Begum got selected as one of the beneficiaries and her efforts had a surprising outcome.

In January 2018 Reshma Begum got selected as a beneficiary of the project Scaling up inclusive Climate Change Adaptation and disaster Resilience (SCCADR) Phase III funded by IRUK. She received BDT12000 from IRB and spent the amount for buying a boat for fishing and crab collection from the Sundarbans. With the profit generated from her activities, she used for homestead gardening. Currently, her monthly income is BDT13000-14000. She along with other beneficiaries formed a Group named "Paatnai Self-help Group" and became a very active and regular member of the group. She started attending the regular group meetings, learned about savings, sanitation, disaster preparedness, disaster risk reduction, women's right, health, hygiene & Water, vegetable farming in an adaptive way, etc. She uses this money partially to save in the SHG account and to buy seeds for her homestead gardening. She uses various techniques to do so, such as bag gardening using drip irrigation which she learnt from the trainings she received from IRB staff. In addition to that, she is also rearing livestock. Now she contributes a lot for her family. Many of her neighbors visit her house to learn the homestead gardening and appreciate her amazing works.



Reshma says, " Now I am self-dependent and living in a very good condition by the grace of the Almighty Allah and with the help and support of the brothers from IRB. Earlier my husband's little earning was the only source and now we have multiple income sources. I never thought that I would be able to contribute to my family despite my mental

challenges, but this is a miracle." She adds, "My family members also support me for my homestead gardening and livestock rearing. I am much thankful to IRB as it has utterly changed my life, I could never think to send my children to school. But currently my eldest daughter studies in 5th grade and the younger ones will also enroll school soon.

I am so grateful to IRB for their help and appreciate as they have pulled me out from the grave situation, I was in. They trained and taught me the proper method to rear livestock and domestic animals, advanced and adaptive techniques to do homestead gardening from where I can generate income as well as full-fill my family's nutrition. I thank Islamic Relief Bangladesh again for giving me hope and direction when I was highly depressed."



Disability couldn't Stop Mayanur to Win Race

Mayanur (37) was born in an extremely poor family. At the age of three, she got seriously injured by fire, her hand was severely deformed and she became a disable. At the age of 16 when she was a student of grade 9 she had to marry Abdul Motaleb who was a rikshaw puller. Mayanur's husband worked in Chattagram far away from Tazumuddin. His earning was not enough to meet the basic needs of the family. Every day he had to pay a portion of his income to the owner of the Rickshaw. Sometimes, Mayanur received financial help from her father and sister though it was not enough. She had to go through sufferings as it was very difficult to maintain her family and to afford the cost of their daughters' study. They had to starve regularly. The house they used to live was in bad shape, they had no latrines as well as water facilities.

Mayanur wanted to earn money. Since she was disable it was a challenge for her to do so. In 2015, Islamic Relief Bangladesh selected her as a direct beneficiary of ISD Climb UP project considering her vulnerability and disability. She was a member of the self-help group and obtained trainings from the project that mobilised her to be a part of sustainable livelihood approach. She received different trainings and awareness on health, hygiene, early marriage,

women rights, DRR, climate change and adaptation, livestock, etc., and all these had a tremendous impact on her life. Every week, she participated in the weekly meetings of her SHG. She became the cashier of their SHG and subsequently got selected as a general secretary.



She thought of doing small business as her prime IGA and received training on this. Every week, she participated in the weekly meetings. She became the cashier of their SHG and was later selected as a general secretary. She started to deposit savings and handful rice in their food bank. She received saplings and seeds of various vegetables and

fruits. She also got a sanitary latrine.

She received IGA cash grant of BDT 16000 and started small business of selling seasonal fishes with her sister as a partner, and earned BDT 300-500 daily. After few months they started to expand their business. As her sister worked in a ship constructing company in Chattagram, she managed to shift their business there and started earning 500-1000 daily. After repaying cash loan to at SHG's revolving fund, Mayanur took Qard Al Hasana of BDT 20,000 from the SHG's revolving fund and raised her homestead adding her own money.

From her earning she brought a piece of land where she is now growing vegetables that meet daily needs of her family. Her family has overcome food insecurity and can afford three meals a day. Mayanur Begum received leadership and financial management training. Her two daughters go to school and they also received educational materials from the project. She wants to educate both her daughters and does not want to marry off her daughters before 18.



Mayanur Begum said, "My family is living a comfortable life now. People thought that I won't be able to do anything because of my disability. But the situation is much better now than ever."

She expresses her gratitude to Islamic relief Bangladesh and its donor. She said, "IRB helped me to come out from ultra-poor condition to a comfortable life. I will be always thankful to IRB as well as the donor."



Bangladesh Country Office

Islamic Relief Bangladesh

House 10, Road 10, Block K

Baridhara, Dhaka-1212

Tel: +880-29893458, 8819392

www.islamicrelief.org.bd

Facebook: facebook.com/IRWBangladesh

The Headquarters

Islamic Relief Worldwide

19 Rea Street South

Birmingham B5 6LB

Tel: 0121 605 5555

www.islamic-relief.com

Facebook: facebook.com/islamicreliefworldwide