

Eyesight of 761 Restored through Cataract Surgery



Providing essential eye care remains a significant challenge for impoverished rural communities in Bangladesh. The prevalence of visual impairment is notably higher in Rangpur, with lower cataract surgery coverage compared to other districts in the country. To address this issue, Islamic Relief has launched the "Eye Sight Rehabilitation Project" funded by Ilmfeed. The primary goal is to alleviate the socio-economic vulnerability of individuals grappling with cataract blindness, ultimately improving their quality of life and reducing the prevalence of blindness in the region. In the year 2023, Islamic Relief achieved success by completing cataract surgeries for 761 impoverished individuals (345 males and 416 females).

Furthermore, a total of 5,101 individuals (2,564 males and 2,537 females) from Mithapukur Upazila, who faced challenges due to limited or no vision, received essential general eye care, including assistive devices. The initiative's focal point is identifying individuals with eye problems through screening, offering vision tests, and, when necessary, performing cataract surgeries to restore vision. The project aims to conduct a total of 1,250 cataract surgeries.

Monthly Ration Distribution for Rohingyas in Bhasanchar



In partnership with WFP, Islamic Relief Bangladesh consistently provides monthly rations to the Rohingya community residing in Bhasanchar. Currently, approximately 18,000 Rohingya individuals benefit from this assistance. Every month, they receive a ration package containing 13 kg of rice for each individual along with 1 kg of lentils and potatoes, 1 liter of oil, half a kilogram of onions, salt and sugar and 100 gram of garlic. Additionally, the package contains 0.05 kg of turmeric, 0.25 kg of chili, and 0.3 kg of dry fish. A detailed distribution plan is formulated at the onset of each month, and the allocated items are distributed accordingly from the designated shelter. Hakim Ali, a right holder, expressed gratitude, saying, "I am sincerely thankful to Islamic Relief for securing our food needs through the provision of monthly food rations." Yeasmin Ara, another participant in the General Food Assistance Project (GFA), shared her joy, stating, "I am delighted to receive essential food items through the smart card, which has significantly alleviated our hardships."

9000 Fruits Saplings were distributed, contributing to a greener environment

In September 2023, the fruits sapling plant distribution program, a crucial component of the SUPPORT Project under the EEGP by Islamic Relief Bangladesh, was conducted in Nawabganj Upazila, Dinajpur. The initiative aims to promote sustainable agricultural practices, contribute to a cleaner and greener environment and boost income generation. Lemon, guava, and litchi sapling plants were distributed to 3,000 project participants. The event was graced by key officials, including the Upazila Agricultural Officer, local leaders, and the UP Chairman, adding significance to the occasion. Beneficiaries expressed overwhelming satisfaction upon receiving the fruit saplings and displayed keen enthusiasm for actively participating in the project.



Celebrates International Indigenous Day-SUPPORT Project



On August 9, 2023, Islamic Relief Bangladesh observed International Indigenous Day 2023 in Nawabganj, Dinajpur under the SUPPORT project under EEGP with a focus on raising awareness about the rights and contributions of indigenous communities, the event highlighted the importance of unity and cooperation in advocating for their rights and self-determination.

Under the theme "Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination," the celebration kicked off with a spirited rally featuring diverse participants passionately advocating for indigenous rights. The rally was followed by insightful discussion sessions led by distinguished panelists from indigenous communities, NGOs, and government bodies. These dialogues delved into the multifaceted challenges faced by indigenous populations, aiming to chart a course toward self-determination and the preservation of fundamental rights.

Approximately 1.92% of the population in Dinajpur consists of tribal and indigenous people. The support project is currently working with 3000 participants among them 315 individuals and 1071 of their household members belong to the tribal/ethnic minority community which is around 10.5% of the total project participants. The project aims to enhance the resilience and improve the rights, social dignity, and economic empowerment of the extreme poor families and marginalised ethnic minorities in the targeted communities.

The Day observation event has also showcased the project's commitment to address the socio-economic issues faced by the ethnic minority community.

Empowering Youth through Locally Led Adaptation



Due to Earth's increased warmth and the entrapment of greenhouse gases, it is facing adverse effects of climate change. In response to climate change-induced hazards and disasters, Locally Led Adaptation has emerged as a sustainable, nature-based solution. Globally, youths have played a crucial role in advocating for a just energy transition and climate justice. In alignment with this, an 'Orientation on Locally Led Adaptation (LLA)' was conducted by the ICRA project, targeting 400 youths (100 in each of the four project areas: Koira in Khulna, Shyamnagar in Satkhira, Manirampur in Jashore, and Sylhet City Corporation in Sylhet) in December 2023. Notably, 40 percent of female youths actively participated in this event. The orientation aimed to educate the youth in these areas on critical aspects of climate change, hazards and disasters, tools, and the importance of locally-led adaptation. Facilitators from YouthNet Global collaborated with IRB during the event, sharing their enriched knowledge and experiences to motivate the participants. The youths, along with community members, are poised to actively engage and contribute to the implementation of the Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) and the integration of Locally Led Adaptation in disaster-prone areas.

Books Distribution for Child Learning Centres

In an effort to instill a reading habit among orphaned children and enhance their knowledge, the Orphan Sponsorship Programme (OSP) has initiated the distribution of books to Child Learning Centres (CLCs) in nine field offices located in Amtoli, Cox's Bazar, Derai, Golachipa, Khulna, Rajbari, Rangpur, Sunamganj, and Thakurgaon. A total of 2,500 books have been distributed among 64 CLCs, covering a diverse range of age-specific literature, including short stories, science, rhyme, poetry, biography, novels, moral tales, adventure stories, fiction, and science fiction. Each CLC received a set of 40 different books, leading to joyous reactions from the children who were delighted to receive these new books.

Colorful events were organized to officially hand over these books to the leaders of CLC. The distribution events witnessed the active participation of local government representatives, including Upazila Chairman, Upazila Vice Chairman, Union Parishad Chairman & UP Members. Officials from local administration such as Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Children Affairs Officer, Education Officer, Women Affairs Officer, Social Welfare Officer, Youth Officer, Livestock Officer, teachers and representatives from like-minded organizations were also present. All the guests highly appreciated Islamic Relief's commendable initiative, expressing the view that other organizations should emulate the example set by IRB.



Orientation on Child Protection, Safeguarding, and PSEA for FDMN Youth



In October 2023, Islamic Relief Bangladesh (IRB) conducted an orientation session focusing on 'Child Protection, Safeguarding, and PSEA' (Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse). This session aimed to increase awareness among project participants, including both adolescent boys and girls from the FDMN community at Bhasanchar. The target audience for the orientation included trainers, volunteers, and project staff, with a specific emphasis on educating them about child protection, safeguarding practices, and issues related to preventing sexual exploitation and abuse. A total of 145 participants, comprising 81 FDMN adolescent girls and 64 boys joined in the session.

Fostering Awareness and Inclusivity

Islamic Relief Bangladesh has conducted a total of 36 awareness sessions under the SUPPORT project, focusing on gender, children's rights and women's rights. These sessions covered topics such as gender dynamics, protection and inclusion, disaster and risk management, health, WASH and nutrition in the project area. By delving into gender dynamics, addressing protection concerns, and emphasizing inclusion, participants gained a more profound understanding of these crucial issues.

Numerous individuals from the broader community actively engaged in these enlightening sessions, with a total of 3,407 community members participating, comprising 1,494 males and 1,913 females. The involvement of both men and women facilitated dialogue and comprehension, fostering inclusivity and bolstering sustainability endeavors. Participants were captivated and actively absorbed valuable information, displaying enthusiasm for the subject matter. Anticipated outcomes include increased awareness inspiring positive behavioral changes within the community, ultimately fostering a community that advocates for gender equality, protects vulnerable groups, and encourages inclusivity.



Initiations of New Projects - PRiSE & ALO- Better Future



Two new initiatives, PRiSE (Improve Protection of the Children at Risk through Socio-Economic Empowerment) and ALO (Alternative Orphan Family Sponsorship Through Sustainable Livelihoods) Better Future, have been initiated in the Thakurgaon and Kurigram districts. The inception meetings for both projects were conducted in the presence of local administration officials and relevant stakeholders.

To communicate project objectives and provide an overview of the PRiSE initiative, an inception meeting was convened on November 7, 2023, at the Upazila Conference Room in Ulipur, Kurigram. Chaired by the UNO, Kazi Mahmudur Rahman, the meeting was attended by prominent freedom fighter Md. Golam Hossain Montu, Upazila Chairman as the Chief Guest and Upazila Vice-Chairman and the OC (Investigation) as the Special Guests. Other attendees included Upazila Heads from relevant government departments, UP Chairpersons, teachers, faith leaders, NGO representatives, and various local dignitaries.

The session extensively delved into how the project activities are anticipated to enhance the lives and livelihoods of the rightsholders, emphasizing the role in preventing early marriages within selected families. The participants exhibited great enthusiasm for the project, with the administration pledging adequate support for the planned activities. On behalf of IRB, requests for support were extended to different governmental departments, LGIs, teachers, faith leaders, and others, coupled with sincere gratitude expressed to all dignitaries for their active participation.

The initiation gathering for the ALO Better Future project took place on October 4, 2023, with Subroto Kumar Barman, Chairman of Akcaha Union Parishad, presiding over the event. Attendees from various sectors were present, including government entities, representatives from local government institutions (LGIs), teachers, faith leaders, and other esteemed local figures. Representatives from IRB's ongoing projects - OSP & EMCB – also participated.

The meeting involved the sharing of goals, objectives, and key activities of the ALO Better Future project. The stakeholders sought support from the concerned parties to ensure the smooth implementation of project activities. All participants expressed their willingness to provide support as needed, acknowledging the project's potential to enhance the socio-economic conditions of orphaned and vulnerable families.

The Journey of Noor Kayes, a Rohingya Survivor at Bhashanchar

In 2017, as the Rohingya influx forced countless families, like others young Noor Kayes and her family had to seek refuge in Bangladesh from Myanmar. They settled in Ukhiya relying on aid from various humanitarian organizations. They endured life as many other displaced Rohingyas. After a few years, the family, along with other forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals (FDMN), was relocated to Bhashanchar in pursuit of a better life. The government provided shelters and essential utilities to improve living conditions. Despite these efforts, Noor Kayes, a Rohingya and a sixth-grade student, continued to face a life marked by suffering and a lack of basic human rights. Unforeseen circumstances prevented her from continuing her education.

The family of Noor Kayes, consisting of six members, relies solely on the monthly General Food Assistance provided by IRB, given her father's current unemployment. In September 2023, Islamic Relief Bangladesh launched a skill training program as part of the **"Life-Saving emergency support for Rohingya Children Living in Bhasanchar,"** funded by the Charity Week Fund (IR UK). The program is designed to improve the income-generating abilities of adolescent boys and girls at Bhashanchar.

Noor Kayes actively participated in the sewing training provided by Islamic Relief Bangladesh. Upon successfully completing the program, she was offered a position as an assistant to the sewing instructor by the NGO ACLAB to work. Her outstanding performance and dedication throughout the skill training programme left a positive impact leading to her selection as one of the recipients of sewing machines distributed by Islamic Relief Bangladesh among the trainees.

Islamic Relief Bangladesh ensures the health and safety of Noor Kayes and other girls by providing hygiene and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) kits. Presently, Noor Kayes envisions establishing a shop where she can work and generate income, aiming not only to empower herself but also to support other girls facing similar circumstances.



Achievement of IRB-sponsored Orphan Children in the National Competition

IRB sponsored children from various field offices actively participated in several events at the National Children Award Competition for the years 2022 and 2023, an initiative organized by the Bangladesh Shishu Academy. Among these participants, 11 children achieved success, receiving prizes and certificates from the local Deputy Commissioner (DC) and Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO). Three of them qualified for the district level, while one advancing to the divisional level. Two sponsored children affiliated with the Sunamganj Field Office took part in the competition. One of them achieved the 1st position at the Upazila level and secured the 3rd place at the district level in solo acting. The other child earned the 2nd place in drawing at the Upazila level.

Ten sponsored children from the Rangpur Field Office took part in the competition, with seven of them achieving success in various events. Among these, four children secured the 1st position at the Upazila level and subsequently participated at the district level. During the district-level competition, one child secured the 1st position in innovative science, and another secured the 3rd position in swimming. Notably, Md. Tanzim Safin, who achieved the 1st position at the district level, will be advancing to the divisional level.

Two sponsored children affiliated with the Golachipa Field Office participated in the competition. One of them achieved the 1st position in classical music at the Upazila level, while the other secured the 2nd position in high jump and the 3rd position in the 100-meter run. Srijoni Baroy Shuvra, who secured the 1st position at the Upazila level, will further compete at the district level.

Islamic Relief Bangladesh is presently providing support to 5,660 orphaned children under the Orphan Sponsorship Programme. Each child receives support equivalent to 26 Euros in Bangladeshi Taka every month. Additionally, they benefit from various awareness-raising initiatives and skill development support through Child Learning Centres.



The Establishment and Impact of Deepto Mohila Somity



An Apex body named 'Deepto Mohila Somobay Somity Limited' was established and officially registered with the local cooperative department of the government. This body includes representatives from 40 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) operating under the Elimination of Extreme Poverty in Bangladesh (EEP) project in Rajarhat, Kurigram. The formation of this Apex Body aims to institutionalize the SHG model within the EEP project, ensuring sustainability and the long-term development of project participants. The Apex Body assumes the overall coordination and management responsibilities, providing ongoing support to the SHGs in their respective areas beyond the project period. The democratically elected leaders of the 'Apex Body' receive various capacity-building supports, including leadership development, financial management, resources mobilization, and documentation. The executive committee, consisting of 12 members, adheres to cooperative by-laws in managing all processes and policies. Islamic Relief Bangladesh (IRB) nurtures and empowers the Apex Body to prepare them for assuming the responsibilities of SHG operations when the project phases out. The current capital of this Apex Body is BDT 1,267,290. Utilizing these funds, the Apex Body has initiated its own Income-Generating Activities (IGA) projects, such as Islamic Shariah-based business, cooperative shops, and I-MF activities. They invested BDT 23,592,52 in a Murabaha (an Islamic Shariah-based business) in the last few months. The profits from the business will be distributed among all members of the Apex Body at the end of each year. Additionally, the Deepto Apex Body operates an online fund collection mechanism named Noriba (<https://noriba.org.bd/>), through which they collected BDT 111,100. They distributed BDT 103,000 Noriba fund among 40 of the most vulnerable families in the community.

Disable Salina Akter awarded as a Successful Social Entrepreneur



Mst. Salina Akter, a resilient woman from Subid village, faced life-altering challenges after a train accident at 16 left her without hands. Struggling with self-sufficiency and societal perceptions, Salina found hope through the SEED Project by Islamic Relief Bangladesh. Selected as the secretary of the Women's Entrepreneurship Group, she underwent leadership training and received financial support. Salina used the funds to start goat rearing, actively participating in WEG meetings to address critical issues. Her advocacy against child marriage earned her the Joyeeta Award in November 2023. Salina's success includes owning livestock, land, and a poultry setup. Her inspiring journey reflects the transformative impact of community projects, bringing positive change and empowerment to individuals facing adversity. Salina envisions a society free from child marriages, emphasizing empowerment for every woman to live with honor and dignity. Her story showcases resilience and determination, transcending physical difficulties to redefine one's abilities.

Early Action: Empowering Vulnerable Communities

Islampur and Dewanganj Sub-Districts in Jamalpur have a historical vulnerability to frequent flooding in Bangladesh, as they are surrounded by major trans-border rivers such as Brahmaputra and Jamuna. Flooding is not just a regular occurrence but an inevitable challenge for Jamalpur district, resulting in damage to livelihoods, and infrastructure and at times loss of lives. The implementation of Forecast-Based Early Actions has proven to be a successful approach in reducing costs for humanitarian response and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities.

Islamic Relief Bangladesh, with technical support from the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) in Bangladesh, has been providing agro-meteorological forecasts to 2000 people via voice messages and local-level forecasts through email from July to December 2023. The recipients of these messages include members of District, Upazila, Union, and Ward Level Disaster Management Committees, members of Community Groups at the Ward level, and stakeholders at the national level.

This initiative, widely recognized and appreciated, has empowered vulnerable communities to adequately prepare for impending challenges, while also enabling administration and local government institutions to disseminate messages at a broader level, facilitating necessary preparations.

As part of the Early Action Plan, Islamic Relief Bangladesh, upon receiving forecasts indicating danger levels at river gauges, extended its efforts beyond voice message dissemination. Forecasts were disseminated to remote community levels using boats and vans. Permanent shelters in targeted areas were prepared and cleaned for community use, if necessary. Lighting systems were installed in human and cattle shelters to enhance safety and security. Vaccination camps were set up for vulnerable families with valuable livestock to minimize potential losses during flood situations.

Furthermore, damaged connecting roads in low-lying areas were repaired and elevated to ensure the safe movement of families residing there. These proactive measures not only exemplified timely early action but also aligned with the overarching project objective.



Panchi Dasi's Transition Beyond Conventional Loans



Panchi Das, married to Subash Das, is a member of the Noyantara Rights and Economic Empowerment Group in Modugram, Dumuria, Khulna. She joined the Noyantara self-help group in April 2022 as part of the project aimed at empowering marginalized communities in Bangladesh to achieve Agenda 2030. Panchi's husband works as a local vehicle driver, supporting their family of five members.

Before joining the group, Panchi Das faced financial challenges and had to rely on various microcredit organizations during times of need. Managing these loans, accompanied by high-interest rates, proved burdensome for her, often leading to the sale of household assets to meet repayment obligations. This financial strain took a toll on her mental well-being, and she even faced social pressure when unable to repay installments, experiencing scolding from lending organizations.

Panchi Das shared that the Economic Empowerment & Governance Program (EEGP) model, introduced to her village by Islamic Relief Bangladesh with financial support from Islamic Relief USA, became a beacon of economic empowerment. Initially receiving BDT 10,000 for income-generation activities and fund circulation within their groups, Panchi utilized this support to engage in various income-generating ventures. Her goal was to break free from the cycle of high-interest microcredit.

Panchi Dasi, expressing her gratitude as a member, "Utilizing this fund, I initiated savings and participated in diverse income-generating activities. The traditional loan had been a burden, and my goal was to liberate myself from the complexities of micro-credit. The day I cleared all my conventional loans brought a sense of relief.

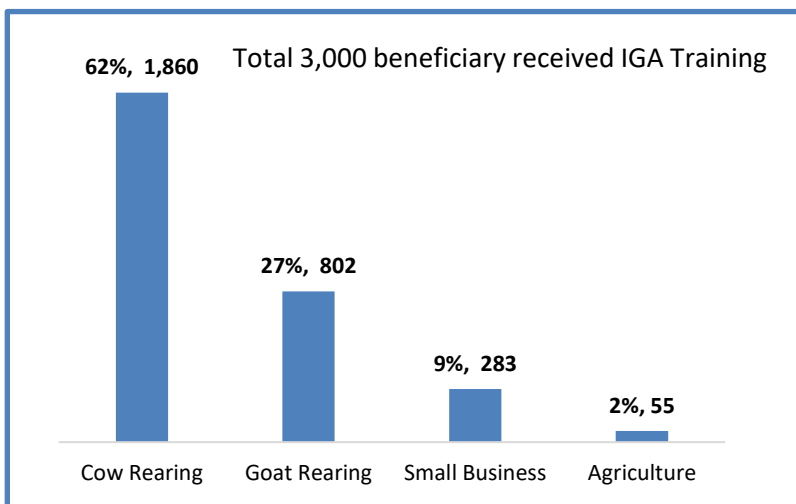
Empowering 3000 Families to Break Free from Poverty

Islamic Relief Bangladesh, supported by funding from Islamic Relief Canada, is executing a 36-month long project titled 'Sustainable Livelihoods Development of Extreme Poor Communities in Northern Bangladesh (SUPPORT)'. This project aims to contribute to economic sustainability, alleviate suffering, reduce vulnerabilities, and enhance the rights and entitlements of targeted extreme poor individuals and marginalized ethnic minority households in the Nawabgonj sub-district. Actively addressing issues such as extreme poverty, vulnerability, gender discrimination, and socio-economic exclusion, the project focuses on improving the lives of the extreme poor families and marginalized ethnic minorities residing in the poverty-prone north-western region of Bangladesh.

Islamic Relief is committed to making a broader impact, and to achieve this goal, the project is dedicated to a comprehensive enhancement through the inclusion of Income-Generating Activities (IGA) training and financial empowerment for its project participants. Prior to involving project participants in skill development training, the project team conducted a thorough analysis of the livelihood opportunities and capacities of households. They assisted in establishing a business plan based on the experiences, skills, and aspirations of the households. This approach has enabled right holders, including all household members, to actively participate in selecting business plans that contribute to sustainable income generation. The inclusive methodology has garnered widespread acceptance from the targeted households, emphasizing the importance of considering the opinions of every household member, particularly women, in the family decision-making process.

IGA skill development training has been extended to 3,000 project participants, aligning with their chosen business plans focused on climate-adaptive and resilient Income-Generating Activities (IGAs). Among them, 62% received training in cow rearing, 27% in goat rearing, 9% in small business management, and 2% in agriculture. This comprehensive approach seeks to uplift vulnerable right holders through a combination of economic empowerment, skill development, and capacity building.

After the completion of the training programs, the SUPPORT project disbursed a cash grant of BDT 60 million among 3,000 project participants, allocating BDT 20,000 to each individual. This financial assistance aims to empower participants to invest in their chosen income-generating activities (IGAs) based on the knowledge acquired during the training. The distribution of financial support took place from August to November 2023, offering project participants a substantial boost to initiate their income-generating endeavours.



Empowering Agricultural Resilience



Bangladesh stands out as one of the world's most susceptible countries due to its geographical vulnerabilities, exposing it to various natural disasters and the ongoing intrusion of salinity. Among all the upazilas in Bangladesh, Shyamnagar is particularly vulnerable due to its location in the southwest coastal belt. As part of resilience initiatives, Islamic Relief has prioritized local planning for agricultural development in Shyamnagar. One beneficiary of these efforts is Rabeya, the wife of Md. Abdus Salam, who relies on cultivation for livelihood. Salinity in the soil had posed significant challenges to crop cultivation in their agricultural land. Through the Agenda 2030 project, emphasis was placed on employing local-led techniques to adapt to the changing climate.

Rabeya underwent kitchen gardening training and received input support, transforming the landscape of her agricultural land. The project encouraged her to adopt local techniques for cultivating climate-adaptive vegetables and crops. Through homestead gardening training, Rabeya learned and implemented various climate-adaptive technologies, enhancing production and introducing new crops to the community through demonstration.

An exemplary outcome of Rabeya's efforts is the cultivation of watermelon in her field, a crop not previously grown in the area due to salinity. The previous year witnessed remarkable production, prompting both Rabeya and Md. Abdus Salam to expand their cultivation of watermelons in more areas this year. "Despite salinity posing a significant challenge, we achieved a bumper yield of watermelons last year. Nevertheless, we have successfully addressed the issue, and this year, we anticipate an even more abundant harvest"- confident Rabeya shared her success.

This success story underscores the significance of local-led adaptation in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change.

School Takes Green Initiative



The "Empowering Marginalized Communities of Bangladesh towards Achieving Agenda 2030" project is a comprehensive initiative implemented by the Humanitarian and Resilience Department of Islamic Relief Bangladesh. The initiative was initiated in three areas: Dumuria in Khulna, Syamnagar in Satkhira, and Takurgaon spanning across Bangladesh. The project identified ten schools to enhance the education of marginalized populations. One key focus of the project is on child rights and education, particularly providing marginalized children access to education in two unions of Takurgaon Upazila, Takurgaon. The project has identified ten schools to uplift the educational standards of marginalized populations.

Notable activities within the project include the establishment and mobilization of child clubs, dedicated to organizing students for future leadership and community development. The initiative also included capacity-building training on life skill development. Deogaon Doel High School, one of the selected institutions, took inspiration from their club members to organize various volunteer activities, such as school cleanliness drives, day celebrations, awareness rallies, and events against child marriage.

In 2023, the school decided to observe "Save the Environment Day" by planting fifty trees on their premises. As part of their social activities, they contributed funds ranging from BDT 5 to 10, collecting additional funds from teachers and School Management Committees (SMCs). The purchase and planting of these trees were seen as a small but impactful effort to combat climate change and contribute positively to the environment.

Revealing Generosity: An Exhibition of Kindness

Milanpur High School, situated in Goreya Union of Sadar under the Takurgaon district, saw the inception of its child club in 2022, driven by enthusiastic motives. The formation of the entire child club was carried out through a democratic process.

Engaging in numerous social activities, the child club's initiatives included the free distribution of wheelchairs among its members. Shubo Roy, a 17-year-old from Deoli village, faced physical challenges, and his father, a mason, and mother, a homemaker, struggled financially. Living in proximity to Milanpur High School, Shubo's plight caught the attention of the child club members.

In response, the child club mobilized funds from their own resources, teachers, and School Management Committee (SMC) members, purchasing a wheelchair for Shubo. This act marked the child club's first foray into social work. The president of the child club, reflecting on Shubo Roy's situation, conveyed a powerful message: "Generosity begins with you and perpetuates forward"



IRB-supported Children enrolled for Higher Studies

We have observed that numerous orphaned children, driven by an unwavering determination, overcome their limited resources to pursue their career aspirations. In the year of 2023 three orphaned children, participants of our Orphan Sponsorship Programme, have successfully gained admission to different public universities in 2023 through a competitive admission process.

Md. Shahabur Khan has secured admission to the University of Rajshahi in Folklore, having achieved a GPA of 5.00 in both his SSC and HSC examinations. He hails from Peyara village in Rupsha Upazila, Khulna district. Priyonka Pal has enrolled at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science & Technology University, Gopalganj, majoring in English. Similarly, she achieved a GPA of 5.00 in both her SSC and HSC examinations and resides in Pithavog village under Rupsha Upazila, Khulna.

Sumaiya Khatun has successfully secured admission to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science & Technology University, Gopalganj, majoring in Public Administration. She achieved a GPA of 4.94 and 5.00 in her SSC and HSC examinations, respectively. Sumaiya is from Jaria village in Fakirhat Upazila, Bagerhat. Their aspirations for the future include becoming teachers to contribute to the nation's development.

Moreover, four sponsored orphan children - Mou Rani Chowdhury, Jui Rani Das, Liza Talukder and Resmi Begum - from Derai Upazila, Sunamganj, have earned an opportunity for admission into a Diploma in Nursing program.

Empowering FDMN Families in Bhasanchar through E-Vouchers



Since December 2022, Islamic Relief Bangladesh, in collaboration with WFP, has initiated a fresh food program. Approximately 13,000 Rohingya individuals now have the opportunity to acquire fresh vegetables, fish, meat, and fruits monthly through WFP's e-vouchers. Within this market setup, right holders have the flexibility to purchase items based on their preferences and pricing from 19 different shops.

Minara Begum and her husband are among the food pack recipients who express their appreciation. Minara emphasized how the introduction of the eVoucher system has significantly benefited her family. In the past, during the distribution of food packages, there was no choice or flexibility in selecting preferred products. This often meant a lack of access to essential items like vegetables, fish, meat, and fruits, especially when needed for her children. The new eVoucher system allows Minara to meet her family's specific demands by purchasing fish, meat, and fruits. She extends her thanks to Islamic Relief Bangladesh and WFP for providing the opportunity to acquire desired products through e-vouchers. Minara hopes that everyone in Bhasanchar, like herself, can enjoy the same level of choice and flexibility.

Empowering FDMN Families in Bhasanchar through E-Vouchers



28 years old Jamila Khatun is a Myanmar national who has been forcibly displaced and is presently residing in Room-H/1,2 of Cluster-12 at the Bhasanchar Refugee Camp. Her husband is employed as a night guard, and they have a family of six, including two daughters and two sons. Driven by the ruthless actions of the Myanmar army, Jamila and her family, with no other recourse, departed their homeland in 2017, seeking refuge in Bangladesh. In 2021, they relocated to Bhasanchar in search of improved accommodations and facilities. Jamila expressed her happiness, citing the absence of security concerns and the availability of enhanced amenities. She stated, "Since my advent in Bhasanchar in 2021, I have been receiving monthly rations from Islamic Relief Bangladesh. In addition to the monthly rations, I have benefited from a Ramadan package, winter package, and Qurbani meat. Currently, I am using allocated monthly value vouchers to purchase various food items of my choice from the e-voucher outlet."



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