

E-voucher for Rohingyas in Bhashan Char

To ensure food security, Islamic Relief Bangladesh in collaboration with WFP distributes monthly food baskets among the Rohingyas living in Bhashan Char. Considering the need, choice and dietary diversity of the refugees, WFP plans to introduce cash-based transfer in the island. As an initiation of the process, Islamic Relief Bangladesh has introduced fresh food centers for 617 families comprising of 2720 members in 5 clusters at Bhashan Char. Under this process, each household member receives an e-voucher equivalent to USD 3 and they can purchase diverse range of food. This has facilitated the choice of purchasing seasonal vegetables, fruits, meat, fish and eggs. Gradually remaining families of the other clusters of Bhasanchar would be included under this digital system. On 12 December the head of UNHCR and other UN dignitaries launched the piloting ceremony of cash-based transfer system. It would bring significant impact as the refugees will have greater choice in their menu. "Now we can buy to meet our needs. We get eggs, fish and fresh vegetables. I am happy as I can buy fruit as a snack for my children. We are so thankful to IRB for introducing such a wonderful opportunity for us." Layla a recipient of cluster 5 expressed her feeling after utilising her e-voucher.





Distribution of Bicycles to the Marginalised Girls

With the objective to reduce extreme poverty and diversified vulnerability of the marginalised communities, Islamic Relief Bangladesh has implemented a project titled “Empowering marginalised communities of Bangladesh towards achieving agenda 2030” which would eventually contribute to achieve agenda 2030. In order to protect the rights of the children of the marginalised communities through greater access to education and development opportunities is one of the important expected results of this Islamic Relief USA funded project. To reduce drop out from school, a total of 4000 adolescents have been handed over educational materials like school bag, umbrella, exercise-copies and various stationeries to continue their education. In Takurgaon which is one of the intervention areas of this project where educational materials as well as bicycles have been distributed among 20 poor marginalised girls. These bicycles would facilitate transport for these rural girls and prevent the drop out.



Islamic Relief Warned Community ahead Cyclone Sitrang



A deep depression over the east-central Bay of Bengal and adjoining was formed around 2 October 2022. Later, it had intensified into a cyclonic storm named “Sitrang”, over the east-central bay and adjoining west-central bay. Finally, the cyclone hit the ground on 24 October 2022 at midnight in coastal districts of Bangladesh. IRB staff as well as volunteers in the coastal field offices supported the communities of the affected areas. They disseminated the warning messages to the community. They attended the DMC (Disaster Management Committee) meetings, supported the evacuation process as well as helped people reaching to cyclone shelters.

The Environment-friendly Innovative Solar Pump



The solar pump project is an environment-friendly innovative idea of Islamic Relief Bangladesh. A Solar Pump was installed in November 2022 under the project titled “Improved water options and sanitation facilities for the community & school girls at Sherpur district in Bangladesh project” at Kangsa Union under Jhenaigati Upazila, Sherpur district. The people of this area are very poor. The local people used earthen well as the sole water source. Often the well water gets contaminated when it comes across mud and rain. Sometimes they used to get many water-borne diseases. Total 40 family members are using the installed solar pump. It was their long wish and appeal to ensure installation of water wells from DPHE, NGOs and so many sources and as they had been suffering from water crisis for a long time. All the stakeholders are very happy for implementing the WaSH project at their union. They are grateful to Islamic Relief for such a great initiative.

Islamic Relief Provides Education to FDMN Children



Bangladesh government started transferring FDMN families to Bhasan Char since December 2020. Here are beautiful buildings for their residence. No provision was made for education and recreation for children. In 2021, children were not engaged in any education. They wandered here and there. As a result, the crime tendency among children increased as well. Meanwhile, various organizations started working for the education and protection of children. IRB has been working for the education and protection of children in 4 clusters through 10 learning centers (LC) and 5 multipurpose centers in shelters no 71 and 85. 400 children (KG-200, Grade 1-100 and Grade 2-100) are studying in 10 LCs. All the Learning Centres follow the Myanmar curriculum. Children are being exposed to books and the culture of Myanmar. IRB has provided children with all kinds of educational materials including school bags, umbrellas, sports materials, colour pencils, art paper, notebooks, pens etc. LCs have regular LC Management Committee and parent meetings. As a result, children and parents are more interested in education. Children are engaging in extra-curricular activities in LCs besides education. There are multipurpose centers and recreation centers for them. Here children can participate in age-appropriate sports and cultural activities. Children spend time here outside school hours. There are FDMN volunteers and assistants to guide them. Those adolescents who used to spend idle time now spend time at the multipurpose centers. A total of 150 adolescents-90 girls and 60 boys regularly visits 5 multipurpose centers. They are getting basic numeracy and literacy. They are sensitized about social issues and child protection regularly. Children receive life skills training and learn handicrafts and drawing. There are no recreation facilities in Bhasan Char. As such children enjoy these centres a lot.

FDMN and Host Community Support in Cox's Bazar

Islamic Relief Bangladesh has been working with FDMNs and Host Communities in providing life-saving assistance, including shelter, WASH, NFI, and hygiene kits distribution. Since the Rohingya crisis began in 2017, IRB has been committed to providing aid to vulnerable individuals and families and has made significant progress in meeting their needs. In this newsletter, we will highlight our interventions, including Midterm shelters for FDMNs, Durable semi-permanent shelters for Host Communities, Solar light installation at FDMNs camps, WASH activities like drainage cleaning, latrine desludging, latrine & bathing construction at FDMNs Camps, Deep tube well installation at Host Communities, NFI, and hygiene kits distribution at FDMNs and Host Community.

Shelter: IRB has provided Mid-term shelters to FDMNs and Durable semi-permanent shelters to Host Communities at different areas of Cox's Bazar. The MTS shelters are designed to provide a temporary shelter solution for those who have been displaced by the crisis, while the durable houses are intended to provide a more permanent shelter solution for Host Communities.

WASH: IRB has installed 5 deep tube wells at Host Communities, providing access to clean water. IRB teams clean the drainage, desludge latrines, construct latrines and improve access to sanitation facilities for vulnerable individuals and families. We have also conducted hygiene promotion sessions, providing information on proper handwashing techniques and other good hygiene practices.

Solar Light Installation: IRB installed 45 solar lights at FDMN camps, providing access to light in areas where there is no access to electricity. The installation of solar lights has greatly improved the safety and security of individuals and families living in the camps.

NFI and Hygiene Kits: IRB has distributed essential non-food items (NFIs) such as blankets, mosquito nets, and kitchen sets to FDMNs and host communities. We have also distributed hygiene kits containing soap, toothbrushes, and other personal hygiene items. These interventions are crucial in ensuring that individuals and families maintain their basic needs and dignity.

Islamic Relief Bangladesh remains committed to providing vital support to FDMNs and Host Communities in Bangladesh. We are grateful for the support of our donors and partners, without whom our work would not be possible. We will continue to work tirelessly to meet the needs of those in need and to ensure that they can maintain their basic needs and dignity.



Global Climate Strikes Event in Bangladesh



On 23 September 2022, Islamic Relief Bangladesh organised the global climate strike in 7 districts of Bangladesh. The aim was to urge all nations to act immediately in support of climate justice by sending a loud, yet nonviolent statement. The young people demanded that the government should declare climate emergency and the world leaders must prioritize 'people not profit'. They made the public aware by describing the impacts of climate change as well as actions needed to be taken to help people already affected by climate change. Their demands were highlighted through powerful slogans and thought-provoking placards in the strike, calling for - change your behavior: not the climate, my earth my responsibility, our future in our hand, stop using fossil fuel, don't give us a warm future, climate justice now or never, save environment: save human beings, and many more actions.

“Nawar Women Cooperative” Receives the Best Cooperative Award



On the occasion of the 51st National Cooperative Day, Nawar Women Cooperative received the best cooperative award from Mithapukur Upazila and Rangpur district level. District Commissioner of Rangpur handed over the crest to Nawar representative. Bondhon Women cooperative received the best cooperative award from Upzila level at Pirgachha Upzila. Both of these cooperative bodies were formed by EEG Programme.

500 Adolescents Girls & Boys Received Vocational Training

With funding support from IR Netherlands, The PROYAS Project focuses on providing vocational and life skill training to adolescent boys, girls, and young women of the stranded Urdu speaking community living in Mirpur, Dhaka the capital of Bangladesh. The project has selected 500 rightsholders (age between 18-30) who belong to the poorest and the most vulnerable families. The targeted 500 young boys and girls consisted into 23 groups known as Youth Empowered Groups-YEG. Discussions on different issues are being organised at the weekly meetings of the YEG which make them aware on health, hygiene, and social issues. The project is to provide them life skill education and TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) course which subsequently aims the right holders to engage in employment creation which would help them supporting their families. Hence, the targeted 500 project participants were provided 60 days long vocational training courses in 8 different categories from reputed vocational institutes. According to right holders' knack the courses were selected as tailoring, sewing machine operation, block-batik, beautician, computer operation, driving, electrical, AC and refrigerator repairing. After successful completion of the vocational training, the project distributed seed money among the targeted 500 right holders for IGA (Income Generating Activities) as start-up capital. Each participant tried to utilize the seed money accurately and purchased respective IGA materials for starting their business. They are optimistic about their future to earn a decent income which would help them to live with dignity in the society. They are grateful to donor and expect to increase their income and improve their standard of living.



International Poverty Eradication Day 2022



On 17 October Islamic Relief Bangladesh observed International Poverty Eradication Day 2022 at Rajarhat, Kurigram. Upzila Nirbahi Officer of Rajarhat presided over the event and Upzila Chairman was present as the chief guest. In this event Apex body of EEP project disbursed grants to ten extreme poor families from their 'no-Riba' fund. Each family received BDT 4000.

Observance of National Sanitation Month & Global Handwashing Day 2022

Islamic Relief Bangladesh observed 'National Sanitation Month & Global Handwashing Day 2022' through different activities - rally, demonstration session, discussion & hygiene kits distribution – at different Upazilas under Rajbari district. The event of Pangsha Upazail was organized by the Orphan Sponsorship Program on 31 September 2022 in collaboration with the Department of Public Health Engineering, Pangsha, Rajbari. The program included a rally, a demonstration session on hand washing and a discussion meeting. Presided over by Mohammad Ali, UNO, Pangsha, the program was attended by Pangsha Upazila Chairman Md. Farid Hasan (Wodud) as the chief guest along with two Upazila Vice-Chairman, Upazila Social Welfare Officer, DPHE officials and other stakeholders. A total of 58 sponsored children of IRB participated the program along with the IRB.

The program of Kalukhali Upazila took place on 15 October 2022 and was attended by the UNO, DPHE officials, Other Govt. officials, local influentials along with IRB staff members, SHG members & CC members. Emphasizing on the importance of hand washing, the UNO suggested all to wash hands for at least 20 seconds maintaining proper processes to protect us from different diseases. He thanked Islamic Relief for taking such a nice initiative. The program concluded with the distribution of hygiene kits – a bucket, a mug, a soap, a toothbrush and two tooth pastes- by the UNO among 80 right-holders under the 'Women Empowerment through Income Generating Training' (WET) project.

On 15 Oct 2022, in collaboration with Derai Upazilla Administration and Derai Govt. Girls High School, under Sunamganj District, around 100 school students, 10 teachers and 60 Govt. officials participated to observe the day.

The day was also celebrated at Araji Gunjongar in 2022 Takurgaon under the Empowering Marginalised Communities of Bangladesh towards Achieving Agenda 2030 Project.



Right-Holders received seeds and saplings



To ensure the nutrition intake among the family members of the right-holders, the ALO-Waqf project distributed seeds among 100 families on November 15, 2022 under Khoragach Union of Mithapukur Upazila, Rangpur. Each right-holder received five types of seeds - Red amaranth, Malabar spinach, Water spinach, Gourd and Ridge gourd. The local distinguished persons were present in the seed distribution event. Under the ALO Plus project, 1600 tree saplings were distributed among 400 right-holders on 6 September 2022 from different spots at Gangachara Upazila in Rangpur district. Each project participant received four types of saplings - Mahogany, Lotkon (Burmese grapes), Lemon and Guava. Gangachara Upazila Nirbahi Officer inaugurated the distribution event at the premises of Upazila Parishad. Respective UP Chairman handed over the seedlings in the selected Unions. Project participants were chosen as per the spaces in their households. 400 project participants - 35 from Nohali Union, 38 from Alombiditor Union, 39 from Betgari Union, 48 from Barobil Union, 49 from Kolkondo Union, 53 from Gangachara Union, 40 Lokhityary Union, 50 from Gajoghonta Union and 48 from Morneya Union – received these saplings. It is expected that the right holders would be able to harvest Guava and Lemon during project period. The UNO highly praised the members of the SHGs for their exemplary initiative, and urged others to follow them so that demand for nutrition can be met from self-source as well as an environment-friendly sustainable atmosphere can be ensured.

Providing Subsistence allowance for most vulnerable & PWD

The EEP project has been working with extreme poor households, where most of the right holders are person with disability (PWD), elderly, widow, abandoned, and divorced. Considering the vulnerable situation of these families, the project provided subsistence allowance to 200 most vulnerable & PWD families for maintaining their family expenditure. The most vulnerable families were identified through participatory discussion in the SHG meetings. Each project participant received monthly BDT 500 for one year.



13 Right-Holders received Joyeeta Awards

To uphold women empowerment, since 2011 Bangladesh government introduced Joyeeta Award to recognise the contribution of the successful women under different categories. This includes entrepreneurship, social development, education, employment, motherhood, prevention of repression and to raising awareness among other women. In 2022, five right-holders of Islamic Relief– Momta Begum, Sajeda Begum, Bashanti Rani Biswas, Piyara Begum and Nasima Begum have received the prestigious “Joyeeta Award 2022” for attaining success in different fields by overcoming various difficulties and challenges. Nasima Begum won the award in the ‘successful mother’ category at Fakirhat Upazila level in Bagerhat district. She was the President of IRB-facilitated Kajura Self Help Group. Her daughter - Naima Nadia -secured her position as a cadre in 40th BCS examination-the competitive Public service commission exam. Piyara Begum, from Sunamganj, received the Award under ‘education’ category at Shantiganj Upazila. She was also honoured with the ‘Ratnagorva Award’ (Best Mother) from Shantiganj Upazila administration. She has four children and two of them are availing support from Orphan Sponsorship Program as well. Her eldest daughter completed her graduation securing first class first position in Economics from the University of Dhaka. As a result, she received Gold Medal & Dean’s Award from the honourable President of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh. Her son got GPA 5.00 in all subjects in his Secondary School Certificate examination held in 2022. Her youngest daughter also did outstanding result in her secondary examination who now studies at a college in Sylhet.

8 project participants of EEP and SEED project, were honoured with the prestigious Joyeeta Award 2022 at Rajarhat, Kurigram. Categories are- Social Development, Economic Development, Education & Employment, Return from violence and Successful mother.

All of these award-winning widows shared the same story; after losing their husbands they had to pass time of untold sufferings and finally won their fight against poverty and misery by dint of their hard work, confidence and dedication. Islamic Relief supported them in their journey of struggle and road to success. With the support of Islamic Relief, they took care of their children’s education, health and wellbeing. IRB also provided them training on different income-generating activities such as livestock, agriculture, handicraft, small business, etc. They also received trainings on child protection, leadership and financial management. IRB inspired them to raise voices, claim rights and stand strong against all odds of life.



Multi-Purpose Cash Grants and Hygiene Kits among the Flood Victims of Sylhet



On 27 July 2022 Islamic Relief under its Alert B042 project distributed Multi-Purpose Cash Grants and Hygiene Kits among the flood victims of Sylhet City Corporation's extended Ward 40. The Mayor of Sylhet City Corporation Ariful Haque Choudhury inaugurated the distribution as the chief guest. Each project participant received cash grant of BDT 4500 as well as a hygiene pack comprised of 10 pieces of bathing soaps, 10 pieces of washing soaps, 50 pieces of masks, 8 pieces of sanitary napkins, one mug and a bucket with tap and lid. Islamic Relief Bangladesh implemented the said project which was funded by Start Fund Bangladesh.

Elimination of Extreme Poverty (EEP) Model training



The EEG Programme of IRB facilitated a 3-day long (Aug 23-25, 2022) training session for the development practitioner's on "Elimination of Extreme Poverty -EEP Model" at Rangpur. This training was an advocacy initiative under EEP Project for replicating the EEP model by neighboring local communities through different development agencies. A total of 25 Senior officials including Executive Directors, Project Directors, Managers, and Coordinators from various local, national, and international development organizations participated in the training. The training session was designed and developed based on the poverty alleviation model, implementation tools, methodologies and strategies. The inter participatory session was formulated for achieving the best possible outcomes. The facilitation session had role-play session, small group visit & discussions session, question and answer session with the right holders and leaders. The training also organised exposure visit to community and apex body office. The participants had an insight about the EEP model including its background, guidelines, processes and implementation strategies for the ongoing and upcoming development projects.

Flood preparedness by disseminating Voice messages to community leaders



Islamic Relief Bangladesh in technical collaboration with the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) in Bangladesh has been providing flood forecast covering 2500 people through voice message and email. The forecast messages have been disseminated to the members of District, Upazila, Union and Ward Level Disaster Management Committees, members of Community Groups at Ward level and stakeholders at the national level. This has enabled administration and local government institutions to circulate messages at wider level. This forecast is widely recognized and appreciated which led vulnerable communities to get sufficient preparation.



WaSH Block for the school girls at Sherpur

Islamic Relief constructed a WaSH Block for the school girls at Sherpur under its project of Improved water options and sanitation facilities for the community & school girls at Sherpur district in Bangladesh project. The WaSH block was installed in November 2022 at Nalkura Union under Jhenaigati Upazila, Sherpur district. The students are extremely happy to get the facility. Considering their safety-security and personal hygiene it was a pressing need. Presently close to 400 girls are using the wash block. Islamic Relief has necessary sessions of using the facilities. The students also received training on menstrual hygiene, personal hygiene and the roles and responsibilities of School waste management. After training the students have prepared a plan for school waste management. All the students and teachers are happy for implementing the WaSH block at their school and thankful to Islamic Relief.



Qurbani Programme 2022

Across the Country

Total Cow- 1710

Meat Packs- 54300

FDMN and Host (Cox's Bazar and Bhasanchar)

Total Cow- 1399

Meat Packs- 63366





Islamic Relief
Bangladesh

Islamic Relief Bangladesh

House 10, Road 10, Block K

Baridhara, Dhaka-1212

Tel: +88 02 222293458, +88 02 222299130

Email: info@islamicrelief-bd.org

Website: islamicrelief.org.bd

Facebook: facebook.com/IRWBangladesh