

## Restored Eyesight of 281 Poor Peoples



As of June 2023, the eyesight of 281 poor and vulnerable individuals (Male- 112 & Female - 169) were improved through successful cataract surgeries. Besides cataract surgery, 941 people (Male – 431 & Female – 502) were provided with required general eye care, including assistive devices. These people from Mithapukur Upazila under Rangpur district were battling against various personal and social obstacles due to limited or no vision. Funded by Ilmfeed, the 'Eye Rehabilitation Project' (ERP) brought fortune to these marginalized people by restoring their vision. The quality of the lives of the project participants were improved as well. Under this project, a total of 1250 cataract surgeries would be operated.



## MoU between Khulna University and Islamic Relief



On 21 June 2023, a MoU was signed between Sociology Discipline, Khulna University, and Islamic Relief Bangladesh. Prof. Amit Roy Chowdhury, Treasurer of Khulna University and Golam Motasim Billah, Acting Country Director of Islamic Relief Bangladesh signed on behalf of their respective organisations. Dignitaries like Prof. Dr. Mahmood Hossain, Vice-Chancellor of Khulna University, Prof. Dr. Abdullah Abu Sayed Khan-Dean Social science School, Prof. Dr. Selina Ahmed- Head, Sociology Discipline, Prof. Mst. Taslima Khatun, Sociology Discipline of Khulna University and representatives of Islamic Relief Bangladesh were present at the MoU signing ceremony.

The purpose of the MoU signing is to enable cooperation between Sociology Discipline of Khulna University and Islamic Relief Bangladesh for mutual beneficial collaboration towards promoting, participating, and conducting joint research activities, training and capacity-building programs, conferences, workshops and seminars. Both organisations decided to exchange of student and internship program in relevant areas.

## Best Practices and Lessons Learned Workshop on Shelter Response



A workshop was organised at BIAM Foundation on 29 May 2023 to share the learnings on Shelter Response in Flash Flood 2022. It also emphasized on the shelter activities and Building Materials. Md. Kamrul Hasan, ndc Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) was present as the chief guest and Md. Ashrafal Alam, Director General, Housing and Building Research Institute (HBRI), Sanjeev Kumar Kafley, Head of Country Delegation, IFRC and Golam Motasim Billah, Country Director (Acting) of Islamic Relief Bangladesh, were special guests in the event. The event was chaired by Anjon Chandra Paul, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR). The programme was organised by Shelter Cluster Bangladesh. Islamic Relief also shared the learnings of the Flash flood response 2022 and the activities of “Strengthened Community Resilience and Enhance Protection in Flash Flood Affected Areas of Bangladesh (STEP) project” which is being implemented in Sylhet.

## Supplementary Nutrition Food Packs for FDMN Families



Islamic Relief Bangladesh distributed Supplementary Nutrition Pack to 3383 FDMN children aged 3-5 years in Bhasan Char under the "Life-saving emergency support for Rohingya Children living in Bhasan Char, Bangladesh" project. The distribution was inaugurated by Sujit Kumar Chanda, Camp in Charge and Md. Tariqul Islam, Assistant Camp in Charge. Each pack contains 12 eggs, 2 apples, 2 oranges and 250 grams of dates.

## Emergency Response to Fire Victims at FDMN Camp



On 5 March, 2023, a massive and destructive fire erupted in Cox's Bazar Rohingya refugee Camp 11. Islamic Relief provided emergency shelter packages and technical assistance for installing temporary shelters to 1,073 households impacted by the incident in Camp 11.

In response to the individuals affected by the fire in camp 11, Islamic Relief provided shelter assistance within subblocks A1 and A4. The focus was on a total of 215 shelters for 176 households. In sub-block A1, 104 shelters were erected, while in sub-block A4, the effort led to the construction of 111 shelters. This initiative successfully supported approximately 857 individuals, comprising 427 males and 430 females. Additionally, non-food item (NFI)- bedding items were distributed in sub-blocks A1 to A12 of camp 11. The distribution included a package containing 2 bed covers, 2 pillows and 4 pillow covers. This project brought benefits to approximately 2,805 households. The absence of light as soon as the sun sets poses a major threat to the safety of populations, particularly women and children. Around 50 solar street lights were introduced to benefit the residents of camp 11. The light issue is key to safety specially on journey to toilets. These solar-powered street lights were strategically installed within the A block of the camp after consulting with the relevant authorities. This initiative aimed to enhance lighting and safety for the residents. As a result, individuals within the camp now have the freedom to move around at any time without any hesitation.



## Women's Day Celebration



Islamic Relief Country office marked International Women's Day on 9 March. To make the day more memorable a small event was hosted at the conference room in the presence of country office staff. Dr. Muhammad Abdur Rashid –Professor of Islamic Studies, the University of Dhaka was present in the event as the Guest speaker. He shared his insights on gender equality and fair treatment of women in light of Islam.

## Signed MoU between Islamic Relief and Protiki Jubo Sangshad



On 4 March 2023, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Islamic Relief Bangladesh and Protiki Jubo Sangshad aiming collaboration on climate change, locally-led Adaptation (LLA) and other environmental issues. Golam Motasim Billah, Acting Country Director of Islamic Relief Bangladesh signed the MoU on behalf of Islamic Relief while Sohanur Rahman, Chief Executive signed on behalf of Protiki Jubo Sangshad. The MoU was signed to facilitate exchange of knowledge and undertake cooperative efforts in study projects. The MoU also aims to enhance capacity building on building materials, considering the climate change effects. The outcome of this collaborative programme would facilitate the implementation of sustainable local infrastructural systems.

## 7th Urban Dialogue Held



Urban INGO Forum, Bangladesh is a consortium of 20 International INGOs working on different issues in urban areas of Bangladesh. Since inception the dialogues have become a vibrant national space on urban development. This year, the 7 Urban Dialogue 2023, was organised by 8 INGOs with the theme of “Redefining Resilience of Cities and its Services” at Lake Shore Hotel and Hotel Amari, Gulshan-2, Dhaka on 14 June 2023. The 8 NGOs are Islamic Relief Bangladesh, ActionAid Bangladesh, Concern Worldwide, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and German Red cross, Habitat for Humanity International - Bangladesh, Save the Children, United Purpose Bangladesh and World Vision Bangladesh.

The inaugural session is designed to exchange thoughts on the main theme of the dialogue giving an opportunity to the target audience to discuss “why city is demanded to be inclusive and resilient.” The session brought out the role of governments/stakeholders/duty bearers in supporting and facilitating more sustainable and inclusive business practices. Moyen Uddin Ahmmed, Programme Manager for Humanitarian & Resilience Programme of Islamic Relief Bangladesh, expressed the need to consider the intensity of these threats in the future, to plan urban development and ensure the production of food for the people. He prioritised the practice of performing responsibilities from an individual level and organizational level to make urban development sustainable and inclusive.

The State Minister of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Dr. Enamur Rahman, the chief guest of the concluding session, emphasised government initiatives promoting information technology usage nationwide and employment programs for youth.

## Observed the Menstrual Hygiene Day



Islamic Relief Bangladesh (IRB) organised a workshop to mark 'Menstrual Hygiene Day' to reinforce the positive practice of menstrual health and hygiene for the Forcefully Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs) in Cox's Bazar camps on 24 May 2023.

In the first session, eight female participants participated in a general discussion about the menstrual hygiene practice in their community - the general perception, the myths in their patriarchal society, types of food they take during menstruation, physical hazards, psychological trauma and more.

In the second session, participants were given tips on which healthy foods to take, how to maintain personal hygiene, the harmful practices of menstruation and disposal of menstrual waste. There was a quiz competition in the third session to test the participants' basic knowledge on menstrual health and hygiene. And to wrap up the event, the participants shared their individual stories on their 'first day of menstruation' where they shared their feelings and fears as well as the support they received from their own families and society.

## Preparation and Response of Cyclone



A super cyclonic storm named “Mocha” formed in the Bay of Bengal and was expected to hit the southeastern coast of Bangladesh on 14 May 2023. Islamic Relief Bangladesh (IRB) staff as well as volunteers got involved as soon as the alert was issued by the Government. The IRB team transferred 37 metric tons of food from the warehouse to the cyclone shelter centres in Bhashan Char. IR Bangladesh’s Crisis Management Programme at Cox’s Bazar started coordinating with various networks and agencies and worked hard at four camps in Ukhiya to prepare for this disaster. This included desludging the toilets and drains, cleaning and disinfecting the toilets and drains, and tying up the roofs of the shelters of the rightsholders ahead of the cyclone land fall. Awareness sessions were also held at Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN) camps preparing the rightsholders and volunteers for the post-cyclone period.

Immediately after the cyclone hit the land, IRB staff helped to repair the shelters and damaged houses of FDMNs, removed the uprooted trees for creating easy access and shifted people to safe houses. IRB also distributed some shelter materials and emergency kits, and conducted the rapid assessment after the landfall to assess the casualties.

## Orientation of Union Sanitation Taskforce (USTF) Reactivation

Each union has one union sanitation taskforce (USTF) committee in Bangladesh. Most of the Union sanitation taskforce committee members do not know their roles & responsibilities as a committee member. In many cases the taskforce committees are inactive. Therefore, Islamic Relief Bangladesh organised an orientation to reactivate union sanitation taskforce. IRB conducted 8 USTF committee orientations under SUSASTHA project at different unions of Jhenaighati Sadar Upazila, Dherpur and Jamalpur Sadar Upazila in May 2023. After the orientation, the committee members had prepared a yearly implementable plan for their unions. This also included the monitoring system. Now the sanitation task force committees conduct their meeting regularly and are capable of preparing meeting regulations independently.





## Shelters for Orphaned Families



A total 4 new semi-brick shelters were constructed for the orphaned families considering their vulnerable living places. The families were suffering terribly for the precarious condition of the shelters. The newly built shelters have two living rooms, a washroom and a balcony. The construction cost of each shelter was BDT 2,98,055.00. To ensure participation and transparency, all 4 shelters were constructed following a local-level implementation approach where the right holders, their family members and community representatives were actively engaged along with IRB staff members. The suggestions and views of project participants were taken into consideration during construction.

The newly constructed shelters were handed over to the right-holders - Rochana Rani Das (Derai, Sunamganj), Nahida Begum (Sunamganj Sadar), Md. Efsan Ahmed (Shantiganj, Sunamganj) and Mollika Rani (Thakurgaon Sadar) - on 16 and 17 April 2023.

The hand-over events were attended by the Chairman & Members of the respective Upazila Parishad & Union Parishad and other local influential people along with the project implement committee members and IRB staff. The project was funded by IR USA.

## Accomplishments of 850 Women

850 Women Entrepreneurs of Kurigram have achieved their dreams of success through engaging with “Sustainable livelihoods of rural women through micro-entrepreneurship development (SEED)” under EEGP-IRB at Rajarhat sub-district in Kurigram district. The SEED project was initiated by the funding support of IR UK & IRUSA to address extreme poverty, socio-economic exclusion and sustainable livelihoods development of the targeted 850 extreme poor households through engaging them in environment-friendly and adaptive micro-enterprises.

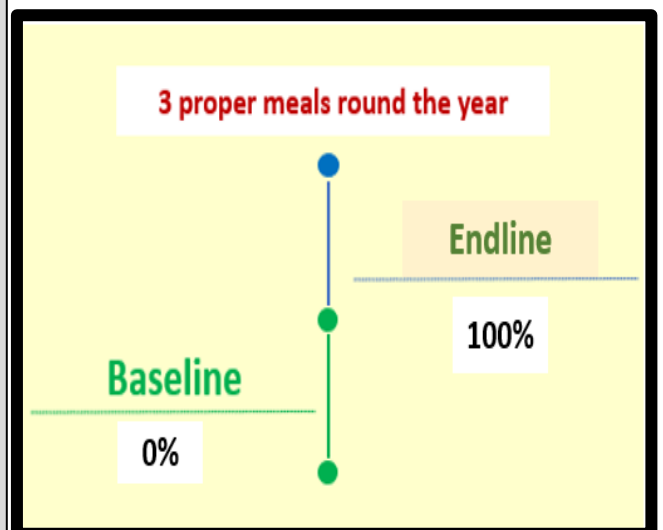
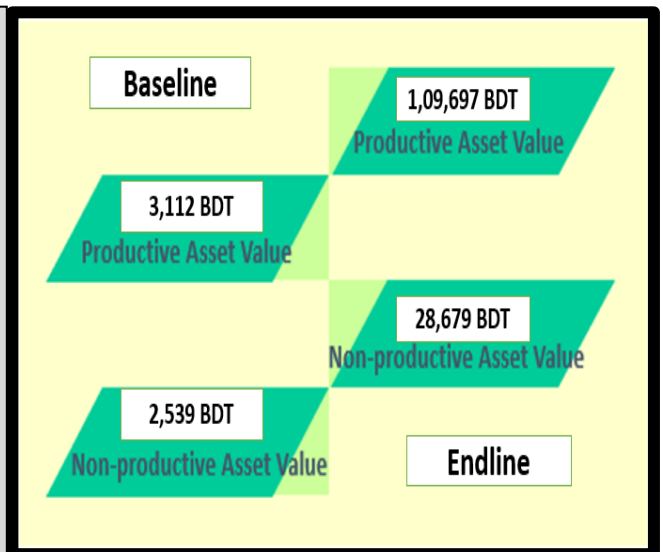
This project significantly contributed to access for most vulnerable households to sustainable livelihoods in two unions in Rajarhat. This project is effective as the project has created positive impacts on sustainable socio-economic development, improved micro-entrepreneurship skills and capacities of the WEGs and the targeted households. The outcomes and impact of the project have been achieved successfully.

The Final Evaluation revealed that; the project participants have raised their income from BDT 3,110 baseline figure to BDT 14,841 at the final evaluation period, which is 478% increased from baseline. It is a tremendous achievement for any project. It is possible only through the arrangement of skill development training and ensuring the involvement of IGAs multiplication and diversification.

Besides income, the final evaluation study also reflects on the monthly expense status of the households. This is found that the households had to spend 86% per month against their income in the end line period, while in the baseline period, it was 97%. The average monthly expense of the households is BDT 12,769 (baseline: BDT 3,009).

In terms of productive asset and non-productive asset status; families have brought a tremendous change in their asset number and value through their involvement in group-based income generation activities. Inclusion of cattle and poultry have added value and changed their list of productive assets.

Assessing the food security status of targeted households, the study finds that the targeted households have brought a change compared with the baseline. Considering the food security profile on the basis of 3 proper meals in a day, the study finds that 100% of the targeted families be able to ensure three proper meals in a day while in baseline it was 0%.



	Baseline	Final
HH Income [Average/Month]	3,110 BDT	14,841 BDT
HH Expense [Average/Month]	3,009 BDT	12,769 BDT
Expense against Income	97%	86%

## Life skills Development Training for 500 Boys & Girls

Islamic Relief Bangladesh has been implementing the project “Promoting employment for young women and adolescent boys and girls of stranded community through vocational and life skill training (PROYAS)” to support 500 young women and adolescent boys and girls of extremely poor and vulnerable families of the stranded community living in Dhaka city (Mirpur).

The project aimed to provide benefit 2231 households’ members and 4000 wider community people. This project is working to develop the IGA skills of the targeted project participants by providing training on different vocational trades according to their needs and choices.

This project would help create employment opportunities and economic sustainability for the targeted project participants. IRB has conducted training sessions on various topics, such as self-awareness, interpersonal relationships, and thinking skills.



## TOT to NGO Professionals on the EEP model

The EEP project of IRB conducted a 3-day long training of Trainers-ToT session (26-28 February 2023) to the development practitioners on the "Elimination of Extreme Poverty (EEP) Model" at the Regional Training Centre Conference room, Rangpur. This is a part of developing a master trainer on the EEP model. A total of 15 Executive Directors, Project Directors, Managers, and Coordinators from various local, national, and international development organizations participated in this training of Trainers-ToT. The sessions were conducted by Programme Manager, Programme Coordinator and EEP Project Manager. The EEP Project is an initiative of elimination of extreme poverty in Kurigram district and the project is funded by IR Germany. The EEP model aims to be replicated in different areas under different organisations across Bangladesh.



## Launching Workshop of SUPPORT Project



The inception meeting of the SUPPORT project was held on 17 May 2023 at the DC office, Dinajpur. The deputy commissioner (DC), ADC (general), ADC (revenue), relevant stakeholders and more than 80 NGO representatives were present in the inception meeting. Md. Enamul Haque Sarker, Programme Manager of Islamic Relief Bangladesh explained the project and its activities and facilitated different questions & answers from the participants.

Another inception meeting was held on 25 May 2023 at Nawabganj Upazila Parishad, Dinajpur. The Upazila Chairman and Assistant Commissioner (Land), the head of all the government departments, the union chairman, and relevant stakeholders participated in the inception meeting.

Md. Enamul Haque Sarker, Programme Manager described the project in detail that is being implemented at Nawabganj Upazila under Dinajpur District.

The Upazila chairman and other stakeholders thanked Islamic Relief Bangladesh and expected the level of poverty will be reduced through this project at Nawabganj Upazila.

## Lessons Learnt Workshop of EEP Project



Islamic Relief Bangladesh organised a 2-days long lesson learned workshop on the Elimination of Extreme Poverty (EEP) project on 09-10 April 2023 at Upazila Agriculture Office Conference room, Rajarhat, Kurigram.

Union Parishad Chairmen, Women members, government officials, potential leaders of Dipto Apex body and the Self-help Group (SHG) participated in the workshop. Shahinul Hasan was the lead -facilitator at the event where Shahjada Shorif was the co-facilitator.

In the workshop, all the key stakeholders of the project specially 4 Union Chairmen, 4 Women members, government officials and project staff were participated. The Union chairmen were highly pleased regarding EEP operations in their area.

As the model maintains transparency and accountability everywhere in the project activities, hence the participants cordially requested to cover more areas in Rajarhat Upazila (sub district) by implementing the 2nd phase of the EEP project as scaling-up.

## Eid Gift Packs Distributed to the Vulnerable Families



Poverty has a bitter presence in Jamalpur, which is nearly 200 kilometers away from the capital of Bangladesh. On Eid Al-Fitr, Islamic Relief Bangladesh distributed a total of 625 Eid gift packs to the vulnerable families of the Jamalpur district. The gift pack comprised of 2 kg sugar, 2 kg premium rice, 16 packs of noodles, one kg vermicelli, a box of chocolate, a school bag, a saree, a lungi, an umbrella and 24 pieces of colour pencils.

These Eid gifts came as a surprise to the rightsholders who could not even think of buying any new things for Eid. Therefore, they were extremely delighted to have such lovely presents to celebrate Eid with their loved ones.

## Learning Visit of IR Nepal and IR Sri Lanka Team

On 21-25 May, a seven-member delegation team from Islamic Relief Nepal and Sri Lanka visited IRB's projects in Kurigram & Rangpur area. The delegation team visited and observed the functions of Self-help group (SHG), their independent operations and sustainability approaches. The visitors were also interested in learning the activities of the Elimination of Extreme Poverty (EEP) model. Economic Empowerment and Governance Programme of Islamic Relief facilitated the whole process and shared the detailed of the EEP model and operations tools to the external teams. During this visit, the team received training on the EEP model, visited total 10 SHGs operations and their sustainable strategies, met with Apex body members and attended learning & sharing discussions.



## Annual Review Meeting of Child Rights Programme



Child Right Programme organised its Annual Review Meeting (ARM) 2023 in two phases to make the meetings more participatory and impactful. The first phase of the ARM was held on March 14-15, 2023 at the Islamic Relief Regional Training Centre at Mithapukur, Rangpur where all the staff members of the ongoing projects (except OSP) participated. The objectives of this 2-day-long event were to share the updates of the ongoing projects - ALO Plus, PEMB, ALO-WAQF & WET, identify the challenges, and suggest ways for further progression.

The second phase of the ARM was arranged exclusively for the Orphan Sponsorship Program (OSP), considering the nature and vastness of the project. The 2-day event took place from 21 - 22 March 2023 in the conference room of Islamic Relief Bangladesh country office. The Field Office In-charges & officers from 9(Nine) OSP field offices - Amtoli, Cox's Bazar, Derai, Golachipa, Khulna, Rajbari, Rangpur, Sunamganj & Thakurgaon - participated in the event along with all officials of CRP. Besides, presenting the updates of each field offices, the challenges and current needs of the OSP were shared along with major points on way forward. The Head of Programs & Country Director of IRB also participated in the last session and provided their insight and recommendations.

## Upzaila Administration Visited Orphan Sponsorship Activities



With a view to having a firsthand experience about the interventions of the Orphan Sponsorship Programme (OSP) at Shantiganj Upazila (Sunamganj), implemented by Islamic Relief Bangladesh (IRB), the Upzila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Shantiganj Md. Anwar Uj Jaman paid a visit to the Hossainpur Self-Help Group (SHG) on 26 June. He talked with the SHG members to know about the activities of the SHG. The UNO was informed about the management process of SHG, savings mobilization and disbursement & recovery of Qard-al-Hasan (interest-free loan). The UNO also checked the savings book, passbook, meeting register, personal documents and other relevant papers. The SHG members updated the UNO about the education status of their children along with their various income generating activities. The UNO highly praised the OSP activities, and assured of providing continuous support. The UNO was accompanied by Hasnat Hossain, private secretary of the planning minister. The SHG members honored the UNO with a crest. It can be mentioned that under the OSP, a total of 330 orphan children are being sponsored at Shantiganj Upazila. Each month, every child is being supported with 26 Euro equivalent Bangladeshi Taka (BDT) to continue their education and meet other necessities. Besides other supports, their guardians are also provided with technical support for generating income-generating activities.

## Lessons Learnt of the Preventing Early Marriage Project



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## Setara Begum: An ideal Rohingya Teacher



Setara Begum is a 23-year-old FDMN woman. She has been staying in Bhasanchar camp with her husband and a child since January 2022. Her husband works as a volunteer. She has a son of 3 years. Setara Begum was born in Buchidong, Myanmar. Her father died when she was only 5 years old. There were 6 members in her family- two brothers, three sisters and her mother. In 2017, they left Myanmar to save themselves from the brutal massacre of Myanmar Army. They walked continuously for three days and crossed the Naf River entering to Bangladesh. Initially, they took shelter in the Ukhiya camp of Bangladesh. They used to eat the food donated by people and various agencies. There was no income opportunity and they were totally dependent on the support of humanitarian organizations. She got married in the camp in 2018. Her husband had no income as well. They lived a miserable life. The couple was blessed with a son in 2000. Their financial problem had no solution either. Later they were moved to Bhasan Char camp in January 2022 with the hope of a better life. However, things did not change much. There was no income generation opportunity. They had no money to meet their basic needs.

Islamic Relief Bangladesh started 10 Learning Centers (LC) in April 2022 through the “Life-saving emergency support for Rohingya Children living in Bhasan Char, Bangladesh” Project in Bhasan Char. 10 Rohingya teachers were appointed for these LCs. Setara Begum was appointed as a Rohingya Teacher in the learning centre. This was a tremendous support for her family. Since she has no one to care for her son, she comes to LC with her little son. She attends classes with her son sitting next to her and even takes her son while she visits her student’s home. She takes regular classes, visits students’ homes if students are absent from classes, attends parent meetings, participates in awareness sessions with adolescents, and surveys of dropout children. She is regarded as a very responsible teacher in LC. She does all her household chores apart from her duties. FDMN families are very conservative. They do not encourage female education and sometimes put restrictions on women's mobility. Despite all these obstacles, Setara Begum is working in Bhasan Char as a model and others are getting inspired by her. Setara Begum said “I am thankful to Islamic Relief for giving me the opportunity to work. I feel that my dignity has been upscaled due to my additional role beyond a homemaker. Learning is vital for their well-being and future prospects, yet girls often face greater barriers to education than boys, due to the social and religious norms. I am trying to inspire the FDMN girls to get educated. I also try to convince FDMN families to send their adolescent daughters to school. Now I am treated as a respectful teacher in society, which helps me forget my past and hardships.”



# Qurbani Programme 2023

**Across the Country**

**Total Cows- 1242**

**Rightholders- 43470**

**FDMN Camps**

**Total Cows- 1202**

**Rightholders- 53431**



# Ramadan Programme 2023

Across the Country  
Total Food Pack- 5530

FDMN Camps  
Total Food Pack- 12417





Accelerating of Change

বিশ্ব পানি দিবস ২০২৩

র্যালি, আলোচনা সভা ও পুরস্কার বিতরণী

স্থান: রুমিজা মমিন উচ্চ বালিকা বিদ্যালয়, নান্দিনা, জামালপুর সদর, জামালপুর  
তারিখ: ২২ মার্চ ২০২৩

Sustainable and Safe Drinking Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Through  
Appropriate Technologies in Bangladesh (SUSASTHA) Project

Implemented by: Islamic Relief Bangladesh  
বাস্তবায়নে: ইসলামিক রিলিফ বাংলাদেশ

Funded by: Islamic Relief Germany  
অর্থায়নে: ইসলামিক রিলিফ জার্মানী



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