

SCALE



Project location
Kamrangair Char, Dhaka



Budget
£250,000



Duration
30 months
(01 August 2025 to January 31, 2027)



Project participants
850 direct & 3000 indirect rightsholders



Skills Development and Comprehensive Action for Hazardous Child Labour Elimination

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Bangladesh has reduced child labour over the past two decades, yet hazardous child labour remains a serious challenge. The National Child Labour Survey 2022 reports 1.06 million children in hazardous work, with most in the informal sector where protection is minimal. Kamrangirchar, under Dhaka South City Corporation, is one of the most vulnerable urban areas, hosting displaced and marginalised families dependent on low-paid informal jobs. Nearly 80 per cent of households rely on children's earnings. Around 90 per cent of children aged 11–17 work, and almost half of those aged 8–17 are engaged in high-risk activities, often for 12–14 hours a day. Low literacy, high dropout rates, limited awareness of child rights, and early marriage further expose children to exploitation and poor health (secondary data).

In response to this situation, **Islamic Relief Bangladesh** has launched the **Skills Development and Comprehensive Action for Hazardous Child Labour Elimination (SCALE)** Project in Kamrangirchar. The project is being directly implemented under the Orphans, Child Rights and Protection Programme (OCRPP) of Islamic Relief Bangladesh.

PROJECT GOAL

To improve protection of the children involved in hazardous work through education, decent employment and family-income enhancement in the targeted families in the project location, Kamrangair Char, Dhaka.

PROJECT APPROACHES

The project follows the child-centered, inclusive and gender-sensitive approach aligned with national laws and international child protection standards.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



Withdraw children

Ensures children are safe and can return to education.



Provide TVET

Offers vocational training for adolescents to gain skills.



Increase family income

Supports families through income-generating activities (IGAs).



Strengthen protection systems

Enhances child protection at family and community levels.



Coordination

Fosters collaboration among actors to prevent child labour.

STAKEHOLDERS

Working children

The primary rightsholders of the initiative are aged 8-17.

TVET institutes

Institutions offering vocational training to enhance skills and employment opportunities.

Employers

Businesses providing employment opportunities and ensuring fair labour practices.

Local CSOs

Community-based organisations offering support and advocacy for working children.



Families

The support system for working children, providing emotional and financial aid.

Schools

Educational institutions providing basic education and awareness programmes.

Government authorities

Agencies responsible for policy-making and enforcement of child labour laws.

MAJOR INTERVENTIONS

- Identification of children from hazardous work and reintegrate into formal schools.
- Providing stipends, tutorial support, subsistence allowances and educational materials to 100 working children to continue education.
- Market assessment and identify the market driven trade.
- TVET for 100 working children and replace TVET graduates with decent jobs.
- Enhance Life skills of the TVET graduates and Child Laborer.
- Provide cash grant for IGAs to 200 children's families.
- Provide training in entrepreneurship and financial management for mothers.
- Awareness on Child Rights & Child Protection, Education, WASH, Nutrition, GBV.
- Linkage with employers & factory owners to create opportunities of internships for trainees.
- Engage children, parents, caregivers, teachers, SMC, TVET institutes for education & TVET.
- Local Level and National Level Advocacy to monitoring the child labour elimination committees for the effective implementation of NPA for Child Labour Elimination.
- Sensitize schoolteachers, SMC members, social leaders to enhance support for working children to continue education.
- Enhance collaboration with employers, market associations, and relevant stakeholders for joint collaborative voices to Eliminate Child Labour.

Skills Development and Comprehensive Action for Hazardous Child Labour Elimination (SCALE)

Country office

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