



OBATHHELPERS

Empowerment through community development

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

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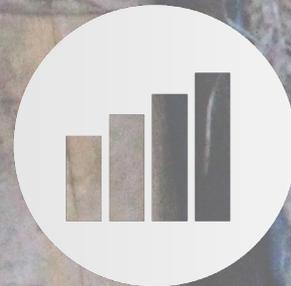
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Education



Health



Empowerment



Relief



OBATHHELPERS

Empowerment through community development

OUR HISTORY

The Indian subcontinent's partition in 1947 led to the creation of two countries, India and Pakistan. Pakistan had two wings, East and West Pakistan, separated geographically by 1,200 miles of Indian territory. During the partition, millions of Urdu-speaking people from the Indian state of Bihar migrated and settled in Bengali-speaking East Pakistan. In 1971 a civil war broke out between East and West Pakistan. The result of the war was the secession of East Pakistan, which became the independent country of Bangladesh. West Pakistan became what is today known as Pakistan. During the civil war, the Biharis or Urdu-speaking people in East Pakistan sided with Pakistan, and supported the Pakistani Army's efforts to keep the two pieces of Pakistan united.

When Bangladesh was created, the Urdu-speakers were moved into temporary camps, where they would await repatriation to Pakistan. Although 200,000 Urdu speakers were repatriated to Pakistan in the early 1970s, the rest were not. They remained stranded in Bangladesh, where they became known as the "Stranded Pakistanis." They (and their children and their grandchildren) number around 300,000 today.

The Urdu-speaking community is still living in desperate circumstances, in the squalid makeshift camps where they expected to stay only a few months more than four decades ago. They lack access to basic amenities such as clean drinking water, education, and health care. Employment opportunities outside camps are rare due to their distinct cultural identity and their support for Pakistan in the civil war. They are relegated to low paying work, earning less than a dollar a day. The huts in which they live are dilapidated structures made mostly of bamboo and dried leaves. These are tiny, approximately 8 ft. x 10 ft. and accommodate large families, serving also as their cooking, sleeping and living areas. The lack of sanitation and drainage facilities leads to a proliferation of water-borne diseases. Several hundred or sometimes thousand people share one community bathhouse.

Forty-four years later, the future of these camp residents is still very uncertain and without hope. Their living conditions have worsened due to the population increase over the last few decades. More and more people being cramped in already minuscule spaces are causing the already scant resources to be stretched thin, leading to greater socio-economic problems, disease and extreme poverty.

The plight of the camp residents constitutes a humanitarian issue which OBA has been trying to address since 2004. Join us in standing by these unfortunate people to end their suffering and to bring them back to a dignified and better life.

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OUR MISSION

Our mission is to work for the welfare, support and empowerment of indigent and displaced people. The key focus is on alleviating the suffering of thousands of internally displaced people stranded in makeshift camps in Bangladesh by providing them with better living conditions, education and economic skills and opportunities.

OUR VISION

We strive for a world where internally displaced people can live with dignity and have access to basic amenities of living, education, health care and equal employment opportunities.

OUR VALUES

Empowerment: We enable our beneficiaries to live better lives by educating them and building their skills thus empowering them to attain financial independence.

Responsible stewardship: We are committed to cautious stewardship of all our resources - we responsibly use the time and skills of our partners and volunteers; and we prudently spend the funds donated to us.

Integrity and Accountability: We uphold the highest ethical values and principles in our everyday operations. We value the trust that has been placed into us by our donors and remain accountable and answerable for our actions to all our stakeholders.

Excellence: We strive to attain excellence in providing services to our beneficiaries and challenge ourselves by setting high operational standards for the organization.



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FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been eleven years since OBAT was formed to give a voice to the forgotten camp residents of Bangladesh. My first visit to the camps was prompted by a curiosity to see for myself, the atrocious legacy of a war that split a country and tore apart many lives. I was just a visitor, wanting to help with whatever little I had brought with me. I did not know at that time that this visit would lead to the formation of an organization that would be helping many of the camp residents through the extremely tough challenges that their life was. OBAT was thus created with the mission to address the unique and large scale predicament of the Urdu speaking community residing in the camps in Bangladesh.

In this report, you will read about the impact that you have made by supporting OBAT over the past decade. You will read some numbers and see some faces. Both of these are on the same strain: with a will and a drive to overcome odds, anything can be accomplished. Almost all the camp residents share these traits, their will and drive to overcome the adversity they were thrown into, has made our work easier. We provide them with the tools they need to empower themselves and they eagerly use these tools to pave out their future.

OBAT's strategy has thus been very focused. Our programs are rebuilding the lives of camp residents by educating them, making them healthy and empowering them through skill building. The focus on these three areas will ensure that they will ultimately become independent on only themselves and will be free of the need for external assistance.

Since OBAT was formed, I have visited the camps annually. I have experienced several hardships, met several people. I want you to know them, they will leave as enduring an impression on you as they did on me.

The memories from my first visit to the camps are still vivid in my mind. The voice of the woman who clutched my arm, not letting go until she had received a promise of help, still rings in my ears. The anguish in all 350,000 or so voices still needs to be addressed. Our supporters have helped us appease the distress of the people we serve in the camps. As we get ready to climb into the next decade of OBAT's existence, our mission to transform lives through education, health and empowerment is stronger than ever. Come, join us!

Aukhan





OUR EDUCATION

OBAT aspires to empower as many camp residents as possible through education. Being equipped with an education will ultimately give them access to employment opportunities and a chance to live a normal life. According to the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), a University of Dhaka affiliated research group, 94 percent of today's Urdu speaking community are illiterate, compared with a national average of *46 percent. OBAT's educational projects collectively educate almost 4,500 children presently. Altogether, OBAT operates more than 50 educational and training projects, including schools, tutoring, sewing and computer training centers. More than 700 scholarships have been offered to students pursuing education at different levels (middle school to higher education).

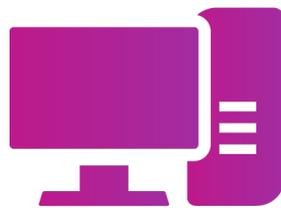
EDUCATION IN 2014 AT A GLANCE



7 schools and 24
preschools



6 tutoring centers
in different cities



4 computer
training centers



760 scholarships
students in 2014

**Reference: "Neglected" Bihari youth battle stigma in Bangladesh. (2013, August 27). Retrieved from: <http://www.irinnews.org/fr/report/98651/neglected-bihari-youth-battle-stigma-in-bangladesh> scholarships*



FARAD'S EDUCATION

"My name is Farad. Every day, I wake up at 8 o'clock in the morning, get dressed up and leave for my classes at OBAT. My studies end at 10 o'clock. After that, I leave for work- I work at a tea stall. After a tiring and boring day at work, I come back home and get some sleep. I believe, if people like us want to excel in life, we should at least be able to spell our own name, and write our parents' names.

However, if we fail, we are rejected by society. My aim is to be a famous businessman in the future. My dad is a security guard but his earnings are never sufficient to support our family. Being the eldest among three brothers and sisters, I have to work for my future and my family. My grandmother also resides with us. If I fail to show up for my work on any day, all of us are going to starve the entire day. My extracurricular activities are hampered because of my work and the race to earn more. I hardly get some leisure time to play my favorite games. Meanwhile, during Ramadan, I do get some free time to play cricket and football sometimes. At the end of every day, I earn Taka 100 or \$ 1.30 and go back home."

"If I fail to show up for my work on any day, all of us are going to starve the entire day."

WITNESS FARAD'S STORY



Click the video above and enter password "obat" to view online

EDUCATION FOR WORKING CHILDREN

The Education for Working Children is another program implemented in Dhaka camp for working children, aged 10-12 years.

Survey results have found over 90% of them to be illiterate. These kids were forced to work to supplement the meager earnings of their parents and hence could not go to school.

Now, from 7 to 9 AM, daily, they attend classes which are preceded by breakfast. Some of the kids in the group are adept welders, barbers and tailors who are eager to read the newspaper or learn basic literacy skills to enable them to carry out their daily tasks at work. The program is gaining instant popularity; **582 kids were enrolled in 2014.**

Similarly, in 2012, OBAT launched the "Non-formal education project" in the city of Syedpur. The objective of the three year project is to educate 900 children living in destitute conditions in the camps of Syedpur. During the term of the project, these children will be provided with coaching, thus enabling them to enter the mainstream education system.

Most of the children enrolled in this program were born in the camps and have been living in abject poverty and despicable living conditions. Contrary to other people, the camp residents have no access to outside resources as they are isolated from the mainstream society. The average enrollment of children in elementary schools in Bangladesh is over 80%; in the camps, it is only around 10%. Survey results and focus group discussions showed that there were no elementary schools close to the Syedpur camps and no other organizations were running education programs here. **The non-formal project will thus fill a big void and address an area much in need of attention.**

IRFAN KHAN



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Irfan Khan

Irfan Khan was born in one of the dilapidated huts in Geneva camp, Dhaka. In his early twenties, Irfan is the youngest among his two siblings. His father passed away when he was only three years old. As a result, his mother, Nasrin Begum, had to raise the three children alone.

Nasrin Begum was illiterate and was hence presented with numerous challenges, having to work extremely hard to survive. She started making paper bags and sold them to eke out a living. When Irfan reached school age, she got him admitted in an elementary school in Geneva camp.

Always enthusiastic about studying, Irfan later got the chance to attend a government school in grade five. He passed his middle school exam with good grades. In spite of all her hardship, Irfan's brave mother continued her support and Irfan gained admission into a college.

Once again Irfan got rewarded for his hard work; he did well in his high school exams in 2008. By this time, two of his sisters were married and his mother's financial responsibility towards her family was a bit reduced.

Around this time, Irfan met one of the staff members from OBAT. On seeing the boy's interest in academics and his good result, he offered Irfan a job to coach students of middle school at OBAT's tutoring center. Due to his selfless dedication and hard work, Irfan was soon offered a scholarship by OBAT to continue his studies. He got admitted in Victoria University of Bangladesh in the BBA program. After completing his first year, he was offered a

part time job as a Junior Accountant in a tire factory.

Irfan graduated successfully with an MBA degree and is now working as a Corporate Sales Coordinator with the Ispahani Group in Dhaka. After entering the workforce, he was able to move out of the camp and now lives in Mirpur with his family.

Abul Kashem

Abul Kashem is a twenty year old who remained a Golden A+ student throughout the time he studied with the help of OBAT's scholarship program. A "Golden A+" is a coveted grade in the education system in Bangladesh and Kashem is one of the few students from the camps to receive this grade in the last four decades.

Kashem teaches Math at OBAT's Rangpur Tutorial Center to support the seven members in his family. Since his father is unemployed, Kashem's is the family's only source of income. Kashem has wanted to be a doctor since he was a child and studied rigorously to prepare for the medical college tests. He is now on his way to realizing his dream.

Currently, Kashem is studying in the third year of medical school and is poised to become the first doctor in forty-four years from the camps.

-  ***133 out of 760 scholarships have been given out by OBAT for higher education***
-  ***32 scholarship students are now working as teachers, managers, nurses, engineers and other professionals***
-  ***Professional scholarship students pursue various degrees, including BBA/MBA, LLB, BSS (Bachelors of Social Science) and BBS (Bachelors of Business Science)***

ABUL KASHEM



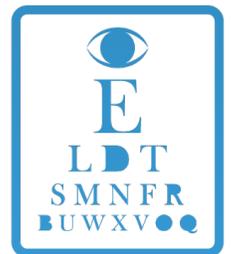




OUR HEALTH

Among other problems faced by the camp residents, lack of adequate health care services is an acute issue. Due to extreme poverty and rampant unemployment, they cannot afford to pay the fees or incur other expenditure for their medical treatment at regular clinics. Close to 10,000 people are assisted annually through the two health care facilities operated by OBAT in Rangpur and Syedpur. The two clinics provide routine medical screenings and medication support for common ailments.

There are many camps which are located at a considerable distance from OBAT's Syedpur clinic. To ensure the provision of health services among the people in these camps, a mobile health service was initiated in Syedpur camps in 2011. The Medical Assistant who delivers these services is qualified and experienced and visits the camps every Sunday on a bicycle to provide treatment to ailing patients. For all health services, no consultation fee is charged and patients pay only fifty percent of the cost of the medicines.



8,828 people treated in clinics in 2014 2,000+ cataract eye surgeries since 2012*



Mobile health clinic

**Cataract eye surgery program carried out in partnership with a UK based organization, Sight Savers and the RS foundation in Canada.*



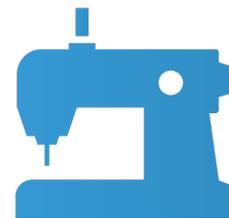


OUR EMPOWERMENT

OBAT developed a partnership with a local renowned NGO, ISDCM, and initiated the first self-empowerment program. Since 2006, over 1,600 families have been empowered by the micro finance program. This program was mainly designed for women entrepreneurs who were offered micro loans ranging from \$100 to \$1,000. Extensive training before and during the program was also provided to enable the borrowers to run their businesses and to teach them basic financial literacy. The women in the camps are illiterate and the only way to empower them is through education and micro finance. Instead of perpetuating their cycle of poverty by making them dependent on external assistance, OBAT's program has made them self-sufficient. Currently, the initial project in Syedpur is self-sustained with a total rolling fund of approximately \$500,000.



Over 1,600 families
empowered by
microfinance program



154 students have
graduated from one
embroidery center and
two sewing centers

YASMEEN'S IMPACT

"My name is Yasmeen. I live in Mistripara Mission Camp in Syedpur. My first loan from the microfinance program was of Taka 6,000 or \$77. I bought two sewing machines with that amount and made some progress by using them to stitch clothes. The second time, I took a loan for \$128. I bought a goat worth \$76. It seems that Allah is making me progress and He is rewarding me for my hard work.

With the rest of the amount, I bought cloth weighing about five kilograms. (There are some shops in Bangladesh which sell old cloth and their unit of sale is kilogram). My husband cut those cloths. My child and I sewed it and my husband sold the garments we made to the Haat (A kind of market which is held once a week). Then I said to my husband that we should take a big amount of loan. Allah has given me the ability that I can take a loan and can return the loan timely. Next, I bought a small truck which cost \$23,000. I took loans for it from several organizations including OBAT, because I knew that I have the ability to repay the loan and of course Allah is with us. The truck operates on the Saidpur-Rangpur highway road. Now my financial condition is better. Before, I suffered a lot. After I purchased the truck, I built and repaired my house and constructed bathrooms and toilets as well. I prospered a lot with these loans. I now earn an income from my sewing machines and also from my truck. **I bear all the expenses of my house with these two sources of income.**

Now, I take the money from my income and invest it in the business. You can confirm that I was never a defaulter. I know more now and I can make a lot of profit. Now, we have almost 60 members in our group of borrowers and too many people are waiting to get a loan. The organization is so good



WITNESS YASMEEN'S STORY



Click the video above and enter password "obat" to view online

that nobody complains against it. Whenever the brother (program administrator) gives a loan to someone, he always says that invest the money into a proper and profitable business.

I heard about OBAT Helpers' microfinance program from one or two people. At that time they held a meeting near the powerhouse building. I thought that I should try and see what happens. Only two or three installments of repayments are due and after that I shall continue with borrowing only from OBAT Helpers. I shall not need another organization because now OBAT can give me a big loan. So I need not go to another organization. I will take big loans for the next three or four years. Then I will complete the whole installment of loan for my truck. Now I earn a profit from the sewing machines, goats and also from the truck. You can come and see. I have my mother-in-law, my husband, one son and two daughters in my family who I am supporting. My son is studying in grade nine. Before the loan, I could have food to eat sometimes only but now I am happy. I only buy or invest the money for the welfare of my family and all this is possible from the loans."

OBAT'S SEWING PROGRAM

Jobs are very hard to find for the camp dwellers; discrimination diminishes their prospects greatly. For women, chances of finding employment are much less. They earn only a pittance, working as a maid servant in various people's homes. Doing arduous labor in a factory in exchange for a few Takas does not offer any more appeal either.

OBAT's first sewing program began in November 2011 at Bansbari camp, in Syedpur. Many of the graduates from this program and the sewing center at Khulna, are now spreading their wings and looking for ways to sell the clothes they stitch, in local markets.

An embroidery center also opened in Khulna in 2014. Women enrolled here are taught to skillfully embroider on clothes thus creating a potential stream of future income for them.





OUR RELIEF

OBAT provides financial assistance to the sick, elderly and widows in the camp communities. Thousands of families have been helped through the Ramadan Food Distribution and Qurbani Meat Distribution programs. These programs are conducted around two Muslim festivals celebrated in the camps. Communities have also benefited through projects such as renovation or construction of new bathrooms, community centers, drains and sewage systems. Relief projects are also undertaken by OBAT in case of a disastrous situation, for instance a camp fire or a natural calamity such as floods or cyclones.

Clean water projects

To address the dearth of potable water, OBAT has installed deep tube wells in different camps to provide better, safe and clean water for the camp communities. Currently, seven motorized tube wells and twenty nine hand pumps are operational in various cities. About 21,000 people benefit from all clean water projects.

Sanitation

OBAT has undertaken several sanitation and sewerage projects. In 2014, six bathroom chambers were constructed in Rangpur and sixteen chambers were constructed in three camps in Syedpur.

Food Distribution

Since its inception, OBAT has carried out a food distribution program. The Qurbani program started later in 2007.

Ramadan: In 2014, food was distributed to almost 3,000 families.

Qurbani: Meat was distributed to almost 10,000 families in 2014.

OUR REACH

The Urdu speaking community housed in the decrepit camps, have no access to clean water and live on less than a dollar a day. Their entire families live in tiny 8 foot by 10 foot tin and bamboo huts; the children don't go to school so that they can help their parents make a living; they suffer from myriad health issues, including malnutrition; and the living conditions are unsanitary and shameful.

Altogether, there are about 300,000 people languishing in thirteen cities in one hundred and sixteen makeshift camps and in extremely poor conditions. They live in abject poverty with no access to basic amenities of living. Presently, OBAT is working in eight cities as displayed in the map to the right. Our major projects are located in Rangpur, Syedpur, Mymensingh, Dhaka, Khulna and Chittagong.





Saidpur

Bogra

Mymensingh

Ishwardi

Bangladesh

Dhaka

Khulna

Chittagong

THANK YOU

Although OBAT began on a very small scale with the help of friends and family, the cause of bringing aid to the displaced camp population in Bangladesh has been advanced with the help of and every one of our esteemed and valued donors. They have influenced the future of individuals with their unwavering and generous support for educational initiatives, helped to heal many ailing camp residents and given financial independence to many through community empowerment projects. Thank you, dear supporters for being with OBAT through and

H2O or Help to OBAT comprises of young, energetic and dynamic men and women who stand ready to volunteer their time and talents to OBAT. We are truly appreciative and grateful for their support; they have helped us conduct many successful campaigns and events and are extremely vital to the efficient operation of the organization. Arishaa Khan, OBAT's Special Events Coordinator, is one of the H2O members to whom we owe much gratitude. Arishaa continues to volunteer her time and skills extensively for OBAT's well-being.

OBAT would be nowhere without the visionary contributions made by Immad Ahmed, a board member and dedicated volunteer, and currently the COO. Immad has lent us his expertise and skills in film, editing, producing interviews, advertisements and more.

A special thanks to Fatima Hussain, OBAT's Creative Consultant, for designing this report. Her creativity and artistic flair has been behind all of OBAT's publications. She is also behind the camera at all of OBAT's events - her photos including those from her trip to the camps are ingenious. Fatima's contribution to OBAT is vast and her willingness to help is unconditional. Our appreciation and gratitude also extends to Tariq Shazlee and Hannah Croucher for their contributions to the report and to all others who provided their feedback for its revision.

We are privileged to have some of the best community and corporate leaders on our board with a myriad of skills and expertise. Thank you to all esteemed board members for fortifying OBAT with their time, skills and efforts.

OBAT has always been fortunate to have proficient team members who have moved the organization forward with their competence. Thank you to former team members, Emily and Rania Hattab and Carey Craig for their contributions to OBAT.

To our industrious staff in Bangladesh who is constantly achieving above and beyond their responsibilities and duties, we are especially grateful. Their work is arduous and full of challenges but their commitment and dedication to the organization is exemplary. Our staff in India are equally committed to OBAT's cause and their efforts in competently managing the organization are much appreciated as well.

Thank you to Power of One, The Gemmer Foundation, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, RS Foundation and Human Concern International for their support. Grants received from these foundations have been instrumental in the effective running of our projects.

We are also thankful to Fatima Hussain, Katie Basbagill, Hannah Croucher and Immad Ahmed for providing their photographs for this report.

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YOUR IMPACT

We are very thankful to many of OBAT's chapters and supporters who are fully or partially supporting some of the projects. Although it is not possible to thank everyone individually, we are especially indebted to the following for their generosity in the previous year.

Friends of OBAT, Seattle

Friends of OBAT, Dallas/Mr. Mazher Islam Raja

Friends of OBAT, St. Louis

Friends of OBAT, Ft. Wayne

Mr. Abdur Rahman Yaqub (IL)

Mr. Abdul R. and Mrs. Zeenat Chaudhry (NY)

Mr. Adeel Ahmad (IL)

Dr. Aqueel Kouser (TN)

Mr. Eijaz Samad (WA)

Dr. Faiq Akhter (OH)

Mr. Husam and Mrs. Uzma Ahmad (NY)

Mr. Imran and Mrs. Uzma Ahmed (IN)

Mr. Jawaid and Mrs. Yasmeen Ekram (WA)

Dr. M.A. Nayer (AZ)

Dr. Matloob and Mrs. Mahjabeen Khan (IN)

Mr. Munaf Khan (WA)

Dr. Niaz Haider (NJ)

Drs. Rabia Halim and Javaad Khan (FL)

Dr. Shadia Jalal (IN)

Dr. Shahid Athar (IN)

Dr. Shahid Mansoor (TX)

Dr. Syed M. Oqail (TX)

Dr. Tariq Muhammad (KY)

Mr. Tipu and Mrs. Monawwar Ahmed (IN)

Mr. Zafar and Mrs. Unbareen Imam (TX)

OUR BOARD



Anwar Khan
President



Dr. Shujaat Wasty
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Charlie Wiles
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Tabasum Ahmed
Treasurer



Tipu Ahmed



Dr. Sohail Anwar



Hannah Croucher



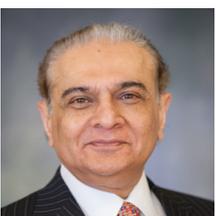
Afshan Khan



Dr. Rezwan Khan



Dr. Ayaz Malik



Dr. Azfar Malik

OUR ADVISORS

Dr. Shahid Athar

Syed Ehtesham Arshad

Faiz Rahman

Rizwan Samad

Kamran Anis

Dr. Javed Imam

Dr. Shariq Siddiqui

Azher Khan

Dr. Arif Qureshi

Syed Asfar Imam

Sarwat Siddiqui

Dr. Maarij Syed

Mohammad Iqbal
Malik

Abdur Rahman Yaqub

Dr. Helal Ekramuddin

Hamid Mahmood

Dr. Tariq Akbar

OUR STAFF

OBAT Helpers USA

Dr. John Clark
Executive Director

Immad Ahmed
Chief Operating Officer

Saima Hassan
*Director of Development
and Communications*

OBAT BANGLADESH STAFF AND BOARD

*OBAT Helpers is also a
registered NGO in Bangladesh*

Sabera Sultana
Executive Director

Imamul Huque Siddiki
President

Md.Mahboob Alam
Vice President

Syed Jalal Uddin Ahmed
General Secretary

S.M Zakwan Barkati
Treasurer

OBAT/ISDCM PARTNERSHIP: ON THE GROUND TEAM IN 2014

Noor ul Islam Lashkar
Project Coordinator, Bangladesh

Sohail Akhtar
*Project Manager ISDCM and FDP,
Bangladesh*

Shahana Akther
Accounts Officer, Bangladesh

Humayun Kabir
Project Officer, Khulna

Murtaza Ahmed Khan
Program Officer, Dhaka

Abdul Halim Khan
Project Officer, Syedpur

Manzoor Ali
Project Officer, Chittagong

Shahinur Rahman
Monitoring Officer, Rangpur

Farooq Azeem
Program Coordinator, Bangladesh

Mohammad Salahuddin
Project Officer, Rangpur

Mohammad Mostak
Monitoring Officer, Chittagong

OUR HELPERS

Helpers 2 OBAT (H2O) is a group of young professionals committed to advancing OBAT's reach and impact both within the United States and in the camps throughout Bangladesh. H2O hosts events, establishes partnerships, and assists with fundraising efforts throughout the United States.

The **OBAT Think Tank** is a collective youth movement in the camps in Bangladesh, composed of camp dwelling residents committed to creating a better society for themselves and their families, friends and neighbors. Their projects have transformed the lives of their neighbors. You can learn more about their contributions throughout this report or by visiting our website at www.obathelpers.org.

Young Friends of OBAT (YFO) was started by Hannah Croucher and a group of Girls from Carmel, IN. The girls hope to initiate a pen pal project with the Dhaka English School and more.

Friends of OBAT chapters throughout the United States sponsor schools, projects and more by taking ownership of community development and empowerment in different regions throughout the camps in Bangladesh.

OUR PARTNERS

ISDCM: Integrated Services for Development of Children and Mothers (ISDCM) is a Bangladesh based NGO. Our partnership with ISDCM is in tune with the OBAT development philosophy of "involvement and empowerment." An eminent panel of former development professionals from UNICEF has come together under the umbrella of ISDCM. The OBAT-ISDCM alliance is leveraged to reap the maximum mileage out of its strategic emphasis on micro finance and sustainable development.

Change

One Degree Initiative Foundation

PARAA

Award

Friends of Humanity

The RS Foundation

Council of Minorities

Human Concern International

OBAT's
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THINK TANK CORNER



*Click to visit website
and learn more*

Learn more about initiatives of the youth of OBAT Think Tank, based out of the camps in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Our future leaders have inspired us by taking on projects that address the needs of health, education, empowerment, community development and family assistance & relief within their camps and neighborhoods.

OUR VISITORS



Dr. Asim Farooq, USA



Atif Godil and Mehwish Farooq, Canada



Dr. Ayaz Malik, USA



Azher Khan, USA



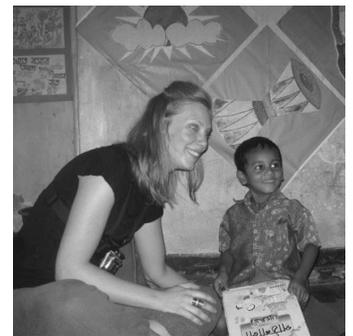
Ehtesham Arshad, USA



Jimbo Clark, Taiwan



Joanna Casey, England



Maude Bourassa, Canada



Husam and Uzma Ahmed, USA



Neeharika Tummala, GlobalGiving, USA



Shabel Firuz, Islamic Relief, Bangladesh



Shayla Azeem, USA



Dr. Shujaat Wasty, Canada



Sohel Anwar, USA



UNFPA Team Visit, Bangladesh



OBAT-USA Team Visit: Carey Craig, Anwar Khan, Arishaa Khan, Fatima Hussain, Hannah Croucher and Immad Ahmed (not pictured)

Dr. Victoria Redclift

I visited the OBAT English school in Dhaka and was incredibly impressed by the work being carried out. The staff were well trained, the students were bright and intelligent and the experience was extremely positive. In fact, I'm not sure I've visited a non-profit before where I felt so much good work was being done. The organisation doesn't just run schools but also training centers, health clinics, and infrastructure projects in the camps. It is well run, efficient, cost-effective and makes a practical, tangible difference to the lives of those living in the camps on a daily basis. I only hope it can continue to do such good work, without which the residents of the camps in Bangladesh would suffer terribly.

Dr. Victoria Redclift with Murtuza Khan



Zachary Rockwood

Rarely has an experience with an NGO brought me to tears. The plight of the people combined with the strength of this organization's resolve to battle hardships in the community is truly a special thing.

Zachary Rockwood and Katie Basbagill with Anwar Khan



Katie Basbagill

OBAT Helpers is one of the most professionally run and strategically focused organizations I've come across. After nearly 10 years of partnering and working creatively with non-profit organizations, I met the leaders of OBAT and was blown away. Not only do they maintain organizational transparency, unwavering commitment to their cause, and strong leadership, they are extremely respectful and appreciative of their volunteers. I would recommend any friend, family member, or colleague to work with OBAT without hesitation.

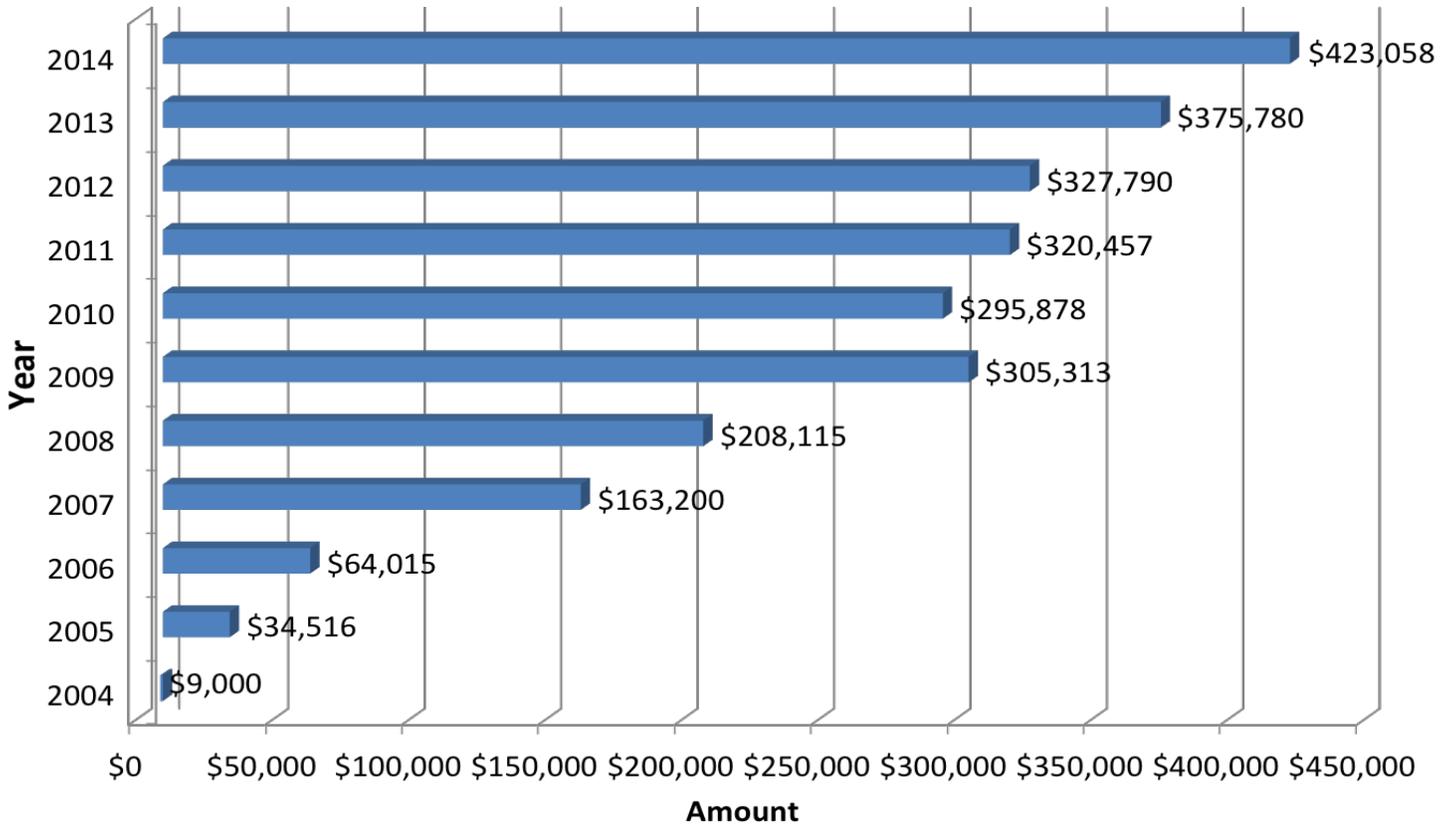
Hannah Sholder

Since 2009 I have been working in Bangladesh with members of the camp-dwelling Urdu-speaking community, who OBAT Helpers serve. My encounters since that time with OBAT have been consistently positive, observing strong leadership and vision, enthusiastic and invested community-based staff, and youth who are just as enthused to get involved in activities and be empowered to become change makers in their community. Understanding the current needs of the camp residents and being in tune with global development best-practices, OBAT has created the "OBAT Think Tank" as a vehicle of youth activism and their "Clean and Green" campaign which emphasizes the role of the built environment in public health and safety. Well done OBAT Helpers and keep up the good work!

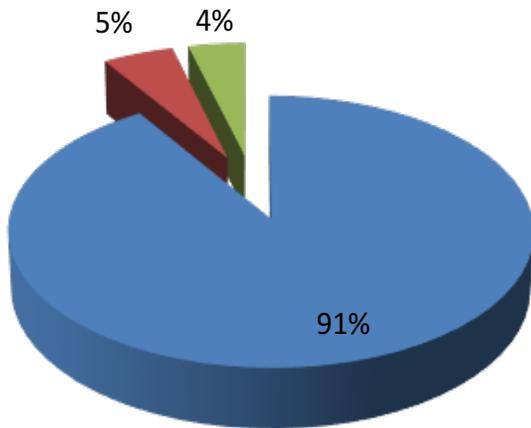
OUR FINANCIALS 2014

REVENUE	\$'s
Total Revenue	455,325
EXPENSES	
Administrative Expenses	37,165
Fundraising Expenses	19,622
Program Expenses	423,058
Total Expenses	479,844
Revenue Less Expenses	(24,520)
ASSETS	
Total Assets	19,289
Total Liabilities	0
Total Net Assets	19,289

2014 PROJECT & PROGRAM EXPENSES

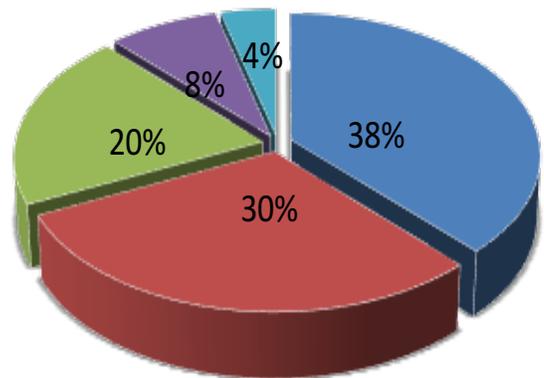


AVERAGE OPERATIONAL EXPENSES 2004-2014

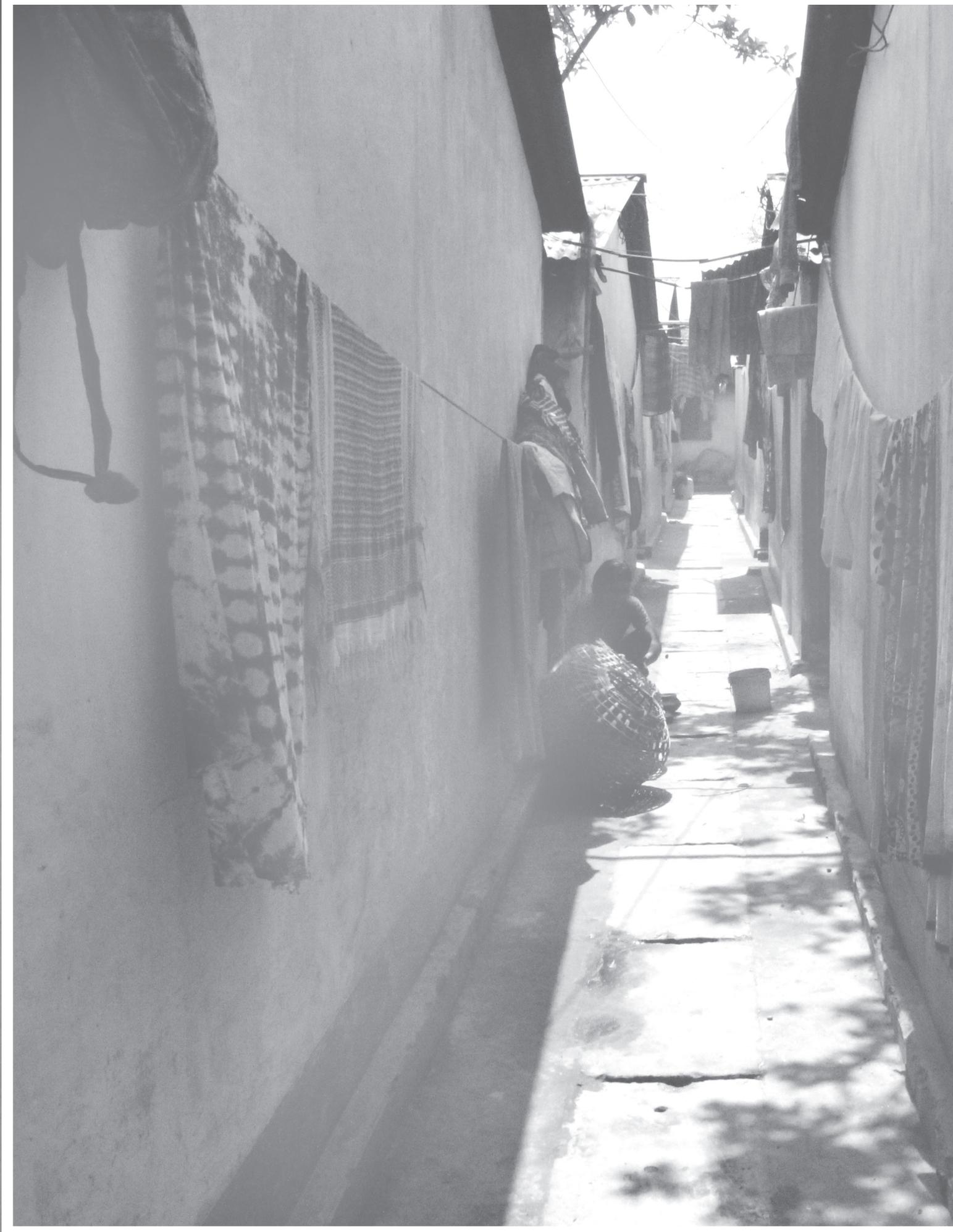


- Projects and Programs Expenses
- Administration Expenses
- Fundraising Expenses

AVERAGE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS BY PROJECTS 2004-2014



- Health Related Services
- Self Empowerment
- Education Program
- Charity Program
- Community and infrastructure development





2014 IN A NUTSHELL

New projects in 2014

In 2014, two water points serving 2,550 families were established in Muhammadpur, Dhaka.

In Khalispur, Khulna, a new center was established to teach women to embroider, thus creating a future income source for them. Two tutoring centers were formed in Syedpur and in Khalispur, Khulna.

OBAT Projects and Programs in 2014

- 1,683 students in 7 schools (6 elementary, 1 middle school) in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rangpur, and Khulna
- 484 students in 24 preschools in Dhaka, Rangpur, Chittagong and Khulna
- 582 students in 10 Non-Formal educational programs in Syedpur
- 972 students in 6 tutoring centers, 4 computer training centers, 2 sewing and skill centers for women in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rangpur, Khulna, Syedpur, and Mymensingh
- 760 students continued their studies with the assistance of scholarships in schools, colleges and universities
- 1,600 families ran successful ventures set up through our micro-finance program
- Almost 9,000 people served by two OBAT clinics in Rangpur and Syedpur
- 10,000+ families received meat at Eid-ul-Adha
- 2,000+ cataract surgeries since 2012
- 2,000+ families received Ramadan assistance
- 20+ improvement projects since last 10 years - water, sewerage, bathrooms, housing, etc.

LOOKING AHEAD

In the last ten years, OBAT Helpers has undertaken countless impactful projects to empower the destitute and forgotten camp communities. Although forgotten, these people are keen to prove otherwise - they have the drive, hope and desire to lift themselves out of their current dismal conditions. All they need are the right opportunities and resources to actualize their dreams.

With your help, OBAT has been able to empower thousands of individuals in the last ten years. In just one decade, you have transformed so many lives. Imagine the possibilities in the next decade!







OBATHHELPERS

Empowerment through community development

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