



# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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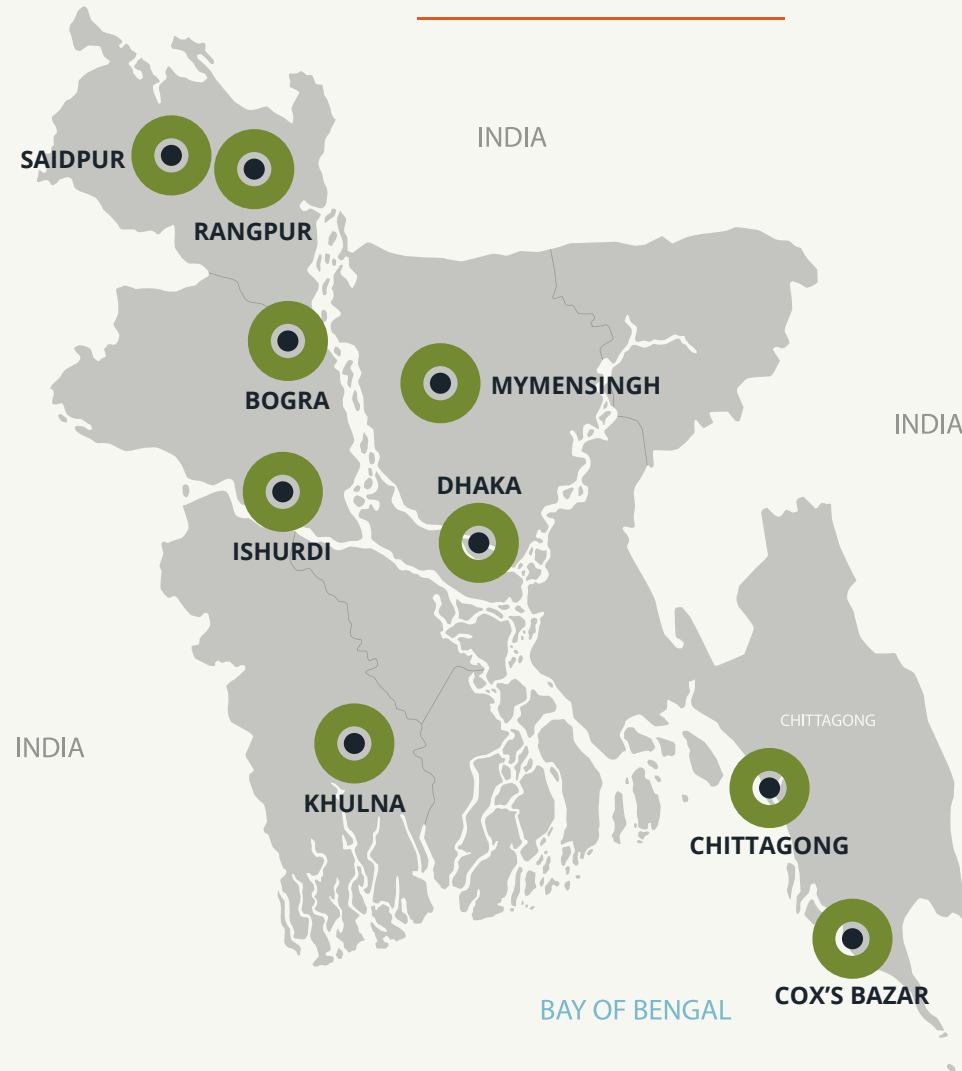
OBATHELPERS

CELEBRATING **15** YEARS OF  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN 2019

# Where We Work



## MAP OF BANGLADESH



# Mission, Vision & Core Values

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## MISSION

Our mission is to serve displaced and disadvantaged people by providing them access to education, healthcare, infrastructure and empowerment initiatives while ensuring sustainable community development.

## VISION

We strive for a world where displaced and disadvantaged people can live with dignity and have access to opportunities for self-sufficiency.

## CORE 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 use responsibly the time and skills of our partners and volunteers and we spend prudently 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.

Dear Friends,

For 15 years, OBAT Helpers has journeyed alongside forgotten communities to bring them hope. And each step along the way has been a giant leap toward empowerment and resilience. With a shared vision of bringing dignity to the displaced and disadvantaged, OBAT now provides programming across 9 cities in Bangladesh to benefit the Urdu-Speaking and the Kutupalong Rohingya refugee camps.

Looking back to when we first met, resignation was widespread amongst the 1971 camp residents. The “lucky” ones were forced to accept hard labor that did not pay even enough to feed their families. People had given up on the idea of leaving their 8X10 makeshift homes and had no meaningful opportunity to access schools. But in these short 15 years, we have witnessed an incredible transformation—from resignation to Belief to ACTION. Recognizing education as one of the most important tools to sustainable change, OBAT Helpers stepped in to provide technical training, basic education, scholarships, and tutoring. The result, an unbelievable journey to change!

I'd like to take a moment to shine the spotlight on the next generation. Brimming with confidence, zeal and the resolve to make their tomorrow different from their yesterday, they are developing themselves through the scholarships OBAT has awarded them. Many of them have already graduated with business degrees and are currently employed by corporations. A young girl, Mahejabin, accepted a university scholarship to study abroad in China. One of the most uplifting news of 2019 was when our scholarship student, Abul Kashem, graduated as the first Medical Doctor. He is now in the middle of his residency and serves as a role model for others. Some years ago, these dreams would have been unimaginable.

What continues to amaze me is how the journey has helped build the capacities of so many. Some of the camp residents are now equipped to manage community-based projects. With a lived and shared experience, they also



offer incredible insights into program design that are effective in addressing needs. This type of collaboration led to the Adult Literacy Program, an initiative aimed at teaching basic literacy and numeracy concepts to people who did not previously have the means for an education. Additionally, in recognition that some children might still need to help financially support their families as a reason for not enrolling in regular school, OBAT Helpers created the Education for Working Children Program.

While we occasionally stumbled alongside these communities, we find ourselves with feet firmly planted and ready to take on the marathon of the next 15 years. Thank you for your past support and hope you join us in the coming years.

My sincerest regards,

Anwar Khan

# Recognitions



## GLOBALGIVING

The vetted organization seal is awarded by GlobalGiving to nonprofits that have passed its rigorous due diligence process. OBAT has been vetted since 2012 by GlobalGiving which is the largest online, global crowdfunding community. The top-ranked organization seal is awarded by GlobalGiving to the nonprofits that have displayed a high level of engagement with the GlobalGiving community and have demonstrated a commitment to effectiveness through their rewards system. GlobalGiving awards the site visit verified seal to those organizations that have been visited by a representative from the organization. In 2019, OBAT received a “Staff Favorite” seal from GlobalGiving as one of their employees chose OBAT as their favorite organization.



## GUIDESTAR

GuideStar is the world’s largest information portal on nonprofits. The platinum seal awarded to OBAT by GuideStar denotes the highest level of transparency exhibited by a nonprofit registered in the GuideStar database.



## GREAT NONPROFITS

Top-rated awards are given by Great Nonprofits to organizations that have been rated highly by people who experience their work first hand, whether they are the people served, volunteers or donors.

# What Makes OBAT Out of the Ordinary

## OBAT EMPOWERS

Most of the staff running OBAT's programs belong to the camp communities. At one time, their only hope for a source of income was low-wage, labor-intensive work that could barely support their families. Working for OBAT means, receiving training continuously to improve their skills and advancing and forging their career paths. What better way to empower people than train them to help their own!

## OBAT ADVANCES GENDER EQUALITY

Defeating cultural taboos related to girls' education is challenging in the camp environment. OBAT's team makes personal efforts to encourage changes in mind-sets of parents. These efforts have paid off as the percentage of female students in OBAT's educational projects is significantly higher than males.

## OBAT CREATES FUTURE LEADERS

By setting up Think Tanks across the country, OBAT is creating future leaders who can take charge of their own futures. These consist of young men and women who identify, finance and undertake projects to address problems that exist around them in the camp environment. Think Tank members gain valuable lessons in management, taking initiatives and working in teams.



## OBAT STRIVES FOR TECH-DRIVEN CHANGE

The present era of technology-driven transformation is redefining everything, including how we communicate, innovate, train, and educate. OBAT desires that its students be as tech-savvy as their counterparts outside the camps and be eventually able to compete for jobs at an equal standing with others. Computers are used at most schools to supplement education. Khan Academy is used to reinforce regular coursework at OBAT institutions. Our Computer Training Centers instruct students in everything, from using MS Office to programming languages and graphic designing, imparting skills that build their job prospects and train them to pursue online freelancing job opportunities. OBAT has also introduced technology-enabled learning at an early stage of schooling- through its partnership with TTWF (Teach the World Foundation), digital learning (learning through tablets) has been introduced to children aged 4-6, in its preschools.

## What Makes OBAT Out of the Ordinary (continued)

### OBAT LISTENS

The voices of our constituents matter to us. We listen to the concerns and suggestions of parents at parent teacher meetings. We create programming that reflects the needs of the communities we serve. The Back to School program was established to serve students who couldn't continue with their education due to financial constraints and need to be assimilated back into a school routine. Due to illiteracy, Adult females in the camp could not carry out basic tasks involving management of money or activities of daily living. The Adult Literacy program was created to address this issue and to equip them with basic literacy. The Education for Working Children Program educates kids who cannot attend regular school as they have to work to add to the family's income.



### OBAT TAKES A HOLISTIC APPROACH

We recognize that mental health is as important as physical well-being. Our students belong to a challenging living environment and are exposed to stress and anxiety on a continuous basis. To alleviate some of the adverse effects of their surroundings, we have trained our teachers to meditate with their class before the start of the day. The practice improves their learning, attention span, promotes emotional health and controls anxiety.

### OBAT ADDRESSES GLOBAL GOALS

Out of the 17 internationally agreed sustainable development goals for 2030, OBAT is currently working towards five of these goals through the implementation of its projects. These goals are:

- End poverty
- End hunger
- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being at all ages
- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



“

I have supported OBAT Helpers for a number of years due to the importance of their mission and cause. It is a unique organization dedicated to people living in Bangladesh in camps in extremely poor conditions. These are people that have been forgotten and you will not hear about them in the news. OBAT Helpers approach them in a comprehensive manner focusing on education, empowerment, health and lifting them out of poverty. Without OBAT Helpers, they would have a much worse life.”

- SJALAL



# Highlights of 2019

## Two new preschools added in Chittagong

Two new preschools were established in the Raufabad area in Chittagong. Forty children were enrolled in these preschools.



*A preschool class*

## OBAT ramped up skill-based education

Bangladesh is swiftly traversing the path of industrial development. Skilled human resources are acutely needed to keep pace with the industrialization. Keeping in mind the needs of the country, OBAT has brought radical changes in its education system. Providing technical education has now become a high priority. Forty-one students who took their SSC (Secondary

School Certificate) exam from OBAT's projects, were admitted in the Technical Training Center and the Government Polytechnic Institute. The departments of study include Fashion Design, Woodwork, Computers, Dress Making, Farm Machinery, Knitting, Electronics, AutoCAD, Electrical and Mechanical work.



*Skill-based education.*

## New School added to OBAT's education program

The Mirpur Shaheen School in Dhaka is the latest addition to OBAT's education program. The objectives of running the Shaheen School include increasing enrollment to provide support to more students, especially to orphans. Renovating the school and increasing the capacity of teachers and management, is also a part of OBAT's plan to improve the schools' operations. The grades run

from nursery to tenth grade level; 650 students are currently enrolled in this school.



*Mirpur Shaheen School*

## 259 People Received the Gift of Sight

The Rangpur Deep Eye Care Foundation arranged an eye camp in February at OBAT's Rangpur School premises. Two hundred and thirteen people were screened from the surrounding camp area and fifty-one patients were selected for surgery from among them.

In Khulna, seventy-five people received cataract eye surgeries with the help of local partner, CSS (Christian Service Society) Eye Hospital. These surgeries were conducted at the Rev. Abdul Wadud Memorial Hospital which is funded by the German Embassy.

## Highlights of 2019



*Rangpur Eye Camp*

A free eye camp was organized by OBAT Think Tank in Syedpur, courtesy of the Deep Eye Care Foundation. A total of 437 patients received treatment during this camp (92 male and 345 female patients). Of these, 127 patients were identified as needing cataract surgeries and received them over the course of the next few days.

In Chittagong, six people received cataract surgeries while 810 students at OBAT's Junior High and Elementary Schools underwent a vision exam.

Thank you to all the partners who helped us give the gift of sight!

### **OBAT's board convened for 2019 retreat**

The weekend of March 9th was a busy one for OBAT's board and staff as Directors met from all

over the US at its Indianapolis headquarters. A daylong retreat culminated with an appreciation gathering for some of OBAT's donors and supporters in Indianapolis. Some of the people present included two individuals, Dr. Ibad Ansari and Dr. Majid, who were present at the time OBAT's foundations were laid. Many young volunteers of OBAT also attended the event.

A board meeting took place the next day. The retreat and meeting were a wonderful opportunity for everyone to meet new Directors who had recently joined the board.



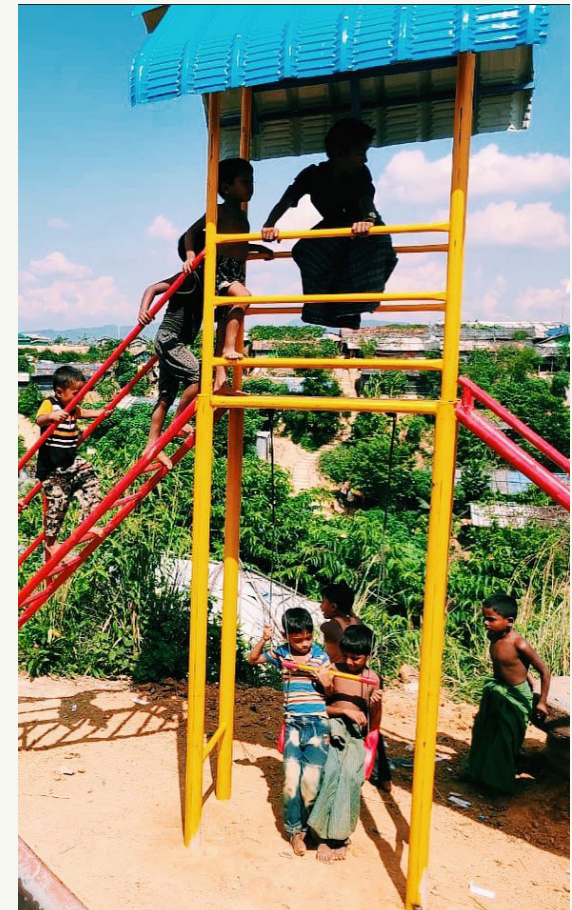
*Board Retreat*

### **Rohingya construction project was a finalist for an award!**

OBAT's construction project, the children's playground in the Rohingya camps, was honored

as one of the finalists for the FIBRA award.

The FIBRA Award recognizes entities, architects and engineers who use bio-based construction materials.



*Playground gets Fibra Award*

## Highlights of 2019

### New Tutoring Center in Khulna

A new Tutoring Center was established in camp #1 at Khalishpur, with the support of OBAT's Think Tank members. The Think Tank, a volunteer group of students, is dedicated to improving the lives of their community through various projects. The objective of the Tutoring Center is to provide coaching to students so that they can attain excellent results in the PSC exam (Primary School Certificate public exam). Forty students were enrolled at the new tutoring center.



*Gitalata Tutoring*

### New Computer Center in Chittagong

A new Computer Training Center began operations in 2019 in Rawfabad Colony in

Chittagong, making it the first initiative of OBAT in this area. A big Thank You to a donor from the local area, Mr. Muhammad Faisal Sharif, who contributed five computers to start this project. This is the first free computer training center for underprivileged youth in the area. It offers basic computer courses from the Microsoft Office suite. Twenty students comprised the first batch of students at the center.



*New computer center in Chittagong*

### Ambassadors of OBAT-Dallas, hold fundraising event

On April 21st, the Ambassadors of OBAT- Dallas, held a brunch to create awareness and raise funds for OBAT's projects. The event attracted several notable local community members. Key speakers included Sheikh Yasir Qadhi, Azhar Azeez and

Ustadh Baajour. Thank you to the speakers, to OBAT's Board Director, Dr. Rezwan Khan, and all other respected community members, for organizing this event for OBAT. We are grateful for the support of all the guests who attended.



*Sheikh Yasir Qadhi at event held by Ambassadors of OBAT-Dallas*

### OBAT was at the ICNA convention!

The 44th annual ICNA-MAS convention was held in DC on the weekend of April 19th. 2019 marked OBAT's maiden presence at the convention. Thank you to the old friends who stopped by and to the new friends we welcomed to the OBAT Family.

## Highlights of 2019



Anwar Khan (center) with Dr. Mansoor (right) at ICNA convention

### OBAT's student was the only pupil to achieve an A+ grade from a group of 140!

Sima is currently studying at the Government Textile Vocational Institute. She is an OBAT Tutoring Center student as well as a scholarship recipient. In the Secondary School Certificate exam held in February 2019, she was the only student among a group of 140, to achieve an A+ grade or a 5.0 GPA!

We are so proud of students like Sima who defy the darkness in their lives and outshine others with their hard work!



Sima

### Interfaith iftar supported Rohingya refugees

May 25th saw a powerful display of interfaith service, when Muslim, Jewish and interfaith organizations joined together for a fundraising iftar for OBAT's work for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

MC, Emily Longnecker from local TV channel WTHR, kept the audience engaged as key note speakers Mindy and Rabbi Jeff Glickman and other visitors to the camps, Kristin Wright and



Interfaith iftar

Fatima Hussain spoke about witnessing the impact of OBAT during their visits. Eh Too Rah and Rabbi Brett recited Christian and Jewish prayers while Imam Ahmed Alamine recited the adhan at the time of the Muslim prayer. Thank you to all our participants, sponsors, guests, speakers and volunteers for coming together for an inspiring interfaith evening. A special shout out to the JCRC (Jewish Community Relations Council) for taking the initiative to raise awareness for the Rohingya crisis and for being the lead sponsor for this event!

## Highlights of 2019



*New water pump at Khulna*

### 500 families received clean water from new water pump at Khulna

To alleviate the water crisis in the month of Ramadan which is observed by the camp residents, OBAT's Khulna team installed a deep tube well with a submersible pump, at Khalishpur, camp number 3. The tube well provides clean water to 500 families.



*Mr. Hazem Bata addresses the audience at the ISNA Iftar*

### OBAT's annual iftar at ISNA drew a large crowd

Every year, families in Indianapolis come together to sponsor a fundraising iftar for OBAT at the ISNA headquarters. 2019 saw a very large crowd. Speaker, Hazem Bata talked about injustices and trauma endured by displaced people and the collective responsibility of communities to help them. We are very grateful to all the iftar sponsors, to Mr. Hazem Bata and to the MC, Fatima Hussain, for contributing to the iftar's success.



*Asha*

### OBAT's Students Advance to National Level Programming Competition!

The 'National Children and Youth Programming Contest' of 2019 was aimed toward nurturing tech-savvy youth to help achieve the goal of a digital Bangladesh-one of the development goals of the country. This is the biggest school-level programming contest held in the country.

The contest was preceded by a two-day training provided for the contestants. Thirty students from OBAT's Junior School and Tutoring Center in Syedpur participated in the competition, along with 15,000 other students from all over Bangladesh. Contestants from OBAT had received training on Python, a programming language.

## Highlights of 2019



*Sadia receiving the award.*

Asha, a bright girl studying in grade seven in OBAT's Junior School, Syedpur attained the 1st position from Nilphamari district. She was invited to meet the District Commissioner of the Nilphamari district. In Rangpur, eleven of OBAT's scholarship students participated in the competition. Sadia, a student of OBAT's Rangpur IT Center, attained the 1st position from Rangpur district.

## OBAT's President participated in second ministerial to advance religious freedom, in DC

OBAT's President, Mr. Anwar Khan, had the honor to speak on a panel on the topic, "Fragmentation of Religious Minority

Communities Across Regions and How International Humanitarian Aid Organizations can Bridge People and Build Back Communities." Mr. Khan spoke about the forgotten population served by OBAT. The panel was a part of the Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom, in Washington D.C. and was attended by hundreds of religious leaders, international humanitarian relief organizations and institutional investors. The event was hosted by US AID.



*(L to R) Javier Piedra, Tom Farr, Anwar Khan \_ Seth Davis*

## ChildLife Foundation honored OBAT's work

Mr. Asharf Amdani, one of the founders of the ChildLife Foundation which does important humanitarian work in Pakistan, invited OBAT at

its annual event. Mr. Amdani has also been a great supporter of OBAT. During the event, Mr. Amdani and CEO of Childlife Foundation, Mr. Ahson Rabbani, spoke about OBAT and recognized its humanitarian work. They presented OBAT's President, Mr. Anwar Khan, with a shield to recognize OBAT's services. Mr. Khan also spoke to the audience about OBAT's work.

We are very thankful for the support of the Childlife Foundation and extend a special note of gratitude to Mr. Amdani and Mr. Rabbani.



*(L) Anwar Khan receiving shield from Ahson Rabbani at the Childlife Foundation fundraiser*

## Highlights of 2019

### OBAT met old & new friends at the ISNA Convention

The 2019 ISNA Convention was chock full of activities for OBAT. The staff and volunteers usually meet many new and old friends through the organization's booth. This time, a lucky person who entered a drawing at the booth, also won a gift card. OBAT also hosted a meet and greet event. Thank you to all the guests who attended this informative event, which included many interesting features such as open discussions, a panel discussion of visitors to OBAT's programs and a scavenger hunt as well.



*Staff and volunteers at the ISNA convention*

OBAT's President, Mr. Anwar Khan, was also invited to be a part of a panel hosted by ISNA. Participants were invited to speak on the Rohingya Crisis, their roles and the role that can be played by the general public in addressing it.

### New Adult Literacy Program in Syedpur

On the International Day of Literacy, the Syedpur Think Tank inaugurated a new Adult Literacy Program in Syedpur. Twenty-five women are enrolled in this new class. The class will be held once a week on Fridays from 5-7 PM. Books were provided to the students at the inaugural event. The course will be completed over a period of four months. The following subjects will be taught to the students:

- Bangla and English reading and writing
- Basic computer skills
- Basic course on operating a mobile phone (includes use of mobile banking, dial in customer care/help line etc.)



*New Adult Literacy Program in Syedpur*

### St.Louis welcomes OBAT

On November 23rd, the Ambassadors of OBAT-St.Louis (a local informal chapter of OBAT), held an awareness and fundraising brunch for OBAT for the local St.Louis community. We are very grateful to the organizers, Dr. Helal Ekramuddin, Dr. Zia Moiz, Dr. Azfar Malik and Dr. Ahmreen Khan, for organizing a wonderful event. The biggest number of volunteers have visited the OBAT projects from St. Louis so far. The group is also a yearly sponsor of OBAT's SB Nagar School which has a strength of 637 students. We are very grateful to this generous community for their dedication and commitment to the cause.



## Highlights of 2019



*Dr. Ahmreen Khan at event hosted by Ambassadors of OBAT St.Louis*

### OBAT introduces Khan Academy to its students!

Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Rajeev Agarwal and Jawaid Ekram, OBAT's Chief Advisor from Seattle, free online courses from the Khan Academy have been introduced to the students at OBAT's Schools and Tutoring Centers. Mr. Agarwal and Mr. Ekram are friends who are jointly running the tech4future initiative. The idea is to supplement the learning of the students and enhance their Math skills while also increasing their comfort

level with usage of desktop computers. Students are very excited at the introduction of the new courses and are keen to participate in them. Thanks to our team for implementing the program!



*Khan Academy class*

### Purdue University's MSA dedicates Refugee Gala to OBAT

The Muslim Student Association of Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana, recently held a Refugee Gala in support of refugees all over the world. The student association generously donated the proceeds of the Gala for OBAT's work for Rohingya refugees. The event was attended by students upwards of 100-some parents accompanied their children as well. As a

part of the engaging program, the audience were able to watch a short video about the Rohingya crisis and OBAT's work to address it. Thank you to the Purdue MSA and to all those who attended!



*Purdue University's Refugee Gala to benefit OBAT*

### Two community centers and a playground get reconstructed during 2019

OBAT Helpers constructed two Community Centers in late 2017 to provide areas for Rohingya to socialize, conduct meetings, and participate in trainings and gatherings. Unfortunately, heavy rainfall, flooding, and landslides during the early monsoon season

## Highlights of 2019



*Community Center Reconstructed*

inflicted **serious damage to both centers**. In July, OBAT began this reconstruction, and this month the **construction of both community centers was completed!** Community Center 2 will now serve as a much-needed **Youth Adolescent Center** in camp 4.

In addition to the two Community Centers, the Children's playground, built in partnership with United4Charity in 2018, also experienced **severe monsoon damage**. OBAT recognizes that the park is vital to creating a safe space for **over 500 Rohingya Children** to play and enjoy some semblance of childhood. Reconstruction began immediately following the destruction months ago with builders working to **reinforce the steps of the park with concrete rings. The reconstruction**

**was completed in late 2019.** It is a very popular installment in camp 8W; children come from all over the different camps to play here.

### Digital learning is implemented in TLC 4 in July

OBAT realized the potential of Digital Learning through its pilot programs-studies showed its immense power to alter the educational landscape of refugee children. Initial pilot tests of Digital Learning showed student **literacy gains 1.5x greater and numeracy gains 2.7x greater than gains from traditional classrooms**. In just one month since implementation, it appears the students of TLC 4 are set to achieve, if not over-achieve, these learning objectives

OBAT is excited to work towards making Digital Learning available to all its Learning Centers. In 2019, digital learning was introduced to TLC 4. Facilitators have seen attitude boosts towards learning, and students are enthusiastic about using tablet based apps.



*Student in digital learning center1*



You want sincerity, competence, integrity, honesty, strength, energy, compassion, empathy and heart in a charity. That is exactly what you get with OBAT Helpers. You simply won't find a better group of people. From the field workers to the board of directors to the founders of this Humanitarian Aid and Relief organization, OBAT Helpers makes their donors, partners and volunteers feel like part of their family. I had heard about OBAT Helpers in 2016, when I was fortunate enough to have been invited to an event to raise funds for their projects supporting the Bihari Community in Bangladesh. I had worked with their Executive Director on a relief mission in Pakistan a few years back. Watching the presentation, I was impressed with their passion and dedication to people that the world has forgotten. I hadn't even heard of the Bihari before that night. Last year when the Rohingya crisis flared up and hundreds of thousands of people were forced to flee into Bangladesh to escape the genocidal campaign of the Myanmar Army, I contacted

OBAT Helpers to see if they were responding. Sure enough, they were putting a relief mission together. I decided to support their mission because they already had 14 years of experience serving a stateless and neglected community, and are already registered in Bangladesh and thus could get moving quicker in delivery of aid than larger international organizations. I visited them twice, In October and December and have referred several volunteers and donors to their "Humanitarian Assistance" mission in the Rohingya camps, which has grown from an emergency assistance program into a long term refugee camp management program, concentrating on bringing health, shelter and education for the Rohingya People. Their international volunteers were from all over and some of the coolest people I've ever met. I also took the opportunity to visit several schools and camps where they are assisting the Bihari People in all facets of life, from clean water projects to higher education scholarships. Wherever I went, I could see their positive impact where it counts the most- on the faces of the children and families they serve. A regeneration of my hope for Humanity took place as I saw the young people who are employed by OBAT Helpers, many of who are



refugees themselves, enthusiastically going about their work with beautiful and contagious smiles, a can do attitude, and a sense of belonging and purpose. They are doing amazing and inspiring work in the toughest and most heartbreaking of situations and I hope you will join them in any way you can because they are worth any amount of time and money you could give."

**- TODD SHEA,  
CEO & FOUNDER  
COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER  
RESPONSE SERVICES (CDRS)**

# Visitors



Mr. Anir Chawdhury, Special Adviser to Prime Minister of Bangladesh



Center- Azhar Azeez, President of ISNA



Dr. Henna Qureshi- Pediatrician and Director on OBAT's board



Arishaa Khan- OBAT's volunteer for special events and projects



Center- Kristin Wright, Public Relations Professional and Humanitarian



Dr. Sebastião Martins- Medical Professional and Volunteer from Portugal

## Visitors



Dr. Shujaat Wasty- OBAT's Vice-President



Team from Franciscan Health in the US. From left to right: Dr. Kevin McNulty, Dr. Hira Naqvi, Dr. Kami Smith, Dr. Jeff Jones, Dr. Greg Specht, Dr. Adam Paarlberg



Team from International Rescue Committee



Professor of Psychology, Dr. Tara Callaghan from Canada's St. Francis Xavier University



Friends of Humanity USA at OBAT's Syedpur School



Left: Dr. Ahmreen Khan - volunteer at OBAT's Rohingya Clinic

## Visitors



Manal - Volunteer



Mandy - Volunteer



Masum Mahbub- Former Director on OBAT's Board



Mandy and Farhana - Volunteers



Marwa & Abeer - Volunteers from Oman



MIT's D-Lab Humanitarian Specialist, Martha Thompson, visiting the Rohingya camps

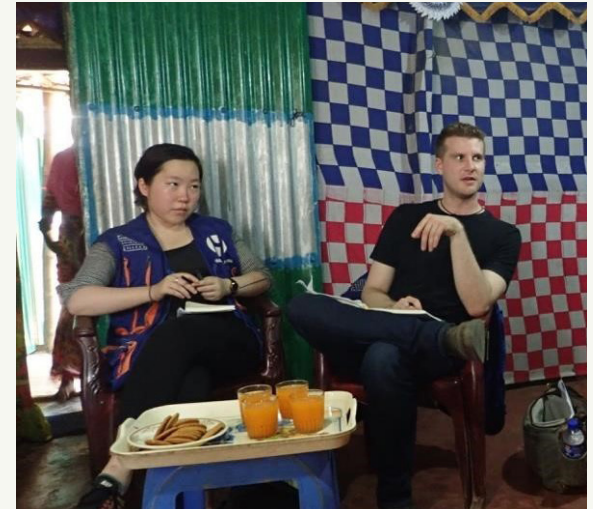
## Visitors



Mohammad Malick- Photographer



Ms. Fareeda from Save the Children



Tommy Schaperkötter and Shaowen from Harvard University



Mr. Aftab Iqbal - OBAT's supporter from California



Center: Philippa Nilsson - Volunteer



Front: Shafin and Mariam- Volunteers from Hong Kong and the US

## Visitors



United States Ambassador to Bangladesh, Mr. Earl R. Miller, observed World Refugee day by visiting the Rohingya camps.



RCF's (Refugee Crisis Foundation) team



Visitors from Kuwait, Mishari Al Fouzan, Hind AlMelhem, Aysha Al Sharbati Khandaker and Shawqi Al Sharbati, with field staff



# Urdu-Speaking Community Projects

## Our Programmatic Areas: Education, Health, Relief and Family Assistance, Empowerment, Infrastructure and Development

OBAT's work for the Urdu-speaking camp communities is focused in the above five core areas. While each area is essential to address the severe dearth of basic amenities of living prevalent in the camps, our education program remains our primary focus. Seventy percent of our budget is devoted to expansive education programming. The literacy rate in the camps is approximately 6% and poverty is pervasive. The only tool with which the camp residents can fight poverty and improve their socioeconomic situation is education. This notion drives our education programming, which caters to preschool students and encompasses further academic levels up to college education. We recognize that a student who does not have access to clean water and respectable living conditions and is not healthy, will be unable to perform well academically. Our other core areas address these basic needs. With all five areas supplementing each other, we bring impactful and sustainable change to the lives of the camp residents.

### Education in 2019



**12**  
Schools



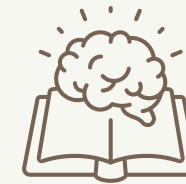
**8**  
Computer  
Training  
Centers



**37**  
Preschools



**10**  
Tutoring  
Centers



**4**  
Arabic Education  
Programs

**1,313**  
Scholarships



**1**  
Back to School  
Program



**4**

Adult Literacy  
and 1 Education  
for Working  
Children  
Program



**7,490**

students enrolled  
in OBAT's education  
programs



## Projects

### Health in 2019



**12,780**

people received health care (including cataract surgeries, maternity services and treatment for common ailments) at two health clinics and one mobile clinic

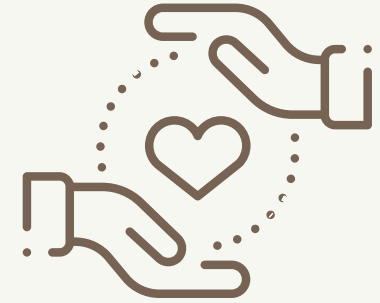


**259**

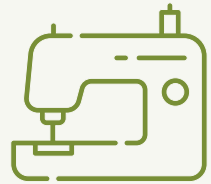
cataract surgeries

**90**

health counseling sessions were attended by a total of 745 people



### Empowerment Initiatives in 2019



**261**

women received embroidery and sewing training at 6 of OBAT's Sewing and Embroidery Training Centers



**5**

youth Think Tanks in the cities of Dhaka, Chittagong, Rangpur, Syedpur and Khulna, undertook projects to address issues affecting the camp residents in their surrounding areas.

### Relief and Family Assistance in 2019



**Almost 71,500**

people received assistance through the Ramadan charity, qurbani and family assistance program

### Infrastructure and Development in 2019

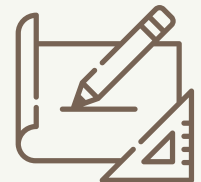


**More than 100,000**

people had access to clean water and sanitation facilities through 99 bathrooms and 198 tube wells (deep/motorized and shallow tube wells as well as hand pumps).

**17**

reconstruction and repair projects benefitted approximately 12,016 people.



# Rohingya Projects



In 2019, OBAT retained its focus on addressing the Rohingya crisis through the three major areas of EDUCATION, HEALTH AND EMPOWERMENT. The projects that were established in 2018, such as the 82 deep tube wells, continued to provide clean water to 39,000 refugees. Families also benefitted from the 1,504 shelters that were constructed by OBAT to house the refugees in 2018.

# EDUCATION IN 2019

- 23 Learning Centers
- Rohingya Language classes
- Digital Learning program
- 2,875 students received the life-changing gift of an education in the Rohingya camps.

In a community that is 90 percent illiterate, the education of Rohingya children is particularly powerful in that it has the potential to greatly improve this poor literacy rate, therefore having a high chance of changing the outcomes of the Rohingya community in the future.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) is also integrated in the Digital Learning curriculum. This component teaches children to manage their behavior and to cope with stress, dispel anger, avoid distractions and dissipates the effects of trauma. Rohingya children have benefited



immensely from OBAT's Learning Centers, which provide them with:

- A comprehensive and consistent education
- Classes in English, Burmese and Mathematics
- A safe place to learn, make friends, and just be children
- Nutritional supplements for their diet- most children suffer from malnutrition. 600 meals were distributed in 2019.

- An escape from the harsh reality of their life in the refugee camp

We are proud to have a nearly 50-50 gender balance ratio in the classrooms. During 2019, exams took place in the Learning Centers- over 1,000 students took exams in English, Burmese and Mathematics. Students in OBAT's Learning Centers exhibit a keen interest to learn, as demonstrated by the student dropout rate which is very close to zero.



## HEALTH IN 2019

At OBAT Helpers' popular Health Post in Camp 4 of the Kutupalong Rohingya Camp, all staff and volunteers maintained the high standard of care for the patients. 65,701 people received treatment at the clinic in 2019.

### Services provided at the clinic include:

- 12 outpatient rooms
- Emergency Room with 4 beds
- Laboratory services
- Fully stocked pharmacy
- Maternity and family planning services
- Dental services

### Patients receive treatment for the following, among other ailments:

- Noncommunicable diseases
- Mental Health conditions
- Injuries
- Acute Health conditions



## EMPOWERMENT IN 2019

The Women's Sewing Class was the major highlight of the Women's Empowerment Center, providing a friendly space for Rohingya women to gather, socialize, and learn a skill that will allow them to generate some income for their families. Sewing classes opened opportunities to over sixty women in 2019. The center contains 58 sewing machines and has given the women an income-earning avenue- some of the students are now stitching clothes that are purchased from them by volunteers and visitors.



# Lives Transformed



## ABUL KASHEM

My name is Abul Kashem. I am 26 years old and live with my family in Ispahani camp no. 2 in the city of Rangpur in Bangladesh. Since I was a child, I dreamt about becoming a doctor when I grew up. Things went well initially as I progressed in school. However, various difficulties besieged us when I was in grade six. My father worked as a night security guard and with his limited salary, it was getting impossible for him to bear my education expenses. My dream was about to be crushed, just like the dreams of my elder brothers and sister, whom I had watched drop out of school earlier.

However, I received a gift from God in the form of a wonderful and kindhearted man, Anwar Khan, the President of OBAT Helpers. He has played the most vital role in my journey.

I would have had to give up on my dreams if OBAT Helpers had not helped me. One has to struggle a lot in the camps to access basic amenities of living. Hence, such dreams are impossible to realize. OBAT made this possible not just for me but also inspired thousands of other students to reach for their aspirations and to become educated. My parents also supported me a lot-I could not have done this without their prayers.

OBAT started supporting my education after grade six. I did not have to worry about paying my admission fee, purchasing books or incurring any other expense. I feel really blessed as I am the only one in my family who got the chance to study and also because I became the first Doctor from the camp community. I want to serve my community and work to create positive changes in their lives.

I want to specially acknowledge another compassionate gentleman who is worthy of great respect. Mr. Syed Oqail helped me through OBAT, and bore all the expenses of medical school. I can never express enough gratitude for the support of Mr. Oqail and OBAT. I pray from the depths of my heart that may God bless Mr. Anwar Khan and all other people at OBAT who are involved in changing the lives of people.

I have now finished my medical degree and am doing my residency at Rangpur Medical College. I will move to Dhaka for further studies after the residency and hope to specialize in either cardiology or gastroenterology. Please keep me in your prayers. Thank you, once again!



## Lives Transformed

### DILRUBA JARAM

Dilruba Jaman was born and brought up in a hut in Central Community Camp in Dhaka. She has three siblings-her younger brother is studying in college with the support of OBAT as well. Her father runs a small tea stall in the camp and supports the family with his meagre income.

Dilruba started her journey with OBAT in 2010 when she took admission in OBAT's Tutoring Center as an SSC (secondary school certificate) exam candidate-she was the only science student in her class. She took her SSC exam in 2011, achieving a 5.0 Golden A+ GPA. In 2013, she took her HSC exam, again achieving a 5.0 GPA.

"After taking my HSC exam, I appeared for the Medical School Admission Exam but narrowly missed getting accepted. I was about to lose hope of being in this field of study. Mr. Anwar Khan heard about me through the staff and visited my home. That was a really big surprise and honor for me! He asked me about my plan for higher education and I briefly explained that I really wanted to continue with my studies. It was not just my dream; my father also wanted me to build my career in the pharmaceutical or medical field. After hearing everything, Mr. Khan not only encouraged me but also promised that he will provide me with all kinds of support to continue my education."

With OBAT's support, Dilruba took admission in the University of Asia Pacific, a renowned private university for Pharmacy whose program is equivalent to the excellence of Dhaka University's Pharmacy Department. She received a partial scholarship from OBAT from 2015 to 2018. Dilruba completed her Bachelors of Pharmacy and is now a registered graduate pharmacist!

"This is a really huge achievement for me. It would not have been possible for me and my family to get this far without the support of OBAT. OBAT not only supported me financially but also made me a volunteer in its Think Tank, enabling me to grow as a young community leader. I will be forever grateful to OBAT and Mr. Khan for standing beside me."

Dilruba always remained a hardworking student. She obtained a Dean's Award in 2017 for excellent result in the semester. Her work encompassed a project on comparative quality evaluation of different brands of Fexofenadine Hydrochloride 120 mg tablets. She and her team received the runners up trophy for their stall in an exhibition organized by University of Asia Pacific. The newspaper, "Kaler Kantha," published her team's story on "Antibiotic Resistance Awareness Campaign."





## Lives Transformed

### MAHEJABIN AKHTER

Mahejabin Akhter is from the Bansbari Camp in the city of Syedpur. She has three siblings. Her father runs a small shop in the camp to support his family.

"I started my journey with OBAT Helpers in 2012 when I took admission in OBAT's Computer Training Center. I completed my SSC (Secondary School Certificate) and HSC (High School Certificate) with a 5.0 GPA.

After passing my HSC (High School Certificate) exam, I could not apply to many universities, as my family could not afford the expenses associated with them. I took admission in a national University but I wasn't content as I knew that I deserved something better. However, this was what my circumstances allowed me to do.

I was about to lose hope when I applied for China's student scholarship program.

Fortunately, I got a full scholarship to the BBA (Bachelors of Business Administration Program). However, I had to pay all other living expenses. My family took loans to fulfill my dream. However, we were treading on thin ice. I decided to contact the president of OBAT Helpers, Mr. Anwar Khan and explained my situation to him. Surprisingly, he visited my home. At that time, I was in China but I can't relate how happy and surprised I was. This was not just my dream-my family also wanted me to have a bright future and be a role model for others in the community.

Mr. Khan promised to provide me with all the support I needed to continue my studies. It is a huge achievement for me to study abroad-one that would not be possible without the support of OBAT.

Other than financial support, OBAT also enlisted me as a volunteer. I experienced a lot of personal growth working as a young community leader who was entrusted with creating positive change in her surroundings. I now have the confidence to present my community's needs as well as OBAT's projects even in front of government officials!

I will be forever grateful to OBAT Helpers!"



## Lives Transformed

### NOWSHAD ALAM

Nowshad Alam lives in New Relief Camp in Rangpur, Bangladesh. He has completed his graduation and post-graduation degrees from the Department of Chemistry at the University of Dhaka-the University is regarded as a highly reputable and top-ranked university in Bangladesh.

“Things started to get tough when I started secondary (middle) school. My father was a day laborer and was the only person earning an income among the nine members of my family. With the responsibility of so many mouths to feed, educational expenses could not remain a priority for him. At that time, I thought I might not be able to continue my studies anymore and would need to start working. Mr. Anwar Khan, the President of OBAT visited our camp around that time and asked me about my goals and vision. He told me, “You need not worry about expenses and other issues. You just work hard, I am with you.”

That one sentence gave me courage and strength. I started working even harder.

In 2009, I took my SSC (Secondary School Certificate) exam and attained a 5.0, Golden GPA. I ranked 128th among 300,000 students. In



2011, I achieved a Golden GPA again in the HSC exam and attained 3rd position among 180,000 students in the Board of Education.

After my HSC exam, I applied to the University of Dhaka. About 75,000 students appeared in the entrance exam, vying for only 1,500 spots. I was one of those lucky 1,500 students who passed the entrance exam with a good score.

I have now completed my graduation and post-graduation and I am planning to study further. I also took the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) exam. Almost 0.4 million students participated in the BSC exam and only 20 thousand could pass the preliminary stage. I was fortunate and

blessed to be one of those students and am very thankful to OBAT and its supporters for making all this possible.”

Nowshad's other achievements included receiving a government scholarship for obtaining the 2nd position in the entrance exam to Rangpur Zilla School and another for obtaining the 128th position in the SSC exam. A third government scholarship was awarded to him for obtaining the 3rd position in the HSC examination. He is the first student from the camp community to study Chemistry at Dhaka University, where he did his thesis work on the evaluation of toxic effects of heavy metal salts on the human body.

## Lives Transformed

### NUR FATEMA

My name is Nur Fatema and I am 11 years old. It has been over two years since I arrived in Bangladesh with my mother and my baby brother. My father was killed in Myanmar by the Tatmadaw (Myanmar Armed Forces). I didn't see him killed, but my mother did. I also had an older brother; he was taken by the Tatmadaw too. We don't know where he was taken and have not seen him since. Life is hard in the camp. But I love going to school. I have been an OBAT student at an OBAT Helpers Learning Center for nearly two years now. I have many friends at school and my teacher is so nice and helpful. We have our own workbooks for homework and class practice and I recently moved up to the next class level after our end of year exams! Sometimes, aid workers ask us to draw our favorite place. I always draw my classroom. This is because it is where I feel happy and I go there every day to learn new things. I love learning English and practicing sums in Mathematics at my OBAT Learning Center. I hope that I can become a teacher when I am older.



## Lives Transformed

### MOWLOVI MOHAMMAD HARAS



My name is Mowlovi Mohammad Haras and I am 72 years old. I have been living in the Kutupalong Rohingya Refugee Camp for the past two and a half years. I am originally from Myanmar and came to Bangladesh in 2017 to save my life as the Government of Myanmar and extremists from Rakhine State killed a lot of my friends and relatives. I saw many horrible things that give me nightmares.

After arriving in Bangladesh, the local government, NGOs and INGOs provided me and my family with continuous support in every aspect of our lives. It has been one year since I began receiving free medical treatment from OBAT Helpers at their Health Post. It has been really amazing to have their support. I am a regular non-communicable disease patient (NCD) with diabetes and hypertension, and therefore I need a constant supply of essential medicines. I have a large medical file at the clinic because I am a frequent patient. I am very happy with the treatment I receive from my regular doctor at the OBAT Clinic. All the support staff are very friendly as well. I choose to go to this clinic instead of other clinics even though it is a 45 minute walk for me and I am blind and require assistance walking. Thank you to everyone who is helping in providing this blessing to us.

“

I have become a great fan of OBAT since being introduced to them about a year ago. I was unaware of the scale of the issues that they have taken on in the camps they serve--from schooling to medical care clinics to micro-lending. Trying to serve an impoverished, marginalized community of 500,000+ is a massive challenge in itself.

I had the privilege of visiting two of the camps in Dhaka a few months ago and it was both a heart

wrenching and an inspiring experience. The conditions under which the camp inhabitants are living--no bathrooms, no running water, no kitchens, incredibly cramped quarters, extreme poverty--shook me to the core. What inspired me was the unbelievable optimism I saw in the faces of the children and adults I met and the degree of volunteerism that permeates the camps. It looks like everyone is helping their fellow campmate in one way or the other--a

high-schooler teaching a kindergartner, a seamstress teaching her neighbor how to sew...

I also saw OBAT in action there. They are loved by the camp residents, are able to get tremendous support from them as well as from communities outside the camps, and wonderfully leverage a “volunteer army” from the camps. I also saw a very lean operation

with almost no overhead, and a great deal of attention being paid to costs.

I have met the leadership team as well, from Anwar Khan (CEO & Founder) to Immad Siddiqui (COO) as well as others. They are among the most motivated, inspired and inspiring people I know--and their being at the helm gives me great confidence as a supporter.

In short, this is one of the best NGOs I have had the pleasure of supporting--and I work with quite a few good ones. Pound for pound, they deliver more than anyone I know. They also have a great cause which is easy to get behind, and they deliver visible, tangible results. My only concern is that they may be too lean; and that they may not have sufficient resources to do the fundraising they need to scale their programs. However, that motivates me to do more for them. I expect to remain supporter for a long time.”

**- SHAFIQ KHAN,  
PRESIDENT, TEACH THE  
WORLD FOUNDATION**



Mr. Shafiq Khan (2nd from right) & Mr. Robert Torres (2nd from left) with OBAT students.

# 2019 Financials

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY- 2019

Total Revenue

**\$1,553,955**

(total of restricted and unrestricted)

Admin Expenses

**\$66,035**

Fundraising Expenses

**\$59,400**

Program Expenses

**\$1,346,159**

Total Expenses

**\$1,471,594**

Change in Assets

**\$82,360**

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION- 2019

Total Asset

**\$210,659**

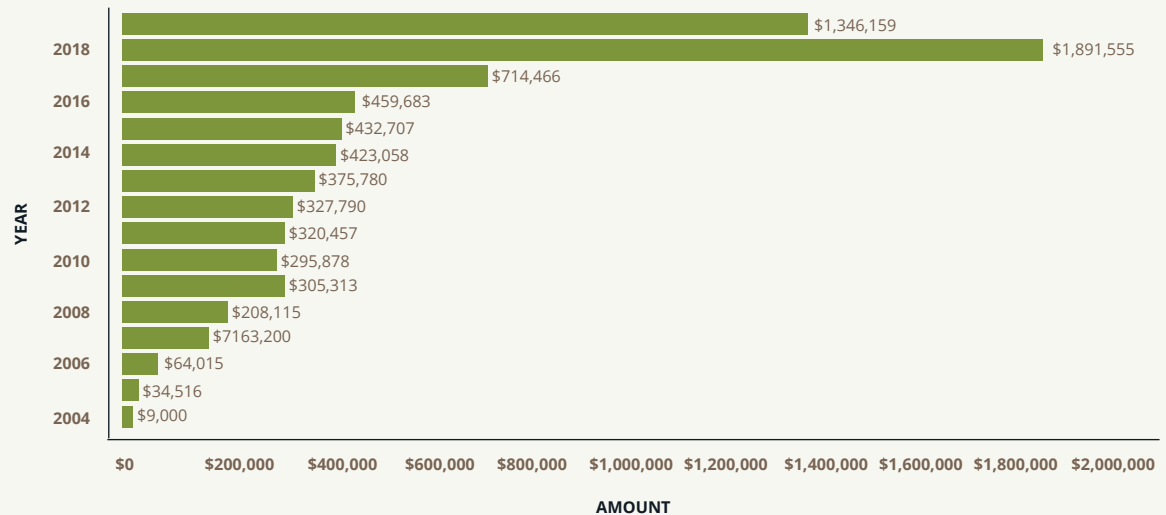
Total Net Assets

**\$189,563**

Total Liabilities

**\$21,096**

## PROJECT & PROGRAM EXPENSES 2004 - 2019



In 2018, the significant increase in program expenses is attributable to the construction of 1,504 shelters for Rohingya refugees. 1,000 of these shelters were built with the generous donation of \$630,000 by ALIGHT.

# Major Donors

Our supporters believe in our mission and stand by us each year to transform it into reality. Our gratitude towards them runs deep. On behalf of the people we serve, we would like to thank our major donors of **2019**.

Abdul and Salma Yaqub .....	IL	Hamid Mahmood .....	WA	Nauman Chaudhry & Uzma Zaidi .....	CT
Abdul Chaudhry & Saadia Batol .....	TX	Haris Syed .....	WA	Niaz & Shiba Haider .....	NJ
Abdul R. and Zeenat Chaudhry .....	NY	Helal Ekramuddin & Seema Najam .....	MO	Noman Akhtar .....	VA
ADAMS Center .....	VA	Irum Godil .....	WA	Nusrat Anwar & Anwar Saeed .....	CA
Aftab Farooqi & Tahira Ashraf .....	WA	Islamic Center of SW FL, Inc. ....	FL	OBAT Canada .....	Canada
Albert B. Glickman Family Foundation .....	ME	Iyaz Allah Baksh .....	WA	Quaid Saifee .....	MI
Anwar Hamid .....	CA	Jaam'e Masjid Bellmore .....	NY	Rabia Halim & Javaad A. Khan .....	FL
APPNA (Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America) .....	IL	Jawaid and Yasmeen Ekram Charitable Fund .....	WA	Raja & Salma Akbar .....	IA
Ashraf & Meher Lakhany .....	IL	Judith Glickman Lauder .....	ME	Rashid Hameed .....	CA
Ashraf Amdani .....	FL	Junaid Din & Iqra Bandukra .....	TX	Rehan Balagamwala .....	FL
AusRelief .....	Australia	Kahkashan Parveen & Narmeen Samad .....	WA	Rezwana Khan .....	CA
Azher M. & Aftab Khan .....	IN	Kashif Hasan .....	WA	Rizwan Samad .....	WA
Community Foundation Boulder County .....	CO	Khurshid Shaukat & Parveen Talat .....	TN	Sadia Chughtai .....	CA
Contributions from crowdfunding platforms .....		M.A. Nayer .....	NV	Saifur & Lubna Khan .....	TX
DAANA (Deccan Alumni Association of North America) ..	VA	Matloob & Mahjabeen Khan .....	IN	Saiyid R. Wahid .....	LA
David Gabovitch & Nonnie Vonnegut .....	IN	Moazzam & Shehla Habib .....	IN	Shahid Mansoor .....	LA
Dominique Liana Russo .....	Dubai	Mohammad Mazhar Islam Raja .....	TX	SHINE Humanity .....	CA
Eijaz Samad .....	WA	Mohammed Iqbal Advany .....	IN	Sohail & Seema Parekh .....	TX
Emran Sheikh .....	TX	Mohammed K. & Sarwar Raza .....	FL	Syed A. Moqeeth .....	OH
Executive Enterprises LLC .....	TX	Muhammad Aijaz & Seema Sattar .....	TX	Syed Izhar & Firdaus Mustafa .....	NY
Faheem Abbasi .....	IN	Muhammad Javed & Shahnaz Akhtar .....	PA	Syed M. Oqail .....	TX
Farah Effendi & Craig Novy .....	IN	Mumtaz Siddiqui .....	IL	Syed S. & Huma Hassan .....	NY
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Hala Fatima & Asif Aziz Sharfuddin .....	IN	Muslim Center of New York .....	NY	Zafar & Unbareen M. Imam .....	TX
		Naseem Shekhani .....	MO	Zaffar Tabani .....	TX

# OBAT's Team (US)

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## OFFICERS

Anwar Khan – President and Founder

Dr. Shujaat Wasty – Vice President

Charlie Wiles – Secretary

Syed W. Quadri- Treasurer

## DIRECTORS

Afshan Khan

Dr. Azfar Malik

Dr. Henna Qureshi

Dr. John Clark

Masum Mahbub (until April 2019)

Dr. Rezwan Khan

Sana Hussain

Tanweer A. Mallick

## US STAFF

Immad Ahmed – Executive Director (Until October 2019)

Masum Mahbub- Director, Policy and Partner Engagement (April 2019 onward)

Afshan Paarlberg- Director, Compliance and Strategic Engagement

Saima Hassan – Director, Development and Communications

Dayna Santana- Consultant (July 2019 onward)



# Partners in 2019

## IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

OBAT's projects in Bangladesh are executed with the assistance of local implementing partners. In 2019, our implementing partners included:

### ISDCM (Integrated Services for the Development of Mothers and Children)

- Sohail Akhter Khan-Program Manager, Bangladesh
- Farooq Azeem-Project Planning & Reporting Officer
- Ms. Shahana Akther-Chief Accounts Officer
- Humayun Kabir-Project Officer, Khulna
- Shahinur Rahman Guddu-Project Officer, Rangpur
- Mahfug Alam-Project Officer, Syedpur
- Mostak Himadree-Project Officer, Chittagong
- Md. Mahfuz Alam Hira-Project Officer, Dhaka

### OBAT Helpers Bangladesh

- Sabera Sultana-Executive Director
- Alauddin Ahmed-Chief Financial Officer
- Md. Fakhruddin-Administration and Procurement Officer

### Prantic Unnayan Society (For Rohingya Relief Program)

- AFM Rezaul Karim-Executive Director
- Shahnaz Islam-Program Manager
- Nargis Karim-Human Resources
- Animesh Atal-Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
- Shankar Bhowmick-Senior Accountant

# Our Service Partners

- BacBon Limited
- Badshah Faisal Institute
- Bangladesh Shilpokola Academy
- Bapsa (Association for Prevention of Septic Abortion, Bangladesh)
- Books Unbound
- Chittagong Mohila Technical Training Center (CMTTC)
- Chittagong Rifle Club
- Deep Eye Care Foundation
- Dhaka Presidency High School
- Euglena
- Harbinger International School
- International Grammar School
- Lions Club Chittagong
- M.M. Transport
- Mahmudun Nabi Chowdhury Technical School and College
- Manabik Shahajya Sangstha (MSS)
- MedGlobal
- NGO Forum
- Nobojug Adorsha Govt. Primary School
- Queen's School and College
- Refugee Crisis Foundation
- Shared Studios
- Sublime School
- Teach the World Foundation (TTWF)
- Uttar Kalshi Adorsha Bidyapaith



Vision Screening by Lions Club of Chittagong



Team from MedGlobal

# Spotlight on Staff

## SOHAIL AKHTER KHAN - PROJECT MANAGER, BANGLADESH



OBAT is fortunate to have a very devoted and committed team that is focused on continuously building and improving its humanitarian projects. We are especially grateful to the longest serving member of our team, Sohail Akhter Khan, who has been the cornerstone of OBAT's efforts for displaced communities since 2008. We applaud him for executing OBAT's mission with utmost

expertise and proficiency while practicing the highest standards of professionalism. OBAT's projects have thrived under his leadership since the last ten years and we would like you to get to know him as a vital part of the OBAT family.

Sohail Akhter Khan has over 25 years of experience working with renowned and international nonprofits such as Concern Worldwide. Most of his work has been focused in the areas of Education, Emergency Response Systems and Disaster Management. During this time, he has worked as a Teacher, Trainer and a Manager. One of his prominent achievements include finding the NEED Primary School (currently run by OBAT as the Halishaher School) in 2002 for the children of camp residents, as well as the Ananda Pathshala Kindergarten School. He has also been involved with various organizations such as SPGRC (Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee) and SAARC Human Rights Foundation.

Concern Worldwide has recognized Mr. Khan's manifold contributions to the Education sector. In 2009, he also received a gold medal for his

efforts from Alokito Saurov, a local magazine in Bangladesh. Mr. Khan was lauded for his humanitarian work by the Kolkata Press Club, which recognized him as a Human Rights Activist.

Sohail Akhter Khan's journey with OBAT began in 2005 when he met OBAT's President, Mr. Anwar Khan. According to him, working with OBAT was a pivotal opportunity to further his personal mission of serving underprivileged children. He worked for OBAT as a volunteer in 2006-2007 and became the Coordinator for its Education Program in 2008. In 2012, Mr. Khan took the helm of all OBAT projects in Bangladesh and has been serving as a Project Manager since then. During his work with OBAT, he helped establish three schools for the organization in Chittagong. When the Rohingya crisis erupted 2017, Mr. Khan helped OBAT establish its Rohingya Relief Program.

Mr. Sohail Akhter Khan's dedication to OBAT's mission and the communities we serve is an inspiration to us. Please join us in recognizing and thanking him as a stellar member of the OBAT family!

# Thank You

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Our gratitude extends towards the following for their valuable contributions to OBAT:

Our donors for their generous support.

Volunteers from around the world, including students and professionals from different backgrounds and skillsets for contributing their time and resources to the projects

Board of Directors and Board of Advisors for their leadership and guidance

## Annual report acknowledgements:

Brian Needles (<https://bneedles.myportfolio.com/>), for lending his graphic design skills to the creation of the report.

Afshan Paarlberg and Bilal Khan, for editing the report.

Saima Hassan, for creating the content of the report.

## Photographs by:

Zachary Rockwood ([www.zacharyrockwood.com](http://www.zacharyrockwood.com))

Dipu Ahmed and Noor Hasan (OBAT Media Productions- @obat. MediaProduction)

Other field staff



# OBATHELPERS

*Empowerment Through Community Development*

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