

2020



OBATHELPER
Empowerment Through Community Development

2020 Annual Report

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Mission, Vision, & Core Values

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 in 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.



Letter From Our President

Dear Friend,

I truly hope that you and your family remained safe during 2020 and the pandemic did not affect your health or livelihoods. My deepest prayers are with all of you who experienced ill health or loss of a loved one. May this year bring ease and peace to you.

The forgotten communities served by OBAT already face unimaginable poverty-most of them are laborers who work for daily wages and earn about a \$ a day. 2020 robbed most of them of this paltry income as well. To compensate for the loss of income experienced by the camp residents and enable them to continue to feed their families, OBAT carried out several food distributions throughout the year. This was only possible as so many of you opened your hearts and donated generously toward food and rations distributions. In all, we distributed food to 10,000 people to address the ravages caused by the pandemic during the lockdown. Throughout the remaining year, these efforts were extended to another 122,000 people through various food distributions.

The Government of Bangladesh imposed a lockdown towards the end of March due to which our educational projects closed as well. This led to a temporary setback. However, our hardworking team was quick to rebound from it and started training teachers to hold online classes. Our teachers visited students' homes to facilitate learning and provide support to the parents.

Our tutoring centers were the first to start online sessions, followed by schools and computer training centers. I am deeply thankful to our team in Bangladesh who stepped forward and risked their own health to minimize the disruptions caused by the pandemic. They went above and beyond and were the real heroes in the crisis.

While 2020 was a transcendent year and took a heavy toll on us, it certainly taught us much and reinforced the importance of the blessings we usually take for granted. Always cherish and hold our loved ones close and extend kindness to everyone around us, were two of my biggest takeaways from this year. I am grateful to all of you who are health care workers- who worked tirelessly and fearlessly to care for more patients than you could count- you are no less than heroes. And those of you who are not frontline workers, I salute you for a different reason. Despite the personal challenges you faced this year, you chose to look beyond them. Instead of being concerned for your personal and loved ones' wellbeing only, you focused on the less fortunate and spread kindness thousands of miles away in Bangladesh. You lessened the blow for many people who lost their livelihoods, ensured that people continued to receive much needed healthcare and clean water and that children continued to progress in their education.

By continuing to stand together in 2021, we can renew our commitment to these men, women and children and provide them the support they need to lift themselves out of poverty.

With heartfelt gratitude and sincere wishes for a safe 2021,
Anwar Khan

Anwar Khan

President, OBAT Helpers Inc.



PROGRAMS



Education



Empowerment



**Relief & Family
Assistance**



Health Services



Infrastructure



Think Tank



Rohingya Relief

Seals of Recognition

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.



GLOBALGIVING

OBAT has been vetted since 2012 by GlobalGiving, which is the largest online, global crowdfunding community. This year, OBAT received four prestigious seals from GlobalGiving. The Vetted Organization seal is awarded to nonprofits that have passed its rigorous due-diligence process. 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 organizations that have been visited by a representative from GlobalGiving. In 2019, OBAT also received a "Staff Favorite" seal from GlobalGiving, denoting it as a favorite organization!



GREAT NONPROFITS

Top-rated awards are given by Great Nonprofits to organizations that have been rated highly by those who experience their work first-hand, whether they are the people served, volunteers, or donors. OBAT made the cut and was awarded the 2020 Top-Rated Nonprofit seal!

2020 Impact

EDUCATION IN 2020

9 Schools
10 Learning Centers
32 Preschools
9 Computer Training Centers
10 Tutoring Centers
1,176 Scholarship Students

1 each of:

Digital Learning Center
Back to School Program
Adult Literacy Program
Education for Working Children Program

2 Arabic Education Programs

9,336 Students Enrolled In OBAT's Education Program

EMPOWERMENT IN 2020

284 Women Trained In 6 Sewing Centers

RELIEF AND FAMILY ASSISTANCE IN 2020

111,515 People Benefitted From Relief Programs, Qurbani, and Food Distributions

HEALTH IN 2020

3 Health Clinics and 1 Mobile Clinic

43,014 Patients Treated at OBAT's Health Facilities

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN 2020

39 Tubewells Provided Clean Water to Over 9,000 People



Internally Displaced (Urdu-Speaking) Community Projects

2020



Education



EDUCATION IN 2020:

- 9 Schools
- 32 Preschools
- 9 Computer Training Centers
- 10 Tutoring Centers
- 1,176 Scholarship Students

TOTAL STUDENTS IN ALL PROGRAMS:
8,536

1 Each of:

- Digital Learning Center
- Back to School Program
- Adult Literacy Program
- Education for Working Children Program
- 2 Arabic Education Programs

47 Students Received Admission Into Vocational Education Programs

Technical vocational education and training (TVET) is vital in promoting economic development, increasing employment opportunities, and improving the quality of employment. Bangladesh is a rapidly growing country and thus needs a growing, well-trained workforce to keep pace with the demands of the economy. To support the country's goal, OBAT has also been promoting skill-based education. The Chittagong-based program has been met with

great success! In 2020, 47 students were admitted in BKTTC (Bangladesh Korea Technical Training Center) and in CMTTC (Chittagong Mohila Technical Training Center). OBAT's school in Chittagong provides an education up until grade 8. After the students take their JSC (Junior School Certificate) exams, OBAT provides them with financial assistance for obtaining admission into vocational programs where they can develop specific skillsets.



New Partnership Offers Free Education to OBAT Students

OBAT's Dhaka English School offers instruction to students from kindergarten to grade 5. In January of 2020, OBAT joined hands with CZM (Center of Zakat Management) which runs the Granada School. Under this partnership, the graduating students from OBAT's English Elementary School will be able to continue studying from 6th grade and onward at Granada School. The students' education up to high school will be free of cost; they are also being provided free boarding and lodging.

OBAT's School Gets Recognized as Best Educational Institution

The RM Foundation is a local organization in Bangladesh dedicated to creating positive change through various programs. It held a scholarship exam in which a total of 993 students participated, out of whom, 61 received scholarship awards and certificates. 15 students from OBAT's SB Nagar School received the award and certificate from RM. Since the highest number of participants and awardees were both from OBAT, the SB Nagar School received a Crest Award for the best educational institution! We are so proud of our students and teachers whose excellence and hard work made this possible!



Science Fair Marks Day of Women in Science

We are proud of all our female students who make up more than 50% of the enrollment in all our educational projects. These girls are committed to learning and constantly improving themselves. To mark the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, the students at OBAT's Chittagong Junior High School organized a science fair. The girls exhibited a range of projects that explained the concepts of wind energy, solar light, greenhouse emissions, eco-cities and much more!



Nutrition Program Addresses & Prevents Malnutrition in Students

Euglena's, (a Japanese biotech company) GENKI Program distributes biscuits with rich nutrients to Bangladeshi children free of charge. The program distributes six Euglena biscuits as a meal, and this one meal can provide one day's worth of nutrients. This makes a huge difference, as access to these nutrients is sparse for Bangladeshi children. Euglena has been working with OBAT's Dhaka English School to provide these biscuits to the students, as well as carrying out assessments in

"ONE MEAL = One Day's Worth of Nutrients."

four different phases to determine the effects of the added nutrients to the students' diets. 79 students participated in these assessments. The students were in the 7 to 9 year old age group. According to the findings, the hemoglobin level of the kids steadily increased with intake of the biscuits, gradually decreasing the number of anemic children. We are very grateful to Euglena for providing these biscuits to our school. Many of the children suffer from malnutrition due to their impoverished circumstances, and the biscuits are a life-changing addition to their diet.



OBAT Computer Center Students Selected for Competitive Program

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Division in Bangladesh operates an amazing program called the “Learning and Earning Development Project.” This program provides technology training to improve one’s earning potential and job prospects. It is a very difficult program to get into, as over 100,000 students apply and less than .05% (just 50 students) get accepted each term. In 2017, seven hardworking camp students were chosen for the program, which

offers training in Graphic Design, Digital Marketing, and Web Design & Development. In 2020, five more students from OBAT’s educational programs were selected to participate. Omar and Mohiuddin were selected from Syedpur’s Computer Training Center to take the ICT’s Digital Marketing Course. Raj, Sumiya and Hassana were selected from Chittagong Computer Training Center to take ICT’s Graphic Design Course. These five students have worked hard and gone above and beyond to really shine. We are so proud of them and stand behind them in support.



Students Pass SSC Exams with Flying Colors

Due to COVID-19, government-mandated exams did not take place in 2020 with the exception of the SSC (Secondary School Certificate) exam, which was held prior to the onset of the pandemic. 253 students took the government-mandated exam – a student completes it at the end of 10th grade and the results determine their progress academically. We are proud to announce that the vast majority passed with flying colors and 60% of our students not only passed, but received the highest marks possible – all A's!

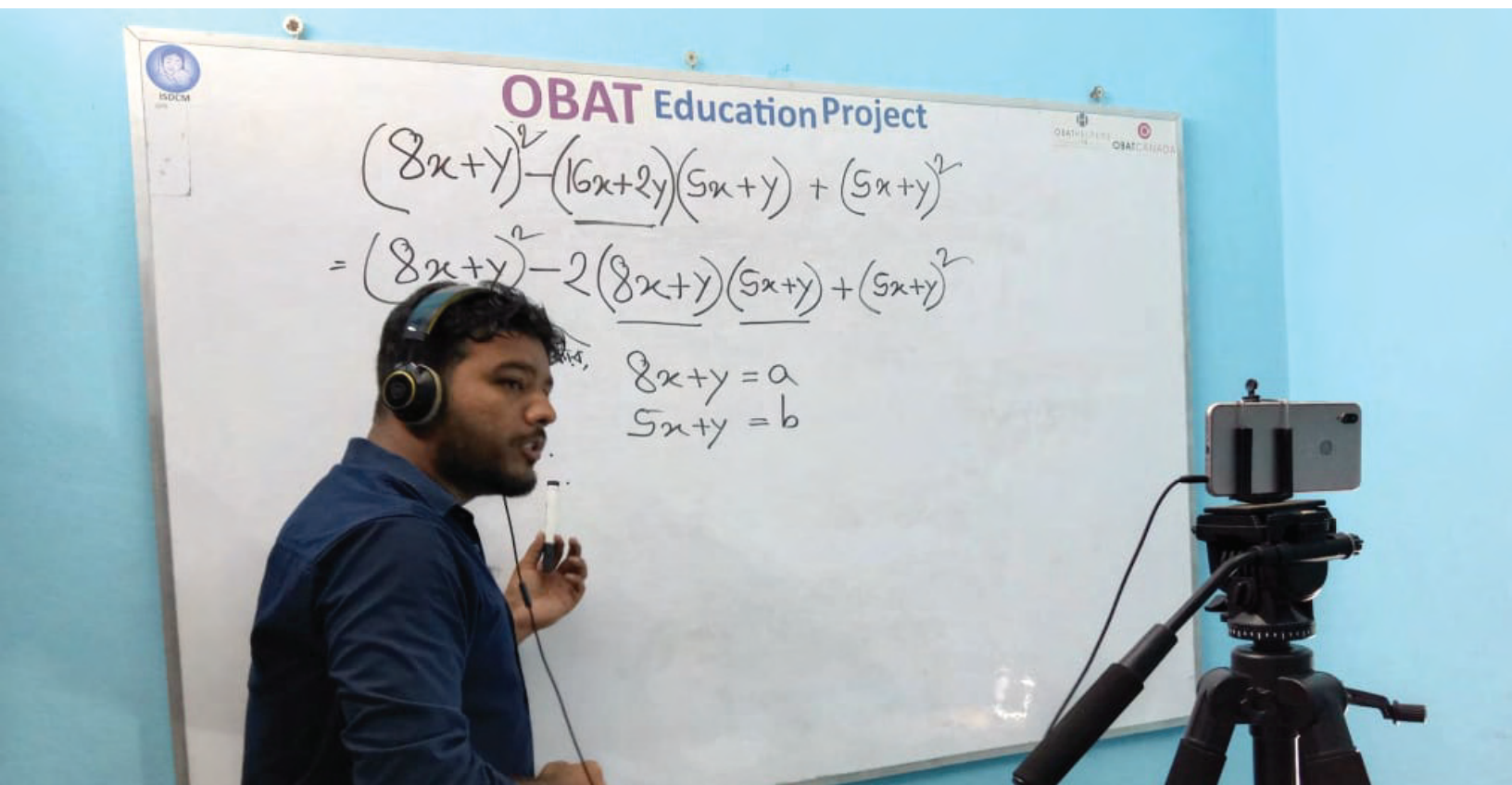
New Computer Training Center at Bogra

Bogra Camp is one of the most poverty-stricken camps in Bangladesh. Thanks to the efforts of Mr. Aftab Iqbal (OBAT's Think Tank Advisor and longtime supporter from California), OBAT has been operating a tutoring center and preschool in Bogra, and has also carried out construction projects of sanitation facilities. In 2020, Mr. Iqbal initiated a new project to train the youth at the Bogra Camp in computer skills. The courses offered at the center include MS Office, Graphic Design, and training in Multimedia. A total of 20 students are currently enrolled at the center.



IT Workshop Creates Opportunities for Camp Residents

OBAT partnered with the Ayaz Waris Khan Warsi (AWKW) Foundation to offer a 3-hour IT workshop to 60 students, staff and teachers from OBAT's Rangpur office, computer labs, Think Tank, and educational centers. The workshop covered digital marketing, freelancing, graphics design and web development. This innovative program strives to create skilled manpower in the IT sector, empowering individuals and contributing to the overall growth and development of the country. We are so grateful to Mr. Obaidullah, the Director of the AWKW, for providing this incredible educational opportunity to our students.



New English School in Syedpur

A new school was established in the city of Syedpur in 2020. This is OBAT's second school in the city. The first was established in 2018 and is a Junior High (Grades 6-8) School. The focus of the new school is to provide education in English as a medium of instruction. 75 students were admitted into grade 1 in 2020.

Partnership Offers Opportunities for Income Development

CodersTrust (Bangladesh) is the first and largest freelancer and outsourcing training center in Dhaka. The organization provides affordable skill development IT courses, which increases the potential for students to earn income through online opportunities. OBAT is training 38 students in partnership with CodersTrust. The trainees include students, teachers, as well as our project officers. The training is virtual and includes attendees from six cities in Bangladesh.



Learning During the Pandemic

As COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, OBAT was proactive in implementing safety measures, some of which included:

- Classes in educational programs were suspended
- Hosting of international volunteers was suspended while ensuring we were able to retain maximum capacity through the use of local resources
- During March, an awareness program was held at OBAT's Primary School in Khulna about the spread of COVID-19. The teachers had a discussion about the preventive measures that should be taken to remain protected from the spread of the virus.



Teachers' Workshop Focuses on Online Education

During August, the OBAT English School in Dhaka organized a workshop for the teachers. This workshop was focused on learning how to impart education through online mediums due to the closure of schools. The workshop specifically zeroed in on the use of Skype and Zoom meetings. It also centered on homeschooling as well as the use of spoken English. Kudos to the head teacher, Ms. Halima, for her initiative.



Digital Technology Helps Preschoolers and 1st Graders Learn Through the Pandemic

OBAT, in collaboration with Teach the World Foundation, is helping camp preschoolers continue to receive a quality education through smartphone apps and in-home support, despite school closures across the country. TTWF provided training to all OBAT preschool staff in Bangladesh to utilize innovative digital programs. After the training, our preschool teachers visited the students and showed the parents how to download and use the educational apps to facilitate better at-home learning during the pandemic. Shirin Husain, Director of Operations for South Asia at TTWF, was instrumental in this initiative and we are thankful for her vision and support of the youngest members of our camp communities. Digital learning has proven to be a highly effective method for combating illiteracy amongst the poor, especially in situations where there is a shortage of qualified teaching staff. Digital learning requires minimal supervision, is largely self-driven, and has a higher student engagement level. The program began in April 2017 at Market Camp in Dhaka. In 2020, a program was set up in the Dhaka English School and is now being offered to students of grade 1 as well.

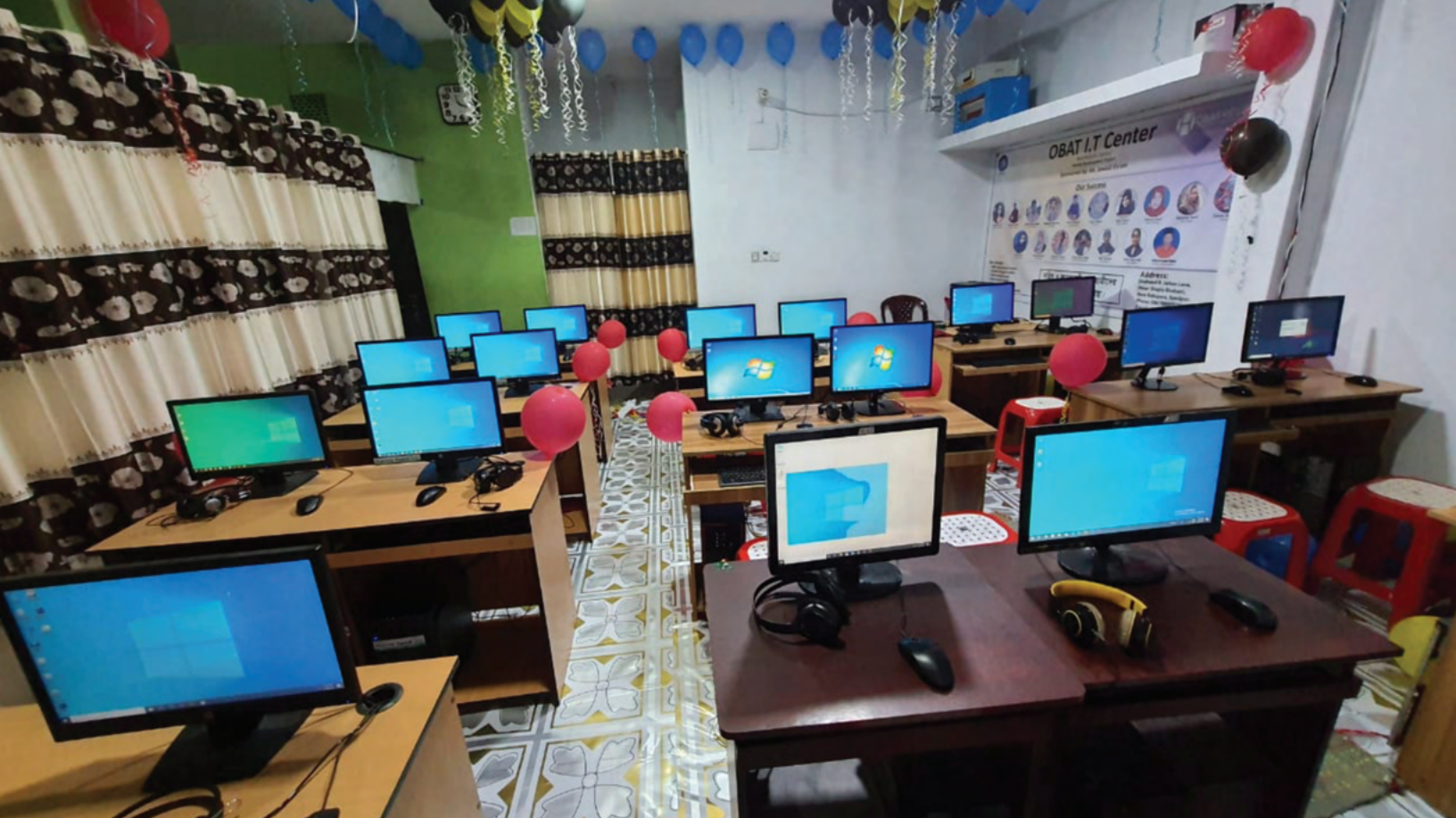


17 Students Start a New Course in Multimedia Training

The computer training centers of OBAT offer underprivileged camp youth the chance to acquire computer related skills which greatly improve their chances of finding meaningful employment. The training centers in Bogra and Syedpur introduced a new course in Multimedia, focusing on teaching students videography and photography skills. The curriculum will teach them how to shoot and edit videos and photos. Graduating students will be a part of OBAT's Media Production group which comprises of students who capture content for OBAT communications.

Training Enhances Teaching Methodology

Our team is a source of great pride for us, as they are constantly working towards self-improvement. The Chittagong Team organized a day-long training for the teachers of the Preschool, Schools, and Tutoring Center located in Chittagong. The team also invited the teachers from OBAT's projects in Dhaka, Rangpur, Khulna, Mymensingh, Bogra, and Syedpur to join them online. Syedpur to join them online.



Camp Youth Receive 52 Computers

Children who grow up in camps are at a huge disadvantage when it comes to attaining the education and training they need in order to access substantive career opportunities. Camp resources are minimal and too often, residents are relegated to low-paying, menial work, leaving them stuck in the cycle of poverty for generations to come. But OBAT's Computer Training Centers have been changing the fate of thousands of camp families by offering motivated camp youth the training and support they need for real empowerment. Thanks to the hard work and generosity of our amazing OBAT supporters in the states of California and Washington, OBAT Computer Training Centers have received 52 computers to help support the education, growth, and empowerment of our camp

youth! This is a true blessing and a timely gift- as the world grapples with managing this global pandemic, and education shifts to a heavily digital platform, the need for access to computer learning in the camps has never been higher. Through this generous gift, students attending our Computer Training Centers will have more access to fundamental courses and programs like Microsoft Office, Khan Academy, Graphic Design, Digital Marketing, Video Editing, and many more. Several of these courses are especially important for finding work as freelancers, which is an ideal opportunity for many of our talented camp residents. We are so grateful for this gift to the camps and look forward to expanding access to digital tools and training for our camp communities.

Education | IMPACT STORY



Meet Saiban, The Graduate Who Accomplished His Dream

“I dreamed of becoming an engineer since I was a child. My father was a rickshaw-puller and bore my educational expenses with great difficulty. Things took a turn for the worst when I was in grade 8-it became impossible for me to continue my education due to the deteriorating finances of my family.

Thankfully, we came across OBAT Helpers around that time- I graduated high school with the help of a scholarship from OBAT. Later, I received a scholarship from the Chinese Government in a joint program with the Government of Bangladesh. OBAT supported my lodging and living expenses during my studies in China. My parents supported me a lot through my journey as well- their prayers gave me the courage to go on.

I live in Ispahani Camp no. 3 in Rangpur. We have to struggle for basic necessities of living- hence, dreams rarely have the power to turn into reality. However, due to OBAT, so many other students besides me have been able to dream as well. I really pray from my heart that Allah blesses Mr. Anwar Khan and all the people who are involved in uplifting our community. I am what I am today because of OBAT.”

In 2020, Saiban graduated with an Advanced Diploma in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering from Jiangsu Agri-Animal Husbandry Vocation College in China! Today, he is working as an Engineer at CY Moulding Co. Ltd.

The background of the page is a collage of two photographs, both of which are filtered with a solid yellow color. The top photograph shows three people: a woman on the left wearing a hijab, a man in the center wearing a baseball cap and a striped shirt, and another woman on the right wearing a patterned headscarf. They are all holding a large, dark-colored box for a 'SINGER' sewing machine. The box has the brand name 'SINGER' in large white letters and a small illustration of a sewing machine. The bottom photograph shows a group of about ten young women sitting and standing together, smiling at the camera. Each woman is holding a white certificate or diploma. The overall theme of the images is education and empowerment for women.

Empowerment



EMPOWERMENT IN 2020:

244 Women Enrolled in Sewing Courses in 5 Vocational Training Centers

The students at OBAT's Chittagong Sewing Center stitched 2,000 masks for the patients visiting our Rohingya Medical Clinic

The impressive effort was funded directly by our generous donors and it's benefits were two-fold. Not only were our clinic patients given access to much-needed masks to help curtail the spread of COVID-19 in the Rohingya camps, but by training the students to sew the masks themselves, we imparted a new skill, which is invaluable in creating future employment opportunities for camp women. Additionally, by enabling camp women to give back, we create a cycle of empowerment and community-growth that will continue to help the camps transform into thriving communities.

Women in the camps have access to virtually zero opportunities to earn an income. Many of them make paper bags for a living which brings in very little to support their families. OBAT's sewing training centers have been changing that by enabling the women to learn the skills of sewing and embroidery, so that the camp women can launch their own home-based sewing businesses.

However, not owning a sewing machine often acts as a barrier to this incredible opportunity. To pave their path to empowerment, seven sewing machines were gifted to graduates from OBAT's sewing training center in Chittagong and the surrounding camp area of Halishaher. We are so excited for these hard working women to begin building a stronger future for themselves and their families.





Eleven ambitious young women completed and graduated from their 4-month-long sewing course at the OBAT Sewing Center in New Babupara

The number graduating would have been 28. However, student numbers were reduced due to safety measures taken for COVID-19. Still, these eleven women managed to become the 19th graduating batch of the center. Students received gifts and certificates during their graduation ceremony. The most heartening sight was that of the matching outfits worn by all the students- all stitched with their own hands! The sewing course empowered these women and they now have the opportunity to use these skills to uplift themselves and their families.



Empowerment | IMPACT STORY



Meet Nawrin

Nawrin Nisa learned to sew from OBAT's Sewing Training Center in Golahat, Syedpur.

She was a part of the 11th batch of students that graduated from the center. Sony has one daughter who is seven years old. Her husband works in a bicycle shop and earns about \$60 per month. Before Nawrin started working, her family was mired in deep poverty and struggled to survive with just her husband's income. After graduating from the sewing center, Nawrin began tailoring work at home, adding to the family's income. During the festivals of Eid, her earnings increased as people had more clothes stitched to celebrate the holidays. Nawrin is grateful for the steady source of income and wants to work hard and grow her business so that she and her husband can give a good life to their daughter.





Relief & Family Assistance



RELIEF AND FAMILY ASSISTANCE IN 2020:

Almost 109,000 People Received Food Assistance through Ramadan, COVID, and Qurbani Meat Distributions

Approximately 2,000 people received support through the Relief and Family Assistance program.

Food Distribution

Thousands of families have been helped through OBAT's Ramadan Food Distribution Program that takes place in the camps during the holy month every year. The food packages that are distributed consist of staples such as rice, lentils, vermicelli, oil, flour etc.

In 2020, the food distribution was sponsored by the generosity of the Amdani Family Foundation. 3,637 families across the cities of Dhaka, Chittagong, Rangpur, Syedpur, Khulna, Bogra and Mymensingh, received a special Ramadan food package that consisted of 8 kg of rice, 1 kg of lentils, 1 liter of soy bean oil, 2 kg of potatoes, 200 grams of lacchi, 1 kg of chickpeas, 1 tin of milk and 1 kg of sugar. Thank you to the Amdanis for providing food relief to the deserving.



Qurbani

OBAT has been operating its Qurbani Program since 2009. Through your Qurbani donations, we distribute Qurbani meat amongst some of the poorest and neediest individuals we serve. We are truly grateful and continuously humbled by the impact we've been able to make through the Qurbani program over the years. In 2020 alone, 132 goats and 111 cows were sacrificed and the meat was distributed to over 12,000 families.



OBAT & Amal Foundation Bring Relief to Flood-Affected Families

Families devastated by flooding in Susua Char village in Tangail received generous food packages through the joint efforts of OBAT and the Amal Foundation. The distribution, carried out by volunteers from our OBAT Think Tank, Dhaka Team, Amal Foundation, and the young volunteers of Susua Village, was able to provide much-needed support to 400 affected families across the region.

33 Wheelchairs Distributed to Camp Residents with Disabilities in 6 Camps

Dire poverty in the camps puts important needs such as wheelchairs on the back seat for many camp residents. There are several elderly residents as well as children with disabilities for whom mobility is restricted because of lack of access to important aids such as wheelchairs. During the last week of November, 33 wheelchairs were distributed in the cities of Rangpur, Dhaka, Syedpur, Bogra, Khulna and Chittagong, allowing those in need to finally experience mobility.





Warm Blankets Help Residents Get Through the Winter

While many of us enjoy the warmth and festivities that accompany the winter season, for camp residents this time of year can be particularly harsh. The drafty makeshift homes, often with only a tarp as a roof and bamboo for the walls, provide little protection from frigid temperatures and exposure to the elements.

To provide relief against cold winter temperatures, OBAT distributed a total of 1,650 warm blankets to needy families throughout the cities of Ishurdi, Khulna, Dhaka and Rangpur. Another 3,350 blankets were set to be distributed in early 2021 in Chittagong to ensure families have an added layer of warmth and protection in the winter months.



Relief and Family Assistance | IMPACT STORY



Meet Abdul Razzak

Finally sitting in his first wheelchair, he was able to leave his home.

Abdul Razzak is a 24-year-old young man. The eldest of three siblings, Razzak lives with his family in D Zone Camp in Ishurdi. Razzak's father sells vegetables on roadsides while his younger brother works as a daily laborer and does plumbing work. Razzak never got the chance to go to school, as he is disabled and cannot walk. His younger siblings finished school but could not study further, as their father lacked the means to educate them further.

Razzak had always been confined to his home-- since he is a young man and his parents are elderly, it wasn't possible for them to carry him around. He could not, like other people, experience the simple joy of feeling the sun on his face. When OBAT distributed wheelchairs to disabled camp residents, Razzak was one of the recipients. The occasion was a cause for celebration not just for him but for the neighboring camp residents as well, who all gathered around him to share in the joy of the family and to see Razzak finally outside his home- basking in sunshine. Eager to show him the world outside his home, Razzak's neighbors pushed his wheelchair and took him around to nearby shops and stores. Razzak's face shone with happiness, just like the sun in the sky he finally got to experience.



Health



HEALTH IN 2020:

- 9,505 Patients Treated At 2 Health Clinics and 1 Mobile Clinic
- 67 Cataract Surgeries Performed
- 1,621 Patients Received Counseling Services
- 92 Health Sessions Held
- 68 Normal Deliveries and 34 C-Sections Took Place In The Maternal Care Program



Other than patients receiving ongoing care at the clinics, day-care health camps were also held to provide access to essential health facilities that camp residents normally cannot receive. Thank you to all the wonderful partners who made this possible!

Eye Camp Aids 321 Camp Residents

A free eye camp was organized on February 25th at OBAT's School in Alamnagar, Rangpur. The event was funded by UKAID and Sight Savers. The camp was organized by OBAT's Rangpur project office on behalf of Community Eye Care & Research Center. A total of 321 patients received primary eye care- 196 women and 125 men. Fifty-seven patients were taken to Community Eye Care & Research Center in Rangpur to receive cataract surgery. Eye drops and medication was given to 75 patients while spectacles were provided to 29 people. Improved vision has the power to improve quality of life!



227 Students Receive Dental Care

The NGO Forum for Public Health organized a dental camp for the students of Mirpur Shaheen School early in the year. The project was titled, "Aus Bangla Care for Dental (ABCD)" and was conducted in partnership with local chapters of the Rotary club in Dhaka and Australia.

A 2-day program, 111 students received treatment the first day, and 116 more the following day. Most of the students had issues related to primary teeth, with 22 students able to have these problematic teeth removed by the NGO. Cavities were common as well and were also treated, and necessary medicine was provided to all the students.

235 Camp Residents Given Health Check-Ups

The City Eye Hospital in Halishahar arranged free testing for vision, blood pressure, and diabetes. The testing took place at OBAT's Primary School in Halishahar, Chittagong.

235 camp residents received a check-up. Of these, 152 were students from OBAT's Halishahar School. The doctors were very satisfied with the overall health of the students, and advised Vitamin C intake to a few, supplying the Vitamin C tablets to those who needed them.



World Diabetes Day Recognized

World Diabetes Day is observed worldwide on November 14th. Every year, OBAT's Rangpur Clinic also raises awareness about the disease by holding a diabetes camp. This year, it was presided over by Dr. Suraiya Jamal and Dr. Abul Kashem, who spoke about preventative measures that can be taken against the disease. 31 diabetes patients also got their blood sugar tested at this camp.



OBAT Partners Help Extend Treatment

In Chittagong, the local Rotary Club and Chittagong Field Hospital partnered with OBAT to extend treatment to 85 people, referring critical patients to Chittagong Medical College. Dr. Barua, the founder of the Chittagong Field Hospital that was established to deal with the COVID-19 health crisis, was also one of the doctors treating the patients.



Healthcare and Medication Given to Those in Desperate Need

During December, a total of 869 camp residents, 385 in Geneva camp and 399 in Mirpur camp, received desperately-needed healthcare and medication support thanks to two OBAT Healthcare camps! OBAT's Dhaka team organized the mobile health camps in collaboration with HMBD (Health Management in Broader Dimension) Foundation, providing medical exams, treatment, as well as medication support including vitamins, calcium supplements, and cold and cough medicine to patients in need.

We'd like to give a tremendous thank you to Dr. Taifur Rahman and his team for doing a wonderful job, as well as, express our appreciation for all of the OBAT teachers and Dhaka Think Tank Volunteers who made this program possible and allowed for a seamless and very organized experience for all.



Restored Vision Changes Lives

Blindness from cataracts is incredibly common in poor countries, yet it's a relatively simple and inexpensive condition to treat. Restoring vision to cataracts patients does more than return their sight – it allows them to re-enter the community as productive citizens, enables them to live without assistance, reduces the burden on already struggling families, and provides them with a life of dignity, hope, and independence that their loss of sight took away.

Thanks to OBAT Canada's support, a two-part Eye Clinic was held in Chittagong. In the first round, 100 patients were examined and 41 were identified as candidates for cataract surgery. In the second round, an additional 100 patients were examined and 17 more were surgery candidates. At each camp, medication and eye drops were provided to over 80% of those examined, as surgery candidates look forward to the opportunity for restored vision in the coming year!

Health | IMPACT STORY



Meet Imran

Desperate to save his son, his father travelled to several mosques and tried to appeal to people for financial help.

Imran is a resident of Babupara Camp in Rangpur. He is twenty-two years old. Imran was afflicted with severe abdominal pain and vomiting. When his condition deteriorated, he was admitted into Rangpur Medical College and Hospital and diagnosed as having acute intestinal obstruction which required surgery. He underwent an ileostomy (a surgical operation in which a piece of the small intestine is diverted to an artificial opening in the abdominal wall). This had to be followed with a second surgery a month later to close the ileostomy. Imran's father was a daily laborer who had great difficulty paying for the first surgery- and paying

for a second one was impossible for him. He visited several mosques to appeal to people for help, where staff from our Rangpur team encountered him and offered their help. Dr. Abul Kashem, a doctor at OBAT's Rangpur Clinic, contacted the Rangpur Medical College and Hospital to facilitate Imran's next surgery. The cost of surgery and post-operative medicines were sponsored by OBAT's Rangpur Clinic. Imran was soon on the road to recovery and is now enjoying good health!



Infrastructure Development



INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN 2020:

39 New Tubewells Provided Clean Water to Over 9,000 People

Clean water is a luxury in the camps. Access to a water source is not only greatly limited, it is also usually very far from the homes of camp residents, requiring a large investment of time to reach the source. Thanks to the support of OBAT Canada and some other OBAT donors, 39 wells (ranging from semi-deep tube wells to motorized wells), were installed in different cities. Altogether, over 9,000 people will be able to access clean water close to their home.



Meet Shahanaz

Shahanaz lives in Golahat Camp in the city of Syedpur with her husband and three children. Her husband drives a rickshaw for a living and earns about \$60 per month. Like many other women in the camp, recourse to clean water was very difficult for her and involved walking long distances to reach a source. The installation of a tube well by OBAT in the area has enabled her to access water easily. A total of 25 families or approximately 125 people are benefiting from this well.



Think Tank



OBAT's objective is to build future leaders through its Think Tank program. We are so proud of these young men and women, who rise up to every occasion of need and attempt to address it with creative solutions.

During 2020, the Think Tanks in all the cities went above and beyond to address the time of widespread crisis. They demonstrated their solidarity with their community and stepped forward to help them at every turn while taking all security measures to keep them safe. Some of the initiatives taken in 2020 by this remarkable group included...



COVID-19 Initiatives

OBAT's Think Tank in Chittagong donated 3,500 Taka (\$43) to Health BD, an online health organization that was set up to distribute PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) to doctors who are involved in treating COVID patients. With the help of their donation, Health BD distributed PPE to Chittagong Medical College doctors. The Think Tank raised the funds through their operating fund to which they contribute monthly; the rest of the amount was donated by teachers and staff of the Chittagong projects. The group also arranged for a water tank to facilitate hand washing for camp residents and distributed masks among them by going door to door. To tackle challenges such as shortage of masks, they undertook a project to make face masks.

The masks were sewn by the students of the OBAT Chittagong Sewing Training Center who stitched a total of 3,500 masks. The Think Tank also made hand sanitizer with the help of OBAT's scholarship student and Alumni, Dilruba Zaman, who is a part of the Think Tank in Dhaka and has a degree in Pharmacy. With Dilruba's assistance, the Think Tank also made and distributed 100 bottles of hand sanitizer.

An emergency meeting of Chittagong's Think Tank was also held on how to create awareness on COVID-19. The team decided to create and print fliers and distribute them door to door to build awareness of preventative measures against the disease.

Youth Support COVID-19 Patients

Dedicated youth undertook an initiative to provide free oxygen, oximeters and nebulizers to the COVID patients in the areas served by OBAT.

This initiative was possible due to a partnership with the Moon Foundation in Chittagong. The Think Tank volunteers were trained to provide this service at the homes of camp residents 24/7.

The Khulna Think Tank team sprayed the camp alleys with disinfecting spray while in Syedpur, they distributed food packages donated by SUVA (Syedpur United Volunteer Association), to the local camp residents.



Ramadan Activities

The camp residents greeted the holy month of Ramadan very differently this year. Due to the lockdown and a fixed income, it was very difficult for them to have access to food for Iftar (food items for breaking the Ramadan fast).

OBAT's Think Tank volunteers undertook initiatives to help those most in need during Ramadan. Following are some of the activities each city's Think Tank conducted:

- Dhaka: The Think Tank in Dhaka collected money from their senior team members. They then conducted a survey and found twenty families in different camps who were most deserving and distributed food packages among these families. The package consisted of 5 kg of rice, 1 L of oil, 1 kg of onions, 1 kg of potatoes, 1 kg of salt and 1 kg of lentils.





- **Bogra:** In Bogra, the Think Tank members distributed Iftar items to the needy and elderly people among the camps during the entire month of Ramadan.

- **Rangpur:** The Deputy Commissioner of Rangpur organized the distribution of Iftar to poor families in Rangpur City on May 1st. The areas included Muslimpara, Sulphate Camp and Riwaye Colony. Think Tank members and Scouts from OBAT's Rangpur School joined hands to help in the distribution. They also distributed iftar among approximately 600 poor families and arranged an iftar for 120 poor and widowed women. The volunteers undertook all preventive measures with regards to social distancing.

- **Chittagong:** Think Tank Members, teachers and the management team distributed iftar to needy people in Jhautala in the Chittagong area. 45 people received iftar from Think Tank members every day.

- **Khulna:** During the holy month of Ramadan, Khulna Think Tank team distributed food and essential items to the most deserving people in the area.

- **Syedpur:** OBAT's Syedpur Think Tank team is working with the Syedpur United Volunteers Association (SUVA), which is a group of all the volunteer teams in Syedpur. They distributed about 1,500 masks, hand sanitizers, and soap bars. The Think Tank also participated in packaging and distributing about 800 food packages to the poor people in Syedpur.





Eid Initiatives

The festival of Eid follows the month of Ramadan which the camp residents have spent observing fasts. Eid is an occasion to celebrate with friends and family, eat treats, wear new clothes and be joyful. A celebration is not really possible for the camp residents as they struggle to fulfill their basic needs on a daily basis. OBAT's Think Tanks once again took it upon themselves to spread some Eid cheer.

In Syedpur, thanks to locally collected donations, a total of 40 people received Eid gifts from the local Think Tank.

In the city of Khulna, the Think Tank members collected their Zakat (obligatory religious contributions) and bought clothes for the most deserving kids.

Disaster Relief

In partnership with the AMAL Foundation, OBAT distributed food packages among 300 families. The distribution was carried out to aid the affectees of the flooded Dakat Chor (islands) of Sariakandi District in Bogra. OBAT's Think Tank volunteers helped to distribute the food packages. Their efforts were commendable as this was their first experience in initiating an emergency response.



Community Support

International Day of Disabled Persons is observed across the globe each year on December 3rd to promote an understanding of disability issues and to mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. In recognition of this important event, OBAT's Think Tanks observed World Disability Day by recognizing the disabled camp residents, bringing attention to their plight, and taking action to help. Think Tankers organized food and blanket distributions and made social visits to the homes of disabled residents to share snacks and refreshments and to discuss ways to improve their daily lives.

Rohingya Relief

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya, a Muslim ethnic minority group, have fled persecution in Myanmar's western Rakhine State, fueling a historic migration crisis. Fearing for their lives and wellbeing, Rohingya refugees have escaped from persecution and genocide to seek protection in Bangladesh.

Since September 2017, OBAT has also been at the forefront of serving Rohingya refugees after the crises erupted in August 2017.



ROHINGYA RELIEF:

Education



ROHINGYA RELIEF: EDUCATION IN 2020

- **8 LEARNING CENTERS**

Focus is on development of numeracy and literacy skills.

- **APPROXIMATELY 800 STUDENTS, ages 4-15 YEARS OLD**

- **2 DIGITAL LEARNING CENTERS IN HOST AND CAMP COMMUNITY**

Education is provided through tablets, which use apps such as F2B, Dragon Box and more, for learning Bangla and Burmese.



Learning During the Pandemic

Prior to the COVID-19 closure of OBAT's Learning Centers and after the onset of the pandemic, all administration staff, teachers, and monitoring officers underwent extensive COVID-19 awareness and prevention training. This prepared them to increase awareness of the pandemic amongst the Rohingya refugee community surrounding our Learning Centers and curb the spread of the virus.

As the post-pandemic situation evolved and the Learning Centers shut down, the Education Sector (entity overseeing the work of all nonprofits working in the Kutupalong Rohingya Refugee Camp), also stressed the importance of all children enrolled in Learning Centers to continue their studies from home during the closure of the Centers. UNICEF delivered new workbooks for all OBAT students, which were distributed to ensure minimal disruption to the education of the young learners.

The Learning Centers gradually moved toward



home-based learning, a process that was facilitated by the Education Sector. The teachers conducted home visits and visited each child on an average of twice a week.

With the lockdowns in schools still ongoing, OBAT has been doing everything possible to ensure that the education of the students is not disrupted. Keeping the students out of the educational system would have impeded their progress; it would have been emotionally difficult for them as well, given that going to school is the only respite they have from their bleak surroundings and circumstances.

OBAT has also adopted the concept of supporting the students through caregivers- this measure has proved highly effective during COVID-19. Caregivers are the closest relatives of children, such as parents, siblings, or any other close relative.



During the selection of the caregivers, their knowledge, behavior, education level, and interest in assisting the children is carefully assessed and considered.

The caregivers guide the students and engage them in daily educational activities at home. They help students practice their textbook lessons. A well-chalked out caregiver orientation session was conducted for the Rohingya teachers, who in turn are assigned to conduct orientation sessions with the caregivers. A total of 604 caregivers were also trained in identifying and managing the symptoms of COVID-19, as well as the safety measures they need to practice with their families. The Rohingya teachers and facilitators have been working diligently with the caregivers for the continuity of their students' education.



Student Assessments Drive Their Academic Advancement

For OBAT's Learning Centers for Rohingya children, the year began with student assessments. During January, all OBAT students in levels 1 and 2 at all the Rohingya Learning Centers were evaluated based on their performance during the December examinations

Our Education Team worked hard to adjust class lists accordingly, ensuring that children who passed the exams moved up a level for the new year of learning. Our team held parent meetings for all the Learning Centers, and parents were given progress cards that reported on the previous year's performance of their children.



Digital Learning assessments were conducted as well, with the assistance of Teach the World Foundation (TTWF), OBAT's partner organization. The results not only determined which students advance to the next level of study, but also provided useful data to the TTWF team- data that will be used to study the impact of a Digital Learning curriculum on students' learning outcomes worldwide.



Repairs Improve the Structure of the Learning Centers

At the start of the year, OBAT's Learning Centers underwent repair work undertaken by local and Rohingya volunteer laborers from the Kutupalong Camp. The repairs included re-daubing the mud walls and strengthening the overall structure. The repairs were an exciting development for our students, and were made possible by the generosity of OBAT Helpers' sponsors. The organization, Save the Children, repaired the fencing boundary surrounding 3 Learning Centers.



Students Receive Gifts for Good Performance

The children were excited to receive new materials provided to them to improve their wellbeing and their learning. The children in the Camp 8W Learning Centers received brand new reusable water bottles, provided to them by Practical Action. The children in our Host Community Digital Learning Educational Program were thrilled to receive new drawing books given by our staff as gifts for their performance in assessments.



Meet Shomin: A Story of Growth, In Her Own Words

“My name is Shomin Ara. I was born and lived in Myanmar in Northern Maungdaw. We have eight people in our family. We left Myanmar on August 25th in 2017 to escape the persecution by Myanmar’s government and migrated to the neighboring country of Bangladesh.

The UNHCR and Bangladesh government gave us shelter in Kutupalong Camp 4. We have been staying for more than three years now in the crowded refugee camp. I attended a Moktab (religious school) and didn’t go to a regular school in Myanmar. I couldn’t read or write either the English or Burmese alphabet. I was totally illiterate.

A few days after we arrived at the camp, a team member from OBAT Helpers came to our shelter and requested my family to enroll me in OBAT’s

Learning Center. I enrolled in Learning Center # 7 in the 1st shift. My teacher, Mr. Alam, is very good at teaching Burmese and English. I have been learning Burmese, English, Science, Math and Life-Skills.

At present, I am a student of level 4. There is no one to earn and support my family besides me. My father is unable to work, as he is elderly. I heard that BRAC, a nonprofit, was recruiting for the position of Community Outreach Mobilizer - I applied and was offered the job. Now I can support my family with my salary. I am continuing with my education as well.

I am grateful to everyone who encouraged me to pursue the opportunity with BRAC. I am happy that I am able to relieve some of the pain of my family. Thank you to OBAT, and to you, for helping me be educated and become literate.”



ROHINGYA RELIEF:

Health



ROHINGYA RELIEF: HEALTH IN 2020

- **33,509 patients treated at OBAT's Rohingya Health Clinic in 2020**
- **Major Service Partners: MedGlobal and RCF**

Extending Healthcare During the Pandemic

OBAT's Rohingya health clinic enjoys a stellar reputation in the refugee camp. The project is operated with the assistance of implementing partner, Prantic Unnayan Society. The year 2020 posed immense challenges. However, OBAT continued to address the medical needs of Rohingya refugees on a daily basis, providing emergency healthcare as well as dental and maternity services at its Health Post.

All other projects in the camp were halted by the Bangladesh Government when the country entered a lockdown in March. During the initial months of the pandemic, the clinic operated at 50% capacity in order to curtail the spread of the virus. As PPP started coming in, the clinic gradually returned to full capacity, attending to an average of 3,000 patients per month.

In order to be prepared for the pandemic, OBAT's entire health clinic staff as well as staff from our partner organizations, MedGlobal and RCF, attended an Infectious Disease Prevention training. This training was integral in ensuring that our health facility could continue to run and support the Rohingya population in the face of the emerging health situation.

The clinic team enforced strict Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) protocols. Our Medical Coordinator, Dr. Sohel Rana, confidently led the team and assessed the situation daily, in coordination with the World Health Organization, the Health Sector, and the Bangladesh Government, making urgent protocol changes in the clinic as needed. The clinic team maintained the highest standards of disease prevention and wore extensive personal protective equipment.

Medicines' Donations by WHO

The World Health Organization occasionally donates medicines for OBAT's Health Clinic. These medicines and supplies come in handy when it comes to keeping our pharmacy fully stocked.

Donations comprised of two truck-loads of 24 different medicines and medical supplies were made by WHO during the pandemic, fulfilling an accentuated need at the clinic.



New Dental Chair Donated by Refugee Crisis Foundation

The clinic received a fully-equipped new dental chair setup for its dental services. The dental chair was a generous donation from Refugee Crisis Foundation which has been partnering with OBAT since 2018 to provide much needed dental services for the refugees. OBAT's Clinic is the only clinic in the Kutupalong refugee camp to offer this added facility for the treatment of patients.

The dentists employed by RCF are already recognized all over the Rohingya camp as being the best dentists around, and this new addition has further improved the level of excellence of the services provided.



WHO Selected OBAT's Clinic as a Vaccination Site

The World Health Organization selected OBAT's clinic as one of the sites able to host its immunization program for various diseases. OBAT has been offering an expanded immunization program in collaboration with WHO as of September of 2020. During 2020, a total of 1,310 vaccinations were given out for various diseases including measles, rubella, polio, diphtheria, pneumonia and influenza.

Baby Kits Distributed to Observe Baby Safety Month

OBAT celebrated the Baby Safety month in September by distributing 25 sets of baby kits to 25 mothers of 0-5-month-old babies. Each set comprised of a bamboo cot, cushion with pillows, katha (a local handmade blanket), mosquito net, feeder, and a plastic bucket. All sewing items were created by Rohingya women who received training from OBAT's Women Empowerment Center.

The distribution was the outcome of a pilot project funded by Bee Humble, a Florida-based organization, working jointly with OBAT Helpers. 25 units of the infant kits were made and distributed as a pilot program. The program is expected to continue with continued support from Bee Humble.



OBAT and Partners Facilitate Availability of Medical Equipment During the Pandemic

Prantic Unnayan, OBAT's implementing partner in the Rohingya projects, undertook a coordinated approach to address widespread needs caused by COVID-19, including a dearth of medical equipment needed to address the crisis. This scarcity was faced by all operating NGOs in the Rohingya camps. Thanks to a generous donation by OBAT's partner, MedGlobal, OBAT was able to

distribute the following equipment among 4 locally operating NGOs: ultrasound machines, autoclave machines, ventilators, and central oxygen systems. OBAT and MedGlobal also distributed PPE and hand sanitizers to combat the spread of COVID-19 in the Rohingya camp.

The two organizations joined hands with Latter Day Saints Charity and also funded the generous donation of a central oxygen system, other life-saving equipment, and PPE supplies to the Ukhiya Health Complex in Cox's Bazar. The oxygen system has the capacity to supply oxygen to 20 patients simultaneously for 48 uninterrupted hours. Additionally, the distributed medical equipment included 100 sets of Personal Protective Equipment, 5 infrared thermometers, 15 pulse oximeters, and one patient vitals monitor.

OBAT also gifted 20 hospital beds to create capacity for the Hope Clinic Isolation Center to fight the spread of COVID-19 in the Rohingya Refugee camp. The isolation center, situated in the Kutupalong camp - which houses most of the 1.2 million Rohingya Refugees - plays a pivotal role in fighting the spread of the disease. This donation will increase the clinic's capacity by 20%.



Services provided at OBAT's Rohingya Health Clinic include:

- **Outpatient Department**
 - 35-40 patients receive treatment in each of the 6 OPD consultation rooms
- **Emergency Services**
 - 15-18 emergency cases are addressed in the emergency area daily
- **Dental Services**
 - The fully functional dental unit provides all emergency dental treatments to 20-25 patients daily
- **NCD (Noncommunicable Diseases) Corner**
 - 40 patients are addressed in the NCD corner for health issues such as arthritis and COPD
- **Maternity Services**
 - Around 15-20 patients receive family planning, anti-natal and post-natal care at the clinic. A birth kit consisting of necessities is provided to the mother upon birth of the child
- **Lab Facility**
 - Around 40 patients receive rapid diagnostic testing in the lab daily
- **Pharmacy**
 - A trained pharmacist dispenses 164 different types of medication to an average of 175 patients daily
- **Referral Services**
 - Patients are referred to health facilities outside of camp for more complex health issues
- **Ambulance Service**
 - An ambulance is readily available to transport patients from the clinic to other health facilities





Meet Neyamatullah: The Boy Who Defied All Odds

“He was constantly beating me with his rifle's bonnet and kicking me with his boots. I was screaming and crying in pain but he showed no mercy.”- Neyamatullah

Born in Myanmar, Neyamatullah is the second child of his parents- at one time he was just a regular 13 year old boy who loved to play football. His life took a 360 degree turn on an afternoon in November 2019 in Myanmar- the bell of the last period of his school had rang and a bunch of primary school students started running happily towards their homes. A few were playing with their toys; a group of friends were laughing at the funny joke cracked by their teacher that day. Neyamatullah was holding his football as he walked home with his friends. Suddenly, an army jeep appeared and halted in front of the students. Neyamatullah watched in horror as the army started beating all the students with rifle bonnets and their boots, without any reason. He started to run but unfortunately his small feet couldn't muster up the speed he needed to run fast. One of the soldiers caught him and threw him to the ground. Appalled and terrified, Neyamatullah saw his friends killed right before his eyes.

“He was constantly beating me with his rifle's bonnet and kicking me with his boots. I was screaming and crying in pain but he showed no mercy.”- Neyamatullah

Locals rescued Neyamatullah while he lay



“I want to become a painter one day.” - Neyamatullah

unconscious among the five dead bodies of his friends. The army had assumed that Neyamatullah was among the dead. He remained unconscious for 3 days after this incident. His mother soon realised that they were no longer safe in Myanmar and started walking towards the River Naf, carrying Neyamatullah on her back. The Myanmar army would fire at them when the group she was journeying with tried to travel via a main road, in order to force them back into the jungle. They walked by the river banks through the jungle and the hills without food for three days before they reached the border and arrived safely in Bangladesh.

Neyamatullah had a pelvic fracture when he entered Bangladesh and settled with his mother in the Kutupalong Camp-the largest refugee camp in the world. When OBAT Helpers’ doctors discovered him, he had already developed chronic infection which had gradually led to Osteomyelitis (infection in the bone). Due to the infection, Neyamatullah lost the ability to walk. OBAT’s dedicated medical team

regularly cleaned his infection and changed his dressing. For detailed diagnosis and further treatment, Neyamatullah was sent to Chittagong Medical College (One of the largest government run health facilities in Bangladesh) where a team of experienced medical professionals began his treatment. The medical team has suggested performing a surgery on him to cure the chronic osteomyelitis after he turns 18 as he is still in a growth phase. Currently, Neyamatullah is under conservation treatment and doctors are regularly giving him vitamins and painkillers when needed. He has improved a lot and can now walk with the help of stretchers.

Neyamatullah spends most of his time sitting on his bed. Sometimes he plays with his younger sister. Like every brother and sister, they have sibling fights and instant patch ups. He loves to draw. While showing some of his drawings to our staff, he said with excitement, “I want to become a painter one day.”



ROHINGYA RELIEF: **Empowerment**



ROHINGYA RELIEF: EMPOWERMENT IN 2020:

40 Women Empowered in 2020

During 2020, a new multipurpose center was inaugurated in the Rohingya Camp. This center was part of a project partially funded by ALIGHT, a Minnesota based nonprofit. The project was designed to build the capacity of the host community and Rohingya women and children who were adversely affected by COVID-19.

The new center hosted sewing training classes for 40 women; it is also providing additional space for staff training and in future, could be used for community gatherings, and other beneficial programs. Some of the students started stitching

school uniforms and reusable masks as a result of the training they received from here.

To extend the benefits to the host community, eight women from the Rajapalong host community in Cox's Bazar (near the site for Rohingya Women's Empowerment program in Kutupalong camp) also participated in a four-month long sewing training program.

The training has enabled the women to supplement their family's income and empowered them with a voice and standing in their community.



Meet Afsara: Defender of Women

“I do not want another girl to go through any kind of violence in the camps.” - Afsara

Afsara, twenty, grew up in the Mondu region of Rakhine State with her two sisters and three brothers. Her father was a farmer, who provided for her whole family by managing his land and livestock. He did well and could afford an education for each of his children. In Mondu, Afsara made handicrafts and sold them in the local market for extra pocket money.

After the Myanmar military began the crackdown on the Rohingya community, Afsara and her family managed to escape their village and spent three days walking to safety to the Bangladesh border. For 6 months, her family stayed by the border, hoping they could return to their village soon. However, every day their hope waned as they witnessed an increasing number of refugees fleeing to Bangladesh. They finally decided to move to Kutupalong camp.

After they were settled in Kutupalong, Afsara still lived in dread of being captured by the Myanmar

army. Her fears persisted until she heard about OBAT Helpers and hope took over her anguish. Her neighbors were talking about OBAT's Women Empowerment Center where women could receive training on sewing machines. Her passion for handcrafts sparked in Afsara the interest to join the women's center where she was trained to sew. As she was an excellent student, Afsara was later recruited as one of the trainers in OBAT's Women Empowerment Center.

In November 2020, Afsara became the chairperson for the Rohingya Women and Adolescent Empowerment Association. Recently, a girl was sexually harassed on her way to the women's center. The victim's family tried to cover it up and stopped the girl from going out. Afsara called out the community leaders, the family of the assaulters and the victim's family and demanded the punishment of the assaulter. Community leaders supported the victim and conducted a proper trial to resolve the issue.



ROHINGYA RELIEF:

Relief & Family Assistance



ROHINGYA RELIEF: RELIEF & FAMILY ASSISTANCE IN 2020:

103 Rohingya Families Received Food Packages

The Festival of Eid is observed with enthusiasm by Rohingya refugees. To make the occasion brighter for the refugees, OBAT facilitated a large food distribution in the Rohingya Camp, thanks to generous donations from partner organization, Refugee Crisis Foundation.

103 Rohingya families benefited from food packages that lasted each family a couple of weeks. The families that received the food were those of our Learning Centre students.

Food packages were also gifted by Mr. Fayyaz Haathia who has previously visited and volunteered in our Rohingya program





2020 OBAT News



Two OBAT Students Break the Poverty Cycle

Our most exciting news of the year is that YOU helped two camp families break the cycle of poverty for good! Swapna and Raju, both OBAT scholarship recipients, have been empowered through your support to build a brighter future for themselves and their families. Swapna, who currently works as our Scholarship Program Manager; and Raju, our Public Relations Officer, have both – with hard work and dedication- been able to gain stability and transition to homes outside of the camps! We are so proud of them and wish them both happy and fulfilling lives in their new homes!



Scholarship Student Thrives in Her New Career



Mehrun Nissa started studying in grade 1 at OBAT's Halishaher School. She continued her education with the help of a scholarship from OBAT and ultimately got admitted into Chittagong Government Women's Polytechnic Institute, where she completed a 4-year diploma in Fashion Design. After completing her diploma, she followed her passion and started working at a Korean company, and is currently working at Sonnet Garments. Mehrun Nissa wants to continue her education and work towards a BSC degree. She is very thankful to all the supporters of OBAT who are changing the lives of the youth in the camps.



2020 OBAT News



Mourning Two Untimely Losses

In 2020, OBAT experienced the sad loss of Mr. Zakwan Barkati. Mr. Barkati lived in Dhaka, Bangladesh and since its inception, he was OBAT's anchoring force, tirelessly volunteering his time to improve the lives of the less fortunate. Many of our visitors from the US experienced his genuine hospitality and gentle demeanor. Mr. Barkati always gave what he could and distributed love, respect, and care to all those around him. He was quietly helping many individuals and families who were suffering in the camps. Mr. Barkati will also always be remembered as a loving guardian for OBAT's youth and a big brother for its team.

We are also terribly saddened to share with you the news of the passing of our fifth grade student, Rifat. Rifat studied at OBAT's School in Khalishpur, Khulna. He lived with his parents in camp no.1 in Khalishpur and struggled with his health for some time. Our hearts go out to his family and we send them our prayers for dealing with this profound loss. His family at OBAT will miss his warm smile dearly.





2020 OBAT News



OBAT Goes Live for the First Time

Those who watched were left inspired and amazed by the power of opportunity. On May 17th, we held our first live OBAT event, featuring three of OBAT's star students from Bangladesh. These are students whose lives were transformed because of the opportunity and tools you gave them that allowed them to lift themselves out of poverty. The event was an initiative of OBAT's advisor and supporter from Seattle, Mr. Rizwan Samad, who spoke about how his recent visit to the camps changed his life. Other cities followed suit and in November, St. Louis, DMV and Chicago all hosted live fundraisers as well, featuring OBAT's young Champions of Change who joined from Bangladesh to share their inspiring stories. Prominent speakers such as Congressman Andre Carson, Imam Khalid Latif, and Shaykh Hamzah Imtiaz all spoke at these events on the importance of philanthropy. Board members as well as visitors and volunteers to the camps such as Kristin Wright and Arishaa Khan also spoke about their involvement and the impact of the organization. We are very thankful to our commendable advisors and directors in these cities, who worked tirelessly to make these events successful. Thank you to all the generous friends who extended their support during and after the event. Even though we missed seeing you in person this year, we are grateful to have connected with you virtually.

Stories of Visitors



Rizwan Samad

Mr. Rizwan Samad, OBAT's advisor and instrumental support behind OBAT's Seattle chapter, made a maiden visit to the camps. He was accompanied by his wife, Jesse Samad, daughter, Yasmeen Samad and her friend, Elsa Carrillo, all of whom live in Seattle. Every year, thanks to Mr. Samad's efforts, a fundraising event or campaign is instituted in Seattle to support OBAT's projects.



Mr. Aftab and Mrs. Nadra Iqbal

Mr. Aftab Iqbal and his wife, Mrs. Nadra Iqbal, visited various cities. While Mr.

Iqbal, who lives in California, has visited various times, it was the first visit for his wife. Mr. Iqbal has been the key force behind garnering plenty of support for reconstruction work in the dilapidated Bogra Camp. He is also currently serving as our Advisor for OBAT's Think Tanks.



Fayyaz Hathia

Mr. Fayyaz Hathia visited from France in early March. He spent his time visiting projects in the Rohingya camps. Mr. Hathia was thrilled with his visit, which included touring the OBAT Health Post and the Learning Centers. He was particularly enthusiastic about the Digital Learning Program that is operating in Learning Centers 3 and 4, and in two host community classrooms. Mr. Hathia sponsored a gift distribution of food packages to 49 Rohingya families after his visit.



Qaiser Shareef

Mr. Qaiser Shareef, a former Procter & Gamble executive with a career spanning 30 years and who is currently an advisory partner at Ward Howell International, excitedly visited several of OBAT's Schools in Dhaka and Chittagong. He is currently serving on OBAT's advisory board as an Advisor for Governance and Organizational Effectiveness.



Anwar and Afshan Khan

OBAT's President, Mr. Anwar Khan, usually visits Bangladesh twice a year. Due to the pandemic, he was only able to visit once at the beginning of the 2020. Mr. Khan was accompanied by his wife, Afshan Khan, OBAT's Founding Member and Board Director. During his visits, Mr. Khan tours all the projects, provides

training to the staff, and focuses on monitoring and evaluating the various programs.



Mr. and Mrs. Ehsan Khan & Mrs. Perveen Alam

Family members of the founding members of OBAT, Mr. and Mrs. Anwar Khan, visited OBAT's projects at the start of 2020. Mr. Ehsan Khan, Mrs. Tasneem Khan and Mrs. Perveen Alam visited from India and spent their time touring the projects with their hosts.



Red Crescent Team

A team from the Bangladeshi Red Crescent Society (BDRS) visited OBAT's Clinic and met the team and patients at the clinic. This team included our previous Medical Coordinator, Dr. Bayezeed.



Zachary Rockwood and Auden Bui

It was 2012 when Zachary Rockwood, a documentary filmmaker and cinematographer from Los Angeles, made his maiden trip to OBAT's projects and created a beautiful documentary about them.

Excitedly, Zach returned seven years later in 2020, this time accompanied by his friend and award-winning photographer and cinematographer, Auden Bui. The pair documented stories and spent their time visiting OBAT's projects, schools, and events, in awe upon seeing the incredible amount of progress!



John Packer

Professor John Packer, a Neuberger-Jesin Professor of International Conflict Resolution in the Faculty of Law and Director of the Human Rights Research and Education Centre, at the University of Ottawa, visited the Rohingya Health Clinic with his Research Assistant, Anne-Lise Boch.



Jade Hawes

Jade Hawes brought so much much cheer by bringing her art supplies to our Health Post for days of art-making and poster-creating with the children in the Rohingya clinic's waiting room. Jade is the impressive founder of Humanitarian Picture Books and specializes in Program Design, Monitoring and Evaluation. Jade spent 10 days with us in the Kutupalong Camp, assisting with various areas of education and health programming, as well as researching for her picture book through conversations and interactions with Rohingya children and adults. This book was "Dear Child," a letter to refugee children in picture book form and gifted many copies to the children.

Professor William Simmons

A team of researchers from the University of Arizona, led by Professor William Simmons, visited the OBAT Office in Ukhiya to learn about the projects OBAT runs for the Rohingya and host community. Professor Simmons and his team received a grant from National Geographic to implement a study and project with Rohingya children and conducted a site visit to determine the scope and format of their future study. The team visited our host community's digital learning class and was impressed by the high level of community engagement.



Eva Baumann

Eva traveled from her home country, Switzerland, to visit the Rohingya project in January 2020. She was a much-loved visitor who worked on art projects with the children in the Learning Centers. Eva also helped with childcare and provided some logistical support to the team.

2020 Financials

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

TOTAL REVENUE

\$1,999,026

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

\$86,065

FUNDRAISING EXPENSES

\$74,386

PROGRAM EXPENSES

\$1,320,311

TOTAL EXPENSES

1,480,762

CHANGE IN ASSETS

\$518,264

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 2020

TOTAL ASSETS

\$806,016

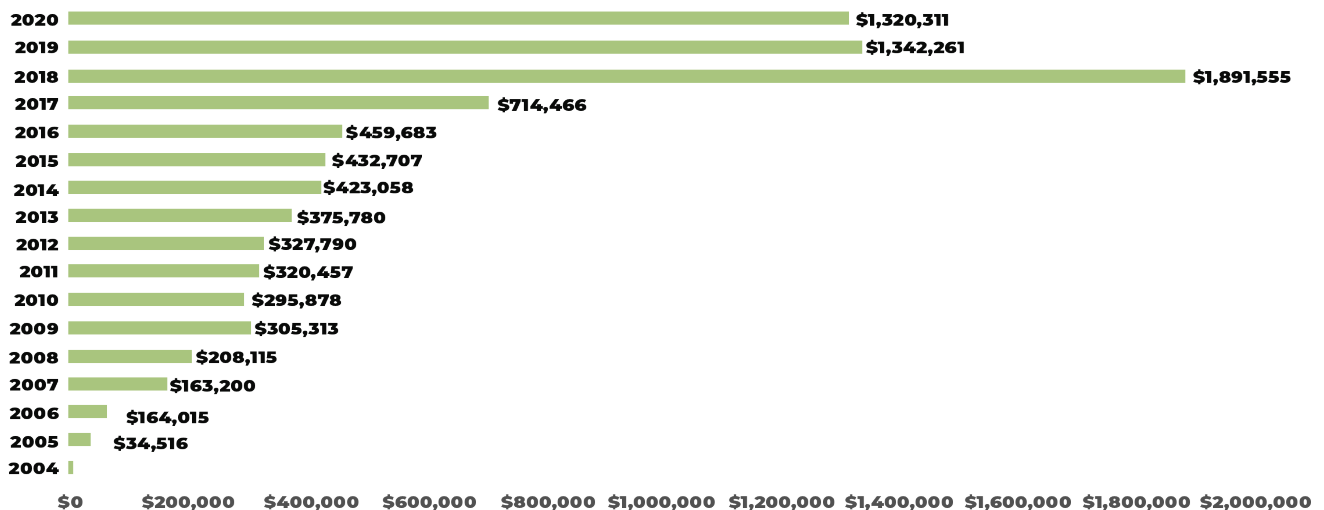
TOTAL LIABILITIES

\$103,329

TOTAL NET ASSETS

\$702,687

Program Expenses 2004-2020



Major Donors 2020

A tremendous thank you to our amazing major donors of 2020.

Abdul and Salma Yaqub (IL)
Abdul Khwaja (WA)
Abdul R. and Zeenat Chaudhry (NY)
Abid and Farah
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Rahmi and Hafsa Mowjood (CA)
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Dr. Shujaat Wasty – Vice President (Until July 2020)
Sana Hussain- Vice President (Since July 2020)
Charlie Wiles – Secretary
Syed W. Quadri- Treasurer

Directors

Afshan Khan
Dr. Azfar Malik
Dr. Henna Qureshi
Dr. John Clark
Dr. Rezwan Khan (Until July 2020)
Tanweer A. Mallick

Staff

Tayyab Yunus- Interim Executive Director (March 2020 onwards)
Masum Mahbub- Director, Policy and Partner Engagement
Afshan Paarlberg- Director, Compliance and Strategic Engagement (up till April 2020)
Saima Hassan – Director, Development and Communications
Dayna Santana- Consultant (up till June 2020)

OBAT's Partners

Implementing Partners

OBAT's projects in Bangladesh are executed with the assistance of local implementing partners. In 2020, our implementing partners included:

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

AFM. Saiful Islam - Chief Monitoring Officer
Sohail Akhter Khan – Program Manager
Farooq Azeem – Project Planning & Reporting Officer
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

- Prantic Unnayan Society (For Rohingya Relief Program)

AFM Rezaul Karim- Executive Director
Shakil Ahmed - Program Manager
Nargis Karim - Human Resources
Animesh Atal- Program Coordinator
Dr. Jonayed Siddiki - Medical Coordinator
Shankar Bhowmick- Senior Accountant

Service Partners

Alfalah Institute & High School
Amal Foundation Bangladesh
Babuland
Bacbon Limited
Badshah Faisal Institute
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
BAPSA
Basmah Foundation
Chittagong Field Hospital
Chittagong Rotary Club
CodersTrust
Community Eye Care & Research Center
CZM (Center for Zakat Management)
Dhaka Presidency High School
Euglena
Globe & DINAIR
Harbinger International School
Harun Mollah Degree College
HMBD Foundation
Humanity in Distress
International Grammar School (IGS)
Ispahani ltd.
MedGlobal Inc.
Mirpur English Medium School & College
Moon Foundation
MSS (Manabik Shahajya Sangstha)
NGO Forum
Pallabi Mohila Degree College
Queen's School & College
Rangpur Government Textile Institute
Refugee Crisis Foundation
Shere Bangla High School
Sher-e-Bangla School
Shyamoli Ideal Polytechnic Institute
Teach the World Foundation
UNDP/CDC CLUSTER
Uttar Kalshi Adarsha Bidyapith

Thank You & Acknowledgements

THANK YOU

Many individuals and groups within OBAT's family contribute towards its growth and transformational work. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the following:

Our donors, who are transforming lives with their generosity and support.

Our volunteers, who spread so much light with their compassion and care

Our Board of Directors and Board of Advisors, who steer OBAT forward with their leadership and guidance

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

Additional field staff



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Empowerment Through Community Development

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