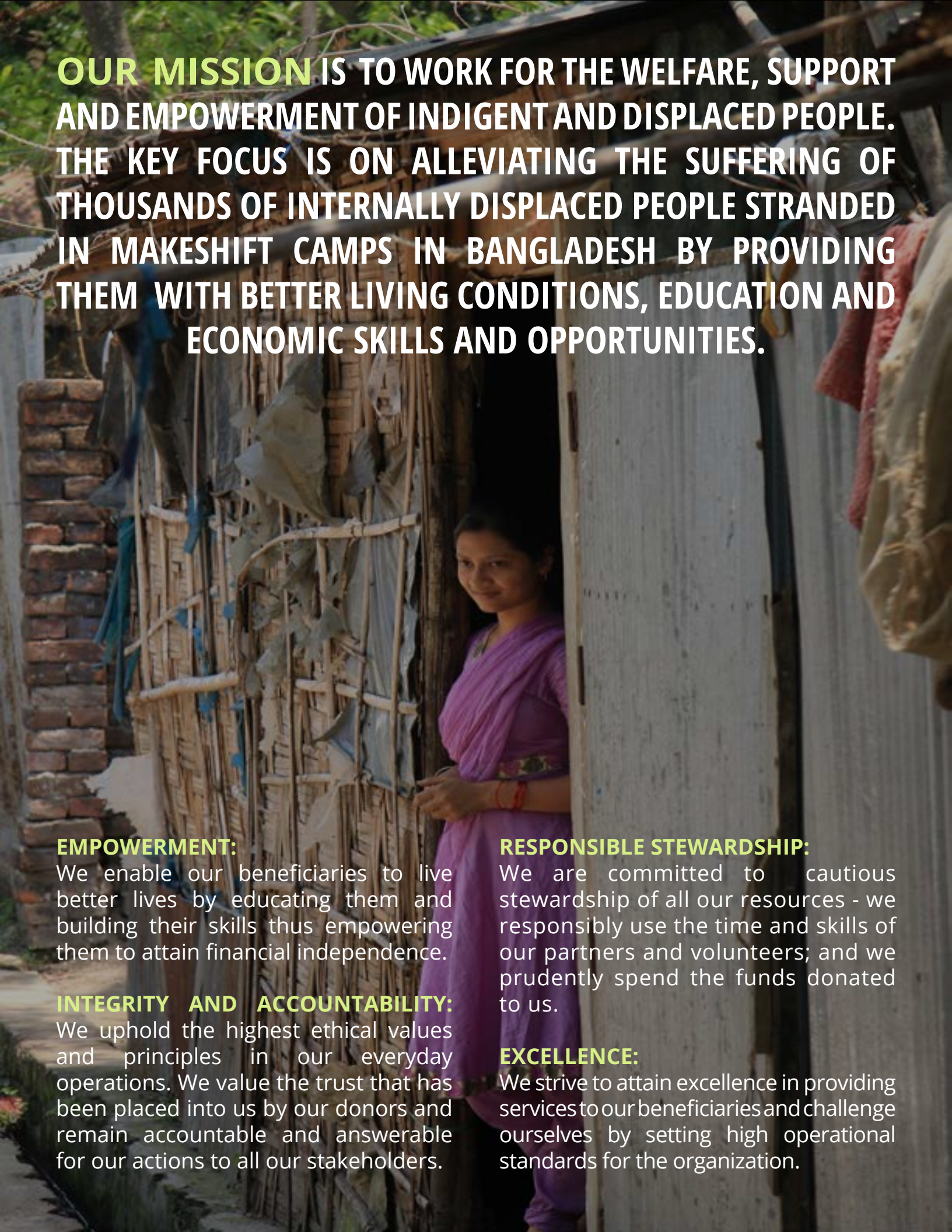




OBATHHELPERS

Empowerment through community development

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

A woman in a purple sari stands in the doorway of a makeshift shelter. The shelter is constructed from bamboo poles and plastic sheeting, with a brick wall visible on the left. The background shows more of the camp and some laundry hanging on the right.

OUR MISSION IS TO WORK FOR THE WELFARE, SUPPORT AND EMPOWERMENT OF INDIGENT AND DISPLACED PEOPLE. THE KEY FOCUS IS ON ALLEVIATING THE SUFFERING OF THOUSANDS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE STRANDED IN MAKESHIFT CAMPS IN BANGLADESH BY PROVIDING THEM WITH BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC SKILLS AND OPPORTUNITIES.

EMPOWERMENT:

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

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.

RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP:

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

EXCELLENCE:

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

WELCOME TO THE 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear friends,

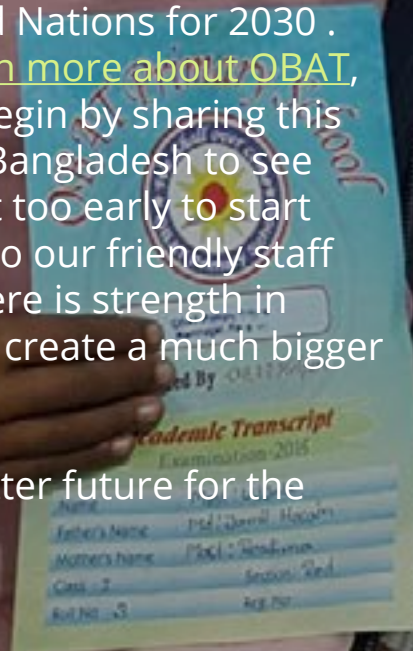
I am excited to invite you to read through our 2015 annual report. OBAT recently celebrated its 12th birthday with a cozy dinner in its home town, Indianapolis, with some good friends and some birthday cake. I wish that all of you could have been a part of that celebration as we owe the last twelve years of progress to you. You are the pulse of this organization and although this organization was set in motion twelve years ago, we need you now, more than ever, to build on the momentum you generated, to make OBAT better and to help us overcome all challenges that lie ahead.

The previous year was a great one and through this report, we are sharing with you all the ideas that were brewed, the action that ensued and the smiles that you were able to put on so many faces. With your support, we have already been working on 35% of the targets of the [sustainable development goals](#), set by the United Nations for 2030 . In the year ahead, I invite you to [learn more about OBAT](#), spread the word about it, (why not begin by sharing this report?) and visit OBAT's projects in Bangladesh to see the impact you have created. It is not too early to start planning for your trip for 2017. Talk to our friendly staff so we could coordinate our trips. There is strength in numbers and you and I together can create a much bigger difference.

Here's to empowerment and to a better future for the camp residents!



Anwar Khan
President and Founder



Education

58
Camps

Empowerment

**12 YEARS OF IMPACT
MADE POSSIBLE
BECAUSE OF YOU!**

Infrastructure
development
and relief

11
Cities

Health



WHAT HAPPENED IN 2015?

5,017 students were enrolled in all educational institutions
883 of these were scholarship recipients



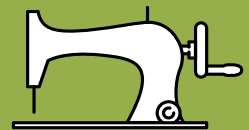
9,977 people were treated at health clinics



12,789 people received assistance through the charity and qurbani program



63 women graduated from vocational centers



78,000 people had access to clean water



WHAT WAS NEW IN 2015?

CITIES

Syedpur

- 9 new preschools opened in Syedpur with an enrollment of 195 children.
- 8 new tube wells benefiting over 1,300 people, were installed.
- In addition, 6 new bathroom chambers, a sewage and a water tank were installed, serving 545 people.

Ishurdi and Gilatala

- OBAT began operating in two new cities.
- In Ishurdi, 3 hand pumps and 4 bathroom chambers were installed, benefiting 300 people.
- 11 tube wells were installed in Gilatala, serving 5,000 people.

Mymensingh

- In Mymensingh, 4 hand pumps were installed, providing access for 415 people to clean water.
- The qurbani program also began here for the first time, with meat being distributed to about 2,000 people.

Gaibandha and Narayanganj

- In Gaibandha and Narayanganj, new qurbani programs fed 2,500 people.

Dhaka

- The Mirpur Computer Training Center started in Dhaka, with an enrollment of 21 students.
- The BLS High School began in Dhaka, with an enrollment of 400 children.

Rangpur

- In Rangpur, 6 new bathroom chambers were constructed, benefiting 875 people.
- 20 new tube wells were also installed there. They fulfilled the clean water requirement for over 2,200 people.
- Drains and septic tanks were also installed in Rangpur, providing sanitation facilities to 155 people.

Ferozeshah

- In Ferozeshah, a new tube well provided clean water to 1,200 people.



SARDAR BAHADUR NAGAR SCHOOL

BUILDING FUTURES WITH EDUCATION



**EDUCATION FOR WORKING CHILDREN
PROGRAM IN DHAKA**

7
Tutoring
Centers

8
Schools
34
Preschools

6
Computer
Training
Centers

**THE POWER OF
AN EDUCATION
IMPARTED BY YOU**

Arabic
Education
Programs in
3
Cities

883
Scholarships
From School
to College
Level

Education
for Working
Children
Program in
Dhaka

**INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT OUR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

MEET GAFFAR



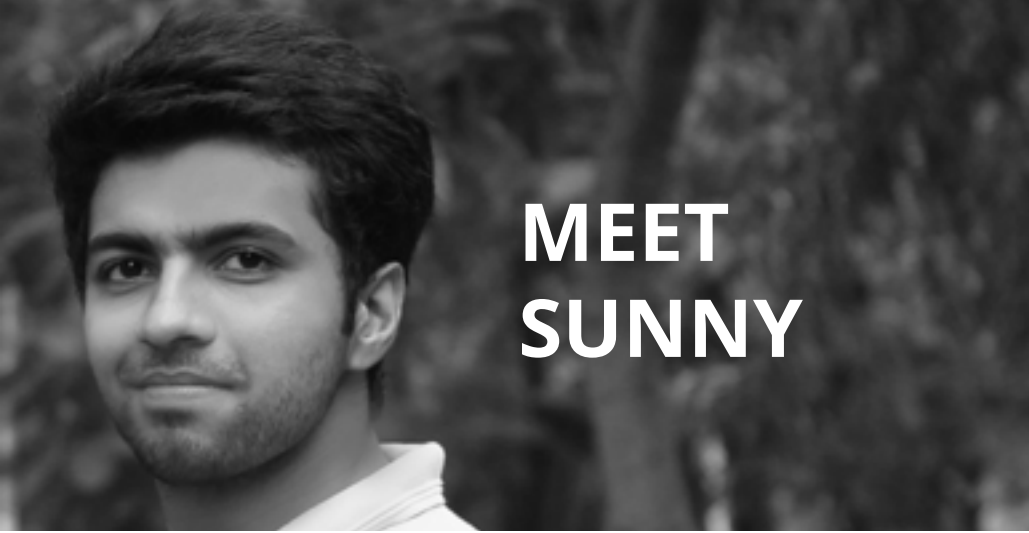
ABDUL GAFFAR is a ten year old who studies at the OBAT English School in Dhaka. His father, Mohammad Nasim, is a butcher while his mother Guria Begum, stays home to take care of the family.

Gaffar has three brothers. His eldest brother, Mohammad Nayeem, was only able to study till grade three- he now works as a car mechanic. The other two brothers are nine and three years old.

Gaffar loves to play cricket and Ludo. He dreams about becoming a successful doctor so that he can help his neighbors who like him, live in wretched conditions in the camps.

A child of many talents, Gaffar is eager to participate in any extracurricular programs arranged by the school. He has participated in a play that was performed to commemorate the ten year anniversary of OBAT. Gaffar also participated in an art competition in February and he is also a talented singer. Gaffar does equally well in his studies, and received the fourth place in the school exams recently.

[LISTEN TO GAFFAR'S STORY HERE](#)



MEET SUNNY

EMPOWERING YOUTH THROUGH EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

ABUL KHAYER, better known as, Sunny, wears many hats. He is the head of the OBAT tutoring center in Dhaka, a senior member of OBAT Think Tank, an OBAT scholarship recipient and an active volunteer for OBAT.

Sunny lives in Geneva camp in Dhaka. He has recently completed his B.B.A. in Marketing and is currently doing an Internship at NCC Bank. He received a scholarship from OBAT in 2013 for doing his BBA from Southeast University. Sunny considers the following as his strengths: Project management, MS Office, Public Speaking, Marketing Research and Product Development.

Abul Khayer is currently looking for a permanent employment position and the opportunity to complete his MBA from a reputable university from either Bangladesh or abroad. He lives with his mother and four sisters. His father passed away in 2005. After his father's death, his family faced a multitude of financial troubles. During monsoon season, water seeped out in their house from the ground. His mother could barely manage to purchase daily necessities and continue the education of her four children. At one point, Abul Khayer decided to drop out and start working full time when he was in tenth grade. However, his uncle who worked as a barber, told him to continue his education at any cost and helped him to continue studying until he finished tenth grade.

Abul Khayer crossed paths with us in 2010 as a student at the OBAT Tutoring Center. When the staff saw his potential, OBAT decided to give him a scholarship to continue his High School and BBA. In August 2013, he joined as a teacher at OBAT Tutoring Center, Dhaka. By 2014, he had been given the responsibility to run the entire center.

“I am always very thankful to OBAT and its donors as without their support and help, I couldn't have continued my education. I always try to participate in any new project at OBAT and want to give it my maximum effort. My mother sends her thanks to the entire OBAT team and is deeply thankful to them as without their help, she could not have managed to bear my educational expenses.”



**BUILDING FOUNDATIONS
THROUGH EARLY
EDUCATION**

**STUDENTS IN OBAT'S
PRESCHOOL IN RANGPUR**

MEET MIM FROM OBAT'S DHAKA PRESCHOOL



MIM is five years old.

Her father, Irad Mia, makes boxes for storing accessories or small items and mother, Yasmin makes clay toys for a living. She lives in Millat Camp, Mohammadpur, Dhaka with her parents and siblings. Kajol, her older sister, is employed as a karchupi (traditional Bangladeshi hand embroidery) worker and contributes to the income of the family with her work.

Mim is currently studying at OBAT's Preschool. She is a hardworking and intelligent student who is always eager to learn. Due to the family's financial constraints, Mim could not have attended school. It was something she and her family never thought about until they were approached by OBAT for a free preschool admission.

Now, Mim dreams about becoming a doctor. She loves to study and also wants to give tuitions to help other students, when she grows up. Mim also loves to paint and sketch. Her favorite foods are, biryani, fruits and vegetables. She likes to play with her mother's cooking utensils and is very fond of dolls as well.

The precocious five year old told us:

"I had never imagined even in my wildest dreams that I will ever get the chance to study in any school."

CHANNELING POTENTIAL THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS

LISTEN TO THE STORIES OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Here is what you hear from the scholarship students in this video:

DILRUBA

"I live in CCR camp. I am an OBAT scholarship program student. I also teach science subjects at OBAT's tutoring center and am also a Think T member and co-chair. At the beginning of this year, I have enrolled in B-Pharmacy at the Asia Pacific University. I want to become a big pharmacist. This became possible because of you- all of you. If it wasn't for you, I might not have gotten the scholarship and would not have got the chance to study such a good subject. Just because of you, I have been able to study pharmacy. I want to be a good pharmacist in the future. As we know, a scholarship is so important for us youth. There are lots of other kids who have dreams but they don't know how to pursue them or which way to go. If other children got scholarships, they would be able to study subjects of their choice and do a lot more. I want other students to get a scholarship too to study well and do good things, to be successful and to in turn, educate others. I would like to end this by saying that I have heartfelt prayers for all of you. Please also pray for us that one day we become capable of donating for the education of ten, twenty or more kids. Thank you so much."

SHIRIN

"I live in Geneva camp. We have received a lot of help from you. I just want to request you to continue helping us. Thank you very much, from all of us."

LABUNI

"I study in grade 8. My school's name is, NLJ High School. Because of you, myself and other poor kids have received a scholarship. Thank you OBAT NLJ High School. I would like you to continue helping my community and other poor kids like me. Thank you."

ABUL KHAYER

"I am doing my BBA in South East University. After my father passed away in 2004, we went through many ups and downs in our lives. I have an uncle who bore our family's expenses and our education costs. I have four sisters. Unfortunately, my uncle is a barber and he couldn't keep up with our family's expenses. However, myself and two of my sisters were able to complete our school and colleges from government institutions. In 2013, I thought that I was done with my studies but I found OBAT through a friend who introduced me to them. At that time, I got a scholarship from OBAT. Without OBAT, I could not have imagined finishing higher education at a private university. This is my last semester. After that, my BBA will be completed. I have a plan to work with a multi-national company. Also, I have a dream to complete my Masters from the U.S. or the U.K. Without OBAT's help, I could not have imagined going so far. I couldn't have completed my BBA if OBAT had not helped me at that time. After getting a scholarship from OBAT, I could think about higher education. I thank you from all the scholarship students, I thank you from all of my community, I thank you from all of the students who you have helped. Thank you."



**OBAT'S COMPUTER TRAINING CENTER
IN SYEDPUR**

BUILDING FUTURES WITH EDUCATION



**OBAT'S TUTORING CENTER
IN CHITTAGONG**



**THE GIFT OF HEALTH
MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE
OF YOU**

47,000 patients treated at both health clinics and one mobile clinic up to 2015; over **14,000** people were provided health education and over **400** participated in health sessions related to nutrition, immunization, family planning and hygiene.

A surgeon wearing a teal surgical cap and mask, and a white gown, is performing a cataract surgery. The surgeon is focused on the patient's eye, which is illuminated by a bright surgical light. The background shows various pieces of medical equipment, including a microscope and other surgical instruments.

THE GIFT OF SIGHT PROVIDED BY YOU

Imagine the joy you can spread by restoring someone's vision! **2,072** cataract surgeries have been performed since 2012.

MEET ZABIR ALAM

A BENEFICIARY OF OBAT'S CATARACT PROGRAM

MOHAMMAD ZABIR ALAM is about sixty-two years old.

He lives in Isphahani camp number three in the Alamnagar area of the city of Rangpur. This has been his abode since the year 1972. He lives here with six other members of his family. Mr. Alam's vision was not clear and he needed a cataract surgery to be performed. However, due to his limited financial resources, he could not undergo the operation. Recently, in an eye camp held by OBAT, both his eyes were operated on for cataract removal. He is now able to see clearly and does not depend on anyone for his daily activities.

Before the surgery, he was unable to attend the mosque for prayers and he could not read the Quran either. Mohammad Alam is very happy that he can now function independently and can easily go about his daily life without the assistance of others.



A young boy in a dark t-shirt is drinking water from a green hand pump. Another person in a white shirt is visible in the background, also near the pump. The scene is outdoors with a blurred background.

THE RELIEF OF CLEAN WATER CREATED BY YOU

Between 2008-2015, **122** new tube wells (deep motorized and shallow tube wells as well as hand pumps) were installed. **78,000** people now have access to clean drinking water.

MEET SHAMS UN NAHAR

ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER HAS MADE HER LIFE SO MUCH EASIER

Four camps are located at the Khulshi, Chittagong, L-93 camp. The total population here is eight hundred families. Since more than four decades, the families living here had no access to clean water. In 2012, OBAT installed a deep tube well here.

Mrs. Shamsun Nahar has been living in this camp for the last forty-five years with her husband, two sons and five daughters. The family were faced with a severe lack of drinking water. Mrs. Nahar worked as a maid at the house of a railway official and toiled an entire day to receive two jars of clean water in lieu of wages.

She is now very grateful to OBAT as the tube well located close to her home has made life so much easier for her. One hundred and forty nine families are now collecting water from this tube well.





THE RELIEF OF SANITATION THANKS TO YOU

Construction of twenty-five community bathrooms including separate bathrooms for men and women, as well as drains and septic tanks, have benefited almost **7,000** people in 2015.



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE PROVIDED BY YOU

You are empowering women and changing lives in two of OBAT's sewing centers in Khulna and Syedpur and one embroidery training center in Khulna. To date, **724** women have graduated from these centers.

MEET SONNY AKHTER

Learning to sew has made her optimistic about the future

HEAR SONNI TALK ABOUT HER LIFE



What you will hear in the video:

"My name is Sonni Akhter. I live in Rasulpur camp. I have come here to get free sewing training for four months. Everyone is very nice here, they teach and train us. Halim bhai, Mahfuz bhai and Madam are helping me to learn, they are teaching me very nicely. Sometimes, they also teach students for six months- in case someone wants to learn more things."

Interviewer: How will what you learn here help you?

"I didn't know anything before, now I can sew a shirt."

Interviewer: What couldn't you do before?

"I couldn't sew anything before, didn't know how to use a sewing machine, I am happy that I can sew a shirt now. It's a four month course. It has been one and half months since I started. In this time, I have already learnt how to use the machine and to stitch a shirt. After I complete this course, I can work outside or at home and earn some money. If I earn money, it will be good for everyone, for the whole family. After finishing this course, it will be very helpful if I can get a sewing machine of my own. After I learn sewing, I will have the courage and confidence to do something of my own and I can also teach others living in the camps as they are very poor."

OBAT THINK TANK



**CREATIVE
PROBLEM
SOLVING
SUPPORTED
BY YOU**

WHO IS THE THINK TANK

OBAT Think Tank was formed in December 2012 to utilize and involve the vast and untapped potential that is present in the youth of the camps. It is an organized group led by the youth of the camps and works hand in hand with the OBAT staff. The main goal of the Think Tank is to organize and involve the youth with positive community building activities. The group aims to keep its members focused on the betterment of youth, while simultaneously improving their leadership and communication skills. It also works on spreading awareness regarding health, safety and a clean environment.

GLOBAL HAND WASHING DAY

This project was undertaken by the Think Tank members in the CRO camp in Dhaka. The crew spend the day teaching the importance of proper hygiene to school aged children. This is one of the basic steps to undertake toward prevention of spreading of diseases in the camps. Think Tank members also distributed leaflets by going door to door in the camp communities.

**LEARN MORE
ABOUT OUR
THINK TANK
PROJECTS**

COACHING FOR PEC PUBLIC EXAM

PEC or primary education certificate exam is a public exam that needs to be undertaken by grade five students to progress to the next level. In 2013, a free PEC exam coaching center was established by the Think Tank members to give free coaching to school students. This project continued in its third year in 2015, with great success.

MEET FARZANA



FARZANA'S STORY

What you will hear in the video from a proud member of OBAT's Think Tank:

"I have eight members in my family- my parents, my two brothers and we are four sisters. My father is a laborer, he lifts cartons onto trucks. My two brothers do karchupi work (a specific type of hand embroidery, usually done on sarees) and make ladies' clothes. My father makes a daily living of 30, 40, sometimes 80 or 100 takas (\$1.28). But he gives very little to my mom for household expenses. My brothers studied till grade nine. When they reached grade ten, our financial condition was really bad. That is why they had to drop out of their studies to do karchupi work."

"I work for Islamic Relief Bangladesh which is an international nonprofit organization. The organization wanted to hire educated girls from the camps. Murtaza Bhai (OBAT's former project officer), selected seven girls from the camps and arranged for their interviews. During the interview, the experience that came in handy for me, was that of the Think Tank. We have done many projects with the Think Tank. As you can see today, I can talk confidently. Earlier, I couldn't even speak and didn't used to leave the house. It is because of Murtaza bhai that I got so much awareness. Due to OBAT's Think Tank projects, we went to various camps, talked to camp people, visited people's homes. When we worked on the "Disable to Able" project, we went to all the houses and saw so many people. We actually didn't know that there were so many disabled people in the camps. We were a part of many programs here; Murtaza bhai used to call us especially for the Ramadan charity distribution program. "

"I think its very difficult to create a change in the community. **If we want to create a change, our generation has to become so well equipped that people begin to learn from us. If we want to teach others, then first we have to start practicing, ourselves.** When we did the Think Tank project, 'Make it Clean, Keep it Green,' we cleaned the camps by sweeping up the trash. There were about a hundred of us and we went to the camps and collected the trash from there. Then, we gave the residents fliers and told them that they should keep their community spic and span. Tomorrow, when many of us will have finished our studies and want to bring our friends back here, we will feel embarrassed. Some visitors here cover their noses with cloths to keep out the stench. A lot of students don't even want to come to the camps. They scrunch up their noses at the mention of it and say they wouldn't ever live here. During the project, we shared this with the camp residents to emphasize the importance of clean living conditions."

Ramadan Charity Program- 2015

Family Development Project

Khulna Bangladesh



Organized By- OBAT Helpers

**CHARITY AND FAMILY
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
THANKS TO YOU**

Since 2008, you have extended help to almost **96,000** families through the family assistance and qurbani program.



THREE REASONS TO LOVE OBAT HELPERS

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.

The percentage of **female beneficiaries** in OBAT's educational projects is significantly higher than males.

All of OBAT's staff who run its programs, **are from the camp communities** themselves. What better way to empower people than **train them to help their own!**

THREE WAYS TO HELP OBAT HELPERS

Talk about it! Share OBAT's story with your friends, families and people you sit next to on the bus, subway or on a plane.

Host a tea party! Invite your neighbors, colleagues, cronies and class mates. Share with them a cup of tea and then enlighten them about OBAT's work. We have you covered with videos, photos and what not. Call us and we will get all the material to you and give you detailed guidelines for conducting the event.

Share your talents! Are you a social media mogul? Do you have a knack for graphic design or event planning? Transfer your talents to us. Begin the conversation at contact@obathelpers.org.



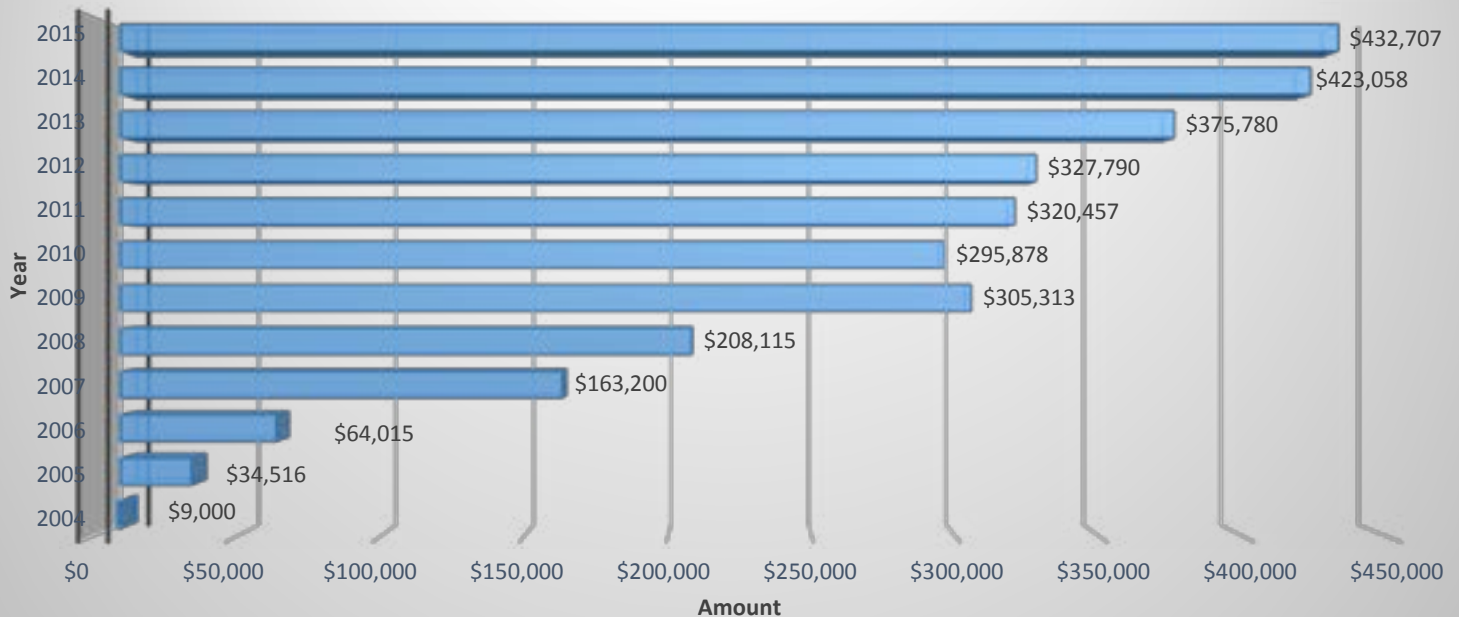
OUR FINANCIALS 2015

Total Revenue.....	\$566,907
Administrative Expenses.....	\$59,702
Fundraising Expenses.....	\$14,203
Program Expenses.....	\$432,707
Total Expenses	\$506,612
Revenue Less Expenses	\$60,295

Assets

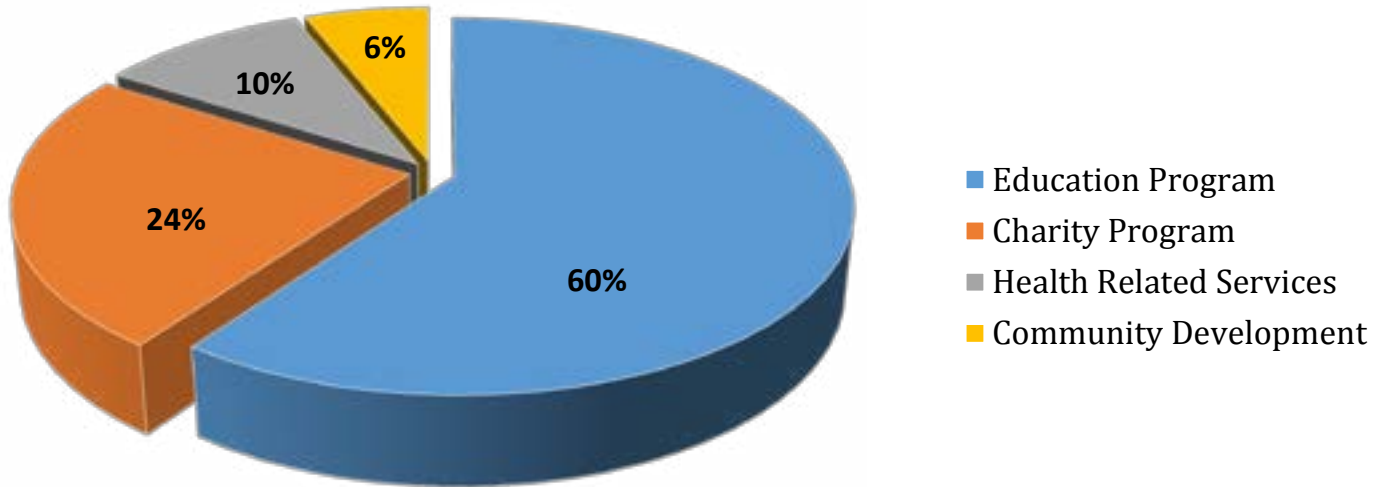
Total Assets.....	\$93,020
Total Liabilities	\$2,670
Total Net Assets	\$90,350

Project & Program Expenses
2004-2015

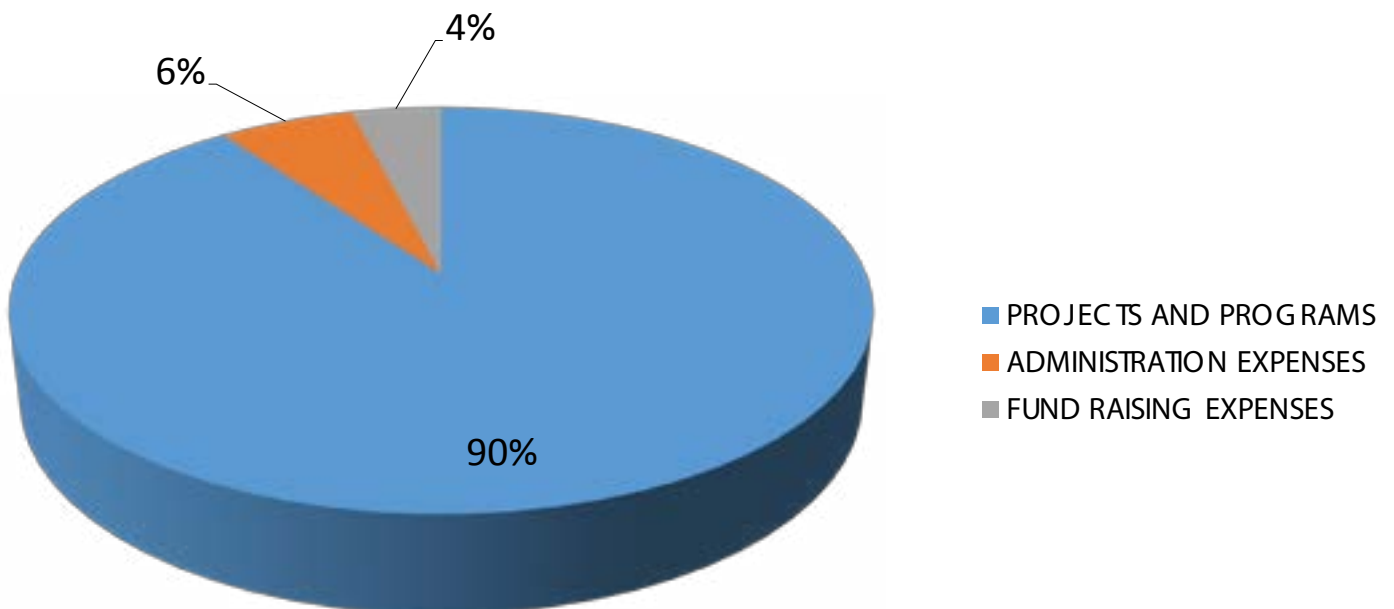


OUR FINANCIALS 2015

Allocation of Funds by Projects (as of 2015)



PROGRAM AND OTHER EXPENSES Average for 2004 – 2015



OBAT'S LEADERSHIP

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Nadeem Haque

U.S. STAFF

Immad Ahmed – Chief Operating Officer

Dr. John Clark – Executive Director

Saima Hassan – Director of Development and Communications

OUR TEAM IN BANGLADESH

All our projects are executed with the help of our implementing partner, ISDCM- Integrated Services for the Development of Mothers and Children.

Sohail Akhter Khan – Project Manager, Bangladesh

Farooq Azeem – Senior Project Officer, Dhaka

Ms. Shahana Akther – Accounts Officer

Manzoor Ali – Project Officer, Chittagong

Abdul Halim Khan – Project Officer, Syedpur

Humayun Kabir – Project Officer, Khulna

Mohammad Salahuddin – Project Officer, Rangpur

Raju Raj – Project Officer, Dhaka

Md.Shohel Ahmed – Project officer, Mymensingh

Mahfug Alam – Monitoring Officer, Syedpur

Mostak Himadree – Monitoring Officer, Chittagong

Shahinur Rahman Guddu – Monitoring Officer, Rangpur

OBAT Helpers, Bangladesh

Sabera Sultana – Executive Director

Board of Directors

Imamul Haque Siddiki

Syed Jalaluddin

Mehboob Alam

S.M. Zakwan Barkati

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Human Concern International – Canada
Gemmer Foundation – IN
RS Foundation – Canada
Salsabil Charitable Corporation – FL

THE PATH AHEAD

“Greg Constantine is a photo-journalist whose decade-long project focused on stateless persons around the world. In a talk in Indianapolis this year, Constantine said that of the twenty groups he has documented, the Urdu-speakers in Bangladesh are the only ones whose condition is improving markedly. OBAT Helpers is proud to be part of this success story.

OBAT is optimistic about the future of the camp dwellers for three reasons. First, thanks to the generosity of our donors, we can continue to reach more people in the camps with our health, education, empowerment, and infrastructure programs. We are continuing to expand projects to camps no one has yet reached. Second, thanks to the hard work of Chief Operating Officer, Immad Ahmed and program managers in Bangladesh, projects in the camps are computerized and streamlined, allowing them to be even more effective. A dollar (or taka) now can have an even greater impact on people’s lives. Third and most importantly, OBAT is optimistic about the future because of the hard work and creativity of the camp residents themselves. They eagerly seize every chance they are given to improve the condition of their families, their community, and their country. OBAT is humbled by the opportunity to work with such special people. ”

Gratefully yours,
John Clark.
(Executive Director, OBAT Helpers)



We cannot thank YOU enough!

Because YOU are...

Our supporters: You are our rock and foundation. Very simply, without you standing by the camp residents, they wouldn't have access to food, education, health care or clean water.

Our volunteers: You make our life easier and help us achieve so much more than we could on our own.

Our helpers: Contributions to annual report: Immad Ahmed and Fatima Hussain (photos); Saima Hassan, Fatima Hussain and Naomi Szczesiul (content and design.)

Our team members: Whether you are in Bangladesh or in the US, you are the essence and lifeblood of OBAT.

Our partners: BMSS (Bangladesh Medical Student Association), PARAA, Euglena and BCCP (Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs.)

Our chapters: Ambassadors of OBAT chapters (Seattle, St.Louis, San Fransisco, Dallas, Ft.Wayne, Indianapolis) who host awareness and fundraising events for us every year.





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