



OBATHELPER S  
*Empowerment Through Community Development*

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



# Table of Contents

- Mission, Vision, & Core Values .....3
- Welcome Letter .....4
- Where We Work .....5
- Our Programs.....6
- Our Impact.....7
- Recognitions .....8
- 2021 New Projects.....9
- Internally Displaced Community Projects..... 10
- Rohingya Projects ..... 36
- OBAT News ..... 55
- 2021 Visitors ..... 60
- 2021 Financials..... 62
- Major Donors ..... 63
- OBAT’s Team (U.S.) ..... 64
- Our Implementing Partners..... 65
- Our Service Partners ..... 66



**OBATHELPERS**  
*Empowerment Through Community Development*

# 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 into us by our donors and remain accountable and answerable for our actions to all our stakeholders.

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



Dear OBAT Family,

When I wrote this letter last year, it seemed that the end of the pandemic was in sight. Little did we know that despite vaccinations, we would continue to grapple with COVID's health and economic repercussions in 2021. We may consider ourselves very blessed to have access to quality health care and other amenities of living, but I yearn for the same ease and comfort for those we serve through OBAT and for other marginalized populations around the world.

During 2021, the dedicated youth of OBAT's Think Tank made a commendable effort to vaccinate camp residents across Bangladesh by going door to door and registering over 7,000 people to receive vaccinations. This OBAT youth group is active in seven cities and consists of nearly 400 members with an executive body of 20 inspirational youth. These motivated youth are the future hope for this community and OBAT is doing its utmost to blaze the path forward for them.

As lockdowns were lifted and classrooms sprang back to life, teachers and students were equally excited to transition from online learning to being in the classroom again. We commend our teachers for their agility in adapting to the challenging scenarios they faced. While day laborers in the camps struggled with finding work, various distributions from food to blankets and toys to Eid clothes, created ease in their lives. This was entirely made possible due to your continued generosity which was instrumental in achieving nearly 90% of our fundraising goal in 2021.

2021 marked a grim milestone for the internally displaced camp communities. It has now been fifty years since they were compelled into living in makeshift camps. Although their life fell painfully short of their dreams, I am grateful that in the last 17 years, we were able to give them hope for a better future together. Thankfully, hope is no longer an abstract notion for them. It is personified by OBAT's scholarship students, Jibon and Mursalin who received admission in the top-ranked Dhaka University, by Amrin who will be the first person in her family to attend the highly competitive Asian University for Women located in Chit-



tagong and by Yassin and Hossain who are poised to pursue their education in prestigious engineering universities in Dhaka and Chittagong.

Please join me in congratulating these amazing young women and men and in creating more opportunities for OBAT students like them so they may become the pride and joy of their parents and their communities. Our Rohingya brothers and sisters and camp communities are arguably the most important members of the global OBAT Family. Thank you for helping actualize their dreams, advocating for them and standing by them in good times and bad, just like family is meant to do.

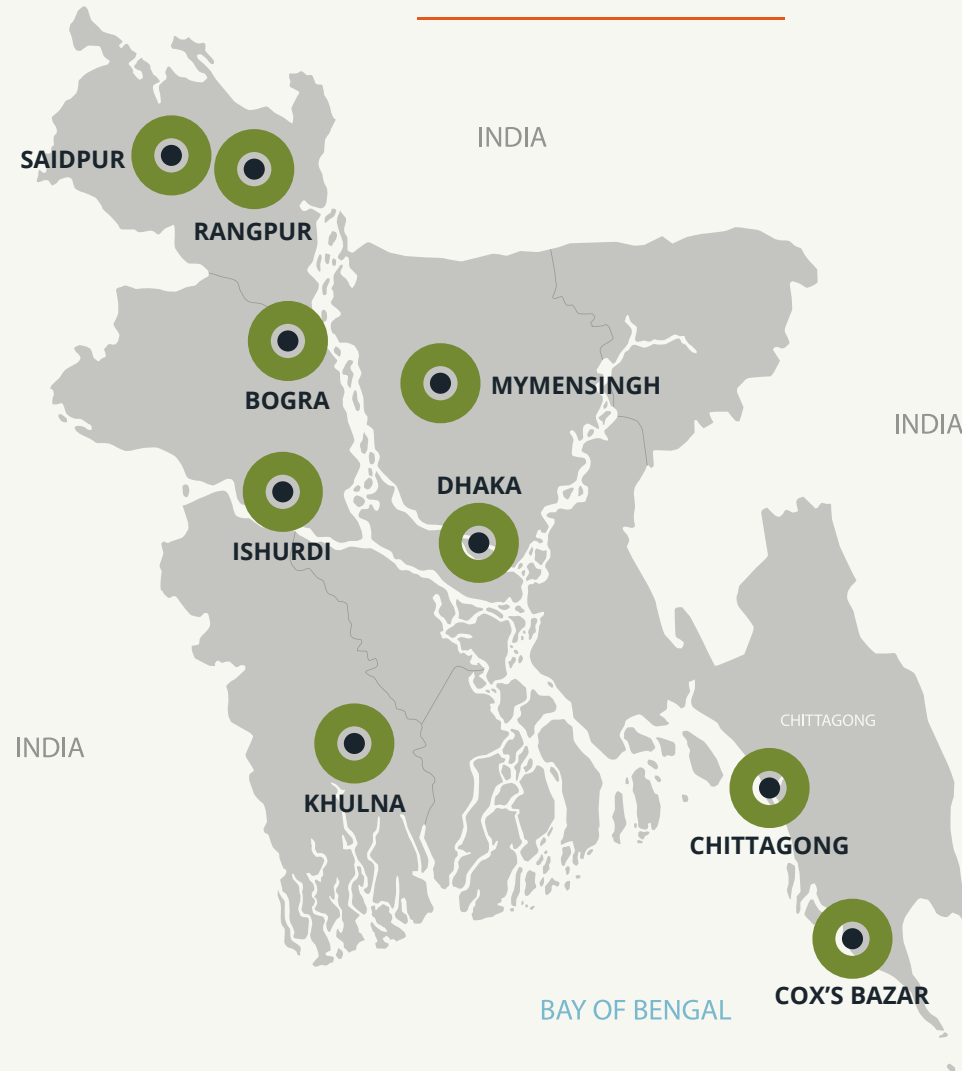
With immense gratitude for your compassion and support.

Anwar Khan  
President  
OBAT Helpers, Inc.

# Where We Work



## MAP OF BANGLADESH



# Our Programs



# Our Impact

THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR IMPACT AND FOOTPRINT GROW CONTINUOUSLY WITH YOUR SUPPORT.

SINCE 2004, OBAT'S PROJECTS FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED CAMP RESIDENTS AND ROHINGYA REFUGEES HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THE FOLLOWING:



**27,196**

students have graduated from OBAT's educational projects for internally displaced camp communities

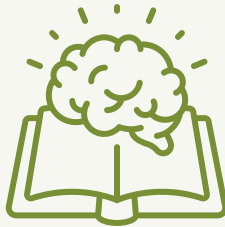
**329,720**

patients have been treated at OBAT's health clinics across Bangladesh



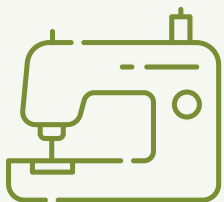
Nearly **900**

students are enrolled annually in Learning Centers for Rohingya refugees



Approx. **150,000**

people have benefited from OBAT's clean water and sanitation projects



Over **3,000**

people have been empowered from OBAT's sewing centers and livelihood programs

**604,895**

people have been aided by OBAT's family assistance and Qurbani programs



# Recognitions

---



## GLOBALGIVING

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



## GUIDESTAR

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



## GREAT NONPROFITS

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



# 2021 New Projects

## IDP PROJECTS

- Arabic education program in Dhaka
- Khan Academy Training for teachers to enable them to be better facilitators for the program
- 2 sewing training centers in Chittagong and Khulna
- Program for special needs kids in Dhaka and Chittagong
- 24 water projects including:
  - 3 motorized deep tube wells
  - 6 semi deep tube wells
  - 15 hand pumps
- 1 preschool in Gilatala
- 1 IT Center in Khulna
- Bathroom for women in SB Nagar School Camp
- Toilets in Ferozeshah School Camp and in Dhaka
- Maternity Program in Rangpur

## ROHINGYA PROJECTS

- Child Support Project - Camp4
- Learning Center for Addolescent Children - Camp 4
- Orphan Sponsorship Project - Camp 13
- Expansion of Materinity Section in Health Clinic



# Internally Displaced Urdu-Speaking Community Projects





# Education

- 13 Schools
- 9 Tutoring Centers
- 11 Computer Training Centers
- 28 Preschools
- 4 Arabic Education Programs
- 1 Adult Literacy Program
- 1 Digital Learning Center
- 2,265 Scholarship Students



their classmates and for normal school life to resume. They were overjoyed to finally return to school and were especially happy to meet their friends there. Classes began with prayers for those who lost their lives to the pandemic, and were filled with exciting opportunities to learn the “old fashioned way”- in person, surrounded by supportive teachers and caring peers.

On Sep 12th, for many of OBAT's students, the wait was finally over. The Bangladeshi government allowed in-person classes to resume in educational institutes across the country. During COVID-19 lockdowns, OBAT students were educated through smartphones or digital learning, and through teachers' visits to students' homes. However, students longed to see

## GRADUATIONS AT OBAT'S COMPUTER TRAINING CENTERS

OBAT operates 11 computer training centers in different cities in Bangladesh. A wide range of courses ranging from basic MS Office to programming are taught at these centers. A course

completion and certificate ceremony was held at two of these centers in SB Nagar and Raufabad. The two centers successfully graduated 154 students collectively, from the Office Application and Graphics Design course.



## Education



Computer training plays a vital role in improving the living standard of the communities served by OBAT. It creates quick and substantial income opportunities as freelancers and also prepares students for future employment opportunities. In early December, OBAT's Mohammadpur IT Center celebrated its graduating batch of students by awarding them with completion certificates. Five of the students finished the challenging Python programming course and received special awards to encourage them to continue investing in themselves. This was also the first batch graduating in Python programming from this IT Center. A total of 38 other students received certificates for completing MS Office application or graphic design courses. Congratulations to all our hard working students!

The 29th batch of students graduated from the Rangpur IT Center in June. Bornaly is one of the



alumni to complete a Microsoft Office Application Course from this IT Center and was invited at the graduation to be recognized for her recent success. Bornaly has joined the Dainik Dabanal newspaper as a journalist and ultimately wants to become a news anchor on television. Bornaly is also studying in the 3rd year of college at Govt. Begum Rokeya College in Rangpur.

### **OBAT STUDENTS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS BY PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOLS**

The Center for Zakat Management supports and operates several educational projects. One example is the English medium, Granada Boarding School for



Boys in Dhaka. Some of OBAT's students have been receiving scholarships from CZM since 2020 to cover expenses while they study at the Granada School. The students' education through high school is provided free of cost, including food and lodging.

During 2021, 50 OBAT students were studying at the Granada School. A fresh batch of 29 students is getting ready to start at the school in 2022. OBAT held a farewell and orientation program for these students. During this program, the students were given detailed information about their new school and also gifted with luggage to help them store their essential items. These students are currently studying at OBAT's English School, SB Nagar and Rangpur Schools and will be admitted in grades 6-9 at the Granada School. We wish these budding scholars the very best in their new school!

Forty-five OBAT students are also studying at the prestigious International Grammar School in Rangpur with the help of a scholarship. Similarly, 80 of OBAT's Dhaka English students are enrolled and receive scholarships to continue their education at

## Education

the private Queens School in Dhaka.



### TEACHERS RECEIVE TRAINING TO ENHANCE QUALITY OF EDUCATION

To ensure that teachers are able to function at their maximum potential, OBAT organizes frequent training to ensure educators are equipped and up to date with current modes of teaching. Several trainings took place during the course of the year.

A training was held for the Math teachers of the education projects in Chittagong. This workshop delivered guidance to the teachers regarding dealing with the setbacks faced by the students as a result of the pandemic. Trainings like these are an integral part of OBAT's academic program, as they keep the teachers ahead of the curve when it comes to the latest developments in education methodology.

During October, all preschool teachers from Chittagong received specialized training from Ms. Shamim Nighat, Technical Officer and former Teacher in Concern Worldwide's Education Program, and a similarly-modeled program was held for Dhaka teachers as well.

### OBAT SCOUTS ARE RECOGNIZED FOR SKILLS AND TALENTS



Our Scouts are an amazing group of students- constantly challenging themselves by participating in various competitions. Twelve students from the Scouts team at OBAT's SB Nagar High School participated in Scouting's JOTA JOTI online program.

JOTA-JOTI (Jamboree on the Air – Jamboree on the Internet) is an international jamboree taking place around the world simultaneously and is organized by the World Organization of the Scout Movement. Scouts communicate over the Air and the Internet using any locally available technology. We are

proud of our Scouts for consistently competing and achieving at local and national competitions.



32 Scouts from the Scouting group at OBAT's Rangpur School also participated in and completed the ICT (Information and Communication Technology- a leading sector of Bangladesh's economy) program to become proficient in computer technology during the pandemic.



There is no dearth of talent among the scouts! The Scout Group from Syedpur High School participated



## Education

in an art competition organized by Bangladesh Railway Scouts in which four out of the top five positions were awarded to OBAT's Scouts! More prizes were collected by the scouts from SB Nagar Junior High School who participated in a district scout competition and won five awards. The prizes were awarded for additional competitions including a great performance in the march and parade in which fourteen schools participated. Other than the accolades, the group also received high praise for their performance.

### RANGPUR SCHOOL CRICKET CLUB SUPPORTS THE DREAMS OF STUDENTS

In 2016, OBAT formed a Cricket Club in the Rangpur School to encourage students interested in the sport, as cricket is a popular sport in Bangladesh. Mohammad Sabuj, a student of grade 10 in OBAT's Rangpur School and a passionate Cricket player, has contributed the most in establishing and building this Cricket Club for Rangpur School students. Currently, he is playing in the Rangpur Premier League. Initially, the number of students in the club was 45; as the news spread, the number of students also increased. The students practice with dedication in order to become better players. The club arranges tournaments every Friday to improve the skills and

performance of the club's members and to prepare them for participation in competitions.



Twenty girls from the club recently got an opportunity to play in the Dream Academy Cricket Club in Rangpur due to their outstanding performance. OBAT's Cricket Club gets access to many similar opportunities and the members play with other local schools as well. The boys team plays with six other local schools including the prestigious IGS School which is a private institution.

### OBAT'S STUDENTS WOW AT SCIENCE FAIRS AND ART COMPETITIONS

Extra-curricular activities are vital for the holistic development of students. For this reason, science

fairs were held at OBAT's Khulna, SB Nagar, Dhaka, Syedpur, and Rangpur Schools as well as in all 4 schools in Dhaka.



The science exhibits made by students were impressive and demonstrated concepts they had been learning during their science classes. Among the guests present in Chittagong were former Chairman (Department of Physics, Chittagong University) and Founder and President of Chittagong Science Association. The students felt encouraged as their projects were lauded by the attendees.



## Education

National Children's Day is celebrated in Bangladesh on March 17th. The government of Bangladesh is focused on the wellbeing of children and promotes cultural events to mark this day. In 2021, Khulna KCC Girls Collegiate School and College organized art competitions among schools from different districts of Khulna. OBAT's Khulna School was honored to be one of the participants of the program. The competition was a main event in the city and was inaugurated by the city's Mayor. Twenty-three students from Khulna School participated. Kudos to all the prize winners! A similar program was held for all the Dhaka Schools by OBAT. They marked the dual occasion of National Children's Day as well as the country's founder's day.



International Mother Language Day is always observed at OBAT's Schools with a lot of excitement and enthusiasm. In 2021, all the OBAT Schools held

various handwriting and art competitions for their students. At the end of the programs, the top three students in each category were awarded prizes!



Thank you to our partners, both the Lions and Leo Clubs of Chittagong for helping us celebrate International day of Children on November 20th. The two clubs held art and essay competitions for the students at SB Nagar Primary School. The top performers received praise and awards from our generous partners.

## OBAT STAFF RECOGNIZED ON WORLD TEACHERS DAY

World Teachers Day is observed worldwide on October 5th. OBAT's schools' teachers, 95% of whom are female staff, continue to ensure the success of over 9,000 students in OBAT's educational projects. To express our appreciation for their contributions,

the day was observed in a ceremony in the cities of Chittagong, Khulna, and Syedpur.



The event honored high-performing teachers with the Crest Award, a plaque presented by OBAT to commemorate stellar commitment and service. Teachers were also presented with the highly coveted resource of books for their classes. Our deep gratitude goes to these teachers for their dedication to nurturing future leaders in camp communities.

## OBAT CELEBRATES SUCCESSSES OF ITS STUDENTS

Our students' successes are always a cause for rejoicing for us. OBAT's Chittagong team had much to celebrate last year as scholarship students, Hajera Akhter and Popy Akhter completed their Diploma course in Textiles from Chittagong Women Polytechnic Institute. Both are now working in the garments industry. Another scholarship student, Sultana Akhter Bristy also completed her BBA

## Education

degree from Chittagong University. Congratulations to all these young women! We wish them the very best in their careers.



## OBAT'S FOOTBALL TEAM CLINCHES TROPHY AND TITLE



OBAT's SB Nagar High School won an inter school football tournament organized by OBAT's Think Tank in Chittagong. Ten teams participated in an exciting event in which the runners up was also a team from OBAT's Ferozeshah School. Proud of our teams for clinching both the trophy and the runners up title!

## BOOK DISTRIBUTIONS ALWAYS CREATE EXCITEMENT!



Books are distributed to all the students of OBAT's schools at the start of the school year. The day is an exciting event preceding the school year as all students pose with their brand new books and get ready to start another academic year.



# Education

**“My name is Noor Hasan.** I am currently doing my BSC in CSE (Computer Science Engineering) from the Southeast University in Dhaka. I am also working as a Project Manager of the OBAT/Teach the World Foundation Digital Learning Program and currently leading the OBAT Smartphone Homeschooling Program for all cities in Bangladesh. In 2013, when I passed my JSC exam (Junior School Certificate is a public exam taken at the end of 8th grade), my parents and I were concerned about my path forward. Higher education was not affordable as my father was the only earning source in our household. I felt helpless and started thinking about dropping out and taking a vocational course instead which would quickly add to my family's income. That same year, I heard about OBAT's scholarship program and I applied for it. Due to receiving a scholarship, I was able to continue studying in 10th grade and then proceed onward to intermediate level (12th grade) and university education.

Besides providing its students with the light of education, OBAT also cares about building leadership traits among them. It does so through the OBAT Think Tank group (OBAT Think Tanks are organized groups led by the youth of the camps and work hand in hand with the OBAT staff; the main goal of the Think Tank is to organize and involve the youth in positive community building activities). I could discern a positive change in me after engaging with the Think Tank volunteer team. As a part of OBAT's Media Production Team, I also learned communication skills and received training to



develop skills such as photography, video documentation, etc. I gained more confidence day by day. Spending time in the OBAT Computer Training Center became one of my favorite pastimes and I worked on enhancing my computer skills there. That's when I got motivated to become an independent app developer and choose to study Computer Science.

I have remained actively engaged in various OBAT activities. In 2017, OBAT started its Digital Learning Program in partnership with Teach the World Foundation. I was selected to facilitate the digital class and felt really proud to be associated with two excellent organizations. I received further training and became more motivated. In August 2018, my happiness knew no bounds when I got selected as a Project Officer for OBAT's Digital Learning Program.

*I believe that challenges and obstacles give our life a meaning and a purpose and if we have a goal to strive towards, these become easier to overcome.* When I see anyone struggling in their life, I cannot help but feel extremely thankful for all my blessings. *I am very happy and proud to state that I am the first person in my family to study in a university.* I could not have imagined this without the support of OBAT Helpers. I consider OBAT a blessing in my life and I pray for

all the kind-hearted people who are supporting the organization and are helping to bring a transformation in the lives of the most forgotten people. *Thank you for becoming an OBAT Helper!*

# Health

- 6,138 patients treated at OBAT's Clinic
- 87 deliveries of newborns in the Maternity Care Program
- 393 Cataract Surgeries
- 34 patients extended support for serious ailments

## CATARACT SURGERIES



With no access to health care, many camp residents do not get the eye care they need and remain untreated for their vision related illnesses.

Cataract surgeries are carried out by OBAT in partnership with local hospitals. In 2021, 393 cataract surgeries were completed in Khulna, Chittagong, Chandpur and Jessore. These surgeries

took place with the help of our partners, Abdul Wadud Hospital, BNSB Eye Hospital, Royal Community Eye Hospital and Maa-O-Shishu Hospital. Two hundred and thirty-eight of these surgeries were carried out due to the generous donation of OBAT Canada. Cataract surgery patients are selected during eye camps that are held with the assistance of these partners. The individuals who are not in need of surgery are provided with the necessary medicine, while those identified with cataracts are scheduled for surgeries at hospitals. The treatment includes a post-surgery follow-up visit, black spectacles and post-operative medicines as well. OBAT's Think Tank volunteers extend their assistance by transporting patients to and from the hospital, as well as helping them settle in their homes post-surgery.

## MATERNITY CARE PROGRAM



Pervasive poverty in the camps makes it impossible for women to incur the expense of delivering babies at a hospital. Hence, they seek the assistance of untrained birth assistants (locally known as a "Dai") to deliver the babies at home. This presents serious



## Health

risks to the lives of the mother and the new born. During pregnancy as well, women do not receive the care and monitoring they need to ensure a healthy pregnancy.

With the generous support of OBAT Canada, a maternity program was initiated in Rangpur in April 2021 with the enrollment of 140 women. The center initially held educational sessions focusing on self-care as well as training mothers on pre and post-natal care.



The pandemic made it more difficult for the destitute camp families to access quality food, intake of which is essential for both the mother and child. To address nutritional deficiencies, OBAT's

Rangpur Health Care Center also distributed food items amongst the mothers of newborn babies.

During 2021, 40 normal deliveries and 49 Caesarian births took place.

We are excited to improve maternal and infant health through this new project. The new mothers are receiving both pre and post-natal services from the maternity program allowing them and their babies to thrive.

## PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICES



OBAT's Rangpur Clinic now has a section devoted to physiotherapy treatments, thanks to Sharmin, a young lady who helped with the addition of this

service and who works as the chief therapist at the clinic. Sharmin finished her education as an OBAT scholarship student. She completed her Diploma in Physiotherapy from the Institute of Health and Technology, Rangpur, followed by a six month internship from Rangpur Medical College and Hospital. She decided to give back to her camp community by helping OBAT start a Physiotherapy Corner at its Rangpur Health Clinic. Sharmin and the work she is doing for the camp community is an inspiration to everyone around her.

## SKIN, DIABETES AND EYE CAMPS



Leprosy is a condition caused by an infection that mainly affects the skin, eyes, nose and nerves. Cases of leprosy have been identified in the camps. As a

## Health

preventative measure, a skin treatment camp was held by OBAT in Khulna in collaboration with CSS (Christian Service Society). Doctors from CSS examined 117 patients who had been seeking treatment for skin related problems. One new case of leprosy was identified through the camp; other patients received medication for the issues identified by CSS's medical team.

Thank you to CSS and to our Think Tank volunteers for providing a much-needed service through this camp.



OBAT has been partnering with the Deep Eye Care Foundation, a renowned hospital in Bangladesh, for its vision projects. During June, the two organizations partnered to organize an eye camp for the students of Rangpur School. Vision exams were conducted for 112 students, and eyeglasses,

as well as eye drops, were provided to those in need. Thank you to our partner, Deep Eye Care, as well as to our amazing Think Tank in Rangpur for coordinating the entire event.

In poverty-stricken camp communities, access to healthcare is severely limited. Residents are not aware of the role of healthy diet and lifestyle habits in the prevention of diseases. World Diabetes Day, observed worldwide on November 14th was used to raise awareness for the disease among the camp residents. Both the Rangpur Clinic as well as the



Think Tank in Dhaka organized awareness sessions and discussions on the disease and also provided free blood glucose testing and blood pressure checks for the camp residents.

## STELLAR STAFF



Fueled by his dedication, he finished his internship and started managing OBAT's Rangpur Health Clinic. In 2021, Kashem passed the challenging FCPS-I and BCS exams. The FCPS (Fellowship of College of Physicians and Surgeons) is a professional membership body dedicated to improving the practice of medicine, chiefly through the accreditation of doctors by examination, so that they can continue progressing in their different fields of specialization. Approximately 4,800 students took part in the FCPS-I exam. Only 410 students passed and Kashem was one of them! The Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS), on the other hand, is a nationwide, competitive exam in Bangladesh, conducted by the

## Health

Bangladesh Public Service Commission (BPSC) for recruitment to the various Bangladesh Civil Service cadres. This exam is considered one of the toughest exams in the country- 31,000 doctors appeared in the preliminary written and oral examinations- only 4,000 candidates were recommended to obtain jobs in their different fields as medical doctors.

We are immensely proud of Dr. Abul Kashem under whose wing, the Rangpur Clinic has made significant improvements in providing health care to the camp residents.

“OBAT helped me financially so I could prepare for both exams. OBAT was always beside me to support me and believed in my potential. The next step is that the government will employ me in my district's Health Complex as a Medical Officer for 2 years. After that, I can join my medical college and hospital as an Indoor Medical Officer (IMO). While working at the Medical College and Hospital, I can start my FCPS training. I will also do an MD residency degree in Cardiology, God-willing.” Dr. Abul Kashem



# Health

**Amena** lives in Babupara camp in Rangpur. Her husband was prone to mistreating her and didn't take care of her. When she started expecting, he sent her to her parents' house and stopped supporting her financially. Amena's father had passed away at that time and her mother worked as a maid, barely making ends meet. As the mother and daughter were already struggling to survive, affording a doctor for Amena's pregnancy was out of the question. Amena found out about OBAT's maternity program and informed the staff that she could not afford to pay for her delivery expenses. OBAT's Maternity Project registered her into the program and extended the support needed by her. The staff organized her visits to the OB-GYN doctor and ensured she received proper care and monitoring during her pregnancy. Last August, Amena delivered a beautiful baby boy at the Specialized Clinic in Rangpur via C-section. After her delivery, the staff also gifted her with a food package consisting of nutritious food to ensure her continued health. Baby Hossain is growing fast and both mom and son are doing well.

**The staff organized Amena's visits to the OB-GYN doctor and ensured she received proper care and monitoring during her pregnancy.**



# Empowerment

- 7 Sewing Centers
- 1 Embroidery Training Center
- 304 Students

## SEWING MACHINES EMPOWER WOMEN

OBAT's Women Empowerment Centers provide sewing training on industrial and standard sewing machines. Graduates find employment in the garments industry or start businesses from home. However, not all women own a sewing machine, which prevents them from being able to start their own businesses.

Due to a generous donation, five graduates of the Chittagong Center were gifted with sewing machines. Later in the year, another 17 graduates from the Syedpur, Rangpur and Chittagong Sewing Centers were gifted with sewing machines of their own. Our staff visited the recipients later to follow up and provide any additional assistance, and found all the women to be successfully running home-based businesses using the machines. This allows the women's families to benefit from a greater income and thus enjoy greater well-being.

**Due to a generous donation, five graduates of the Chittagong Women Empowerment Center were gifted with sewing machines.**





## Women Empowerment

### A NEW WOMEN EMPOWERMENT CENTER

In 2021, a new Women Empowerment Center was opened in Chittagong. What's amazing about this new addition is that it was realized due to the efforts and dedication of OBAT's Think Tank members. The project began with the enrollment of 12 students. Sumi, a Think Tank member and a beneficiary of the sewing training program, is serving as the instructor at the new center. The center will give priority to Think Tank volunteers and the students will be paying a minimal monthly fee which will be used to cover the operating cost of the center.



### OBAT'S INSTITUTE OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ENHANCES SKILL SET OF STUDENTS

If you were to visit Bangladesh, you would see most men wearing a loose tunic or Kurta, locally known as a "Panjabi." OBAT's Institute of Women Empowerment in Chittagong sought to enhance the skill set of its students who had been previously trained to stitch clothing for women through a 3-month course. All students were also trained to stitch Panjabis. Sewing Panjabis will provide them with an option to expand their services when they start using their sewing skills to start small businesses.



# Empowerment

**“My name is Khusbu** and I live in Ishpahani camp in Rangpur. I am a housewife and a mother to two girls. My older daughter is twelve years old. Her younger sister is five years old and is studying at OBAT’s Preschool in Rangpur. My husband works as a plumber. I learned to sew from OBAT’s Sewing Center in Rangpur. Before completing the sewing training, life was very hard and challenging for me. I had to address home chores, take care of my children and in-laws, giving me no time to practice what I was learning at the center. It was my dream though to learn sewing and be very skilled at it. I did not give up and kept trying to become better at what I had learned.

**“I am very happy and extremely thankful to OBAT Helpers and their donors. Thank you so much for supporting me.”**

I am proud to consider myself an independent woman and a good seamstress today. I can sew many types of clothing including frocks, pajamas, blouses and also cushion covers. My neighbors always get their clothes stitched by me. I also take orders for readymade clothing from a nearby shop. I can now earn an income and use it to improve my family’s life. I am very happy and extremely thankful to OBAT Helpers and their donors. Thank you so much for supporting me.”



# Infrastructure Development

## In 2021, 17,550 People Benefited From:

- 15 hand pumps
- 3 motorized deep tube wells
- 6 semi deep tube wells
- Bathrooms in Khalishpur, Ferozeshah and SB Nagar Camps
- Bathrooms in Ferozeshah and SB Nagar Camps



## INSTALLATION OF WATER WELLS

Clean water is a precious commodity in the camps and having access to a water source near one's home instead of walking a mile or so to access one is a huge blessing.

Susua is one of the most vulnerable and remote villages in Bangladesh. Accessing the village is very challenging, and residents do not have recourse to basic amenities of living such as clean water. Thanks to our valued partner, OBAT Canada, OBAT installed 15 hand pumps in Susua, giving 3,000 villagers access to clean water. A tremendous thanks to our team who painstakingly transported the materials for the wells to the village via road transport, a boat, and finally via a horse cart which took them to their ultimate destination and installation location of the wells.

During 2021, OBAT installed 6 semi deep tube wells and 3 motorized deep tube wells. Altogether, these tube wells are providing clean water to over 14,150 people. The motorized wells are located in Mirpur and Mohammadpur in the city of Dhaka. The semi deep tubewells were installed in the cities of Mymensingh, Halishaher, Bogra and Khulna.



## Infrastructure Development

### RAINWATER HARVESTING PROJECT

According to a study by the Institute of Water Modelling in Dhaka, its groundwater level is falling by a frightening three meters per year. As the population continues to increase accompanied by an uptick in industrialization, river water has become contaminated with industrial waste. Today, groundwater is expected to satisfy over 80% of the city's water supply. As a supplemental source, about 150 billion liters of rainwater could be harvested during the monsoon season in the city of Dhaka alone. This could be a vital addition in allowing access to clean water.



As the main water source in the camps is ground water, OBAT's Chittagong team (Chittagong is the biggest city in Bangladesh located nearest to the capital, Dhaka) leaped on an opportunity for more clean water. The team has installed the first Rainwater Harvesting Project at Sardar Bahadur Nagar School Camp. Rainwater will collect from the roof (measuring 14x12 feet) of the ladies bathroom and the roof of the rainwater harvesting tank, which measures 10x8 feet. Initially, this water will be used for bathing and washing clothes, but it can be used for drinking water as well, with the addition of a filtration system.

This project has been constructed near a ladies' bathroom and deep tube well, both of which are OBAT's projects. 6,000 liters of water will be stored as a result of this project and 40 families will benefit from it.

### CONSTRUCTION OF BATHROOMS

The Sardar Bahadur Nagar Camp is a thickly populated camp located in the city of Chittagong. In 2020, OBAT installed a deep tube well in this camp to increase access to water for the camp residents. However, the women in the area faced great difficulty due to the lack of access to sanitation facilities. To fulfill this important need, OBAT has constructed a ladies bathroom. Forty families will have access to this bathroom, giving the women privacy as well as ease in accomplishing tasks such as washing clothes which they found very challenging to perform in the streets.

Like any other camp in Bangladesh, Ferozeshah Boys School Camp in Chittagong lacks basic sanitation facilities. During October, OBAT constructed four restrooms in the Boys School Camp that are serving approximately 150 adults and children. These amenities contribute to the overall quality of life in the area as well as protect the health and safety of residents who would otherwise be at greater risk of preventable diseases due to water contamination. The simple facility includes overhead shelter and a water tank for safe and appropriate storage of waste.



The new toilets constructed in the Baitulfalah Camp of Khalishpur consist of four stalls. These also include a Western toilet to provide ease of access to the elderly and disabled. Around 400 people will benefit from the construction of this toilet.

# Infrastructure Development

**Hafiza Begum** is 67 years old. She lives in the ADC camp in Mirpur, Dhaka with her son, his wife and their three year old daughter. Hafiza helps her daughter-in-law with daily home chores by fetching water for cooking and drinking. Due to her old age, it was very difficult for her to walk for almost ten minutes to another camp to get water. She had to wait in a long line with other camp residents to collect water and had to walk back home with the heavy water cans.

To address the challenges faced by the camp residents, a motorized deep tube well was installed in the ADC camp by OBAT. The well provides clean water to over 3,000 people on a daily basis.

Hafiza Begum is delighted that she will no longer have to stand in a long line to collect water and carry it back home from a far distance. The new well is near her home, giving her quick and easy access to clean water. Hafiza Begum shared her happiness and gratitude with OBAT's staff and requested them to convey her thanks and prayers to OBAT's donors.



**To address the challenges faced by the camp residents, a motorized deep tube well was installed in the ADC camp by OBAT. The well provides clean water to over 3,000 people on a daily basis.**

# Think Tank

- 366 Members
- 7 Cities

OBAT'S Think Tanks are a youth driven initiative that converges the skills and talents of young men and women who want to create a positive change in their environment. Think Tank members undertake projects that benefit the camp residents after deliberation and research of current needs and issues faced by their community. Many of their projects are innovative in their approach to solving problems and involve direct action to address them. Think Tank projects run the gamut of initiatives for creating sustainable change through a cleaner environment to improving the health of the community through vaccination efforts and awareness campaigns.

The thought process behind the formation of Think Tanks ties in with OBAT's core value of empowerment. OBAT is committed to cultivating leaders amongst its staff, students and the community it serves. The goal is to empower them to become change agents who of their own accord, drive transformation in the community around them.

## THINK TANK INITIATIVE LEADS TO VACCINATIONS OF 7,131 CAMP RESIDENTS



The volunteers of OBAT's Think Tank have been actively participating in efforts to ensure the safety and health of the camp residents during the pandemic. Throughout 2020, they distributed leaflets of safety information, masks, hand sanitizers, and also provided oxygen cylinders to patients at their homes.

As vaccines became available in 2021 and some resistance to receiving them was observed, the Think Tank embarked on an effort to educate the camp residents on the benefits of receiving vaccines. The volunteers went from house to house and spoke to the residents, explaining the benefits of getting the

vaccine and the risks of remaining unvaccinated. These home visits led to the successful registrations of 7,131 people!

## THINK TANK RECEIVES "HERO AWARD"



The AARVI Foundation in Bangladesh is a youth driven nonprofit and has a mission of improving urban and rural communities in Bangladesh through development initiatives. The foundation invited youth groups around Bangladesh to apply for its Hero Award. Out of two thousand groups who applied, only 20 organizations received the award. And OBAT's Think Tank was one of them! Congratulations to our amazing youth who make us proud every day!



## Think Tank

### THINK TANK STUDENTS TEACH TRAINING SESSION FOR LOCAL ORGANIZATION



Syedpur United Volunteers Association (SUVA) has started a free graphic design and basic computer skills training for its volunteers. This organization, based in Bangladesh, brings together volunteers from all over the country to practice collective good. Think Tank members have conducted various humanitarian projects under their umbrella. Syedpur Think Tank members, Faruk (President) and Saima (Secretary) were selected to teach and lead the graphic design and computer skills training conducted by SUVA. This is the culmination of OBAT's mission: Empowering people so they can empower others, thus breaking the poverty cycle.

### THINK TANK BRINGS CHEER TO SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN



Life is especially hard for special needs children in the camps, as there aren't any resources available for them. The Chittagong Think Tank wanted to infuse some fun and laughter in the lives of these children and held a program for 20 special needs kids. Toys, fun and games, and some nutritious food, provided much-needed respite and enjoyment to the children.

### THINK TANK YOUTH DISTRIBUTE IFTAR MEALS AND RAMADAN RATIONS TO POOR CAMP FAMILIES



The Think Tank youth in Chittagong and Khulna undertook a wonderful initiative during Ramadan 2021. After raising the necessary funds themselves, the dedicated volunteers distributed Iftar meals (sunset meals with which Ramadan fast is opened) daily to the poorest of camp families.

The Rangpur Think Tank undertook a similar program for the poor and helpless living around the Railway Station. Food packages consisting of staple food items were also distributed by them during Ramadan. This truly made a difference for families in need and made their Ramadan a little brighter.

## Think Tank

### THINK TANK OBSERVED WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY



April 2nd was the 14th World Autism Awareness Day. Communities were encouraged to “Light it up Blue” to recognize and support autistic individuals and their caregivers.

OBAT’s Think Tank volunteers from Karnaphuli observed the day with local special needs children. They lit up the building with blue lights and engaged the children with games, music, and art. Nutritious snacks were also distributed, thanks to a local donor. One of the children received a special chair, thanks to the generosity of another donor.

### THINK TANK STRIVES FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT



World Environment Day is observed every year on June 5th. To spread awareness about the environment on this special day, OBAT’s Think Tank in Rangpur organized a tree planting program. Mohammad Rial Ahsan (Advisor, OBAT Helpers, Bangladesh), was present as the chief guest of this program. Other special guests also joined the program. Besides planting trees, the guests addressed the Think Tank and spoke about the importance of caring for the environment and the ways in which everyday actions can help in ensuring the health of our environment.

T

### CHITTAGONG THINK TANK RECEIVED A DONATION



The Chittagong Think Tank received a donation locally and put it to very effective use. They bought an industrial sewing machine and gifted it to Hussain who lost his leg in an accident while he worked in the garments industry. Hussain could not find any work due to his disability and as his own sewing machine was not in a workable condition, he could not start a home based business either. With this new machine, Hussain will be able to start earning again and support his family.

The Think Tank started a new sewing center as well. They bought 2 more machines with the remaining donation and enrolled 12 students to receive training which is being given by Sumi, one of the Think Tank members. The students will pay a minimal fee which the Think Tank will use for the operating cost of the center.

# Relief & Family Assistance

Nearly 72,000 people received relief distributions, food and Qurbani meat during 2021.

## QURBANI PROGRAM



Every year OBAT's Qurbani program provides much joy to the camp residents through the distribution of meat. Eid UL Adha (a special day of celebration for Muslims around the world) in 2021 was more difficult than usual for the communities served by OBAT. Many people lost their sources of income due to ongoing lockdowns and food became more scarce. The support from the Qurbani program was hence more needed than ever. 87 cows and 78 goats were sacrificed and the meat was distributed to nearly 52,000 people in the cities of Rangpur, Khulna, Bogra, Chittagong, Dhaka, Mymensingh and Chandpur.

## FOOD ASSISTANCE



Rice, lentils, soybean oil, flour, salt, sugar, onions and potatoes are some of the basic ingredients that allow caretakers, mostly mothers and grandmothers, to prepare simple but nutritious meals for members of their households.

The communities we serve are some of the poorest and their typical wage is about \$1 a day. However, most earners lost this meager subsistence as the economic impact of this global crisis was felt most acutely, as it typically is, by the most vulnerable among us.

As resources to buy food for their families slipped through their fingers, adults and children felt a growing sense of despair along with the physical hunger they experienced. Your support for OBAT food distribution played a vital role for proper access to nutrition, maintaining health, and restoring hope among camp residents. In the cities of Dhaka and Rangpur, your support made it possible to distribute food packages to 425 people consisting of basic staples to support nutrition and health of those hit the hardest in this crisis.



OBAT's Ramadan food distribution was carried out throughout multiple camps in Bangladesh. Our staff worked hard to deliver bags of basic food staples to



## Relief & Family Assistance

camp residents, as well as distributing them from OBAT offices. 6,440 families- which is approximately 32,200 people- received food assistance, thanks to your kindness. Now that's Ramadan generosity in action!



Around 150 families in 5 different camps went through a severe period of hardship when they were evicted from their homes by local authorities.

Their homes and businesses (about 100 shops) were demolished. Most of these struggling individuals continued to reside in the ruins of their homes due to lack of means to find any alternative. For nearly 3 weeks, OBAT provided lunch and dinner to over 400 of these camp residents, helping them get by in this difficult time. Special thanks to our donors who made this distribution possible!

Khushion Ka Bazaar (the Happiness Bazaar), was a new, creative and sweet Ramadan initiative launched by our Chittagong team. Camp families



which had a maximum value attached to it- the items in the list included their prices, and the shopper could select items as long as their total amount did not exceed the set maximum value. This method was tested as a pilot project in lieu of distributing a standard bag of items to every needy family. This innovative approach gave families in need the freedom to choose less or more of what they needed during their month of fasting. Based on the feedback received, the Bazaar continues to dispense happiness at a bigger scale!

Seniors in camp communities are the most vulnerable to disease and poverty. Many do not have children or other family to look after them. International Day of the Elderly is observed each year by our team through different initiatives. Syedpur's Think Tank organized a food distribution consisting of basic staples such as rice and lentils. These were distributed to 50 elderly individuals,

and as an additional courtesy, the recipients were accompanied home so they did not have to carry the heavy bags. Thank you to the Think Tank for their compassion and love for the elderly.



## DISTRIBUTION OF EID CLOTHING

Eid is both sweeter and happier with new clothes. Children traditionally look forward not only to the beautiful day of Eid, but to wearing nice new clothes on the day as well. Our team took kids for Eid-ul-Fitr shopping, and the



children excitedly chose their own clothes to wear on Eid day! Think Tank volunteers also distributed Eid clothes to older camp residents by visiting them in their homes. In Chittagong, special needs children also received new Eid clothes and food packets.

## Relief & Family Assistance



At Eid UL Adha, a thoughtful and kind supporter of OBAT wanted the kids to have a joyful Eid, and gifted new clothes to them. In Dhaka, 26 children got to visit the bazaar/clothing market with our team and got to pick out their very own Eid outfits. The happiness and excitement was heartwarming.

## BLANKETS PROVIDE RELIEF FROM A HARSH WINTER



Winters can be harsh when you cannot afford warm clothing or a heated home. Most of the camp residents live in huts made of tin and bamboo, which does not offer any protection against the elements. During winter, OBAT's Think Tank initiated a blanket distribution project to help the most vulnerable individuals. Thanks to their initiative, almost 5,150 people in the cities of Chittagong, Khulna, Mymensingh, Dhaka, Ishurdi, Syedpur and Rangpur received clothes which kept them warm during the winter.

## GIFT DISTRIBUTION BRINGS TOYS TO MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY DISABLED CHILDREN



Toys are synonymous with childhood. In the camps, where even food is a luxury, these instruments of joy are missing from the lives of young children. To infuse some happiness into their lives, our Chittagong team organized a gift distribution program for mentally and physically disabled children. Twenty precious children received blankets, biscuits, candies, and toys to brighten their lives and bring a little joy to their childhood again!



# Relief & Family Assistance



**“OBAT’s Think Tank volunteers helped us in every step of procuring our groceries. We are very thankful to OBAT and to everyone who is helping taking care of our family.”**

**“My name is Taslima.** I have four daughters and one son. My eldest daughter finished fifth grade from OBAT’s Elementary School in Chittagong in 2015. She later moved to a junior high school in grade six and continuously received support from OBAT’s Tutoring Center. In 2020, she passed her 10th grade exam (Secondary School Certificate exam) successfully with scholarship support from OBAT. At present, she is in 11th grade in Omar Gani MES College. My son is an apprentice in a car garage; he finished 5th grade in 2016 from OBAT’s Elementary School. One of my daughters is in 3rd grade and another is in OBAT’s Preschool.

My husband used to work as a night security guard in Khulshi Lane. In 2019, he suffered from a stroke and became paralyzed. Now he is living the life of a cripple and has no choice but to earn his livelihood by begging. At present, I’m working as a maid in homes and earn very little. As my children have been the students of OBAT’s schools, the staff knows us well and they help us during the whole month of Ramadan with the Iftar meal (meal eaten at the time of breaking the fast).

Outside of Ramadan, we received food assistance through their special initiative known as Anander Bazar (Happiness Bazaar/Mart). They introduced a different concept this year through which we were able to choose the grocery items we wanted instead of receiving a food package consisting of standard staple items. We are able to obtain these items free of cost from designated shops. We are very happy with this new initiative. OBAT’s Think Tank volunteers helped us in every step of procuring our groceries. We are very thankful to OBAT and to everyone who is helping taking care of our family.”



# Rohingya Project



# Education

## 889 Students in 13 Learning Centers:

- 8 regular learning centers
- 2 digital learning centers
- 1 learning center for adolescent children
- 2 learning centers in Bhasan Char Island

The education system in the Rohingya refugee camps is determined by the rules and guidelines established by the Education sector which is a joint initiative of UN and other development agencies. All nonprofits operating in the camp are required to adhere to the system of learning as well as the curriculum determined by them.

Education plays a key role in every child's development, but it becomes even more so in a humanitarian context. Rohingya children face an uncertain future. Without adequate opportunities for learning, they are more exposed to dangers of trafficking, child marriage, exploitation and abuse.

In 2021, OBAT operated 11 conventional and 2 Digital Learning Centers in the Rohingya camp

for children aged 4-14 years. The Digital Learning Centers were also operated for the benefit of the host community children. Due to outbreak of Covid-19, the education sector temporarily halted in person educational activities in the learning centers but continued essential learning activities by engaging caregivers. An older sibling, parent or guardian could serve as a caregiver for a student. 556 caregivers were engaged for this purpose. They attended awareness and training sessions which focused among other things, on Covid-19, early marriage, home schooling and caring for special needs children. The at-home education program, facilitated by caregivers ensured that students' education was not interrupted. Students were also visited by their teachers intermittently to monitor their progress.

## REPAIR OF LEARNING CENTERS



During mid-year, the Rohingya camps got flooded due to massive rainfall that started in May 2021 and continued for a few months. It not only affected the lives of the camp dwellers but also caused heavy damage to the properties. The Learning Centers are made of bamboo and mud. Hence, massive rainfall and heavy winds caused extensive damage. Four Learning Centers' roofs and walls had to be repaired.

## Education

### WORLD REFUGEE DAY



World Refugee Day is observed on 20th June every year by the United Nations. Our implementing partner, PRANTIC, organized an art competition to engage the children and broaden their cognitive abilities. In all, 20 children from the Learning Centers participated in an art competition. They also created posters highlighting the theme of the day.

### NEW LEARNING CENTER FOR 47 ADOLESCENT CHILDREN

A new learning center for **adolescent children** was opened in November with the support of the **Refugee Crisis Foundation (RCF)**. The adolescent learners will follow the curriculum developed by the education sector and will learn basic numeracy and



literacy. They will also be taught life skills. Interested adolescents and youth, all of whom are female, will also be invited to be a part of OBAT's Women Empowerment Center and will have the option to learn various handicrafts, sewing, gardening and other livelihood activities.

### AWARENESS SESSION AIMS TO REDUCE INFECTION RATE



The learning centers which remained closed for some time due to Covid-19, were reopened with the instruction to follow preventive measures as laid out

by the education sector. The learners, facilitators, monitoring officers, caregivers, and other relevant personnel, attended awareness sessions related to Covid-19. The initiative's objective was to reduce the risk of infection in the camp.

### HEALTH SCREENING OF 630 STUDENTS



Due to the support of OBAT's partner, HCI (Human Concern International), the students went through a health screening carried out by the experienced physicians of OBAT's Health Post. The health screening checked vitals which would help identify cases of Severe Acute Malnutrition (**SAM**) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (**MAM**) among the learners. Health screenings ensure that students are well and lay a foundation for better learning.



## Education

### TEACHERS RECEIVE TRAINING ON DISTANCE LEARNING AND TEACHING GUIDELINES



Teachers and facilitators of the learning centers were trained on distance learning and teaching guidelines for resuming classes in the post-COVID scenario. A one-day training was conducted in August with Burmese facilitators and teachers to promote understanding of the digital learning method of teaching in the camp. The facilitators were also educated on the quality benchmark checklist provided by the education sector which is used for running the learning centers. Save the Children supported another 2 day training held in August and September by providing materials such as pens, markers and colored paper.

### PARENTS' MEETINGS CREATE POSITIVE IMPACT



Several parent meetings held in 2021 were meant to educate them about Covid-19 preventive measures so they could keep themselves and their family safe during the pandemic. The meetings also have a positive impact on the attendance of the students and reduce the drop-out rate. The parents feel more vested and involved in the education of their children, leading to a more favorable outcome for the students.

### EDUCATION STAFF RECEIVE FIRST AID TRAINING

OBAT's learning centers received first aid kits from the education sector. In order to educate the teachers on their correct usage, a day long training



was provided by three physicians from OBAT's Health Post. Participants were taught when and how to apply first aid to a person in need. They were also taught about the do's and don'ts of extending primary treatment.

### DISTRIBUTION OF NON-FOOD ITEMS



The students of OBAT's LC's were gifted with some non-food items which included, school bags, shoes, warm clothes, socks, and shirts, etc. The distribution

## Education

took place in December and 291 students received the various items. The learners were delighted to receive the gifts.

## HOLISTIC HEALTH AND WELL-BEING SESSION

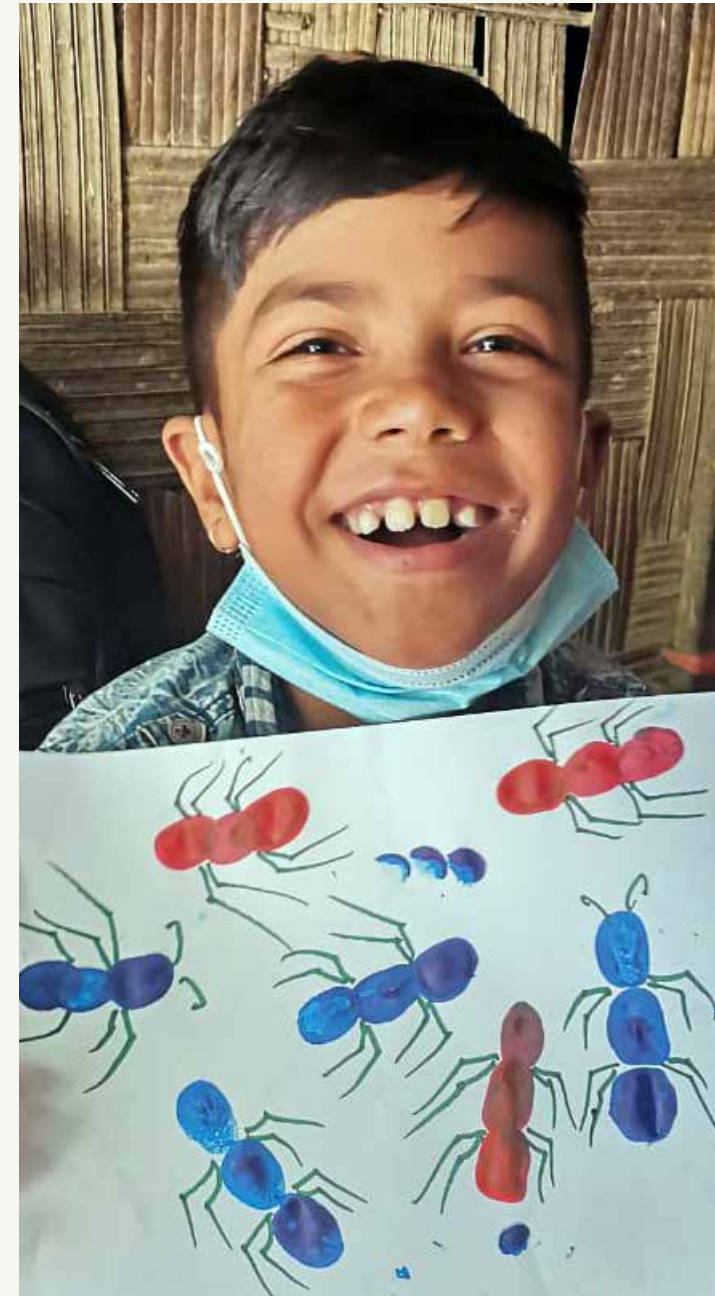


Thanks to OBAT's partner, Children of Adam, a unique initiative was taken for improving the mental and physical well-being of the students' mothers so they could focus better on educating their children. The yoga sessions were conducted in two shifts by a trained yoga instructor. Women aged 25 and above, experiencing various health issues were identified through a baseline survey of 34 people and given priority to receive the training.

## STUDENTS DECORATE LEARNING CENTERS



During November, students participated in decorating their learning centers by drawing pictures and making paper crafts. They later helped in hanging them in their classes. Activities like this foster creativity in the children and also have a positive effect on their mental health.





# Education

**Asmot Ullah** is a twenty-one year old young man. He has been living in the Rohingya Refugee Camp in Bangladesh with four siblings and his parents since August 2017.

“I was living in Maungdaw Township, in the Rakhine state of Myanmar. My school in Myanmar remained closed during 2012-2017. I was a student of grade four before the closure. When the genocide started in my village, all the villagers got ready to flee our land in order to escape the atrocities. Many of the villagers were shot to death by the brutal military. On August 25th 2017, at the age of seventeen, I fled Myanmar with my family.

We left the village along with thirteen other families. We had to hide and live in the forest and the coast of Naf River for one month before crossing the border to Bangladesh. No food or water was available during that time. Young kids cried to be fed all the time. However, there was no choice but to starve during many of those days. I don't have the words to describe the horror of the situation. I could barely walk as I felt so weak.

My family settled in Camp 4 in Kutupalong Camp and I got admitted in OBAT's Learning Center in level 3. I studied very hard so that I could ultimately teach and fulfill my parents' and my dream. I studied Burmese, English, Math, Life Skills and Science subjects when I progressed to level 4. The teachers in my Learning Center offered a lot of encouragement.

We struggled to get by as my father found it hard to work due to his older age. There was no other source of financial support for our family beside him.

One day, I heard from my friends that the organization, Save the Children, was

recruiting Burmese language instructors for its Learning Center. I applied for the post and they recruited me. Finally, my dream came true!

Now, I teach the kids who live close to my hut. I can support my family with my income. I can help my community and neighbors. I never thought that I could fulfill my dream to teach while living in the Kutupalong Camp. OBAT's support has made me self-reliant. I can help my father take care of my family now.”





## ROHINGYA PROJECT

# Health

**62,381 patients received treatment from 2 Health Posts.**

The Rohingya refugees do not have access to good housing, safe drinking water, and good sanitation systems, which, in turn, increases their vulnerability to a wide range of infectious diseases. OBAT's primary health clinic for Rohingya refugees provides preventive, promotive, and curative services along with simple diagnostic investigations and access to referral facilities. The Health Center in Camp 4 is known as the "Famous Clinic" within the community due to its stellar reputation and offers a full range of compassionate and comprehensive medical care, including dental and maternal care which includes neo-natal and post-natal services as well as access to a fully stocked pharmacy.

### NEW HEALTH POST ADDED IN BHASAN CHAR ISLAND

In 2021, a new health post was added in the remote island of Bhasan Char where 20,000 Rohingya refugees have been relocated from



the crowded Kutupalong Camp which is housing approximately one million refugees currently. Health services are provided to approximately 1,800 refugees per month at this health post.

### NEW ULTRASOUND MACHINE ADDED TO THE CLINIC

Thank you to our partner MedGlobal for the valuable addition of an ultrasound machine to the Rohingya clinic. The new equipment will allow



doctors to provide more accurate diagnoses in-house instead of referring patients to a hospital outside of the camp.

### DENTAL AND HEALTH CAMPS PROVIDE EXTRA SUPPORT

In partnership with Refugee Crisis Foundation, OBAT has been operating one of the only two health posts in the Rohingya camps which are offering dental care. During February 2021, OBAT held a dental camp at Camp 13. This camp was hosted by and held at the HMBD Foundation's clinic. Due to the

## Health



positive feedback and outcome from this camp, an emergency dental camp has been hosted every month since then. A total of 486 patients received treatment from these camps in 2021. All patients also received their prescribed medicines according to their doctor's consultation. Other than providing dental health services, awareness sessions are also being conducted at the dental camps. The sessions include dispensing information on proper use of a tooth brush and maintaining oral hygiene.

In order to provide health services to the people of the host community in Rajapalong, two health camps and a dental camp were also hosted in December. A total of 208 patients were treated in these camps.

## MATERNITY CENTER UNDERGOES RENOVATION



The maternity center has remained a top priority among the health services that OBAT provides to Rohingya refugees. The center provides various maternal services including antenatal care (ANC), family planning and postnatal care (PNC). Since the demand for these services was increasing, it was essential to expand the services as well as improve the facility. The center which is generously sponsored by Bee Humble, underwent necessary repairs and upgrades. It now consists of four rooms: waiting/triage area, consulting room, delivery room, and a pharmacy. Bamboo pillars and a mud wall have been replaced with sturdy cement, and the floor has been freshly paved as well.

The addition of a laptop allows for patient data to be recorded with more accuracy. Due to the reconstruction and expansion of the space, the center has been able to aid more patients.

Bee Humble also provides newborn baby kits to mothers, and hygiene kits are distributed to mothers every month, as well.

## WHO'S NOD TO OBAT'S "FAMOUS CLINIC"



WHO's (World Health Organization) IPC (infection, prevention, and control consultant) organized a capacity-building and quality-control visit to all the Primary Health Care providers in the Rohingya Camp and enlisted OBAT clinic's

## Health

support in carrying this out due to its status as a “very active and committed IPC member.”

The clinic was also selected as a COVID vaccination site to dispense vaccines to the refugees by the World Health Organization. Congratulations to the hardworking clinic team who made these recognitions possible through their hard work!

In 2021, OBAT’s implementing partner, Prantic, participated in four COVID-19 vaccination campaigns organized by the district-level health service in Ukhiya. As a result of this effort, 1,900 people were vaccinated over the course of a 4-day campaign held in August, September and October. These vaccines allowed the camp residents to stay safe from the effects of COVID-19 and helped life return to normalcy.

### 900 BABY KITS NURTURE VULNERABLE LIVES

OBAT is fortunate to partner with Bee Humble ([www.beehumble.org](http://www.beehumble.org)) for supporting newborn babies and their families in the Rohingya camps. New born baby kits are distributed to mothers to ensure that their babies thrive and receive the care they need at this nascent stage in their lives. These kits consist of cribs, blankets, baby



mattresses and other items covering essential needs of a newborn. 900 kits were distributed to new mothers in 2021.

### UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE DAY IS OBSERVED TO DRAW ATTENTION TO HEALTH CHALLENGES



Universal Health Coverage Day is observed on the 12th of December annually. The day marks the anniversary of the United Nations’ historic

endorsement of universal health coverage in 2012, calling for all nations to provide for their citizens affordable and quality health care. OBAT’s Rohingya health post observed this day to draw attention to the health challenges faced by the Rohingya refugees. The clinic staff organized a rally and a health checkup for the students of OBAT’s Learning Centers.

### CLINIC DISTRIBUTES MASKS TO PATIENTS



More than 5,000 masks were distributed to the patients of the clinic during the first half of 2021. The Rohingya Women and Adolescent Empowerment Association (RWAEA) which is working under the wing of OBAT, was assigned to produce the masks which were sponsored by the generous support of the Refugee Crisis Foundation (RCF).



## Health

### INSTALLATION OF TABLE BARRIER



Due to the rise in infection rates of Covid-19 from May to June 2021, six table barriers were installed in the OBAT Health Post as a protective measure. These were installed in the registration booth, OPD 5, emergency center, maternity center, dental care and flu corner.

### DISTRIBUTION OF HYGIENE KIT



Hygiene kits were distributed among the clinic's health workers and other staff who were at the risk of exposure to Covid-19. A total of 1,300 hygiene kits were distributed to raise hygiene awareness as well as offer increased protection to the staff. A total of 18 items were included in the kit such as masks, hand wash, toothpaste, soap, etc.

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL CAMP FOR THE FIRE VICTIMS



An emergency medical camp was setup by OBAT in the 8W camp of Balukhali Rohingya camp with the support of Human Concern International (HCI) and Refugee Crises Foundation (RCF) to provide emergency health care services to the fire victims who were severely affected by a devastating fire that took place on 22nd March,

2021 in the Rohingya camp. An additional three physicians were recruited as volunteers to assist the Emergency Support Team to gear up provision of health care services to the fire victims. More than 500 victims were provided health care support under the emergency camp by 31st March. Beside this, 5,295 meals were provided by OBAT to around 1,000 affected people from 23rd to 29th March, 2021.

### EXPANDED PROGRAM ON IMMUNIZATION (EPI)



OBAT's clinic has been providing EPI service since 2020. The goals of EPI include total immunization of children under one year of age, eradication of poliomyelitis, reducing maternal and neonatal tetanus rate below one case per 1,000 births, reducing measles related deaths, and extending all new vaccine and preventive health

## Health

interventions to children. In 2021, 11 EPI sessions were conducted during which 5,773 children received vaccinations.

### CONSTRUCTION OF INCINERATOR



OBAT's Health Post ensures a proper waste disposal mechanism. Aside from placing color coded waste bins at every point of care such as emergency, OPD, dental and maternity, an incinerator was also constructed to dispose medical waste. The incinerator has different

chambers to burn medical waste such as sharp instruments, food waste, and other types of waste. At the end of every working day, all waste is collected from the different bins and burned in the incinerator. A trained person handles the process under supervision of the Infection Prevention Control focal person.

### STAFF TRAININGS ENHANCE CAPACITY AND IMPROVE SERVICES



Various trainings and conferences are arranged by different organizations in order to enhance capacity of the NGOS working in the Rohingya context. OBAT has been participating in them to upskill its project staff and to keep updated with currently employed techniques and technologies. These trainings, workshops, and conferences further enable OBAT's proficient team to enhance the capacity of the staff and to provide better services in the field. The medical team of OBAT's Health Post attended 27 trainings during 2021.





# Health

OBAT's Health Post located in camp 4 has a distinctive dental unit. Equipped with the latest technology, such a dental set-up is rare in other health posts in Kutupalong Camp. The staff, comprising of three experienced and skilled dentists has treated a total of **12,634** patients since 2018. With the increasing demand for dental services, OBAT is now also hosting monthly dental camps in areas outside its clinic to make dental care accessible to more refugee populations.

**The staff, comprising of three experienced and skilled dentists has treated a total of 12,634 patients since 2018.**

**Mrs. Shahida** is one of the patients who received treatment from OBAT's dental unit. She visited the clinic with complaints of food impaction and prolonged and severe pain in her lower right jaw. An examination revealed cavities and a very poor oral hygiene status. The treatment extended to her included extractions; she was also prescribed antibiotics and analgesics and given detailed instructions in oral hygiene. Shahida had been suffering from the tooth ache for a long time and was very satisfied with the treatment provided to her. She can now eat, swallow, and chew food without any pain and wants to bring other family members as well to the clinic to receive dental treatment.





## ROHINGYA PROJECT

# Empowerment

Nearly 1,300 refugees empowered through sewing and livelihood programs.

OBAT's women empowerment project is designed to support widows, adolescent girls, and destitute women by building their capacities through a rigorous tailoring training as well as participation in income generation activities. 25% of the participants for the sewing program are usually selected from the host community as well. Rohingya women as well as vulnerable women from the host community are living in precarious conditions. OBAT is therefore working relentlessly to make the women economically independent by developing their skills and capacity by raising awareness and by providing training and technological support.

### STITCHING MASKS AND HAND-HELD FANS CREATES INCOME OPPORTUNITY FOR ROHINGYA WOMEN

OBAT's women empowerment center trains women to sew basic clothing items. This enables



them to pursue sewing as a profession, earn a living, and improve their family's financial status. From time to time, the women learn to sew other items as well. During 2021, they learned to stitch masks and sewed 5,000 reusable masks for use at OBAT's Health Clinic. With the onset of summer, they learnt to stitch and embroider hand-held fans, thus diversifying their skills and increasing their earning prospects.

### CLOTHES SEWN BY ROHINGYA STUDENTS SOLD AT WINTER MARKET



Our students in the Rohingya women empowerment center are proud of the beautiful clothing they stitch. Towards the end of 2021, their handmade clothing was displayed for sale at a winter market in Cox's Bazar. OBAT participated in this winter exhibition organized by Cox's Bazar Food Security Sector, to increase the marketability of the clothes. We are happy to share that the colorful clothing attracted a lot of attention from visitors!

## Empowerment

A shop has also been allocated to OBAT at the women market of the Rohingya Camp. This market has been established by the NGO, BRAC and the UN Women of Camp-5. Members of the Rohingya Women Association are successfully managing the shop where products like ladies scarves and clothing, masks, etcetera are available for sale.

### LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM IN BHASAN CHAR BUILDS SELF-RELIANCE IN REFUGEES

The Government of Bangladesh has relocated about 20,000 Rohingya refugees from the overcrowded Kutupalong refugee camp in Cox's Bazar and resettled them in Bhasan Char, an island in the Bay of Bengal. OBAT has been supporting the refugees settled there through the help of its implementing partner, Prantic. After relocation, the refugees initiated an effort to organize themselves with the help of Prantic. They have formed a Coordination Committee, consisting of 12 men and 12 women. Seven of these 24 people form the governing body. Weekly meetings of the governing body are attended by Prantic which is assisting them with defining

their roles, vision and mission and developing a MOA (Memorandum of Association) which all committee members will abide by.

Meanwhile many efforts are underway to ensure that the refugees' reliance on assistance is reduced and they become more self-sufficient. Many of the following initiatives are also offered for the refugees living in Kutupalong Camp.



**Rice Bank:** Rohingya women have established a "Rice Bank" collectively with the objective of attaining self-reliance. This initiative will help them meet their daily expenses as employment opportunities are rare at this time in Bhasan Char. Through this unique concept, 250 members save 250 grams of rice that they receive from aid, every month. The rice is sold at an auction to build capital for starting entrepreneurship activities in conjunction with Prantic. Other

than reducing dependency on foreign aid, this initiative is also developing leadership among the refugees.



**Homestead Vegetable Garden:** About 60 refugees have also started the homestead vegetable gardening initiative under the leadership of the Governing Body. The produce from this initiative will not only address vitamin deficiencies among the Rohingya families but also help them earn money by selling vegetables in the markets nearby. OBAT is providing training and seeds to the Rohingya families with which they practice horizontal or vertical gardening. They will also be trained on producing compost and bio-pesticides.

**Plant Nursery:** Rohingya youth have set up a plant nursery where they are sowing fruit and vegetable seeds. They will provide the quality saplings to the Rohingya farmers for establishing

## Empowerment



homestead gardens. OBAT is providing seeds and supplies and plant nursery training to support them. It is expected that each entrepreneur will be able to supply at least 5,000 saplings to meet the needs of 500 Rohingya families. In order to create demand for quality saplings, OBAT is providing vegetable cultivation training to the Rohingya women so that they can initiate homestead gardening.



Animal husbandry: Thirty members of the host community in Cox's Bazar as well as Rohingya refugee women received 200 animals from OBAT: 50 chickens and ducks each as well as 100 pigeons. This initiative will increase the income of the women and make them financially self-sufficient as they will be selling the eggs laid by the animals.





# Empowerment



**Fatema's family** was forcefully displaced from Myanmar to Bangladesh in 1995, a few years before she was born. She lost her mother at a very young age; her father passed away when she was 10. Fatema had heard about the horror and oppression her parents had endured when they were forced to migrate. However, she came to know about the true extent of the brutality from some young Rohingya women who migrated to Bangladesh at the time of the genocide in 2017. Shocked, she could not sleep for several nights.

Fatema grew up in the Kutupalong Camp area which houses Rohingya refugees. She married Rafique at a young age. Rafique is a day laborer whose petty income stretched thin to support his family. The family was struggling and decided to move to Bhasan Char in February 2021, the island where the Bangladeshi government is settling Rohingya refugees in order to address overcrowding in the Kutupalong Camp. Fatema joined the FDMN (forcefully displaced Myanmar nationals) association. This association is teaching its members to be self-sufficient through different initiatives. She started to save 250 grams of rice under the "Rice

Bank" program. Under this program, every member of a family saves 250 grams of rice every month from the food assistance they receive from different NGOs. At present, about 250 members from 520 families are saving rice every month. The collected rice is sold through an auction in the presence of the governing body and general body members of the association. The proceeds serve as capital with which members can begin entrepreneurship initiatives.

Fatema also received a small parcel of land for planting vegetables as well as training on cultivating crops. Now, she sells the harvest and uses some of it for her family's consumption. She also received five ducks and she sells their eggs to add to her income. Fatema plans to increase the number of the ducks by hatching some of the eggs. In the last general meeting of the FDMN association, she found out that more than 20,000 Taka from the rice bank program has been accumulated as a pool of funds. Fatema is thinking of applying for a loan from the association to start a small business and reduce the family's dependency on her husband's income. She is happy and grateful to be gradually on her way to self-reliance.

# Family Assistance

Approximately 36,000 people benefited from distributions of rations, infant care and hygiene kits, educational materials, and qurbani meat.

## DEVASTATING CAMP FIRE TAKES A HEAVY TOLL



A devastating fire broke out in the Nayapara Rohingya Refugee Camp in Cox's Bazar on the morning of January 14th. 3,500 people lost their homes when the fire destroyed more than 677 shelters. A community center and several shops were also incinerated. Fortunately, no deaths or serious injuries were reported, and those who sustained minor injuries were released after initial treatment.

Thanks to the generosity of a donor, OBAT stepped in to provide winter clothes, utensils, and other essential items to the 677 families who were impacted by the fire.



Another massive fire broke out at Camp 8W in the Rohingya Refugee Camp on March 22nd. The fire reduced thousands of structures including shelters, mosques, community, learning and service centers as well as different facilities such as shops and offices, to rubble. The gas cylinder blast that led to the fire was powerful and was

fueled by strong winds, causing it to spread rapidly within a short period in the surrounding areas.

More than 12,000 shelters and 18 learning centers were swallowed by the fire. These shelters include the 1,500 shelters OBAT constructed in partnership with ALIGHT in 2018.

This was a second brutal blow to the Rohingya refugees who already lost their homes and belongings once, when they migrated to Bangladesh in 2017 to escape persecution and genocide.

OBAT's emergency team worked round the clock to ensure that essential needs including food, clothing and medical needs of the victims were met. Medical camps were also set up by the staff of OBAT's medical clinic. During April, OBAT's staff continued to work tirelessly to provide aid after the destruction caused by the Rohingya

## Family Assistance

fire. Thanks to the generosity of supporters, the following initiatives were taken:

- 4,079 people were given emergency medical treatment.
- An ambulance was on standby for transferring patients to hospitals
- 5,320 meals were provided
- 1,000 people received essential non-food items.

## 4,300 BLANKETS DISTRIBUTED TO ROHINGYA CHILDREN



Protection against the winter is very difficult for Rohingya refugees who live in straw and bamboo shelters which barely offer any warmth. Fortunately, great partners like HCI (Human Concern International) are always ready to

help. 4,300 blankets were distributed to the students of our learning centers, their families, and volunteers to keep warm during frigid temperatures. 500 of these blankets were gifted to members of the host community.

Thank you to Human Concern International for their support of this program.

## 930 ROHINGYA FAMILIES RECEIVED RAMADAN FOOD PACKAGES



With the help of local partners, Prantic Unnayan Society and Susuaville, OBAT carried out Ramadan food distributions in the Rohingya camp and host community. Special thanks to Refugee Crisis Foundation and Friends of Humanity International for their generous contributions for this project. A total of 930 Rohingya families received packages consisting of staple food items.

## QURBANI DISTRIBUTIONS FEED 13,355 PEOPLE



Qurbani meat was distributed to Rohingya refugees on the festival of Eid-ul-Adha. 42 cows and 3W goats were slaughtered. Thanks to the support of Human Concern International and Refugee Crisis Foundation, 13,355 people received meat at this celebratory occasion.

## DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD AND NONFOOD ITEMS TO RELOCATED FAMILIES



The newly relocated inhabitants of Bhasan Char island were greatly in need of non-food items to start a new life. These refugees were settled in Bhasan Char after being

moved by the government from the severely



## Family Assistance

crowded Kutupalong refugee camp. OBAT provided 192 of these families with home use items such as buckets, jars, dishes, plates etc.



OBAT also carried out a food distribution for 1,000 refugees who settled in Bhasan Char. The food packages that were distributed consisted of staple items such as rice, flour, chickpeas, oil, spices, etc.

## CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM

Several distributions took place in 2021 under the Child Support Program which is generously sponsored by Human Concern International.

The following items were provided to children to ensure their general well-being:



Warm clothes



School bags



Hygiene kits



Educational materials

386 children received the hygiene kits and clothing while 254 received school bags.

# News, Visitors, Financials, & More



# OBAT News

## A GRIEVOUS LOSS



In December 2021, OBAT lost an advisor, board member, champion of OBAT's Think Tank, mentor—but most of all, a dear friend, Dr. John Clark.

Aside from being a gentle and kind individual, Dr. Clark had many accomplishments to his name. The Indianapolis Star hailed Dr. Clark as “the foremost public intellectual in Indiana.” He was recognized as one of Central Indiana’s leading experts on international affairs. Having served as a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, he also helped establish the Sagamore Institute for Policy Research, a think tank in Indianapolis. Dr. Clark also touched the lives of several students as a much beloved professor at Indiana University's School of Public and Environmental Affairs.

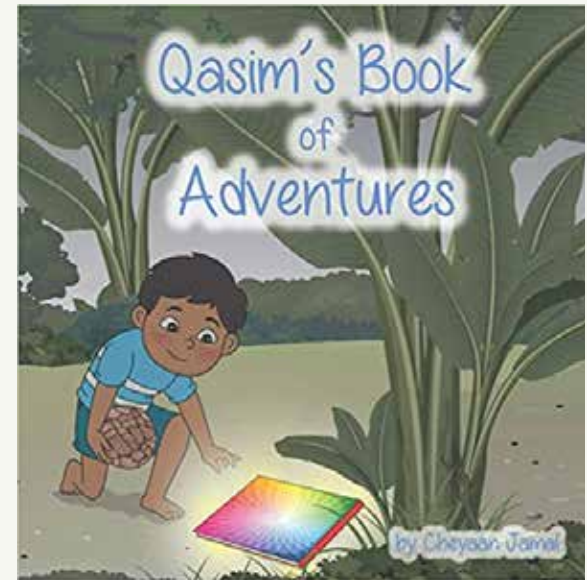
Dr. John Clark was serving his second term on OBAT's board. He also briefly served as Executive Director and was instrumental in creating the OBAT youth think tank in Bangladesh, a youth driven initiative which galvanizes young men and women who want to create a positive change in their environment and undertake projects that benefit fellow camp residents.

Dr. Clark was a man who served as an advocate and supporter for countless individuals and missions. His contributions to the Indianapolis community and the world cannot be measured, but simply felt in the accounts shared of such a selfless visionary. OBAT has lost a great friend and advocate. He will be truly missed by all of our team.

## YOUNG HELPER AUTHORS BOOK TO SUPPORT OBAT

Cheyaan Jamal, a high school senior, has authored a children's book to highlight the Rohingya refugee crisis. “Qasim's Book of Adventures,” highlights the challenges faced by Rohingya refugees. It is a story about a boy named Qasim who grew up in a refugee camp,

and finds a mysterious book that allows him to embark on different adventures.



Cheyaan is the daughter of Dr. Aamir and Mrs. Mariah Jamal, both kind and avid supporters of OBAT. She is committed to raising awareness of the refugee crises throughout the world and aims to help other young people learn and engage with important issues. The book can be purchased on Amazon and 100% of its sales are donated to OBAT Helpers. Many thanks to Cheyaan for her creativity and compassion!



## News

### OBAT IS ACCEPTING GIFTS OF STOCKS, BONDS OR MUTUAL FUNDS



OBAT is now accepting donations of stock into its Fidelity Brokerage account. Donating stock to a nonprofit has several tax advantages. The full fair-market value of the donated asset can be deducted from your income taxes, up to the overall amount allowed by the IRS. Instead of liquidating appreciated stock and donating its proceeds after paying capital gains tax, you can donate the stock directly. You benefit by not paying capital gains tax and make a bigger impact as OBAT receives the appreciated value of the stock. Donations from any brokerage account can be made into OBAT's Fidelity account. Please reach us at [contact@obathelpers.org](mailto:contact@obathelpers.org) if you need further assistance.

### BRAND NEW ED FOR OBAT!



In April 2021, a brand new Executive Director joined OBAT's team. Arishaa Khan is no stranger to OBAT, having been closely involved as a volunteer since the organization established its roots in Indianapolis in 2004.

Other than a passion for philanthropy, infectious energy and a light-up-a-room personality, she brings an impressive blend of experience and education to OBAT. Arishaa graduated from Columbia University with a Master's in Public Administration and has extensive experience working with USAID project consulting, UN networks, and national and international humanitarian work. We cannot wait to climb

higher under her leadership! Please join us in welcoming Arishaa Khan!

### VIRTUAL EVENTS BRING OBAT SUPPORTERS TOGETHER



April was packed with exciting virtual events hosted by OBAT as well as for OBAT.

As they often are, Seattle supporters were at the helm of fundraising efforts. Led by Mr. Rizwan Samad and aided by other key supporters, Mr. Aftab Farooqui, Mr. Harris Syed and Mr. Jawaid Ekram, the group conducted a remarkable fundraising effort.

This was followed by OBAT's Ramadan Live Event, hosted by Preacher Moss. Several scholarship program students of OBAT joined the event live from Bangladesh.

## News

The very next day, Dr. Michael Drusano (a three-time volunteer at OBAT's Rohingya clinic), led a successful fundraising effort for Rohingya fire victims. He was joined by other volunteers, Dr. Minal Ahson and Ms. Ruth Kaiser. The three volunteers gave moving and powerful accounts of their experiences in the Rohingya camps.

All events included speakers from Bangladesh who gave personal accounts of how they have benefited from OBAT's work. Thank you to all who attended and extended support. A huge shout out to Rizwan Samad and Dr. Drusano for spearheading fundraising efforts for OBAT!

## FOUR NEW DIRECTORS JOIN OBAT'S BOARD DURING 2021



Mr. Qaisar Shareef has spent a career spanning over 30 years at Procter & Gamble. Prior to joining the board, he had been serving as an advisor to OBAT. Mr. Shareef is an author, a consultant and also serves as adjunct faculty at the School of International Business at the George Washington University.



Hannah Croucher is an attorney specializing in immigration law. She has been a longtime volunteer of OBAT Helpers.



Harris Syed has been generously supporting OBAT through the sponsorships of two schools. He is a resident of Seattle and works as the

Principal Architect and Technical Leader in Microsoft's AI division.

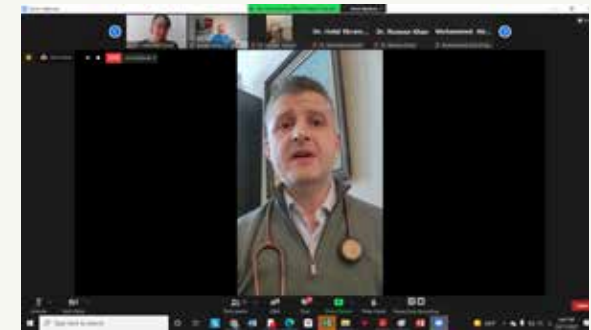


Megan Sharp is the Founder and Chair at STRIVE Worldwide, Inc. She also teaches Environmental Science at St. Joseph's College and

Marian University. Megan also manages an urban homestead supply outlet to promote urban agriculture and sustainable practices in Indianapolis and serves as the Resource Coordinator for the Environmental Education Association of Indiana.

The new directors bring robust professional backgrounds and dynamic new skills to OBAT's board, and we are eager to grow and thrive further under their leadership.

## OBAT TURNS 17!



On October 17th, we celebrated our 17th birthday. There were no balloons and cake at this virtual party; but the event was festive nonetheless. More importantly, the guest list was stellar!

Fourteen OBAT pillars and pioneers came together from 10 different states to share their personal OBAT journeys, hopes, and dreams for the future. Many more sent messages, videos, and signed virtual birthday cards.

Thank you to everyone who attended our 17th Birthday Bash, and a special thanks to the all-star

## News

lineup who presented their heartfelt OBAT stories to make the event so very special.

### LANDMARK COLLABORATION WITH NO. 1 PRIVATE UNIVERSITY IN BANGLADESH



We are very excited to share with you the beginning of OBAT's collaboration with the number 1 private university in Bangladesh, North South University ([northsouth.edu](http://northsouth.edu)). We have signed an MOU to begin a close alliance which will be of mutual benefit. OBAT and NSU will jointly seek international grants and initiate research collaborations which will further their common mission of uplifting the underprivileged communities served by OBAT in Bangladesh. Some of the joint capacity development initiatives we will undertake will involve participation of NSU

students in research conducted at OBAT's projects as well as access to higher education at NSU for qualifying OBAT students. Thank you to our partners at NSU- we look forward to a vigorous and valuable association!

### AWARD RECOGNIZES OBAT'S CONTRIBUTION TO DEVELOPMENT OF MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES



OBAT was honored by the organization, Tarunner Protik (The Symbol of Youth), at an event held to celebrate their sixth anniversary. During the event, Tarunner Protik presented an award to OBAT for excelling in serving disadvantaged children and

adolescents and transforming youth into skilled human resources. The Chief Guests further highlighted and recognized OBAT's contribution to the development of marginalized communities. We are thankful to Tarunner Protik and humbled by the award which would not have been possible without our supporters.



# 2021 Visitors



Jannatul Ferdous

## JANNATUL FERDOUS

Ms. Jannatul Ferdous (Knowledge Management Officer) and Ms. Iffat Falguni (Documentation & Communication Officer), from the Education Sector visited OBAT's education facilities in Camp 4 in the Rohingya camp. The Education Sector is part of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) which is the central coordination body for humanitarian agencies serving Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

Ms. Ferdous and Ms. Falguni met with the Learning Center Management Committee (LCMC) and also attended caregiver sessions. These training sessions equip caregivers (parents/guardians) to carry out home-based learning during the pandemic. Ms. Ferdous and Ms. Falguni also observed two students during learning sessions with their caregivers.

Both representatives were impressed with the effectiveness of the activities and shared positive feedback about the visit.

## MD. WASHIM AHMED

Human Concern International (HCI) has been a supporter of a wide range of OBAT's projects- from cataract surgeries to infrastructure development and support of various initiatives for Rohingya refugees. We are very grateful to have partners like HCI with whose support we can continue



MD. Washim Ahmed

our transformative work. OBAT had the pleasure of welcoming HCI's representative and Board Director, Mr. Md. Washim Ahmed in March. During his visit, he spent time with OBAT's Rohingya team with whom he visited the clinic as well as the students from the learning centers, both of which benefit from HCI's support.



Shah Rezwan Hayat

## SHAH REZWAN HAYAT

Mr. Shah Rezwan Hayat, Commissioner for Refugee Relief and Repatriation, visited OBAT's Health Post in the Rohingya camp. He visited various sections of the health post and expressed his satisfaction at the effectiveness and efficiency of the programs.

## 2021 Visitors

Mr. Hayat spoke with the doctors, health workers, and also to the mothers receiving the services. Later, he distributed baby kits to ten mothers who had recently given birth. These kits of essential items for newborns are supported by OBAT's partner, Bee Humble.



*Dr. Allen Gidraf*

### DR. ALLEN GIDRAF

UNHCR representative, Dr. Allen Gidraf Kahindo Mainaa, Head of Operation in Cox's Bazar (Rohingya Camp) visited OBAT's clinic widely known as the 'famous' health post. Dr. Mainaa and others toured the clinic including the outpatient centers, dental unit, emergency room, maternity center, and flu corner. He also distributed some

baby kits among the new mothers. The distribution of the infant kits was greatly appreciated by his group as this initiative is unique to OBAT and is currently not undertaken by any other organization working for the refugees.

### TAZIN AKTER

In an exciting milestone for OBAT, Ms. Tazin Akter, National Consultant for UN-Women, visited OBAT's Women Empowerment Center for Rohingya refugees. The purpose of her visit was to conduct a focus group discussion with the trainees.



*Tazin Akter*

### MASUM MAHBUB

Masum Mahbub, OBAT's Director of Policy and Partner Engagement carried out a 5-week tour of the projects in Bangladesh. Mr. Mahbub, who is based in OBAT's home city of Indianapolis, visited OBAT's projects in five cities. During his visit, he met with the staff, implementing partners, government officials as well as project beneficiaries and conducted a thorough evaluation and assessment of the efficacy of the projects.



*Masum Mahbub*

# 2021 Financials

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY- 2021

Total Revenue

**\$2,799,834**

(Total of restricted and unrestricted. Significant revenue increase resulted from a \$500,000 endowment gift)

Admin Expenses

**\$202,617**

Fundraising Expenses

**\$163,779**

Program Expenses

**\$1,983,899**

Total Expenses

**\$2,350,294**

Change in Assets

**\$800,808**

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION- 2021

Total Asset\*

**\$1,139,868**

Total Net Assets

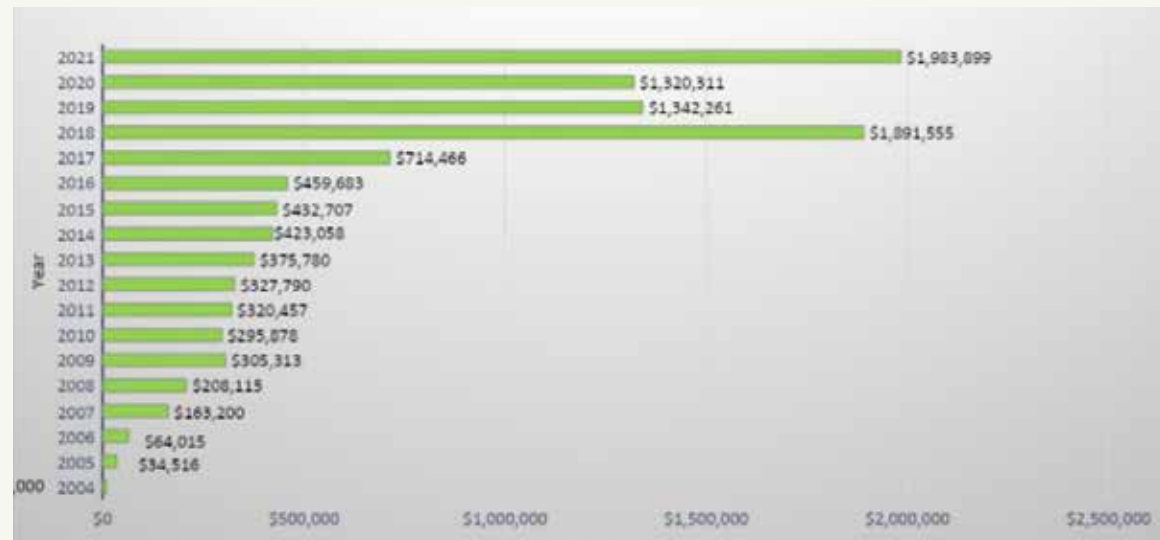
**\$1,127,390**

\* Total assets increased significantly in 2021 due to a generous donation of \$500,000 towards OBAT's endowment

Total Liabilities

**\$12,477**

## PROJECT & PROGRAM EXPENSES 2004 - 2021



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



# Major Donors

Many lives are impacted by the generous and consistent support of OBAT's major donors. We are very grateful to our outstanding pillars of support!

Abdul Ahad Hayee..... TX	Farah Effendi & Craig Novy.....IN	MedGlobal.....IL	Rashid Hameed.....CA
Abdul and Salma Yaqub .....IL	Farrukh & Asima Adhami .....IN	Mohammad Aftab Iqbal .....CA	Refugee Crisis Foundation ..... United Kingdom
Abdul Kadar Memon.....IL	Fatima Shekhani ..... MD	Dr. Mohammad and Naila Tahir ..... MO	Rehan Akhter.....IL
Abdul R. and Zeenat Chaudhry ..... NY	Fawad S. Zafar ..... IA	Mohammad Mazhar Islam Raja ..... TX	Rehan Balagamwala.....FL
Aftab Farooqi & Tahira Ashraf..... WA	Fawaz Tahir .....IN	Mohammed A. Mohiuddin & Farheena Azam ..... TX	Dr. Rezwan & Kiran Khan ..... TX
Afzal U. & Asma Ahmed.....WV	Friends of Humanity International .....FL	Mohammed Advany.....IN	Rizwan Samad ..... WA
Ahsan Iqbal ..... CA	Global Giving..... DC	Mohammed Khaleel..... TX	Saima & Muhammad Hassan.....IN
Ali Chaudhry .....MO	Drs. Hala Fatima & Asif Aziz Sharfuddin .....IN	Dr. Muhammad Aijaz & Seema Sattar ..... TX	Saudah Mirza & Tashfeen Ekram.....IL
Anjum Khan .....CA	Hamid Mahmood ..... WA	Muhammad Ammad Saeed ..... TX	Dr. Sakib Khalid .....IN
Anwar Hamid.....CA	Hammad Hashmi ..... WA	Dr. Muhammad Javed & Shahnaz Akhtar .....VA	Samad Foundation (Eijaz Samad) ..... WA
Asim Memon & Mariyam Mansoor .....CA	Halima & Abid Jaffery Foundation Inc. TX	Dr. Muhammad Jamil.....MO	Dr. & Mrs. Sarwar Raza .....FL
Amir Ulislam .....NJ	Harris Syed..... WA	Drs. Muhammad Mushtaq & Iffat Mushtaq .....IL	Dr. Shahid Mansoor ..... LA
Amjad & Salma Iqbal.....NJ	Hassan & Sajeda Banoo Mirza .....CA	Muhammad Mallick ..... TX	Dr. Shahzad & Amber Khan .....IN
Anas Athar..... TX	HCI (Human Concern International).....Canada	Muhammad Rab ..... unknown	Shaista Athar .....IN
Anjum Khan .....CA	Dr. Helal Ekramuddin & Seema Najam..... MO	Muslim Center of New York..... NY	Shama Shakeel.....VA
Anwar & Afshan Khan..... MD	Hina & Dr. Kamran Nadeem.....IN	Mustafa & Dr. Muneeza Khan ..... TN	Dr. Syed M. Oqail ..... TX
Dr. Aqueel & Hina Kouser ..... TN	Irum Godil ..... WA	Najam Shahid ..... WA	Dr. & Mrs. Syed A. Moqeeth.....OH
Arshad A. & Nilma Syed..... TX	Dr. Javed and Uzma Imam .....IL	Najeh Haq ..... WA	Syed Qaisar Shareef..... MD
Ashraf & Meher Lakhany .....IL	Jawaid Ekram .....IL	Nauman Chaudhry & Uzma Zaidi..... CT	Dr. Syed Shahryar .....AZ
Ata Siddiqui.....MO	Junaid Din & Iqra Bandukra ..... TX	Nazish Ekram & Sahir Hoda.....IL	Tariq Iqbal .....CA
Bee Humble Inc.....FL	Khawaja Nimr & Beenish Ikram ..... TX	Dr. Niaz & Shiba Haider .....NJ	Tariq S. Jaffery..... TX
Boeing.....IL	Khurshid Shaukat & Dr. Parveen Talat TN	OBAT Canada .....Canada	Tasleem Ahmed & Saima Rizvi ..... WA
Children of Adam..... NY	Lateef Shariff ..... TX	Quaid Saiffee..... MI	Tuba & Dr. Shafeeq Khan..... TX
Dr. Shahid Hussain ..... TX	Launch Good ..... MI	Anonymous.....FL	William Arora..... WA
Eman Mozaffar.....IL	Dr. M.A. Nayer .....AZ	Raheel Khan.....CA	Yasmin Eljirby & Imad Ahmed ..... TX
Emran Sheikh ..... TX	Masud Ahmad .....OR	Rashed & Salma Kazmi ..... MO	Yousuf Saifullah & Sabia Yousuf ..... TX
EPIC (East Plano Islamic Center)..... TX	Dr. Matloob & Mahjabeen Khan .....IN		Zafar & Unbareen M. Imam..... TX
Dr. Faheem Abbasi .....IN			Zaffar Tabani ..... TX
Faiq S. and Mahjabeen Akhter .....OH			

# OBAT's Team (US)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

Anwar Khan – President and Founder

Sana Hussain – Vice President (until June 2021)

Tanweer Mallick – Secretary

Syed W. Quadri – Treasurer (until September 2021)

### DIRECTORS

Afshan Khan

Dr. Azfar Malik (retired in March 2021)

Hannah Croucher (joined July 2021)

Dr. Henna Qureshi

Dr. John Clark

Megan Sharp (joined December 2021)

Qaisar Shareef (joined June 2021)

Syed Harris (joined July 2021)

Dr. Zia Moiz

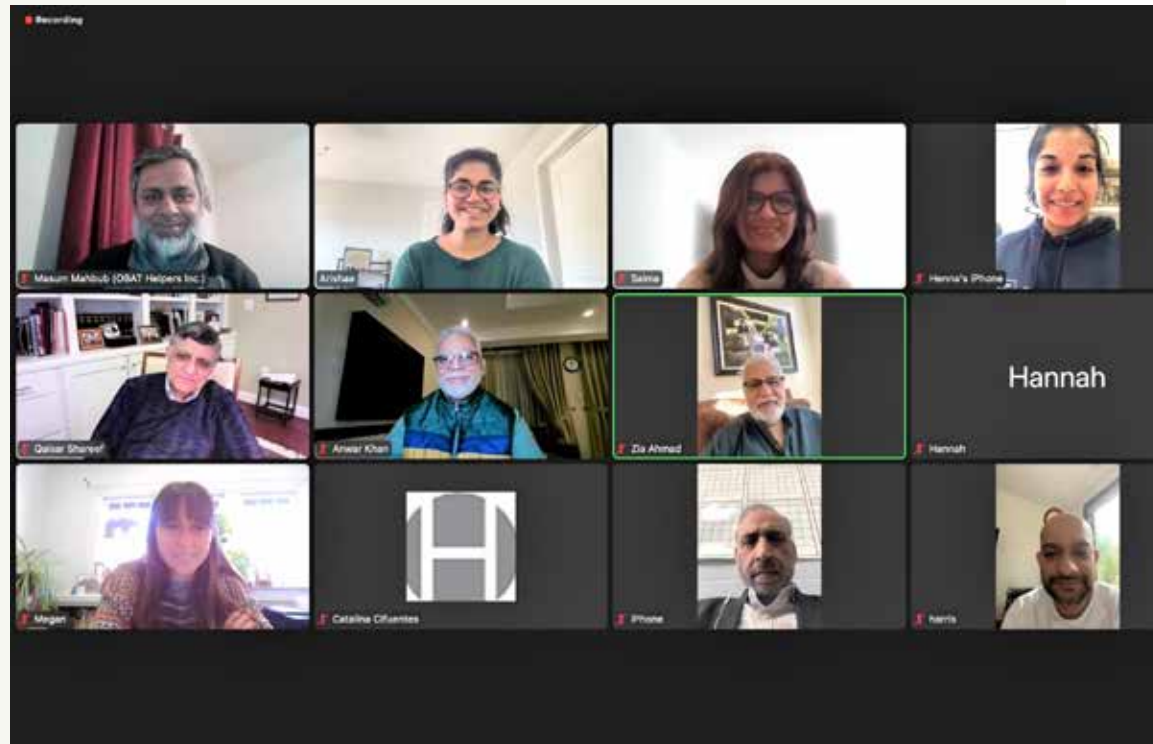
## US STAFF

Arishaa Khan – Executive Director (April onwards)

Masum Mahbub – Director, Policy and Partner Engagement

Saima Hassan – Director, Development and Major Gifts

Tahmina Afroz – Grants and Research Associate (September onwards)



# Partners in 2021

## IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Our projects in Bangladesh are executed with the assistance of local implementing partners. OBAT works with multiple implementing partners to ensure that its programs are executed with maximum efficiency.

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS FOR IDP PROJECTS

#### 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

#### OBAT BD

- Major Md. Ruhul Amin – Executive Director
- Md. Raju – Project Lead (Charity and WASH Programs)
- Mohammad Mahfuz Alam – Project Lead (Education and Empowerment Programs)
- Afreen Jahan Swapna – (Accounts and Scholarship Program Officer)
- Md. Shakhawat Ali Irfan – Project Monitoring Officer

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS FOR ROHINGYA RELIEF PROJECTS

#### Prantic Unnayan Society

- AFM Rezaul Karim – Executive Director
- Nargis Karim – Head of Human Resources
- Arijit Kumar Roy – Program Manager
- Animesh Kumar Biswas Atal – Program Coordinator
- Dr. Jonayed Siddiki – Team Lead, Health Post
- Shankar Bhowmick – Senior Accountant
- Monir Ahmed – Procurement & Liaison Officer
- Fatema Akter – Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
- Shahab Uddin – Program Officer, Education
- Haider Ali – Bhasan Char Island Lead

#### Health Management BD Foundation

- Dr. A.K.M. Taifur Rahman – Executive Director
- Dr. A.Z. Mahdi – Director Operations
- Dr. Mirza Asif Adnan – Medical Coordinator

#### Shushilan

- Mustafa Bakuluzzaman – Head of Business Development
- Md. Abdul Alim – Project Coordinator
- Anwara Khatun – Gender Specialist



## Partners in 2021

### OUR SERVICE PARTNERS

- Abdul Wadud Memorial Hospital
- Alfala Institute & High school
- Badshah Faisal Institute
- Bangladesh Navy
- Bangladesh Shilpokola Academy
- Bapsa
- Bidyayondo Foundation
- BNSB Eye Hospital
- Bogura Pourosova
- BSRM
- Chittagong Maa-O-Shishu Hospital
- CodersTrust Bangladesh
- CZM (Center for Zakat Management)
- Dhaka Presidency High School
- Dhalagach Junior School
- Education Sector
- Euglena
- Field Hospital
- FSS (Food Security Sector)
- GiHA (Gender in Humanitarian Action)
- Harbinger International School
- Harun Mollah Degree College
- Health Sector
- IHT (Institute of Health Technology)
- International Grammar School
- Lions Club
- Memex Politecnic and BM College
- Mirpur English Medium School & College
- Pallabi Mohila Degree College
- Parbatipur Technical & Agriculture College
- PSEA (Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse)
- Queen's School & College
- Rangpur Textile Institute
- Research, Training & Management International
- Rotary Club
- Royal Community Eye Hospital
- Sadik Haj Kafela
- Shere Bangla Multi. High School
- Sher-e- Bangla School
- Shyamoli Ideal Technical /Medical/ Polytechnic Institute
- Smiling Sun
- Ticket Printing Press Colony High School
- UCEP Bangladesh
- UNDP
- Upazila Health Complex
- Uttar Kalshi Adorsha Bidyapaith
- Youth Working Group



# Thank You

---

2021 was a year of significant impact and progress for OBAT. None of it could have been possible without the unflinching support of our donors, the leadership of our board and the dedication of our team. Thank you to all of them and to others whose contributions have played a pivotal role in taking OBAT forward. You are immensely appreciated!

## Thank you:

To Brian Needles for designing the report

To our team in Bangladesh for the photographs of the projects

To Saima Hassan for creating the content for the report

To Arishaa Khan and Masum Mahbub for assistance with editing



# OBATHHELPERS

*Empowerment Through Community Development*

[www.obathelpers.org](http://www.obathelpers.org)  
[contact@obathelpers.org](mailto:contact@obathelpers.org)  
(317) 203-0603

1100 W. 42nd Street, Suite 125A  
Indianapolis, IN 46208

