



2023 IMPACT REPORT

24 Years of Service

Honesty | Integrity | Service

www.hopefoundationbd.org

HOPE
Foundation
For Women & Children of Bangladesh



“

“If we’re not allowing women to have access to quality care all the way through their reproductive lives, we’re not seeing them as whole person.”

– **Christy Turlington Burns**

Founder and President, **Every Mother Counts**



EVERY MOTHER COUNTS

Message from **Our Founder**

Dear Friends,

As we look forward to our 25th year of services, I want to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable progress and achievements we have made at Hope Foundation in 2023. With the unwavering support of our partners, donors, volunteers, and dedicated staff, we have witnessed an incredible expansion of our work and the continued success of our programs.

At Hope, we pride ourselves on our ability to adapt and thrive in the face of challenges. We see every obstacle as an opportunity for growth and innovation. In 2023, this approach led us to open the new **Hope Maternity and Fistula Center**, a project that was once just a vision. Today, we stand fulfilled as the center provides additional scope for women, children and disadvantaged people.

Our commitment to providing high-quality and compassionate care precedes us, and we are excited to extend our obstetric fistula services and some other critical maternity issues to the underserved region of Barisal division. We will continue to identify and address the unique needs of this community, as well as seek out new opportunities to make a difference.

In 2023 alone, thanks to your generous support, the Hope team served an astounding **394,893 people**. These services encompass comprehensive maternal and reproductive care, specialty services, population health, mental health, telehealth, Rohingya refugee health, emergency response, and the strengthening of the health network through facility establishment and maintenance, transportation, outreach, training, and an ever-growing referral network.

We are proud to be part of a work that ensures every woman and child in need of care can access affordable, quality services that their families can depend on and trust. Together, we are making this dream a reality.

As we look ahead to the next year, we are filled with hope and determination to support the lives of countless women, children, and families. Our commitment to serving those in need remains steadfast, and we will continue to expand our work and facilities to meet the demand.

We extend our sincerest gratitude for your unwavering support to our mission. Without you, none of this would be possible.



Warm regards,

Dr. Iftikher Mahmood

President and Founder

Messages from **Our Partners**

Direct Relief is deeply privileged to support the inspiring mission of the HOPE Foundation and the essential work of its medical staff and entire team. We have the highest confidence that the financial resources and medical material Direct Relief provides translate into critically needed, high-quality, and often lifesaving care, including for women with high-risk pregnancies and complications.

The Rohingya people who found themselves refugees in Cox's Bazar in 2017 and remain there face profound challenges and vulnerability, which were compounded by the Covid-19 pandemic and seasonal cyclones. HOPE has been tireless in its service to the people who need help, and their actions exemplify the finest examples of both humanitarian service generally and providing quality health services to people who need it most.



Sincerely,

Thomas Tighe

CEO and President
Direct Relief, USA



Every Mother Counts continues to be a proud supporter of the HOPE Foundation for Women and Children. In 2023, we were honored to attend the opening of their new Maternity and Fistula Center to celebrate another impressive achievement that will improve access to safe, respectful, and equitable maternity care. We continue to be inspired by HOPE's efforts to provide the highest quality of care, while also investing in future generations of midwives that will drive efforts at the community level to transform maternal health across Bangladesh.



Sincerely,

Melissa Gradilla

Director of Grantmaking
Every Mother Counts



EVERY MOTHER COUNTS

2023 Impact

394,893 Total Services Provided

52,647
Antenatal
Care

6,056
Normal
Delivery

1,560
Cesarean Section
Delivery

14,902
Postnatal Care



1,971
Mental Health Care



1,415
Support Services
to GBV Survivors



62,255
Family Planning
Counseling/Services



107
Fistula Surgeries



2,043
Sick Baby Care



1,624
Vaccinations



91,853
Lab Test Services



13,498
Mothers Club
Meeting Participants

Message from **Our Board of Directors**

I want to emphasize that the Hope Foundation prioritizes universal access to quality health services. We believe every woman deserves the right to receive appropriate and timely care throughout their pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum period.

When women have access to quality maternal health services, it not only improves their own health and well-being, but also positively impacts the overall development of communities and societies. Maternal health is not just a matter of individual concern; it is a fundamental human right that should be upheld by all.

We must work together to break down barriers and ensure that no woman is left behind when it comes to maternal health. This requires collaboration between governments, healthcare providers, civil society organizations, and communities. It demands increased funding, improved infrastructure, and the implementation of evidence-based practices.

Let us stand united in our commitment to achieving universal access to quality maternal health. Together, we can create a world where every woman can experience the joy of motherhood in a safe and supportive environment. The Hope Foundation is dedicated to this cause, and we will continue to advocate for the rights of **women** and work towards a future where maternal health is a reality for all.



Sincerely,

Ali Munju

Treasurer & Board Member

Hope Foundation for Women & Children of Bangladesh

Obstetric Fistula Program



107
total surgeries
in 2023

Obstetric fistula is a devastating childbirth injury whereby a hole is formed between the birth canal and bladder and/or rectum and is caused by prolonged, obstructed labor leading to fetal death and necrosis of tissue in the birth canal. This devastating childbirth injury occurs in women of poor socioeconomic backgrounds who lack access to emergency obstetric care, education on maternal health and healthy pregnancies and lack decision-making power. This is compounded by Bangladesh's high rate of child marriage.

Many women are physically not developed to bear children when they become pregnant, and have been further chronically malnourished. Once they develop fistula, these women are ostracized by their families, peers and communities and labeled as "cursed." They experience pain, physical disabilities, urinary and/or fecal incontinence, depression, anxiety, shame, trauma, poor nutrition, and a worsening socioeconomic outlook.

In Bangladesh there are an estimated 17,457 (The Lancet, 2022) women currently suffering from obstetric fistula, with more new cases each year. This number is likely higher in reality, as obstetric fistula victims suffer and hide in silence.

Hope Foundation, with the long-standing support from the Fistula Foundation, provides obstetric fistula repair surgery *FREE* of charge, to any woman suffering from this tragic childbirth injury.

Hope Foundation Fistula Team is comprised of 2 FIGO trained fistula surgeons. Hope Foundation team has been performing fistula surgeries since 2011.

The Fistula Surgery Program expanded to Barisal division with two new surgical sites: Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital, Barisal and Rahat Anwar Hospital.

Hope Foundation's Fistula Team in Bangladesh is dedicated to achieving a Fistula Free Bangladesh.

Hope Fistula Team



Dr. Nrinmoy Biswas

Sr. Consultant Gynecologist

Advance level FIGO trained fistula surgeon

Training in:

- Gondar University Hospital, Ethiopia in 2012, Gynocare Fistula
- Maternity Hospital, Eldoret, Kenya in 2023.



Dr. Farhana Faruque

FIGO trained fistula surgeon

Training in:

- Hamlin Fistula Hospital, Ethiopia (2023)
- PGT in Gynecology



“Year after year, we strive to reach and serve women with devastating childbirth injuries on a scale that equals the urgency of their suffering.”

– Fistula Foundation



Triumph over Adversity: A Journey from Isolation to Hope of a Fistula Patient

Her name is Bibi Ayesha, a resilient woman at the age of 40.

I wish to share my story – a story of endurance, despair, and ultimately, triumph. At the early age of 14, I got married to my husband, Salim. Within two months, I experienced the joy of pregnancy for the first time and delivered a healthy baby at home after nine months in my womb.

In the subsequent years, I had two more babies, both delivered at home with the assistance of a Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA). After the birth of my second child, I convinced myself that our family was complete. However, fate had different plans, and a decade later, I found myself pregnant once again.

The joy of anticipating a new life turned into a tragedy when my third child was stillborn during a home delivery. This devastating event marked the onset of a debilitating and devastating condition within me. I developed obstetric fistula. For 15 long years, I silently endured the physical and emotional toll of this injury, concealing my pain from my family out of shame and fear, feeling that it was my fault.

As the years passed, my condition worsened, leading to social isolation and abandonment by those closest to me. Financial constraints as well as not knowing that there was a cure for my condition prevented me from seeking any treatment. It seemed as if the only escape from this misery was death.

However, a glimmer of hope emerged through a relative who informed me about Hope Hospital



in Ramu, Cox's Bazar taking care of women with similar conditions. Learning that the hospital offered free-of-charge fistula treatment was what made me ask more about it. I reached out to them, and the compassionate field staff guided me through the process.

Hope Hospital became a beacon of light in my life. The dedicated fistula surgeon operated on my fistula with dignity, and after the procedure, I experienced a complete recovery. The hospital not only provided medical care but also addressed my mental and physical well-being, offering support that extended beyond the operation room.

I am now a living testament to the transformative power of **Hope Hospital** and the **Fistula Foundation**. My life has taken a positive turn, and I am surrounded by a happy and supportive family. I express my gratitude to the Almighty, and I am committed to serving as an ambassador in my community, identifying and assisting fistula patients.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to Hope Hospital, the Fistula Foundation, and all those who played a role in restoring dignity and joy to my life. My journey from despair to hope stands as a testament to the impact of accessible and compassionate healthcare."

This story is translated by a Hope Team Member.

Discovery House Distributors, Singapore Partners with Hope Foundation

After donating a large amount of solar lamps, Discover House, Singapore are committed to support our field hospital in the Rohingya Camps. We thank them for their partnership.

Solar lighting, including solar lanterns and street lights, are safe and clean solutions to help improve the lives of refugees and displaced people. Hope Foundation with **Discovery House Distributors, Singapore**, and its global responsibility for responding to humanitarian crises, has made expanding sustainable energy solutions a priority. Here are five reasons why:

1. Solar lighting reduces the risk of fires.

In emergency relief settings, women often use firewood for light in their make-shift shelters. Tents or shelters that are often close together can easily catch fire and the flames can get out of hand. Solar lights can provide a life-saving alternative.

2. Girls and women can be safer.

Without electricity, refugee camps are dark at night, and girls and women are vulnerable to sexual assault when they have to walk in the dark to use a latrine, for example. Adequate lighting, particularly solar powered street lights, can make life in refugee camps safer for girls and women.

3. Children can study at night.

In many refugee settings, people remain in shelters for long periods. Without access to electricity, children in refugee camps lose the ability to study in the evenings. With solar lights, children can continue to learn without the health and safety risks from lighting provided by smoky firewood or kerosene lamps.

4. Solar lighting offers a healthier solution.

In many refugee settings, toxic and unsafe kerosene lanterns are commonly used. Children may be especially at risk – mistakenly consuming the kerosene, suffering burns or respiratory problems from the toxic smoke.

5. Solar lights are a more environment friendly alternative.

Collecting firewood for lighting not only puts women in refugee camps at risk of violence, it also contributes to deforestation. Solar lanterns offer a cleaner and greener alternative for lighting even as it cuts down the time taken foraging for firewood.

Thank you to the **Fistula Foundation** and its CEO Kate Grant for facilitating the collaboration and implementation.



Direct Relief Donations



Millions donated of USD in life saving medicine



Midwifery Kits donated for Safe deliveries



Fistula Modules donated for obstetric fistula surgeries



Thank you **Direct Relief** for donating medicines and medical supplies, including midwifery kits and fistula surgery kits supplied in 2023.



Hope Foundation is privileged to have partnered with **Direct Relief**, USA since 2007, on multiple projects to serve the healthcare needs of people devastated by natural or man-made disasters. **Direct Relief** has provided ongoing humanitarian grant aid in cash and kind, prescription drugs, relief supplies, and consumables to serve patients at no cost to them. **Hope Foundation** and **Direct Relief** collaborations are successfully implementing different projects in Bangladesh, benefiting thousands of people, such as, Telemedicine, Clean Water and Emergency Response program. This important partnership is based on the commitment of working together to address the humanitarian needs that Bangladeshi people have through the provision of essential medical resources.



Andrew Schroeder, PhD, Vice President of **Direct Relief**, visited Hope Foundation in Cox's Bazar. Thank you Andrew for your visit!

Project C.U.R.E.



Thank you Project C.U.R.E., Arizona, for donating medical equipment and medical supplies to furnish the newly inaugurated Hope Maternity and Fistula Center. Their donation included:

- Beds
- Equipment
- Medical supplies



From right to left: Chris Welch during the Opening Ceremony with US volunteer physician, Heather Jones, MD

Comment from International Volunteer

Without the most basic but essential medical equipment, there's only so much life saving care that even the most well trained and experienced medical professionals can provide.

Quality of care must include having necessary medical equipment to be able to give necessary and crucial care.

Having the honor to actually see the opening of Hope Foundation's new maternal hospital is truly inspiring.

This facility dedicated to maternal health will deliver exceptional care to all the deserving but underserved women, thanks to generous and essential donations including high-quality medical equipment.

- Chris Welch, RN

Celebration of the new Hope Hospital home of the Hope Maternity and Fistula Center

Major Contributors

Fistula Foundation
Islamic Development Bank
King Abdullah Humanitarian Foundation
King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Program
for Charity Work
Every Mother Counts
Direct Relief

Hospital Ward Sponsors

Dr. Sirajul Islam
Deccan Alumni Association of North
America (DAANA)
Dr. Mohammed Sajed and Family

Operating Room Sponsor

Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka

Laboratory Sponsor

Syed Hasan

Labor Room Sponsor

Drs. Parvez Karim and Shabana Karim

X-Ray Sponsor

Rotary Club of Saikat, Cox's Bazar

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Dr. Kris Deeter
Dr. Zahir Sarwar
Peter Barbella
Dr. Shahab Ahmed
Khaled Khuda
Matt Malin
Rubiya Nur
Mohammed Ilias Khan

Tuesday, May 30th, 2023, was the opening of the Hope Maternity and Fistula Center. Nearly 10 years after groundbreaking, Hope Foundation achieved its goal of opening the first center of this kind in Bangladesh. This center will play a critical role in ending the scourge of obstetric fistula from Bangladesh. We are deeply grateful to all those who donated, supported, and wished for this center.

The ceremony was attended by the Minister of Health, Mr. Zahid Maleque, MP along with other government officials, prominent representatives from local and national government and civil society members. The occasion was also attended by some international guests such as Ms. Kate Grant, Chief Executive Officer of the Fistula Foundation, Ms. Melissa Gradilla, grant manager of Every Mother Counts (EMC), Dr. Wael Elreyes from the University of Nebraska Medical Center, Dr. Nada Alnaji from KSA, Mr. Matthew Malin and Johanna Hansing from Hope Foundation's USA office.



Aerial photography of Hope Foundation Campus in Ramu, taken by Fistula Foundation.

Hope Maternity and Fistula Center Opening Photos May 30th, 2023



Safe Motherhood Program



Hope's Safe Motherhood Program provides every underprivileged woman located in our catchment area access to comprehensive maternal health services including antenatal care, safe delivery, postnatal care, nutrition counseling and family planning with skilled and knowledgeable health professionals, like certified midwives.

Under this idea, Hope Foundation implemented the **"Golden Chain Model of Maternal Care"** which signifies the necessary care a woman needs from conception to postpartum care, without gaps, like a strong chain securing women's health.

Sponsored by **Every Mother Counts, USA**, this program ensures that all women have access to a safe and healthy pregnancy.

75,165

served in our Safe
Motherhood
Program in 2023



EVERY MOTHER COUNTS



Rural Mothers Club



It is known that for most women, pregnancy and childbirth are extraordinary life events that bring about joy and excitement, but this is not always the case. Especially in rural areas where pregnancy and childbirth can bring about disease, injury and even death.

This is why we reinforce and bring awareness to the importance of bringing maternal and child healthcare to remote, rural areas. After many years of developing methods to reach this target we established the “Mothers’ Clubs”. To educate members of the community, raise awareness, dispel myths, and promote health, Hope Mothers’ Clubs (MCs) have developed a strong presence in Cox’s Bazar district of Bangladesh.

A certified midwife from Hope Foundation is discussing the importance of antenatal and postnatal care within the community she works for, building trust and relationships.

13,498
total Rural Mothers’ Clubs participants in 2023

Hope Birth Centers



36,168

served in our
Birth Centers
in 2023

Hope Midwives are offered job opportunities to join our network of Birth Centers, located in remote locations to bring maternal healthcare where it is most needed. Because the only way to reduce maternal and newborn mortality and prevent obstetric fistula is to ensure that women have access to safe delivery, with trained health professionals in the village where they live.

Hope facilities, and its hospitals, will always provide support to the centers to bring awareness to the



communities to promote the use of midwives, and will be a place of referral for emergency obstetric care. It is mandatory that all midwives attend a given amount of training and refresher courses per year, which add to their skill sets and increase their success. Hope Birthing Centers, Hope Rural Medical Centers, Hope Midwifery Institute and Hope Hospitals have developed into a network, whereby women's access to care is greatly improved, even in the most remote areas of the community.

Rohingya Refugee Camps in Cox's Bazar



When hundreds of thousands of desperate Rohingya refugees fled Myanmar and began arriving onto the coasts and paddy fields of Cox's Bazar district in southern Bangladesh in August 2017, it was the women and children who suffered the most.

Out of the approximate 770,000 refugee population – almost 60 percent of whom were women and children – poured across the border from Myanmar into Bangladesh, they brought with them accounts of the unspeakable violence and brutality that had forced them to flee. By the end of December 2023, Bangladesh was hosting more than 1.2 million Rohingya refugees in the Cox's Bazar District, around half of whom were children.

The population is very vulnerable to disease outbreaks, malnutrition, lacks adequate educational and recreational opportunities and the risks related to neglect, exploitation and violence including gender-based violence risks, child marriage and child labour.

In 2018, Hope Foundation established the **Hope Field Hospital for Women** which served the entire refugee camp as the referral center for 24/7 emergency cesarean sections and saved thousands of lives.

abundant
future
foundation



 Direct Relief



Hope Field Hospital for Women provides the following services 24/7:

- Emergency Obstetric Care
- Normal Delivery
- Newborn Care
- Maternity Care
- Emergency Services
- Fistula Screening
- Family Planning Services
- Laboratory Investigation
- ECG
- Ultrasound
- Pharmacy
- Outpatient Care
- Mental Health Care
- Dermatology
- Physical Therapy and Rehab Counseling Services
- Cleft Surgery
- Dental Health Care
- Telemedicine Care



King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Program for Charity Work (KAAP)

The **Hope Field Hospital for Women** located in Camp 4, provides comprehensive healthcare services to Rohingya refugees around the clock, and includes mobile health clinics, emergency transportation, emergency obstetric and pediatric health care, and mental health services. Moreover, Hope team has provided medical services and necessary supplies such as first aid kits, medications, water purifying packs, and vitamins.

83,087 services provided including:

1,673
Total Births

6,204
Family Planning Services

989
Mental Health Services

1,717
Antenatal Care Services

16,579
Outpatient Care

1,077
Blood transfusions

1,770
Postnatal Care Services

3,631
Inpatient Care

Midwifery Program



Melissa Gradilla of Every Mother Counts with students midwives.



Midwives, the trusted and faithful companions of mothers, navigate through struggles and challenges with unwavering dedication, ensuring smiles amidst adversity. Delivering antenatal, labor, postnatal, and comprehensive reproductive care round the clock, they exude confidence and compassion. In their skilled hands, new life emerges, birthing not just a child, but also a new mother and a profound bond. Gratitude abounds for the profound midwifery service they provide, nurturing the future generation."



Most. Sarmin Nesa
Vice Principal
Hope Midwifery Institute
Hope Foundation

24

total midwives graduated in 2023

Since 2012, Hope Foundation has been training young women in a 3-year diploma program who are local to the area. The fact that the selected students are local is key, because that not only means they will stay after their training and dedicate their work to saving women in their communities, but it also means that women from the community will **trust** them. In rural areas of Bangladesh, most women give birth with an unskilled traditional birth attendant because they do not trust medical providers or they can not afford to pay for care. These attendants unfortunately engage in practices that are harmful to both the baby and mother. In order to change this societal pattern, it was necessary to create a sustainable solution that the community would trust.

We know with time that the more women our trained midwives help deliver safe babies to, we will be **dramatically improving maternal and neonatal health** in regions that have needed it for so long.

STORY OF A HOPE STUDENT MIDWIFE

The Inspiring Journey of Moriom Yesmin: From Struggle to Strength

In the secluded rural expanse of Kharulia, within the Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh, a tale of resilience and unwavering determination unfolds. This is the story of Moriom Yesmin, a journey of hope and perseverance, currently in her second year at the Hope Midwifery Institute.

The sudden loss of her father at a young age plunged Moriom's family into a vortex of financial hardship. With four sisters and a mother to care for, the struggle for basic necessities became a relentless battle. Amidst these dire circumstances, Moriom's mother made a heart-wrenching decision to place her in a government orphanage.

In this new chapter of her life, devoid of maternal affection, Moriom transformed her grief into a formidable strength. She channeled this resilience into her education, culminating in a distinguished completion of her Intermediate studies.

While she was studying, Moriom witnessed the tragic aftermath of home deliveries conducted by unskilled Dais (TBAs). The loss of countless mothers left a profound impact on her, igniting a determination to pursue midwifery as a means to serve those in need. Recognizing the transformative potential of skilled midwives, Moriom seized the opportunity to embark on her journey in midwifery on November 6, 2021, supported by a scholarship.

This scholarship served not only as a gateway to her educational aspirations but also as a beacon of inspiration, propelling her to excel



academically. The tragic loss of her beloved aunt due to a home delivery further cemented her commitment to effect change. Understanding the devastating consequences of home deliveries, Moriom resolved to become a skilled midwife, aiming to catalyze positive societal changes.

Despite the challenges of poverty and the untimely loss of her father, Moriom's determination remained unyielding. She actively participated in various social activities alongside her studies, continually enhancing her knowledge and skills. For Moriom, midwifery is not merely a profession; it is a shared family dream. She remains steadfast in her commitment to realizing this dream and contributing meaningfully to reducing maternal and child mortality. Her joy lies in ensuring every mother's right to a safe and dignified delivery, and she eagerly anticipates making a tangible impact.

Moriom expresses her gratitude to the Hope Foundation for their instrumental role in aiding her in her educational and life goals. She is determined to repay this support through dedicated work and service, embodying the spirit of resilience and determination that defines her journey.

Telemedicine Program



Hope Foundation has four InTouch Operating Systems (OS) based **telehealth devices** in its hospitals network. These advanced devices are donated by **World Telehealth Initiative (WTI)** in collaboration with **Direct Relief**, both are humanitarian organizations based in Santa Barbara, California. Hope Foundation hospitals are connected to doctors worldwide through these devices and receive virtual consultations from highly skilled specialized physicians from around the globe. Many patients at Hope hospitals benefit from these cost-free consultations by saving expensive trips to big cities where such specialists are only available and very expensive.

Some Telemedicine services provided are:

- Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Internal Medicine
- Dermatology
- Neurology
- Pulmonology
- Pediatrics



Hope Foundation Board Member Dr. Sultan Ahmed visiting the new Hope Hospital, a Maternity and Fistula Center.



Mental Health Program



Dr. Kafil Uddin, a consultant psychiatrist providing treatment at the Hope Field Hospital.

We believe that good physical health would not be achieved without good mental health. And the lack of mental health care access is a challenge in Bangladesh. To address the existing shortage of mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS), Hope Foundation introduced in 2019 a Mental Health Program.

The program aims to provide mental health and psychosocial support along with awareness raising among the host community and for the Rohingya Refugees. The Hope mental health team provides ongoing direct mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) through individual counseling and support groups as well as carrying out community mobilization and awareness raising activities.

Because the Rohingya community was victimized

by genocide and forcibly displaced, as a result of the extreme trauma that this community suffered, there are significant needs for mental health services to help this community cope with the severe psychological trauma they endured, as well as other mental health problems.

The Hope Mental Health Team keeps working in close partnership with the community, creating outreach activities that provide mental health support and treatment at the camp level.

Additionally, pregnant and postpartum women in both the host and the refugee community suffer from some unavoidable mental health problems, especially postpartum depression.

Hope Emergency Response Team



Hope Foundation has a team that addresses emergencies. They are deployed during the monsoon weather and other emergencies. The team also serves the Rohingya camps and the local community by offering emergency treatment, dry food, and other essentials like water purification tablets, umbrellas and LED lights. This program was established in 2018.

In 2023, Hope responded to a massive **FIRE OUTBREAK** in the Rohingya Refugee Camps

Thousands of shelters were destroyed after a massive fire in camp 11, on March 5, 2023. Hope Emergency Response Team (HERT) was quickly deployed to provide on-site emergency medical care to the population affected. Furthermore, HERT helped with evacuation, referring patients who were in need of higher care and distributing medicine, water, food and hygiene items.

HERT also responded to the massive flooding in Cox's Bazar district by providing support distributing dry clothes, food and medicine.

We know that changes in climactic conditions brought about by climate change are leading to more frequent and more intense weather events, such as cyclones, flooding, and drought. As well as these larger climactic systems, changing local weather patterns are increasingly creating more frequent small-scale localized disasters. This change in the scale, predictability, and frequency of disasters is putting national governments and emergency response authorities under pressure everywhere and increases the need for the development of local disaster resilience and response capabilities.

This is why Hope Foundation's emergency response teams (HERT) are playing, and will continue to play, such an important role in supporting the local and regional community during disasters in Bangladesh. Bangladesh is ranked at number nine in the most at-risk countries in the World Risk Report index (2023), so Hope's commitment to supporting maternal and child healthcare, to constructing new state-of-the-art hospital facilities, to providing continuity of care to the Rohingya refugee population, and building their emergency response capability are only going to become more needed and more essential for vulnerable communities in the near future.

Gordon Willcock, PhD
Director - Asia Pacific, Direct Relief



Donor Appreciation



Delegates from Islamic Development Bank visiting Hope Field Hospital for Women.

Hope Field Hospital for Women, which was established in 2018 to serve the Rohingya refugee crisis was established thanks to generous support from the Islamic Development Bank, Fael Khair Program and King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Program for Charity Works to face this challenge head-on. It received wide recognition for its humanitarian work and was cited in global media such as the New York Times, CNN, and The Independent among others. In December 2023, **Hope Field Hospital**

received the Gold Award by the **Sultanate of Oman Excellence Award for Health Services During Crisis** at the **World Hospital Federation Conference**. It also received the **2023 Classy Award** in Philadelphia, USA for its life saving work for the Rohingya refugees. Strategically located within the largest Rohingya camp, Camp 4, HFHW initially opened as a 50-bed facility that provided 24/7 emergency care as well as specialized SRH services to women and today it has 75 beds. Hope chose this specific location for the field hospital in order to serve as many patients as possible and truly make a positive impact on refugee families struggling to get access to basic resources and healthcare. The Hospital operates continuously throughout the year and provides care 24 hours a day.



King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz
Program for Charity Work (KAAP)

International Medical Mission at Cox's Bazar



Dates: July 7- 15 2023

Global Medical Foundation Australia arrived at Cox's Bazar for a 5-day long medical and surgical camps at Hope Foundation's hospitals and remote clinics. We are grateful for the selfless efforts from Global Medical Foundation Australia.

Global Medical Foundation Australia screened over 1,500 patients. The medical team visited Hope Hospital, Hope Field Hospital for Women, a remote Hope Medical Clinic in Moheshkhali and the Hope Maternity and Fistula Center.

The surgeons from Global Medical Foundation Australia successfully completed 43 surgeries free of cost.

Thank you to the volunteers from Global Medical Foundation Australia:

Dr. Siraj Sira	Ms. Joyce Liew
Dr. Kashan Baba	Mrs. Samina Aktas
Dr. Nazarulla Mohamed Khan	Dr. Fazle Rabbi
Dr. Motiur Rahman	Mrs. Sofia Ezzat
Dr. Sanjay Adusumilli,	Mr. Zubair Ezzat
Dr. Mohammed Baba,	Ms. Zenith Ezzat
Dr. Fathima Ashrafi,	Ms. Selina Aktas.
Dr. Hanna Wong,	
Ms. Zen Xiao	



International Visitors Touring the Hope Field Hospital for Women



Kate Grant, CEO of Fistula Foundation with Health Aid Program for refugee girls students



Researchers visiting from USA, Canada and Saudi Arabia



Global Medical Foundation arrival in Cox's Bazar

2024 Awards

Dr. Iftikher Mahmood received Dr. Allan Rosenfield Award

Since 2012, Fistula Foundation has recognized one or more deserving individuals to receive the Dr. Allan Rosenfield Award. The award is named for the late Dr. Allan Rosenfield who was renowned globally for his pioneering leadership and myriad contributions to the field of women's health. On May 30, 2024, Kate Grant, CEO of Fistula Foundation recognized Dr. Iftikher Mahmood as an outstanding contributor to the women's health field by presenting him with the Dr. Allan Rosenfield Award.

Hope Foundation Wins Classy Award 2023

The Classy Awards celebrate nonprofit organizations leveraging innovative ideas and creative solutions to drive lasting impact. The Hope Field Hospital for Women, established in 2018 by the Hope Foundation, delivers on-site lifesaving and essential medical care for refugee women and children - including the surrounding host communities of the Rohingya settlements in Bangladesh. Considered a Safe Haven, the hospital saves lives daily, primarily through its 24/7 Obstetric Emergency Services. This hospital is the only one of its kind open 24/7 to attend obstetric medical emergencies such as C-sections in the refugee camps, where about one million people live in very challenging conditions.

“On behalf of everyone at Hope team, today I received the prestigious Classy Award 2023!! This is a wonderful recognition for the Hope team's humanitarian efforts. Hope team was awarded this in Social Innovation category. Thanks”

- Dr. Iftikher Mahmood
Founder and CEO of Hope Foundation

International Hospital Federation Award, Gold Winner for Best Services in Humanitarian Crisis

The Sultanate of Oman Excellence Award for Health Services During Crisis recognized achievements of hospitals and healthcare organizations in developing countries during a time of crisis. Hope was the Gold Winner, recognizing the Hope Field Hospital for Women, located in the Rohingya Camps for its mission and accomplishments.

On behalf of the Hope Foundation team, Dr. Iftikher Mahmood accepted the **Sultanate Of Oman Excellence Award For Health Services During Humanitarian Crisis** at **World Hospital Congress 2023**. In Lisbon, Portugal.





2023 was a year marked by flooding in different areas of the country, especially in Cox's Bazar.

The Hope Foundation team stands by the people during difficult times.



2024 News

Research collaboration with UNMC



To further expand the scope, enhance the quality, and maximize the impact of its work across all its facilities, Hope engages in multiple international partnerships like the agreement signed with University of **Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC)** in the USA, Omaha, Nebraska, to improve the quality of services across Hope's different facilities. Since signing the agreement, both organizations have worked collaboratively to build international multidisciplinary teams. They were able to bring more than 20 faculty and experts, including graduate students, from more than seven countries to address different critical and neglected public health issues. These teams are addressing critical public health issues through research within the **Rohingya camps**, including **mental health issues, malnutrition among pregnant women and newborns, and gender-based violence (GBV)**. They also partnered to improve the **quality of services, including their flagship Midwifery Program**.



Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka donated equipment for an OR at the new hospital building through Rotary Global Grant.

New program launched to train Rohingya youth

Thank you to the **Malin Family** for their generous gift to start the **Health Assistance Program**.



The **Health Assistance Program** implemented at the **Hope Field Hospital for Women** is a pilot initiative aimed at training young Rohingya women from the camp to become lay health workers. These health assistants will work alongside midwives in community outreach programs, providing care to mothers and babies. The Rohingya community has faced marginalization and limited access to education and healthcare for decades, making this program crucial for empowering young women and improving the health outcomes in their communities. Literature has shown the effectiveness of lay and community health workers in enhancing health in refugee camps. The training program spans **nine months** and covers various modules, including **reproductive health, basic anatomy and physiology, nutrition, and more**. The initial batch started in April 2023, consisted of 12 young women, with plans to expand to three batches per year. Currently, the program has 26 girls enrolled.

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