

H  **PE**
Foundation
For Women & Children of Bangladesh

ANNUAL REPORT
2016



(Josh Estey/EMC)

Message from the Founder



Dear Friends of HOPE,

It is with great pleasure that I write this message to you with the compelling feeling of HOPE for the future. As a result of your support in the past year we have many great achievements to feel proud of. On January 29th 2016, 29 midwives graduated from HOPE's 3-year midwifery program and all of them gained employment immediately thereafter. We are working with our

partners BRACU and DFID to continue this program in the coming years and currently have 50 active students.

We have opened 3 HOPE Birthing Centers in remote villages staffed by recently graduated midwives and paramedics who are offering pregnancy care and conducting safe deliveries. Through these centers we are able to take maternity care to the doorsteps of rural mothers to promptly refer complicated cases to save lives. Furthermore, we started construction of our 75 bed **HOPE Maternity and Fistula Center** which will be a center of excellence for maternal healthcare and will offer various types of healthcare training programs. This will be the only stand-alone fistula care center in Bangladesh.

In March 2016, in collaboration with The Fistula Foundation, we hosted the first major international conference '**HOPE Maternal Health and Fistula Conference**', in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. This successful event was attended by over 300 health professionals from seven countries. We have continued to strive in our other signature work; Cleft Repair, Burn Reconstruction Surgery and Health Worker Training in addition to providing care to over 25,000 people during 2016 through our HOPE hospital and HOPE rural health centers.

We have exciting plans for improving our services in the coming years by integrating electronic health records and tele-medicine, as well as expanding our services by setting up more rural birth centers and health centers.

I am happy to say, many women and their families who once did not have access to care, now are under the care of HOPE. All of this work was possible through your support. Thank you for your continued help.

Sincerely,

Iftikher Mahmood, MD

President and Founder



“Thanks to generous support from our community, Fistula Foundation was able to meet our goal of raising \$250,000 from more than 800 donors, who came together to help build and support the fistula ward of the new **HOPE Maternity and Fistula Center**. When open, this facility will be a center of excellence, helping many more women access high-quality fistula care. We are proud to call the HOPE Foundation one of our longest-term partners, and to see HOPE grow in this new and exciting way is nothing short of inspiring.”

– **Kate Grant,**
CEO, Fistula Foundation

Messages



(Josh Estey/EMC)

From Bangladesh

Dear HOPE Supporters,

The year 2016 was an eventful year for HOPE Foundation. This year, the first ever international conference, the **HOPE Maternal Health and Fistula Conference** was held on the 19th and 20th of March. In 2016, we started physical construction of our dream project, the **75-bed HOPE Maternity & Fistula Center**. In this year, our first HOPE Birth Center was inaugurated in a remote village of Cox's Bazar. In this year, our first batch of 29 Midwives successfully graduated from HOPE Training Center and all of them qualified in the Bangladesh Nursing & Midwifery Council registration exam. On behalf of all employees of HOPE Foundation Bangladesh Country Office, **I take this opportunity, to convey our sincere thanks and gratitude to all our partners, donors, volunteers and well-wishers without whom we would not be able to reach where we are today. You are our constant source of courage and inspiration. Please be with us in our forward march.**

Sincerely,

Commander S M Ferdousuzzaman (Rtd.)

Country Director



From HOPE Board

Dear Friends of HOPE,

HOPE Foundation was started with the goal of improving the lives of mothers and babies in Bangladesh. Since its inception and with your generous support, this small idea has grown to encompass the development of a new generation of healthcare providers, the construction of a maternal and fistula center, and free surgical treatments for cleft lip, burns and fistulas. Due to your involvement in 2016, HOPE Foundation has been able to care for thousands of women in need. Because of your love for our global village, your commitment and compassion for humanity, you have taken these goals to heart and helped us move closer to fulfilling this vision. For this we are eternally grateful to have you by our side. **We look forward to crossing the finish line, arm in arm, with you. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your continued financial support.**

Yours,

Rashmi Murthy, MD

Member, Board of Directors



Maternal & Child Healthcare

Since HOPE's early beginnings, the focus of HOPE was to improve health of the communities it serves; focusing on women and children as they are the most vulnerable but also hold the key to improving health of all community members. HOPE wants to ensure the health of all mothers so that they can deliver healthy babies; therefore in 2016 HOPE provided:

4,799 antenatal care visits
770 postnatal care checkups
11,423 women served
5,493 gynecological & obstetric appointments
333 women immunized
480 births
308 clean birth kits distributed

HOPE not only ensures safe delivery of healthy babies but ensures that all children have access to quality care that keeps them safe, strong and enabled to achieve their goals. HOPE works to provide preventative care that is not only affordable to families but works to eliminate the onset of disease; as well as provides immunizations to prevalent diseases, routine primary care and comprehensive emergency care. Here is a snapshot of HOPE's children's health program:

7,555 child health visits
927 children immunized
1,130 treated cases of child pneumonia
755 treated cases of diarrhea
536 treated cases of enteric fever
133 adolescent gynecology visits

HOPE's Mothers' Club



There are currently 30 HOPE's Mothers' Clubs, each one consisting of approximately 15-25 women, created to educate members of their community, raise awareness, dispel myths and promote health. Members support our outreach, referral system, as well as education efforts. For example, HOPE's Mothers' Clubs were able to reach over 400 women to ensure they received critical antenatal care.

Health Camps

HOPE Health Camps are medical camps held in rural areas where access to care is limited. Typically doctors will see a few hundred patients a day and assist these patients in receiving treatment, medication, or provide outside referrals if needed. The health camps not only meet the need for medical assistance in rural areas but are also a great outreach tool for HOPE doctors in finding news cases of cleft lip/palate, burn, or fistula patients who can be referred directly to HOPE programs in order to receive more specified treatment per their health needs.

Camps Held in 2016: 31
Patients Seen in 2016's Health Camps: 4,242

HOPE's Outreach



Yesmin, 18. She is from Teissipool, Ramu, Cox's Bazar.

Rebeya, 19. She is from Alikadam, Bandarban.



(Josh Estey/EMC)

Fistula Care

Cox's Bazar is an Obstetric Fistula prone area. An estimated 5,000 patients are suffering from Fistula just in Cox's Bazar. **HOPE Foundation is the only hospital providing free Fistula surgery in the area.** In total, HOPE Hospital conducted 309 surgeries. About 34% of the patients are complicated. Day by day we are improving our quality, capacity and community interaction. HOPE plans to train additional surgeons in obstetric fistula surgery. HOPE Foundation has started a new approach to community engagement in order to identify patients. Two Fistula teams go into every community to reach each household and to identify fistula sufferers. There will not be a home that has not been visited in the entire district, translating to not only more patients but more community awareness and education to prevent fistula in the first place.

(Fistula Foundation provides funding & Direct Relief International assists with medical supplies)

61 Fistula Surgeries were completed in 2016

HOPE's Birthing Centers

HOPE's Birthing Centers were established to provide maternal health care to the mothers of underserved areas who are in desperate need of care, as well as to provide basic community care. They further assist HOPE in finding fistula patients so that these women may be referred for fistula repair surgery. Currently 90% of women give birth at home, without skilled care. However, with accents to a birthing center and a trained midwife, mothers will safely deliver their babies, receive antenatal and postnatal care as well as gain necessary knowledge in pregnancy care and newborn care. Our trained midwives are able to detect high-risk pregnancies prior to delivery and can refer complicated cases to the appropriate doctor and facility for emergency life-saving services.

HOPE opened 3 Birthing Centers in 2016 with the support of the Islamic Development Bank. The HOPE Birth Centers are located in remote areas that are in desperate need of maternal care. HOPE aims to provide every woman with access to quality pregnancy care to prevent needless deaths and disease of both the mother and her baby. The Centers are staffed by HOPE's trained midwives. Through the Islamic Development Bank's support, a total of 5 centers will be opened.



HOPE Maternity & Fistula Center -Under Construction-



Josh Estey/EMC




GIFT	SPONSOR
\$200,000	One Hospital Floor 5 AVAILABLE
\$100,000	One Hospital Ward 7 AVAILABLE
\$50,000	Conference Room
\$25,000	Delivery or Operating Room 2 AVAILABLE of EACH
\$5,000	Founding Member
\$2,000	Life Membership
\$1,000	One Hospital Bed



We would like to thank our current Founding Members of our hospital: Dr. Murad Takur, Dr. Siraj UI Islam, Dr. Janardna Sharma & Dr. Vidya Sharma, Sharma Family Fund, Shaukat Hossain, Muhit Rahman, Syed Hasan, Mohamed Masud Hasan, Akbar Hossain Mohan, Khaled R Khuda, Ali Noor Munju, Dr. Rose Joseph, Syed Hashem, Mohammed Ilias Khan, Dr. Zahir Sarwar, & Drs. Matthew & Kristina Deeter.

“Bangladesh is ready to take its maternal health to new heights and to fight the battle of obstetric fistula. The next step in this movement is to complete the building of HOPE’s Maternal and Fistula Center, so that what we have learned together can be put into practice. I ask you to join us in building this structure that will impact the lives of millions.”



-Dr. James Howell
Board of Directors Member



Specialized Care

Burn Care Program

Tia Moni, age 9, is from, Ramu, Cox’s Bazar. She comes from a very poor family. Her father works as a rickshaw driver and her mother is not employed. She is the youngest of four, with two brothers and one sister. At the age of 5, the upper part of her body and neck were burnt when she was carrying a bowl of hot lentil soup and collided with her mother on the way from one room to another, inside her house. Both of her hands and neck developed burn contractures. Her father paid what he could and got her treatment in two hospitals but the treatment had poor results. Later he heard about free burn contracture treatment at HOPE hospital. She was enlisted for treatment right away. In 2016 she underwent surgery for the first time and her contracture in her left hand was repaired. She also received her second surgery for her neck. She is enlisted for the next camp and in the 3rd surgery her contracture in her right hand will be operated.

Partner: Eurogroup
Number of Surgeries: 27



Cleft Lip/Palate Program

Babu was only six months old when he underwent surgery to correct his cleft lip deformation. Babu’s mother did not receive any antenatal care, as she was unaware of the importance of folic acid to prevent deformities such as cleft. Now, a year later, after Babu’s corrective surgery, his parents said that he is progressing and smiles often!

Partner: Smile Train
Number of Surgeries: 34



Dedicated Partners

Fistula Foundation



Fistula Foundation is focused globally on treating the childbirth injury obstetric fistula, currently funding partners in 20+ countries in Africa & Asia.

Project with HOPE: Obstetric Fistula Repair, Prevention and Reintegration.

Grant support to HOPE's hospital to fund fistula surgeries, community outreach, surgeon training and equipment. In 2016, more than 60 women have been able to receive fistula treatment thanks to our partnership with Fistula Foundation.

Every Mother Counts



Together, we can make pregnancy and childbirth safe for every mother, everywhere.

Project with HOPE: From Home to Hospital: A Project to Drive Down Maternal Mortality.

Every Mother Counts partners with HOPE and is providing funding for our joint initiative, Safe Pregnancy Care. Every Mother Counts thus far has provided funding to aid 1,000 vulnerable women living in rural areas outside of Cox's Bazar. This aid provides access to emergency care, education on safe pregnancy, and linking traditional birth attendants to trainings that will provide them the ability to seek assistance when problems arise during the birthing process as nearly 90 % of women give birth without skilled care.

Islamic Development Bank



The IDB purpose is to foster the economic development and social progress of member countries and Muslim communities individually.

Project with HOPE: Decrease the incidence and prevalence of obstetric fistula by improving women's access to maternal health services through the establishment of Birthing Stations in the remote villages of Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh.

Midwifery Training & Education



HOPE continued its training of midwives through its 3-year Community-based Midwifery Programme, funded by the British Department for International Development in partnership with BRAC University. These midwives are instrumental in meeting the need for skilled providers in rural areas. The midwives are trained in antenatal care, postnatal care, family planning, normal delivery, labs, fetal assessment, the signs of high-risk and birth complications and the referral/diagnosis thereof.

Upon completion, they will be able to provide safe pregnancy, delivery and postnatal care for the women of Cox's Bazar.

"I am the third of seven siblings, three sisters and four brothers. I come from a poor family and my father is a mason by profession. There are many families in my neighborhood that live unhealthy lives, from their birth to death. I have seen the trails of pain and ill-treatment mothers go through during their pregnancy. I used to feel so bad for my father who worked hard day and night to raise us. I used to cry for my father and promised that one day I would stand by my father and help him. This is why I have chosen to become a Midwife."

Ms. Hosne Ara is a current student of the midwifery program. She is the third child of seven, from the Pekua Upazila of Cox's Bazar district. Hosne is passionate about finding a profession that will allow her to serve vulnerable mothers and also financially aid her family. She feels that by becoming a midwife she can satisfy these passions and assist her community at the same time.

Partner: DFID & BRAC University Midwives Trained in 2016: 29



Inspiring Excellence



Department
for International
Development

2016 Biennial HOPE Maternal Health & Fistula Conference

On March 19-20, 2016 in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh the first Biennial HOPE Maternal Health & Fistula Conference was held. The theme for 2016 was "joining hands with global providers to improve care of mothers in need." The Conference was supported with the financial contribution of Fistula Foundation and UNFPA.



Convener: Dr. Iftikher Mahmood, HOPE Foundation

Chair: Steven Arrowsmith, MD; Medical Director for Fistula Foundation, USA

Advisory Board: Chair: Kate Grant, Fistula Foundation, USA

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Organizations represented: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU); Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition (BWHC); B.P. Koirala Institute of Health Sciences, Nepal; BRAC University; Center for Rehabilitation of Paralyzed (CRP); Chittagong Maa O Shishu Hospital & Medical College; Chittagong Medical College; Cox's Bazar Medical College; Daily Star; Dhaka Medical College and Hospital; DNet; Engender Health, Bangladesh; Family Development Services & Research (FDSR); Fistula Foundation, USA; HDI, Norway; HOPE Foundation for Women and Children of Bangladesh; JHPIEGO; Kumudini Welfare Trust; MAMMS Institute; Midwives for Haiti; Mother and Child Welfare Clinic, Cox's Bazar; MSF Holland; Mukti Cox's Bazar; NHSDP; North South University; NTV; Pathfinder International; Population Council; ReSurge International, USA; Save the Children; SK&F Pharmaceuticals; State University of Bangladesh; UNFPA; USAID and Voice of America

2016 Conference Objectives:

- To assess current challenges in maternal health.
- To look back on lessons learned that are applicable to today's challenges.
- To discuss innovation and technology and its role in maternal health.
- To determine the best practices of local health workers and their role in improving maternal health.
- To comprehensively analyze the global fistula challenge and discuss how to work towards its eradication through prevention, reintegration and clinical care.
- To decide next steps in capacity building efforts in the fight against fistula and improving maternal health.

2016 Biennial HOPE Maternal Health & Fistula Conference



“It was truly a pleasure to take part in the HOPE-sponsored conference in Cox’s Bazar for many reasons. First, the scale of response from the local medical community was heartening, in that it belies a national interest in things related to maternal health and fistula. This was further underscored by the enthusiasm of those who participated. But the most important dynamic in evidence was the recognition of the HOPE Foundation work in Bangladesh. I believe that the conference has cemented the place of HOPE in the national scene in maternal health. Although the work in of HOPE began quite humbly, the work of the institution now has a national reputation. I hope that this broadening of scope for the hard-working people at HOPE Foundation also leads to more access to national resources for care and more funding internationally. The work moves forward! Thanks to Dr. Mahmood and Ashley Pugh, and all of the Bangladesh staff, for all of the hard work that made the event a success.”

Steven Arrowsmith, MD

Medical Director, Fistula Foundation
Chair, HOPE Maternal Health and Fistula Conference, 2016

“I applaud the conference for recognizing that skilled birth attendants such as midwives are a necessary solution for any country that needs to increase access to skilled care in rural areas. Until every woman has access to a trained midwife in her own community, maternal morbidity and mortality will continue at unacceptable rates. Training skilled birth attendants is an economical and life-saving solution but we must also support plans that establish these skilled caregivers in rural communities for prevention and treatment of the complications of pregnancy and childbirth.”

Nadene Brunk

Adviser, HOPE Maternal Health and Fistula Conference, 2016
Executive Director and Founder, Midwives For Haiti

“HOPE foundation has been a champion of availing quality health services for the most impoverished in Cox’s Bazar. With its active participation in the national pursuit for eliminating obstetric fistula from Bangladesh, HOPE foundation is showing the way on how NGOs can actively support national goals. In the same vein, the HOPE training center’s commitment to educate midwives to contribute to the national pool of quality reproductive health and information and service providers is noteworthy.

HOPE’s Maternal Health and Fistula Conference 2016 held in March 2016 was testimony to its advocacy efforts and its keen interest to share and grow knowledge in Bangladesh. By partnering with UNFPA in the provision of health services for the Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, HOPE is now demonstrating its capacity to serve populations affected by humanitarian situations. With the proneness of Cox’s Bazar to disasters, there remains a strategic opportunity for HOPE to further its contribution in this domain.

UNFPA is proud to partner with HOPE Foundation to rollout a new initiative of union by union approach to eliminate fistula from Cox’s Bazar to make it the first fistula free district. This we hope would inspire a nationwide approach in the years to come. The UNFPA /HOPE Foundation partnership in providing life-saving reproductive health care services for the refugee population is also set to continue in the years until a durable solution is found for them.

We wish HOPE foundation a successful journey in its mission to realize a healthy Cox’s Bazar and a healthy Bangladesh.”

Dr. Sathya Doraiswamy

Adviser, HOPE Maternal Health and Fistula Conference, 2016
Chief Health, UNFPA Bangladesh

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2016

HOPE by the Numbers

61 **Fistula
Surgeries**



34 **Cleft
Surgeries**

27 **Burn
Surgeries**



31 **Health
Camps Held**

49 **Health Workers
Trained**



Finances



Thank You to Our Partners



Thank You to Our Donors

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