



COUNTRY PROFILE: BANGLADESH

2023

BANGLADESH: CURRENT AFFAIRS

Bangladesh still confronts a major issue: a large part of its population remains in poverty. Many people in the nation are without essential services like healthcare and education.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine and Bangladesh Bank's currency and interest rate decisions have magnified Bangladesh's hurdles. This includes a heightened trade deficit, the struggle with increasing interest rates, and a predicted slowdown in export growth, all due to the economic impacts and uncertainties of the war in Ukraine.

Bangladesh is extremely vulnerable to natural catastrophes, such as floods and cyclones. These occurrences can lead to tragic outcomes, including loss of lives, forced relocation, and harm to infrastructure and agriculture.



59%

The World Bank reports that, in 2020, only 59% of the population had access to safely managed clean drinking water services.

31.5%

approximately 31.5% of children in Bangladesh were living below the national poverty line.

25%

only 25% of health workers serve rural areas, but this is where 70% of the population lives.

HCI'S OPERATION METHOD

HCI operates in Morocco through implementing partners (local NGOs). NGOs are required to submit reports on project activities and their demonstration of impact.

IMPACT SUMMARY

TOTAL PROJECTS

9

TOTAL BENEFICIARIES

195,800

TOTAL AMOUNT INVESTED

\$1,448,406

	FAMILIES IMPACTED	AMOUNT INVESTED
EDUCATION	1370	\$152,492
LIVELIHOOD	558	\$110,000
WASH	39200	\$297,500
HEALTHCARE	145,400	\$419,612
CHILD SPONSORSHIP	9015	\$100,000
HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION	257	\$368,802



EDUCATION AND LEARNING

SCHOLARSHIP FOR ORPHANS

DURATION
JAN 2019 - JUNE 2022

AMOUNT INVESTED

\$102,492

According to the World Economic Forum, over 1.6 billion children have been out of school since March 2020 because of COVID-19, and many may not return. The overlapping issues of poverty, social class, and financial trade-offs imply that families, especially single mothers with several children, might struggle to pay for schooling.

Children unable to attend school risk being pushed into hazardous work or early and coerced marriage. In Bangladesh, only about 50% of students who start in Grade 1 make it to Grade 10. Access to higher education is crucial for enhancing the lives of students and their families and breaking the cycle of poverty.

HCI's Intervention

HCI sponsored a scholarship initiative for orphans in Bangladesh, aiding 200 students (81 boys and 119 girls) in completing their education from Grade 8 to Grade 10. Orphans and those from single-mother homes or similar backgrounds received funds for tuition, school supplies, and meals, enabling them to concentrate on their studies and successfully finish their schooling.

Impact On Beneficiaries

The scholarships significantly transformed the lives of orphaned children, who faced challenges like the threat of leaving school, being pushed into child marriage, labour, or other negative activities. Thanks to this project, these children could pursue their education and aim for a brighter future. The project's assistance lifted the weight of educational costs, enabling guardians to concentrate on their children's academic goals, leading to improved academic results. Better education lowers the chances of children remaining in poverty, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to escape poverty's cycle and chase their dreams.



1.6 B

Children removed from school

200

Students Benefited

According to the World Economic Forum, over 1.6 billion children have been removed from school since March 2020 due to COVID-19, and it is unlikely that many will return.

LEARNING CENTERS FOR ROHINGYA REFUGEES

Due to severe persecution in Myanmar, the Rohingya people, an ethnic minority there, have had to flee their homes, seeking refuge and safety in Bangladesh.

While the Rohingya have been fleeing to Bangladesh since the 1970s, their movement has increased in recent years. In Cox's Bazar, you can find multiple generations of these refugees. Out of the 900,000 Rohingya in the settlements there, over half are children. These young refugees have endured much trauma and, with limited access to safe, child-friendly spaces, face high risks of child marriage, trafficking, and child labour. Regrettably, due to various obstacles, about 36% of Rohingya children aged 3 to 14 lack education access, and more than 91% of 15 to 24-year-olds do not receive any educational opportunities.

HCI's Intervention

HCI established 15 Temporary Learning Centers (TLCs) in Kutupalong camp (camps 4, 5, and 8W) in Bangladesh, offering education to children aged 3 to 13. These centers serve 1170 children, evenly split between 585 boys and 585 girls, providing a strong base in numeracy and literacy skills in both Burmese and English.

Impact On Beneficiaries

Building Temporary Learning Centers (TLCs) has deeply influenced the lives of children who have endured considerable trauma. These centers offer a secure and pleasant setting where kids can spend a few hours daily, distanced from their life's hardships. This enables them to enjoy a more normal childhood, away from the stresses of their circumstances.

To safeguard the children, the TLCs have been enhanced to endure the monsoon season, reduce landslide risks, and withstand extreme weather conditions. These improvements offer a sense of security to the children and their families, a crucial aspect considering their challenging living conditions.

Additionally, the numeracy and literacy training at the centers has been extremely valuable for the children. It has improved their academic abilities and positively influenced their emotional and social health. Consequently, parents find comfort in knowing their children are gaining an education and moving toward a brighter future despite challenging conditions.

DURATION
DEC 2019 - APRIL 2020

AMOUNT INVESTED
\$50,000



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LIVELIHOOD



GIRLS SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM

In Bangladesh, gender inequality and numerous challenges greatly impede women's lives, impacting almost every facet. Their access to health care, economic chances, and financial autonomy is still constrained. Women in rural villages, frequently uneducated and impoverished, encounter limited prospects to support themselves and their families financially.

Traditional social norms additionally restrict women's independence and self-determination, resulting in high divorce rates and insufficient representation in many sectors. Young girls also face various gender inequalities affecting their lives. Access to education is a significant challenge, with families often prioritizing boys' education, resulting in fewer educational opportunities for girls. Moreover, girls might drop out early due to marriage or domestic duties, limiting their future possibilities and obstructing their financial independence and personal goals.

HCI's Intervention

HCI implemented a broad skills training program to empower 300 women in rural villages and 258 young girls from Pre-KG to Grade 8 in Bangladesh. This initiative provided them with essential skills and techniques for sustainable livelihoods, covering areas like sewing, stitching, embroidery, and basic computer skills to foster digital literacy. By concentrating on improving economic opportunities and advocating for gender equality, HCI's effort sought to enhance the lives of these women and girls, setting the stage for a more empowered and inclusive community.

Impact On Beneficiaries

The Skills Training Program has been transformative for the women who completed it, enabling economic empowerment through skill acquisition for sustainable income and financial independence. These women have seen their status rise within their families and communities, accompanied by a significant increase in self-esteem and confidence. A key

DURATION
JULY 2019 - JUNE 2021

AMOUNT INVESTED

\$110,000



to the program's success is its focus on entrepreneurship, equipping women with sewing and embroidery skills to start their businesses and market products locally and beyond. This initiative has created valuable income sources for the women and their families and spurred economic growth in the region.

The program has been equally impactful for young girls, fostering a sense of empowerment and confidence as they sharpen their skills in specific areas and acknowledge the value of their work. This newfound self-belief has led to increased control over their lives and opportunities, significantly enhancing their overall well-being. Notably, the program has unveiled new possibilities for these girls, lighting the way toward a brighter and more promising future.

HEALTHCARE

HANDS IN GIRL'S HEALTH (HIGH)

In Bangladesh, adolescents, particularly girls, encounter numerous challenges, such as high early marriage rates, high fertility, limited negotiation skills, and a lack of awareness and information regarding reproductive health.

They often enter their reproductive years with little knowledge about pregnancy prevention, infection protection, and their reproductive options. Social and cultural norms related to girls and their autonomy leave them vulnerable. In Bangladesh, 78% of girls are married by the age of 18, 60% become mothers before 19, and just 48.7% of adolescent mothers receive antenatal checkups. Additionally, over 89% of Bangladeshi women rely on rags rather than sanitary napkins, jeopardizing their health, productivity, and dignity.

HCI's Intervention

HCI implemented a project to improve reproductive health among adolescent school girls by sharing information on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) in 200 schools in Dhaka District & Dhaka City Corporation in Bangladesh. Safe spaces were created for 10,500 adolescent girls in their schools where they could comfortably learn about their health, engage in health-centric conversations, and ask any questions they had.

Impact On Beneficiaries

Through the implementation of the project, young girls have experienced improved menstrual hygiene management practices, as well as an increased understanding of reproductive health. The project has also contributed to the prevention of child marriage, abuse, and violence against adolescent girls. Additionally, through the promotion of accessing social media, young girls have gained access to a wider range of information and resources related to their health and well-being. The project has also helped prevent tetanus and cervical cancer by providing education and resources to young girls on prevention and early detection. Overall, the project has positively impacted young girls' lives by promoting their health, safety, and empowerment.

DURATION
DEC 2020 - MAY 2022

AMOUNT INVESTED

\$71,612



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HCI ROHINGYA CLINIC

Since August 2017, health organizations working in Cox's Bazar have reported thousands of deaths, including numerous maternal fatalities. Mortality audits reveal that timely access to healthcare could have prevented some of these deaths.

The difficult terrain, overcrowding, scarce lighting, and limited round-the-clock services in the camps make coordinating emergency medical referrals challenging. Many areas within the camps are an hour or more on foot from the closest tertiary-level health facility, most located outside the camp boundaries.

HCI's Intervention

HCI focused on improving the health of the Rohingya Community with a wide array of healthcare services. Key among these were outpatient services, crucial for offering primary healthcare, medical treatments, and complimentary medicines to 37,500 individuals. Furthermore, the Dental Unit at the Health Post was instrumental in providing vital dental care and medication to community members.

In response to the growing health needs identified by local and camp authorities, HCI proactively aided in setting up a medical clinic within the Rohingya Refugee Camp-4, which will be operational for one year. This initiative catered to many patients, delivering health services to 97,400 individuals, 59% female and 41% male recipients.

HCI, dedicated to aiding vulnerable community members, specifically targeted healthcare gaps affecting those in dire need, including mothers, elderly individuals with chronic diseases, and children in antenatal and postnatal stages. Additionally, in health emergencies, immediate care was accessible to the Rohingya Community, ensuring prompt and efficient reactions to urgent cases. Through these varied healthcare initiatives, HCI aimed to promote enhanced health and well-being within the Rohingya Community.

Impact On Beneficiaries

HCI's delivery of health services to the Rohingya refugees in camps has significantly improved their health and well-being. By addressing various health issues within the community, these services ensure that refugees receive essential care and support. Providing regular health checkups, nutrient supplements, and necessary treatments to all orphans in the camps has been crucial. This comprehensive care helps the orphans maintain their health and overall well-being.

Moreover, HCI's focus on involving the community in health management has significantly enhanced the community's overall health. By engaging community members in overseeing health services, HCI has gained a deeper insight into the community's specific needs, enabling more precisely tailored services to meet these requirements.

DURATION
JUL 2020
-JUNE 2021

AMOUNT INVESTED

\$348,000



HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION



FRESH MEAT FOR FAMILIES LIVING IN NEED 2021

As of June 2020, Bangladesh's national poverty rate increased to 29.5% due to the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to job losses for tens of millions of people and pushing them below the poverty line.

Although the pandemic reached Bangladesh later than other regional countries, it significantly disrupted economic activities during April-June. Thousands in urban and rural areas couldn't afford Qurbani, leaving the poorest families without meat during the festival. The COVID-19 pandemic further exacerbated their vulnerability.

HCI's Intervention

HCI assisted 4815 individuals from 875 families in extreme poverty by providing fresh meat for Eid-ul-Adha celebrations. Each family received 5 kg of fresh meat, enabling them to celebrate the occasion with the appropriate religious spirit and joy.

Impact On Beneficiaries

Supplying fresh meat to impoverished families for Eid-ul-Adha had a profound impact on the well-being of the recipients. It allowed these families to celebrate the occasion with their loved ones and participate in community festivities, fostering a sense of belonging and community. Besides bolstering their morale, providing fresh meat also positively influenced their health. For a healthy diet, fresh meat is rich in protein, iron, and other essential nutrients. By providing fresh meat, this intervention ensured that the beneficiaries had access to a nutritious food source that could contribute to their overall health and well-being.

Furthermore, this initiative was pivotal in fostering a sense of togetherness and community among the beneficiaries. Sharing a meal not only provided an opportunity for families to gather and celebrate the occasion but also allowed them to connect with their community. For individuals living in poverty, who may often feel isolated and detached from their community, this sense of togetherness is paramount in promoting social bonds and well-being.

DURATION
JUL 2021 - AUG 2021

AMOUNT INVESTED
\$71,612



Each family received 5 kg of fresh meat that allowed them to fully rejoice on this religious occasion.

RAMADAN 2022 FOOD ASSISTANCE

DURATION
APRIL 2022 - MAY 2022

AMOUNT INVESTED
\$50,000

A significant portion of Bangladesh's population, approximately one-fifth, lives below the poverty line. The poverty rate stood at 20.5% in FY 2018-19, and around 20 million people are living in extreme poverty, as reported by The Financial Express.

According to a CPD report published on June 7, 2020, poverty has seen an overall 10% increase. The repercussions of poverty go beyond mere meal shortages as families grapple with persistent food insecurity, hunger, and malnutrition. These challenges can lead to adverse psychological effects for both children and parents. This project aims to mitigate hunger among impoverished families, addressing a critical aspect of their well-being.

HCI's Intervention

During the holy month of Ramadan, HCI provided food baskets to 700 needy families, benefiting 4,200 individuals in Dhaka City Urban Areas in Dhaka North and South City Corporation, district Dhaka, Bangladesh. These food baskets contained essential items, including 30 kg of rice, 3 kg of pulse (lentils), 3 litres of cooking oil, 1 kg of powdered milk, 2 kg of sugar, 2 kg of salt, 4 kg of flour, 1 kg of vermicelli, 1 kg of dates, and 2 kg of chickpeas. This initiative aimed to address food insecurity and ensure that these families had access to nutritious food during a period of religious observance.

Impact On Beneficiaries

The provision of these food baskets had a significant positive impact on the mental well-being of the beneficiaries. The project offered relief to 700 impoverished families, alleviating their anxiety during the holy month of Ramadan and enabling them to observe the religious festival with their loved ones. By ensuring that these families had access to necessities, the project played a pivotal role in promoting a sense of security and happiness, ultimately contributing to the overall well-being of the beneficiaries.



During the holy month of Ramadan, HCI provided food baskets to 700 families in need, covering 4200 beneficiaries in Dhaka City Urban Areas both in Dhaka North and South City Corporation, district Dhaka, Bangladesh.



WASH AND HYGIENE



WATER AND SANITATION PROJECT

One in nine people lack clean drinking water, and more than 2.5 million live without adequate sanitation facilities.

Shockingly, one in three people lives without access to proper sanitation, resulting in preventable diseases and fatalities. According to the report, a staggering 68.3 million people in Bangladesh lack access to safely managed drinking water, while 103 million lack sanitation facilities. Furthermore, 61.7 million people in the country do not have access to basic hygiene. Additionally, about 107 million people in Bangladesh lack basic handwashing facilities with soap and water at home. The study also revealed that nearly half of the schools in Bangladesh need facilities for handwashing with soap and water. This highlights the significant challenges in the country's clean water and sanitation access.

HCI's Intervention

HCI initiated a project to construct 243 water wells and 70 sanitary latrines in vulnerable areas to provide arsenic-free water and improved hygiene facilities to impoverished villagers affected by arsenic contamination in Bangladesh. These wells effectively supplied safe drinking water to 5,975 families, benefiting 35,750 individuals in the areas affected. Additionally, 575 families, comprising 3,450 people, gained access to 70 sanitary latrines equipped with ring slabs, brick walls, and tin roofs, further enhancing sanitation in these areas.

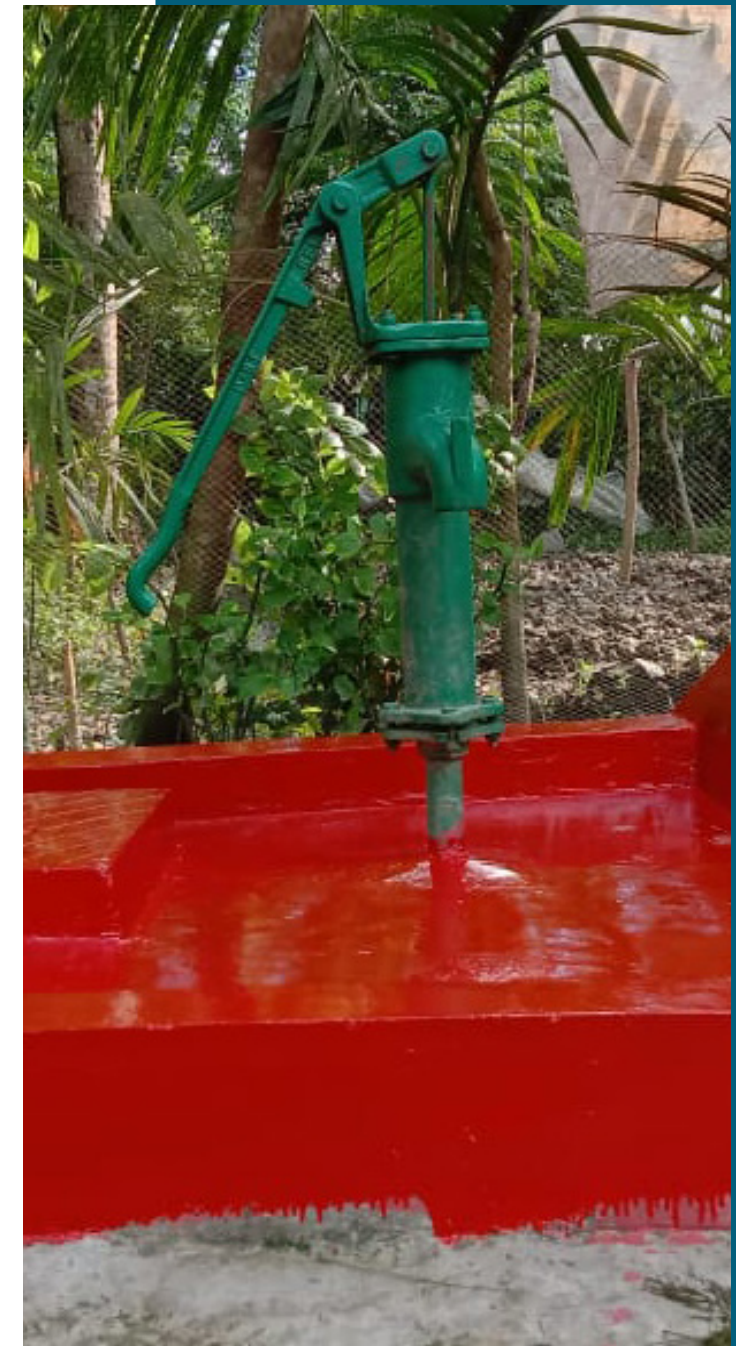
Impact On Beneficiaries

The installation of water wells and latrines in arsenic-prone areas by HCI has brought about a remarkable improvement in the lives of residents. It has provided them access to clean and safe drinking water, enhanced sanitation, and reduced the incidence of waterborne diseases. This positive impact on the region's health outcomes has been particularly significant for vulnerable populations, including children and the elderly. Women and children, previously burdened with fetching water and managing sanitation needs, now have more time for education and income-generating activities. In sum, installing water wells and latrines has profoundly affected the local population, promoting improved health outcomes and enhancing their access to clean water and sanitation.

DURATION
DEC 2019 - SEP 2023

AMOUNT INVESTED

\$297,500



CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM



UNICEF reports that children make up 40% of Bangladesh's population, with approximately 600,000 children out of school. Several barriers prevent children from accessing education, including poverty, safety concerns, geographical location, lack of schools in urban slums, and poor infrastructure.

The high rate of unemployment in Bangladesh exacerbates poverty, leading to severe consequences for children's access to basic needs such as food, nutrition, health, and education. As a result, children from the poorest families residing in urban slums, on the streets, and in poverty-stricken rural areas are either out of school or at risk of dropping out. They may become involved in hazardous child labour, early marriage, trafficking, and other forms of abuse. This situation burdens families and communities and prevents children from realizing their potential as valuable human resources.

HCI's Intervention

HCI took a proactive step by sponsoring the education of 257 vulnerable children, 121 boys and 136 girls. This support extended to orphans and children from the most economically disadvantaged families attending various schools across Bangladesh. In addition to covering education-related expenses like materials and uniforms, HCI also supported these families in the form of food, household goods, hygiene items, and medical expenses. These comprehensive efforts were designed to alleviate the financial burdens on the beneficiary families, instill a sense of security, and encourage them to prioritize their children's education.

Impact On Beneficiaries

The sponsorship significantly impacts the lives of vulnerable children in Bangladesh by allowing them to attend school and continue their education. Access to education is critical in breaking the cycle of poverty and empowering children to achieve their full potential. In addition to education, the project ensures that each child has access to nutritious meals, providing them with the necessary energy and nutrients to focus on their studies and maintain good health. Furthermore, the project offers each beneficiary healthcare services and school supplies, promoting their overall well-being and success in their education. The project's focus on girls' education is particularly impactful, ensuring they have the same opportunities as boys to attend school and continue their education regularly. By providing education, meals, healthcare, and school supplies, this project empowers the beneficiaries to become more self-reliant and better contribute to their families, communities, and country. The positive impact of this project extends beyond the individual beneficiaries and benefits the entire nation by creating a more educated and prosperous society.

DURATION
JULY 2022 - JUNE 2027

AMOUNT INVESTED
\$368,802



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