



**HUMAN CONCERN  
INTERNATIONAL**

# **EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES IN BANGLADESH**





# HCI in Bangladesh

## Current Affairs

As Bangladesh aims to graduate from Least Developed Country (LDC) status by 2026 and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, it faces challenges in mobilizing resources. Economic growth is hampered by post-pandemic effects, the war in Ukraine, and climate change, particularly in coastal areas.

While Bangladesh has achieved near-universal primary school enrollment, only 19% of children aged 3-5 attend early childhood education, and just 64% complete secondary education. Vulnerable groups, including the poorest children, those with disabilities, and children in disaster-affected areas, are most at risk. Climate hazards disrupt the education of 20 million children, and post-pandemic school closures worsened academic performance, with only 43% of 10-year-olds proficient in reading before COVID-19.

Food insecurity affects 36% of the population, with malnutrition concentrated in regions like Cox's Bazar, where 29% of children are underweight. Although poverty has declined, nutrition improvements lag behind.

Access to safe drinking water and sanitation remains a challenge for 68.3 million and 103 million people, respectively, with urban-rural disparities and the influx of Rohingya refugees straining systems further.

Ranked 7th in the Global Climate Risk Index 2021, Bangladesh faces frequent natural disasters. In 2023, Cyclones Mocha, Hamoon, and Midhili, along with monsoon rains, affected millions, while the Rohingya refugee crisis, now in its sixth year, continues to strain resources.

Bangladesh's healthcare system also struggles with a shortage of qualified professionals and a maternal mortality rate of 136 per 100,000 live births, still far from the SDG target of 70 by 2030.



Source: (UN, Relief Web)





# HCI's Operation Method

HCI's operation method in Bangladesh through intermediaries involves a collaborative approach to project design, rigorous oversight during implementation, and thorough monitoring and evaluation to ensure the effective use of resources and maximize the impact on beneficiaries. This method leverages the local expertise and capacity of NGOs while maintaining stringent controls and accountability mechanisms to ensure project success.

## Country Stats

PROGRAM AREA	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES	AMOUNT INVESTED
EMERGENCY RELIEF	7	14,820	\$1,434,620.90
WINTER RELIEF	2	5,960	\$40,010
ZERO HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION	8	23,740	\$297,975.64
HEALTHCARE AND LIVELIHOOD	7	201,884	\$690,907.35
EDUCATION	6	924	\$171,695
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)	6	97,220	\$525,498.93
CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM (CSP)	3	3,757	\$227,416.81
RAMADAN	1	4,434	\$15,000
Zabiha	1	2,750	\$15,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>355,339</b>	<b>\$3,403,124.63</b>

*Through strong governance and local engagement, HCI continues to make a difference in the lives of many.*





# EMERGENCY RELIEF

Bangladesh's lockdown has left low-income families struggling with food shortages due to loss of daily income.





## Emergency Relief

# COVID19 Emergency Relief Food Baskets

April 2020



## Background:

The Coronavirus pandemic first emerged in Wuhan, China last December and has spread in many countries and territories. The global death toll from the virus exceeds 27,000 with over 532,000 confirmed infected cases detected till now. Despite the rising number of cases, most people who get infected suffer mild symptoms and recover. China, USA, Italy, Iran and Spain continue to be the worst-affected countries. Several Southeast Asian countries including Bangladesh have experienced a significant rise of coronavirus. WHO warned the countries not to withdraw the restriction of social distinction & stay at home as there is a huge chance of resurgence of coronavirus.

Bangladesh has imposed a nationwide restriction (unofficial lockdown) to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus in the wake of five deaths and at least 51 infections till 31 March 2020. Authorities declared a ban on passenger travel via water, rail and on domestic air routes from March 24 while all public transport on roads will be suspended from March 26 to stem the spread of the virus, officially known as COVID-19. The closure of all educational institutions in the country has been extended to April 9 from March 31 previously, the Ministry of Education said in a statement.

As part of efforts the government strictly instructed the people to stay at home to contain the outbreak. Market, Offices, business place, shops, restaurant including local transport are closed for certain time and asked the people to maintain social distinction to prevent the virus. Due to imposed of lock-down the vulnerable low income poor family (hand to mouth) like rickshaw puller, van driver, day labor, small shopkeeper, street & pavement dwellers, street children, old aged extreme poor man & women in the Dhaka & Sylhet city are passing a critical situation. In particular, due to the stoppage of daily income and staying at home for uncertain days, they are at high risk of food crisis and other necessary commodities. The families can stay home and feel comfort from infection of the virus if they have adequate food for the day.

## HCI's Intervention:

HCI's intervention provided critical emergency relief to 800 of the most vulnerable families, directly benefiting 4,400 individuals (with an average of 5.5 members per family). Through a meticulous selection process, 800 families were identified as the most in need, and food baskets were prepared and distributed to them. Each family received a comprehensive package of essential food items, including 20 kg of high-quality rice, 1 kg each of pulses, sugar, salt, and garlic, 2 kg of onions, and 1 liter of cooking oil. This support was crucial in addressing the immediate food needs of the affected households, ensuring their nutritional well-being during a time of crisis. The distribution included 800 men, 800 women, 1,400 boys, and 1,400 girls, underscoring HCI's commitment to supporting entire families in their time of need.

## Impact on Beneficiaries:

The COVID-19 Emergency Relief Food Baskets project significantly alleviated the immediate food insecurity faced by 800 vulnerable families during the nationwide lockdown in Bangladesh. By providing essential food supplies, the project not only addressed the risk of hunger but also enabled these families to adhere to stay-at-home orders, thereby reducing their exposure to COVID-19. This support was critical in safeguarding the health and well-being of 4,400 individuals, including children, who were at heightened risk of both malnutrition and infection.



## Emergency Relief

### Emergency Relief for the Victims of Cyclone Amphan

June 2020



## Background:

On 20 May 2020, the deadliest super cyclone Amphan hit Bangladesh and India and left behind a trail of destruction in the country's coastal areas, affecting more than a million people in nine districts in Khulna and Barishal divisions. The coastal districts Bagerhat, Satkhira, Khulna, Bhola, Barguna and Patuakhali are badly affected. At least 20 people were killed, many houses were damaged and trees uprooted as severe cyclonic storm Amphan hit the coastal districts of Bangladesh. Nearly 2.20 lakh houses were damaged by the cyclone that swept through the south-western part on Wednesday with a wind speed of over 150 kilometers per hour. The ferocious cyclone has destroyed parts of mango orchards in different districts including Rajshahi.

Besides mango orchards, paddy fields and other crops in most of the upazilas in coastal districts. Road communication has snapped as most of the roads and highways were blocked with flat-lying trees uprooted by the storm. Thousands of trees of the world's largest mangrove forest were damaged by the ferocious storm. Heavy rains and high tidal surges broke the dams and submerged low-lying lands, ponds and crop lands in different areas. Thousands of shrimp enclosures have been washed away, while numerous thatched houses, trees, electricity and telephone poles, dykes and croplands were damaged and many villages were submerged by the tidal surge of the Amphan. The entire coastal region has faced extensive damage. It destroyed standing crops, vegetables and fruits on 1.76 lakh hectares of land, uprooted millions of trees and damaged fish farms. More than 200 bridges and culverts were damaged in the coastal districts. According to a primary estimate, the cyclone caused damage worth around Tk 1,100 crore. People need food and daily necessities at this moment. Thousands of people need shelter and livelihoods. The project helps provide food support to the victims of cyclone Amphan as emergency needs to save them from risk of hunger and extreme malnutrition, particularly the most affected and poorest ones.

***HCI provided emergency food support to 800 families affected by Cyclone Amphan, benefiting 4,800 individuals.***

## HCI's Intervention:

HCI provided essential food support to the victims of Cyclone Amphan, addressing their urgent needs and protecting them from the severe risks of hunger and extreme malnutrition. A total of 4,800 individuals from 800 families benefited directly from HCI's emergency relief efforts, with an average of six members per family. The support was evenly distributed among 1,200 men, 1,200 women, 1,200 boys, and 1,200 girls; totalling 4,800 individuals. Each of the 800 vulnerable families received essential food items, including 20 kg of high-quality rice, 1 kg of pulses, 1 kg of sugar, 1 kg of salt, 2 kg of flour, and 1 liter of cooking oil (soybean). These provisions were crucial in alleviating food insecurity and providing immediate relief to those in need.

## Impact on Beneficiaries:

By ensuring adequate nutrition, the project played a vital role in protecting the physical and mental well-being of all family members, particularly children, and preventing health hazards associated with food deficiency.





## Emergency Relief

### Fire Relief for Rohingya Refugees Phase 1 (2022)

May to August 2022



#### Background:

Since 2017 over 742,000 Rohingya refugees have fled overwhelming state violence in Myanmar for Bangladesh. Concentrated primarily in the Southern region of Bangladesh, Rohingya settlements are comprised of over 40% women and children, and the situation constitutes one of the largest and most-rapidly developing humanitarian migration crises in the world. The tent cities are severely under-resourced, and are vulnerable to fire, flood, and vermin.

#### HCI's Intervention:

HCI offered scholarships to 50 students in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, enabling them to access high-quality education despite the region's vulnerability to floods and tropical weather surges. The project aimed to replace essential personal belongings lost in a fire, focusing on preserving dignity by distributing non-food items (NFIs) such as slippers, prayer mats, and women's clothing.

#### Impact on Beneficiaries:

The intervention had a profound impact on the beneficiaries, particularly the 50 students who were able to continue their education despite the ongoing crises in the region. By receiving scholarships, these students gained access to a stable educational environment, which is critical for their mental and emotional well-being. The provision of essential personal belongings, including slippers, prayer mats, and women's clothing, helped restore a sense of normalcy and dignity among the affected population. These items not only met immediate physical needs but also played a significant role in maintaining cultural and religious practices, which are vital for community cohesion and psychological resilience.





## Emergency Relief

### Cyclone Sitrang Relief- Category 1

December 2022 to January 2023



#### Background:

The impacts of climate change will continue to hit vulnerable populations around the world the hardest. Currently two-thirds of Bangladesh sits under water, with a projected 20 million people expected to be displaced by flooding by 2050. Routine cyclonic surges place millions of people at risk for flooding, as the majority of the country is under sea level. Cyclone Sitrang lashed Bangladesh in late October 2022, which further destroyed infrastructure and agricultural land damaged in earlier floods in the year. 1.5 million people have been affected (Bangladesh Red Crescent) primarily in the districts of Bhola, Bagerhat, Barguna, Cox's Bazar, Khulna and Patuakhali. Families are in desperate need of food and shelter aid, in addition to clean water, warm clothing, and warm bedding heading into the winter months.

#### HCI's Intervention:

HCI provided essential supplies, including food items, blankets, and sweaters, for 3,000 individuals from 500 families. Each family received a food pack consisting of 20 kg of provisions, including 15 kg of rice, 1 kg of sugar, 1 kg of lentils, 1 kg of salt, 1 liter of cooking oil, and 1 kg of dates. Additionally, each family was given one warm blanket and two sweaters, with special care for children and the elderly. The project was located in the Southern coastal area of Kalapara Upazila, Patuakali district, approximately 320 km west of Chattogram, and was accessed via a network of highways and ferries. Given the high cost of transportation from major cities, procurement was conducted locally. The goal of the project was to provide emergency relief supplies to mitigate increased harm during the intermediate recovery phase following Cyclone Sitrang.

#### Impact on Beneficiaries:

The intervention provided critical relief to 3,000 individuals, ensuring that families received essential food items and warm clothing, which significantly alleviated their immediate needs following Cyclone Sitrang. By distributing these supplies, the project helped reduce the risk of further suffering during the winter months, contributing to the families' overall recovery and stability in the aftermath of the disaster.





## Emergency Relief

# Emergency Relief Kits for Flood Affected Families in Bangladesh

October to December 2023

## Background:

Bangladesh's Chattogram Division experienced severe monsoon floods due to heavy rainfall, affecting over 1.2 million people across Chattogram, Bandarban, Rangamati, and Cox's Bazar districts. Among those affected were 588,261 women, 426,773 children, and vulnerable groups such as the elderly, pregnant and lactating mothers, and persons with disabilities. The floods caused significant loss of life, destroyed homes, and severely impacted infrastructure, including roads and sanitation facilities. Many families took shelter in temporary centers, while food shortages and a lack of work further worsened the crisis. Approximately 346,196 people in the region were at risk, particularly in areas where cropland and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities had been devastated.

## HCI's Intervention:

The project provided comprehensive relief to families severely affected by recent floods in Chakoria (Cox's Bazar district) and Satkania (Chattogram district). It included supplying essential food items to 50 of the most vulnerable families, each receiving 50 kg of rice, 4 kg of lentils, 4 liters of cooking oil, 4 kg of flour, and 4 kg of salt. Additionally, the project constructed 50 houses for those who had lost their homes, featuring wooden frames, tin roofs, and concrete pillars. It also built 50 sanitary latrines for families who lacked proper sanitation facilities, equipped with brick walls, concrete ring slabs, tiled floors, ceramic pans, and plastic doors.

## Impact on Beneficiaries:

The project brought a beacon of hope to 50 flood-affected families by delivering essential food, constructing new homes, and installing sanitary latrines, transforming their struggle into renewed stability and comfort. This intervention not only met their urgent needs but also helped rebuild their lives with dignity, offering a fresh start amidst the devastation and restoring their sense of security and well-being.





## Emergency Relief

### Emergency Relief Kits for fire affected people in Rohingya Camp-5

January to March 2024



### HCI's Intervention:

HCI's intervention serves a total of 464 households and focuses on enhancing the resilience of displaced families affected by providing essential daily-use materials and utensils critical for cooking and food preparation. This support is vital for the families to regain a semblance of normalcy in their daily lives. Each relief kit includes a rice cooking pot, a vegetable cooking pot, plastic mats (4 ft./6 ft.), melamine full plates, melamine glasses, rice melamine spoons, vegetable melamine spoons, thami, and gamsa towels.

### Background:

During the early hours of January 7, 2024, a devastating fire broke out in Camp 5 of the Kutupalong refugee camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. This UNHCR-managed camp suffered extensive damage, affecting approximately 7,000 individuals, with more than 4,200 of them being children. The Rohingya refugees now face dire circumstances as their homes and essential facilities were lost in the blaze. The inferno, which raged for over three hours, presented a significant challenge until the efforts of Rohingya refugee Safety Unit volunteers (SUVs), local firefighters and fire fighting authorities successfully brought it under control. Around 5,000 Rohingya refugees, including 3,500 children (around 900 households) were heavily impacted by the fire. A total of 972 shelters were either damaged or completely destroyed. Urgent distribution of emergency shelter materials is crucial to meet the acute housing needs of families who lost their homes. In addition to that, prioritizing food and water distribution is also needed to ensure nutritional requirements of the affected population are met. Moreover, basic daily-use materials including clothing and hygiene products are also needed in the relief efforts to meet the immediate needs of the community.

### Impact on Beneficiaries:

The provision of daily-use materials and cooking utensils has significantly improved the lives of displaced families by helping them resume essential food preparation and restore a sense of normalcy. This support has not only facilitated their immediate survival but also contributed to their long-term resilience and stability in the face of displacement.





# HEALTHCARE

Limited ARH programs leave 78% of girls married by 18, 60% mothers by 19, and only 48.7% receiving antenatal care. Poor reproductive health awareness and 89% relying on rags instead of sanitary napkins further impact their well-being and dignity.





# Health Care

## HCI Maternal Care Syedpur

September 2020 to

September 2021

### HCI's Intervention:

To address the health care needs of residents in the Syedpur camps, HCI implemented a mobile health service program, which was initiated in 2011 to enhance accessibility to medical care. A qualified and experienced Medical Assistant visited the camps every Sunday by bicycle, delivering essential treatment and care to patients in need. This mobile service was part of a broader initiative aimed at providing comprehensive maternity care, including antenatal, postnatal, and safe delivery services. From July 2020 to June 2021, the program supported 120-140 expectant mothers, offering access to trained doctors, obstetricians/gynecologists, and paramedics. Services included necessary medical tests, vaccinations, and health education. Additionally, the program provided referrals, post-operative care, and neonatal follow-ups to ensure continuity of care and support for both mothers and newborns. To ensure the sustainability of these services, HCI collaborated with various partners to maintain the availability of essential health care for the camp residents.

### Background:

Residents of the camps in Syedpur, Bangladesh face significant challenges in accessing adequate health care services due to extreme poverty and widespread unemployment. Many cannot afford medical treatment at regular clinics, leading to a reliance on limited resources. Annually, approximately 10,000 people receive support through OBAT's two health care facilities in Rangpur and Syedpur. These clinics offer routine medical screenings and medication for common ailments at minimal cost, charging no consultation fees and requiring patients to pay only fifty percent of the medication cost. However, many camps are located far from the Syedpur clinic, exacerbating difficulties in accessing essential health services.



### Impact on Beneficiaries:

The HCI Maternal Care Syedpur project played a critical role in improving maternal and neonatal health outcomes for underserved populations in the Syedpur camps, contributing to better health and well-being for both mothers and their children. This ensured continuity of care through ongoing support and collaboration with partners.





## Health Care

### HCI Rohingya Clinic

October 2020 to September 2021



## Background:

Thousands of deaths and hundreds of maternal deaths have been reported by health agencies working in Cox's Bazar since August 2017. Mortality audit has shown that some of these deaths could have been prevented by timely access to healthcare. Due to challenging terrain, overcrowding, limited lighting, and limited 24/7 services in the camps, emergency medical referrals are difficult to coordinate. Many areas of the camp are an hour or more by foot from the nearest tertiary level health facility, almost all of which are located outside the camp boundaries. Moreover, due to the severity of the situation owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the lockdown that Bangladesh entered into in late March, the decision was made by the Bangladesh Government and camp authorities in April to suspend all projects in the Rohingya Camp, except for emergency healthcare services and essential food aid delivery.

## HCI's Intervention:

HCI ensured uninterrupted health service by making sure beneficiaries have regular medicine and medical supplies each month for the entire project period. The goal was to provide health care services to Rohingya refugees from our health post, six days a week ensuring patients were being provided basic health care and required referrals in addition to other support and follow up visits. A total of 36,000 patients were served during this project period.

## Impact on Beneficiaries:

The uninterrupted healthcare services provided by HCI reached 36,000 Rohingya refugees, ensuring access to essential medical care in a challenging environment. This intervention reduced preventable deaths and maternal mortality by offering timely access to healthcare and necessary referrals, despite the limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the camp's challenging conditions.





## Health Care

### Rohingya Health Project

January to December 2021

### Background:

According to UNHCR, almost 70.8 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide in 2018. The reason behind this is the Myanmar conflict with Rohingya and the total figure of refugees has increased by an additional 1.1 million. These refugees seek shelter in Cox's Bazar. There has been international assistance with more than 100 national and international NGOs including the UN working in this Rohingya Response.



### HCI's Intervention:

In response to the high health related demands from local and camp administration, HCI supported a medical clinic built in Camp-4 for one year. HCI, moreover, supported a total of 97,400 patients with health services, with 59% being women and 41% male. HCI is addressing the healthcare gaps of the needy in the community such as mothers, elderly people with non-communicable disease and antenatal and postnatal children.

### Impact on Beneficiaries:

By addressing significant healthcare gaps, especially for mothers and those with chronic conditions, HCI improved the overall health and wellbeing of the camp's population, contributing to lower mortality rates and better maternal and child health outcomes.





## Health Care

### Hands in Girls Health (HIGH)

December 2020 to May 2022

#### HCI's Intervention:

With the motto "Health for Her," this project aimed to improve reproductive health among adolescent school girls by sharing information on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) in 200 schools. Safe spaces were created within schools where girls could comfortably learn about their health, engage in health-centric conversations, and ask any questions they had. In collaboration with experts in reproduction and gynecology, HCI developed tools to share information with educators and girls in an easy-to-understand manner. A learning module was developed to train teachers on conducting educational sessions with their female students. After the training, teachers held educational sessions at their respective schools using a teaching manual also developed by HCI. Students received informational handouts and an educational comic book to follow along with the information taught during the sessions and to share their knowledge with their families. The program engaged 30,000 adolescent girls across 200 selected secondary schools as part of its target areas. Additionally, it reached 32,250 individuals, including parents, School Management Committee (SMC) members, teachers, community members, and volunteers. This broad participation ensured comprehensive involvement from various stakeholders in supporting the educational and health initiatives for the adolescent girls.

#### Background:

There are around 29.5 million adolescents in Bangladesh, including 14.4 million girls. Adolescents represent nearly one-fifth of the country's total population, yet Adolescent Reproductive Health (ARH) programming in Bangladesh has remained limited. Adolescents in Bangladesh, especially girls, face a number of issues, including high rates of early marriage, high fertility rates, limited negotiation skills, and insufficient awareness of and information about reproductive health. Adolescents often enter their reproductive years poorly informed about protection from pregnancy and infection and their reproductive choices. Social and cultural factors surrounding girls and their autonomy have made them increasingly vulnerable. In fact, 78% of girls are married by the age of 18, 60% become mothers before the age of 19, and only 48.7% of adolescent mothers receive antenatal checkups. Furthermore, over 89% of Bangladeshi women still use rags instead of sanitary napkins, compromising their health, productivity, and dignity.

#### Impact on Beneficiaries:

Through the establishment of safe spaces and the provision of educational resources, girls gained vital knowledge about Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH), enhancing their ability to make informed decisions and fostering a more supportive environment for their health and well-being. This comprehensive approach not only improved individual understanding and autonomy but also contributed to broader community awareness and support for adolescent health.





# LIVELIHOOD

HCI's project trained frontline volunteers to go door-to-door in Rohingya refugee camps, distributing 5,116 washable cloth masks while educating residents on health and hygiene, monitoring illnesses, and connecting communities to health facilities.





## LIVELIHOOD

### HCI Sewing Centre

October to December 2020

#### Impact on Beneficiaries:

The HCI Sewing Centre project empowered frontline volunteers and camp residents in Cox's Bazar by providing them with free, washable cloth masks, essential for their safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. These masks enabled volunteers to effectively carry out their duties, such as disseminating health information, monitoring health conditions, and connecting refugee communities with health services. This intervention not only protected the volunteers and residents from the virus but also contributed to maintaining the overall health and well-being of the Rohingya refugee population.

#### Background:

The last month marked the third anniversary of the fleeing of more than 730,000 Rohingya from Myanmar's Rakhine State to Bangladesh. Bangladesh hosts 9 out of 10 Rohingya refugees. Extreme violence of persecution in Myanmar, the Rohingya people, an ethnic minority in the nation, have been forced to flee their homes in search of safety in Bangladesh. While a large wave of Rohingya refugees have moved in recent years, the Rohingya have fled into Bangladesh since the 1970s. This is seen in Cox's Bazar where multiple generations of refugees reside. Of the 900,000 Rohingya refugee population in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh settlements, most of them are living under the poverty line and surviving on humanitarian aid. COVID19 pandemic brought fear and uncertainty to most of the camps' residents.

#### HCI's Intervention:

This project provided frontline volunteers and camp residents with free washable cloth masks. The volunteers were trained to go door-to-door in the densely populated camps, which house some 860,000 Rohingya refugees, sharing information about health and hygiene, looking out for signs of illness, recording births and deaths, and acting as a bridge between refugee communities and health facilities. A total of 5,116 washable cloth masks were produced and distributed in the camps to both the frontline volunteers and residents. These masks protected them and made it easier for them to conduct their jobs.





## LIVELIHOOD

### Girls Skills Training Program

July 2020 to June 2021



### Background:

In Bangladesh, women face barriers and disadvantages in nearly every aspect of their lives, including access to health services, economic opportunity, and control of finances. Women's empowerment is at the core of all of HCI's programs, where we seek to increase female participation, reduce gender inequality, and raise awareness about the positive impacts of empowering women and girls throughout society. Most of the women in the villages of Bangladesh are illiterate and live in very poor conditions. The divorce rate is very high in the villages and the women are not able to financially support themselves and their families as all their assets are under the position of the men. It's a traditional issue that the women found themselves stuck within, but things are changing and they are looking to improve their lives through learning new skills and getting involved in generating their own income and being independent.

### HCI's Intervention:

This project aimed to empower girls and women in the villages by providing them access to a skills training program that helped them learn tools to earn in the future. The participants learned sewing, stitching, embroidery, and some basic computer training, and most importantly, they gained self-confidence in their abilities. The program enrolled a total of 258 female students across various grade levels, ranging from Pre-KG to Eight. The breakdown of students by age and grade is as follows: 31 students in Pre-KG (ages 4-5), 28 in KG (ages 5-6), 33 in grade One (ages 6-7), 35 in grade Two (ages 7-8), 37 in grade Three (ages 8-9), 31 in grade Four (ages 9-10), 30 in grade Five (ages 10-11), 30 in grade Six (ages 11-12), 17 in grade Seven (ages 12-13), and 17 in grade Eight (ages 13-14). These numbers reflect a consistent enrollment across the program. All beneficiaries were female, indicating successful engagement in the targeted demographic.

### Impact on Beneficiaries:

The project empowered female beneficiaries by equipping them with practical skills in sewing, stitching, embroidery, and basic computer training, fostering financial independence and boosting their self-confidence. This initiative not only enhanced their economic opportunities but also contributed to reducing gender inequality and transforming traditional roles within their communities.





## LIVELIHOOD

### **Building Hope: Al Habib Latifia Complex & Health Camp**

September 2024 to August 2025

## Background:

Zakiganj Upazila, located in the northeastern part of Bangladesh within the Sylhet division, faces numerous socio-economic challenges that hinder its development and the well-being of its residents. One significant issue is education, a fundamental pillar of socio-economic progress. Despite the presence of educational institutions, the lack of residential facilities creates barriers for students, particularly those who live far from schools, limiting their access to education.

## HCI's Intervention:

HCI, with the support of the Al Habib Latifia Complex established in 2018, addressed the needs of the Zakiganj Upazila community by funding the construction of the complex's third floor. This new addition provided additional space for classrooms, dormitories, and other essential facilities for orphaned children. The project also included organizing medical health camps within the complex, which enhanced healthcare access for the local community and orphaned children by offering medical consultations, screenings, and medications. As a result, 150 boys and children, including 50 orphans and 100 students, gained access to improved educational and residential facilities. Approximately 500 personnel, including caregivers, staff, and community members, benefited from the enhanced infrastructure and services. The medical health camp directly benefited 60-70 individuals by providing essential medical care.



## Impact on Beneficiaries:

The project benefited the entire Zakiganj Upazila community by elevating the standards of the Al Habib Latifia Complex, which improved educational and living conditions for numerous children and fostered better community infrastructure. The enhanced facilities and medical services also contributed to a stronger support system for caregivers and staff, fostering a more resilient and well-supported local community.





# WASH

Bangladesh faces severe WASH challenges, with millions lacking safe water, sanitation, and hygiene. Climate change, floods, and arsenic contamination worsen the crisis, affecting 59 of 64 districts. A UNICEF/WHO report reveals 68.3 million lack safe drinking water, 103 million lack sanitation, and 61.7 million lack hygiene facilities. Urgent action is needed.





## Background:

### Installation of 1 Deep Tube Well

October 2020 to July 2021

Camp communities are benefited through projects such as renovation or construction of new bathrooms, community centers, drains and sewage systems. Relief projects are also undertaken in case of a disastrous situation, for instance a camp fire or a natural calamity such as floods or cyclones. To address the dearth of potable water, HCI has installed tube wells and hand pumps in different camps to provide better, safe, and clean water for the camp communities. Currently, 188 water projects and 87 bathrooms benefit more than 90,000 people. There are still areas in need of safe water in camps where HCI is installing deep tube wells and semi-deep tube wells.

### HCI's Intervention:

This project aimed to improve access to safe drinking water by installing four semi-deep tube wells in Rangpur, Bogra, Mymensingh, and Khulna. Each tube well directly benefited 250 to 300 people, providing clean water to approximately 1,200 people and impacting a similar number indirectly. Upon successful completion, the project significantly enhanced the health conditions of these communities by reducing waterborne diseases and ensuring a reliable supply of safe drinking water.



### Impact on Beneficiaries:

The installation of four semi-deep tube wells significantly improved the lives of approximately 1,200 people by providing them with reliable access to safe drinking water. This access directly contributed to better health outcomes by reducing the prevalence of waterborne diseases in the affected communities. Additionally, the project indirectly benefited another 1,200 people, further enhancing overall community well-being.





## Water and Sanitation Project

January 2021 to

February 2022

### Background:

With over 160 million people, Bangladesh is one of the world's most densely populated countries. Despite widely acknowledged progress in many areas of social and economic development, the country still faces a number of barriers to universal WASH coverage. Water and sanitation access remains a challenge in hard to reach (HtR) areas such as remote villages, hilly regions, riverine islands (chars), swamp (beels and haors) and coastal areas; and for excluded or marginalized groups such as urban slum and pavement dwellers. Climate change and natural disasters continue to challenge existing WASH technology. The country's low-lying topography makes the nation highly susceptible to seasonal flooding that contaminates water sources and leaves millions of people with appalling sanitary conditions. The contamination of groundwater by arsenic in Bangladesh is one of the poisoning of a largest population in the history but at present the contamination has affected 59 of the 64 districts in Bangladesh where arsenic levels have been found to be above the nationally (50 ppb) accepted limit.



### HCI's Intervention:

HCI's project aimed to improve the health and wellbeing of beneficiaries through access to safe water. In order to accomplish this, 25 water wells were installed across four provinces namely Chattogram, Sylhet, Mymensingh and Rangpur. In total, 625 households and 3,510 population benefitted from 25 water wells of the project. Each of the water wells covered 25 families and 140.4 people considering 5.62 members per family on average.

### Impact on Beneficiaries:

The installation of 25 water wells significantly improved access to safe drinking water for 625 households, benefiting a total of 3,510 individuals across four provinces. This intervention not only enhanced the health and wellbeing of the communities but also reduced the risks associated with waterborne diseases and arsenic contamination, particularly in hard-to-reach and marginalized areas.



### Safe Water & Sanitation 2022

July to December 2022

61.7 million people in Bangladesh lack access to basic hygiene facilities, says a new UNICEF/WHO report. As many as 68.3 million people lack access to safely managed drinking water in Bangladesh, while 103 million are deprived of safely managed sanitation facilities, according to a new report published on Jul 2, 2021. According to the Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2019 report conducted by UNICEF and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 76.6% people in Bangladesh need 30 minutes average time to collect water. 59.7% of the population is at risk of fecal contamination based on the number of E. coli detected in source drinking water. MICS 2019 report revealed that people in Bangladesh still use unimproved sanitation such as open drain 3.1%, Pit latrine without slab/open pit 8.3%, Hanging toilet/latrine 2.5%.

### HCI's Intervention:

HCI funded the installation of 65 deep tube wells and 65 sanitary latrines in selected vulnerable areas suffering from inadequate access to safe drinking water and high arsenic contamination. This project was implemented in the remote regions of Kurigram, Laxmipur, and Sunamganj districts in Bangladesh. The project ensured equitable and sustainable access to safely managed drinking water and sanitation facilities. The objective was to provide safe drinking water to 1,625 families, benefiting a total of 9,750 people in these remote communities.



### Impact on Beneficiaries:

The intervention significantly improved access to safe drinking water and sanitation for the beneficiaries in remote communities of Kurigram, Laxmipur, and Sunamganj districts. By installing deep tube wells and sanitary latrines, the project reduced reliance on unsafe water sources and inadequate sanitation facilities, leading to enhanced health and well-being in the affected areas.



## WASH

# Promoting WASH in Bangladesh

April 2023 to February 2024

## HCI's Intervention:

This project consisted of the installation of 122 deep tube wells and 50 sanitary latrines in vulnerable areas where residents were severely affected by a lack of safe drinking water and high levels of arsenic contamination. The project was implemented in the remote regions of Chandpur and Faridpur districts in Bangladesh. The goal was to meet the needs for safely managed drinking water and ensure equitable, sustainable access to both safe drinking water and sanitation. The project aimed to supply safe water to 5,500 families, benefiting approximately 33,000 people in these remote communities.

## Background:

One in nine people lack access to clean drinking water, and over 2.5 million people live without adequate sanitation facilities. One in three people live without sanitation. This is causing unnecessary disease and death. According to the recent report by World Health Organisation (WHO)/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene, 3 in 10 people worldwide could not wash their hands with soap and water within their homes. The situation is worse in South Asia as 2 in 5 people here do not have a hand washing facility with soap and water on premises. According to this report, in Bangladesh, 68.3 million people lack safely managed drinking water, while 103 million people lack safely managed sanitation facilities. Moreover, 61.7 million people do not have access to basic hygiene in the country. Additionally, 107 million people in Bangladesh do not have basic hand washing facilities with soap and water at home. The study also found out that almost half of schools in Bangladesh do not have facilities for washing hands with soap and water.



## Impact on Beneficiaries:

The project had a transformative impact on 5,500 families, providing them with access to safe, arsenic-free drinking water and improved sanitation through the installation of deep tube wells and latrines. This intervention not only safeguarded the health of 33,000 people but also enhanced their quality of life by reducing waterborne diseases and improving overall hygiene in the community.



## **Sustainable Water Supply in Bangladesh 2024**

June to December 2024

### **Impact on Beneficiaries:**

The project significantly improved the quality of life for residents in remote rural areas by providing access to safe drinking water through the installation of 50 deep wells. This intervention not only alleviated the severe water shortages but also raised awareness about sanitation and hygiene, helping to prevent communicable diseases and enhance overall community health and well-being.

According to the recent report by World Health Organisation (WHO)/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) for Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene in Bangladesh, In 2020, around 1 in 4 people lacked safely managed drinking water in their homes and nearly half the world's population lacked safely managed sanitation. In Bangladesh, 68.3 million people lack safely managed drinking water, while 103 million people lack safely managed sanitation facilities. Provision of improved water and sanitation facilities and stopping open defecation practices are of paramount importance in order to achieve SDG 6: clean water and sanitation for all. Drinking water can be tainted with human or animal excreta which contain pathogens such as bacteria and viruses. It can be contaminated with chemical and physical contaminants with detrimental effects on human health. That is why it is critical to obtain drinking water from an improved source so that transmission of diarrhea and other water borne diseases can be prevented.

### **HCI's Intervention:**

Through this project, HCI created an opportunity for the people in the proposed remote rural locations to access safe drinking water. The project installed 50 deep wells with motor pumps in the most deprived areas where residents had been suffering from a lack of safe drinking water, with each well supplying water to approximately 20 families. Additionally, the project facilitated awareness campaigns within the community to emphasize the importance of safe sanitation and hygiene practices. The initiative aimed to prevent communicable diseases caused by polluted water and inadequate hygiene practices





### WASH Facilities for Marginalized Community of Tangail District

June 2024 to May 2025

### HCI's Intervention:

The project has greatly enhanced the lives of residents in remote rural areas by providing them with reliable access to safe drinking water, reducing their dependence on contaminated sources. Additionally, the increased awareness of sanitation and hygiene practices has helped prevent waterborne diseases and improved overall community health.

Tangail District faces significant socioeconomic challenges in addition to the water and sanitation issues in certain areas. The poverty rate in Tangail, measured by the upper poverty line, is 19.3 percent (BBS 2016), which is higher than the divisional average of 16.0 percent, making it the fifth highest incidence of poverty in Dhaka division. The sub-districts of Bhupur and Gopalpur, which are affected by the high arsenic content and iron issues in the groundwater, also have less access to health facilities compared to other parts of the district. This is particularly problematic, as these water quality issues have led to an increase in waterborne diseases, such as diarrhea, skin conditions, and other health problems. Furthermore, a large number of families in these affected areas are women-headed or widowed, and are considered hard-core poor, where access to WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) facilities is still limited. Due to their low incomes, these families are often deprived of access to proper health facilities, resulting in the exacerbation of water-borne diseases. Additionally, some religious institutions and other establishments in the affected areas also have limited access to iron-free drinking water, further compounding the water and sanitation challenges faced by the local population (Economic Census 2013 and Poverty Mapping 2016).



### Impact on Beneficiaries:

HCI implemented a WASH project to address the specific needs of the underserved households by providing them with access to safe, iron-free drinking water through appropriate household-level solutions. Based on the installation of 43 shallow tube wells for household-level water needs, serving approximately 43 households per tubewell, totaling around 250 family members each, the project aimed to support approximately 10,750 individuals. Additionally, 5 tubewells for social and religious institutions, along with 2 community-level deep tubewells, are expected to provide coverage for approximately 700 people. With the construction of 25 wash points/bath places, the project aims to further enhance access to sanitation facilities. While specific demographic breakdowns of women, men, boys, and girls will depend on community demographics, it's estimated that over half of the population served will be females, including girls and women.



# Education

Child marriage in Bangladesh remains a critical issue, with 59.4% of married women aged 18-22 having wed before 15. Education and skills training are key to preventing child marriage, but COVID-19 school closures have worsened the situation, pushing many children—especially girls—into labor and early marriage. Only 50% of students who start Grade 1 reach Grade 10, highlighting the urgent need for educational support to break the cycle of poverty.





## EDUCATION

### Girls Free Education Program/ Give HER the Chance to Thrive

July 1, 2020 to June 6, 2021

#### Background:

In Bangladesh, of married women aged 18-22, 59.4% were married before the age of 15. Child marriages, defined as marriages before the age of 18, are a common practice in Bangladesh. This practice has life long consequences for girls who are young and thus lack the autonomy to make decisions and ultimately leads to negative development impacts for a nation. Child marriages have been associated with lower socioeconomic status, reduced education levels, and higher labor force participation. In order to combat the practice of child marriages and improve A 2018 study by Amin et. Al. demonstrated that providing girls with formal education and skills training has the capacity to prevent child marriages compared to girls who are not engaging in any formalized education.



#### Impact on Beneficiaries:

The program significantly impacted the lives of 250 girls from low socio-economic backgrounds by providing them with free education, daily nutritious meals, and essential school supplies. By ensuring access to formal education and skills training, the program empowered these girls to break free from the cycle of poverty and reduced their vulnerability to child marriages, thereby contributing to their overall well-being and future prospects.

#### HCI's Intervention:

Through this project HCI provided daily meals, education, and skills training to girls from low socio-economic families in Hashara Union and its surrounding areas. The girls attended school free of cost as the project budget covered their education cost, daily nutritional balanced meals and free school supplies. The school had classes from kindergarten to grade 8. The goal was to ensure that girls had access to educational opportunities regardless of their socioeconomic status. 250 girls were provided with education free of cost. Students were enrolled based on their socioeconomic status, and provided formal academic education and computer literacy.



## EDUCATION

### Free Education for Grade 9 Girls in Bangladesh

January to December 2021

#### Background:

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. Intersectional challenges of poverty, caste and opportunity costs mean the importance of girls' education is disputed.



#### HCI's Intervention:

HCI funded an extension education program in the Munshiganj district of Dhaka division in Bangladesh designed to support girls who had graduated from the previous Pre-KG to Grade 8 program, providing them with the opportunity to continue their education and achieve their Secondary School certificate from Al Ihsan Social Development Centre. The program covered school fees, access to a lunch program, school supplies, including uniforms, and computer lab facilities. Students resided at the Al Ihsan Social Development Centre. The goal of the project was to continue essential education for Grade 9 girls to enhance literacy and skills training for underprivileged girls, while the objective was to provide free education, food, housing, and essential school supplies to girls.

#### Impact on Beneficiaries:

The project significantly impacted a total of 14 beneficiaries by enhancing the quality of education for girls, which is crucial for improving their future life prospects and those of their families. It contributed to transforming their behavior and outlook, leading to a positive shift in their overall life quality and providing them with the skills and knowledge needed to break the cycle of poverty.



# Scholarship for Orphans

August 2021 to June 2022

## Background:

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. Intersectional challenges of poverty, caste and opportunity costs mean that families may not be able to afford school fees, particularly single mothers with multiple children. Children that are not able to attend school may be forced into unsafe labor, early and forced marriage. In Bangladesh, as few as 50% of students that enroll in Grade 1 reach Grade 10. Higher education is a fundamental step towards improving the livelihoods of students and their families, and breaking the cycle of poverty.

## HCI's Intervention:

HCI funded an orphans' scholarship program that improved the lives of 100 students from across Bangladesh as they completed their education from Grade 8 to Grade 10. The orphans, who might have lost both parents, come from single-mother households, or reside with other family members, utilized the scholarship funds for tuition, school supplies, and food during their studies. The project benefited students from schools across Bangladesh, including Dhaka, Bagerhat, Chandpur, Manikganj, Moulvibazar, Brahmanbaria, Laxmipur, Comilla, Chattogram, and Sirajganj district. The goal was to ensure that orphans received access to education and remained in school, while the objective was to provide scholarships that subsidized tuition, school supplies, and nutrition, enabling students to stay in school, access better and safer employment, reduce the risk of early or forced marriage, and pursue higher education, including college.

## Impact on Beneficiaries:

This intervention enabled the students to stay in school, pursue higher education, and improve their future employment prospects, while also reducing their risk of early or forced marriage.





## EDUCATION

### Advance Education of Destitute Girls of Poverty-Stricken Families

July to August 2022

#### Background:

Around the globe, only about one third of the entire population that has recently completed high school enrolls in post-secondary institutions. In Bangladesh itself, only about 3% of all people over the age of 15 have completed post-secondary education. Unfortunately, there are millions of motivated, dedicated, and deserving students who simply lack the resources and support to finish their education, especially girls.



#### Impact on Beneficiaries:

The project significantly enhanced educational opportunities for female students in Bangladesh, ensuring they had access to quality education and essential resources such as meals, clothing, and school supplies. By providing these students with the support they needed, the project empowered them to continue their education, breaking down barriers and opening doors to brighter futures. The intervention fostered a more equitable educational environment in a region where such opportunities are scarce.

#### HCI's Intervention:

HCI supported the advancement of education for female students from Pre-Kindergarten until Grade 8 in Bangladesh through providing and operating a primary and secondary school. Female students were taught skills such as training, and receiving free meals, clothing, and other basic school supplies. The goal was to ensure female students in Bangladesh have the opportunity to attend school and get quality education and to provide scholarships to students whilst distributing ongoing clothing, school supplies and meals at the school. The total number of beneficiaries for this project were 400 while the number of women and girls supported were 289.





### Free Education for Grade 9 Students

October 2022 to September 2023

#### Background:

Women and girls in the villages of Bangladesh are particularly vulnerable. Most have no access to attend school or vocational training. Without any education, they end up working as maid servants or day-laborers, and many are sexually exploited. Some marry at an early age, but then find themselves abandoned after a few years, with young children and no means to support them. Having not been educated, they are extremely ignorant of basic practical life skills, and there is no way for them to improve their lives and the lives of their children.



#### HCI's Intervention:

The project aimed to empower girls and young women in a poor rural village in Bangladesh who lacked access to education and basic resources. Through this initiative, 10 girls in Grade 9 were provided with essential educational support, including materials, board registration fees, clothing, transportation, access to a computer lab, and library facilities. Additionally, the beneficiaries received free lunches, ensuring they were well-nourished and supported in their academic journey. The primary objective was to equip these girls with the education and resources they needed to build a brighter future.

#### Impact on Beneficiaries:

By providing essential resources and support, the project not only enabled these girls to continue their education but also empowered them to envision a future beyond the confines of poverty and vulnerability. This initiative laid the foundation for these young women to pursue greater opportunities, ultimately breaking the cycle of exploitation and improving their lives and those of their families.





### Orphan Education Support

January to December 2024

#### Background:

Poverty in Bangladesh has a significant impact on higher education access and participation, contributing to lower enrollment rates and completion rates in universities and colleges. This has equally affected orphan students from poor families who cannot afford the tuition fees, books, transportation, and other related costs of higher education. This financial strain often forces these students to drop out or avoid pursuing higher education altogether.



#### HCI's Intervention:

HCI offered scholarships to **150 students** in Bangladesh who fulfilled the eligibility criteria. The project also offered **Merit Awards for Outstanding Students in Ottawa**.

#### Impact on Beneficiaries:

This intervention aimed to increase enrollment and retention rates among orphan students from impoverished backgrounds, enabling them to pursue their academic goals without financial strain. Additionally, Merit Awards for Outstanding Students in Ottawa further recognized academic excellence, fostering motivation and achievement among beneficiaries.



# Ramadan

In Dhaka, thousands of ultra-poor people struggle for food, especially during Ramadan. Many face malnutrition, impacting their work and income. HCI supported 739 families with food packages, benefiting 4,434 individuals, ensuring they could observe Ramadan and Eid with dignity.





## Ramadan

### Food Assistance for Families in Need

April to May 2020

#### Background:

Dhaka is one of the most populous cities in the world where thousands of people live in the street, pavement, park, stations and slums. They live hand to mouth and sometimes they have to go without food. The slum and street dwelling people in Dhaka City cannot afford nutritious food during the month of Ramadan. For the working people who are actually involved with physical labor, suffer from nutritional deficiencies during the fasting month and their working capacity becomes lower which creates an impact on their income level. After day-long fasting they need rich food because most of them have to perform physical work for their earnings. The ultra poor Muslims living in the street or slum are the factual sufferers observing religious festivals during Eid. They cannot afford new dresses and improved food on this occasion for themselves as well as their children. This situation creates a lot of dissatisfaction and depression among the children and their parents.



#### HCI's Intervention:

HCI's initiative provided food packages to 739 families, ensuring they had sufficient resources to observe Ramadan and celebrate Eid with dignity. Each food basket included essential items such as rice, pulse, flour, sugar, salt, cooking oil, chickpea, powdered milk, dates, vermicelli, chili powder, turmeric powder, and polao rice. These packages were designed to serve a family of 5-6 for one month, directly benefiting 4,434 individuals, including men, women, and children, helping to reduce hunger and bring some relief to these vulnerable communities during the holy month.

#### Impact on Beneficiaries:

By supplying essential food items for a month, the project enabled these families to observe Ramadan and celebrate Eid without the burden of food insecurity. This intervention not only improved their health and well-being but also restored a sense of dignity, hope and sense of community during a challenging time.



# Winter Relief

The COVID-19 outbreak has pushed Bangladesh close to its 2010 poverty level, with 40% of the poor and 35% of the economically vulnerable reducing food consumption. Rising rice prices and high import taxes have worsened food insecurity, leaving many struggling, especially as winter approaches.





## Winter Relief

### Winter Kits for Distress People in Bangladesh

January 2021

#### HCI's Intervention:

The project aimed to support vulnerable families and their children by providing essential food items, hygiene kits, and winter relief kits to protect them from the harsh winter cold. By supplying warm clothing and food, the project sought to offer comfort and safety, reducing the risk of cold-related illnesses and, in some cases, preventing unexpected deaths. The ultimate goal was to alleviate the burden of winter for 1,000 families in need, ensuring they had the necessary resources to survive the season with dignity and security.

#### Impact on Beneficiaries:

The project greatly enhanced the well-being of families by delivering crucial food items, hygiene kits, and winter relief supplies, effectively shielding them from severe winter conditions. This support not only mitigated the risk of cold-related illnesses but also provided essential warmth and comfort, safeguarding the families' health and overall safety during the harsh winter months.

#### Background:

The COVID19 outbreak is almost sending the country back to the 2010 poverty level, when 31.5 percent of the population was classified as poor. Although the government has provided support for the poor, many of them remain unfed or half-fed amid the ongoing pandemic. About 40 per cent of the country's poor and 35 per cent of the economically vulnerable were forced to reduce their food consumption following the coronavirus outbreak in March, according to a study by the BRAC Institute for Governance and Development (BIGD) and Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) in April this year. The increase in the prices of staple foods such as rice after Eid-ul-Azha and recommended that import duties be cut to expedite inward shipments and control prices. Importers have to pay more than 60 percent in taxes to bring rice from abroad. The prices of both the medium and coarse grains, which is consumed by a majority of the population, has seen an upward trend since the beginning of August, shows data from the Department of Agricultural Marketing. The people in need have been facing constant challenges and are heading toward the months of winter which will bring extra burden to their lives.





## Winter Relief

### Winter Kits for CSP Children & their Families in Bangladesh 2021

December 2021 to February 2022

#### HCI's Intervention:

The project provided support to 160 CSP children and their families by distributing essential winter kits. These families came from the poorest backgrounds and were unable to afford warm clothing to protect themselves from the harsh winter cold wave. In total, 960 individuals, averaging six members per family, directly benefited from the assistance. The winter kits included a variety of items: two blankets per family (320 in total), one sweater per family (160 in total), one mattress per family (160 in total), two pillows per family (320 in total), one pair of jeans per family for both boys and girls (160 in total), and one full-sleeve t-shirt per family (160 in total). This support helped ensure that these vulnerable families were better equipped to face the challenges of winter.

#### Background:

As a cold wave sweeps across Bangladesh, it disrupts normal life and inflicts significant suffering on the poorest communities. Those living in streets, slums, and remote villages—often under open skies, makeshift huts, or polythene shelters—are particularly vulnerable to the biting cold. Daily life and activities come to a standstill as the lack of warm clothing becomes a critical issue. During these cold spells, impoverished families cannot venture out for work, leading to financial hardships and, at times, even food shortages for them and their children. Children and elderly members of these communities endure severe cold-related health issues due to inadequate protection at night, often resulting in respiratory illnesses. The urgent needs of these vulnerable groups include warm clothing and essential food supplies to endure the winter season. However, many families lack the financial means to purchase these necessities, leaving them exposed to the harsh elements. Providing warm clothing and food supplies is crucial to ensuring the comfort and safety of vulnerable children and families in these areas, shielding them from cold-related diseases and preventing unnecessary suffering and loss of life.



#### Impact on Beneficiaries:

The project had a significant impact on the beneficiaries, providing 160 vulnerable families with essential winter items to protect them from the harsh cold. By receiving blankets, warm clothing, and other necessities, the families, especially children and the elderly, experienced improved comfort, safety, and protection against cold-related illnesses. This support greatly reduced their vulnerability during the winter season.





# Zabiha

Around 18 million people in Bangladesh live below the poverty line, with many in big cities like Dhaka struggling for basic needs. Earning as little as BDT 5,000-7,500 per month, they face malnutrition, poor living conditions, and limited opportunities, making survival a daily challenge.





## Zabiha

### Fresh Meat for Families Living in Poverty

July to August 2020



## Background:

The poverty rate in Bangladesh in the fiscal year 2018-19 was 20.5 percent, as per the latest projection of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. The ratio of people in "extreme poverty" was reported to be down to 10.5 percent (bdnews24.com, December 17 2019). Around 18 million people in Bangladesh are living below the poverty line. A big part of the extreme poor are living in the big cities like Dhaka, Chattagram, Khulna, Rajshahi, Barishal, Gazipur and Narayanganj. In Dhaka City, the ultra poor people live in slums, streets, pavements, beside rail line, bus and launch terminal. The ultra poor are living inhuman life and deprived from their basic rights of proper foods, dwelling facilities, health facilities, clothes and education facilities. The extremely poor people earn BDT 5,000 to BDT 7,500 per month. They work as Rickshaw puller, day laborer, domestic servant, tea seller etc. Many of them are physically unfit to work and are begging in the streets. Actually they are living hand-to-mouth and intake insufficient nutritious food. Ill health, illiteracy and lack of skillness leads them to do very low paid jobs. They cannot afford buying good food on the occasions of religious and social festivals to make their children happy.

## HCI's Intervention:

On the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha, thousands of ultra-poor slum and 1100 are unable to celebrate the festival. It was not possible for them to purchase animals for sacrifice. This poor section was deprived of celebrating such an event, making them the appropriate target population for receiving meat on the occasion. The project aimed to reduce the hunger rate among families living in poverty, address food and nutrition deficiencies, and improve the mental well-being of the beneficiaries. The project involved distributing Zabiha/Qurbani meat. In total, 550 households received 1100 kg of meat.

## Impact on Beneficiaries:

The project significantly alleviated hunger among families living in poverty by providing essential meat, thereby addressing critical food and nutrition deficiencies. Additionally, it contributed to the beneficiaries' mental well-being by enabling them to partake in Eid-ul-Adha celebrations, enhancing their overall quality of life.





# Child Sponsorship Program

With over 59% of women aged 18-22 married before the age of 15, access to education remains a key barrier to social mobility. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the situation, pushing many out of school, particularly in rural areas, where poverty and gender inequality hinder educational opportunities for young girls.





## Child Sponsorship Program

January 2020 to

September 2022

Due to Covid-19 pandemic millions of people in Bangladesh lost their jobs and means of earning. The beneficiaries came from most vulnerable and ultra-poor families particularly from slums, streets and poverty stricken urban communities. The selected beneficiary families earned below US \$ 3/day and could not afford adequate food with this little income. The recent price hike of food items threw them at the bottom of scarcity and more hunger than before. Many of them used to go to bed without food.

### HCI's Intervention:

The project addressed basic needs of children from poorest families living in urban slums, streets and poverty stricken rural areas. The CSP supported vulnerable children who are deprived of education, lack nutrition and are at risk of engaging in hazardous child labour, exploitation and trafficking due to poverty. The project helped children and their families with education materials, food packages, and household items to mitigate education and nutrition requirements. A total of 155 orphaned and vulnerable children from 155 families and 905 members including children and women directly benefited from the HCI Child Sponsorship Program.



### Impact on Beneficiaries:

The HCI Child Sponsorship Program made a significant impact on the beneficiaries by providing essential support to 155 orphaned and vulnerable children, along with their families. The intervention improved their access to education, alleviated nutritional deficiencies, and reduced the risk of hazardous child labor and exploitation, helping them achieve a better quality of life despite the severe economic challenges posed by the pandemic.



## Child Sponsorship Program

March 2023 to February 2028

According to UNICEF, 40% of Bangladesh's population is children and statistics indicate that 600,000 are out of school. The main barriers to education are poverty, safety, geographical locations, lack of schools in urban slums and poor infrastructure. Poverty, the result of a high unemployment rate, has severe consequences on children's access to food and nutrition, health and education. The children from poorest families living in urban slums, streets and poverty-prone rural areas remain out of schooling or at a risk of leaving school and engaging with hazardous child labor, victim of child marriage, trafficking, and abused that resulting a burden for the families and community rather than becoming human resources.

### HCI's Intervention:

HCI sponsored 102 children in Bangladesh to ensure they could continue receiving a quality education. The project was implemented in various locations, including the southern districts of Bagerhat, Barishal, Chandpur, and Laxmipur, the capital city Dhaka, and the northern districts of Kishoregonj, Moulavibazar, Netrokona, and Nilfamari. The primary goal of the project was to enable children from impoverished backgrounds to attend school and receive a quality education. The project's key objective was to provide scholarships to these 102 children. Activities included identifying eligible children through community needs analysis and distributing sponsorship packages consisting of food, clothing, and educational materials.



### Impact on Beneficiaries:

The project significantly impacted its beneficiaries by ensuring that 102 children from impoverished backgrounds had access to a quality education. By providing scholarships and essential support such as food, clothing, and educational materials, HCI helped these children overcome barriers like poverty and lack of resources, enabling them to pursue their education without financial burden. This intervention not only supported their academic growth but also fostered hope for a brighter future, contributing positively to their families and communities.



## Child Sponsorship Program

February 2024 to January 2029

The Rohingya, who have a deep historical connection to Myanmar, are facing a dire situation. They are not recognized as citizens by the Myanmar government, resulting in widespread discrimination and persecution. In 2017, a brutal military crackdown on the Rohingya population led to the loss of thousands of lives and the displacement of over a million people. More than one million Rohingya, a stateless Muslim minority from Myanmar, have fled their home country due to conflict and persecution. A huge number of Rohingya refugees have sought shelter in Bangladesh, with the vast majority residing in overcrowded and unsanitary camps within the Cox's Bazar district. Their survival is heavily dependent on ongoing humanitarian assistance, highlighting the urgent need for international support to address this ongoing crisis (UNHCR, 2023). They continue to face challenges for basic services, food security, educational and livelihood opportunities and vulnerability to violence and exploitation.

### HCI's Intervention:

The CSP project is designed to ensure quality education for all Rohingya children, providing essential provisions such as food, clothing, and a variety of indoor and outdoor sports activities. Aiming to have a substantial impact on the Rohingya community, the project benefits approximately 3,500 individuals directly. This includes around 430 children attending school, receiving daily nutrition supplies, and accessing healthcare services and school supplies. Additionally, approximately 241 girls are regularly attending school and continuing their educational attainment.



### Impact on Beneficiaries:

The project significantly enhances the lives of Rohingya children by ensuring access to quality education, essential provisions, and healthcare, thereby improving their overall well-being and supporting their continuous educational progress.





# Zero Hunger and Malnutrition

Thousands of impoverished families in urban and rural Bangladesh struggled to afford Qurbani during Eid-ul-Adha, especially amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Many lost their jobs and lacked access to nutritious food, making the festival an impossible dream.



date : 21 July 2021





## Zero Hunger and Malnutrition

### Fresh Meat for Families in Need

July to August 2021

### Background:

Thousands of people could not afford Qurbani in urban and rural Bangladesh. The Covid-19 pandemic made the situation more vulnerable. The poorest families were unable to manage any meat during the festival. Many of the poor people became jobless. They had no earning and had been suffering from a lack of good food. In this condition, they could not even think of celebrating Eid-ul-Adha festival.

### HCI's Intervention:

In this circumstance, "Fresh Meat for Families in Need-Qurbani 2021" project created an opportunity for 875 ultra poor families with 4,815 members to have 5 kg fresh meat to celebrate Eid-ul-Adha. The project was implemented during a time when people in the country were affected by Covid-19. HCI helped them in rejoicing the occasion along with the family members with due religious spirit. Without the assistance it was not possible for those 875 families to enjoy the event in the pandemic situation. The families had a good time to celebrate Eid-ul-Adha along with their children with full satisfaction and mental peace.



### Impact on Beneficiaries:

This project enhanced the beneficiaries' ability to partake in the Eid Ul Adha festival despite the financial strain caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This intervention not only improved their nutritional intake but also provided emotional relief and a sense of normalcy during a challenging time.





## Zero Hunger and Malnutrition

### Zero Hunger & Malnutrition

April to May 2021

### Background:

In the fiscal year 2018-19, Bangladesh's poverty rate was 20.5%, down slightly from 21.8% in the previous year, but still significant with about 20 million people living in extreme poverty. Reports indicate that poverty has surged due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with predictions that the rate could rise to 40%, reversing gains made over the past 15 years. The pandemic has exacerbated food insecurity, with a quarter of the population experiencing food shortages and 11 million suffering from chronic hunger. Job losses have been severe, particularly in urban areas, with up to 76% of workers in Dhaka losing their jobs. This situation has led to increased malnutrition, chronic hunger, and various psychological impacts, including anxiety and depression, particularly affecting children and their development.

### HCI's Intervention:

The project addressed the needs of people suffering from hunger, particularly the ultra-poor who had lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic and were going without food, along with their children. It aimed to ensure food security for selected hungry families over a specified period, providing them with sufficient nutrition, promoting good health, alleviating anxiety caused by poverty and hunger, and helping them overcome the crisis. The project identified and selected 500 families living below the poverty line, each with at least five members, including children under 18, who were affected by the pandemic. Food packages were provided to these families on a monthly basis. Each family received a package containing a variety of nutritious items sufficient to feed a household of five members for one month. The food support was given continuously for a period of 10 months.



### Impact on Beneficiaries:

By addressing the immediate needs of these families, the project helped reduce anxiety and stress caused by food insecurity and economic hardship. The sustained food support allowed beneficiaries to focus on rebuilding their lives without the added burden of hunger, leading to better physical and emotional well-being for both adults and children.





## Zero Hunger and Malnutrition

### Family Food Assistance - Qurbani 2022 in Bangladesh

June to July 2022

#### HCI's Intervention:

This project provided Qurbani fresh meat to families affected by the floods in the Sylhet area in Bangladesh, as well as families in need in both urban areas of Dhaka city and surrounding rural regions. The implementation took place in specific urban areas, including Dhanmondi and Kamrangirchar, and rural areas such as Hajigonji Upazila, Kishorgoni, Sylhet, and Durgapur. The goal of the project was to ensure that these families met their nutritional requirements during the month of Ramadan. Specifically, the objective was to distribute food baskets to 325 families.

#### Background:

In Bangladesh, one-fifth of the country's populations are living in the poverty line. Poverty rate in Bangladesh is 20.5 percent in the fiscal year (FY) 2018-19, according to the reports of The Financial Express, Bangladesh. Moreover, some 20 million people are living in extreme poverty. (The Financial Express, December 18, 2019). A report published on June 7, 2020 by the Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said overall poverty has risen by 10 percent. In April, a leading economist from the World Bank warned that Covid-19 will throw some 50 million into poverty in Bangladesh. The latest study by the state-run Bureau of Statistics showed the level of poverty was 24 percent in 2016. The effects of poverty are more than just missing a meal. Families struggle with chronic food insecurity, hunger, and malnutrition. When families don't have the food, their health and livelihood suffers, trapping them in a vicious cycle that affects one generation after another. There is also a wide range of negative psychological effects caused by poverty and hunger. Children are at a greater risk of behavioral and emotional problems, which could include impulsiveness, difficulty getting along with peers, aggression, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and conduct disorder. There may also be intense feelings of anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. Parents may face chronic symptoms from the effects of poverty like stress and depression. This project will help reduce the hunger rate of families living in poverty



#### Impact on Beneficiaries:

The project significantly alleviated hunger among the targeted families, providing them with essential nutrition during a critical time. By distributing Qurbani fresh meat and food baskets, the initiative not only addressed immediate food insecurity but also offered relief from the psychological stress associated with chronic hunger, positively impacting the well-being of 325 families.





## Zero Hunger and Malnutrition

### Ramadan 2022 Food Assistance

April to May 2022

#### HCI's Intervention:

The project provided 650 families, benefiting approximately 3,900 individuals, with food baskets to meet their nutritional needs during the month of Ramadan. Implemented in the Dhaka District, including areas such as Dhalpur, Jatrabari, City Polli (Kamrangirchar, Kalabagan), New Market, Kathalbagan, Hazaribag, Mirpur, and Lalbag, the project aimed to ensure that families received adequate food support during this significant period. The goal was to fulfill their nutritional requirements throughout Ramadan, while the objective was to deliver food baskets to these 650 families.

#### Background:

In Bangladesh, one-fifth of the country's populations are living in the poverty line. Poverty rate in Bangladesh is 20.5 percent in the fiscal year (FY) 2018-19, according to the reports of The Financial Express, Bangladesh. Moreover, some 20 million people are living in extreme poverty. (The Financial Express, December 18, 2019). A report published on June 7, 2020 by the Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said overall poverty has risen by 10 percent. In April, a leading economist from the World Bank warned that Covid-19 will throw some 50 million into poverty in Bangladesh. The latest study by the state-run Bureau of Statistics showed the level of poverty was 24 percent in 2016. The effects of poverty are more than just missing a meal. Families struggle with chronic food insecurity, hunger, and malnutrition. When families don't have the food, their health and livelihood suffers, trapping them in a vicious cycle that affects one generation after another. There is also a wide range of negative psychological effects caused by poverty and hunger. Children are at a greater risk of behavioral and emotional problems, which could include impulsiveness, difficulty getting along with peers, aggression, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and conduct disorder. There may also be intense feelings of anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. Parents may face chronic symptoms from the effects of poverty like stress and depression. This project will help reduce the hunger rate of families living in poverty.



#### Impact on Beneficiaries:

The project enhanced the well-being of 650 families by providing essential food baskets, ensuring they could meet their nutritional needs and fully participate in Ramadan's spiritual and communal activities.





## Zero Hunger and Malnutrition

### Ramadan Food Support For Families Living In Poverty

March to April 2023

#### HCI's Intervention:

This project aimed to provide essential food items to 650 families, totaling 3,250 individuals, to ensure their food security, nutrition, and mental well-being during the holy month of Ramadan, a time when Muslims observe day-long fasting. By offering this support, the project helped alleviate the hardships these families face during Ramadan, enabling them to focus on their spiritual practices without the added burden of food insecurity. The project was implemented in Dhaka District, covering both Dhaka South and North City, Bangladesh. Key impact indicators included the successful distribution of Ramadan food packages to 650 families, ensuring they could observe the month with improved access to nutritious meals.

#### Background:

The most recent survey data that were publicly available for Bangladesh's MPI estimation refer to 2019. Based on these estimates, 24.6 percent of the population in Bangladesh (41,253 thousand people in 2020) is multidimensionally poor while an additional 18.2 percent is classified as vulnerable to multidimensional poverty (30,481 thousand people in 2020). The intensity of deprivation in Bangladesh, which is the average deprivation score among people living in multidimensional poverty, is 42.2 percent (UNDP: Multidimensional Poverty Index 2022). The effects of poverty are more than just missing a meal. Families struggle with chronic food insecurity, hunger, and malnutrition. When families don't have food, their health and livelihood suffer, trapping them in a vicious cycle that affects one generation after another. There is also a wide range of negative psychological effects caused by poverty and hunger. Children are at a greater risk of behavioral and emotional problems, which could include impulsiveness, difficulty getting along with peers, aggression, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and conduct disorder. There may also be intense feelings of anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. Parents may face chronic symptoms from the effects of poverty like stress and depression. This project will help reduce the hunger rate of families living in poverty. Global food crises and fuel price hikes continued to impact the food commodity prices in Bangladesh.



#### Impact on Beneficiaries:

This project not only addressed the beneficiaries' immediate food security and nutritional needs but also contributed to their mental well-being, allowing them to observe Ramadan with greater ease and dignity. By reducing the financial strain of securing food, the project enabled these families to focus on their spiritual practices, creating a positive ripple effect on their overall well-being during this important religious period.





## Zero Hunger and Malnutrition

### Qurbani 2023 - Bangladesh

June 2023 to July 2023

#### Background:

The global hunger crisis has escalated with over 345 million people experiencing food insecurity, double the number from 2020. Additionally, over 900,000 individuals are on the brink of famine, a rapid increase compared to five years ago. Bangladesh faces food insecurity affecting 40% of its population, with high rates of malnutrition and increased poverty due to COVID-19. In Bangladesh, a project aims to provide fresh meat to impoverished families during Eid-ul-Adha, reducing hunger and addressing nutrition deficiencies. The initiative, supported by Human Concern International-Canada and implemented by SUROVI, contributes to celebrating the occasion with satisfaction and mental peace.

#### HCI's Intervention:

The Qurbani-2023 Bangladesh project aimed to provide fresh meat to 680 low-income families living below the poverty line during Eid-ul-Adha, one of the most significant Muslim festivals. For families earning \$3 or less per day, purchasing meat for the Qurbani sacrifice is financially out of reach, preventing them from fully participating in the celebration. In Bangladesh, thousands of the poorest families are unable to enjoy this important religious festival due to the high cost of livestock. This project focused on distributing Qurbani meat to 680 targeted families in Dhaka City, Chandpur, Bagerhat, Narayanganj, Jamalpur, and Bogura districts, allowing them to celebrate Eid-ul-Adha with dignity and joy.



#### Impact on Beneficiaries:

The Qurbani-2023 Bangladesh project brought a meaningful change to the lives of 680 struggling families by offering them fresh meat during Eid-ul-Adha, a luxury they could otherwise not afford. Beyond just meeting their nutritional needs, this act of generosity allowed these families to experience the joy, unity, and spiritual fulfillment of the festival, turning what could have been a day of hardship into one of celebration and hope.



## Zero Hunger and Malnutrition

### Qurbani 2024

June 2024

#### Background:

The global food crisis is worsening due to conflict, economic shocks, and climate extremes, with 783 million people facing chronic hunger. In Bangladesh, 40 million people are food insecure, with rising trends since May 2023. Low-income households are hardest hit, resorting to negative coping strategies due to high food prices. Initiatives like Ramadan food distribution aim to alleviate this strain, ensuring vulnerable populations have access to nutrition during economic hardship.

#### HCI's Intervention:

HCI distributed nutritious fresh meat to vulnerable families through the slaughtering and distribution of 29 cows. The main activities included the processing and delivery of this meat to the families. As a result, the project provided these families with access to fresh meat, addressing their immediate nutritional needs and enhancing their overall well-being.

#### Impact on Beneficiaries:

The distribution of fresh meat significantly improved the nutritional intake of vulnerable families, providing them with essential protein and enhancing their overall well-being.





## **Ramadan Food Distribution - Bangladesh**

March to April 2024

### **Background:**

The global food crisis is worsening due to conflict, economic shocks, and climate extremes, with 783 million people facing chronic hunger. In Bangladesh, 40 million people are food insecure, with rising trends since May 2023. Low-income households are hardest hit, resorting to negative coping strategies due to high food prices. Initiatives like Ramadan food distribution aim to alleviate this strain, ensuring vulnerable populations have access to nutrition during economic hardship.

### **HCI's Intervention:**

HCI distributed nutritional and complete food baskets to 500 families, alleviating the stress of food insecurity during the month of Ramadan. The main activity involved the distribution of 500 food packs, which provided each household with essential nutrition for one month. As a result, an estimated 500 households benefited from having access to nutritious food, helping to ease their concerns about food availability during this significant period.

### **Impact on Beneficiaries:**

The distribution of food baskets offered 500 families a vital reprieve from food insecurity during Ramadan, providing them with nourishing meals and a sense of security throughout the holy month. This gesture not only met their immediate needs but also enriched their Ramadan experience, allowing them to focus on spiritual reflection and celebration with greater peace of mind.







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