



**Striving for a Caring, Resilient
and Poverty Free Bangladesh**

Islamic Relief Bangladesh

Who we are

Islamic Relief Worldwide is an independent humanitarian and development organisation. Founded in 1984, with headquarters based in Birmingham, UK, we have a presence in 44 countries.

Inspired by Islamic values, we support the world's most vulnerable people in the fight against poverty and suffering. We do this regardless of race, political affiliation, gender or belief, and without expecting anything in return.

As a registered charity, we are open and transparent. We continually assess our work and how we operate to improve our impact and effectiveness.

Islamic Relief has been working in Bangladesh since 1991, when we provided emergency relief and supported communities to rebuild in the wake of a devastating cyclone. Since then, we have expanded our programmes to focus on both humanitarian and development challenges.

Our vision

We envisage a caring world where communities are empowered, social obligations are fulfilled and people respond as one to the suffering of others.

What we do

Our innovative integrated approach sees us work closely with the vulnerable communities that we serve. They identify the problems and are part of the solutions. As a result, our programmes often encompass many interlinked areas.

These include livelihoods, food security and community development – as well as child protection and welfare, health and nutrition, water and sanitation, education, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

Our Values

We are guided by the values and teachings of the Qur'an and Prophetic example. In particular -

Sincerity (Ikhlas)

Excellence (Ihsan)

Compassion (Rahma)

Social Justice (Adl)

Custodianship (Amana)

Partnership and Affiliations:

Islamic Relief in Bangladesh seeks to develop capacity and optimise its reach and impact. We do this by developing mutually-beneficial strategic partnerships with national bodies, relevant government agencies and local institutions. According to strategic needs, this includes universities, research bodies, local and national partner non-governmental organisations. We actively participate in various consortiums to leverage greater impact and mobilise resources from different funding bodies. Currently, Islamic Relief has partnerships and affiliations with the following institutions and organisations:

International:

- British Overseas NGOs for Development (BOND)
- Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA)
- Consultative Status (Special Category) of UN Economic and Social Council
- Code of Conduct for International Red Cross Red Crescent Code & NGOs in Disaster Relief
- Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) in UK
- Global Child Protection Cluster
- Member of various UN Clusters and Technical Working Groups in Bangladesh
- UK Platform of the Liaison Committee of Development NGOs to the European Union
- World Economic Forum – C100 (Faith & Social Organisations).

National:

- Action Research for Community Adaption in Bangladesh (ARCAB)
- Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA)
- Emergency Capacity Building Project - Bangladesh (ECB)
- National Alliance for Risk Reduction and Response Initiatives (NARRI)
- National Girl Child Advocacy Forum
- The INGO Forum
- Bangladesh Urban Forum
- Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum
- Haor Advocacy Platform
- GOBESHONA

Strategic relationships:

- Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief
- Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
- Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
- Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC)
- Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre
- Department of Environment
- Sylhet City Corporation
- Fire Service and Civil Defense
- Directorate of General Health Services
- Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP)
- Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET)
- Dhaka University (DU)
- North South University (NSU)
- BRAC University
- Patuakhali Science & Technology University



Our programmes

Climate Change and Disaster Resilience Programme

Islam promotes a holistic approach to climate change and disaster resilience. It assumes a link and interdependency between all natural elements – it teaches that if humanity abuses or exhausts one element, the natural world as a whole will suffer direct consequences. With this in mind, and informed by our experience and learning, Islamic Relief in Bangladesh has adopted an integrated approach to address disaster and climate risks. In partnership with government, academic institutions, civil society, communities and the private sector, we are working to support a vibrant, thriving and resilient Bangladesh.



Islamic Relief works with the most vulnerable people in disaster-prone areas. We give special emphasis to socially excluded and marginalized people, women, and older persons. We help local communities and institutions to build and scale up their capacity. We promote and integrate traditional and indigenous knowledge with the scientific approach of our academic partners and research institutions—creating practical, replicable and impact-orientated solutions which strengthen community and family resilience. We also invest in advocacy and actively develop the leadership capacity of vulnerable people. This makes sure that poor people have their voices heard, and their priorities and concerns are included in local and national planning. In addition, we work with mandated emergency response agencies including the Fire Service & Civil Defense to achieve a stronger, coordinated emergency response. This includes developing trained community volunteers, as part of an overall response and recovery strategy.

Humanitarian Programme

Our Humanitarian Programme further strengthens our surge and response capacity, responding promptly and effectively to reduce suffering caused by disasters—and following humanitarian principles and standards. Our excellent track record in providing emergency and early recovery assistance is recognized by government and other development organisations. We continue to enhance our emergency response capacity—and that of our strategic partners—and to ensure best practice through developing protocols and manuals. In particular, we focus on driving sustainable impact through increasing the transfer of our know-how to local strategic partners and local government agencies. We support government and other service providers in developing their capacity to deliver safe water, improved hygiene and sanitation—which we view as essential to development. Islamic Relief provides houses, tubewells and constructs roads for vulnerable communities. In addition, we provide training and raise awareness to positively change the behavior of targeted families. Food parcels provided through our global Aqeeqa, Qurban and Ramadan seasonal programmes tackle hunger and malnutrition amongst extremely poor families across Bangladesh.



Livelihood and Community Development Programme

Livelihood and Community Development Programme focuses on empowering communities through enhancing sustainable livelihoods and food security of the poor, ultra poor and the disadvantaged communities living in the poverty stricken areas in Bangladesh.

Our integrated approach focuses on creating employment, increasing income and building the assets of poor people so that they can earn a decent, sustainable living. We work at household and community levels to identify the needs of vulnerable families. Based on needs, hands-on-skills, and technology transfer, we have provided training in collaboration with government and technical partners. Effective productive asset transfer to poor households is key to lifting the household out of poverty. To help them generate a reliable income from their assets, families receive a package of training, cash grant, raw materials, medicines and treatment, extension services, and subsistence allowances. We also promote self-help and provide financing for small-scale enterprise using Islamic fiscal principles. We aim to strengthen the Islamic micro-financing system and policy in Bangladesh, as an ethical alternative to conventional schemes.

Islamic Relief in Bangladesh has significant experience in delivering equitable community development as a route out of poverty. At the heart of our strategy is community empowerment, where local people lead in forming groups and managing operations. This grassroots community platform allows people to work together to achieve sustainable impacts.



Orphan and Child Welfare Programme

Islamic Relief works with vulnerable children through child sponsorship scheme as well as non-formal educational initiatives. Our programme helps orphaned children to continue their education and improves the quality of schooling on offer. It also provides vulnerable families with sustainable livelihoods support and essential healthcare – all designed to improve overall child welfare.

We are upscaling our scheme – which is an integral aspect of our strategy in Bangladesh - to reach even more vulnerable children across the country. We are embedding long-term sustainability by integrating our work with existing government programmes. We are also implementing a unique pilot project designed to protect children from hazardous labour, with the agreement of the Government's Ministry of Women and Children Affairs. The Alternative Orphan Family Sponsorship Programme helps poor families to achieve a lasting income, so they can support themselves as well as enabling orphaned children to gain better access to education and social protection.



Health and Nutrition Programme:

To improve the health and nutritional status of poor people, we are increasing access to health and nutritional facilities. We work with poor communities to raise awareness on issues including maternal health, institutional deliveries, adolescent reproductive health and other common preventable diseases. We facilitate links with local healthcare institutions, in order to boost accountability. We also provide cataract operations to prevent blindness amongst poor people. In addition, we are reducing the mortality and morbidity rate of women and children by providing ante and post-natal care, as well as treatment for women with a prolapsed uterus.



Quality, Research and Learning

We measure our work for impact and maintain internal and donor standards and compliance in of our programmes. We have a continuous improvement approach and prioritize documentation, monitoring and evaluation—as well as learning. Research and study is common practice and we carry out baseline studies to identify the problems and potential solutions, and end line studies to measure the impact of our work. All of our projects have a monitoring and evaluation plan as well as individual action plans. We continue to improve our reporting mechanisms. Rolling out organisational accountability standards is a priority, and we apply a rigorous quality management framework. We promote lesson-learned initiatives that contribute to effective organizational development, and allow us to respond effectively to environmental changes.

Policy and Advocacy

We are passionate about empowering marginalized people to have their voice heard by local and national decision-makers, and to demand their rights. We link our work on the ground closely with national and international policies and institutional frameworks. All of our programmes integrate policy and advocacy initiatives help to promote social justice. Islamic Relief in Bangladesh utilizes our extensive experience in the field and our positive relationships with those we exist to serve, as well as local stakeholders, to influence government policy and services—teaming-up with other development actors at the national level. Our work with government—at national, district, and local levels—supports their capacity to implement and enact relevant legislation and policies. We also advocate for resources to be allocated effectively and efficiently.



Milestones of Islamic Relief in Bangladesh:

Year	Milestone
1984	Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) started its journey in the United Kingdom (UK).
1991	Islamic Relief started operation in Bangladesh.
1992	Launched Orphan Sponsorship, Emergency and Disaster Preparedness and Seasonal Food Security Programme.
1993	Started Health and Nutrition Programme and established Health Care Center in Rangpur.
2003	Started Vocational Training and Employment Support Services, Integrated Water and Sanitation (IWS) Project and Mother and Child Health Care Project.
2004	Islamic Relief Bangladesh expanded its emergency relief operations to 18 districts of Bangladesh.
2005	Started Community Based Orphan Re-development (CBOR) Project and Community Based Integrated Orphan and Widow Livelihood Project.
2006	Provided support to communities affected by water logging at Jessore, a south-western district of Bangladesh and awarded DIPECHO Programme under National Alliances for Risk Reduction and Response Initiative (NARRI) Consortium.
2007	Responded super cyclone Sidr that adversely affected the lives and livelihoods of people of the South-west Bangladesh. Launched Child Scouting and Cultural Forum (CSCF) and Adolescent Reproductive Health Care (ARHC) Projects.
2009	Launched Integrated Livelihood Programme at Rangpur.
2010	Conducted relief operations to the Aila affected people at the South-western part of Bangladesh and afterwards, started livelihood, health, sanitation and food security interventions in the affected areas.
2012	Islamic Relief Bangladesh's work on Urban Risk Reduction in Sylhet is recognized at the Guanzhou International Urban Innovation Awards in China. Sylhet was the only city short listed for the award in South Asia.
2013	Islamic Relief supplied rescue equipments to the Fire Service and Civil Service Department of the Government of Bangladesh to support rescue operations at Rana Plaza, Savar, Dhaka.
2014	Islamic Relief Bangladesh observed the World Orphan Day first ever in Bangladesh

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