



# LASTING CHANGE FOR CHILDREN

Bangladesh Country Annual Report 2018



**Save the Children**  
100 YEARS

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SCinBD



# COUNTRY DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

**Mark T. Pierce**

Bangladesh stands on a realm of possibilities as a confident, self-aware and a forward-looking nation. The country's development trajectory is considered to be a unique success story globally, for it has, increased access to education, pulled millions of people out of poverty, developed resilience towards disasters and reduced infant and maternal mortality.

Save the Children in Bangladesh (SCiBD) continues to be one of the catalyst for making the change in development progress. We embarked on a new three-year strategy in 2019 which is closely aligned with the SDGs and priorities of the Government of Bangladesh. We continued to achieve large-scale impact through our programs in 2018, while strengthening the quality of our program delivery and impact for children.

Born in the wake of World War I in 1919, Save the Children has been building a better world for and with children. Today in 2019, after 10 decades we are, even more than before, passionately committed to giving the world's children, especially those most vulnerable, what every child deserves – a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and be protected from harm - whatever it takes.

As the largest country office in the Save the Children family, Bangladesh has been working to bring a positive impact on girls and boys, men and women for the last 49 years. In 2018 we reached

over 48 million people including 28 million children, either directly or indirectly. That is almost 9 million more children and adults than in 2017.

We could not have achieved this without the tremendous efforts of our 1,400 staff, thousands of partner staff and legions of community volunteers. Securing over \$175m in new awards and spending \$158m in 2018. This provided us a tremendous opportunity to impact even more children. As a nation we faced the biggest manmade crisis in 2017, when approximately 700,000 people poured onto the shores of Cox's Bazar from Myanmar's Rakhine State, 67% of them being children and young people. We responded with empathy, strength and hope. We supported the Rohingya refugees with much need food, shelter, water, health and education.

Embedding gender & inclusion in all our work has been a core priority for us in 2018, not just as a tool, but as a part of our organization DNA. Developing a robust Gender and Inclusion strategy was the first step in 2018 which has set the foundation of our gender transformative efforts.

Going forward, we plan for our development and humanitarian programs to be recognized for the quality, scale and impact that we have on children that is documented by a strong evidence base from our research and evaluation. Better engagement with children and youth, domestic resource mobilization, a campaign for every last child and reaching millions of followers will be the focus for this year.

Lastly, we believe, it's our people who are our most valuable resource. From our community volunteers to all our staff. We strive to make SCiBD a place where every staff member is making a difference in the lives of children. We embrace SCi's core values of Creativity, Collaboration, Integrity Ambition and Accountability and are committed to have a workplace where everyone feels a sense of belongingness and ever happiness.

# WHO WE ARE

We are one of the world's leading independent organisations for children. We save children's lives. We fight for their rights. We help them fulfil their potential. Through our work, Save the Children puts the most deprived and marginalised children first, to ensure that all children benefit from the progress the world is making.

The goals we have set ourselves are not easy. But by building strong partnerships with communities, governments, businesses and donors, we have the audacity to say that it is possible.



## OUR VISION

A world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.



## OUR MISSION

To inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children and achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.



## OUR VALUES

In all that we do, we will demonstrate our values of Accountability, Ambition, Collaboration, Creativity and Integrity.

# OUR BREAKTHROUGHS



## SURVIVE

No child dies from preventable causes before their fifth birthday



## LEARN

All children learn from a quality basic education



## BE PROTECTED

Violence against children is no longer tolerated

# OUR THEORY OF CHANGE



## Be the Innovator

Develop and prove evidence-based, replicable breakthrough solutions to problems facing children

## BUILD PARTNERSHIP

Collaborate with children, civil society organisations, communities, governments and the private sector to share knowledge, influence others and build capacity to ensure children's rights are met



## Be the Voice

Advocate and campaign for better practices and policies to fulfil children's rights and to ensure their voices are heard, particularly the most marginalised or those living in poverty

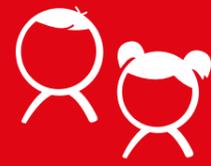


## Achieve Results at Scale

Support effective implementation of best practices, programmes and policies for children, leveraging our knowledge to ensure sustainable impact at scale

# CHILDREN & PEOPLE WE REACHED IN 2018

## DIRECT REACH

 **+2m**  
Children

  
991,660

  
1,019,222

 **+6m**  
People

  
3,488,216

  
617,712

## INDIRECT REACH

 **+26m**  
Children

  
12,654,117

  
13,679,111

 **+42m**  
People

  
8,279,766

  
8,132,005

Sajida\*, 12,  
in Cox's Bazar,  
Bangladesh

"We used to own seven cows, five goats, 2.5 acres of land and many other things. I loved our life in Myanmar. We suffered a lot while fleeing Myanmar. We were scared when they chased us. They shot a man before our very eyes. It took 10 days to reach Bangladesh. For three days, we didn't eat. We spent eight days waiting by the sea, then we crossed the border by boat. Some people died in the heat.

We were so scared. Me and my three younger siblings were crying. We feel happy in Bangladesh. We can learn reading and writing, and play. I like my new friends. We share our secrets with each other and play together. In Myanmar, I had a sewing machine and I used to decorate dresses. I want to sew dresses here too and decorate them with rhinestone and crystals."

\* Name changed to protect identity

# OUR WORK THROUGH SECTORS

**"IT TOOK 10  
DAYS TO REACH  
BANGLADESH.  
FOR THREE DAYS,  
WE DIDN'T EAT"**

# HEALTH, NUTRITION AND HIV/AIDS

Nearly **six in ten** deaths from treatable conditions in low- and middle-income countries result from low-quality healthcare.

## Context

Despite Bangladesh's improvement in preventing child mortality, the rate of neonatal death is still 28 for every 1,000 children. A healthy mother is the precursor to a healthy newborn. Maternal, neonatal and child health face challenges at multiple levels, including access to healthcare, quality of services, and system that does not maximize their coverage.

Moreover, mothers and children who do not have nutrition face a number of health complication. Lack of health infrastructure, lack of trained health workers create facilities and services that are inaccessible. All of these factors leads to a system that lacks support, capacity, and service. At the same time stigmatized infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS is also at rise.

## The Approach

Our health, nutrition and HIV/AIDS program focuses on saving children, adolescents, and the mothers through the life-cycle approach. We understand that a clean bill of health starts with a clear policy framework. We focus on improving knowledge and health-seeking practices among households and communities, through prevention and treatment of illness, malnutrition and family planning.

Our strength also lies in our providing quality care through our partnership with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOH&FW) and other relevant ministries, professional bodies, academia, implementing partners and donors. We want to strengthen the existing systems in place and scale life-saving intervention. We believe that healthcare is universal and work to expand coverage of service in hard to reach areas by updating and improving union level facilities.

We are also looking into the future of disease prevalence. Bangladesh has reported 13,000 cases of HIV; therefore we will scale initiatives focused on those who are vulnerable and at risk of HIV. Our models work with the government and stakeholders to provide knowledge about the diseases in order to ensure treatment interventions and preventative care methods.

## Achievements in 2018

- Total **38.8 million** people are reached both directly and indirectly
- **9** facility deliveries per hour are supported
- **75,076** mothers and newborns received delivery and newborn care
- **7,011** premature/low birth weight babies received Essential Newborn Services
- **2,536** children under five received pneumonia treatment with antibiotics
- **688** HIV positive cases linked to ART
- **59** rohingyas identified as HIV positive through HIV service testing
- Supported MOHFW to materialize their commitment of institutionalizing Midwifery Led Continuum Care in **27** Upazila Health Complex (UHC)
- Supported National Scale up of differentiated model of Anti- Retroviral Therapy (ART) for **6,000** people living with HIV
- Reaching **2,656** children in Rohingya Response for scaling up of Community Management of Acute Malnutrition for infants under 6 months



## Impact

### Maya Rani - scoring century per month

Maya Rani, a paramedic, joined the Kakailseo Union Health and Family Welfare center on the first day of the year 2018. Since her joining, in a year, the rate of normal delivery in the facility has gone up. It is not about the numbers, the care she showed and the skills she had, expectant mothers felt safe and comfortable in delivering child through her. By the end of 2018, Maya Rani has managed delivery of an average number of 100 newborns per month.

Within first few months of 2018, Maya Rani's fame in quality delivery service care rose so high that mothers from different neighboring sub-districts and unions also poured in this union facility to avail her service. The number of such external cases averaged to 30 to 40 child birth per month.

Maya Rani in her words expressed her motivation "As much as it is a joy to handover a healthy child to a mother, my achievement is beyond that. Often they tell me that there's magic in my hands. The moment I touch a mother in labor pain, they feel relaxed. It's like, giving birth to a child becomes easy and painless for them. Hearing things like this, I feel proud and honored."

People like Maya Rani, who are available 24 hours a day to attend a mother in labor pain, are our heroes. They not only have set a benchmark for other service providers, they ensure safe motherhood every day in different remote corners of Bangladesh where accessing universal health coverage still remain a challenge.

# EDUCATION

About **4** out of **10** children in Bangladesh are not attending school.

## Context

Despite a high enrollment rate, there are 5 million children between the ages of 6 to 14 primarily from low-income families, urban-slums and hard to reach areas which remain out of school. Enrollment is just the start. Nearly 17% of girls and 23.9% of boys drop out from primary schools, and this increases to 45.9% and 33.7% respectively in secondary school. Quality concerns come at multiple levels; there is a lack of properly trained teachers, alternative schooling for children who are unable to attend schools, comprehensive curriculum, and inclusive environments that understand every child's learning needs and respond to.

## The Approach

We understand that education is only universal when every child is able to enter the classroom. Our initiatives to reach such a densely populated country has taken on the digital drive. Our ICT interventions make it possible to reach even the most remote regions. This is coupled with literacy and numeracy boost as well as after-school remedial support for lower performing students.

Attendance is not the only achievement marker in education. Once, children are in the classroom, we focus on effective learning. Our interventions start with teachers, training them with the necessary knowledge and new methods to support holistic education. Additionally, we work on system strengthening with local government and providing a curriculum that covers all necessary skills and competencies.

Academia does not discriminate. And we understand that the opportunity for education is most effective when it comes with equity. We focus on an increased attendance of female students, financial support for impoverished ones, and an inclusive environment for children with disabilities. We want children to understand that diversity should be embraced. Our curriculum promotes the use of a student's mother tongue as well as Bangla in the most remote regions. The foundation of a scholarly nation is one that opens its classroom to each and every young mind that is eager to learn.

We work closely with Government of Bangladesh, Ministry of Primary and Mass education (MoPME) at system level to implement policy reforms. We also have strategic partnerships with Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) and Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE) to reach out of school children and provide low cost learning opportunities.

## Achievements in 2018

- **1.4 million** children have been reached through the READ project and 90% of them are self-reliant
- **50** digital Bangla storybooks, **13** digital document, and three Android applications have been developed
- **100,000** out of school children under our community reading initiative have passed the grade end examination (equivalent to PSC) through Second Chance Education program.
- **78%** of Rohingya children appeared during the final exam while 76% of them passed in all subjects, marking a 29% rise from the previous year.
- **7,773** children enrolled in schools through the HOPE project; 250 of whom were children with disabilities.
- **981** children with disabilities received primary rehabilitation therapy services
- **13,672** parents counselled on how to take care of their children in SCI Union Disability Services Centers
- **243** children received assistive devices such as Tabs with educational apps installed
- **368** children with disabilities referred to rehabilitation services or hospitals for better treatment.



## Impact

### Mute to Unmute: Rafi's journey

Sharmin, a RMG worker, moved to Dhaka with her 1 year old son when her husband accused her of giving birth to a mute child. One fine day the man left behind his beautiful family that he never deserved.

To make a living Sharmin vouched on her sewing skills and took a job in the garment sector. But the city still didn't show any mercy at her. Being the single mother in a mega city, had its own returns. Rafi needed to be left at home while she went for work. With a heavy heart she used to leave Rafi with her neighbors, worrying about his safety. She used to rush home at lunch time to feed her little boy and join the work again not to mention by missing her own. But things slowly started to change for Sharmin and little Rafi when, she joined a new factory. It's from one of the factories that adopted Save the Children's early childhood development model. Rafi got enrolled right after Sharmin's joining and started his classes.

It's been 3 years that Rafi has not spoken a word. To everyone he was a mute child. But as days passed by Rafi started interacting with other children in the class. The caregivers saw Rafi articulating sounds and communicating within only a year!

Now, Rafi talks. Laughs. Calls Sharmin "Mom".

# CHILD PROTECTION

Victims of archaic social stigma and a culture of impunity, a total of **4566** children in Bangladesh were subjected to different types of violence and **2354** children were killed last year.

## Context

A child has just as many rights as any human being. Unfortunately, their age and vulnerability make them a target. Children are abused, exploited and married off before they even begin to understand what it is. Many are stripped of their basic rights on a daily basis. Lack of social awareness, accountability, and a functional child protection system is hampering their livelihoods as child marriage and child labor exploitation is on the rise.

## The Approach

To stop the victimization of children, we have sustained follow-ups on recommendations from the Child Parliament and worked with the National Election Commission as well. We understand that children need special protection so our 24-member coalition of national and international NGOs is pushing for a ban on PHP (Physical Humiliating Punishment.)

Children are at a disadvantage simply because they are trafficked, disabled or afflicted with diseases. Our social protection schemes and the partner organizations are working to empower children, their families, and caregivers. We support the government in implementing proper care through family and community-based programs as well as build an integrated scheme that puts an end to child marriage.

In early childhood, corporal punishment is known to reduce cognitive abilities. Our child protection program advocates the implementation of the new law that bans physical and humiliating punishment in all settings, especially in schools. The non-punitive environment is crucial for a child's wellbeing. Our Positive Discipline techniques will train teachers, parents, and employers to teach through peaceful means and steer clear from violence. We see that this is especially prevalent in children from the poorest households.

Low income characteristically means a child is deprived of a healthy growing environment. Our child protection programs create access to income-generating opportunities for families in order to prevent children from joining hazardous work. Children are also given education and vocational training opportunities. With the support of development agencies and the government, we work to eventually remove children from exploitative work settings. We simultaneously work with employers to implement a new code of conduct that will protect children from hazardous working conditions.

## Achievements in 2018

- Facilitated Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting (PEDP) sessions with **573 parents** of which 199 were male and 374 were females. This helped the parents to explore positive discipline approaches for their children.
- **14 anti-trafficking committees** were made at project area.
- Supported **160 mainstream schools** to create violence free, joyful and inclusive school environment.
- Advocated with Dhaka City Corporation and RAJUK on children's Right to play which has prompted them to renovate the playgrounds.
- A phased out girl of Safe Home received "**Joyeeta**" award. Currently she is a counsellor in one of our projects.
- Developed capacity of **87%** groups to work as volunteers at community level.



## Impact

### Rain or Sun, We Always Have Fun!

Whether it's a sunny day or not, the atmosphere of Harodha Government Primary School at Vomra Union of Satkhira District used to be always gloomy. Physical and humiliating punishment were everyday incident there with almost no facility to play outside. School was more like a nightmare to little children. Obviously it affected the number of regular attendance to even PSC Exams.

But soon after the introduction of Good Cause Campaign in 2017 things gradually started to change. Through our meeting series, we introduced the idea of joyful and playful learning process to the Head Teacher. After completing our training successfully, he spontaneously shared it with the rest of his team. We helped them to learn and practice child rights and protection issues.

The school is now actively following the government circular to stop corporal punishment, the teachers are like friends to their students and the children join each class with a smile on their faces. The classrooms are not dull anymore. There's even a separate play corner. This is also the only government primary school where school authority introduced mid-day meal by mobilizing resources from the community.

Not only it has lifted up the atmosphere but also has made sure about the 100% PSC success rate within just a year. The attendance rate has jumped to 94% now. The government encouraged the success through honoring the head teacher with the Best Teacher Award.

# CHILD RIGHTS GOVERNANCE

Lack of strong and accountable governance system for ensuring child rights results in multifaceted deprivation for children that includes education, health and nutrition, protection, participation and recreation.

## Context

In a country, where patriarchal dynamism clash with constructions of childhood, children fall prey to hostile environments and in most cases are silenced and neglected. It starts at the household level and ripples into all part of a child's daily life. There is an inadequacy in investment for advocacy, policy change and implementation of frameworks that support children, particularly those in indigenous communities, living in poverty, hard-to-reach areas, and disabled. The larger problem is that they are not heard in matters that concern their growth. Lack of public policy, good governance, and community engagement prevent the nation from creating a child-sensitive environment that supports proper health, education, and overall well-being for every child.

## The Approach

Our work starts with changing the overall framework that is necessary to deliver every right that a child has by working with the government at local and national levels. We focus on children sensitive planning, budgeting and investment for the most disadvantaged by creating equitable access to essential and social services. Our work with the government aims at improving their accountability and implementation of policies that promote equity in quality health and education services. A child's voice is necessary for matters that affect their lives. Our National Children's Task Force (NCTF) is the platform where children can advocate to influence duty bearers and policymakers to take action which supports the fulfillment of their rights.

## Achievements in 2018

- **210** service providers including **180** educational institutions and **30** health facilities have installed and availed our **Kolorob mobile app**. Through this, they have given feedback, registered complains and the authorities took necessary steps to address those.
- Corporal punishment has been reduced by **30%** and quality of education, healthcare have improved through our Child led Social Accountability model.
- Children developed a digital platform where they raise, discuss and elevate child rights issues to the local authorities for sustainable solution and practical actions.
- Advocated for public investment in children which contributed to the greater resource allocation by **17.4%** in 'Child Budget' for 15 Ministries/Departments of government.
- **64,559** children received different services from local Government institutions in 2018 through CFLG Project.
- Children lead platform National Children Task Force (NCTF), has actively advocated to influence policy makers in **64 districts**.



## Impact

### The Warrior Princess, Shahrina

'My classmates say that I am a very good teacher. They come to me for math tuition. They say I can make them understand very clearly. I want to be a mathematician, when I grow up. It is my favorite subject in school.' Shahrina (17) was talking about her dreams.

It's been just a year of passing her SSC Examination with an "A". She knows there is still a long way to go, but she is all set to achieve that with her dedication and hard work.

A few years back, Shahrina's reality was different. She was almost forced to get married when she was in class 9. With 4 children and little money her parents decided to get Shahrina married. But Shahrina couldn't accept the decision. Because she knew this is never going to be a solution to their problems rather a mistake of a lifetime. Being a member of Ward Child Forum (a platform for children created by the Child Friendly Local Governance, CFLG project of Save the Children) of her area, she was aware of her rights and knew where to seek help. She contacted the Field Facilitator of CFLG Project and asked for advice. She received help from the local government authorities to stop this marriage.

Today, Shahrina has made her parents proud with her brilliant result and through her contribution to the society. As an active member of the child forum, she raises her voice to ensure the wellbeing of children.

# CHILD POVERTY

Almost **1 in 4** Bangladeshis (24.3% of the population) live in poverty, and **12.9%** of the population lives in extreme poverty, resulting in multifarious deprivations of children.

## Context

Poverty is a global crisis depriving people of their right to a healthy life, but child poverty is the destruction of a nation's greatest human capital. Access to education and food and income alone aren't enough to shift attitudes towards children and their deprivations. Poverty results acute and chronic undernutrition, leading to various health problems that can affect a child for a lifetime. Additionally, the majority of adolescents living in poverty commonly lack of access to proper education. They focus on income and sustaining, only to be exploited when they should be learning. The underlying issue for all of these matters is ensuring an environment that fosters holistic growth. Without intervention these problems become cycles that pass from one generation to the next.

## The Approach

Our meticulously crafted child poverty programs bring a befitting lens to livelihood interventions and improve the nutritional, health and educational status of children while significantly reducing the risk of abuse, exploitation, and neglect.

Suchana, a multisectoral nutrition program, led by Save the Children, implemented by 8 consortium members, to prevent chronic undernutrition during the first 1,000 days of children's lives. National advocacy to improve nutrition is implemented through partnerships with government, development partners and research institutions. We take our interventions to areas where high burden of poverty, undernutrition and protection is at its weakest through strong networks in the National Social Security Strategy.

We go beyond the first years of the child's life. Poverty is also a lack of access to education or never understanding the necessity to learn. To help poverty-stricken children transform into empowered citizens, our Education for Youth Empowerment (EYE) program is geared towards adolescent skills development. It facilitates successful transitions that will improve their social status through accelerated education, vocational training, linking them to decent job opportunities in the future. By teaming up with the Ministry of Labour and Employment, we will support the approval and implementation of the National CSR Policy for Children.

## Achievements in 2018

- Total household reached through SUCHANA Program **136,097**.
- Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) among 6-23 months' children increased from **10.4%** to **14%**.
- Minimum Dietary Diversity among women increased from **26.7%** to **38%**.
- **76%** of graduated youth have secured decent work with increased income.
- **105,894** youth have got foundational skills, life skills and vocational skills training.
- Through foundational skills training **40,223** adolescents and youth got prepared to enter into technical vocational training.

## Impact

### Unlocking potential: Safal's journey towards growth

Safal Hossain (23) is a young man from Bogra. He dropped out of school when he was in class 8. He always felt a gap of not having a proper schooling. He was always looking for trainings which would help him to develop certain skills.

He came to know about the training course of Work2Learn Advance project at UCEP (Underprivileged Children Educational Program), during his visit to his brother in Gazipur. The training was based on realistic requirements of garment industry. And the course offered six months basic training, followed by one year of vocational training and a three month's internship opportunity.

Safal decided to join this course. After finishing the training, he found a job in one of the largest and famous compliance factories in Bangladesh called 'Square Fashion'. He was a skilled worker from the very beginning and could easily manage essential workplace issues that others struggled. His life's turning point was to get enrolled in the training program which gave him required skills to get a decent job. Now he plans to pursue further education besides working.



# HUMANITARIAN

200,000 people have died since the 200 natural disasters in the last 40 years; the total economic loss is worth approximately \$17 billion.

## Context

Bangladesh is the ground zero for climate change. The nation has witnessed more frequent natural disaster that leaves households displaced and with nothing left, sometimes in a matter of minutes. Bangladesh experiences three cyclones per year with 25% of the land masses inundated by flood waters every year. The high population density and rapid urbanization are further hampering Dhaka's weak infrastructure against earthquakes. With the risks surmounting, the nation must focus on adaptability and preparedness now. Risk reduction and climate change practices require capacity, knowledge and awareness. Communities and local management committees have not assessed the degree of risk and ways to respond. Furthermore, the government and local authorities need support to apply these practices effectively.

## The Approach

Being prepared and reducing the incidents of risk is the primary preventive measure during disasters. We have been working and supporting vulnerable communities with the government for over 13 years in high risk areas.

Women and children are the most vulnerable during disasters and our programs are geared towards protecting them, while providing spaces that give them a sense of safety. Our workspaces include an assessment and planning process that better prepares them for disasters. Additionally, we make government authorities at all levels aware of their responsibilities and accountability in financing these plans. We also work with the ministry of disaster and the ministry of environment, forest and climate change to review and update policies and rules to address their needs.

Our focus in rural areas involves increasing the resilience of communities in capacity building and supporting initiatives with the cooperation of government agencies, and city corporations. We understand that immediate responses are most effective and we partner with local agencies to ensure this comprehensively. Based on the disaster management geography, we preposition vendors and prepare contingency stocks for the most rapid relief when needed.

## Achievements in 2018

- Dhaka North City Corporation replicated the **Dead Body management training** for their zonal staff following Save the Children's model
- Supported **3,950 households** at Moulvibazar district after the flood with cash and hygiene kits
- Supported **5342 Households** at Sirajganj and Kurigram districts through emergency livelihood and cash for work
- Successfully advocated with Narayanganj City Corporation for allocating **5 million BDT** into its annual development for disaster management
- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) projects facilitated **4 hospitals**, in Dhaka and Narayanganj to develop Hospital Contingency plan
- **School Safety Plan** was conducted and implemented at **6 schools** in Dhaka, Khulna and Sirajganj under Child Centred Climate Change Adaptation (CCCCA) project.



## Impact

### Resilient Rahima

Rahima Begum (28) was horrified! "I went into a shock to see water beneath my bed, couldn't think of anything. Then the questions came rushing into my head, what will happen to my daughters? How will I save my ducks? Where shall we go?"

The flash flood hit Moulvibazar, in the north-eastern region of Bangladesh during June 2018. One of the worst victims of this catastrophe, Rahima's family included her husband Modares Mia (35), a sharecropper and their seven daughters (from the eldest being 10 and the youngest of 8 months). They have been receiving nutrition and household level support from Save the Children before the flash flood hit. Earning regular bread and butter was a challenge for the family and now the flood had left them at a miserable condition.

"When we came back, we had no idea where and how to start! The relief money saved us. We immediately bought tins, bamboos and repaired the house partially. Then I decided to buy books for my elder daughter Aleya, as she will sit for PSC this year. There is no way we are taking any chance with her education. She wants to be a teacher and she will be a teacher"- said Rahima with a smile.

Rebuilding a life from zero will be a tough task, but Rahima is determined. She has a family to run and daughters to send to school. Turning the tide will not be impossible for Rahima. Her resilience to move on and fulfill her daughter's dream of becoming a teacher, was certainly a sign for that.

# ROHINGYA RESPONSE

Over **half a million** refugee children in need of support

## Context

In August 2017, following cycles of intercommunal violence most recently in 2012 and 2016, Myanmar's security forces launched in response to armed attacks on security posts by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), a series of widespread and systematic attacks in northern Rakhine state. Since August 2017, approximately 745,000 Rohingya refugees, of which 55 percent are children, have arrived into Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, fleeing large-scale violence and human rights abuses in northern Rakhine state.

The 745,000 Rohingya who crossed the border are now living in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, with about 200,000 other Rohingya refugees who fled Myanmar during earlier outbreaks of violence, creating a total population of nearly one million Rohingya refugees. Over 600,000 of the total refugee population is living Kutupalong-Balukhali Extension Site, now the world's largest and most crowded refugee camp in the world.

The needs of the displaced Rohingya, including new arrivals, arrivals from previous waves and registered refugees, as well as host communities, are vast and urgent. They include the immediate need for food supplies, shelter provisions,

non-food items, safe drinking water, hygiene items and access to sanitation facilities. Many of the displaced Rohingya are in need of medical support, as well as mental health and psychosocial support. Unable to go to school or a safe play area, children cannot regain a sense of normalcy and are exposed to child protection risks.

We commend the generosity of the Government of Bangladesh and the Bangladeshis for hosting nearly one million Rohingya refugees and for providing them with safety until conditions for safe returns are met. Under the leadership of the Bangladesh Government, UN agencies and national and international NGOs are supporting refugees to meet their basic needs, however, much more is needed.

## The Response

Save the Children is one of the leading International NGOs, working in Bangladesh since 1970 and responding to the Rohingya refugee crisis in Cox's Bazar since 2012. Our teams in Cox's Bazar are working around the clock to ensure Rohingya children and their families are supported in their basic human rights. We have distributed food and Non-Food Items (NFI), including Shelter, Winter, Kitchen and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) Kits. We have established Child Safe Spaces and Child Friendly Spaces (CFS), and provided case management services for at-risk or unaccompanied children. We have set up protective and inclusive learning centers with trained teachers. We have constructed Health and Nutrition centers, providing families with quality healthcare, nutrition support, and psycho-social support for those suffering from trauma. We have built much-needed infrastructure in camps and settlements, including footpaths and bridges to reach Every Last Child. We have constructed WASH facilities to serve the extensive need for access to safe drinking water and quality sanitation facilities.

Save the Children has more than 2,000 staff supporting our programs and works in all the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, and across 15 zones of the largest refugee settlement in the world, the Kutupalong Extension.

## Achievements in 2018

- In collaboration with WFP, and in partnership with the local NGO YPSA (Young Power in Social Action) we have established **11** food distribution points across the refugee camps. We have met the critical food needs of **97,416** households with general food distributions (half of the food distributions in the camps are done by Save the Children).
- We have ensured **114,672** children under **5** and their mothers have had their nutritional needs met.
- We have met the child protection needs of **89,263** children and their families.
- We have provided **30,976** girls and boys with access to safe, inclusive and age appropriate learning and development opportunities.
- We have ensured **47,444** households (including **132,770** children) have access to safe water and sanitation, as well as adopting good hygiene practices.
- We have provided essential primary health services to **228,281** families.
- We have provided lifesaving shelter and non-food items to support **243,065** individuals.



## Impact

### The Aspiring Teacher

"I love to learn." Says Janat Ara\* (12), a Rohingya refugee girl who lives in the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Janat Ara lost both her parents in Myanmar. Her mother died when she was very small, from jaundice, and her father was killed while out fishing, when she was seven. She now lives with her younger sister, her aunt Halima\* (38), her uncle, and her four cousins in a small shelter in the camps.

Since arriving in the refugee camps, Janat Ara has embraced the opportunity to learn. She now attends a Save the Children learning centre. She loves the learning centre and likes learning English in particular. She hopes to use her skills to work in an NGO or a hospital when she is older, or to become a teacher herself. She also likes to teach her cousins what she has learned.

Janat Ara also attends a Save the Children Girl-Friendly Space (GFS), which is located next to the learning centre. She loves the GFS, and has learned many things, including the importance of keeping yourself healthy and safe. She says she now knows that girls and boys shouldn't get married before they are 18, and she also knows how to keep the family safe if there is a fire.

"When I grow up, I want to work. I want to work an NGO or at the hospital. My teacher also said that he sees that I could become a teacher. He has suggested that I join an NGO when I am older, to teach other children Burmese."

# SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

## SHISHUDER JONNO

### Context

The economy of Bangladesh has grown gradually over the past twenty years, with much of the growth occurring in and around the cities. This growth has led millions of poor people to migrate from rural areas to work in the country's cities. Contrarily climate change is pushing them to move out of low lying areas. Most of them end up living in informal settlements with limited access to basic amenities and without any doubt children are the most affected.

### The Approach

We support development of the children particularly those deprived from basic needs and services like health, education and living opportunities. We follow a life cycle approach to implement a comprehensive set of activities appropriate to each life-stage for children below 18 years. This approach delivers services for mothers and newborn child health and nutrition, early childhood care and development, basic education with a focus in ICT, school health and nutrition and adolescent development. We always make sure to promote child protection, child rights and governance through our work and encourage community mobilization and gender inclusion. We actively engage children, their families and community actors to address the needs of the children and to create an enabling development environment for them.

### Achievements in 2018

- Scaled up the **e-monitoring** system throughout the country.
- **91%** grade three children can read and understand which was **86%** in 2017.
- Mainstreamed an animated video on handwashing into government system through which all the students from primary and secondary school can learn while having fun.
- **13,580** mothers and caregivers of children 0-3 years have received early stimulation counselling services by government health service providers and community volunteers.
- **57,924** adolescent boys and girls have received awareness sessions on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health including Menstrual Hygiene Management.
- Early Child Care Development (ECCD) pre-primary program reached **23,652** Children and **24,452** adults.
- Corporal punishment against children at schools decreased to **32%** in urban area compared to a baseline of **46%** and corporal punishment at home has decreased to **60%** which was **83%** during baseline.
- The program reached total number of children and adults directly **258,924** and indirectly **388,386** through its interventions in health and nutrition, early childhood development and care, basic education, protection, Child rights and governance, adolescent development with a focus on gender inclusion



### Impact

#### Pakhi: The Changemaker

Afroza Akhter Pakhi is a proud member of National Children's Task Force (NCTF) where she actively advocates for children's rights. She's been facilitating community based health education sessions. Pakhi is the change-maker for her community now, but it was not the same always. Couple of years back, Pakhi was even scared to talk to people or ask a question. In 2016, she attended a session on community based health education, which gave her opportunity to explore her potentials. She realized that there's a lot more she can do apart from just being a participant. Charity begins at home and so does everything else. Pakhi once again proved it right. She taught her family healthy behavior activities which resulted less round to the hospitals. Now Pakhi has stepped towards a bigger journey where she dreams of making a better world with her passion and participation.

# Campaigning for Every Last Child

Since 2016, we have been campaigning for and with the most deprived and marginalized children. These are the children missing out on the progress Bangladesh is making because of who they are or where they are from.

The urban slum population of Dhaka is where the most marginalized and excluded children live and is one of the groups identified as the 'Every Last Child' in Bangladesh. This year we focused on children's right to play. Building up a narrative of 'right to play' isn't easy and specially in a country like Bangladesh where there are competing development priorities such as the need for quality education, nutrition and health.

The World Cup Football helped the cause. Although Bangladesh never played the World Cup, there are no shortage of fans for the game in Bangladesh. We organized a match with children from Dhaka's major slum area Rayerbazar, playing a dream final match wearing jerseys of Argentina and Brazil.

Key stakeholders from the community, celebrities from media, sports along with 3500 people from the slum and adjoining areas joined the event. Through this match, we have successfully scored more than 40 media hits, 25000 engagement in social media and started a discourse on inclusion of 'the right to play' for Every Last Child in Bangladesh.

This is a small step towards building a narrative of the right to play for Every Last Child in Bangladesh, we have a long way to go.



# CHILD RIGHTS SITUATION IN BANGLADESH

# OUR FOCUS FOR IMPACT

Focus on proven models to achieve sustainable outcomes for our children, particularly the most deprived and marginalized.

**POPULATION**  
**167.7 M**  
 37.2 % of the population are living in urban

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**POVERTY**  
**24.3%**  
 of people living below the poverty line (CBN method)

**Early childhood development**  
**63.9%** of children age 36-59 months who are developmentally on track in at least three of the following four domains: literacy-numeracy, physical, social-emotional, and learning

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**Under-five mortality**  
**46** new-born baby die before age five/per 1,000

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**Neonatal mortality**  
**28** children die during the first 28 days of life/1,000 live births

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**Prevalence of stunting**  
**36.1%** children under age 5 whose height for age is more than two standard deviations below the median.

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**Physical & Humiliating Punishment**  
**82.3%** of children experience any punishment in past month

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**Child marriage**  
**59%** women age 20-24 who were first married by age 18

**Total Child Labor**  
**4.29%**  
**Hazardous Child labor**  
**75.3%**

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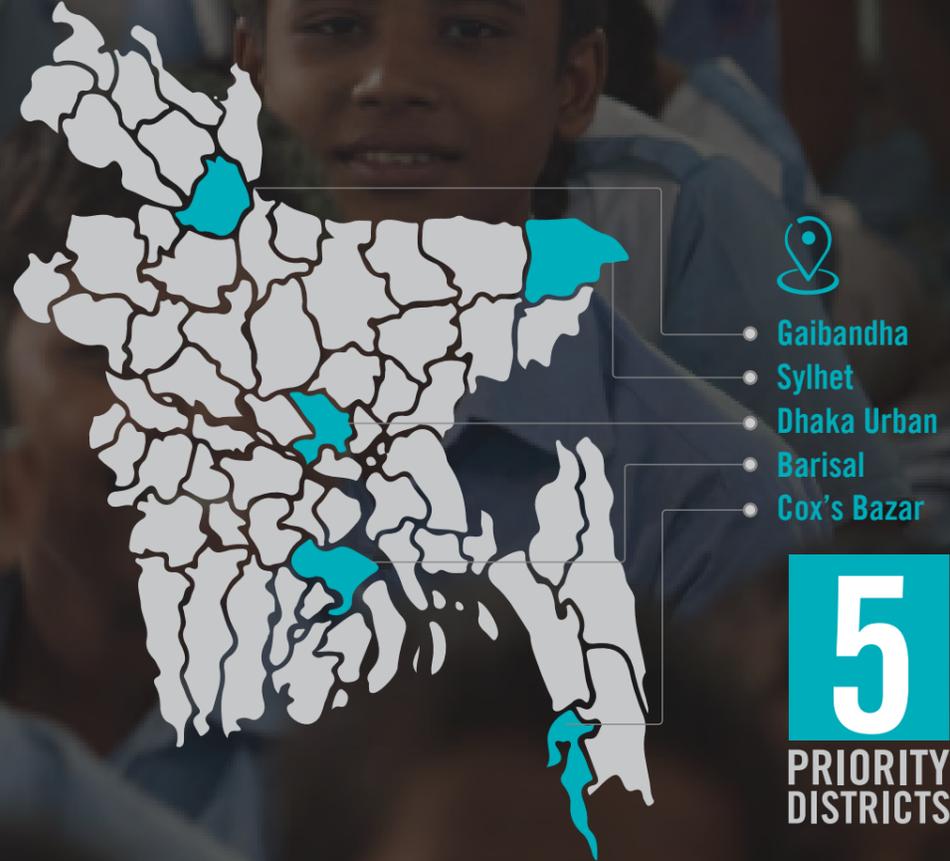
**EDUCATION**  
**Primary Completion**  
**79.5%**

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**6.9%** population suffered from any type of disability.

OVER ALL REACH IN  
**64**  
 DISTRICTS

ON GOING PROJECTS  
**35**  
 DISTRICTS



**5**  
 PRIORITY DISTRICTS

SOURCE:  
 \* MPI, \* MICS - 2013, \* DHS - 2014, \* National Child Labor Survey 2013, \* BDHS - 2014, \* HIES - 2016

# REDEFINING THE FUTURE FOR CHILDREN

COUNTRY STRATEGIC PLAN, BANGLADESH  
2019 - 2021

The sociocultural, economic, political, psychological and physical landscape of the country is changing fast with far-reaching impacts on children. It is imperative for SCI Bangladesh to take these emerging elements and their underlying drivers into consideration while developing the country strategy - 'Redefine the Future for Children'.



## AMBITION 2030

ALL CHILDREN SURVIVE, LEARN AND ARE PROTECTED

### SURVIVE



No child dies from preventable causes before their fifth birthday

### LEARN



All children learn from a quality basic education

### BE PROTECTED



Violence against children is no longer tolerated

8

GOALS

- Reduce preventable maternal and neonatal deaths
- Reduce all forms of child malnutrition
- Improve learning outcomes for all children and young people
- Reduce all forms of sexual and gender based violence, physical humiliating punishment and unnecessary institutionalization

- Increase access to livelihoods, decent work and social protection
- Improve child-sensitive, accountable and responsive governance systems and practices
- Enhance resilience and reduce vulnerability to natural and human-made disasters and other economic, social and environmental shocks
- Improve safety and wellbeing of Rohingya refugees and host community

3

## UNDERLYING STRATEGIES

### PROGRAM QUALITY

Improve program quality and impact to reach breakthroughs

- Inclusive child rights programming
- Geographic and program focus
- Knowledge, learning and evidence building
- Leveraging ICT4D
- Diversifying partnerships
- Strengthening humanitarian capability

### OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

Strengthen operational platform

- Cost efficiency
- Promoting diversity
- Investing in leadership and management capacity
- Improve ways of working
- Strengthen risk and crisis management

### LOCALIZATION AMBITION

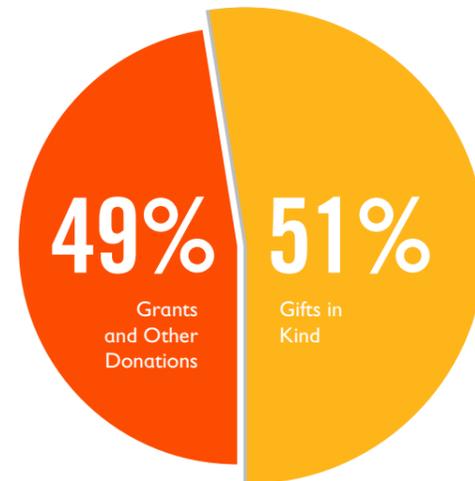
Become a local entity by 2025

- Promoting SCiBD brand
- Advocacy and campaigning
- Children and youth engagement
- Mobilizing and diversifying resources

# TOP LINE FINANCIALS 2018

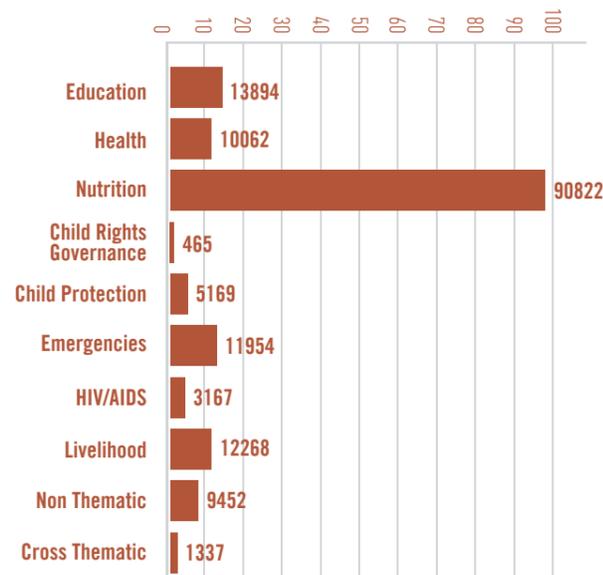
## Income 2018

INCOME	USD '000
Grants and Other Donations	75714
Gifts in Kind	79262
Other Income	51
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>155,027</b>



## Expenditure 2018

On charitable activity	USD '000
Education	13894
Health	10062
Nutrition	90822
Child Rights Governance	465
Child Protection	5169
Emergencies	11954
HIV/AIDS	3167
Livelihood	12268
Non Thematic	9452
Cross Thematic	1337
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>158,590</b>



**Net (Expenditure)/  
Income for Year** **-3563USD**

## OUR PARTNERS

- 1 Association for Community Development (ACD)
- 2 Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK)
- 3 Bangladesh Extension Education Services (BEES)
- 4 BRAC International
- 5 Bangladesh Prothibondi Foundation (BPF)
- 6 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU)
- 7 Breaking the Silence (BTS)
- 8 Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST)
- 9 Center for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS)
- 10 Community Development Centre (CODEC)
- 11 Concern World Wide
- 12 Community Participation and Development (CPD)
- 13 Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID)
- 14 Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM)
- 15 Dnet
- 16 Dusthay Shasthya Kendra (DSK)
- 17 Friends in Village Development Bangladesh (FIVDB)
- 18 Hellen Keller International (HKI)
- 19 International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research Bangladesh (ICDDR,B)
- 20 International Development Enterprise (IDE)
- 21 INCIDIN Bangladesh
- 22 Islamic Relief International
- 23 IHI
- 24 Jagorani Chakra Foundation (JCF)
- 25 JHPIEGO
- 26 John Hopkins Blomberg School of Public Health
- 27 Karmojibi Kallayan Sangstha (KKS)
- 28 Manabik Shahajya Sangsthay (MSS)
- 29 MMS (Mukti Mahila Samity)
- 30 Mahideb Jubo Somaj Kallayan Somity (MJSKS)
- 31 Manob Mukti Sangstha (MMS)
- 32 MAMATA
- 33 Mukto Akash BD (MAB)
- 34 Palashipara Samaj Kallayn Samity (PSKS)
- 35 Partners in Health and Development (PHD)
- 36 Plan International UK
- 37 ProdiPan
- 38 RDRS Bangladesh
- 39 Resource Integration Center (RIC)
- 40 SEEP
- 41 Shimantik
- 42 Shapla Mohila Sangstha (SMS)
- 43 Society for Underprivileged Families (SUF)
- 44 UCEP Bangladesh
- 45 Village Education Center (VERC)
- 46 World Fish
- 47 World Vision UK
- 48 Young Power in Social Action (YPSA)
- 49 Zabarang Kalyan Samity (ZKS)

# OUR DONORS

Accenture  
Anthony C. Lunn  
C&A Foundation  
Chevron  
DANIDA  
DEC - Disaster Emergency Committee  
DFAT - Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Australia  
DFID - Department for International Development  
ECHO - European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (European Commission)  
Family Health International  
Fondation Néré  
Global Affairs Canada  
Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria  
Government of Bangladesh  
Hempel Foundation  
IKEA Foundation  
IOM - International Organisation for Migration  
Japan Platform Fund  
Johns Hopkins University (JHU)  
Johnson & Johnson  
KOICA - Korea International Cooperation Agency  
Medecins Sans Frontieres  
Member pooled funding  
NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade  
Phillips Van Heusen Corporation  
S Oliver  
SC Australia various donors/general funds  
SC Finland various donors/general funds  
SC Korea various donors/general funds  
SC Norway individual donors  
SC Norway various donors/general funds  
SC UK various donors/general funds  
SC US individual donors  
SC US various donors/general funds  
SCUS Various Donors  
Sida - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency  
UN World Health Organization  
UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund  
UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund  
USAID - United States Agency for International Development  
World Food Programme

# THANK YOU