



*Serving Humanity
for 20 Years*



2019

ANNUAL
REPORT



“**BIG** journeys begin with SMALL steps.”

Message from Our Founder

Dear Friends,

The past year was another year full of challenges, achievements and growth. In 2019, we opened the Operation Theater in the HOPE Field Hospital for Women, the only OT working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to address



obstetric emergencies for the Rohingya Refugee Settlement. This is a population of close to 1 million people. Since its opening, our team has worked incredibly hard to support our continued response to improve the maternal and neonatal health of the population, which still accounts for one of the largest humanitarian crises in the world today.

In addition, HOPE's staff and volunteers treated 204,678 patients across HOPE facilities in 2019. This includes providing lifesaving, multifaceted care such as primary healthcare, fistula repair surgeries, safe deliveries, cleft surgeries, burn surgeries, family planning services and more. In order to continue increasing our impact, a new Birthing Center was opened in addition to the existing 6 Birthing Centers. In 2019, we also started an important cervical cancer screening and treatment unit at HOPE Hospital in partnership with the Obstetric and Gynecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB) and UNFPA.

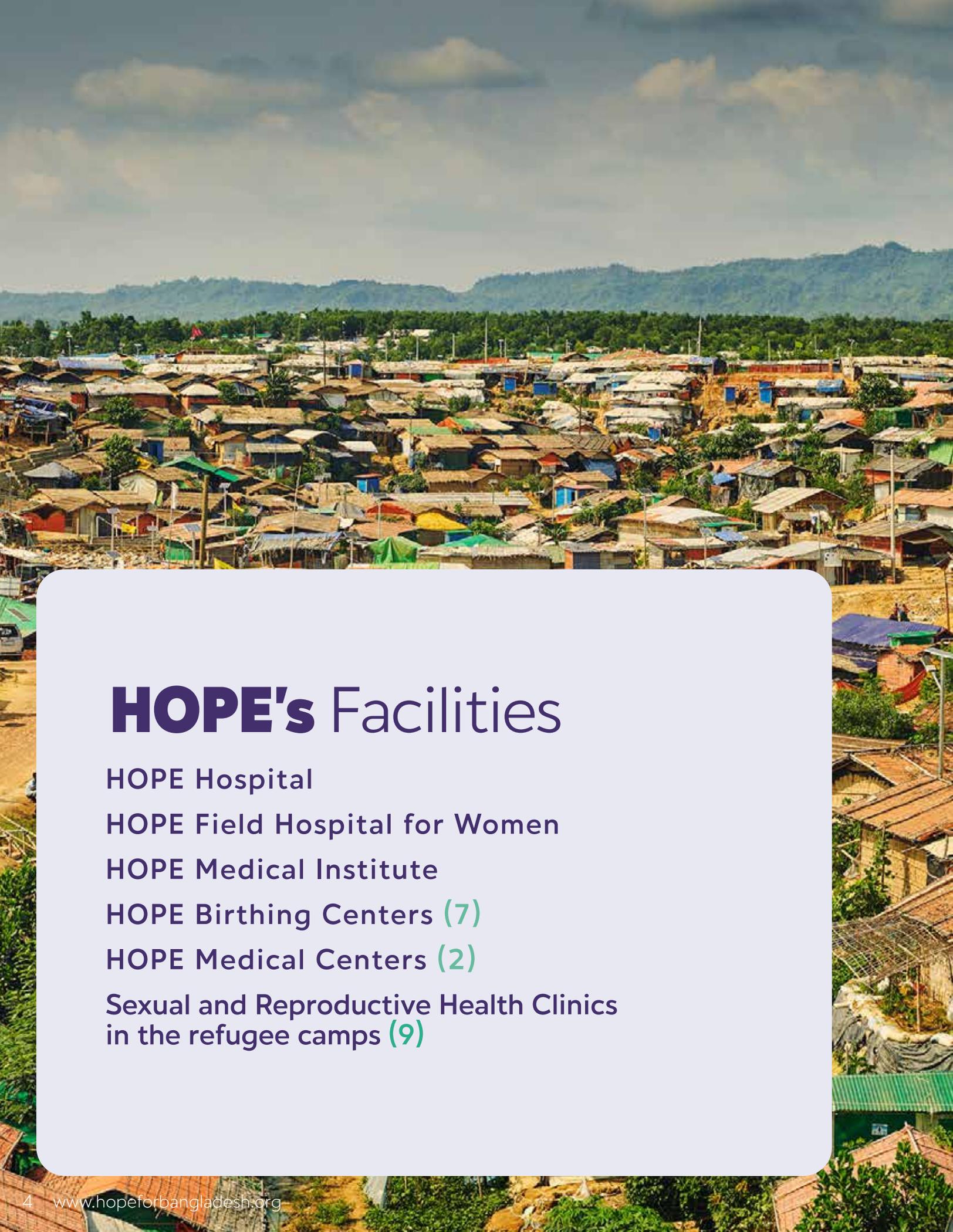
Our fourth class of 20 midwives graduated in 2019, who are already hard at work reducing the rate of maternal and infant mortality in Bangladesh by helping women to safely deliver babies and providing vital support to mothers during pregnancy and labor. Furthermore, we organized the HOPE Midwifery Conference 2019, the first such conference in Bangladesh. The conference was joined by over 600 participants. A true success!!

I am proud of what we continue to achieve and know that our successful growth and reach as an organization is owed to you, our generous supporters. I always say that donors, volunteers and partners are the backbone of our work. I hope you will be equally proud of what you have helped to make possible as you read more about our achievements in this report.

Sincerely,

Dr. Iftikher Mahmood

President & Founder
HOPE Foundation for Women & Children of Bangladesh
Miami, FL



HOPE's Facilities

HOPE Hospital

HOPE Field Hospital for Women

HOPE Medical Institute

HOPE Birthing Centers (7)

HOPE Medical Centers (2)

Sexual and Reproductive Health Clinics
in the refugee camps (9)

HOPE's Impact in 2019



204,678 Total Patients Served

6,541 Family Planning Services

93 Fistula Surgeries

60,602 Antenatal Care Visits

3,312 Total Births

3,338 Birth Kits Distributed

584 Children Immunized

888 Women Immunized

80,471 Adolescent Visits

130 Cleft Surgeries

20 Midwives Graduated

1,017 Health Professionals Trained in
Emergency Management Skills

Be a part of this incredible journey.

Support us!

HOPE Aims To...

- Take essential / lifesaving medical services to rural areas
- Reduce preventable maternal and neonatal morbidity and mortality
- Build local capacity by investing in educational programs and training such as midwifery education
- Expand access to quality maternity care
- Eliminate obstetric fistula from Bangladesh by 2030
- Extend the Cervical Cancer Program to remote areas
- Improve health and sanitation infrastructure in the Rohingya refugee camps

HOPE Hospital makes my soul happy. Thanks to all involved.

– Jim Howell, MD, MPH, Board of Directors



HOPE's Programs

Obstetric Fistula Repair, Prevention and Outreach

Work includes community outreach and education, free fistula repair surgery, physical therapy, social rehabilitation and reintegration, nutrition counselling, and postoperative follow-up care.

funded by



Burn Contracture Surgery

Free surgical reconstruction and rehabilitation of severe burn injuries.

provided by



Cleft Lip/Palate Repair

Free surgical repair of cleft lip.

funded by and in partnership with



Community-based Midwifery Diploma Program

A three year program that has graduated 78 students to date and two cohorts are currently being trained. It is calculated that through their average 30-year career span, these and other midwives trained in Bangladesh will collectively drive down maternal mortality to 35/100,000 and infant mortality to 12/1,000. The Government of Bangladesh made headlines in 2010 when the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina demonstrated her commitment to midwifery by launching the training of 3000 midwives. HOPE Foundation was selected to be one of the first organizations to bring midwifery to Cox's Bazar.

provided by



Safe Motherhood Program

Safe pregnancy care including antenatal care (ANC), delivery for at-risk patients and post-natal care (PNC) for 1,500 women.

funded by



Birthing Centers

Midwives graduating from the community based midwife Diploma Program operate in rural areas to provide critical maternal health care. Today, HOPE has 7 birth centers operating.

funded by



Medical Supplies

Direct Relief (USA) supports us by sending medical supplies, particularly in sending supplies for our fistula care and maternal health programs.

provided by



Rohingya Response

HOPE operates a Field Hospital for Women in the Rohingya camps supported by the Islamic Development Bank, King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Program for Charity Work (KAAP), King Abdullah Foundation, Kulczyk Foundation (Poland), UNFPA and Direct Relief (USA). HOPE runs 9 Sexual & Reproductive Health clinics inside the camps as well, and receives support from UNFPA and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh.



King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Program for Charity Work (KAAP)



HOPE Obstetric Fistula Program

In 2019, HOPE's nationally renowned team of Fistula doctors performed 93 fistula surgeries. HOPE understands that obstetric fistula, secondary to obstructed labor, disproportionately affects women without access to emergency obstetric care, women living in poverty, and those who lack personal agency and empowerment when it comes to healthcare decision making.

Through our unique and successful "village approach," we were able to identify dozens of women in need of fistula repair surgery who would not otherwise have sought care for this treatable yet debilitating condition. If these women are left untreated, many will become socially ostracized and experience further shame, in addition to the ongoing health complications resulting from fistula. HOPE's community health workers and fistula surgeons have the passion to restore dignity, empower and improve all aspects of these women's lives by providing health education, fistula repair surgery, and rehabilitation.

As a result of the unwavering support from the Fistula Foundation, HOPE has one of the highest success rates of fistula repair surgery in Bangladesh and is a leading provider of fistula surgery in the country. Every woman identified as needing fistula repair surgery has the ability to receive treatment free of cost at HOPE Hospital.



93 Total Surgeries in 2019

Rural Mothers Clubs – 38

In 2019, many women were reached through our 38 Rural Mothers Clubs. The primary goal of our Rural Mothers Clubs is to empower, educate, provide awareness, promote women's health, and dispel myths regarding contraception and childbirth among Bangladesh's most vulnerable women. Each club is comprised of 30–50 mothers who receive public health education and training by HOPE staff, which enables them to share good hygiene and sanitation practices and help to break down cultural barriers regarding healthcare within their community. As a result, the mothers in HOPE's Rural Mothers Clubs also support our other outreach and community education initiatives by spreading health messages in their local communities and making referrals that help us to provide care to those who otherwise would not be aware of our services.



202 Mothers Clubs Meetings in 2019

Safe Motherhood Program

HOPE's Safe Motherhood Program provides women with access to antenatal care, safe delivery and postnatal care. HOPE's trained doctors and nurses help at-risk women overcome barriers to experience a safe, healthy pregnancy and delivery. This program would not be possible without the continued support and funding from Every Mother Counts.



3,729 women received ANC, PNC & safe delivery



EVERY MOTHER COUNTS

Cleft Lip / Palate Program

Cleft generally develops in utero during the fourth to seventh week of pregnancy when the babies' lips and palate begin to form, and can be a lifelong disability that can prevent the child from eating, drinking, and speaking properly if not treated. In addition to physical struggles, people with cleft may also struggle with social isolation and ostracization due to having an obvious physical handicap.

In partnership with HOPE, SmileTrain's surgeons have successfully performed 525 surgeries since the onset of the cleft repair program and have given children a second chance to smile.



124 Total Surgeries in 2019



31 Total Surgeries in 2019

Burn Program

Burn injury data is limited but it is estimated that 173,000 children under the age of 18 sustain a burn injury each year in Bangladesh. The main causes of burn injury are related to cooking (heat transfer from liquids and open flame) as well as exposure to chemicals and electricity. Immediate treatment of burns is critical in order to prevent contracture and ultimate deformity of affected limbs. HOPE provides reconstructive burn surgery to improve the function, rehabilitation and cosmetic appearance of burn scars. This involves altering scar tissue, with both nonoperative and operative treatment. This work is made possible by our partner Resurge International, USA.



Providing access to quality, comprehensive healthcare in rural, resource-limited communities is a major tenet of HOPE's overall vision for Bangladesh. This extensive outreach would not be possible without HOPE's dedicated team of health workers, doctors, nurses, midwives and volunteers.

Rural Birth Centers

90% of women living in rural areas of Bangladesh deliver without a skilled birth attendant present. HOPE's birthing centers provide family planning, natural birth, prenatal and postnatal care to women who are most in need. These skills are delivered by midwives recruited directly from HOPE's midwifery program. For pregnant women experiencing high risk pregnancies, our midwives are able to detect and refer these women to appropriate doctors. Our rural birthing centers save the lives of women and newborns every day.



7 Rural Birthing Centers in Operation



Partner: Islamic Development Bank



Mobile Health Camps

HOPE provides medical services in hard-to-reach, rural areas through Mobile Medical Clinics. The camps are extremely beneficial as they allow the doctors to locate patients with cleft lip, burns, fistula, and other health concerns and provide them with referrals to be treated at the appropriate HOPE facility. A main reason for nonadherence to treatment regimens and refusal to seek medical care is due to a lack of quality of care, treatment and service; which is further fueled by misinformation. Our Mobile Medical Clinics are trusted by the local people as we employ supportive, compassionate doctors and community health workers from the very communities in which we serve.

10 Camps held in 2019

11,846

Total number of patients seen through HOPE's Mobile Medical Clinics in 2019

Partners:
UNFPA &
Every Mother Counts





HOPE's Midwifery Training Program

Although Bangladesh has made significant progress in the past decade when it comes to maternal and infant mortality, the progress has not been uniform across all regions of the country and among all populations. One of the major factors correlated with reduction in maternal and infant mortality during or after birth is the presence of a skilled medical personnel such as a doctor, nurse, or midwife.

HOPE's 3-year Community Based Midwifery Program recruits and trains local women in antenatal care, postnatal care, family planning, natural delivery, lab testing, fetal assessment, signs of high risk pregnancies, birth complications and diagnoses. The Midwifery Training Program also equips midwives with the proper knowledge and tools to assist women with pregnancies and births in resource-poor situations such as in the refugee camps, where there is limited access to basic sanitation or clean water to sterilize tools and the birthing surface.

To address this challenge, many HOPE- trained

midwives have been deployed to work at HOPE birth centers to serve the women in rural communities.

In addition, many HOPE midwives are at the forefront of the Rohingya crisis. The women in these communities receive high quality reproductive health care provided by the midwives. The midwives save countless lives of mothers and newborns and eliminate morbidities that haunt families.

HOPE's midwifery training program is supported by the British Department For International Development (DFID) in partnership with BRAC University in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Rashmi Murthy, MD

Member, HOPE Board of Directors

For women living in remote rural areas of Bangladesh, accessing skilled help during pregnancy and childbirth is difficult, resulting in high child and maternal mortality rates. In response to this need, HOPE trains midwives who are ready to assist mothers ensuring safer birthing. Furthermore, we are opening more Birthing Centers to provide a safer environment and we are increasing the resources in our maternal health programs.

Thank you for your invaluable support.



2,940 Total number of babies delivered by HOPE's midwives in 2019

20 Midwives graduated in 2019

78 Total midwives graduated from the program



Partners: DFID & BRAC University



Patient Story

Aysha Begum was happily pregnant with her first child. She never looked for antenatal care services, because there wasn't a gynecologist or midwife close to her area. One day she heard about a medical camp happening in her village and she went with her sister because she was a little bit concerned about her pregnancy. Her due date had passed by that time and one doctor from HOPE staff determined that her baby's position was not right, and she needed a C-section urgently.

After the referral to HOPE hospital, Aysha had a baby girl in less than 3 hours. Her recovery was very fast and now she is back in her village with her healthy baby.



Volunteer Testimonial

Since I have been volunteering with HOPE Field Hospital, I have been working as the supervisor of the midwives. I am excited to be working with so many beautiful midwives here. On my first day I met with 18 different midwives and asked each one personally why they decided to pursue this profession. Many talked about how they were thankful that HOPE Foundation provided them with this much needed education and support. Several of the midwives talked about personally losing close family members to unsafe birth practices in Bangladesh and how that has been the motivation for them to gain the skills and education to provide safe care for women.

The most recurrent answer I heard over and over was how the majority of these midwives goals is to change maternal/infant mortality rates. HOPE hospital's birthing service has given these young ladies a place to realize these dreams.

I have also had the pleasure of visiting several of the rural birthing centers and interviewing several of the midwives there. They discussed many of the challenges facing them in rural Bangladesh and bravely facing those challenges head on. When asked the strategy they use, I heard over and over that these midwives are using communication and education of the local community to break down barriers and build up community. These young ladies are proud to be helping under-served women in their communities. I'm so proud to work with and serve along side of them.



Whitney Abbott CNM, APRN, IBCLC

Midwife Volunteer, HOPE Foundation Field Hospital



The Current State of the **Rohingya Refugee Crisis:** The World's Largest Refugee Crisis

The forced removal of hundreds of thousands of the ethnic Rohingya group from their homes in Myanmar's Rakhine State into Bangladesh, has spelt tremendous suffering and hardship for this population. Currently, approximately one million stateless Rohingya refugees live in temporary shelters in the Cox's Bazar region of Bangladesh. HOPE has been on the ground since the beginning of the Rohingya crisis working to improve the health of this vulnerable population.

Children make up approximately 55 to 58 percent of all Rohingya refugees. The children living in these refugee camps not only face daily threats such as exploitation, human trafficking, violence, and discrimination, but also mental and physical health risks due to persecution, insufficient resources, trauma, and lack of nutrition and basic sanitation. Additionally, overcrowding in the camps is a precursor and exacerbating force for the spread of disease.

Heavy rains and flooding during the monsoon season have preyed upon the already fragile sanitation infrastructure and have increased the prevalence of many water-borne diseases in the camps.

HOPE responded to the Rohingya crisis by building a fully operational field hospital inside the refugee camps. The HOPE Field Hospital for Women provides comprehensive healthcare services to Rohingya refugees 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including mobile health clinics, emergency transportation, emergency obstetric care and pediatric health care.

Since the beginning of the crisis, HOPE has provided medical services and necessary supplies such as first aid kits, medications, water purifying packs, and vitamins to the Rohingya refugees, and continues to work to address the unique healthcare needs of this population.





HOPE Field Hospital for Women



**King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz
Program for Charity Work (KAAP)**

In December 2017, HOPE Foundation opened the doors of the HOPE Field Hospital for Women, strategically located inside the largest Rohingya refugee camp, Camp 4. HOPE chose this specific location for the Field Hospital in order to serve as many patients as possible and truly make a positive impact on refugee families struggling to get access to basic resources and healthcare. The Hospital operates continuously throughout the year, and provides care 24 hours a day. HOPE's Field Hospital for Women is the only field hospital dedicated to women's health in the camps run by a local Bangladeshi NGO, which has led to increased trust and understanding within the community.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

- Outpatient
- Emergency
- Dermatology
- Fistula Surgery
- Cleft Surgery
- Physical Therapy & Rehab
- Counseling Services
- Maternity Care
- Antenatal Care
- Postnatal Care
- Normal Delivery
- Emergency Obstetric Care
- Newborn Care
- Family Planning Services
- Laboratory Investigation
- ECG
- Ultrasound
- Pharmacy





Meet Fistula Surgeon, Dr Fahmida Akter

Dr. Fahmida Akter started working at HOPE Hospital in 2015 as a young doctor. Working with so many women made her understand the importance of female doctors for women. After a few years of outstanding service at HOPE Hospital, HOPE's Fistula Surgeon Dr. Biswas, started training Dr. Fahmida to become an Obstetric Fistula Surgeon. Dr. Fahmida was FIGO certified as a fistula surgeon in 2018.



Obstetric fistula is a childbirth injury that can break a woman's life. It leaves her incontinent, humiliated and often shunned by her community. Reparative surgery is the only cure. This injury is only

prevalent in areas where maternal health is limited or not available, and women are left alone during obstructed labor. HOPE Foundation, with the support of Fistula Foundation and UNFPA, is working towards a #FistulaFreeBangladesh.

Bangladeshi women are very conservative, especially rural people. They don't want to go to male doctors. As a female doctor I always felt the need to help the mothers, I wanted to ensure a safe motherhood for all of them. That's where my passion in maternal health started. When I joined HOPE Hospital I saw the sufferings of fistula patients. I used to cry after listening to the stories behind each fistula patient. Dr. Biswas, was the first person introducing me into fistula surgery, he is my inspiration. Today I dream with the opening of the HOPE Maternity and Fistula Center, where no fistula will be left behind.

Dr. Fahmida Akter
HOPE Fistula Surgeon

HOPE Maternity & Fistula Center

H OPE is currently in the process of building a 75-bed Maternity and Fistula Center in Cox's Bazar. The center is expected to open in 2021.

The center will build upon HOPE's previous success in diagnosing and treating obstetric fistula and ensuring women have healthy and safe pregnancies, labor, delivery, and postpartum periods. It will be fully equipped with diagnostic and laboratory facilities, delivery rooms, and surgical operating rooms. It will be staffed by highly trained doctors, nurses, midwives, local community health workers and volunteers. Currently HOPE has two of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) trained fistula surgeons in the country. They will continue to reach and treat women in Bangladesh in need of fistula repair surgery. Additionally, this center will be a hub for training doctors, nurses, and therapists from around the country for fistula care.



Donate to the Capital Campaign TODAY!
www.hopeforbangladesh.org

HOPE Telemedicine

HOPE Foundation has two InTouch Operating System (OS)-based telehealth devices in two of its hospitals. These advanced devices are donated by World Telehealth Initiative (WTI) in collaboration with Direct Relief, both are humanitarian organizations based in Santa Barbara, California. HOPE Foundation is connected to doctors worldwide through these devices and receives virtual consultations from highly skilled specialized physicians from around the Globe. Many patients at HOPE hospital benefit from these cost-free consultations as they no longer need to take costly trips to big cities where such specialists are only available. In HOPE Foundation's telemedicine roster, we have physicians from many specialties such as Internal Medicine, Dermatology, Neurology, Pulmonology, and Pediatric Surgery who offer high quality virtual consultations in timely and efficient manners to impoverished patients. HOPE Foundation is continuously adding more physicians to the list with help from WTI. Thanks to our volunteer physicians who are donating their valuable time and expertise!



WORLD TELEHEALTH
INITIATIVE

Visiting Expert, Dr. Rassenn Trains HOPE Fistula Surgeons



HOPE fistula surgeons, Dr. Biswas and Dr. Fahmida welcomed international obstetric fistula expert surgeon Dr. Thomas Rassenn at HOPE Hospital to help with complicated obstetric fistula cases.

HOPE Medical Institute
will help to strengthen
the Bangladesh health
system and be a step
closer to the Sustainable
Development Goal 2030.





HOPE Emergency Response Team (HERT)

The HERT is comprised of medical and allied personnel (supported by a cadre of administrative and logistical staff), designed to provide medical care during disasters. The team is designed to be a rapid response element to supplement local medical care until other resources can be mobilized.

- HERT deploys to disaster sites in 24 hours or less. Responsibilities may include preparing patients for evacuation and/or support disposition of patients to hospitals.
- Mobile Medical Teams are the main striking force of HERT. MMT's are comprised of clinical and logistical staff, trained to deliver emergency medical services to the scene of the incident.



1ST HOPE Midwifery Conference 2019

The 1st Annual HOPE Midwifery Conference was held September 28th–29th, 2019 in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The themes of this year's conference covered major topics such as midwifery care in humanitarian crisis, family planning, maternal and child healthcare, and the need to reduce maternal and neonatal mortality in Bangladesh.

Convener: Dr. Iftikher Mahmood, HOPE Foundation

Steering Committee: Dr. Asa Torkelsson, UNFPA Bangladesh; Elizabeth Grayer, Every Mother Counts; Kristonia Lockhart, Islamic Development Bank; Professor Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury, BRAC University

Course Director: Erin Ryan, LM, CPM, MPH

Sponsor Organizations: Direct Relief, Every Mother Counts, Jhpiego, UNFPA Bangladesh, Islamic Development Bank, Doctors Without Borders, BRAC University, UKaid Department For International Development, Sweden Sverige, Bumi Sehat, Canada Aid, Maternity Foundation, Save the Children, World Health Organization, Obstetric and Gynecological Society of Bangladesh.



Midwives at the Conference



Board



"HOPE's mission is to provide quality health services to the most marginalized population in rural Bangladesh using education, community outreach, and the provision of compassionate health care"



HOPE
Foundation
For Women & Children of Bangladesh Inc.

আমাদের আদর্শ

- সততা
- নিষ্ঠা
- সেবা

HOPE
Foundation
For Women & Children of Bangladesh Inc.

Our motto

- Honesty
- Integrity
- Service

Special thanks to Dr. Sirajul Islam and Mr. Ali Munju, members of the HOPE Board for visiting Cox's Bazar.



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King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz
Program for Charity Work (KAAP)



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I am getting back to my normal busy life here in U.S.!!! We had such a great mission in Bangladesh with your organization! Thank you so much for trusting me and believing and hosting us!

- Dr. Sissy Jimenez,

Volunteer Dental Surgeon, Maryland, USA, 2019

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HOPE Foundation Provides
Golden Chain Model of Maternity Care



“The Golden Chain model of care is a holistic approach to pregnancy. An expectant mother is in the center. She is supported by a skilled health care team, friends, families and community members before, during and after the birth of her baby to ensure safety of the mother and the newborn. Golden Chain ensures both mother and baby will survive and thrive. Ultimately, maternal and neonatal mortality will be reduced in the community”

-Dr. Iftikher Mahmood.