

# 2014 Annual Report



## Appreciation

Fistula Foundation has been proud to support HOPE Foundation for Women & Children of Bangladesh since 2010. Initially, we provided funding for patient outreach and referral, and for fistula surgeries performed by visiting surgeons. As word spread that free treatment was available, Dr. Mahmood knew that HOPE would need to expand the level and availability of treatment they provide. Fistula Foundation was able to fund the hospital's gynecologist, Dr. Nrinmoy Biswas, as one of the first global candidates to undergo training through the FIGO (International Organization of Gynecologists and Obstetricians) Global Competency Based Training Program for fistula surgeons. As a result of this training, Dr. Biswas and his team are now able to treat nearly 100 women affected by fistula each year.



More women have been and continue to be treated at bi-annual fistula clinics, week-long events at which Fistula Foundation Medical Director, Dr. Steve Arrowsmith – an expert fistula surgeon and trainer - works alongside Dr. Biswas to treat many women, often those with very complex cases of fistula, in a short amount of time.

HOPE Hospital remains today the sole provider of free fistula surgeries in all of southern Bangladesh, and Fistula Foundation is proud to support this work and inspired by the tireless efforts of the Hope team to help more women get care.

Kate Grant, *Chief Executive Officer*, Fistula Foundation

ReSurge International sent its first surgical team to Cox's Bazar HOPE Foundation Hospital in 2013 to perform burn reconstructive surgery on the poor and returned a second time last November. We could not ask for a better partner. The hospital administrators and staff are tireless in assisting our work: advertising for patients, securing much needed supplies, housing all our pre and post-operative patients on the ward, as well as supplying lunch and transportation for the team. Our mission is two-fold: direct reconstructive surgery for the poor and training and education for local medical partners. The hospital staff are always present to work with our team from the operating room to the ward. The foundation also has a training center for community outreach workers and mid-wives and some of our medical volunteers have given classes that were integrated into the curriculum. The team stays for two weeks and it has always been a wonderful experience all around. We are especially eager to continue our exceptional partnership with HOPE Foundation Hospital.



-Beverly Kent, *Chief Operations Officer and Medical Programs Officer*, ReSurge International

# Voices of Hope

# Letter from the President

Dear Friends of HOPE Foundation,

Thank you for your unwavering support of HOPE Foundation through our 16 years of existence! It is with great pleasure that we show you the work and progress we have made in the last year, which has been truly



remarkable. In 2014 HOPE added our uChek urinalysis device research, implemented a very successful antenatal care program, provided more obstetric fistula repair surgeries than any previous year, and continued to provide specialized care in cleft lip/palate repair and burn reconstructive surgery. The many years of experience

have taught us one thing: that mothers and their health are the backbone of strengthening communities and improving universal health. Our addition of maternal health-specific programs, the investment into our community-based midwifery diploma program and our training of community health workers and communicators represents our determination to improve maternal health and the community at large. That being said, in 2014 we undertook an ambitious plan to build a new 75-bed HOPE Maternity and Fistula Center which we hope to complete in the next two years on our existing campus. The groundbreaking, which took place in December, was a monumental moment in HOPE's History. Our focus will remain on maternal health and we aim to give women in the area access to safe pregnancy and delivery, thus preventing unwanted mortality and morbidity due to child birth. I want to thank our partners, donors, volunteers and well-wishers for the incredible support that HOPE has had since our beginning. Thank you for helping us reach the place we are today; we certainly could not have done it without you.

Sincerely,

Iftikher Mahmood, MD  
*President and Founder*

# Voices from the Field

I am a retired Operating Theatre nurse with a desire to help in my field of knowledge. I have been working as a volunteer in developing countries for five years and have recently been going to HOPE hospital in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.



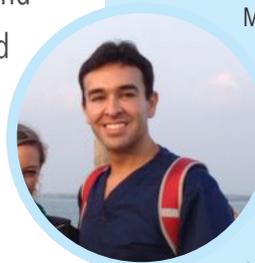
My main interest and focus is in teaching the nurses and sometimes doctors good surgical technique, sterility and organisation in the operating suite. This can be very challenging especially where language and culture are vastly different from my own. The days can be very long and with varying conditions of climate and physical building conditions can tax the imagination at times.

Generally the local staff are very receptive to any knowledge that will help them and their patients and really only need a guiding hand to set them in the right direction to enable them to reach their goals.

I get a great deal of personal satisfaction from my trips to help others and to know that a small contribution of my time makes a vast difference. I hope that I will be able to continue with this for a number of years yet.

Jacqui Smith, Obstetric Fistula Nurse

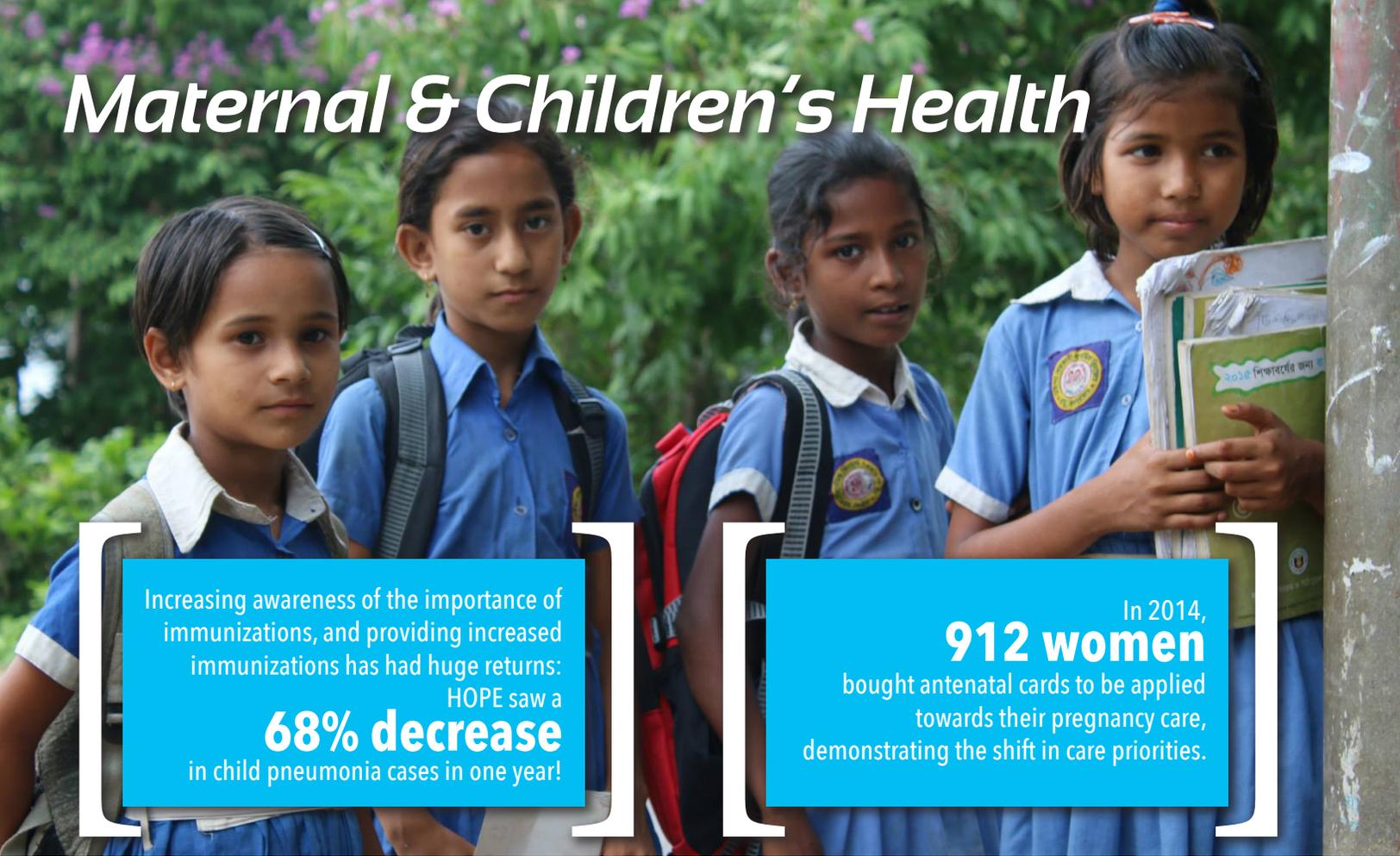
In April 2014, I had the most rewarding and life-changing experience of my life. After learning about HOPE Foundation through my friend, Matthew Malin, who is the director of their international program, I knew I had to seize the opportunity to volunteer. During my week at the clinic and hospital, we saw over 200 patients, with conditions ranging from common diseases like psoriasis, eczema, and vitiligo, to chronic bacterial and fungal infections to cutaneous tuberculosis and leishmaniasis. It was amazingly fulfilling to provide the medical care and medications that they so desperately need and deserve.



Equally amazing is the team of people who work so diligently and selflessly to keep HOPE alive for these people. Their passion, dedication, and teamwork are truly inspiring, and I feel extremely blessed to have had the opportunity to work alongside them. I am definitely looking forward to my next visit!

Dr. Ronald Patrick, Dermatologist, Tampa, FL

# Maternal & Children's Health



Increasing awareness of the importance of immunizations, and providing increased immunizations has had huge returns: HOPE saw a **68% decrease** in child pneumonia cases in one year!

In 2014, **912 women** bought antenatal cards to be applied towards their pregnancy care, demonstrating the shift in care priorities.



*Instilling a pattern of comprehensive maternal and newborn care for healthy, future generations.*



*Healthy children will grow up and become productive members of their communities, building local capacity from the ground-up.*

In 2014 HOPE made improving maternal health its main focus. A grant provided by **One Sky Giving Circle** enabled HOPE to provide 500 women with antenatal care, family planning and birth preparedness, as well as encouraged all 500 women to seek delivery by a skilled attendant. This project witnessed a huge transformation in the community, where husbands and mother-in-laws began attending the expectant mother's appointments. The program was so successful that over 1,000 women signed up; HOPE subsequently established a Maternity Care Corner that is open 24/7 for pregnant mothers seeking care. HOPE provided the following care:

- **1,557** antenatal care visits
- **225** postnatal care check-ups
- Served **5,700** women
- Provided **686** gynecological and obstetric appointments.

Given that the neonatal mortality rate is 24 per 1,000 live births, HOPE is intent on providing excellent maternal health care to ensure a safe start to life for as many children as possible. In 2014 HOPE achieved the following:

- Care to **5,328** children in total
- Immunized **555** children, a 40% increase from the previous year.
- Treated **1,147** children for Pneumonia and diarrhea, two leading causes of death.
- Treated children for: typhoid fever, Hepatitis, COPD, and the common cold.

# Specialized Care

## Burn Care Program

**Partner: ReSurge International**

**Number of Surgeries: 36**

Burn is a serious problem in Bangladesh among impoverished communities because of the use of open fires for cooking and heating. Children fall into fires due to a lack of supervision, women's loose fitting clothing catches on fire, or a child's mosquito net catches fire during their sleep. HOPE partners with ReSurge International, a non-profit from California who sends doctors, nurses, anesthesiologists and support staff to conduct burn repair surgeries as well as train the local staff on proper burn treatment and response. In 2014 a total of 36 cases were done, helping burn victims restore function in limbs they thought they had lost use of.



## Cleft Lip/Palate Program

**Partner: Smile Train**

**Number of Surgeries: 97**

When mothers do not receive antenatal care, they do not receive prenatal vitamins, including folic acid. A lack of folic acid intake during pregnancy often leads to children born with cleft lip/palate. This deformity can be repaired through surgery. Our partner is Smile Train who sends its in-country surgeon, Professor Dr. Bijoy K. Das, and his team to HOPE Hospital. A total of 97 repair surgeries were done in 2014.



# Obstetric Fistula Repair Program

In Bangladesh it is estimated that 71,000 women are suffering from obstetric fistula, a debilitating childbirth injury that renders women to a life of isolation and hopelessness. They incessantly leak urine and/or feces and are physically unable to care for themselves or make a living. Their communities, families and friends abandon them. It is estimated that in addition to the backlog of 71,000 women in need of surgery, an additional 2,000 cases develop each year.

## Obstetric Fistula Repair Surgery

HOPE is a leading provider of obstetric fistula repair in Bangladesh through the help of our partner, **Fistula Foundation**. HOPE's fistula surgeon, Dr. Nrinmoy Biswas, and the HOPE team, completed 63 fistula repair surgeries in 2014. Clinical care includes pre and post-operative care, nutrition counseling as well as physical therapy.

## In the Field

HOPE's approach to obstetric fistula is comprehensive and aims to not only identify more patients for surgery who are in hiding, but to prevent fistula altogether. In the field, HOPE engages in:

- Community workshops
- Networking with community leaders, pharmacists, and traditional healers to educate and encourage referral.
- HOPE's Mothers' Clubs special sessions on fistula
- Door to Door Campaigns
- Advertising for Community and Patient Awareness

## Technical Training

To ensure that our patients are receiving the best care, we have equipped our nursing staff with the proper training. Fistula nurse, Mrs. Jacqui Smith, visited HOPE Hospital in April and again in



*Our Partners*



December to train our nurses in proper surgical protocol, infection prevention, and patient care management. To provide continued guidance, support and training, Dr. Steven Arrowsmith, Medical Director of **Fistula Foundation**, visited the hospital to work with HOPE's surgeon Dr. Nrinmoy Biswas.

## Fistula Dedicated Team

A two-year grant from **Dining for Women** started the **Fistula Dedicated Team** in 2014. The grant supports the training of the following team members to support Dr. Biswas and the **Fistula Program**:

- Support Physician
- Fistula Nurse
- Social Worker
- Program Coordinator

The remaining grant is to support a massive outreach and awareness campaign to reach the most remote communities and patients and to contribute to the prevention of this debilitating injury.

## Senowara's Story

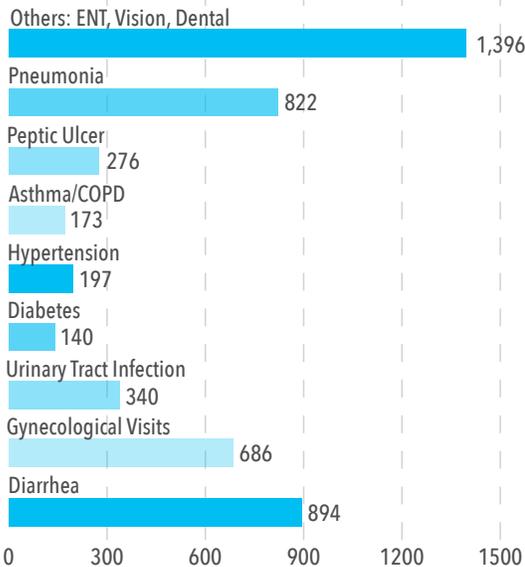
Senowara was just 13 when she was married off. Senowara's family was poor and relieved that she was getting married so she could be taken better care of. She was in labor with her first baby at home and felt the baby wasn't able to come out. After one day her husband and mother took her to the hospital where she discovered her baby had died. The urinary incontinence soon followed and her husband could not stand the smell of her. He divorced her and remarried. She now lives with her mother who is very supportive of her full recovery. When asked how she was feeling before her repair surgery she said, "I am very happy. My problem will be solved so I came to HOPE Hospital." Senowara's surgery went smoothly and she is fully repaired. She hopes to marry again soon.



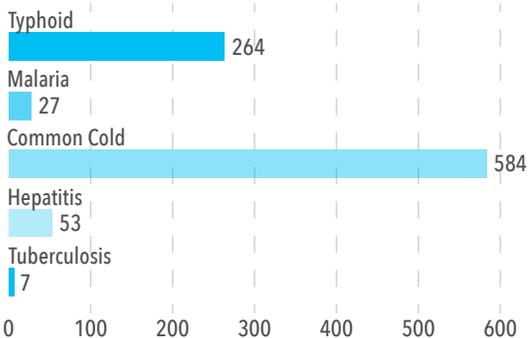
# HOPE Services & Research

## Services Provided in 2014

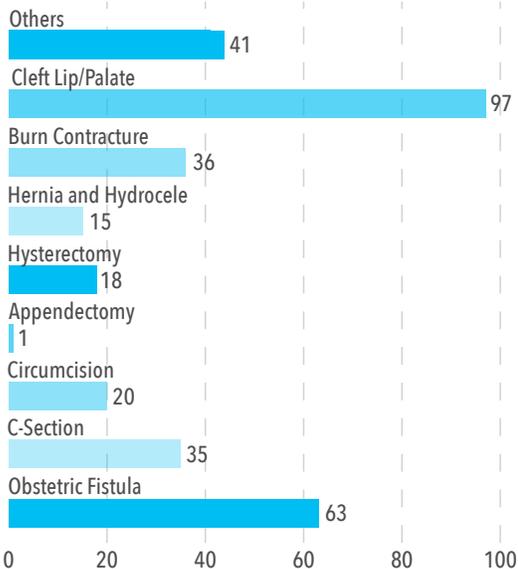
### Non-Communicable Diseases By Case



### Communicable Diseases By Case



### Surgical Operations



HOPE Hospital and HOPE Medical Centers provide an array of services and care. In addition to these facilities HOPE further provides 24-Hour Emergency Care, Pathology Lab, X-Ray, ECG, USG, Physiotherapy and Ambulatory Transport.

HOPE is expanding its research program so we can ensure that we are providing the most effective care for the populations we serve, based on true need. In 2014 HOPE concluded its Medic Mobile project, where the effectiveness of a village health worker mediated, SMS-supplemented, home-based antenatal care program was analyzed in regards to women delivering with a skilled birth attendant.

HOPE began a new project in 2014, with funding from **Merck Pharmaceuticals** in partnership with **Maternova**, an e-commerce marketplace for technologies and innovations addressing maternal and newborn health. The aims of the study are to test the feasibility of the smartphone enabled uChek urinalysis device to detect pre-eclampsia and eclampsia in pregnant women and to assess attitudes of clinicians towards uChek as a new technology in antenatal care settings. The study will demonstrate how effective the device can be in resource-poor settings. All women involved in the study are receiving the highest quality antenatal care as well as education, information and delivery options. In total 350 women will participate in the study.



Ensuring the women we serve are provided top quality care while building the knowledge and skills of our staff

Capturing results that will transform rural maternal health utilizing **innovative technologies**



# Training & Education



*Pinky works at the Ward of HOPE Hospital*

VGIF trainees Pinky and Yasmin have gained employment with HOPE, giving them the opportunity to earn a living while helping others in their community.



*Yasmin works at the Maternity Care Corner*



HOPE's international partners and international volunteers steadily add to the capacity of our local staff through training and education seminars. Furthermore, HOPE is in its second year of the training project titled "Closing the Health Divide between the Village and the Hospital", which is funded by the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF). In 2014 HOPE trained 104 out of the total 240 women to be trained in this project. The project, which is instrumental for communicating important health messages to the communities, encouraging preventive health visits and recruiting patients in need of care, is thriving. Several of the women who showed extreme dedication and bright futures have gained employment with HOPE, and all have acquired skills from international physicians and visiting volunteers. The VGIF students are further critical to referring patients to our Obstetric Fistula Repair program.

HOPE Foundation  
Training: VGIF  
Community Health Communicator (CHC)  
Program: Close the Health Divide (CHD)  
BATCH #5 DATE 18.3.14-22.3.14  
Implemented by Hope Foundation for Women and Children of Bangladesh  
Supported by VIRGINIA GILDERSLEEVE INTERNATIONAL FUND (VGIF)

# Midwifery Training



## “Why I Chose Midwifery”

-Ayesha Khatun, Midwifery Student

Upon graduation I want to work in my community and expect that it will bring positive changes in my life. I believe if I can graduate as a skilled midwife, community people will accept me which will open the door to help the community people; and this in turn will appear as a source of income to change my life. In my community many welcome this profession no matter how old I am; to them, knowledge and skill matter the most to provide needed services.



In partnership with **BRAC University**, in 2013 HOPE began its Community-based Midwifery Diploma Programme, which is funded by the **British Department for International Development**. HOPE's first class of **30** midwives began in 2013 and is set to graduate in 2016! In their second year, these students have demonstrated the power of the surrounding community to take action to improve the lives of their neighbors, families and friends. The midwives have not only learned from their curriculum but trained with visiting volunteers and worked alongside our staff to implement critical maternal health projects. HOPE is looking forward to their graduation so that these bright students can be deployed into high need areas and serve the mothers and their families to improve maternal health.



# Leadership

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- Syed Hasan

HOPE's Hospital Director Dr. Shoaib Ahmad and HOPE's Fistula Surgeon and Director of Maternal Health Dr. Nrinmoy Biswas checking on the progress of a repaired fistula patient.



### US Team

Matthew Malin, MPH  
Director of International Programs

Vidya Sharma, MD, MPH  
Advisor, Research and Science

Ashley Pugh, MA  
Program Officer

Donna MacDonald, MHSc  
Director of Program Development

### Bangladesh Team

Hasnain Sabih Nayak, MPH, B. Arch  
Country Director

Dr. Shoaib Ahmad  
Director, HOPE Hospital

Dr. Nrinmoy Biswas  
Director, Maternal Health

Professor Dr. Bijoy K. Das  
Senior Medical Advisor



# In 2014 HOPE Foundation welcomed four new board members!



**James Howell, MD, MPH**  
 Chair and Associate Dean of the Department of Rural Medicine and Professor of Public Health, NOVA Southeastern University, FL



**Rose Joseph, MD**  
 Pediatrician, FL



**Kristina Deeter, MD**  
 Pediatric Intensive Care Specialist, Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, FL



**Rashmi Murthy, MD**  
 Family Medicine, FL

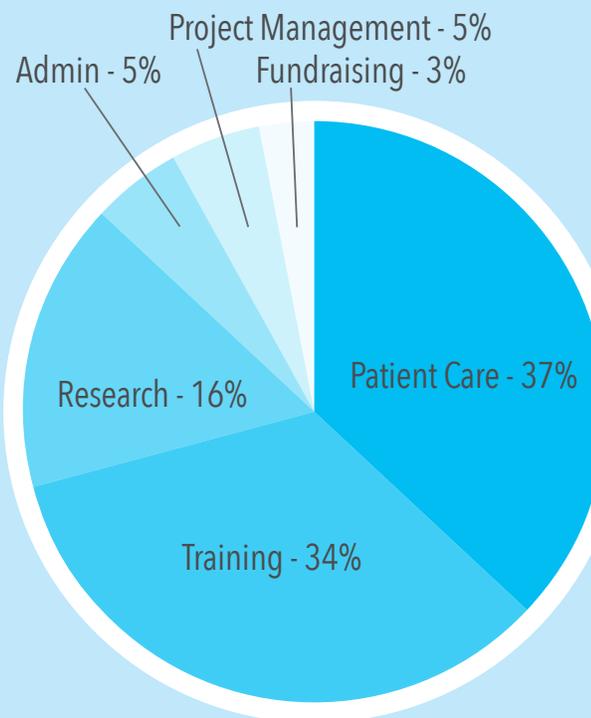
## Our Partners



Henry E. Niles Foundation



## 2014 Finances



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## The Future of HOPE

On December 11, 2014, with the presence of our team, partners and the US Ambassador to Bangladesh The Honorable Dan W. Mozena, HOPE initiated the groundbreaking for the HOPE Maternity and Fistula Center. This 75-bed facility will provide unparalleled care to all mothers in the area, while expanding HOPE's local capacity. Construction for the facility will begin December 2015 and take approximately two years to build.



## Groundbreaking

**HOPE**  
Foundation  
*For Women & Children of Bangladesh*

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[www.hopeforbangladesh.org](http://www.hopeforbangladesh.org)

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