

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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

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

# Messages



2017 was a year of challenges and achievements that we never could have envisioned, culminating with the arrival of more than 800,000 Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, fleeing violence, starvation and ethnic cleansing in Myanmar. Within days of the influx, the HOPE team mobilized to provide medical care, in particular to the women and children who make up most of the refugee population. Providing aid to this vulnerable population has become a key focus of our efforts today.

The HOPE team also continues to provide immediate and lasting impact to our drive to provide health care to those who are deeply suffering throughout southeastern Bangladesh. This year, we provided care to a record number of patients at HOPE Hospital, we made great progress in constructing the HOPE Maternity and Fistula Center, expanded the reach of our Mother's Clubs in rural communities, and we graduated new midwives who will magnify HOPE's efforts as they return to their villages to put their new skills to work, helping women deliver safely.

I am proud of what we continue to achieve and know that our success is owed to you. Donors, volunteers and supporters like you are the backbone of our work, and 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.

I am forever grateful for what you do to make our work possible.

**Dr. Iftikher Mahmood**  
President & Founder  
HOPE Foundation



"Fistula Foundation is proud to support the construction of HOPE's new fistula center in Cox's Bazar, and to provide continued funding for high-quality fistula surgeries. Since partnering with Dr. Mahmood and his dedicated team in 2010, we've been consistently inspired by their vital work in the region."

**Kate Grant**  
CEO, Fistula Foundation

For HOPE Foundation, 2017 was a year of success and growth. Despite all the challenges faced, our staff remain dedicated to helping the poor in our community access the health services they desperately need, and we are committed to deepening and expanding these efforts.

We were tested when the influx of Rohingya refugees began to arrive in August 2017, but we were ready, prepared by nearly 20 years of experience providing care in the Cox's Bazar region.

Our team worked long days and long nights providing care to tens of thousands of refugees as they arrived, physically injured, weak, and traumatized by the violence they fled. Though this is hard work, it is has been extremely rewarding for all of us to see the difference that we are able to make. All this is possible due to the support of our donors, volunteers and funding partners.

Your support helps us change lives, and you are helping keep hope alive for those who come so close to abandoning it.

Thank you.

**Dr. Rashmi Murthy**  
Member, HOPE Board of Directors





## Maternal Health

In fulfilling our mission of having a healthy community, we focus our attention on providing women and children the necessary routine and preventative care to ensure safe pregnancy, delivery, post-delivery and neonatal and infant care. We believe that healthy mothers deliver healthy babies; therefore in 2017 we provided:

**10,576** Women Served  
**3,256** Antenatal Care Visits  
**895** Postnatal Care Checkups  
**320** Women Immunized  
**301** Births  
**656** Clean Birth Kits Distributed

Partner: Every Mother Counts



## Child Healthcare

All children should be given the chance to lead a healthy life and achieve their dreams. We work within the community to provide medical care to help them make the best start possible. We provide immunizations to prevalent diseases, routine primary care and comprehensive emergency care to children.

Here is a snapshot of our children's health care program:

**5,785** Child Health Visits  
**875** Children Immunized  
**110** Treated Cases of Child Pneumonia  
**304** Treated Cases of Diarrhea  
**96** Cases of Enteric Fever  
**1,068** Adolescent Gynecology Visits



## Rural Birthing Centers

HOPE's birthing centers provide family planning, prenatal and postnatal education and care to women in rural areas who are in desperate need. 90% of women living in rural areas give birth at home without access to skilled care. HOPE's trained midwives work in our birthing centers to provide skilled healthcare and safe normal deliveries to pregnant women in rural areas. Furthermore, referrals to an appropriate doctor for high-risk pregnancies is made standard protocol. Because of this, the program is saving lives every day.

5 birthing centers

Partner: Islamic Development Bank



## Mobile Camps

HOPE continues to serve hard-to-reach rural areas through Mobile Medical Camps. These camps bring medical care to areas that would otherwise not receive care. Here, our team of doctors is able to locate patients with cleft lip, burns or injuries like obstetric fistula, and refer patients to be treated at one of HOPE's permanent facilities.

1,330 total number of patients seen in 2017's mobile camps

## Mothers' Clubs

Over 1,000 women have been reached through our 27 rural **Mothers' Clubs**. These clubs work to educate, provide awareness, dispel myths and promote health between vulnerable women. Comprised of 30-50 mothers, these groups receive public health education and training by HOPE doctors, enabling them to share sanitation and hygiene practices with their community.

As a result, they are also able to support our outreach initiatives by spreading health messages and making referrals that help HOPE provide care to mothers who otherwise would not know about our services.

# Obstetric Fistula

## Obstetric Fistula Surgery Program

HOPE Foundation has a dedicated and intensive fistula team in Cox's Bazar. To date, HOPE has provided 368 surgeries, delivering the highest success rate of the nation. HOPE continues to grow its team and has an additional fistula surgeon trained by the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO).

HOPE also has a Fistula Team that has been specifically trained for screening and counseling. The biggest setback HOPE faces in treating fistula is that women do not show up for the aid they need, for multiple reasons, such as fear, distrust or lack of education. This is why our Fistula Team is so important. The team goes to the heart of communities to identify women in need and provide information on the surgery they desperately need. We have found that this "Village Approach" is the best motivator for ensuring women come to the hospital for their surgery.

**Every woman, suffering with this condition receives totally free care** in HOPE's hospital through the support of the Fistula Foundation.



FISTULA  
FOUNDATION



(Fistula Foundation provides funding & Direct Relief assists with medical supplies)

## Fistula Survivor

Nur Jahan, 30, has had a tough life. She lost two of her five pregnancies due to complications. It was during her last delivery, of 24 hrs of obstructed labor, with the assistance of an unskilled village birth attendant, that she developed fistula.

Nur survived the traumatic delivery, but sadly the baby was not that lucky.

Nur lived with fistula for five years. Her husband continued to allow her to live at home despite the smell of her constant leaking, but the rest of her family abandoned her and she no longer has contact with them.

When Nur Jahan heard about another woman from her village was cured of Fistula she decided to try the surgery. She felt she had nothing to lose, as she preferred to be dead than keep living with fistula.

Fortunately, her surgery was a success. Nur is one more woman who is FISTULA FREE.





Dr Nrinmoy Biswas,  
Fistula Surgeon & Team

## CLEFT Lip/Palate Program

**59** total surgeries  
in 2017



Partner: Smile Train

### Nur's Story (Cleft Palate)

Nur Kaida was born with cleft lip. She was born at home, to a mother who had never received antenatal care and was unaware of the importance of folic acid to prevent deformities such as cleft.

When she arrived to HOPE hospital baby Nur was very afraid, but our nurses did a good job earning Nur's trust.

Two days after the surgery she was totally recovered and mom says that she does not stop singing!

We are very happy for such a successful recovery. We wish little Nur a long and healthy life.



# Midwifery Training Program

An astonishing 9 in 10 women in rural part of southern Bangladesh give birth at home, without any access to trained medical help. If something goes wrong during labor, a woman is at critical risk for developing a serious injury, or death. This is one of the reasons why it is so important to educate women and encourage them to have safe deliveries and follow healthy practices.

Through HOPE's 3-year Community-Based Midwifery Diploma Program at Cox's Bazar, midwives are trained in antenatal care, postnatal care, family planning, normal delivery, labs, fetal assessment, the signs of high risk and birth complications and the referral/diagnosis thereof. All of this is funded by the British Department for International Development, in partnership with BRAC University.



Partners: DFID & BRAC University

**29** Midwives graduated  
in 2017



## Midwife Story

The youngest in her family, Rojina Akhter, 24, was fortunate to finish high school at the Dulahazara School, in the Cox's Bazar district. Determined to continue her studies and help very poor women struggling every day to provide the best for their children, like her own mother, received a full scholarship and graduated in Midwifery from HOPE Foundation. Presently, she works at the HOPE Field Hospital for Women as a Midwife Supervisor. She says, "I am forever thankful to HOPE Foundation & Dr. Iftikher Mahmood for giving me the opportunity of having a career, because my family is unable to bear the cost of my study." Rojina is also grateful for her teachers and God for guiding her through the journey of becoming a Midwife.



HOPE Midwifery  
students in training



Photo Credit: Josh Estey



# HOPE Maternity & Fistula Center

Expected Opening 2020



GIFT	SPONSOR
\$200,000	One Hospital Floor 5 AVAILABLE
\$100,000	One Hospital Ward 7 AVAILABLE
\$50,000	Conference Room
\$25,000	Delivery or Operating Room 2 AVAILABLE of EACH
\$5,000	<b>Founding Member</b>
\$2,000	Life Membership
\$1,000	One Hospital Bed



We would like to thank our current Founding Members of our hospital: Dr. Murad Takur, Dr. Siraj UI Islam, Dr. Janardana Sharma & Dr. Vidya Sharma, Sharma Family Fund, Shaukat Hossain, Muhit Rahman, Syed Hasan, Mohamed Masud Hasan, Akbar Hossain Mohan, Khaled R Khuda, Ali Noor Munju, Dr. Rose Joseph, Syed Hashem, Mohammed Ilias Khan, Dr. Zahir Sarwar, & Drs. Matthew & Kristina Deeter.



“ Our dream of a Maternity and Fistula Center with high-quality health care standards and free treatment for women will soon become a reality. Thank you all from my heart.

-Mr. Ali Munju,  
Treasurer, Board Member

# The Rohingya Crisis

In August of 2017, a massive influx of the Rohingya community took place in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, where HOPE Foundation has been providing essential lifesaving health care and education for past 19 years. The Rohingya community was murdered, tortured and forcibly displaced by the Myanmar Government.

Most arrived in Cox's Bazar very sick from mental and physical stress, starvation and severe injury. Many of the women arrived pregnant or lost children due to death or violence from the conflict.

We are happy to report the following services provided from September - December 2017.



**93,434**  
Total Patients Treated



**\$148,323**  
Worth of Medicine Distributed (In US Dollars)

**20,008**  
Antenatal Care Patients Treated



**1,799**  
Postnatal Care Patients Treated



**31**  
Normal Deliveries



**18,513**  
Family Planning Services



**114**  
C-Sections Performed



**45**  
Fistula Surgeries Performed



**EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION**

**1,002**



**8,936**  
Clean Birth Kits Distributed

**91**



Gender Based Violence Cases Treated



**63**

Recruited Volunteers

International Volunteers that provided services/worked with HOPE:



**13**

Midwives



**45**

Doctors



**17**

Others

**HOPE**

**1** Field Hospital

**10** Health Centers

HOPE International Volunteer,  
Laureli Morrow,  
serving a patient in need  
in her home.



# HOPE By the Numbers

1999 - 2017



**830,373**

Total Patients Treated

**402** Cleft Lip & Palate  
Surgeries Performed

**+** **20** Health  
Centers

**152** Burn Surgeries  
Performed



**♀** **368** Fistula Surgeries  
Performed

**687** Trained Health  
Workers



## CHANGE A LIFE

You can donate on our website. Please visit, [www.hopeforbangladesh.org](http://www.hopeforbangladesh.org) or email us at [hopefoundation.usoffice@gmail.com](mailto:hopefoundation.usoffice@gmail.com).

# Testimonials

When I was a volunteer clinician, HOPE's team integrated me quickly and smoothly into work in their refugee camp sites. The logistics for visiting clinicians can be burdensome. Bravo to HOPE for getting it done.

I was impressed at HOPE's personnel's adaptability to ever-changing and ever-growing needs in the Rohingya camps.

HOPE's support of young midwives working in the Rohingya SRH clinics is multipronged: continuing education, mentoring, supplies, transport, housing. So much to do with limited resources.

- **Alice Werbel, RN, NP**

Global Force for Healing is proud to partner with HOPE Foundation for Women & Children of Bangladesh on the ground to support the health of Rohingya refugees, and advanced training for the midwives of Bangladesh. Our team of 8 was so inspired by the dedication and heart of HOPE staff to serve refugees from Myanmar whose lives have been disrupted and wellbeing compromised. It was a privilege to work side by side in the facilities and programs HOPE Foundation has established. As the need continues to grow, we hope to partner again with this exemplary organization.

- **Kay Sandberg, Director, Global Force for Healing**

It was a really great experience navigating the aid community and managing the high volume of patients side by side with HOPE physicians at the field hospital. The whole team welcomed and incorporated me seamlessly. There is a dire need for pediatric and maternity care among the Rohingya people in camp. And HOPE's strong presence at the forefront of the response in these areas was clearly visible. As a Family Medicine physician the experience solidified my desire and commitment to work in this field.

- **Tanvi Adusumilli, MD**



Photo Credit: Josh Estey

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# Our Partners

Thank You to Our Partners



“Giving is not just about making a donation. It is about making a difference. Thanks to all our partners for your trust.”

Mr. Mohammed Akbar Hossain,  
Member, Board of Directors



Thank you very much to our trusted local and international partners for their support. Because of you, we can serve the underserved.

With endless gratitude,

Mr. Syed Hasan,  
Member, Board of Advisors

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