

বাঁচারলড়াই
BacharLorai

2023

IMPACT BRIEF



In Loving Memory

Today, we remember Tashfia Sharar, whose warm spirit and dedication to social change has touched the lives of so many.

With an innate sense of responsibility towards social change and tenacity to serve her community, Tashfia joined BacharLorai in the summer of 2020 as a principal organizer of The O2 Fund. Along with her team, she fundraised over \$10,000 to support the purchase and distribution of over 50 oxygen cylinders across remote health centers in Bangladesh.

She actively participated in bringing together Bangladeshi student organizations from across Canadian Universities and Colleges with the aim of building a collective action group to streamline support towards Bangladesh during the pandemic. Subsequently, Tashfia played essential roles in our partnerships with JAAGO Foundation, Wreetu and Art for Cause.

BacharLorai expresses its deepest condolences to her family and friends, and we pray for her departed soul. Thank you, Tashfia, for being an example to us all. Your legacy of hope and commitment to serving your community will continue to inspire BacharLorai as it strives to make a difference in the world.

- Executive Directors



বাঁচারলড়াই

BacharLorai

Our Story

BacharLorai started with a simple vision of facilitating collaboration to make a positive impact on those in need.

What once started as a social movement has now grown into a cross-disciplinary ecosystem empowering individuals and platforms to work towards common goals.

By leveraging digital social innovation, we have designed a framework to make it easier for people to start initiatives or participate in existing ones.

Today, as a registered not-for-profit social impact agency we remain committed to catalyzing grassroots initiatives and delivering critical expertise and resources to Bangladesh.

As BacharLorai lays the groundwork for its new agency, we extend our gratitude to our partners and members of the #BacharLorai Movement for their continued support in helping us create a positive impact in our communities.

BacharLorai is a not-for-profit social impact agency established to:

- Promote the social welfare of Bangladeshi diasporic communities
- Build capacity for grass-root organizations creating social impact in Bangladesh
- Respond to humanitarian crises through cross-border aid projects and global partnerships
- Share knowledge to inform and organize collective aid efforts by Bangladeshi expatriates

2023 Priority Areas

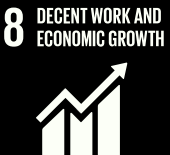
Climate Action

Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns, focusing on urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, including strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate hazards



Economic Empowerment

Design quality education initiatives, eradicate poverty, ensure access to basic needs, foster sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth and decent work for all, while reducing inequalities among communities.



Emergency Response

Support resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation, while prioritizing partnerships to mobilize resources and share expertise during times of crisis.



Public Health Intervention

Ensure access to clean water and sanitation for rural communities, while pushing to achieve gender equality and empower women and girls through education programs and community-led training platforms.



Executive Directors



I will foster meaningful partnerships that create a positive impact for the people we serve

Aaraf Ahmed
PARTNERSHIPS



I will facilitate policy research on equitable and evidence-based solutions that empower social impact initiatives

Aftabuddin Ahmed
RESEARCH



I will ensure we are working together to execute BacharLorai's vision and building future leaders along the way

Anil Wasif
STRATEGY



I will streamline our operations and leverage technology to boost our impact

Farhim Zaman
OPERATIONS



I will create a consistent and coherent communication strategy which adheres to the values we represent

Tahmid Khan
COMMUNICATIONS



I will ensure clarity and accuracy in reporting and administration to maximize the value we create

Talha Khan
ADMINISTRATION

Foreword

As we reflect on our journey, it is important to acknowledge the unprecedented challenges that have been faced globally. COVID-19 has brought about immense loss and disruption, causing society to re-evaluate its values and priorities. However, amidst all the chaos and uncertainty, we continue to be there for those in need.

The 2023 BacharLorai Impact Report is a testament to the power of collective action and the potential of digital technology to facilitate social change. This report highlights the efforts of our donors, partners, and volunteers to create sustainable and meaningful change in communities across Bangladesh. **Through 15 multifaceted initiatives, we have served over 3,500 people in 15 communities, providing them with vital support and resources to navigate the challenges of the pandemic.**

As we continue our journey toward creating a more equitable and just world, we recognize that there is still much work to be done. However, this report serves as a reminder of the progress we have made and the impact we have had. We hope that it inspires others to join us in our mission to create positive change through social mobilization and community empowerment.

Thank you to all our supporters for your unwavering commitment and dedication to the cause. Together, we made a difference.

Disclaimer: This document is independent of any institution or individuals consulted during its preparation. The partnerships recognized throughout the report are informal and reflect the independent efforts of people who were affiliated with various organizations at the time.



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The Way Forward

Picture this: a world where grassroots organizations in Bangladesh have the capacity to create positive social impact, where humanitarian crises are met with swift and effective action, and where knowledge is shared to enhance collective efforts from all walks of society. At BacharLorai, we believe that this world is not only possible, but essential.

BacharLorai envisions a world where every Bangladeshi has the resources and opportunities they need to thrive

Empower Grassroots

We'll provide grass root organizations with the tools and resources they need to make a significant impact in the lives of people.

Rapidly Respond to Crises

When disaster strikes, we'll respond quickly and effectively by mobilizing resources and leveraging our global partnerships.

Mobilize Knowledge

We'll collaborate with experts, expatriates and enterprises to share best practices, tools, and resources that enhance collective aid efforts.

We will leverage talent and technology to optimize daily operations and measures outcomes to improve the work that will help achieve our vision.



Leading by Example

By bringing together **today's changemakers and tomorrow's leaders**, BacharLorai spearheaded student-led flagship initiatives such as the **The O2 Fund** – resulting in the **time-sensitive** distribution of oxygen cylinders across Bangladesh.

BacharLorai has anchored creative partnerships with stakeholders from leading universities such as the **University of Toronto**, **Cornell University**, and **University of British Columbia** – shaping meaningful dialogue and discourse between students from diverse academic, professional, and personal backgrounds.

BacharLorai's **2021 Summer Experience Program**, gathered scholars from **Western University**, **University of Maryland**, and **Columbia University** – catalyzing opportunities for students to connect with peers from different academic fields and cultures, and broadened their perspectives on defining the **how, why, when and where** of designing social impact initiatives.

These engagements have facilitated workshops, discussions and podcasts with the aim of empowering students with the necessary skills and knowledge to create positive change in their communities. By synergizing cross-disciplinary ideas under our banner, these sessions covered a range of topics, including **community organizing, project management and fundraising**.

To further our impact, we are actively seeking prospective partnerships to design a new Summer Experience Program that will provide leadership and professional development opportunities for young individuals.



Simran A. Tahiti
University of Toronto



Fathema Ghare
Western University



Nanziba Fyroz
York University



Enobong Udofa
Western University



Nahiyana Nusaiba
York University



Carrie Curtis
Western University



Wafeeqa Azam Khan
University of Toronto



Chantal Gillett
Western University



Salsabil Kingshuk
Toronto Metropolitan University



Joven Natt
Western University



Kaynat Chowdhury
Toronto Metropolitan University



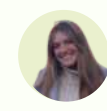
Nicole Sandberg
Columbia University



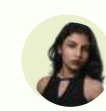
Sadat Anwar
University of Toronto



Tanjum Chowdhury
University of Maryland

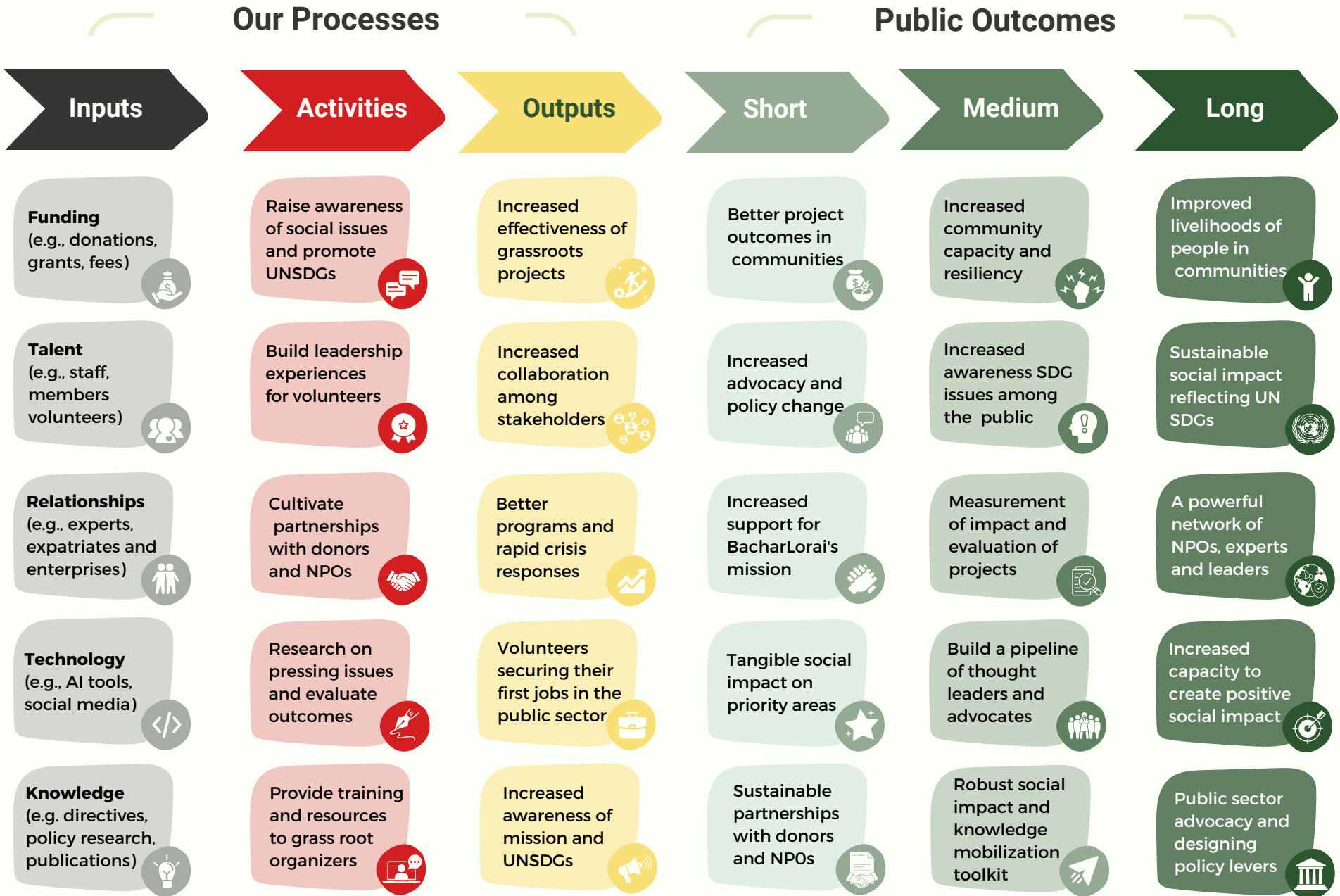


Holly Benna
University of British Columbia



Sagorika Haque
University of British Columbia

How we get there





2021-22

IMPACT STORIES

Impact Map

**\$30,000+ to serve 3500+ people
across 15 communities in Bangladesh**

Climate Change



Seed Planting Kits
for 25 rural small holders

Emergency Response



Aid-in-Shelter
for 30+ Rohingya Households



Flood Relief Aid Packages
for 300+ Families

Economic Empowerment



Care Packages
for 420+ Rural Families



Sewing Lessons
for 50 women entrepreneurs



Education Grants
for 50 children in primary schools



Needs Assessment surveys
to inform scope for 3 projects

Public Health Intervention



Basic Eye Exams
for 430+ villagers and weavers



Menstrual Hygiene Education
for 90 Adolescent Girls



Oxygen Cylinder supply chain
linked to 1 health startup



Health Podcast
to mobilize crisis response expertise



Tashfia's Legacy

Problem

Although Bangladesh has made significant strides in enrolment for students in primary school, the dropout rate at high school remains high. Furthermore, a large portion of the total population of this region consists of the Dalit minority who often face religious, social, political and economic discrimination. Factors such as these work collaboratively to increase child marriage rates, and affect school performance.

Impact

Tashfia's passion for improving access to children's education is commemorated by Bacharlora through a project that raised \$ 4,509 for Uttaran. The project supported 50 underprivileged students in Tala Upazila of Satkhira district, providing them with school uniforms, tuition fees, teaching materials, and school bags. Additionally, the project organized five campaign sessions and was inaugurated by Tashfia's parents, serving as a testament to her dedication to improving the lives of others

Partners



Ahnaf Shahriar
Toronto Metropolitan University



Razoun Ullah
Uttaran



Zayan Chowdhury
Toronto Metropolitan University

School Support

- 50 Primary Students
- \$4500
- Economic Empowerment
- SDG 4

Khulna



Preserving Culture with Eye Care

Problem

Eye care in rural Bangladesh faces significant challenges due to limited access and high costs of proper facilities, coupled with low awareness and education about eye health. Traditional handicraft workers, who spend extended periods in dimly lit spaces, are at higher risk of developing eye problems. These issues result in significant vision impairment and blindness, impacting their livelihoods.

Impact

Shatranji, a traditional craft recognized with a Geographical Indication status, relies on the skills of women weavers. Our two-day free eye camp in Shatranji Palli and Bhaktipur villages in Rangpur, Bangladesh significantly improved the eye health of women weavers and their families by providing free eye exams, eye drops, and prescriptions, as well as arranging transportation and lodging. Over 80 percent of blindness in Bangladesh is avoidable, but access to eye care is limited in rural areas. By bridging this gap, we contributed to the economic and cultural value of the region. Improving their eye health can help preserve the cultural heritage, promoting the overall well-being of the weavers and empowering their families.

Partners



Labib Utshab
Prime Bank Foundation



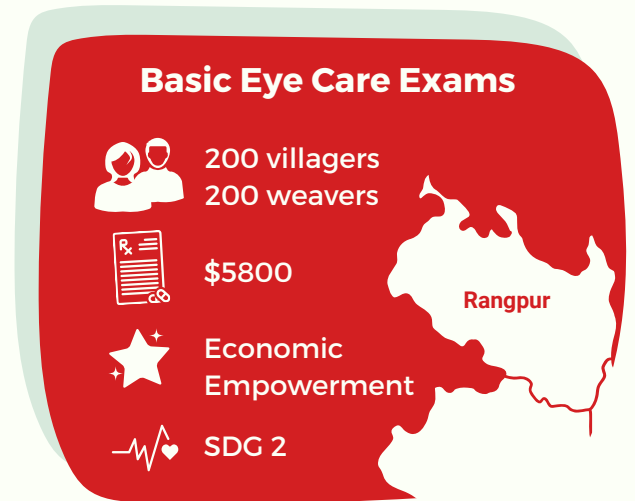
Jahid Kabir
Youth for Change



Rana Ahammed
Prime Bank Foundation



Nahid Kabir
Youth for Change



Flood Disaster Relief

Problem

In May 2022, heavy rainfall in Meghalaya and Assam, along with unplanned embankments, left 4 million people stranded and in need of aid in Bangladesh's Sylhet division. Those living in poverty in rural areas are disproportionately affected by climate change-related disasters such as floods and cyclones in the low-lying delta country. Sunamganj and surrounding districts were among the hardest hit.

Impact

Bacharlora's support of Footsteps' 'Disaster Resiliency Program Emergency Flood Response' had a significant impact on the affected communities in Sunamganj. The relief packages provided food for over 250 stranded families for 72 hours, while meals were prepared for over 150 sheltered families. This support not only helped to meet the immediate needs of those affected by the flood, but also helped to restore a sense of dignity and hope during a difficult time. By providing vital supplies and assistance, Bacharlora and Footsteps helped to lessen the impact of the disaster on vulnerable communities and played a crucial role in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of those affected by the flood.

Partners



Shah Rafayet
Footsteps



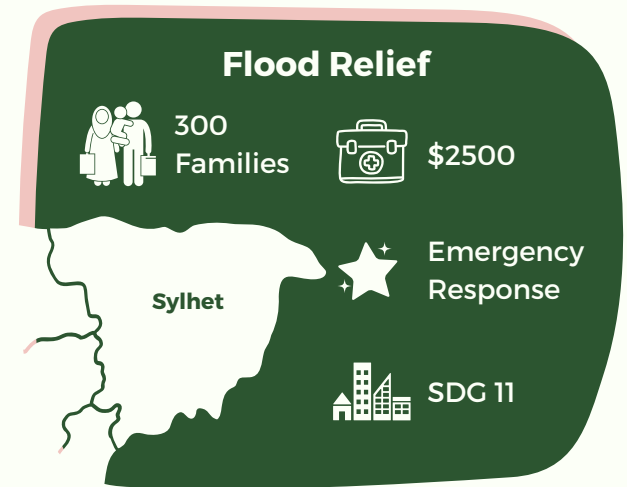
Jamiur Rahman
Scotiabank



Mussarat Rafa
Bloomberg



Madhuri Kibria
UN Women



Rohingya Aid-in-Shelter

Problem

A fire in the Balukhali refugee camp in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar in March 2021 displaced 45,000 refugees, claimed 14 lives, and left 560 injured. The rescuers sifted through the rubble and the number of missing was uncertain. Providing shelter, sustenance, medical care, and rescue work needed urgent funding to help the displaced, particularly the Rohingya refugees in the camp.

Impact

While temporary shelters were being distributed by organizations such as UNHCR, NGO Bureau, and RRRC, BacharLorai ensured that those who found shelter had the necessary items to live their lives with some sense of normalcy. Our on-the-ground partner, Uttaran, informed us of an increased need for clothing and emergency supplies, leading us to revise our distribution list. BacharLorai completed its first round of distribution, providing non-food items to 35 families affected by the crisis. The package we provided included essential items such as a bucket, cooking pots, dining plates, water glasses and jug, and clothing for men and women. With a total funding of \$3500, BacharLorai was able to make a significant impact in the lives of those affected by the crisis.

Partners



Anusha Anowar
Columbia University



Zahid Amin
Uttaran



Fatima Ahmed
Uttaran



Kazi Sohrab
Uttaran



Planting Seeds for Tomorrow

Problem

Farmers in Rangpur face numerous challenges that hinder their ability to earn a sustainable income from farming. This includes a lack of access to quality seeds, fertilizers, technical knowledge, and resources. Climate change also causes unpredictable weather patterns, floods, and droughts, which can destroy crops and damage farm infrastructure.

Impact

In order to support rural smallholders in increasing their food production, we conducted a thorough needs assessment to identify the most suitable villages for our assistance. We then provided 25 rural smallholders with Seed Planting Kits and care packages containing Maize, Rice, and Vegetables to help boost their production. Our focus on performance monitoring ensures that we can track progress and make any necessary adjustments to improve outcomes. By providing these resources and monitoring their use, we are helping smallholders overcome challenges and improve their ability to earn a sustainable income from farming, ultimately contributing to the economic and food security of the region.

Partners



Jibon Ghosh
We for Them



Shubho Pal
We for Them



Shamsuzzaman Chisty
Lal Teer Seed Ltd

Seed Planting Kits

-  25 Small Holders
-  \$500
-  Climate Action
-  SDG 2

Rangpur



Wage Relief Packages

Problem

With the increase in global food prices and the ongoing pandemic, the situation in Rangpur became even more dire. Many families in the area struggled to access basic necessities such as food, coupled with the economic aftermath of a pandemic that hit the region particularly hard.

Impact

The Tackling Hunger and Together for Humanity projects made a positive impact in the lives of 400 families by providing care packages that included necessities such as rice, lentils, potatoes, oil, poultry and vegetables. In addition to the packages, we also provided direct cash transfers to help families manage the economic slump caused by the pandemic and the global increase in food prices.

By providing these essentials, we aimed to ease the burden of families struggling to put food on the table and help them cope with the rising cost of living. By timing the completion of this project with the coming of Eid holidays, we tried our best to ensure each of the families felt involved in the celebrations.

Partners



Nerissa Nashin
Chaldal



S M Shahriar Sifat
Youth for Change



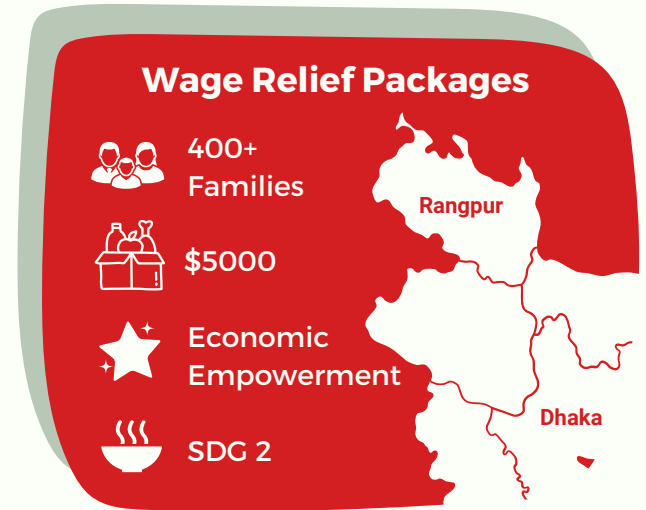
Adhib Hasan
AMD



Kamrul Hasan
Youth for Change



Mohaimen Quaunine
Amazon



Sewing Empowered Futures

Problem

Bangladesh, a country sinking due to climate change, places women at a disadvantage. Rajakhali village, one of the most vulnerable places to climate change in the world, faces intensifying floods and natural disasters, with women facing higher risks of violence, child marriage, food insecurity, loss of livelihood, and housing. The pandemic has further restricted access to economic opportunities for women.

Impact

BacharLorai aimed to support marginalized, widowed, and lower-income women in the climate-vulnerable region of southern Bangladesh through community-based interventions. The ongoing program provides resources, training and mentorship in basic sewing, human rights, and entrepreneurship to enable economic independence. Local stakeholders and enthusiastic women participated in the inaugural pilot program, breaking intergenerational social barriers and becoming economic agents for the first time. By empowering women, the program aimed to create a positive impact on generations to come.

Partners



Holly Benna
UBC Climate Hub



Sagorika Haque
UBC Climate Hub



Rwitika Banerjee
UBC Climate Hub



Ashfaque Kabir
BEACON Bangladesh



Menstrual Hygiene Without Borders

Problem

Menstrual hygiene management (MHM) in Bangladesh is a major public health issue, particularly for socioeconomically disadvantaged women who lack access to basic sanitation facilities and proper menstrual hygiene practices. Cultural stigma, poverty, and lack of affordable menstrual products further exacerbate the problem, leading to infections, illness, and exclusion from daily activities.

Impact

Graduate students from universities across North America came together as BacharLorai's inaugural Summer Experience Program to attend workshops, deliver the project and co-authored a policy brief which will be published soon .

91 adolescent girls in the rural Bangladeshi district of Kishoreganj were provided with period kits containing reusable sanitary pads, an educational comic book on menstrual hygiene, masks, hand sanitizers, and carry bags. The trainers also provided education on menstrual hygiene and the best ways to use the contents of the period kit. The project has contributed to breaking period taboos and normalizing period talks by empowering adolescent girls and women through education and interactive sessions.

Partners



Sharmin Kabir
Wreetu



Meghla Roy
Western University



Enobong Udofa
Western University



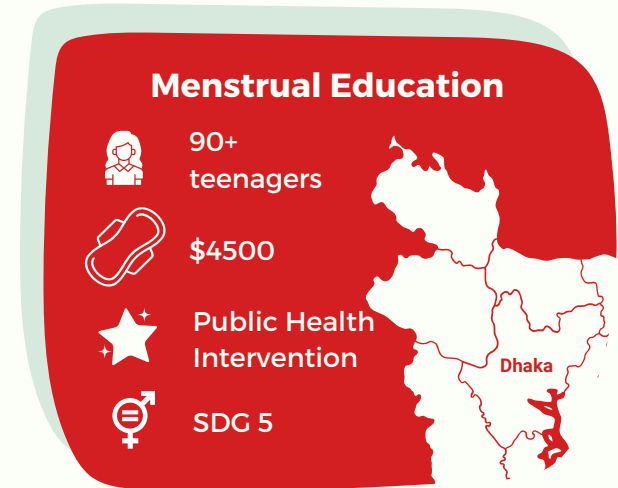
Maisha Kabir
Diversity Org



Karishma Roy
Interac Canada



Tanjum Chowdhury
University of Maryland



Policy Brief: Ending Period Poverty

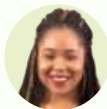
Problem

Period poverty is a critical policy gap in Bangladesh, perpetuated by a lack of action and social stigma. It is defined as the lack of access to menstrual hygiene products, education, toilets, hand washing facilities, and waste management. Economic factors, coupled with taboos surrounding menstruation, contribute to the issue, affecting women's education and participation in the economy.

Impact

Bangladesh has made concerted efforts to achieve Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, an SDG goal promoted by the UN. However, period poverty remains a challenge that hinders progress. While progress has been made in reducing maternal mortality rates and improving WASH standards, much work remains to be done on MHM. Civil society advocates, private sector stakeholders, and policy practitioners have united to tackle gender inequality in various policy areas, but collaboration, social stigma, and the gendered nature of MHM work have resulted in unsatisfactory action on the issue. This report explores the interlinkages between period poverty and women's health, wellbeing, and empowerment. This report is an outcome of **BacharLorai's Summer Experience Program**.

Contributors



Enobong Udofa
Western University



Carrie Curtis
Western University



Chantal Gillett
Western University



Fathema Ghare
Western University



Maisha Kabir
Diversity Org



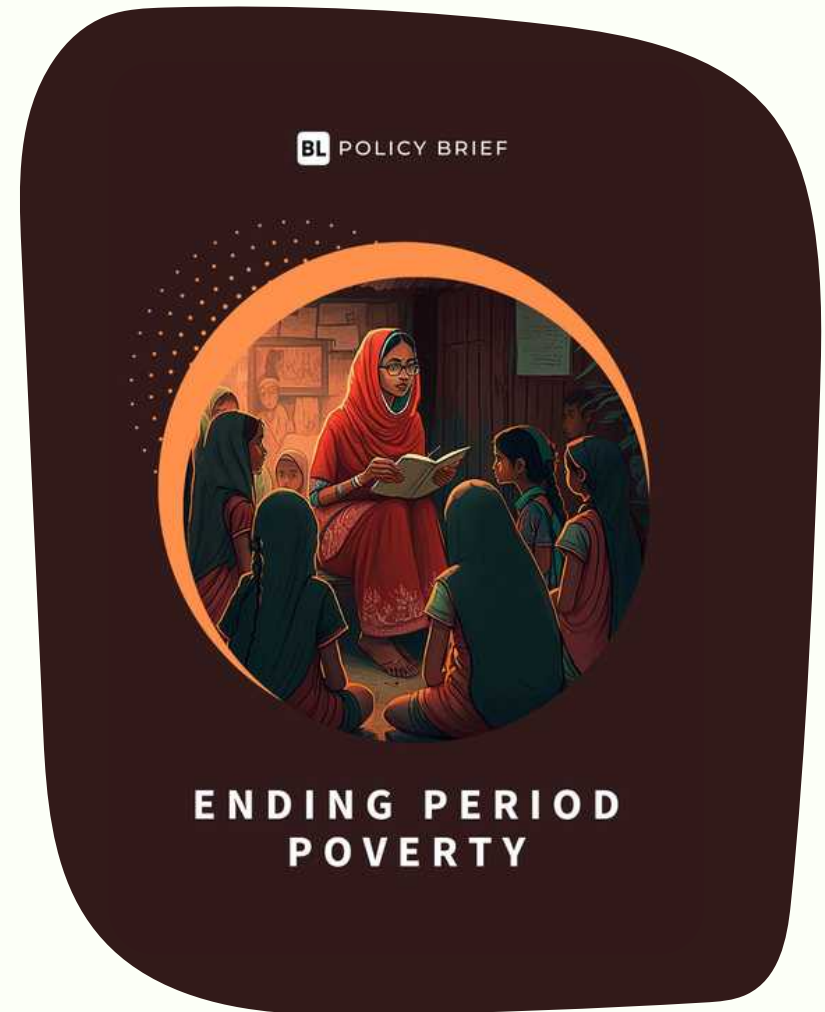
Joven Natt
Western University



Nicole Sandberg
Columbia University



Madhuri Kibria
UN Women



Oxygen Cylinder

Problem

During the months of April to July 2021, India and Bangladesh faced a significant spike in COVID-19 cases, leading to a shortage of hospital beds and oxygen supply. A lack of linkage between grassroots organizations and the growing health startups, made it challenging to collaborate amongst each other to aid those who needed it most.

Impact

BacharLorai's partnership with Priyojon Healthcare made a significant impact during the COVID-19 crisis. By providing the Khulna Oxygen Bank with free oxygen cylinders and connecting them with Priyojon Healthcare, we enabled the organization's capacity to serve Covid-19 patients in need. Through this partnership, BacharLorai contributed to bridging the gap between grassroots organizations and healthcare startups, providing a vital link in the chain of Covid-19 relief efforts. The impact of this collaboration was felt not only in the Khulna region but also in other parts of Bangladesh as more organizations connected with Priyojon Healthcare to further their efforts.

Partners



Salauddin Shobuj
Khulna Oxygen Bank



M. Rahman Mijba
Priyojon Healthcare



Asad Sheikh
Khulna Oxygen Bank

Oxygen Supply

- 1 Health Start Up
- \$1200
- Public Health Intervention
- SDG 3

Khulna





SDGs

*Sustainable
Development
Goals*

IMPACT REPORTING

UN SDG Reporting

BacharLorai has facilitated 15 initiatives fostering positive outcomes as per the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** through our work which focused on: Climate Action, Economic Empowerment, Emergency Response, and Public Health Intervention.

Key Indicator



2.4 Ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices



2.1 Ensure food access to people in vulnerable situations



11.5 Substantially decrease direct economic losses caused by disasters



4.1 Ensure that children complete free, equitable and quality education



10.2 Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all

Activity

The **Planting Seeds for Tomorrow** project provided resources and monitored their use to help rural smallholders overcome challenges and improve their ability to earn a sustainable income from farming, promoting economic and food security in regions.

The **Flood Disaster Relief** project provided emergency disaster relief in Sylhet by providing food packages for stranded families and meals for sheltered families, contributing to resiliency efforts in the region.

The **Rohingya Aid-in-Shelter** project in Chittagong, provided non-food items to families affected by the crisis in the Balukhali refugee camp, ensuring that those who found shelter had the necessary items to live their lives with some sense of normalcy.

The **Tashfia Sharar Memorial Fundraiser**, improved access to education for underprivileged students in Tala Upazila. BacharLorai provided primary school children with necessary school supplies, tuition fees, and organizing campaign sessions to raise awareness about the importance of education.

Outcome

25 Small Holders Received Seed Planting Kits

Rural smallholders in Rangpur received seed planting kits and care packages containing Maize, Rice, and Vegetables

330+ Families Received Relief Aid Packages

Provision of non-food items to 35 families affected by the crisis in the Balukhali refugee camp and provision of food for 250 stranded families and meals for 150 sheltered families affected by flooding in Sunamganj, Sylhet

50+ Students Received Education Support

Supporting 50 underprivileged students in Tala Upazila, Khulna with textbooks, food and stationeries.

UN SDG Reporting

By aligning our priorities with the SDGs, BacharLorai is contributing to the global effort towards achieving a sustainable and equitable world. Key priorities included: SDGs 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, and 17

Key Indicator



5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation at all levels



10.4 Adopt social policies that progressively achieve greater equality



3.8 Achieve universal coverage for essential health services and access to essential medicines



3.3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all



5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights

Activity

Sewing Empowered Futures in Cox's Bazar, provided marginalized, lower-income women in the climate-vulnerable region of Rajakhali with resources and training in sewing, human rights, and entrepreneurship to enable economic independence, with a fundraising goal of \$4000 allocated to purchasing sewing machines and developing infrastructural capacity

The **Two-Day Free Eye Camp** significantly improved the eye health of women weavers and their families who received free eye exams, eye drops, and prescriptions, boosting their ability to continue running their weaving businesses.

The **Menstrual Hygiene without Borders** project provided period kits and educational materials to adolescent girls contributing to breaking period taboos and empowering girls and women through education and interactive sessions.

Outcome

50 Women Entrepreneurs Received Sewing Lessons

Facilitation of project targeted at supporting 50 women via entrepreneurial training and capital investments in Rajakhali, Cox's Bazar

430+ villagers and weavers received eye-care

The eye exams and prescribed medicine benefited the weavers who depend on their eyesight to earn a living.

90+ adolescent girls learnt about menstrual hygiene

Supporting community health project and education campaign targeted at 91 girls support in Kishoreganj.

SDG 17: Partnership for Global Goals

BacharLorai's founding principle of **connecting those who want to help, to those who need it** aligns with SDG 17. The goal emphasizes the importance of forging global partnerships across stakeholder groups to strengthen the local capacity for domestic resource mobilization.

BacharLorai recognizes SDG 17 as a catalyst for empowering and serving marginalized communities in Bangladesh, and is proud to have collaborated with a range of organizations and platforms, both within Bangladesh and globally.

By leading efforts in communication, collaboration, coordination, and cooperation in its partnerships, BacharLorai has been able to tailor interventions to meet the unique needs of the communities it serves, and to contribute to achieving the SDGs.

Through its engagements, BacharLorai is helping to build an ecosystem that empowers communities to mobilize their own resources and support their own development, in alignment with SDG 17.

By continuing to build meaningful relationships that create lasting impact and purposeful change for those who need it most, BacharLorai is playing an important role in advancing a more sustainable and inclusive future.

2022-23 PROJECT PARTNERS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Lessons Learned from the BacharLorai Movement

Lesson

Community Building Takes Time and Effort

Communication can Multiply Efforts

Start Delegating Once You Start Growing

Record Keeping is Imperative for Success

A Funding Strategy Promises Sustainability

Learnings

Maintaining the social fabric of a community is crucial for acting swiftly during times of uncertainty.

The Bangladeshi diaspora has resources, connections, knowledge and willingness to build a better Bangladesh, what's lacking is a widely accepted/easily digestible narrative.

Managing a social movement takes a lot of time and effort. Depending on a few individuals to produce work can lead to increased pressures during project implementation.

Poor record keeping practices makes it incredibly difficult to organize a social movement.

While motivation and interest sparks good deeds, organized efforts that create lasting impact require financial prowess.

Insights

Building trust and camaraderie among members of your community can help maintain the social fabric that powers your efforts.

Complex achievements always start with sharing simple ideas. Focusing on storytelling can increase access to talent and resources to help your initiatives.

Embracing the concept that rest, recovery, and reflection are essential parts of the progress towards successful operations. Delegation of tasks can increase team capacity boost your efforts.

Build a simple information management strategy, make one person accountable for it, and stick to it.

Create a simple funding strategy that factors in the operational costs of delivering aid to ensure you can continue providing support in the long run.

Engagement



#BacharLorai – The Fight for Survival

Bringing together expats, citizens and grassroots organizations working on mitigating the impact of the pandemic in Bangladesh
bacharlorai.com



Scotiabank

বাঁচারলড়াই BacharLorai

BacharLorai Summer Experience Program Workshop Women's Development and Women's Rights in Bangladesh



Carina Schmid
Columbia University



Mahia Rahman
RCNB



Tanjina Tania
Community Leader



Zaiba Tahyya
Female Empowerment
Movement



Bangladeshi diaspora: A force multiplier, from culture to economy

Philanthropy:

Motivated by strong cultural and religious identity, diaspora philanthropy has emerged as a promising means of channelling charity to the home country.

Although most of the remittance is directed to households, a significant portion is transferred as charity towards community development through faith-based organisations. According to a US Aid study, the average annual contribution of the US Bangladeshi diaspora to charities in Bangladesh in 2015 was \$3930.

When Bangladesh announced a lockdown following the outbreak of the Covid-19, the Bangladeshi diaspora launched a campaign #BacharLorai (Fight for Survival) to mobilise funds to distribute food supplies. This helped in providing relief to tens of thousands of people in the South Asian country.

Beyond freedom and government



Celebrating 50 years of love, advocacy and resiliency.

This article was featured on Dhaka Tribune. Re-published with the permission of the author.

It's Bangladesh's 50th birthday, and we are celebrating. Flags are flying in Bangladeshis exercise their right to praise each other, critic one another and speak in Bangla. A language that weighs much more on the heart than on one's mind. A vernacular that hundreds of thousands paid the stiffest price for. A sum that could have been avoided if a room full of people showed the same love, kindness and respect that 21st centuryers advocate so hard for.

PERIOD POVERTY IN BANGLADESH

6%

Of schools provide menstrual hygiene education.

3%

Of girls had their first period.

STRUCTURAL INEQUITIES LEAD TO LACK OF ACCESS AND KNOWLEDGE OF PROPER MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT.



Impacts beyond the classroom: Aaraf Ahmed, Class of 2021



By Alejandro Barza, MMJCI'19

The timing could not have been more pertinent for Aaraf Ahmed when he began the Master of Public Health (MPH) at Schulich Medicine & Dentistry last fall.

Having just co-founded a grassroots fundraising movement, BacharLorai, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh, Aaraf...



Dialogue: Tackling the Resurgence of COVID19 through transnational corporation



D. M. R. Mijbah
Priyjon Healthcare



Dr. Shakila Sharmin
SAJIDA Foundation



Ashfaque Kabir
BEACON

Q&A with UBC Climate Hub's Climate Justice Research Collaborative Directed Studies Students: Rwittika Banerjee, Holly Benna & Sagorika Haque



In January this year, Rwittika Banerjee, Holly Benna, and Sagorika Haque – three UBC undergraduate students approached Professors Amanda Cheong (Sociology) and Antje Ellermann (Political Science) to co-supervise a directed studies project for the UBC Climate Hub's Climate Justice Research Collaborative. Their project **Climate (In)justice and the Other: Dissecting the Politics of the Representation of Climate Displaced People in the Bay of Bengal** examines the politics of narrative and storytelling as reflected in the representation of climate displaced people across the Bay of Bengal.



My Friends and I Started a Campaign to Communicate Facts on the Pandemic. Here's What I Learned.

The early days of the pandemic created a vacuum for reliable information. When the WHO and CDC started rolling out guidelines, local public health authorities had the arduous task of playing catch-up. The latest, medically accurate information often wasn't reaching the most vulnerable populations around the world—including in Bangladesh where I've spent the better half of my life.



At this time, my friends and I came together with the idea of translating and conveying validated information about the pandemic to our families back in Bangladesh. We soon realized we needed to be creative and strategic in our communications plans—and that by doing so we could reach more than just our loved ones. We launched #BacharLorai, which over the last two years has grown to include a passionate group of individuals from Bangladesh and abroad working in partnership with grassroots organizations or communications campaigns and humanitarian efforts.

Testimonials

"I have been in awe of BacharLorai's work since they started. Given that Sylhet is my ancestral home, it was rewarding to contribute towards helping those affected by the floods via BacharLorai's initiatives."



Madhuri Kibria
UN Women

"BacharLorai was very responsive and helpful which was a breath of fresh air given how slow a lot of other organizations can be. We hope that the experience was a useful one for BacharLorai as well."



Nerissa Nashin
Chaldal

"It was a nice experience working with them. They are very professional and keen to support farmers from their heart Our project is having a lasting impact"



S. Chisty
Lal Teer Seed Ltd.

"Bacharlorai is a much needed movement, showing the world how Bangladeshis can come together wherever they are in the world to stand behind a cause. It is a movement that matters."



Shah R. Chowdhury
Footsteps

"BacharLorai is a remarkable organization that has shown a deep commitment to helping Bangladesh. Their dedication to empowering communities to recover and rebuild is truly inspiring."



Zahid Shahostho
Uttaran

"BacharLorai is an exemplary example of what an ambitious, competent, and committed group of Bangladeshis can do when they unite under one umbrella with a singular purpose."



Ashfaque Kabir
BEACON Bangladesh

"Helping BacharLorai distribute food in the my hometown's region was an experience that will stay with me forever. I look forward to working with them again"



Sadat Anwar
University of Toronto

"Great experience with the most amazing bunch of people. Very easy to work with and always open to new ideas. I was lucky enough to host my own fundraiser and felt very supported! by the team"



Adhib Hasan
AMD

"What made the experience particularly impactful was the opportunity to work directly with a handful of inspiring members who resiliently worked through tremendously challenging times."



Wafeeqa A. Khan
University of Toronto

BL

@bacharlorai

