

# 15 Years Serving Humanity in Bangladesh



## Muslim Aid Bangladesh Field Office

Serving Humanity



### Message

**Moudud Ahmed, MP**  
Minister  
Ministry of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

It is glorifying to note that Muslim Aid Bangladesh Field Office (MABFO) is going to publish a supplement on the occasion of the celebration of its 15 years of service.

It is a matter of great pleasure that Muslim Aid has been rendering its service in Bangladesh for last 15 years covering a large area. Thousands of disadvantaged people got the hope of living a decent life by engaging themselves into income generating activities. I like to express my hope that Muslim Aid will continue its efforts to serve the humanity.



## 15 Muslim Aid - Bangladesh Field Office Years of Serving Humanity

### Background

Muslim Aid is a British charity with development orientation. It is an international relief and development agency operating in over 69 countries and is a signatory to the IFRC Code of Conduct of NGOs in Disaster Relief, a member of the British NGOs for Overseas Development (BOND) and supports the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Since inception in 1991, MABFO has been growing year by year both vertically and horizontally. Today, MABFO has been implementing seven major programmes including education (formal, non-formal, technical and orphan care), health care and health awareness, micro-credit for poverty alleviation, water and sanitation, relief and rehabilitation, occasional assistance, development partnership and so on as well as over forty projects throughout the country covering about 50 out of 64 districts. Through these programmes and projects, MABFO has reached a total of about 1,898,927 direct beneficiaries till June 30, 2006.

MABFO Beneficiary Coverage	
Sectors	Beneficiary
Education programme	37,192
Health programme	1,54,094
Micro-credit programme	24,531
Emergency relief & rehabilitation programme	3,84,938
Water & Sanitation programme	34,614
Development partnership programme	1,12,805
Occasional Assistance programme	12,62,708
Total	20,10,882

### Muslim Aid Strives for Education

Initially (1993-2001) starting with education for the orphan students covering costs of food, cloth, accommodation and education of a total of 1241 students, MABFO provided stipend to 276 poor students and then switched over to non-formal education in 2001 covering costs of education of a total of about 6984 students from poor families including drop-outs under 223 centres and, simultaneously, ventured to technical education for unemployed youths particularly orphans and destitute families.



Muslim Aid Institute of Technology - MAIT and Technical Education for the Orphans - TEPO in 2002 covered costs of education, accommodation and food (fully/partially) for 1568 and 1364 students respectively. Since inception in October,

2003, Muslim Aid Institute of Technology (MAIT) has been providing technical education for the unemployed youths to enable them to be self-reliant by means of acquiring technical knowledge in computer, electrical, refrigerator & air-conditioning, radio & television, tailoring, driving &

engine mechanics in the districts of Dhaka, Kushtia & Nilphamari. Among these, Kushtia and Nilphamari institutes called TEPO specially cover the poor and helpless orphans and the destitute children. The urge for continuing education was being felt since NFEP began to bring success after success that led to launching of two schools (called Proteeti Biddaloy) in 2006: one in Dhaka and the other in Kushtia. At present, 102 students in Proteeti-Dhaka and 110 in Proteeti-Kushtia are being provided formal education. Besides these projects, Muslim Aid also provides a number of capacity strengthening and support services to existing educational institutions to improve their performance in rendering their services in this sector. These include: building construction assistance, computer support to schools, colleges and madrasas, science laboratory development assistance, water and sanitation assistance, Arabic language development assistance and so on. Direct and indirect beneficiaries of this programme include more than one hundred educational institutions, tens of thousands of students, hundreds of teachers and employees.

### Intervention in Health Sector

Except for a few initial years, Muslim Aid has all along been deeply committed to serve humanity by taking health care services to their door-steps and, simultaneously, by bringing it within their income limit. The organisation has, therefore, been running a mother and child health care centre (outdoor services) in Dhaka to cover the poorest communities in the city's northern zone (Mirpur) since 1996. Over the past decade, health care services have been provided to a total of 82,190 poor community members of Dhaka city including 35776 females (mostly mothers) and 46414 children. In order to meet the increasing demand especially to cover the extremely vulnerable communities in the remote slums of the city, Muslim Aid has been running a satellite health centre in collaboration with Educational, Cultural and Humanitarian Organization (ECHO)-USA since 2005. Over the past one and a half years, in total 3592 patients including 1690 female and 1902 children have been given treatment and medicine almost free of cost/at a nominal price. On the other hand, Muslim Aid has been running three full-fledged hospitals called MAHS (Muslim Aid Hospitals) since 2003 in Pabna Sadar, Kulaura - Moulvibazar and Balaganj- Sylhet. These hospitals offer both outdoor and indoor services including treatment, diagnosis, pathological test, operation, X-ray, ECG, USG, bed services, free / subsidised medicine, ambulance, delivery (labour room service), pre, peri and post natal mother care, immunization, vaccination, routine health check up and so on. Over the last about four years, about 71904 rural community members (23,679 male, 29,690 female and 18,535 children) received health care services from these hospitals.

Alongside providing services, health education and motivational activities were undertaken. Over more than a decade of the programme implementation, a number of health awareness and motivational training have been given to over 75,000 patients and community members. This year, Muslim Aid's commitment to bring health care service at the door-step of mass people has been further strengthened by laying the foundation stone of its sixth health care unit in Pirojpur in the form of a hospital: MAH-Pirojpur. Once the unit's construction work is finished, it is expected to start its function as a hospital in early 2007.



### Message

**Motiur Rahman Nizami, MP**  
Minister  
Ministry of Industries  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

I am very glad to know that Muslim Aid Bangladesh Field Office (MABFO) is going to celebrate its 15 years of operation herein Bangladesh. I would like to thank the staff members and executives of this organization for their devoted efforts to address the needs of the underprivileged people of our country.

Muslim Aid has been working since its inception in 1991 in multi-farious sectors like illiteracy, unemployment, lack of health facilities, pure drinking water and extreme poverty. By the effective programmes and initiatives of this humanitarian organization a large number of young men and women have been trained and employed in different sectors. I think the WATSAN programme that has been implemented by Muslim Aid Bangladesh Field Office will help the government to achieve the desired 100 percent sanitation coverage by the year 2010.

I wish the celebration ceremony a grand success



### Message

**Anwar Choudhury**  
British High Commissioner

I was delighted to be asked to contribute a message to your Bangladesh Field Office as well as a supplement commemorating 15 years of service. Since its inception, Muslim Aid has been trying to improve conditions for distressed people across the world. The organisation has paid close attention to Bangladesh given that, despite recent growth and some development success, large numbers of people still face the problems of malnutrition, illiteracy, unemployment and extreme poverty. The underlying needs of poor people have become the guiding principles of the organisation's development interventions.

We want to see the world free from hunger, poverty, illiteracy, violence and exploitation. As a British charity, Muslim Aid is trying hard to address these problems on a priority basis and is committed to helping all people in need, regardless of their faith. I am very encouraged to see that you have taken an exemplary initiative to help empower destitute women in Bangladesh.

I look forward to seeing Muslim Aid's greater engagement in development initiatives and wish you every success with your activities in the years to come.



### Message

**Saif Ahmad**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Muslim Aid

This message comes to you, charged both with a sense of pride in our achievements over the past fifteen years and primed with confidence for the future success of Muslim Aid Bangladesh.

Muslim Aid plays a positive role in changing the lives of so many both in Bangladesh and the other countries where it operates. The unique strength of Muslim Aid Bangladesh has, I believe, been to build upon its understanding of the needs of the Bangladeshi people and provide a holistic service which attempts to tackle the root causes of poverty and vulnerability. With a particular focus on women and orphans the projects have empowered and uplifted whole communities to achieve a better quality of life. Well done and heartiest congratulations.



### Message

**S.M. Rasheduzzaman**  
Country Director  
Muslim Aid, Bangladesh Field Office

I feel immense pleasure to give a message on the occasion of celebrating 15 years of Muslim Aid in Bangladesh. It has since its inception in 1991 developed into youth and is on the verge of attaining its adulthood with the characteristics of a mature organization after passing through a number of ups and downs and odds and evens over the last 15 years time. It started with charity, grew with welfare and attained development as the ultimate goal. It is a humanitarian organization is truly committed to serve humanity at large. It strives for a society free from hunger, malnutrition, and poverty of body, mind and soul. Muslim Aid is also committed to present a model of faith and value based charity with development orientation. The organization works with universal characters of a non-government development organization including love, respect and care for humanity, selfless sacrifice, professionalism and spirit of volunteerism as against many other NGOs working with commercial motives. Therefore, the services of MABFO are meant for the mankind in general irrespective of gender, race, ethnicity, religion or caste etc.

We express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorable trustees, executives and donors of Muslim Aid headquarters at London as well as to all concerned individuals and departments in Bangladesh for their generous contributions, cooperation and guidance in the process of alleviating poverty.

### Contributing to the MDGs for Poverty Alleviation

Poverty alleviation tops Muslim Aid's development agenda since the initial years. The first micro-credit branch began to operate as early as in 1993 and the programme grew year by year reaching to 23 branches in 2006 covering 629 villages under 17 out of 65 districts. The group members invest the money in different income and employment generating sectors including cattle rearing, handloom, vegetable gardening, poultry and dairy, fish culture, sewing and embroidery, small trading, rickshaw/van pulling, seed and nursery and so on. Till date, Muslim Aid microcredit programme brought 24531 families under its direct coverage and made about 700 families self-reliant who now do not depend on Muslim Aid for funding etc. It may be mentioned further that Muslim Aid



microcredit beneficiaries comprise female members over 95% while less than 5% are male members. The organisation's commitment for women empowerment and gender sensitivity have been reflected through its programme priorities.

### Partnership with Government in Ensuring Safe Water & Sanitation

The organisation has been working in collaboration with the GOs and NGOs to address the need



of safe drinking water and hygienic latrines. The agenda was able to gain one of the priorities with Muslim Aid programme intervention since the inception of the organisation in 1991. Over the past decade and half of the current decade, a total of 2909 arsenic free hand tube-wells and deep and shallow tube-wells and 8016 sanitary latrines have been installed covering 22561 families in 22 districts.

### Responding to Disaster Victims

Under the programme, food packets, life saving medicine packets, saline packets have been distributed among 383654 disaster victims. Alongside, in post-disaster periods, 1284 houses were constructed and 420 latrines were installed for the victims of natural and artificial disaster in 40 districts of the country.

### Occasional Assistance to Extremely Vulnerable

Muslim Aid Bangladesh Field Office distributes food items, Ifteri, cash help, Eid dress for children of the poorest families during holy month of Ramadan and Qurbani meat and cash help during Eidul Azha, distribution of meat of animals sacrificed for Aqiqah, Kaffara etc. occasionally. Since inception to till date, over 100,000 families received such supports on different occasions. Almost all the districts have been covered under this programme.



### Development Partnership: Major Programme Implementation Strategy

Muslim Aid-BFO implements its programmes/projects in two ways: directly through its own structure and manpower and through its development partners. For direct implementation, Muslim Aid has developed a network of about forty offices throughout the country and has about 40 head office level staff and over 500 staff members and volunteers. For implementation through partner organisations (POs) MABFO has categorised its partners into regular and occasional partners. The organisation has 16 regular POs that receive fund for definite short and medium term projects while the others are occasional partners that receive small fund on some particular occasion like Ramadan and Eidul Fitr, Qurbani and Eidul Azha, Aqiqah, Kaffarah etc. Besides, the process of development partnership, aiming to raise fund, with GOs (Ministries etc), NGOs and donors has also been continued over the last decade.