

# The Fred Hollows Foundation

## 20th Founding Anniversary 1992-2012



**Dr. A. F. M. Ruhul Haque M P**  
Minister  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

### Message

I Congratulate The Fred Hollows Foundation for celebrating its 20th anniversary of working for visually impaired people all over the world. The standards set by The Foundation in the field of development of eye care are reflected in the 20 years of excellence achieved through perseverance and sheer determination.

The Foundation began its journey of combating cataract in Bangladesh, not so long ago, in 2008, in two districts as pilot projects. It gives me great pleasure to note that, The Foundation is now navigating this journey through 14 districts, tackling cataract in all the districts and childhood blindness & diabetic retinopathy in Dhaka. The Fred Hollows Foundation's initiative to take the services to people living in remote regions of the country, being deprived of the service due to inaccessibility, has become the identity of the Foundation every where it works.

The Government of Bangladesh though the National Eye Care programme has been working together with NGOs towards a Bangladesh society devoid of avoidable blindness. It is the support of effective NGOs like The Fred Hollows Foundation that the Government finds invaluable in combating poverty.

I wish success for its resolute effort in liberating the world of avoidable blindness.

Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu  
Long Live Bangladesh

Dr. A.F.M. Ruhul Haque



**Les Fallick**  
Chairman, The Fred Hollows Foundation

### Message

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of The Fred Hollows Foundation. Founded by the late eye surgeon Professor Fred Hollows, the Foundation continues to work towards the goal of a world where no one is needlessly blind. Now, 20 years later, The Foundation is working towards this goal in 18 countries including Bangladesh.

In 2011 I was able to visit Bangladesh and see the work of The Foundation. I was impressed by the dedication and hard work of all staff, partners and supporters which has allowed this program to expand from an initial 2 districts in 2009 to 14 districts in 2012, allowing more people to access affordable eye care services. This achievement has been possible due to the partnership with the Government of Bangladesh and strong cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Directorate General of Health Services, and National Eye Care. As a result of collaboration with all partners, The Foundation has been able to report good achievements from the program to date and will continue to work towards achieving the goals of Vision 2020 in Bangladesh.

In the one week that I was in Bangladesh, I observed the affirmative impact The Foundation has made in the districts that it is working in. I congratulate The Fred Hollows Foundation Bangladesh team, all partners and supporters for their continued efforts to work towards improving the access of quality eye care services to the community.

In its 20th Anniversary year, The Foundation thanks all of its partners, supporters and the Government of Bangladesh for their continued contribution to the work of The Foundation and the goal of eliminating avoidable blindness in Bangladesh.

Les Fallick



**Zareen Khair, PhD**  
Country Manager  
The Fred Hollows Foundation-Bangladesh

### Message

It gives me great pleasure to represent The Fred Hollows Foundation in Bangladesh on The Foundation's 20th Anniversary. Founded with the intention of constructing a world where no one is needlessly blind, The Fred Hollows Foundations today operates in Australia, The Pacific, South and South East Asia, and Africa, in places where assistance is severely required to develop eye care services. The Foundation has been a success story in itself since then and has been a reflection of grit and resolve that its founder Late Professor Fred Hollows was famous for. The Foundation in Bangladesh attempts to uphold these very qualities while supporting the Government endorsed National Eye Care programme to combat avoidable blindness especially cataract and realize the goals of Vision 2020.

I am proud to be a member of The Fred Hollows Foundation on the 20th Anniversary of the organization and confident that this will be one of the many milestones to be achieved by The Foundation in the future.

Zareen Khair



প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কার্যালয়



PRIME MINISTER  
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF  
BANGLADESH

31 Falgun 1418  
14 March 2012

### Message

I am happy to learn that 'The Fred Hollows Foundation', an Australian-based NGO, is celebrating its 20th founding anniversary.

The present Government has undertaken National Eye Care Programme to ensure proper eye care and prevent avoidable blindness among common people. The Fred Hollows Foundation has been working with the Government to prevent avoidable blindness in Bangladesh.

The Government is providing human resources, infrastructure and consumables like Intra Ocular Lenses (IOLs) at its district hospitals while The Foundation is supporting the efforts by upgrading the eye care service delivery at these hospitals.

I appreciate the initiative of The Foundation to take the services to the doorsteps of the people of remote areas.

I wish The Foundation all out success.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu  
May Bangladesh Live Forever

Sheikh Hasina

## The Fred Hollows Foundation

The Fred Hollows Foundation is a non-profit aid organization based in Australia which was founded in 1992 by eminent eye surgeon Dr. Fred Hollows. This year The Foundation is celebrating its 20 years of achievement. It focuses on treating and preventing blindness and other vision problems. As of today, it operates in more than 19 countries across Australia, The Pacific, South and South East Asia, and Africa.

In the past five years alone, The Foundation has supported almost 10, 00,000 (one million) eye operations and treatments to prevent or overcome blindness. It has also helped examine the eyes of more than 7.2 million people around the globe.

The Foundation's development approach requires it to work with, and beside its partners, building their technical and human resource capacities, within their health, social and political systems.

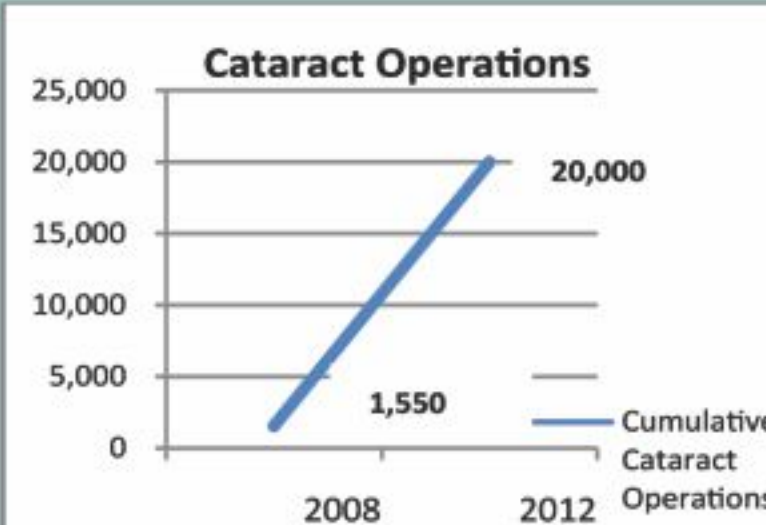
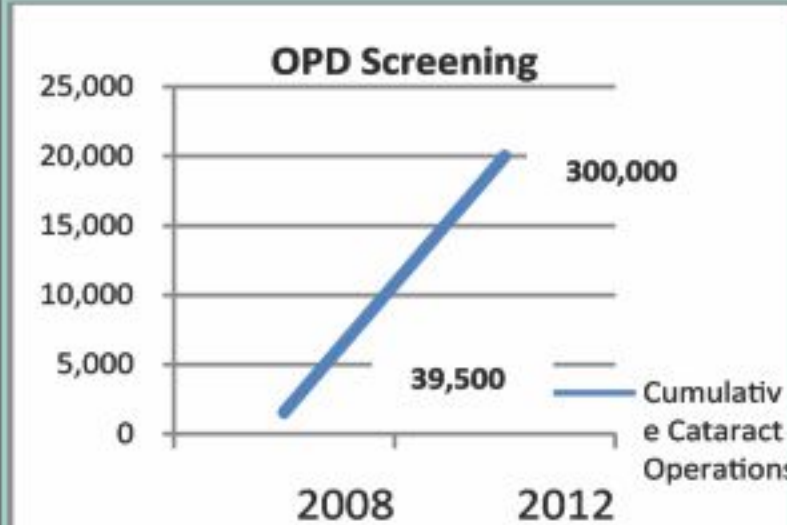
The story of The Fred Hollows Foundation is a story of extraordinary achievement. Fred's dream that no one should be allowed to suffer avoidable blindness is becoming a reality through the works of The Foundation.

## The Fred Hollows Foundation, Bangladesh

It may be one of the least developing countries of the world, but recent eye health achievements in Bangladesh would be the envy of the wealthiest nations. In the five years since launching its program in Bangladesh in 2008, the model partnership between The Foundation and the Bangladesh Government was a milestone achieved and has meant the world's most densely populated country is on track to eliminate avoidable blindness by 2020.

The Foundation began operations in 2008 in two Government District Hospitals and by 2012 expanded to 14 districts namely Brahmanbaria, Satkhira, Jamalpur, Narail, Kishoreganj, Gazipur, Cox's Bazar, Natore, Tangail, Potuakhali, Bhola, Kushtia, Borguna and Dhaka where it has supported more than 20,000 cataract surgeries and 300,000 screenings, so far, all at minimal cost. The Foundation's work in Bangladesh today covers a population of 35 million.

The Foundation in Bangladesh enters a district with a comprehensive package that includes upgrading existing facilities at District Hospitals into modern and fully-functional Eye Units to promote screenings and cataract surgeries, developing few sub-district facilities into refraction and screening centres, training Eye Surgeons and support staff, creating awareness on affordable services being provided and sponsoring research to inform the stakeholders of the current situation of eye care in the district. As a result of this package, patients are flooding into the government District Hospitals like never seen before.



More than 15 Ophthalmologists and more than 90 mid-level staff (including medical officers, nurses and ophthalmic technicians) were trained in modern cataract surgery. It has mobilised communities to improve eye health by providing orientation to more than 40,000 community change agents. Ten eye units have been renovated / refurbished so far.

Together with the government, The Fred Hollows Foundation, Bangladesh is working successfully towards eliminating avoidable blindness in the country by the year 2020 through setting up sustainable eye care programs.



**H.E. Greg Wilcock**  
High Commissioner  
Australian High Commission, Dhaka  
11 December 2012

### Message

Congratulations to The Fred Hollows Foundation on 20 years of treating the eyesight of the poor and deprived. The Foundation carries on the work of the Late Professor Fred Hollows, a dedicated Australian eye surgeon and philanthropist whose commitment to treating avoidable blindness is justly famous. The Foundation's work now spans the world.

In Bangladesh the Foundation supports the Bangladesh Government's goal of eliminating blindness in the country by the year 2020. Some of the Foundation's projects include sight-restoring cataract surgery, eye screening and providing facilities and support to hospitals and eye clinics. The Australian High Commission welcomed the opportunity to help the Fred Hollows Foundation provide over 3000 sets of spectacles to poor female patients from Brahmanbaria district who were diagnosed with refraction error.

We all applaud the continuing achievements of the Foundation. Its work has expanded remarkably during the five years it has operated in Bangladesh. From two districts in 2008, the Foundation operates in 14 districts now, covering a population of 35 million.

As The Fred Hollows Foundation looks back on 20 years of achievement, so we hope its success in treating avoidable blindness will continue for many years.

Greg Wilcock



**Prof. Dr. Deen Mohd. Noorul Huq**  
Director cum Professor  
National Institute of Ophthalmology & Hospital (NIO&H)  
Line Director, National Eye Care  
Directorate General of Health Services

### Message

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate The Fred Hollows Foundation for reaching the milestone 20 years of excellence in developing eye care services around the globe. Their exceptional work is perceived through the eyes of thousands who can see again with their help. The people of Bangladesh can consider themselves privileged to have The Fred Hollows Foundation working towards a quality eye care service delivery at District Hospitals for their welfare.

The Foundation, a member of the INGO Forum, has been working in Bangladesh since 2008 as a partner of National Eye Care (NEC) promoting quality eye care services in District Hospitals as well as basic eye screening at Upazila Health Complexes.

Starting activities in 2 districts in 2009 and engaging in 14 districts by 2011, The Foundation has done remarkably well in such a short duration in Bangladesh. Aside from cataract, The Foundation's program has begun incorporating other specialization areas within eye care like diabetic retinopathy and childhood blindness. I look forward to observing a similar pattern of success, one that was experienced with cataract, in these fields as well.

NEC's partnership with The Foundation has been highly beneficial for the underprivileged section of the population suffering from blindness. The partnership has changed the lives of many living in blindness and abject poverty, now able to strive for better means of living. Contributing to the Government's efforts to eradicate avoidable blindness from the country by the year 2020 is an important initiative and we are very supportive of the efforts and resources Australia has turned to this cause in Bangladesh.

I hope The Fred Hollows Foundation continues setting the high standards that they have been maintaining for the last 20 years throughout the world and wish them success.

Prof. Dr. Deen Mohd. Noorul Huq



**Brian Doolan**  
CEO, The Fred Hollows Foundation

### Message

It was with the purpose of championing the right of all people to affordable eye care – the dream of the late Professor Hollows – that The Fred Hollows Foundation began its journey in 1992. This year, The Foundation is proud to celebrate 20 years of making quality eye care services available in some of the poorest communities in the world.

Bangladesh has a high incidence of cataract and there is a great need for affordable and accessible eye care services. The Foundation is working with the Bangladesh Ministry of Health and Family on the National Eye Care Plan to eliminate blindness in Bangladesh by the year 2020. This year, The Foundation's Bangladesh Program has delivered results for communities through support for sight-restoring cataract surgeries and eye screening in the districts where we work. Eye health services have been provided for people living in some of the country's poorest and most marginalized communities. New facilities and infrastructure have been delivered at hospitals and eye clinics, to ensure that local services become sustainable.

The Foundation's work is spread across many parts of the world, in countries including Pakistan, Nepal, Cambodia, Eritrea, Kenya and Rwanda. In Australia, The Foundation's work focuses on the underlying issues that contribute to poor eye health and general health in Indigenous communities. This was what Fred worked tirelessly for and The Foundation is keeping his dream alive by making every effort to improved Indigenous health.

The Fred Hollows Foundation is thankful to its members, supporters and partners for bringing Fred's dream this far. It is only through your generous support that The Foundation has achieved so much over the past 20 years. The Foundation shares this milestone with each and every one of you.

Brian Doolan

## চশমা দিয়ে দেখি সুন্দর পৃথিবী

দূরের বা কাছের বস্তু দেখতে সমস্যা হলে  
সদর হাসপাতালে চোখ পরীক্ষা করান



## সুন্দর পৃথিবী আমিও দেখতে চাই

চোখে ছানি হলে দেরী না করে  
সদর হাসপাতালে চোখ পরীক্ষা করান