Project Outline

First Steps for a Brighter Future

BGD-OMB-FSF-P02

Dakha, Bangladesh | **Education** | **Tax deductible**

2 Year Project: Apr 2025 to Mar 2027

Total Budget: $106,400

Current Year Funding Required: $53,200





POPULATION
173.6 million

POVERTY
18.7% of the population below national poverty line

HEALTH
Life expectancy at birth: 74.7

EDUCATION
Mean years of school (adults) 6.8 years

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX*
Ranking out of 193 nations
Bangladesh 130 (Aust 7)

**2025 Human Development Report*

Overview

The Bihari ethnic minority community live mostly near or in extremely crowded refugee camps. They are a forgotten and despised group of people. This project will consolidate two pre-primary schools within the largest of the camps - home to some 40,000 people with only one school. An established weekly club for at-risk teenage girls and life skill training for adults will continue. The long term aim is to develop future prospects for individuals and aid their integration into the wider Bengali community.

Why support this:

This project will help to break the poverty trap of limited education, low skills capacity and low self-respect by providing pre-school education for 60 children and community awareness training for adults and carers in areas of health and hygiene, budgeting, avoidance of under-age marriage and child protection. The schools will focus on ages 4-6 and will run activity based classes that build a foundation for ongoing education, strengthen Bengali language ability, encourage motivation of children and parents to maintain education and introduce an element of fun to break the monotony of daily life. Local staff with long-term experience of living and working in the camp provide a sound understanding of the needs and challenges faced.

Objectives Include:

- **Weekly meeting for 25 at-risk teenage girls**
- **Develop games, activities and materials**
- **Survey, interview & enrol 60 children in the 2 schools**
- **Social awareness seminars for parents**

Expected life Change

- Children will be prepared for school entry and will have better education and future employment prospects.
- Children's development and daily life will be enriched through a variety of fun and engaging activities, leading to improved health and happiness.
- Parents and guardians will feel empowered to lead and guide their families and make positive changes and choices.