



**HEALTH AND
EDUCATION FOR ALL**

Annual Report

Aug. 1st 2022 - July 31st 2023

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LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

Dr. Ruhul Abid

Dear Friends,

Emerging from the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, HAEFA's commitment to delivering free and quality medical care to disadvantaged communities has only grown stronger. From August 1st, 2022 to July 31st, 2023, we have made significant strides in expanding our impact and services.

At our two health clinics in camps Balukhali 09 and Kutupalong 1W, HAEFA teams have diligently provided treatments for communicable and non-communicable diseases and increased family planning support. Furthermore, a new comprehensive program for Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus and Hypertension patients has been established in Moheshkhali and Ukhiya Upazilas in Cox's Bazar district, five Upazilas in Noakhali districts, and at two health clinics in the Rohingya FDMN/refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. These quality healthcare programs are supported by our portable EMR system NIROG and serving more than 5.1 million Bangladeshi and 1.1 million Rohingya.

In our unwavering commitment to community outreach, HAEFA's Mobile Medical Teams have extended their care to host community residents, reaching more underserved individuals and providing vital resources and assistance.

We have worked hard to improve our cervical cancer screening program and successfully established See-and-Treat, One-Stop, Cervical cancer screening and treatment facilities in Ulipur, Nageswari and Chilmari Health Complex, Kurigram.



Additionally, In February, we inaugurated the National Cervical Cancer Screening Training and Research Center at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, which has been serving as the capacity building and training hub for effective diagnosis and management of cervical cancer in Bangladesh.

However, these achievements have not come without challenges. The scarcity of resources has sometimes hindered our ability to deliver the holistic support that our patients require. Additionally, our health posts experience an overwhelming influx of hundreds of patients daily, making it increasingly challenging to provide adequate care or attentively listen to their concerns amidst the cacophony.

In light of these obstacles, we remain steadfast in our commitment to overcoming obstacles and improving our services. We are actively seeking partnerships to secure additional resources, and we are implementing measures to enhance our patient care, ensuring that each individual feels heard and valued.

HAEFA relies on public donations to support its humanitarian work and with your generosity, we will continue to fulfill our mission: providing free and quality medical care to Bangladesh's marginalized, underserved, and hard-to-reach populations. We thank you for your patronage.

About Us

OUR HISTORY

Health and Education for All (HAEFA) is a US-based, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded by Dr. Ruhul Abid in partnership with Dr. Rosemary Duda in 2012 to address the health care needs of ready-made garment factory workers across Bangladesh. HAEFA has implemented NIROG-based (a novel portable EMR) efficient, seven-minute health screenings for noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) for this population. HAEFA is now expanding NIROG in ten rural and coastal Upazilas of three districts in Bangladesh, serving 6.2 million people.

Furthermore, in response to the mass exodus of the largely Muslim Rohingya population from Myanmar in 2017, HAEFA has turned its focus to supporting 1.1 million Rohingya refugees, currently residing in the Bangladesh district of Cox's Bazar. The Rohingya people faced unspeakable atrocities at the hands of the Myanmar government and now require care to address the short and long-term effects of the genocide, displacement, and decades of living as a persecuted minority.



VISION

We envision a world where universal health coverage is accessible to populations who are underserved and vulnerable around the world.

MISSION

We strive to empower global populations who are disadvantaged and displaced through health and education. We provide free, quality, and essential healthcare services to these populations, including Rohingya refugees from Myanmar, industrial workers such as garment factory workers and rickshaw pullers, and hard-to-reach people in the coastal regions who are underserved in Bangladesh. We aim to help achieve Universal Health Coverage by 2030 in Bangladesh.



NIROG, KEY TECHNOLOGY

HAEFA's healthcare relies on advanced technology, specifically "NIROG" (Novel Electronic Medical Record System) developed by Dr. Ruhul Abid in collaboration with Brown University Global Health Initiative and Aprosoft. NIROG, a paperless and digitized system, uses bar-coded photo ID cards and fingerprint identification for patients, ensuring HIPAA compliance and efficient follow-up care.

The system facilitates two-way communication between medical personnel and patients, allowing for result notifications and health updates via text messages. NIROG employs the WHO's ICD10 for diagnosis and treatment protocols for non-communicable diseases.

Originally designed for Bangladesh garment workers, NIROG has been adapted for use in remote areas, like in Moheshkali, a remote island in the Bay of Bengal as well as in Rohingya refugee camps. Solar-powered and capable of offline data collection, the tablets are brought to nearby towns to upload encrypted information securely to a password-protected database accessible to authorized healthcare providers.

While initially exclusive to HAEFA, other organizations, including various iNGOs and UN agencies, have shown interest in implementing NIROG in their health centers. Currently, seven Upazila Health Complexes, two District Hospitals, one Maternity Care Hospital, and 68 Community Clinics are using NIROG.

NIROG's data collection is particularly significant for the Rohingya population, as their health data collection ended in 1982 when Myanmar stripped them of citizenship and legal identity. As the government of Bangladesh is not a signatory to the 1951 Geneva Convention on the Status of Refugees, the Rohingya are not recognized as refugees but rather "Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals" (FDMN).

Due to strained resources, Bangladesh hopes for the Rohingya not "to settle and integrate, but rather [wants] them to eventually be repatriated to Myanmar," despite Myanmar's refusal to "take back Rohingya living in refugee camps." In recognition of this severe humanitarian crisis, HAEFA strives to provide mindful and quality health care to the Rohingya refugees.



Our Lifetime Review

OUR WORK IN NUMBERS

From 2017 to July 31st, 2023



>339,755

FDMNs and host community people have received free care



>103,169

women (30-60) have been screened for the detection of early-stage cervical cancer



>54,551

FDMN and Bangladeshi nationals in Bhashan Char have received free medical



>6,000

healthcare providers underwent Mental Health Support and Resilience Training





ROHINGYA REFUGEES (FDMN)

HAEFA began providing free medical care to Rohingya refugees aka FDMN (Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals) in October 2017 after the Myanmar military's brutal crackdown on the Rohingya population in Rakhine State, Myanmar, sent hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing across the border to Bangladesh. With the escalation of the crisis, the Rohingya refugee population in Bangladesh has reached nearly 970,000 people. HAEFA's medical teams, based in Kutupalong, Balukhali, and Bhasan Char, have provided healthcare to approximately 339,755 Rohingya refugees/FDMN and host community people in Cox's Bazar from 2017 and in Bhasan Char from 2020 to July 2023.



<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/10/28/rohingya-crisis-explained-in-maps/>

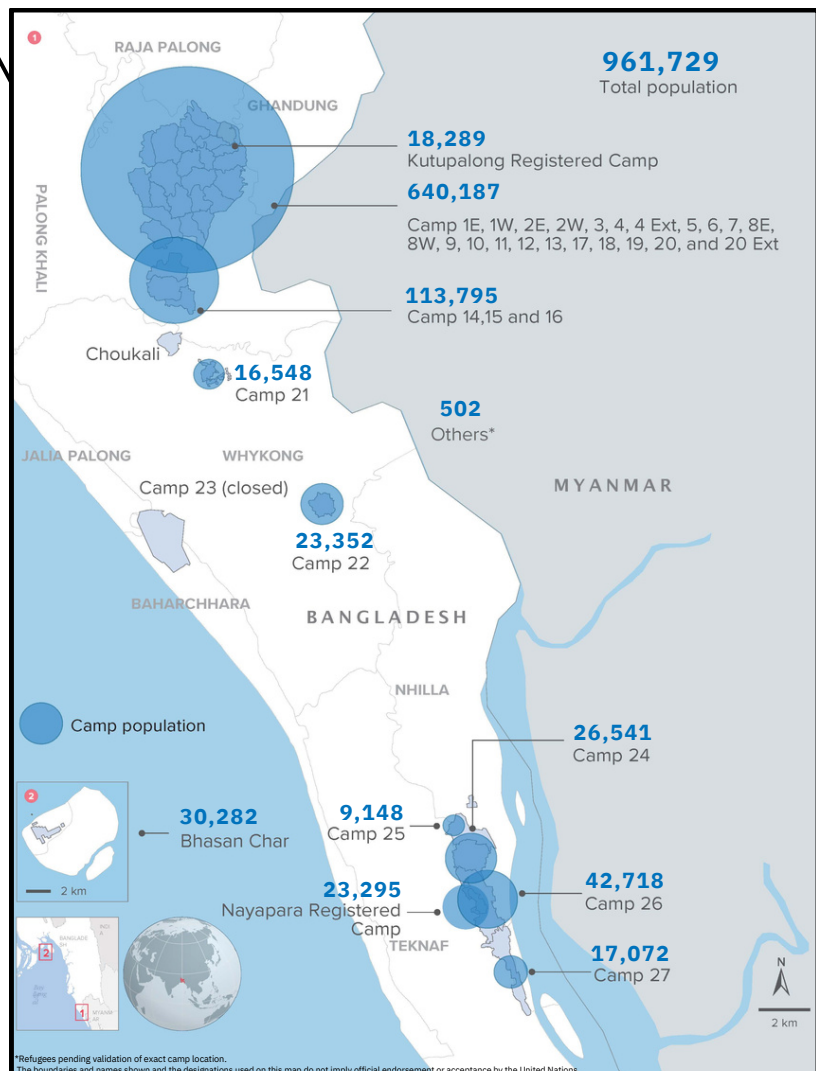
HAEFA, BEYOND BORDERS



ROHINGYA REFUGEE RESPONSE/BANGLADESH
Rohingya Population by Location
(as of 30 June 2023)

HAEFA operates
three free
medical clinics
for Rohingya
refugees:

1. Kutupalong
2. Balukhali
3. Bhasan Char



OUR WORK IN NUMBERS



>80,779

FDMNs received care in camps Balukhali 09 and Kutupalong IW between August 1, 2022, and July 31



>1,830

Bangladeshi nationals in Ukhiya in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar received care between August 1, 2022, and July 31



>27,0664

laboratory diagnostic tests were conducted between August 1, 2022, and July 31



4,286

family planning interventions implemented to provide reproductive healthcare



OUR TREATMENT

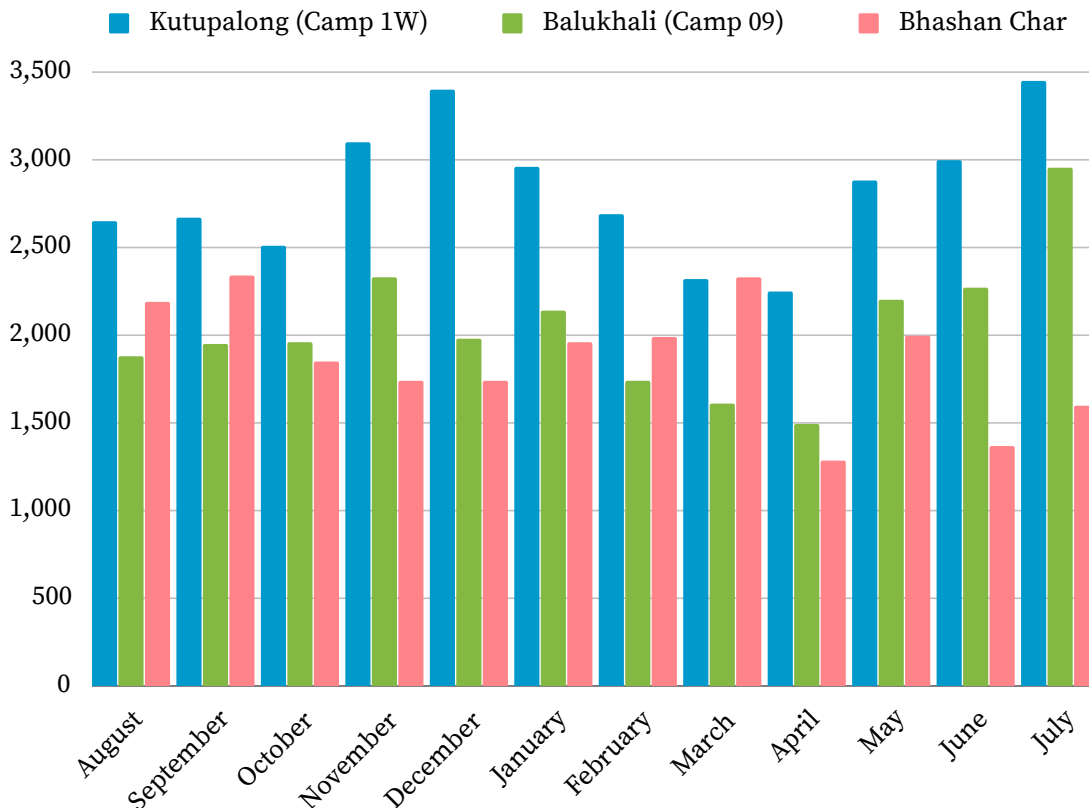
At HAEFA, we are dedicated to addressing a wide range of health concerns. We provide treatments for non-communicable (NCDs) and communicable diseases (CDs).

- Hypertension
- Diabetes
- Cancer
- Gynecological Health
- Arthritis
- Asthma
- Chronic Lung Disease
- Mental Health

- COVID-19
- Tuberculosis
- Malaria
- Dengue
- Hepatitis
- HIV

- Maternal care
- Hygiene and Nutrition treatment and education
- Pediatric care
- Sexual assault screenings

NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED PER MONTH





SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES

A. Implementation of a comprehensive patient support program to enhance the quality of life and raise awareness among our beneficiaries who suffer from Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM) and Hypertension (HTN). This program has proven to be instrumental in improving our patients' overall well-being while fostering a greater understanding of their conditions.

B. Successful collaboration and coordination with health authorities and other relevant stakeholders significantly improved access to healthcare services for our target population. By working hand in hand with these entities, we have been able to break down barriers and ensure that our patients receive the care they need in a timely and efficient manner.

C. Expansion of our community outreach initiatives, enabling us to reach an even more significant number of underserved individuals residing in the Camp 9 and 1W areas. Through these initiatives, we have extended our support network to those who need it most, providing them with vital resources and assistance they may have otherwise been deprived of.

NEW PHYSICIAN TRAINING

Medical Officer Dr. Muhsin Billah Bin Khashru, who joined HAEFA in February 2023, attended a training titled "Training on Prevention, Control, and Treatment of Dengue for Healthcare Workers" on 27th July 2023 organized by WHO. In the coming months, he will conduct an awareness program with HAEFA staff emphasize practical techniques for identifying and eliminating mosquito breeding sites near clinic sites.

FACILITY AND EQUIPMENT UPGRADES

Kutupalong Camp (1W) HAEFA Health Post

- New health facility corners for Patient Triage, Flu, breastfeeding, family planning, nutrition, and child-playing.
- Installation of a deep tube well with an overhead water tank for continuous safe water supply, along with two additional toilets constructed with all modern facilities. Among two toilets, one is especially for transgender and disabled persons.

Balukhali (09) HAEFA Health Post

- New gender-specific waiting area and consultation room with examination space, a separate passive screening room, a sample collection booth, Ultrasonogram center, and new corners for registration, breastfeeding, adolescents, mental health counselling, inventory, dispensing, and flu.

HAEFA's Pathological Diagnostic Laboratory

- Installation of an ultrasound (USG) machine, which will enhance service delivery in both obstetric and non-obstetric disciplines. The USG can monitor foetal development, detect early pregnancy complications, thereby reducing maternal and foetal morbidity and mortality over time. In addition, it will improve the diagnosis and prognosis of numerous other diseases.



Newly established health facility corners at Camp 1w



USG Room

MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC

In our unwavering commitment to community outreach, HAEFA's Mobile Medical Teams have extended their care to host community residents.



Locations include: Ukhiya Degree College, AKNC High School, Palong Model High School, Sonarpara High School, Phalong Adorsho High School, and Moriccha High School

*We have provided
essential medical care
to more than*

1,830

*individuals in Ukhiya,
Cox's Bazar*

In addition to providing medical services to the FDMN population, HAEFA is also committed to supporting the surrounding host community. However, due to recently installed fencing setups, surrounding communities now have limited access to health clinics. Therefore, HAEFA has implemented a weekly Mobile Medical Clinic in Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.



A Successful Treatment Approach

COR PULMONALE IN A REFUGEE FDMN PATIENT

In July 2023, Abdul Karim (name changed for patient privacy), a 51-year-old farmer and refugee residing in Ukhiya, Bangladesh, approached the Health Post of HAEFA for complaints of shortness of breath and a fever. He had a history of hypertension and smoking but had never taken any medication for breathlessness.

The physical examination conducted by HAEFA doctors revealed several concerning signs, including swelling in both ankles, low oxygen saturation levels, and blood pressure of 140/90 mmHg.

A comprehensive set of tests were performed, encompassing a Lung spirometry, Complete Blood Count (CBC), Urine RME, Lipid profile, Fasting, and Random Blood Sugar tests. The reports indicated several significant findings, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) from long-term smoking history, an elevated ESR of 25 mm/hg, dyslipidemia indications, and urinary calcium oxalate (3+).

Recognizing the severity of his condition, HAEFA staff referred him to a higher medical center for further evaluation. An echocardiogram revealed right ventricular dilatation with reduced contractile function, confirming the diagnosis of Cor pulmonale—a condition in which the right side of the heart fails due to long-term high blood pressure in the blood vessels of the lungs and right ventricle.

Understanding the gravity of the situation, HAEFA's medical team promptly initiated a comprehensive treatment plan.

They provided him treatment for COPD and complication of Cor Pulmonale with inhaler, proper oxygen therapy, antihypertensive drugs, IV Furosemide, and Montelukast. Furthermore, they strongly advised him to quit smoking, recognizing its adverse impact on his condition.

HAEFA's dedicated team of doctors vigilantly monitored him throughout his treatment journey. Their timely intervention and compassionate care were pivotal in his remarkable recovery. As the treatment progressed, his symptoms improved, and he expressed profound gratitude to HAEFA's doctors and staff for their early recognition of the disease, proper medical advice, and compassionate care during his treatment.

The success story of Abdul Karim illustrates the critical importance of early detection and proper management in cases of Cor pulmonale. Through a multidisciplinary approach, HAEFA's medical team controlled the symptoms and addressed the underlying medical problems causing pulmonary hypertension. This approach prevented further life-threatening complications and allowed him to regain his health and well-being.

HAEFA remains a beacon of hope for exceptional healthcare, empowering individuals like Abdul Karim to overcome challenging health conditions and achieve a renewed sense of life. Their commitment to excellence has impacted countless patients' lives, further establishing HAEFA as a leading healthcare provider in the region.

*A Successful Treatment Approach***MEET MAYA SULTANA**

Three years ago, Maya Sultana (name has been changed for privacy), a 28-year-old who left Myanmar for Bangladesh, began experiencing joint pain with stiffness. Desperate for relief, she resorted to over-the-counter medications and later steroids, as suggested by a local pharmacy. Over the last three months, Ms. Sultana's condition worsened—she struggled to even change positions in bed.

A turning point marked when she sought help at a HAEFA clinic, where she was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis. A tailored treatment plan and a referral to a rheumatologist ignited her healing journey. Like many, Ms. Sultana's story attests to the perseverance and compassion with which HAEFA serves its patients.





VIA Counseling at
Moheshkhali

CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING

In Bangladesh, cervical cancer is the second most common cause of cancer death among women with a staggering 12,000 new cases and 6,000 deaths reported each year. Since 2019, HAEFA has been developing the One-stop See-and-Treat CC screening and treatment program in 9 Upazilas (sub-districts) in collaboration with the DGHS. HAEFA aims to improve cervical cancer awareness among over 50 million at-risk Bangladeshi women.

OUR WORK IN NUMBERS



15,545

women received VIA test services from the health facilities from August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023.



231

total VIA positive cases out of the 15,545 screened women from August 1, 2022 to July 31, 2023.



9,522

women received the single visit approach “see and treat” model starting from Jan. 1st, 2023, out of 15545 women received VIA test services.

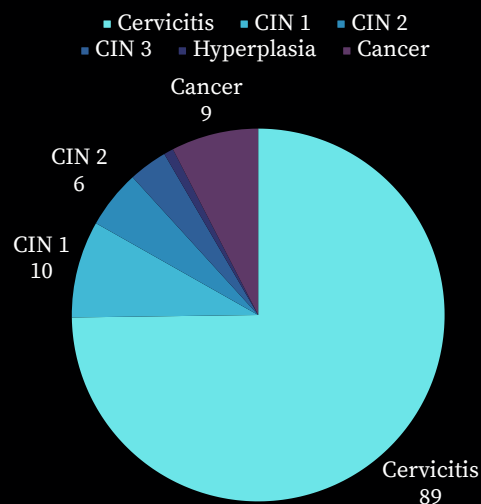


78%

of VIA-positive cases received same-day follow-up support, biopsy, and HPV/DNA samples as part of the single visit, “see and treat” model starting from Jan. 1st, 2023.

BIOPSY

HAEFA added a new dimension to provide Thermocoagulation for precancerous treatment(CIN1), biopsy, and HPV/DNA samples from sub-district health facilities level. The graph on the right show the breakdown of 119 biopsy taken.



HAEFA'S NOVEL SEE-AND-TREAT APPROACH

The See-and-Treat method consists of a single-visit approach using Visual Inspection by Acetic Acid (VIA) and thermocoagulation.

>70,000

women (30-60 y/o)
have been screened
since 2019



Newly renovated See-and-Treat, One-Stop, cervical cancer screen and treatment facility

VIA involves performing a vaginal speculum exam in which a health care provider applies diluted 3-5% acetic acid (vinegar) to the cervix. To complete VIA, HAEFA trained participants to use technology from MobileODT (Optical Detection Technology), a mini-colposcope.

If the patient is VIA positive, thermocoagulation is a suitable treatment for low grade squamo-epithelial lesions, which uses heat to remove pre-cancerous tissue.

In addition to providing precancerous treatment (Thermocoagulation) HAEFA has begun to include taking cervical biopsy and HPV/DNA samples for PCR tests.

HIGHLIGHTS

Aug Training of the Trainers (TOT) on Mobile Colposcopy and Hand-held Thermocoagulation; VIA Counseling Training for Health and Gender Support Project (HGSP) Staff

Sep Training on Screening, Treatment and management for Prevention of CC; VIA Counseling Training for the HGSP Staff

Oct Cervical Cancer Prevention Training

Nov See-and-Treat, One-Stop, CC screening & treatment room established Kurigram

Jan Brown University Team visits Cox's Bazar District Hospital; Biopsy and Colposcopy training for doctors, SSNs/MWs by Professor Susan Cu-Uvin; Activities at VIA centers during CC Prevention Week by HAEFA CC CXB team

Feb Opening Ceremony of CC Screening Training and Research Center at DMCH

Mar 10 new screening camps, screening of 251 women during "Healthcare Campaign Week"

Apr HAEFA's expansion of VIA centers (Sadar Hospital, MCWC, Ramu UHC, Moheshkhali UHC, Chakaria UHC, Pekua UHC, and Kutubdia UHC)

May Hands-on screenings for VIA-positive patients by CC CXB team, Dr. Susan Cu-Uvin (Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Brown University)



CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING TRAINING AND RESEARCH CENTER

The Cervical Cancer Screening Training and Research Center at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), was inaugurated on February 20th, 2023, with the aim to become the regional training hub for cervical cancer in Bangladesh, providing training to providers from various districts and upazilas of Bangladesh.



Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony was graced by esteemed guests, including the Director General of Health Services (DGHS), Professor Dr. Abul Basar Mohammad Khurshid Alam (DG), and Additional Director General (Administration), Professor Dr. Ahmedul Kabir (ADG), who joined in the ribbon cutting ceremony to officially launch the center. The center has received technical training and logistical support from Brown University Global Health Initiative and Health and Education for All (HAEFA).



The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)'s technical facilitators are providing their expertise to ensure the success of the center. In addition, these organizations are also involved in capacity building and strengthening public healthcare facilities for cervical cancer in nine upazilas of Kurigram District and eight upazilas of Cox's Bazar District. The center's primary focus is on capacity building and training of service providers to improve the quality of cervical cancer screening and treatment in Bangladesh. By providing a centralized location for training, the center will be able to offer accessible and effective services to those in need.



HAEFA members helping local workers rebuild shelters after a fire

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

HAEFA works in Cox's Bazar, a coastal district in Bangladesh near the Bay of Bengal, which is vulnerable to natural disasters including landslides and fires. To fulfill our mission of universal healthcare, HEAFA also works at the frontline, responding promptly and efficiently to emergencies. This year, HEAFA supported vulnerable populations after fires in March and a cyclone in May in 2023.

MARCH FIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

On March 5th, 2023, a massive fire ripped through the Rohingya refugee camp in Ukhiya Upazila, Cox's Bazar. The blaze started in Camp 11 and quickly tore through the bamboo and tarpaulin shelters, spreading to neighboring camps.

12,000
people left homeless

2,805
shelters destroyed



HEAFA doctors treating a burn patient

Responding swiftly to this crisis, an emergency medical team from HAEFA launched into action treating burns and injuries.

Preventive measures were taken to protect HAEFA health posts and HAEFA staff spearheaded the reconstruction of destroyed shelters. The team also collected important data, such as number of shelters destroyed and newly homeless FDMNs, to better understand the extent of damage.

“
In the days since, we have treated three burn patients with dressing and medicine. The emergency required quick thinking and hard work, but it was all worth it.

-MD. Jahidul Islam, Medical Assistant and Camp Coordinator at the Camp 09



Fire affecting Rohingya refugees

CYCLONE MOCHA RESPONSE

On May 14th, 2023, Cyclone Mocha pummeled the coastline of Bangladesh, wreaking widespread destruction. The violent storm left its mark on across 33 Rohingya refugee camps in the Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas of Cox's Bazar.



Cyclone Mocha

2,548
shelters affected

278
*residents completely
distructed*

According to an official report from the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner's Office, issued on the same day, 1,611 Rohingya refugees were impacted, with seven injuries reported. Balukhali Camp 9 in Ukhiya bore the brunt of the storm, witnessing damage to around 485 shelters. The HAEFA Health Post, a crucial healthcare facility in Balukhali Camp 09, also suffered considerable damage during the calamity.

HEAFA moved quickly to address immediate needs and assist those impacted in navigating the aftermath of the cyclone. Our team performed a thorough assessment of the damage to facilitate quick repairs. In days after, our medical team worked tirelessly to provide crucial aid to those affected by this disaster.



Bangladesh's WHO representatives visit FDMN camp

NOTABLE VISITS

Over the reporting period, there have been many visits to the FDMN camps and HAEFA posts. These visits have been for evaluation purposes, to discuss areas for improvement and collaboration, and to provide training.

DR. NASR'S VISIT REPORT OF THE FDMN ROHINGYA CAMP



Dr. Khalid M. Nasr's visit to Cox's Bazar refugee camps

On the 27th to the 30th of April 2023, Dr. Khalid M. Nasr, Advisor on Global Refugee and Relief Efforts, HAEFA USA, conducted a visit to Bangladesh. The primary objective of the visit was to assess the HAEFA health post facilities provided to the Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN) residing in the Cox's Bazar refugee camps situated in Kutupalong 1W and Balukhali Camp 09. Upon arrival at Cox's Bazar, the HAEFA team warmly welcomed them with a flower bouquet.

In addition to his visit to the FDMN camp, Dr. Khalid Nasr visited Ukhiya Specialized Hospital, formerly known as the Malaysian Field Hospital, alongside the rest of the team. This visit was arranged at the behest of the RRRC Health Coordinator, Dr. Abu Toha. While there, Dr. Nasr took part in an interactive session with Dr. Toha

and other hospital management personnel, which included the participation of HAEFA. Following this engagement, Dr. Khalid Nasr and the HAEFA team proceeded to Kutupalong Camp 1W, where he observed the Asr prayer in a nearby mosque.

Dr. Nasr interacted with the medical team members of HAEFA health post in Kutupalong camp 1W. Afterward, he visited Balukhali Camp 09 and learned about the modern diagnostic services provided by the HAEFA pathological laboratory. He expressed satisfaction upon learning that HAEFA was planning to introduce ultrasonography service for pregnant mothers in the camps.

On Friday, April 28th, 2023, Dr. Khalid Nasr attended the Jumma prayer at Bodor Mokam Jame Mosque located in Cox's Bazar Sadar. Following the recitation session, the HAEFA team distributed tabarak to the attendees present at the mosque.



He then went to Al-Farooque Islamia Madrasha, where he led the Jamat at Maghrib prayer; subsequently, after finishing the prayer as per the request of the principal of the Madrasha, Dr. Khalid Nasr visited Al-Farooque Islamia Madrasha and took a student session with Quran memorization, Tajweed, The Holy Quran pronunciation to different ages of students. This session was held after the completion of the Maghrib prayer.

On April 29th 2023, Saturday, Dr. Nasr conducted a revisit of the FDMN Rohingya Project. The visit commenced at approximately 10 o'clock in the morning at the Balukhali Camp 9 HAEFA Health Post. Dr. Nasr engaged in discussions with the medical team and the patients present, inquiring about the available health post amenities. Then Dr. Nasr visited the residence of the HAEFA security guard Mr. Jane Alam whose house was affected and burnt during the fire incident of 2021.

On the following day, Dr. Nasr revisited Kutupalong Camp 1W and interacted with the doctors and healthcare providers. He was introduced to NIROG, an Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system that serves the Rohingya population through the HAEFA Health Post. Dr. Nasr observed the overall monitoring and evaluation processes and patient satisfaction levels within the health post.

Subsequently, Dr. Khalid Nasr visited a regular patient's residence near the HAEFA Health Post in Kutupalong Camp 1W. This allowed for a firsthand understanding of the healthcare services provided to the local community and their impact. Dr. Khalid Nasr then returned to Cox's Bazar Sadar and was seen off by the Country Director and the Senior Director of HAEFA.

Overall, the visit provided valuable insights into the healthcare services being provided to the Rohingya population in Bangladesh and the positive impact these services were having on the local community. Dr. Nasr was able to observe firsthand the use of technology in healthcare delivery, as well as the importance of monitoring and evaluation processes in ensuring the effectiveness of healthcare services.

These visits have strengthened our relationships with esteemed individuals in the field and reaffirmed our commitment to excellence in community health. We are honored to have received recognition from Dr. Khalid Nasr, whose support will undoubtedly bolster our efforts in serving the community.

The enlightening conversation with the WHO Public Health Response officer has given us valuable knowledge and perspectives, enabling us to refine our patient support strategies and provide better care.

Furthermore, the visit from the President of HAEFA has left an indelible mark on our organization. Their inspiring presence has ignited a renewed sense of purpose and determination among our team members and beneficiaries. We are deeply grateful for their visit and the motivation it has instilled in us.

BROWN UNIVERSITY'S TEAM VISIT

On May 7, Dr. Susan Cu-Uvin (Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Brown University), Dr. Ruhul Abid (President/Founder, HAEFA and Associate Professor, Brown University), Mr. Monjur Iqbal (Project Director, HAEFA), Dr. Sharmin Sultana (National Clinical Coordinator, HAEFA) and Ms. Raisa Iftikhar (HR Coordinator/Research Assistant, HAEFA) visited the district hospital in Cox's Bazar. The team met with the Assistant Superintendent for the District Hospital to discuss potential areas for collaboration and methods to enhance the delivery of healthcare services in the facilities.



Brown Team visiting HAEFA CaCx Project

Dr. Abid and Mr. Iqbal, accompanied by Mr. Md. Mamunur Rashid (Project Coordinator, HAEFA), then visited Mr. Mizanur Rahman, the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), who is also the Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR), at his office, where Dr. Abu Toha (Health Coordinator, Office of RRRC) was also present. In the meeting, they discussed the overall condition of HAEFA's health facility at the FDMN Rohingya Camp in Ukhiya as well as fund facilities.

The HAEFA team also visited the Upazila Health Complexes (UHC) in Ukhiya, Maheshkhali, Chakaria, and Pekua to observe Non-Communicable Disease Corners that help rural patients with high blood pressure.

Dr. Cu-Uvin and the HAEFA team, including Mr. Saiful Alam (IT Manager, HAEFA), also visited an FDMN Camp in Cox's Bazar. The team evaluated the quality of services provided to the Rohingya refugees, observed the facilities, and engaged with the staff.



Dr. Abid, Mr. Iqbal, and Mr. Md. Mamunur Rashid visit with Mr. Mizanur Rahman (RRRC)

VISIT OF DR. SAMIA TASNEEM; CHIEF NCD CONSULTANT

Dr. Samia Tasneem, MD, NCD Consultant of HAEFA visited the health clinics and the Path Lab in Kutupalong and Balukhali from November 22-24, 2022.



Dr. Tasneem interacted with the medical team members, examined a few NCD patients using NIROG EMR, and evaluated the quality of the diagnostic tests performed at the Path Lab as well as its modern, WHO-standard waste disposal system. She expressed her satisfaction and suggested several improvements that will improve the quality of NCD patients that have hypertension (HTN), diabetes (DM) or heart diseases including pregnant women with DM and HTN care.



GLOBAL LEADERS IN BANGLADESH AND SWACHIP'S JOINT SEMINAR ON TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH



In July, HAEFA's President and Founder, Dr. Ruhul Abid, was invited to organize and lead a groundbreaking science symposium titled 'Development of A Translational Research Platform in Bangladesh: Encompassing Biomedical and Clinical Research.' This symposium, sponsored by Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad (SWACHIP)'s President Dr. Jamal Uddin Chowdhury, marked a significant milestone in the collaborative efforts to advance healthcare in Bangladesh.

Before the symposium, esteemed guests of the conference Dr. Sharon Rounds (Associate Dean for Translational Science at AMS of Brown University) and Dr. Bharat Ramratnam (Professor of Medicine at AMS and Chief Science Officer of the Brown innovation and Research Collaborative for Health) visited Bangladesh, immersing themselves in the country's rich history, culture, and heritage including the museum of Liberation War and Independence, residence of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu S. M. Rahman, Savar National Memorial, and historic city of Panam, and Ramu's Buddhist heritage. On July 17, they visited HAEFA Health Posts in Cox's Bazar, impressed by HAEFA's healthcare services and the quality of the Diagnostic Pathological Laboratory. The following day, the Ramu Upazilla Health Complex was visited to showcase HAEFA's dedication to patient follow-ups, data entries, and infection prevention, providing a comprehensive view of healthcare practices.



The Science Symposium was held on the 19th of July, where the esteemed professionals Dr. Rounds and Dr. Ramratnam, now well-acquainted with Bangladesh and HAEFA's endeavors, took center stage as keynote speakers. The four days of insightful exploration and collaboration not only enriched the guests' understanding of Bangladesh but also fueled HAEFA's determination to pave the way for groundbreaking advancements in healthcare research. The narrative seamlessly wove together the journey, accomplishments, and shared vision of HAEFA, creating a compelling story of dedication and progress in the realm of global health.

OUR TEAM

BANGLADESH STAFF

- Sajia Haque
- Mamunur Rashid
- Saim Khan
- Md Jahidul Islam
- Tarikur Rahman
- Mrinal Kanti
- Asif Uddin
- Paul Mollick
- Nurunnaby Islam
- AI-Amin
- Md Sohel Rana
- Akangkha Das
- Asia Akter Shima
- Md Saiful Alam
- Parul Rani
- Billal Hossain
- Rubaiya Shafrin
- Kaniz Koli
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