

Programme Updates

ECHO-USA supported Stipend

With the support of ECHO-USA Muslim Aid provided cash stipend support to **380**



meritorious students who were from different parts of the country currently studying in Universities, colleges and schools in different filed of studies including engineering, doctor, honors and masters. His Excellency Mr. Amir Hossain Amu, MP, Minister for the Ministry of Industries participated in the cheque distribution ceremony in Dhaka. Similar events were organized in Patuakhali, Barisal, Jessore, Rangpur and Chittagong areas in participation of Deputy Commissioner, Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNOs) and so on. The Minister expressed satisfaction over Muslim Aid's work and he also suggested to increase its service coverage for the people in need in future.



There are visits from ECHO-USA Directors including Khalid Azim and Muhammad Qamruzzaman have planned to visit ECHO-USA supported projects in Dhaka, Jessore and Chittagong during 24 December 2017 to 10 January 2018 and 3-4 January 2018.

<https://www.dropbox.com/home/ECHO%20USA>

Stipend distribution among the multi-level students at greater Rangpur areas has been telecast by a private TV channel '71 TV' which is available in the youtube.

<https://youtu.be/pkpboPoPKPY>

Besides, a number of local and national newspapers covered the events of stipend distribution with due importance.

Stipend distribution in Patuakhali



Beakdown of **380** recipient students

- University Students **70** @ BDT 7000
- Engineering students **15** @ BDT 7000
- Agriculture University student **10** @ 7000
- Medical Students **35** @ BDT 10,000
- College Intermediate Students **105** @ BDT 8000
- Secondary School Students **110** @ BDT 5000
- Disable Students **10** @ BDT 10,000
- Diploma Engineering Students **25** @ BDT 5000

Lohalia, Patuakhali an example of hundred percent coverage

With the support of ECHO-USA Muslim Aid implemented WASH project in partnership with Bakergonj forum, a local NGO, at Lohalia union under Patuakhali Sadar Upazila where 1 deep tubewell installed, 12 deep tubewell repaired and 32 sanitary latrines constructed.

This is to certify that Muslim Aid -UK Bangladesh Field Office and Bakergonj Forum (BGF) have successfully implemented Arsenic free safe water and sanitation project 2017 with the support by ECHO-USA in Lohalia Union of Patuakhali district. As far as I know that they have implemented the project properly among the target groups. Lot of thanks to Muslim Aid & BGF for their benevolent activities and wish every success of them.

Md. Bakaheed Hossain
Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Sadar, Patuakhali

Muslim Aid participates in national and international programmes



On 3rd December 2017 Muslim Aid participated in a Fair on overcoming disability as part of celebrating 26th International Day on Disability and 19th National Disability Day jointly with National Disability Development Foundation under Ministry of Social Welfare.

Muslim Aid Bangladesh regularly participates in various national and international events organized by government and non-government agencies in urban and rural areas jointly and individually.



Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

ECHO funded project with DeSHARI consortium: Ended on 31st December 2017.

Muslim Aid has completed implementation of ECHO funded project Enhance Resilience of the most vulnerable community to cope with water logging in Satkhira district in Bangladesh in partnership with DeSHARI consortium led by ACF.

Project start date: 1st March 2016

Project end date: 31st December 2017

Total Beneficiaries: 3,005 (Male: 1,500 and Female: 1,505)

Project Area: Tala Upazila in Satkhira District, Bangladesh.

Certification from UNO office, the local administration

Yes, the organization (Muslim aid) engaged local administration at the inception as well as during implementation of the project. Representatives from the organization regularly participated in NGO coordination meetings and submitted progress update reports. It also discussed relevant issues of the project. It followed (a) and (b) conditions of its approval.

Md. Farid Hossain, Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Tala, Satkhira.

Nila Biswas: Now empowered

Nila Biswas (45) is housewife of lower cast of Hindu religion at Kumira union, Tala Upazila, a sub-district of Satkhira district in Bangladesh who lives with her husband, an agriculture day-labourer and a 7-year old child at Raripara village. Despite the best efforts of her husband to lead a dignified life, they were struggling with financial hardship that felt them food insecurity condition who also found it difficult to overcome. As result they were spending time with huge frustration.

Muslim Aid's Talaproject office identified Nila Biswas as a beneficiary in the ECHO funded resilience project as per pre-set criteria. Accordingly she involve into the project and gradually started learning about the significance of nutrition and hygiene practices in households, besides improved vegetable farming, poultry rearing, and fish culture to make available of nutritious food for family and for the community. Through the group orientation and training she received technical knowledge and cash grant support from the project. She started practicing techniques for sowing seeds, planting seedlings in beds, and using integrated pest management. She also learnt to grow nutritious vegetables as well as poultry rearing. She got trainings on poultry rearing and vegetable cultivation organized by Muslim Aid, technically facilitated by Upazila Livestock and Agriculture officers. She participated in Muslim Aid's exposure visit to the field demonstrations of ACF and Solidarity International and learnt about vegetable cultivation, poultry rearing, fish culture, VSLA activities, etc.



Nila build a resilient poultry shade worth BDT 10000 after receiving 1st instalment of livelihood cash grant from Muslim Aid. She spent BDT 2000 in 1st round for 200 chicks and BDT 18000 for poultry feed and BDT 2000 for medicine. After only two months period she sold chickens with BDT 35000 and made profit of BDT 3000. In the 2nd round she reared 600 chicks with an amount of BDT 6000 and earned about BDT 9000 as net profit. She started rearing of 3rd round of poultry where she used improving food quality skills for the chicken that provided eggs for her family. Side by side she cultivated vegetables in her homestead after consumption in family she sold it with BDT 3000 every months. After receiving BDT 6000 as he second instalment from the project office of Muslim Aid she bought a mother goat to diversify income generating options at family level and those were to overcome the losses in long time

water logging. To address the issue of hygiene, Nila installed two water taps, one near her kitchen and one near their latrine with the aim of reducing likelihood of diseases.

"I am happy that now I can feed one or two eggs to my son every day along with arranging three full meal for my family members including myself. I have been selected as group chairman that dignified me. My husband behaves well with me because of my hard work and contribution in family earning. I am so proud that an organization like Muslim Aid selected her as one of the project beneficiaries. I pray for Muslim Aid, I pray for ECHO for their generous support for hundreds of disadvantaged people like me in the society".

Nila Biswas

Moreover, Nila Biswas is one of many women reaping tremendous benefits from ER-ECHO project. She believes her actions have had a ripple effect throughout her family and communities, helping other members adopt positive changes in income generating activities, nutrition and hygiene. Nila and surrounding ER-ECHO project beneficiaries of Rari para form a Village Saving Loan Association (VSLA) in association with 12 members of the area, where she was elected as Chairman of the association. They started group savings at the rate of 20 taka per week from the month February 2017. They saved around has become BDT 8000 till October 2017. They have planned for increasing the VSLA members and give loan between the members. It is an initiative of herself that added value to enhance community resilience as expected.

WFP Funded School Feeding Programme (SFP)

Bilateral agreement between Muslim Aid and WFP has been spent on 31st December 2017 and a new contract for next one year with an additional component of Literacy is on process



Objectives of the project:	<i>This Project aims to introducing Food for Education (FFE) as a complementary and nutrition-focused activity compiling with the national education policies. In addition, increasing children enrolment and retention (i.e. attendance/completion) and improve children's nutritional status, the project, through training and information, also enhance awareness among school authorities, local communities and children of the importance of improved diets on learning and education in general.</i>					
Project Area:	Cox's Bazar (Ukhiya and Teknaf)				Project duration: July - December 2017	
Project Budget (Cash):	4,560,436	Staff at Dhaka:	1	Male:	1	Female : 0
Budget in Kinds:	51,491,640	Project staff :	16	Male :	12	Female: 4
Total Project Beneficiaries :	62,627	Female :	32,788	Male :	29,839	PWD:

Besides, there were Community Mobilization Workshop-01, Quiz competition (union and upazila level) -14, Sensitization and awareness meeting with SMCs-02, Organized Vegetable gardening Session for Students-03, Organized student's Orientation on Emergency Early Warning-04, Student Home visit by FM-05, Organized Parents Gathering meeting at School and Community Level-15, Organize hygiene awareness for Students-43, Quarterly Coordination Meeting with upazila level stakeholders-02 and Jointly school visit with AUEO-08.

A team **from Australian High Commission, DFID, and WFP** visited School Feeding programme in Ukhia, Cox's Bazar on 6th December 2017. During the visit there were meeting with SMC and PTA, distribution of HEB among the students, visit to the vegetable gardens and also visit to the health and Hygiene check-up game.



The visitors include a representative from DFID, Silly-Anne Gintant, Deputy high commissioner, Australian high Commission, Dipayan Bhattacharyya, Deputy Country director strategy and proreame of WFP and Peter Guest, Emergency coordinator of WFP.



Another visit was paid by WFP Dhaka office and Cox's Bazar sub-office during 3-4 December 2017 to Muslim Aid implemented project area in Ukhia. A planning and budgeting meeting was also held during the time.

Health, Nutrition and WASH programmes have been implemented by Muslim Aid in Dhaka, Pirojpur, Pabna and Kulaura areas of Bangladesh with regular consultations, OPD and IPDs services.

Muslim Aid also run Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programme in Dhaka, Jessore, Rangpur and Chittagong of Bangladesh through its five TVET centers.

Food aid and Wellbeing

Project Area :	Bangladesh	Fund source :	MAUK, MAA & ECHO USA	Project duration:	January to December 2017
-----------------------	------------	----------------------	----------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Project Budget (Cash)	28,988,585	Staff at Dhaka:	1	Male:	1	Female :	0
Budget in kinds		Project staff :	0	Male :	0	Female:	0
Total Project Beneficiaries:	108,160	Female :	54,489	Male :	49,602	PWD:	4,069
Ramadan	48,876	Female :	21,085	Male :	25,770	PWD:	2,021
Qurbani	45,700	Female :	24,487	Male :	19,239	PWD:	1,974
Animal Sacrifice & Fidyah	13,584	Female :	8,917	Male :	4,593	PWD:	74

Rainbow Family

Project Area :	41 district	Donor name :	MAUK & Local		Project duration:	January to December 2017	
Total number of child :	443	Female :	167	Male :	270	PWD:	6

Microfinance and SME:

Muslim Aid-UK's microfinance programme has been run in partnership with Muslim Aid Bangladesh (MAB). MAB has organized its bi-monthly Executive Committee (EC) meeting in participation of the EC members where there were issues discussed and decision made on organization's annual budget, HR, administrative, Provident fund, constitution, etc.

The Daily Observer and the Asian Age published a success story of our Microfinance based livelihood programme

Couple become self-reliant selling eggs in Manikganj

Our Correspondent

MANIKGANJ, Dec 23: Fazar Ali and Kakoli Begum, a couple of Purba Dasara under Ward no. 5 of Manikganj Municipality, became successful through hard work.

Fazar Ali, 48, used to sell green coconut on the streets 10 years ago. Sometimes, he drove rickshaw and sold vegetables. Subsequently, he became a member of a non-government organisation-Muslim Aid Bangladesh, with the help of his neighbours. He took interest-free loan of Tk 4,000 from the NGO and started boiled egg business in 2009.

Fazar Ali began to sell the eggs in the municipality area during day-time. He sells the eggs of duck, chicken and koel at Dudh Bazaar in Manikganj town at between 5pm till 10pm. He earns Tk 1,000 to 1,500 by selling 300 to 350 eggs daily. He gets profit of Tk 30,000 to 35,000 per month.



Fazar Ali selling boiled eggs.

PHOTO: OBSERVER

Fazar Ali said that his wife Kakoli Begum, 35, helps him in his business. They made their own house with the profit of the business. They gave marriage to her daughter after she completed her 10th class study while their son is studying. They have Tk 1,50,000 in cash.

Kakoli Begum said 10 years ago they did not get food but now their family is running well.

Manager of Muslim Aid's Manikganj Branch Zahedul Islam said, "Kakoli Begum became a member of their organisation in May 2009. She took Tk 4,000 interest-free loan in first phase. They started an egg business with this loan money. In the course of the programme, Fazar Ali took a loan of Tk 40,000. They continued to develop their business with the loan money and own capital. Currently their economic condition has improved. Others should follow them."

<http://www.observerbd.com/eobserver/2017/12/24/index.php>

<https://dailiasianage.com/ep/2017/12/23/?page=7>

Information Fair

, organized by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) with the support of District Administration on 10 December 2017 in Nilphamari participated by Muslim Aid Bangladesh's Nilphamari office.

Meeting with External agencies

11-12-2017: Education cluster meeting at Unicef office Gulshan, participated by Md. Mohiuddin, Programme Coordinator-Humanitarian.

14-12-2017: A meeting on ECHO-HIP has been participated by Md. Iqbal Ahmed, Head of Resource Mobilization at ECHO office, Dhaka in participation of all ECHO partners in Bangladesh.