

30 Years

of

AL-FALAH BANGLADESH

1981-2011

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Glossary

AFMC	Al-Falah Model Clinic
APCASO	Asia Pacific Council of AIDS Service Organization
BPHC	Bangladesh Population Health Consortium
BWA	British Women Association
CCDB	Christian Community Development, Bangladesh
CUP	Coalition for the Urban Poor
EPI	Extended Program of Immunization
HASAB	HIV/AIDS/STI/Alliance, Bangladesh
HEED	Health, Education, Economic Development
IDHRB	Institute of Development of Human Rights, Bangladesh
IICO	International Islamic Charitable Organization
MJF	Manusher Jonno Foundation
PLWHA	People Living With HIV/AIDS
RMMRU	Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TIGP	Target International Giving Program
UNDP	United Nation Development Program
UNESCO	United Nation Economic & Scientific Council
UNHCR	United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nation International Children Education Fund

Introduction:

The organization Al-Falah Bangladesh was formed in June 1981 to take over the Dhaka Camps project from an NGO HEED Bangladesh. The Organization elected Mr. M.I. Farooqui as its founder President and Mr. Badr-e-Alam as General Secretary on 28 June 1981.

Al-Falah Bangladesh is the only registered NGO in Bangladesh, which has pledged in its Constitution to work for the Urdu speaking Bangladeshi citizens to rehabilitate them socially and economically in the mainstream of the society by improving their quality of life and increasing their access to education, skill, health, economic opportunities and cultural activities. The mass of this Urdu-speaking community lost the privileges of social living being the worst victims of political and historical developments in 1971 that downgraded their social, cultural and economic status from top to bottom level.

Vision of the organization is that the Urdu speaking community must take part equally and with dignity for the national development as citizen of Bangladesh

Mission is to improve the quality of life of the Urdu speaking people and increase their access to education, skill, health, economic opportunities and cultural activities.

Since its foundation, Al-Falah has been delivering health services in Geneva Camp through its Al-Falah Model Clinic. The other significant project is Community Development Centre (CDC), which established 40 Foundation schools all over Bangladesh and sponsored Urdu-speaking poor male and female students to continue their education from pre-primary to Master Degree level. Another project is for skill development. Under this project community students are being trained on basic computer literacy. The CDC has to close 22 Foundation Schools in the current year (2011) due to fund constraints.

In addition to the above service delivery and development projects on health, education and skills, Al-Falah Bangladesh has also completed a few important research and studies works with support from UN Agencies and other international organization for collection of basic data in the context of social, economic and political status of the community.

Al-Falah Bangladesh is now completing its 30 years of establishment. These thirty years are considered as a combination of successes and failures, experiences and lessons learning and also of great challenges.

On this day of celebration, Al-Falah Bangladesh is making an appeal to all its local and foreign well wishers, local and foreign donors and the international concerns to extend their support to this organization in a manner that may help in continuing its ongoing community development programs for the social and economic rehabilitation of this marginalized community of Bangladesh.

Ahmed Ilias

Executive Director

Al-Falah Bangladesh

History

In June 1980, a meeting of Urdu speaking social workers, advocates, service holder and business persons was convened by HEED Bangladesh, a foreign NGO, which had established Dhaka Camps Projects in 1975 to provide medical support and education to the Urdu-speaking camp dwellers. The meeting was attended by 40 people; prominent among them were Mr. M. I. Farooqui, Mr. Badr-e-Alam, Late Mr. Nawshad Noori, Mr. Aley Nabi, Mr. M.A. Wajed, Late Hakim Bashiri, Late Syed Aftab Ahmed, and Late Mr. S. H. Rizvi. The meeting resolved to establish a social welfare organization with a view to taking over the Dhaka Camp Project from HEED Bangladesh.

Subsequently, Al-Falah Bangladesh was founded on 28 June 1981 and registered with the Social Welfare Department. Mr. M. I. Farooqui was elected for two years as the Founder President with Mr. Badr-e-Alam as General Secretary of Al-Falah Bangladesh. The first Governing Body and Executive Committee were elected as follow:

1. Mr. M. I. Farooqui	President
2. Late Mr. Mustafa	Vice President
3. Mr. Badr-e-Alam	General Secretary
4. Mr. Ahmed Ilias	Joint Secretary
5. Late Syed Aftab Ahmed	Treasurer

Members of the Executive Committee were

1. Late Mr. Md. Shahjahan
2. Mr. Mujibur Rahman Shamsi
3. Mr. Izhar Ahmed
4. Mr. M. A. Wajed
5. Late Mr. S. M. Sultan
6. Late Mr. Ishtiaque Ahmed Kha

Past Presidents and Secretaries of the Organization

Year	Presidents	Secretaries
1981-1983	Mr. M. I. Farooqui	Badr-e-Alam
1983-1985	Mr. Badr-e-Alam	Late Syed Aftab Ahmed
1985-1989	Late Nawabzadah Syed Saifur Rahman	Late Mr. S.H. Rizvi
1989-1989	Late Syed Md. Shahjahan	Late Mr. S.H. Rizvi
1989-1991	Mr. M.I. Farooqui	Mr. G.M. Mustafa
1991-1993	Mr. Badr-e-Alam	Mr. G.M. Mustafa
1993-1996	Mr. Md. Mohsen Rashid	Mr. Md. Moinuddin
1996-1998	Late Mr. Nawshad Noori	Mr. Izhar Ahmed
1998-2000	Mr. Izhar Ahmed	Late Mr. Md. Saleem Ullah
2000-2003	Mrs. Sultana Nahar	Late Mr. Md. Saleem Ullah
2003-2008	Mr. Md. Sharif Khan	Mr. Abid Hossain
2008-2010	Mr. Md. Asghar Ali Khan	Mr. Ashraful Haque Babu

Present Executive Committee (2010-2012)

1. Mr. Md. Asghar Ali Khan: President
2. Mrs. Rahima Begum: Vice President
3. Mr. Shamim Ahmed Khan: General Secretary
4. Syed Afzal Hussain: Treasurer
5. Mr. Ashrafal Haque Babu: Member
6. Mrs. Sakina Begum: Member
7. Mrs. S. M. Reshma: Member

Major past and present Projects/Activities

Year	Project/Activities	Donors
1981-2000	Al-Falah Model Clinic, Al-Falah Model School and Vocational Training Centre	IICO and Local Individual donors
1992-2000	Al-Falah Model Clinic	BPHC
1995-1996	Women Development Program	Australian High Commission
1995-2002	HIV/AIDS Prevention Programs	HASAB & UNICEF, Dhaka
2000	Water and Sanitation pilot project	UNICEF/CUP
2001	Stocktaking on PLWHA in Bangladesh	UNDP, Delhi
2006	Water and Sanitation pilot project	UNICEF/CUP
2004-2006	“Mobilizing Human Rights Support for the Bihari Community in Bangladesh”	Manusher Jonno Foundation
2004-2005	HIV/AIDS prevention Program	UNICEF, Dhaka
2005-2006	Research and Study on “Socially Exclusion of the Bihari camp dwellers leads and increased poverty”	UNESCO, New Delhi
2007	Profiling of Bihari/Urdu Speakers settlement	UNHCR, Dhaka
2007-2008	Education & Computer Training	Local Well Wishers
2009-2010	Education & Computer Training	TIGP, USA
2010-2011	Al-Falah Model Clinic	Pittsburgh Foundation, USA
2010-2011	The Cost of Statelessness: A Livelihoods Analysis	Kingston University, London
2011	Education & Computer Training	Local Well Wishers

AI-Falah Model Clinic

The clinic is located in Geneva Camp, Dhaka. There is no such clinic in any camp all over



Bangladesh which is being run by a registered NGO. This Clinic was financially and technically supported by the community, IICO and the BPHC from 1981 to 2002. During 2003-2004, the clinic was run as “Friendship Clinic” by a local donor Friendship International, which also repaired and renovated the clinic building.

The clinic was virtually closed from 2004 to June 2010 for wants of fund. In

June 2010, AI-Falah received a one year fund from Pittsburgh Foundation, USA thanks to the sincere efforts by Dr. Arnold Sholder, a citizen of USA, who visited the clinic in that year. In Dhaka, BWA donated some medical equipments and furniture. The donor, Mr. Henry Posner of Pittsburgh Foundation has been died and the availability of fund for this project has become uncertain for the next project period begins from July 2010.

Delivery of Health Services:

The clinic provided following health services to the residents of Geneva Camp, Town Hall Camp, Market Camp, Community Centre Camp, Staff Quarters Camp and CRO Camp:

EPI, Ant-Natal and Post-Natal Care, TT, Booster, Family Planning, Normal Delivery, Limited pathological, surgical and curative services and door to door health education.

Achievements:

During the period from 1990 to 2002 the AI-Falah Model clinic provided limited curative treatment to:

41,945	Male and female patients
46,285	Children
9,526	Children of 0-1 year old were fully immunized against the six fatal diseases
19,641	Mothers received pre and post natal services in the clinic
5019	babies were safely delivered in the Obstetric unit of the clinic by the qualified Midwives
218	Circumcisions were done by the doctor in the clinic

With support from Pittsburgh Foundation and BWA during the period from July 2010 to June 2011 the Al-Falah Model clinic provided limited curative treatment to:

Mothers:

- 1219 Mothers were provided Ante-Natal and Post Natal care
- 130 Babies were born in the obstetric unit of the clinic
- 947 Mothers received limited curative services
- 147 Reproductive women received TT/Boosters

Children:

- 4363 Children (5-12) were given Tablet for Worms under NID programs
- 3917 Children (2-5 Yrs) were given Tablet for Worms under NID programs
- 3764 Children (1-5) years were received Vita-A Capsule under NID programs
- 3583 Children (0-5) years were given Polio drops under NID programs
- 182 Children (0-1 yr) received vaccines for BCG, Pantha, and Measles under EPI
- 1323. Children (1-5) years received limited curative services

General:

- 226 Male general patients received treatment for minor complications
- 355 Female general patients received treatment for minor complications
- 148 Patients were treated for RTI and STI
- 144 Pregnancy tests were conducted
- 26 Blood Sugar tested

At Field Level:

- 10,549 Female (14-49) years received health education
- 1,250 Male (14-49) years received health education
- 2,154 Adolescents (10-18) years received health education

At- Clinic Level:

- 1,026 Female (14-49) years received health education
- 720 Male (14-49) years received health education
- 2,154 Adolescents (10-18) years received health education

HIV/AIDS Prevention Program:

Al-Falah Bangladesh was one of the founders of STD/AIDS Network, Bangladesh, which was formed in 1993. The organization was the first elected vice-president of the Network for two consecutive tenures. It received fund from HASAB, UNICEF, APCASO and UNDP to implement various HIV/AIDS related programs and project for camp people and other communities.

The major objective of the project was to create awareness among the community members about HIV/AIDS and its impact on the society.

In this context, Al-Falah Bangladesh organized several workshops and seminars, significant among them were; South Asia Conference in 1998 and workshop in collaboration with the IDHRB, CCDB and Dhaka Rotary Club in 2000.

Al-Falah Bangladesh was also selected as a CORE Member of APCASO to represent South Asia and Member of the Steering Committee of SSWA Project of UNDP, Delhi.

Al-Falah Bangladesh was invited for its participation in many regional and international meetings, seminars, conferences program held in India, Pakistan, Nepal, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, UK, and South Africa. This participation enhanced the image of the organization at regional and international levels.

Water and Sanitation:

UNICEF and the Coalition for the Urban Poor (CUP) selected Al-Falah Bangladesh to implement a Pilot Project of Water and Sanitation in the Town Hall Camp in 2000. They again selected Al-Falah in 2006 for the water and sanitation improvement project in Staff Quarter Camp. Both projects were successfully implemented.

Hanna Sholder, a Fulbright sponsored Researcher came from USA to work in collaboration with Al-Falah Bangladesh on Housing and Land Rights of the camp dwellers in 2010. During her research she saw by herself the lack of sanitation and decided to help in improving the situation in CRO Camp. She donated 80% of the total cost while community paid 20% to repair old and build new 6 toilets in the camps under the supervision of Al-Falah Bangladesh.

Community Development Centre:

Purpose of the project CDC was to establish Foundation School to save the Urdu-speaking children from being lost as street children and to provide support to the community in its struggle to join the mainstream of the society with improved social and economic status.



The project was commenced in 2007 with fund raised locally from the well wishers of the community. Under this project the first Foundation School was established in the premises of Al-Falah Model Clinic. In 2010 the number of Foundation Schools increased to 40.

These schools were established in camps at Mohammadpur, Mirpur, Mymensingh, Chittagong, Khulna, Bogra, Rangpur, Ishurdi and Syedpur.

A USA based donor TIGP supported this Program in 2009 and 2010, but regretted to support in 2011, TIGP, however assured of its support for 2012.

The project was forced to close down 22 Foundation Schools in 2011 and reduced sponsorship program due to financial constraints in 2011.

Achievements:

3,567 Children under age of 4-5 years were given pre-primary education from 2007 to May 2011

1,018 Children sponsored for getting admission in class 1 after attending Foundation Schools

44 Male students were given sponsorship to continue their SSC classes

53 Female students were given sponsorship to continue their SSC classes

70 Male students were given sponsorship to continue their HSC classes

109 Female students were given sponsorship to continue their HSC classes

26 Male students were given sponsorship to continue their Degree Classes

26 Female students were given sponsorship to continue their Degree Classes



Fundamental Computer Course for skill Development

The organization has established the first Computer Class in Geneva Camp in the year 2007, when some well wishers of the community donated 5 second hand computers. The Computer Class started under the Project “Community Development Center” based upon ‘self-help education and skill development program’. Three sponsored student-instructors from the community conducted training courses.



D. Net (Development Research Network) has been supporting various schools and colleges and also those NGOs who work for the

underprivileged community. Being impressed with the policy and programs of Al-Falah Bangladesh, D.Net donated a total of 8 (eight) CPU to Al-Falah Bangladesh to run its computer class in 2010. This program only carried out in Geneva Camp, Mohammadpur, Dhaka. This program aims to enhance the knowledge of the target population on basic computer. Number of Trained Students:

2007-2010:	232
Male:	145
Female	87

Social Services:

Al-Falah Bangladesh rendered the following social services to the community with supports from the office bearers and members of the organization and some well wishers during the initial stage of its functioning.

- Support for education to the poor students
- Medical support for buying medicines and spectacles
- Coffin clothes for burial of poor dead
- Support for wedding of orphan girls
- Support for starting small business
- New Cloths to poor widows and children in Eid
- Food and utensils to the fire affected families in camps
- Gruel kitchen for the flood affected people of camps.
- Food during month of Ramadan

Most of the above services were closed, when Al-Falah received foreign fund and shifted its program from charity to development.

Research and Study:

Al-Falah adopted the policy of social and economic rehabilitation of the Urdu-speaking community, whether living in camps or outside camps in 1981. The category-wise repatriation of the so-called “stranded Pakistanis” based upon The Tripartite Agreement of 1974 among Pakistan, India and Bangladesh had made it clear that people, who would not qualify under any category, would be unable to go to Pakistan and they would require to be rehabilitated in the mainstream of Bangladesh.

In that situation Al-Falah launched a two-way program to achieve the objective of social and economic rehabilitation of the community. In this context Al-Falah faced strong resistance from the repatriation lobby among the community on one hand and from the local leadership, who were not willing to accept them as citizens of this country. The government was also reluctant to recognize the camp dwellers as Bangladeshi citizens.

The first program was in two parts; (1) to obtain support from the various stakeholders of the society including the conscious community members for the cause of rehabilitation, (2) to mobilize and educate the young generations about the issues related to their human rights.

Community mobilization was resulted in the formation of “Association of Young Generation of Urdu-Speaking Community”, which filed a writ petition in the court in 2001 to seek their voting right as citizen of Bangladesh. The High Court gave its verdict in favor of the petitioners. It was a tremendous efforts and support by Mr. M. I. Farooqui, the Senior Advocate of Supreme Court of Bangladesh and Founder President of the organization, that the landmark verdict was achieved in 2003.

That initiative taken by 10 young people of Geneva Camp inspired other community members, who filed another writ petition for voting rights of the camp dwellers, when Al-Falah Bangladesh launched a strong lobbying and advocacy movement. Subsequently, the High Court restored the voting rights of the camp people recognizing them as citizens of Bangladesh in May 2008.

Ummid-2010 Photo Exhibition:

To commemorate the judgment of the High Court of 2008, Al-Falah Bangladesh organized a week-long Photo Exhibition and Photo Contest on the Human Rights issues of the Urdu-speaking camp dwellers on 18 May 2010 in Dhaka. The Program was supported by the international as well as national sponsors like Six Oranges, U.K., Alliance Française de Dhaka, Nandan Groups and RMMRU. The Exhibition was inaugurated by Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury, Chairman, National Human Rights Commission. The exhibition was concluded with distribution of prizes



among the winners. The occasion was graced by the Chief Guest, former Chief Justice and Chief Advisor of Caretaker Government Mr. Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman on 22 May 2010.

During the period from 2004 till date, Al-Falah has implemented several studies, research and advocacy projects that would, it is hoped, facilitate future planning of rehabilitation of the camp dwellers in the mainstream of the society. Significant among these projects are:

- Mobilizing human rights supports for the Urdu-speaking community in Bangladesh
- Socially Exclusion of the Bihari camp dwellers leads and increases poverty
- Profiling of camps/settlements of Urdu-speakers in Bangladesh
- The Cost of Statelessness: A Livelihoods Analysis

The above four projects were funded by the MJF, UNESCO, UNHCR, Kingston University, U.K. respectively.

Lisbon Seminar:

In 2007, Al-Falah Bangladesh attended and presented a paper on the human rights situation of the Urdu-speaking camp dwellers in a 3-day International seminar on “Poverty and Human Rights” in Lisbon, the capital of Portugal. Paris based UNESCO had organized that seminar. The paper was presented based upon the findings of the study on “Socially Exclusion of the Bihari camp dwellers leads and increases poverty.”

Staff Development:

During the last 30 years, key staffs of the organization were provided various training to enhance their administrative capacity and professional skills. Besides local training, some donors selected them for building up their knowledge and professional skill by giving them opportunity to receive training outside country. In this context:

- BPHC selected the Executive Director for his training on project planning and management in Thailand.
- APCASO trained him in Bangkok on IT for Global Networking through Internet.
- BPHC selected the Project Director of AFMC for training on Reproductive Health in Malaysia.
- MJF sponsored 4 staffs for a study visit to India to learn about the social and economic rehabilitation of slum dwellers around Delhi.
- The UNESCO provided a pre-project planning training in Delhi to the Coordinator of its Research project.

In addition to the above project related training, some staffs were sponsored by different national and international organizations for the exposure of their knowledge and skill. For example;

- The British Council in Dhaka gave sponsorship to the Project Director of AFMC to attend a 3-month language course in UK.
- The Executive Director was selected by CUP to lead a 3-NGO Team for sharing the experiences with the Government, Private Sectors and NGOs on rehabilitation of slum dwellers in the city of Bangkok.
- RMMRU sponsored the Coordinator of the CDC to attend a regional workshop in Godavari, Nepal on Refugees and Migration issues
- He was also sponsored by the US Embassy in Dhaka to attend a 15-day International Visitors Leadership Program of State Department in USA.
- The Assistant Coordinator of CDC attended several international programs. Significant among these was sponsored by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) of UN to undergo a 3-months training under English-speaking minority fellowship program held in Geneva.

Donors:

Year	Projects	Donors	Amount
1981-1992	AI-Falah Model Clinic	Local Well Wishers	76,32,302
1992-2000	AI-Falah Model Clinic	BPHC	140,08,620
1994-1995	Women Development Program	AUS HC	3,42,204
1996-2002	STD/AIDS Prevention Program	HASAB	37,47,896
2004-2006	STD/AIDS Prevention Program	UNICEF, Dhaka	15,99,984
2004-2006	Research & Advocacy	MJF	32,67,702
2005-2006	Research	UNESCO, New Delhi	5,86,050
2006-2007	Water & Sanitation Pilot Project	CUP & UNICEF	1,19,925
2007	Research on Bihari Settlements	UNHCR, Dhaka	2,16,197
2007-2008	Education & Computer Training	Local Well Wishers	19,06,676
2009-2010	Education & Computer Training	TIGP, USA	34,25,276
2010-2011	AI-Falah Model Clinic	Pittsburgh Foundation, USA	13,74,280
2010-2011	Research	Kingston University, UK	13,14,448
2011	Education & Computer Training	Local Well Wishers	1,30,000

Apart from the TIGP, Urdu-speaking donors at home and abroad also gave their financial supports to the education and computer training programs of CDC in 2010. Among them were:

Dr. Hashmat Ashraf (USA), Mr. Azmat Ashraf (Canada), Mr. Md. Hafizullah and Mr. Abdul Hye (Pakistan), Mr. Hannan Majid (UK), Mr. Mohammad Shoaib, Mr. Syed Anisur Rahman, Mr. Rashid Ali Khan, Mr. Dawood, Mr. Shafique Ahmed and International School Dhaka (Dhaka), Mr. Monowar Usman (UK), Mr. Zia A. Nadwi (Saudi Arab), Mr. Jawaid Hasan Stationwala, Dr. Arnold Sholder, Ms. Hannah Sholder, Mr. Farooque Ahmed (USA), and Mr. Sarwar Jafery (Canada). Mr. Zafar Alam (USA) provided some fund for community support program in Mymensingh camp.

Gratitude:

On this occasion of 30 years anniversary of its foundation, Al-Falah Bangladesh expresses its thanks to all the donors and well wishers for their great supports and proudly recalls the valuable contributions of Late Nawabzadah Syed Saifur Rahman, Late Md. Mustafa, Late Syed Md. Shahjahan, Late Nawshad Noori, Late Syed Abdul Aziz, Late Ishtiaque Ahmed Khan, Late S. M. Sultan, Late Mohammad Mahmood and Late Md. Saleem Ullah. These members are no more alive but their guidance will remain a source of inspirations.

Al-Falah Bangladesh, also profoundly recognizes the great services done to the organization and the community by the past and present members. Al-Falah is greatly thankful to its Founder President Mr. M.I. Farooqui, Mr. Badr-e-Alam, Mr. Md. Mohsen Rashid, Mrs. Sultana Faizun Nahar, Mr. Izhar Ahmed, Mr. Md. Sharif Khan, Mr. Aley Nabi, Mr. Taher Rizvi, Mr. Raziuddin Warsi, Mr. Md. Afsar Shamsi, Mr. Mujibur Rahman Shamsi, Mr. Haroon Rashid, Mr. Md. Moinuddin, Mr. M.A. Wajed, Mr. G.M. Mustafa, Mr. S. M. Sajid, Mr. Haikal Hashmi, Mrs. Sadaf Noori Chowdhry, Dr. Shamim Imam, Mr. Zainul Abedin, Ms. Runa Khan, Syed Jalaluddin Ahmed, Mr. Sabir Ali, Mr. Abid Hossain, and Mr. Arman Shamsi.

The organization is also very much thankful to Mr. Shafiur Rahman of UK, who gave all support to Al-Falah Bangladesh in organizing the International Photo Exhibition and Photo Contests to project the issues of the Urdu-speaking camp dwellers at international level. At the same time, Al-Falah Bangladesh is greatly thankful to Engineer Syed Faiz Al-Najdi of Saudi Arabia, who during the recent years helped the organization in projecting the situations of the camp people and dissemination of various reports of Al-Falah Bangladesh through his largely built up email network.

Last but not the least, Al-Falah Bangladesh proudly recognizes the services of its all Head Office and Project staffs, past and present, who implemented all programs successfully with their skills, commitment and dedication in order to achieve the main objective of Al-Bangladesh.