



Thank you for being a Partner in Mission

Welcome to the autumn report for Partners In Mission *Church of Bangladesh*, including the mission of *Bollobhpur Hospital*, *Rajshahi Christian Mission Hospital* and the *Jobarpar Community Health Programme*.

Despite challenges of their own through closures and reduced income, our global church partners have been continuing to carry out their mission to support community members living in poverty including those hit hardest by the virus.

We are grateful for your prayers and your generous support in making the continuation of their work possible. Thanks to you we have successfully raised £4,500 this year towards our target of £35,000 for healthcare in Bangladesh.

Please remember to mention Partners In Mission and the church you are supporting when you send your donation to us so that we can ensure the money is allocated properly.

Read on to find out more about the amazing mission work carried out by the *Church of Bangladesh*, and how your support is making a difference."

Providing Healthcare in Bangladesh

Bollobhpur & Rajshahi Hospitals

Bollobhpur Hospital is situated in a remote area of rural Bangladesh, and serves the men, women and children of the sprawling villages living near the border with India. The hospital specialises in providing care to expectant mothers and babies.

During the current pandemic, mothers and babies have often been unable to access the care they need in developing countries as health services have been disrupted.

Remarkably, pre-natal and post-natal services at Bollobhpur Hospital have managed to continue to run and all mothers and babies who came to the hospital received much needed care.

Alongside Bollobhpur Hospital, the Church of Bangladesh also runs a training school for nursing and midwifery students and laboratory technicians at Rajshahi Hospital in North Bengal.

The Bollobhpur Hospital also trains nurses and laboratory students. They come from poor, mainly tribal backgrounds, where there are few education or employment opportunities. After training these qualified young men and women, find employment in Government hospitals and have been able to raise the standard of living of their families and to educate their younger brothers and sisters. One young student who is close to finishing her training and finding employment is Salma.



Salma's Story

Salma (pictured) is a final year student in the nursing school. She was first brought to Bollobhpur Hospital by a Community Health Worker, who found her severely ill and malnourished with juvenile onset diabetes.

Salma was admitted to the children's ward, stabilised on insulin and finally went home competent at giving herself insulin. Due to treatment, she was able to continue her studies at the local primary school. Unfortunately, Salma then developed diabetic cataracts in both eyes. However, she had surgery to replace her lenses and finally managed to pass her school certificate examination. During this time, her one aim was to be able to train to be a nurse at Bollobhpur Hospital.

Salma was admitted to the nurses training in January 2018. She is now in her last six months of training and has proved herself to be a competent nurse and midwife. Once she passes her final exams, she will enter employment in a Government hospital. She will then be able to buy her own insulin injections and help her younger brother and sister. Her father, who was seriously ill with heart problems, has since died and at the moment her younger brother works in the fields to support the family.

Community Health & Nutrition Programme

The clinic based Community Health and Nutrition Programme is located in 25 villages in the area of Barisal and Dhaka Dioceses, where government support is limited.

A new clinic has recently started at Barujani and local people are happy to finally have a health service in this area. Most people working in the surrounding villages are day labourers living hand to mouth who cannot afford to go to the city for better treatment. Here treatment has minimal fees.

A strong relationship has already been built up between the nurses, community health workers and local people. It has brought new hope to the people of Barujani; they can look forward to a healthier future for them and their children.

People can depend on the clinic to provide them with health advice on malaria, dengue fever, dysentery, and tests for blood pressure and diabetes. They also started to change their hygiene practices because of advice from the clinic such as hand washing which is important at this time with the presence of COVID-19.

Furthermore, vulnerable people such as pregnant women now do not have far to go to receive vital health check-ups. And there are now nurses on hand to help with their deliveries and provide emergency care if needed. Alpana, who lives in Barujani, was



pregnant with her fourth child when she received support from the new clinic.

Alpana's Story

Alpana (pictured) is 28 years old and lives in Barujani with her four children. Her first three children were born without her ever attending a hospital or a clinic for a health check-up. As she had never been before, a health worker from the Clinic based Community Health and Nutrition Programme visited her home. They taught her about pregnancy health and

informed her about the pre-natal and post-natal services of a nearby clinic. Afterwards, Alpana had the confidence to attend St Stephen's Clinic which she was able to walk to from her home. She felt comfortable enough to use their health guidelines to help keep both her and her baby healthy and attended the clinic regularly for check-up's.

In June of this year, she gave birth to a baby girl at home, with the support of a Community Health Worker. Mother and baby are keeping well by God's grace. Alpana is grateful to the clinic for her treatment and the support provided by the health worker.

Highlights

- 1,375 people received care through the Clinic based Community Health and Nutrition Programme in Barishal.
- 30 people from schools, churches and hostels in Barishal Diocese were trained in basic health issues so they could support their respective communities.
- 10 government registered nurses were appointed to the clinics within Barishal Diocese.
- 92 student nurses are currently in training on the three-year diploma course at Rajshahi Hospital.
- 517 children and babies under 5 years of age were treated at Bollophpur Hospital.

COVID-19 Response

Along with our other church partners, the Church of Bangladesh has experienced challenges running programme activities during the pandemic. However, they continue to be active in their communities following the devastating social and economic impact. As well as supporting in Bollobhpur, Rajshahi and other areas through Clinic based Community Health programme, they have been organising activities to support those in greatest need including the following.

- Providing educational materials to raise awareness of handwashing and the prevention of COVID-19.
- Distributing hand washing and safety packs to 115 parishes, and 50 schools. Each pack contains a plastic drum, bucket, mug, soap, and a towel.
- Providing two hospitals and 11 clinics with Personal Protective Equipment including masks and gloves and antiseptic for a week.

Prayer Points

Please remember the below in your prayers:

- Protection and safety of vulnerable mothers and children from COVID-19 who struggle to get timely medical care.
- Safety of medical staff at various Church of Bangladesh health programmes, as they work tirelessly to help the poor and needy during these difficult times.
- Pray for the Clergy and lay members of the Church of Bangladesh as they continue to worship God through serving people, during these uncertain and challenging times.

Thank you for your continued prayers for the USPG-supported work of the **Church of Bangladesh**.

Fundraising Ideas

Firstly, a huge thank you to all of our wonderful supporters for their continued support for USPG. We know that these are challenging times so we've come up with a few ideas to help you to continue to raise funds, connect with others and have some fun along the way.

Host a virtual coffee morning or virtual quiz

- Choose a platform to host your event such as Zoom, Facebook Rooms or Skype.
- Decided on a date and time and invite your friends and family to your event. You can even set up a JustGiving page for people to donate to. Do get in touch for editable posters!
- If you're doing a coffee morning, then why not have a Bake-Off competition at the same time? Ask everyone to bake their favourite treats and then show them off in front of the camera. Why not ask everyone to vote for their favourite.
- If you're hosting a quiz, then use your imagination to gather some quiz questions together and create different rounds. For example, choose some famous quotes and ask people who said them, play song clips and ask people to name that tune, or test their geography and ask 'What country are you in if...' such as What country are you in if you were visiting Angkor Wat?
- Decide on an entry fee and then set up a JustGiving page for everyone to pay. You could even reach out to some local business to source a fantastic prize for the winning team

Organise a walking fundraiser

- On 22 September, Rámond, our new Volunteer Co-ordinator did a sponsored walk called Church-a-thon. In a marathon a person would run 26.2 miles, for the Church-a-thon he walked 15 miles from his home in Catford to St Paul's Cathedral stopping at 26 different churches along the way praying for the intentions that he received from our supporters and also from the wider world and USPG. By doing this Rámond raised £1,140 which will help in continuing USPG's mission worldwide!
- Whether you choose to walk, run or cycle, sponsored challenges are a great way to enjoy time with others while raising money for USPG. USPG supporter Richard Reade organises his own 20-mile walk in Derby every year. He said, *"The fellowship and conversations along the journey make the miles fly by. I'd encourage you to get out there and walk!"*.

If you need any fundraising support including resources, please do get in touch with our Supporter Care Coordinator at info@uspg.org.uk or call our main line on 020 7921 2200. From more information on the work of USPG to editable posters for your event, we can help you with every step of your fundraising event.



Partner Churches in Britain and Ireland

Please find below a list of churches who have kindly chosen to partner with **Protecting Health in Bangladesh**.

- St Paul, Chippenham (Diocese of Bristol)
- St Thomas, Milnthorpe (Diocese of Carlisle)
- Rectorial Benefice of Aberavon (Diocese of Llandaff)
- St Peter, Oundle with Ashton (Diocese of Peterborough)
- United Benefice of Holy Trinity and Jude, Halifax (Diocese of Leeds)

If you'd like to be connected to other churches supporting the same programme, please get in touch with Gwen Mtambirwa on gwenm@uspg.org.uk

Thank you

On behalf of USPG and the Church of Bangladesh, thank you once again for becoming a Partner In Mission. We hope you have enjoyed reading about the life-changing difference that your support makes. We look forward to contacting you again soon with the next update on the church's work in Bangladesh.