



VAB - 25 Years of Service to Underprivileged Children in Rural Bangladesh

Volunteers Association for Bangladesh (VAB)



The **Volunteers Association for Bangladesh (VAB)** is a US-based charity founded in 1998 by expatriate Bangladeshis and their American friends. Its mission is to empower underprivileged youth in rural Bangladesh through quality education and skills training, enabling them to achieve a better standard of living. VAB also promotes student health through health monitoring and preliminary assessments.

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

- Legal Status: A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization registered with the IRS in the USA and the Bureau of Charities in New York.
- Headquarters: Jamaica, NY, USA.
- Bangladesh Registration: Registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau under the Prime Minister's Office.
- Country Office: Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Funding: Annual income ranges from USD 100,000 to 150,000. VAB has an Endowment Fund of USD 1.1 million and owns a 2,700 sq. ft. office in Dhaka.

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES: THE 25-YEAR JOURNEY

VAB's journey has spanned partnerships with **115 rural high schools in 26 districts**, currently supporting **65 schools in clusters across 8 divisions** of Bangladesh. The programs are organized under four pillars:

Student Empowerment

- o Scholarships for **14,476** students across 84 institutions.
- o Student Clubs include **7,340** students in debates, sports, and volunteering.
- o Specialized training for over **25,000** students in English, Math, and computer skills.
- o Health Monitoring Program launched in 2024, with plans for national expansion.

Teacher Empowerment

- o Training in English, ICT, and group teaching methods for over **2,000** teachers.
- o Awards for outstanding teacher performance.

School Empowerment

- o Infrastructure support, including computers, lab equipment, and disaster assistance.
- o Recognition for schools with high pass rates.



Dr. A.T. Rafiqur Rahman, Founder of VAB and President, 1998-2023, speaking at the Inauguration of VAB Office and Training Centre at Adabor, Shyamoli, Dhaka on 09 January 2015

Community Empowerment

- o Parent-teacher meetings, education fairs, and roundtable discussions.
- o COVID-19 relief for **1,200** families and reusable masks for **1,650** individuals.

FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES

Scholarship Programs

Two categories:

1. **Higher Education Scholarships** for tertiary-level students.
2. **Skill Development Scholarships** for vocational training in employable trades.

Technical Training Institutes (TTIs)

VAB has established three TTIs in Shyamnagar, Bhangura, and Keshabpur, offering courses in computer operation, graphic design, tailoring, and more.

Relief and Rehabilitation

Provided support for natural disaster victims, including flood and cyclone recovery, and assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Collaborative Projects

- Implemented a **Rotary Global Grant Project** on rural teacher training.
- Collaborative work with organizations like **UNDP, Bangladesh Bank and Chevron Bangladesh**.
- Ongoing projects with the **Malala Foundation** and **North-South University** to address gender equity and environmental issues.

RECOGNITION AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Social Business Innovation Challenge (2015)**: First prize at the Atlanta Global Summit.

NEAR-TERM GOALS

- Raise **USD 50,000** to support **300 students'** education up to the tertiary level.
- Additional **USD 50,000** for **500 individuals'** skill development.
- Launch a **School Health Monitoring Program** for **2,000 students**.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela

VAB Scholarship Program offers two types of scholarships - one for higher education, and another for skill training. The program aims to help needy rural students for their education and skill development to realize their earning potential. The Scholarship includes sustenance costs as well of the Awardees. VAB has been awarding scholarships up to tertiary levels under the VAB-ZAMOSC Special Scholarship Project since 2017, led by eminent linguist Amin Rahman and his wife Zobeda Rahman, residing in Australia. VAB Bangladesh will own and implement the program.

The VAB Education and Training Program focuses on the establishment and management of VAB Technical Training Institutes (TTIs). Based on the experience and expertise gained in relation to the first VAB TTI in Shyamnagar, Satkhira, established in 2022, and registered with the National Skills Development Authority (NSDA), two more TTIs were established in Bhangura, Pabna and Keshabpur, Jashore with a fourth planned for Dhaka. The TTIs offer courses in Computer Operation, Graphic Design, Web Design, Digital Marketing, IT Support, Freelancing, Tailoring, and Dressmaking and also offer high-level computing certificate courses.

VAB focuses on quality education through group-based learning-teaching methods in classrooms and on student clubs. These methods promote learning by the students on their own by studying the curricular materials through discussion -

VAB Scholarship Program



Scholarship distribution at Bhangura, Pabna by Country Director Dr. M.M Zahid Hassan and Assistant Country Director M.A Alim Khan.



Training of students on debating conducted by former president of Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS) Mr. Abu Bakkar Siddique Prince at Nageshwari, Kurigram.



Students of Sundarban Secondary Girls School at Shyamnagar, Satkhira with Log Books for students clubs, distributed by VAB



Sadia Anjum Puspo, a VAB beneficiary receiving a memento after conducting training at Science and Robotics Camp at Shyamnagar, Satkhira.

VAB Technical Training Institutes (TTIs)



Shyamnagar VAB Technical Training Institute: VAB's maiden initiative for institutionalized skills development in the coastal area of Shyamnagar, Satkhira.



Trainees take computer lessons at Keshabpur VAB Technical Training Institute following the curriculum of National Skills Development Authority (NSDA)

Group-based Learning-teaching Method and Student Clubs



Students with booklet on disaster preparedness at Belabo, Narshingdi, published in collaboration with Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) and supported by Malala Fund.



Mr. Abdul Karim, UNO of Belabo, Narshingdi speaks to the students at a discussion to mark World Environment day

among students in groups in the classroom, the teacher being a facilitator. Student clubs bring out the innate potential of students to learn, and enhance cognitive thinking and problem-solving capabilities, and at the same time, foster citizenship qualities such as fellow feeling, team work and leadership.

Student's Health and Hygiene Improvement and Monitoring Program



School-teachers are given orientation on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Child Health issues by VAB Director (now President) Dr. Maksud Chowdhry at Raozan, Chattogram in February 2024

VAB launched a program in Raozan, Chattogram in February 2024, with plans to add one school annually. The program aims to detect health issues early and treat them so that the students can have better education. With support from the government or other donor agencies, the program could be scaled up to national levels.

Quality Education for Poor Children in Bangladesh through Teacher Training in rural areas of Bangladesh



Keshabpur UNO speaks at Community Awareness Engagement Program under Quality Education for Poor Children in Bangladesh through Teacher Training in rural areas of Bangladesh, supported by Rotary Global Grant

The Global Grant was jointly sponsored by Rotary Club of Banani Dhaka from Bangladesh, Rotary E-club of Heritage, New York, USA and the Rotary Foundation.

Disaster Relief Distribution by VAB



Cash Support was provided to day-labourers and people with limited income during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Besides the relief distribution during floods at different points in time, VAB also stood by the people in need during the Corona pandemic.

USA Bangladesh Joint Board Meeting of VAB



Advisers and Members of VAB Boards from USA and Bangladesh met at VAB office at Dhaka on 12 February 2024

VAB's Relief Work

VAB helps the schools it partners with and their students, teachers and staff as well as the communities where schools are, in relief and rehabilitation from natural disasters such as floods and cyclones. VAB's assistance to 1,500 families in the communities of its partner schools during the pandemic is noteworthy. During the recent Movement in Bangladesh, there were several casualties. Members of the VAB Family, particularly VAB Directors, wished to assist the families of the injured students and members of the public and those who lost loved ones, as well as in the treatment of the injured. The funds raised through this initiative, led by the Vice Chair of VAB Board Dr. Fazlur R Chowdhury, will be donated to the "July Shaheed Smriti Foundation" established by the Government of Bangladesh. For the above purpose and also for the relief and rehabilitation of the flood-affected people, VAB obtained approval of a USD \$100,000 project from the NGO Bureau.

"One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world."

"Let us pick up our books and our pens. They are our most powerful weapons."

"Education is the best weapon we have to fight poverty, ignorance, and terrorism."

"If you don't raise your voice, it is unlikely anyone will hear you."

Malala Yousafzai

VAB USA

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Mr. Hasnain Sabih Nayak



- Empowering Quality Education
- Skills Development Training
- Good Citizenship

VAB'S COLLABORATIVE WORK

In recognition of its services, various entities carried out collaborative projects with VAB. In the past such entities included United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Bangladesh Bank, Dutch-Bangla Bank, Chevron Bangladesh and the Chittagong Medical College (CMC) Alumni USA, Rotary Club of Banani Dhaka, the Rotary E-club of Heritage New York, USA, The Rotary Foundation, Malala Foundation, and North-South University (NSU). Currently, a Women's Health & Hygiene Project aims to raise awareness about sanitation, hygiene, and entrepreneurship, to be led by a renowned Gender Expert. The Family Foundation of the past Country Director, Dr. M M Zahid Hassan, has offered to carry out the pilot project in Bhangura, Pabna.



APPEAL TO SUPPORTERS

VAB seeks your partnership to sustain and expand its impact. Ways to contribute:

- Join as a Volunteer.
- Spread awareness about VAB's work.
- Donate funds to support programs or the endowment fund.

Donation Information

In the USA

- Office Address: VAB, 172-27 83rd Avenue, Jamaica, NY 11432
- Mailing: VAB, P.O. Box 650672, Fresh Meadows, NY 11365
- Online: www.vabonline.org, PayPal, or Zelle (Chase Zelle: +1-347-502-3096)
- Tax ID: 13-4034550

In Bangladesh

- Office Address: VAB, House #806, Road #03, Baitul Aman Housing Society, Adabor, Dhaka.
- Account Name: Volunteers Association for Bangladesh (VAB)
- A/C No: 148.120.0005550, Dutch-Bangla Bank PLC, Shyamoli Branch, Dhaka

Contact Information

USA

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Bangladesh

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