

## Pre-schools for Bihari Children

BGD-OMB-PBC-P02



Dakha, Bangladesh



Education



Tax deductible

Total Budget

\$61,200

Project Timeline

JAN 21

DEC 22



### Overview

The Bihari ethnic minority community live mostly near or in extremely crowded refugee camps as a forgotten and despised group of people. This project established two pre-primary schools in the largest camp - home to some 40,000 people. The schools focused on ages 4-6, ran activity based classes building a foundation for ongoing education, strengthening Bengali language ability, and encouraging children and parents to maintain education while introducing an element of fun to break the monotony of daily life. It also provided life skill training for adults, with the longer term aim of developing individual and community future prospects and aiding their integration into the wider Bengali community.

### Objectives

### Impact

<p><b>Appointing and training of teachers</b></p>	<p>Four women (two senior and two assistant teachers, 3 from the Bihari Camp) received BRAC teacher training over the two years. They have been taught the benefits of learning through play as well as teaching from the BRAC curriculum.</p>	
<p><b>Locate and equip two classrooms</b></p>	<p>The current classrooms located in the camp provided a safe environment for the children but are very small. Until more suitable ones can be found, necessary repairs and improvements made the rooms a bit more comfortable.</p>	
<p><b>Enrol 30 children in each class</b></p>	<p>The pre-primary school classes were full every day. Children received a formal and non-formal education, recited poems and songs from the curriculum, enjoyed reading story books and playing with age appropriate toys.</p>	
<p><b>Run social awareness seminars</b></p>	<p>Parents benefitted from seminars about child rearing, the importance of education, health &amp; hygiene, forms of abuse, budgeting, avoiding under-age marriage and general education about the pandemic and receiving vaccines.</p>	



### Life change

- Children are prepared for school entry and receive certificates so that they can enter Grade One of government schools. This gives them access to education and increases their future employment prospects.
- Children's development and daily life is enriched through fun and engaging activities, leading to improved health and happiness.
- Parents and guardians feel empowered to lead and guide their families and make positive changes and choices.



## First Steps

Maya was 3 years old when her mother left to go and work in Saudi Arabia. They have never heard from her again. Her father was in and out of jail for petty crimes and did not provide any income for the family. Maya is now six and lives with her grandmother who also has no income and begs within the camp. Maya has been attending the pre-primary school classes for the last two years. She has learnt well and enjoyed the friendly child centred atmosphere with the teachers and her new friends. This experience has laid a foundation for Maya's education and she recently received her certificate for admittance to Grade One.



Entrust Project Manager, Kate, visits the Bihari ABC pre-schools in Nov 2022

## School makes a Difference

This is Salma, daughter of Rabia, a young, single mum. Rabia was tricked into an unhappy, abusive marriage when her father died. She left the marriage but was pregnant with Salma. She was totally housebound and dependent on her older brother for 3 years. He enrolled Salma in the pre-primary school program and encouraged Rabia to attend a sewing training course, both run by our partners. Knowing her daughter was being well looked after and receiving a quality education, Rabia worked diligently, watching videos on cutting and latest designs. She recently took a position as the new sewing instructor when the position became available and dreams about her daughter's educational achievements in the future.

