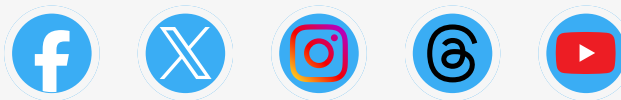




Impact Foundation Bangladesh

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026 | VOL 4 NO 1




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MoU Between IMPACT Foundation UK and IFB

A new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in March between IMPACT Foundation UK (UKIF) and IFB to implement a three-year project, "Sustainable Health Care for the Poor People of Rural Bangladesh through Prevention and Cure of Avoidable Disabilities," in IFB's project areas. The project will commence in April, 2026.

IFB Mourned the Demise of Lady Jean Wilson

Lady Jean Wilson, the Honorary President of IMPACT Foundation UK, passed away on January 5, 2026, at the age of 103. She was the wife of the late Sir John Wilson, CBE, DCL- the visionary leader who inspired IFB's formation in 1993. Rezaul Haque, PhD, Chairman and Founder Trustee of IFB, expressed deepest condolences on behalf of the Trustees and Staff members for the profound loss of the Global Disability Movement.



On behalf of the Trustees, Members of Staff and Volunteers of Impact Foundation Bangladesh, I send this Message of Condolence on the passing away of Lady Jean Wilson, OBE, the Honorary President of IMPACT Foundation UK.

Through her work in the healthcare and disability sectors, particularly through her pioneering initiatives to improve the health and wellbeing of women and children, Lady Wilson's touched the lives of so many people across the world. She was also instrumental in establishing many charitable organizations including the UK Impact Foundation, for the benefit of the disadvantaged communities across the globe. Lady Wilson left behind a rich and powerful legacy.

Some of us at Impact Bangladesh happily recall her trips along with Sir John to Bangladesh and her inspiration and support behind the creation of Impact Foundation Bangladesh. She took keen interest in the work of Impact Bangladesh. We will remain ever grateful for that, and will celebrate her life.

Rezaul Haque
Chairman
Impact Foundation Bangladesh

The Lutz And Hedda Franz Charitable Trust (LHFCT)'s Support For 20 Nursing Students

The Lutz and Hedda Franz Charitable Trust, IFB's long-standing supporter, provided generous financial support for 20 Impact Nursing Institute (INI) students to complete their education. The students in the 13th batch of INI will be admitted to the institute by April 2026. The educational support will be for students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds with a monthly family income of around US\$ 100. IFB expresses heartfelt gratitude to LHFCT for their support in constructing the INI building and for sponsoring 20 students from the 2026 batch.

Impact Norway Committed to a Long-term Project with IFB

Impact Norway, in collaboration with the Oslo Metropolitan University (OsloMet), will support IFB in implementing a one-year project in Chuadanga, Meherpur, and the Jibon Tari Floating Hospital. The pilot project will be implemented this year, and with a possible extension for the next 4 years. The proposed project will assess the impact of surgeries (ear, clubfoot, and cerebral palsy-related disabilities) among children aged 7-18 years and their parents on their daily lives and well-being. The impact on the lives of the operated children and their parents will be assessed by interviewing with a set of semi-structured questionnaires and Life mode in-depth interviews, before and 6 months after surgery.

Support from Bangladeshi American Charitable Organization (BACHAO)

During the winter, with the generous support of US\$ 5,000 from BACHAO, IFB brought warm smiles to the lives of 1,750 vulnerable families in the remotest parts of Chuadanga and Meherpur districts. IFB extends sincere gratitude to BACHAO for their timely support that helped to restore warmth to the lives of the poor people living in the south-western part of the country. In another significant development, BACHAO has committed to supporting IFB for a medical mobile camp project that will include a medical van to reach out with essential and emergency medical care to the remotest poor people living further distances from the location of Jibon Tari. IFB plans to treat approximately 90,000 patients over a period of three years. The project is expected to commence from May 2026, with IFB providing patient treatment by the mobile medical van from January 2027.




The Proshanti Programme

With the support from DAK International Network (DIN), Australia, IFB's Proshanti programme is continuing to support rural women suffering from pelvic organ prolapse with a modern surgical technique, sacrospinous fixation, across 22 treatment facilities in Bangladesh through trained Gynecologists.

IFB Mourned the Sad Demise of Mr. Dave Rickards

Dave Rickards, Founder Trustee of DAK Foundation, and Adviser of the DAK International Network, Australia, passed away at the age of 76 years on 28th March, 2026. Mr. Rickards and his wife, Mrs. Kerry Rickards, have been longtime supporters of IFB in serving humanity and transforming the lives of underprivileged people. IFB family extended heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and the DAK community during this time of loss.

WE MOURN




Dave Rickards

19 JUNE 1949 - 28 MARCH 2026

We are deeply saddened to learn about the passing away of Dave Rickards, Founder, Trustee of the DAK Foundation, and Adviser of the DAK International Network. All of us at Impact Bangladesh send our deepest condolences to the entire Rickards family. Dave dedicated his entire life to the service of humanity by taking the lead in so many innovative initiatives in the health care sector across Asia and Africa. And, so much have been achieved by him in terms of improving the quality of life of the disadvantaged people. Dave was always supportive in the development and diversification of IFB's range of services towards the prevention and cure of avoidable disabilities, and particularly towards improving the health of women and children. We will always remain grateful for Dave's support.

We'll always remember his kind words. While we are sad with his passing away, it is also time to be proud of and to celebrate Dave's work and carry forward the meaningful legacy he left behind. Only that way, we can express our love and respect for him.

May Dave rest in eternal peace!



World Leprosy Day 2026

With the financial support from The Leprosy Mission International, Bangladesh (TLMI,B) and in collaboration with the local government authority, IFB's Chuadanga programme observed World Leprosy Day on 25th January 2026, with this year's theme, "Leprosy is curable, the real challenge is stigma." IFB held rallies at the district and sub-district level. Discussion meetings were held at three Upazila (sub-district) health complexes and the Civil Surgeon (CS) office of Chuadanga district. On the occasion of the event, IFB also distributed blankets among the leprosy patients in Chuadanga district.



Social Services and Management Trust (SSMT) Supports IFB

The Social Services and Management Trust (SSMT) is continuing the financial support towards the Jibon Tari Floating Hospital to provide healthcare initiatives for the riverine population of Bangladesh. The boat hospital is currently located at the Kaliganj sub-district of the Gazipur district.

Since its inception in 1999, the Jibon Tari has provided patient treatment and surgeries to the underprivileged women, children, and men living beside the riverways.



Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgery

Orthopaedic surgeons from the Paediatric Orthopaedic Society of Bangladesh (POSB) successfully operated on 45 orthopaedic patients at the Impact Hospital and Diagnostic Centre in Chuadanga and the Jibon Mela hospital in Meherpur in January. Clubfoot and other orthopaedic patients received life-changing interventions.



Visit By Dr. Nick and Claudine Paluch

Dr. Nick and his wife, Claudine Paluch, visited Impact Foundation Bangladesh (IFB)'s programmes in Chuadanga and Meherpur, as well as the Jibon Tari Floating Hospital, at the beginning of this year, in January. The visit served as an opportunity for IFB to present first-hand insights into the service provided to underserved communities in the rural districts, and present the ongoing needs and priorities to ensure long-term sustainability and further strengthening of IFB's programmes.



A Leg to Stand On (ALTSO) continues to support children with Clubfoot deformity

Aparna Biswas, aged three years, from Chuadanga Sadar Upazila (sub-district) of Chuadanga district, was brought to Impact Foundation Bangladesh (IFB's) satellite clinic in Hijol Gari village by her father. Little Aparna was delivered through a cesarean section to her mother, Seema Karmakar, a housewife. Her father, Utpal Biswas, provides for the family by farming leased lands.

Describing the day when Aparna was born, Seema said, "The day was filled with joy and happiness until the nurse informed us that our baby was born with a congenital problem. Her right foot was bent inwards. She is my first-born and only child. When I heard I was pregnant, I was under regular doctor consultation. Upon hearing the news from the nurse, I was heartbroken."



She continued, "I kept blaming myself. I thought there was some ill influence over me for which I suffered such a condition. My husband and I immediately consulted the doctor, who suggested that we visit a hospital once our baby turns three months old. With a broken heart, we returned home. But the hope of finding a remedy kept us going. We searched continuously for treatment options."

While describing the treatment, she stated, "We took our daughter to IFB's satellite clinic when she was only one month old, where the doctor, upon examination, suggested that we take Aparna to Impact Hospital and Diagnostic Centre for further examination, once she turns three months old."

She added further, "Following the doctor's recommendation, we took our daughter to the IFB hospital to seek treatment, where, after a thorough examination, my daughter was advised a course of serial plaster casting. She underwent four consecutive sessions of serial casting to correct the position of her foot gradually. After the casts were removed, the doctors recommended regular physiotherapy exercises and the use of corrective shoes. I complied with the doctor's advice." She added further, "Over the course of treatment, we changed her shoes six times to support her recovery. We strictly followed all medical advice for the correct restoration of her foot."

Describing Aparna's recovery, Seema said, "My daughter can play now. She walks like any other child of her age. I cannot explain how much of a relief that is for us. We thank Impact Foundation Bangladesh and ALTSO for their support. Without their support, we would have been lost in search of the proper guidance and treatment."

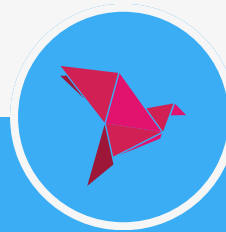
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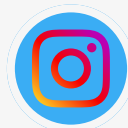
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