



 BAPTIST WORLD AID

Thank you Crossway Baptist  
Church for standing in  
partnership with our sisters and  
brothers in Bangladesh.

# 2021 IMPACT REPORT



# Building On Hope

Deep hope and deep joy go together. Allow me to explain by starting with words from one of our local Christian Partners:

'Often we feel down, exhausted, and confused when we hear so many sad news of friends and family who are sick or dying. We are surrounded with bad news and crises. But our work has to go on; we cannot stop the work of reaching out and giving help. In this pandemic there are many needs, one of them is Hope.'

These words were shared with us when the delta variant was ravaging the world. In the words of our Partner we hear voices common to many of us—echoes of weariness and doubt. In fact, our Partner's words highlight a 'hopelessness pandemic' that runs underneath the current physical global pandemic. Yet our Partner's words also point to the importance of 'hope'. They demonstrate the critical truth of living out hope by standing on foundations of 'joy'. I have heard our many of our Partners reflect on Romans 5:1-5 and they highlight the persevering, character-building nature of true hope in Jesus. Because of this, even in the midst of suffering, they have the strength for a joyful heart.

From the bottom of our hearts at Baptist World Aid we join them in saying 'thank you'! Thank you Crossway Baptist Church for continuing to partner in building hope with communities that have become increasingly vulnerable and marginalised because of the pandemic. We know that you have also had a challenging year, yet you continue to prioritise your partnership in Bangladesh and for that we are grateful.

Thank you for your resilience. Thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for your generosity and thank you for partnering alongside us and our sisters and brothers in Bangladesh. Let us continue to partner in the whole gospel together.



Grace and peace,

*Marbuz Diaz*

**Marbz Diaz**

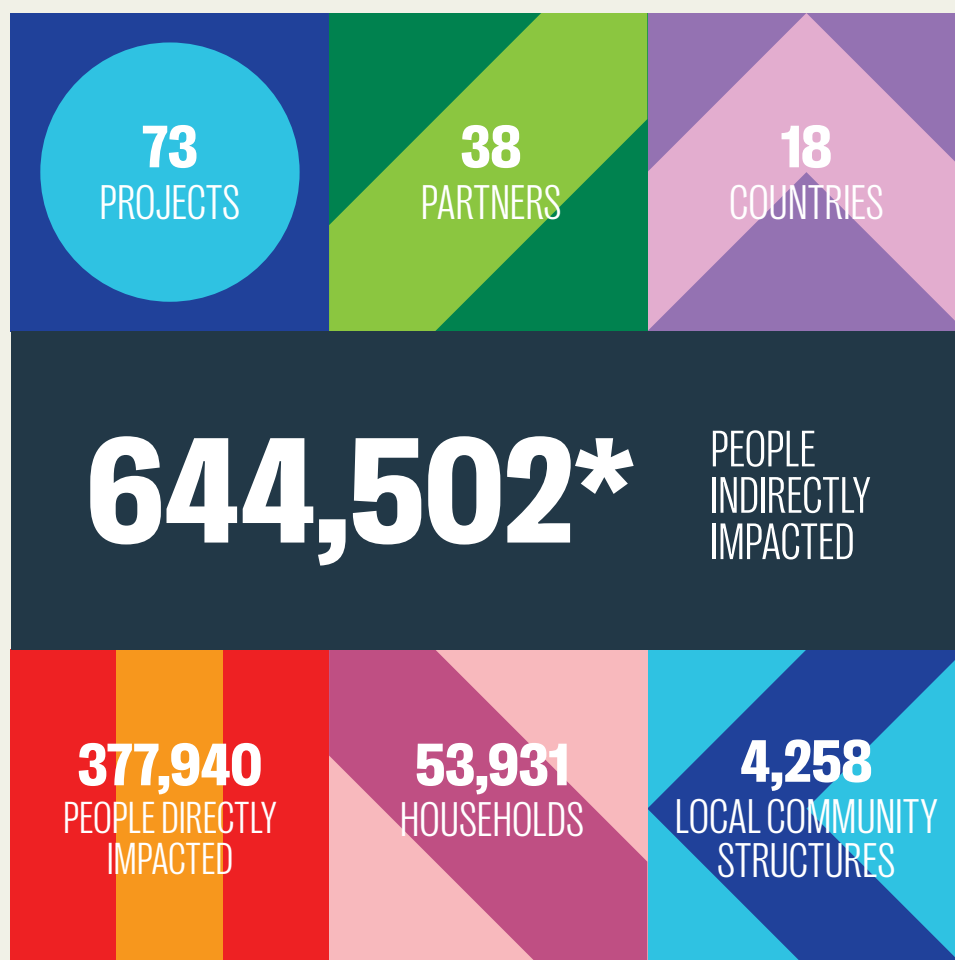
National Manager for Church Engagement



# Reflecting On 2021

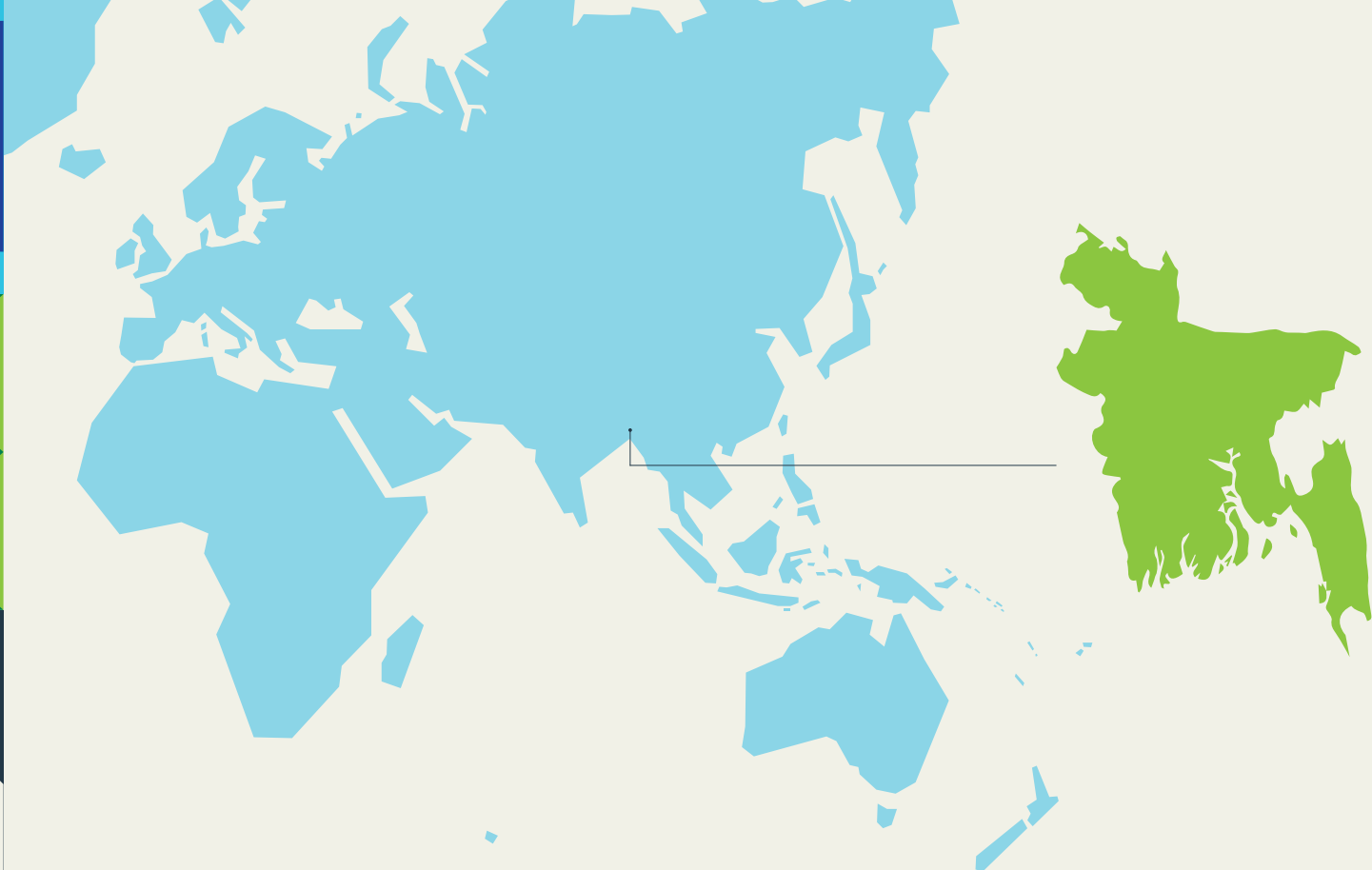
We're now three years into COVID-19— a global pandemic that has brought supply chains to a halt, closed classroom doors for months on end, and seen families and communities devastated by illness and loss. When disasters hit—whether they're health, environmental or conflict driven—it's those who are already vulnerable that suffer the most. The UN estimates that over 150 million people have been pushed into extreme poverty because of COVID.

Yet through it all, God is faithful and continues to provide for his people. In the past year, we've seen extraordinary responses from our faithful supporters, creative program adaptations from our local Christian Partners, and ongoing resourcing for urgent humanitarian needs in areas like Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, South Asia and Afghanistan.



We continue to dream of and work towards a world where poverty has ended and all people enjoy the fullness of life God intends. Until that day, we give thanks to God for the work he calls us to and for those he calls to partner with us, like Crossway Baptist Church.

\*Numbers based on data received from partners at time of preparing the FY21 annual report.



## What's Been Happening In Bangladesh?

COVID has put increasing pressure on Bangladesh's health system, particularly in rural areas with poorly resourced health facilities. Just under half of the population are now fully vaccinated for COVID<sup>1</sup>. The pandemic has also had a social and economic toll, pushing 24.5 million people into poverty. School-aged children have missed important time in the classroom, parents have lost their sources of income, and the fear of getting sick has spread throughout communities.

Building relationships between the community, our local Christian Partners and local government bodies is a core element of all Baptist World Aid

community development programs. When members of the community trust each other and our local Christian Partner staff, opportunities for change arise.

Thankfully, our local Christian Partners in Bangladesh adapt to the challenges they face and the ways they engage with the community —especially during lockdown— so they can maintain these relationships. Last year they used technology and social media to connect regularly with the community. When possible, they held small group meetings where social distancing and mask-wearing were required.

**5**  
PROJECTS IN  
BANGLADESH

**32,594**  
PEOPLE DIRECTLY  
IMPACTED

**10,500**  
OF THESE ARE  
CHILDREN

**592**  
OF THESE ARE  
PEOPLE LIVING  
WITH DISABILITIES

\*Numbers based on data received from partners at the time of preparing the FY21 annual report. Numbers include all Baptist World Aid projects in Bangladesh (with funding from Australian supporters and the Australian government).

<sup>1</sup><https://covid19.who.int/table>

# Highlights To Celebrate!

PLEASE SHARE THESE HIGHLIGHTS WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY!

**2021 saw several highlights, including:**

- Eight community groups are now self-operational and equipped with skills and experience. This means they can provide ongoing support to their community even though our Local Partner is phasing out of this area. Over 120 community leaders have grown stronger in their strategic planning, budgeting, advocating, networking and relationship building skills through our project activities.
- Over 200 community leaders and disaster management committee members were trained on early warnings for disasters, how to reduce their risks from future disasters, and how to establish disaster response plans.
- Over 130 children living with disabilities received help in applying for and accessing government financial support.
- In the second year of a nine-year project in central Bangladesh, many community groups were established—including savings groups, child and youth clubs and village development forums. Despite the challenges of large gatherings, these groups still received training in child rights, record keeping and leadership to begin building their capacity.
- 40 women participated in sewing training, equipping them with skills for income generation.
- An Emergency Response Team was established in the project area in south-west Bangladesh. This team worked together when Cyclone Yash hit Bangladesh in mid-May 2021. They provided early warnings to their local community and conducted a post-cyclone survey to identify the damage that would need addressing.
- 12 hand washing stations were installed in community meeting spots and personal protection equipment (such as soap, sanitiser and masks) was distributed via local community groups to help keep the community safe from viruses like COVID.

## SOLAR POWERED HARVEST



Farmers in our project area in South-West Bangladesh now have access to year-long water to irrigate their farms thanks to solar panel pumps that our local Christian Partner helped them install. With the additional water supplies, these farmers are now protected against heat waves and drought.

'Previously I could produce around 1,000kg of rice in one harvest. Now I'm producing around 1,900kg of rice from just one round of cultivation,' farmer Sudeb said.



# Praying Together For Bangladesh

PLEASE BRING THESE PRAYER POINTS TO YOUR CHURCH FAMILY  
AT YOUR NEXT SERVICE OR CATALYST MEETING.

**Pray:**

- That God will prevent further spread of COVID, and for rest and encouragement for the frontline workers in Bangladesh who work long hours with limited resources
- That families who have lost loved ones from COVID will feel God's nearness and comfort during their grief
- For encouragement of spirit for pastors in Bangladesh, and for the many congregations who lost their pastors to COVID
- For our local Christian Partners as they embody the practical love of Jesus amongst the communities where they work



## PRAISE GOD

Using skills Sufia learnt from our local Christian Partner in Bangladesh, she established a small business and now leads a team of 15 female embroiders making Nakshi Kantha (traditional blankets) to sell at the market. Her daughter keeps up with trends on social media and shares these with Sufia for inspiration.

\*name changed for child safety



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‘Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.’

ROMANS 5:1-5 (NIV)