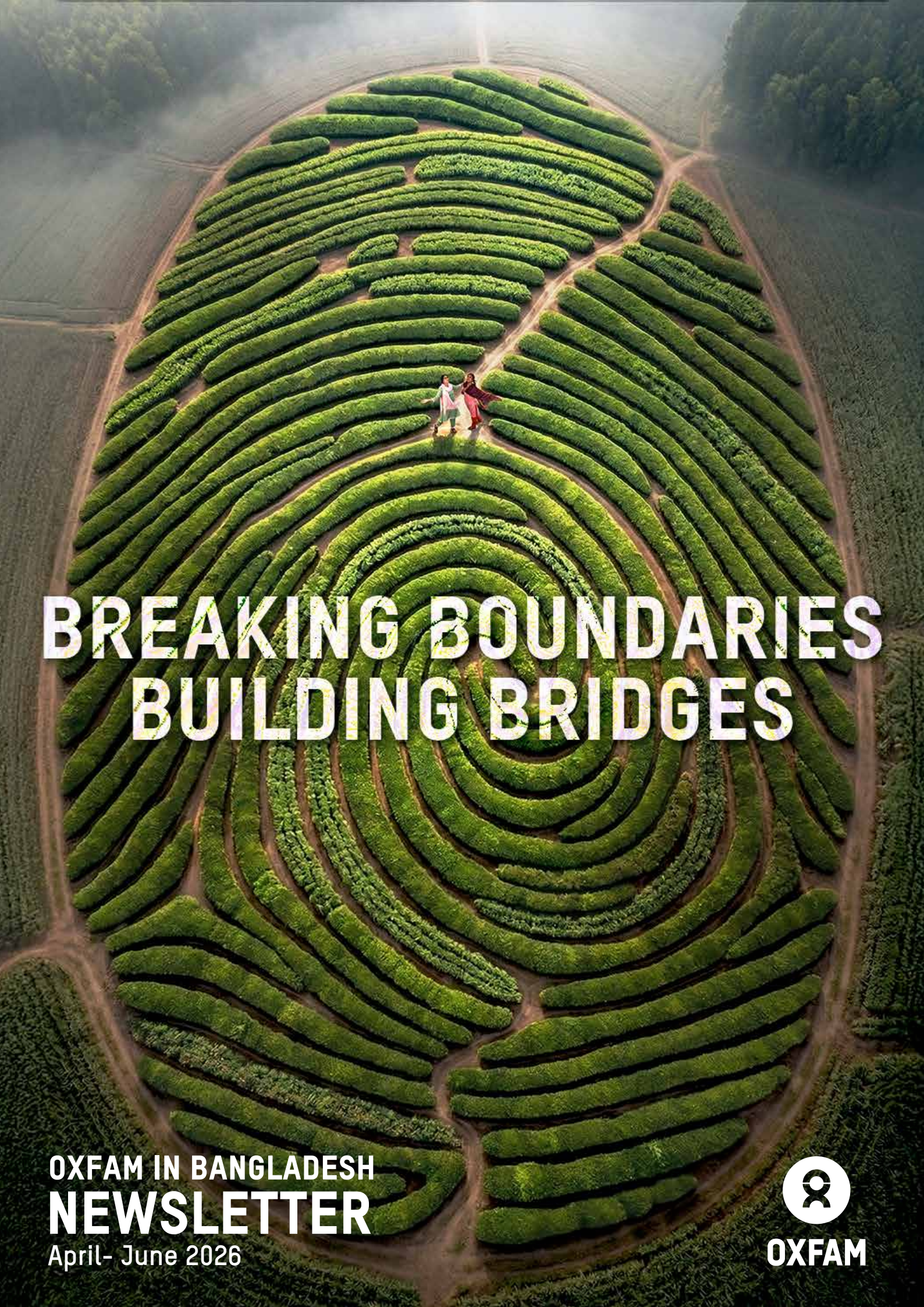




BREAKING BOUNDARIES BUILDING BRIDGES

**OXFAM IN BANGLADESH
NEWSLETTER**

April- June 2026



OXFAM



COUNTRY DIRECTOR'S INSIGHT

Bangladesh stands at an important point in its development journey. The country has achieved remarkable social and economic progress, yet climate vulnerability, rapid urbanisation, shifting development finance landscape and prolonged humanitarian challenges continue to affect millions of people. Moving forward will require more than isolated interventions; it will demand stronger institutions, inclusive partnerships, locally led solutions and sustained attention to the voices of people experiencing marginalization and inequality.

Since recently joining Oxfam in Bangladesh, I have been encouraged by the organisation's deep-rooted presence, the commitment of our colleagues and partners, and the leadership demonstrated by communities across the country. Oxfam's role is not only to respond to immediate needs but also to connect community realities with evidence, policy dialogue and wider systems change. This requires us to listen carefully, learn continuously and purposefully and honestly communicate about our work.

A quarterly newsletter is therefore much more than a summary of activities. It creates an important connection between programme implementation, organisational learning, narrative building and advocacy. It allows us to reflect on what is changing, capture lessons from our work, recognise the contributions of communities and partners, and make evidence accessible beyond individual projects and teams. Effective communication and documentation also strengthen accountability. It helps communities, partners, donors, policymakers and colleagues understand not only what we have done but also why it matters and what further action is required.

This April–June 2026 edition reflects the collective efforts of communities, partners and colleagues working toward a fairer and more resilient Bangladesh. It also reminds us that sustainable progress depends on collaboration across sectors and on ensuring that people have the voice, agency and resources to shape their own futures.

ANIL PANT

Interim Country Director, Oxfam in Bangladesh



EDITOR'S NOTE

This edition of the Oxfam in Bangladesh Quarterly Newsletter captures a period of Oxfam in Bangladesh and its partners' programme delivery, innovation, evidence generation and public engagement between April and June 2026.

Across the stories, one central insight emerges: greater impact becomes possible when programmes, communications and advocacy are designed to reinforce one another. Field experience produces evidence; evidence informs narratives; narratives build public understanding; and sustained engagement can move community priorities into institutional and policy spaces.

Our spotlight story, Cha Gorom, demonstrates how a development issue can enter mainstream entertainment without compromising dignity or creative quality. By taking the realities of tea workers from remote gardens to Chorki, national media and millions of screens, the initiative challenged conventional approaches to development communication.

The newsletter also documents women domestic workers demanding contracts, protection and access to justice; women-led organisations strengthening humanitarian leadership; young people and community-based organisations advancing climate justice; coastal entrepreneurs building green businesses; and refugee-led groups contributing directly to protection and resilience. Bridge to Bangladesh adds another dimension by creating a structured pathway for the diaspora to contribute knowledge, mentorship, innovation and partnerships beyond remittances.

From research reports and policy dialogues to films, digital platforms, market connections and community-level solutions, the content reflects different pathways to the same goal: addressing inequality through rights, evidence, leadership and collective action.

As editors, our responsibility is not simply to report what happened. It is to identify why it matters, whose voices must be heard and how each story connects with wider struggles for justice and systems change.

I invite you to read the newsletter, explore its links, watch the featured content and share the stories within your networks. More importantly, use its evidence and insights in programme design, donor engagement, partnership development and advocacy. They are stories of people shaping change across Bangladesh.

MD SARIFUL ISLAM

Head of Influencing, Communications, Advocacy and Media, Oxfam in Bangladesh

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CHA GOROM BREAKS NEW GROUND: TAKING TEA WORKERS' STORIES FROM THE MARGINS TO MAINSTREAM ENTERTAINMENT

A NEW MODEL FOR SOCIAL STORYTELLING

Cha Gorom has challenged a long-standing assumption in development communication: that stories about marginalised communities cannot attract mainstream audiences without becoming overly instructional. Jointly produced by Oxfam in Bangladesh and Chorki, with support from the European Union, the film transformed the realities of tea garden communities into an emotionally engaging, 102-minute mainstream drama. Released during Pahela Baishakh, it brought advocacy out of conference rooms and directly into people's homes through one of Bangladesh's leading OTT platforms.

BACKGROUND AND CREATIVE JOURNEY

The film emerged from a vision to bridge the divide between development organisations and Bangladesh's entertainment industry. Oxfam contributed its research, field access, sectoral knowledge and relationships with tea garden communities, while giving the filmmakers creative independence. The idea, research and project implementation were led by Md Sariful Islam, Head of Influencing, Communications, Advocacy & Media at Oxfam in Bangladesh.

Director Shankha Dasgupta and writer Saifullah Riyad visited tea gardens in Kulaura, speaking with workers and exploring their realities, rituals, happiness, aspirations and hardships. This research shaped a story that neither romanticises tea gardens nor portrays workers simply as victims. Instead, characters such as Irene, Nandini, Robin Chand Murmu and Mithu reveal people who laugh, love, struggle, dream and resist limitations.



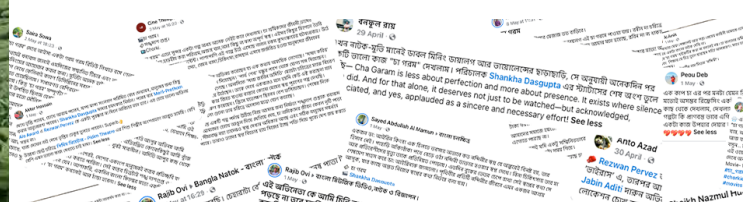
The film premiered on 13 April 2026 at Star Cineplex, SKS Tower, before cultural figures, government representatives, development partners, filmmakers and journalists. EU Ambassador Michael Miller and Italian Ambassador Antonio Alessandro were among the guests who recognised its artistic quality and powerful portrayal of dignity and women's empowerment. Cha Gorom became available on Chorki on 14 April, marking Pahela Baishakh with a story of renewal, solidarity and hope.



AN INTEGRATED CAMPAIGN AND SOCIAL MEDIA NARRATIVE

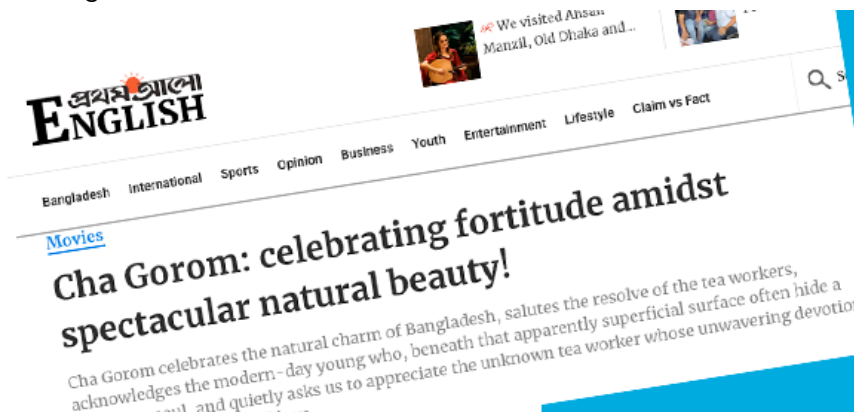


Oxfam and Chorki developed an extensive content ecosystem comprising posters, character teasers, trailers, film clips, songs, artist conversations, director interviews, dialogue cards, interactive posts and the audience-led "Teagraphy" contest. The communication consistently prioritised dignity over pity, characters over institutional messaging, and shared humanity over distant sympathy. Campaign assets carried the film into popular culture while encouraging audiences to look beyond tea gardens' scenic beauty and recognise the workers sustaining the industry.



MEDIA COVERAGE AND MEASURABLE IMPACT

All of the national media outlets produced news and features on Cha Gorom, including on the Daily Star, Prothom Alo, Dhaka Tribune, UNB, Bangla Tribune, Samakal, Bonik Barta, Channel i, and other outlets.



Through online promotion, mainstream media coverage, premiere events, audience engagement and OTT distribution, Cha Gorom reached far beyond the traditional boundaries of a development campaign. The film and its campaign generated more than 117 million impressions while securing an estimated BDT 20 million in earned media value.

More importantly, its impact extends beyond numbers. Cha Gorom carried the realities of tea workers from remote gardens into people's living rooms, bedrooms, mobile screens and everyday conversations. It travelled from the development sector to the creative industry, from social media feeds to mainstream newsrooms, and from entertainment spaces to policy tables. By presenting tea workers as dignified, complex and resilient people—not as passive recipients of support the film created new opportunities for empathy, dialogue and advocacy. It demonstrated that socially meaningful stories can engage mass audiences through authentic and emotionally compelling entertainment.



GENDER JUSTICE AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

BWHP ELECTION STRENGTHENS WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

The Bangladesh Women Humanitarian Platform (BWHP) held its election on 9 April 2026 in Dhaka through a fair, inclusive and transparent process. The election brought together 25 Executive Directors from women-led organisations with extensive experience in humanitarian response across Bangladesh.

Established in 2017, BWHP has evolved into a strong collective platform advocating for women's leadership and locally led humanitarian action. Its transition into a democratically elected body marks an important new chapter in strengthening feminist networks, institutional accountability and collaboration among women-led organisations.

The milestone reinforces BWHP's commitment to placing women at the centre of humanitarian decision-making while creating stronger spaces for learning, solidarity and joint action. The newly elected platform will work to advance a more inclusive, locally rooted and resilient humanitarian system in Bangladesh.



SUNITI PROJECT EQUIPS DOMESTIC WORKERS WITH ELDERLY CARE SKILLS

Around four million domestic workers provide essential care and household services across Bangladesh, yet many remain excluded from formal skills development opportunities. Oxfam in Bangladesh's Suniti project is helping address this gap by equipping domestic workers with practical elderly care skills.

Through specialised training, participants learn how to support older people's physical wellbeing, maintain hygiene, respond to basic health needs and provide appropriate emotional care. After completing the course, trainees also receive job placement support, helping them access safer and more dignified employment opportunities.

Funded by Global Affairs Canada and implemented by Oxfam in Bangladesh in partnership with UCEP Bangladesh, the Suniti project is strengthening workers' professional capacity while contributing to improved care services and greater economic inclusion.



WATCH

Oxfam in Bangladesh presented findings from its study, "Domestic Workers' Inclusion in the Bangladesh Labour Act (Amendment), 2026: What's Next?", at a dissemination event on 21 June 2026.

The study examined the implications of domestic workers' legal recognition and identified the urgent need for updated regulations, effective enforcement, accessible legal support and stronger protection mechanisms. It stressed that recognition in law must be translated into practical rights, safer working conditions and meaningful access to justice. The report highlighted policy gaps, the need for timely regulations, and proposals to classify domestic work as a hazardous occupation. The initiative helped place domestic workers' rights more firmly within national public and policy discussions.

The findings generated substantial coverage across leading Bangla and English print, online and television outlets, including Prothom Alo, Samakal, The Financial Express, Star News, Banglanews24.com and Shomoyer Alo.



[READ MORE](#)



MAHMUDA SULTANA
PROGRAMME DIRECTOR, OXFAM IN BANGLADESH



Although domestic workers have received limited recognition under the country's labour law, there is still no clarity about their wages, working hours, leave entitlements and other fundamental labour rights.



600 DOMESTIC WORKERS RALLY FOR RIGHTS AND PROTECTION

Nearly 600 domestic workers gathered at the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka to demand stronger labour rights, social protection and dignified working conditions.

Although Bangladesh has more than four million domestic workers, most still work without written contracts or formal safety nets. Speakers said their recognition under labour law remains incomplete and must be supported by effective regulations and enforcement.

The workers called for written contracts covering employment and leave, compensation mechanisms, the right to form trade unions, and accessible local dispute-resolution systems. The rally was organised by the National Domestic Workers' Forum and the Global Affairs Canada-funded Suniti project, reinforcing calls for safer, fairer and rights-based employment.



WOMEN-LED PLATFORMS STRENGTHEN FEMINIST HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP

The Bangladesh Women Humanitarian Platform (BWHP) and Women Community Leaders Platform (WCLP) convened a participatory workshop in June 2026 to strengthen the resilience, leadership and strategic capacity of women-led organisations.

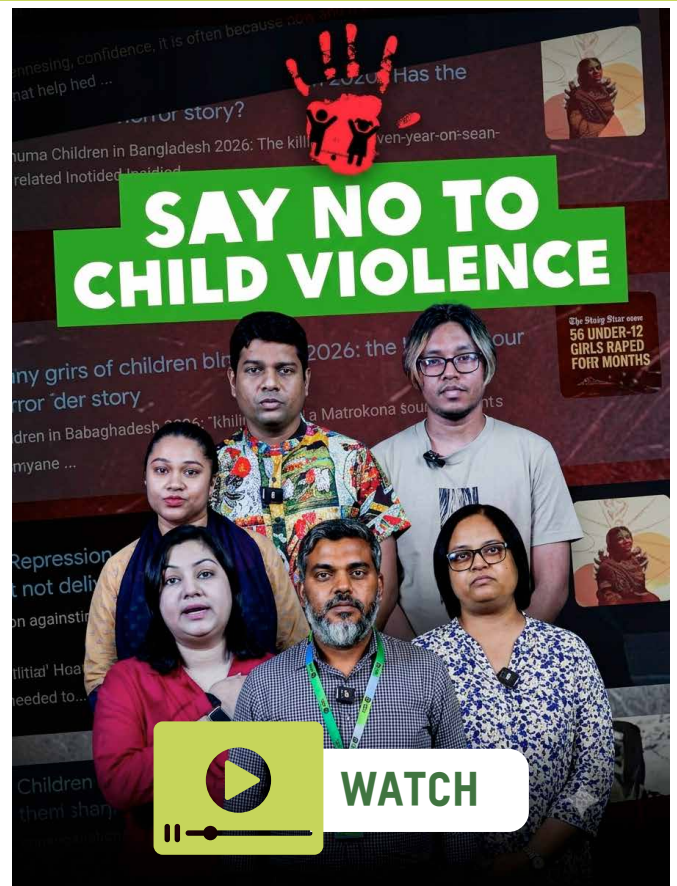
Facilitated by Oxfam's MEAL Manager, Murad Parvez, the session focused on collective learning, SWOT analysis and resource mapping. Participants examined the platforms' strengths, identified critical gaps and explored practical ways to improve networking, coordination and organisational sustainability.

The workshop created space for open reflection and joint planning, helping participants develop clearer pathways for stronger feminist humanitarian leadership. The initiative marks an important step toward advancing locally led, inclusive and women-centred humanitarian action in Bangladesh and the wider region.



“Oxfam in Bangladesh condemns the horrific rape and brutal killing of an eight-year-old girl in Dhaka. This unspeakable act, where a child was subjected to sexual violence and then killed, shocks the conscience of the nation and demands the strongest possible justice.

We stand in solidarity with the victim's family in their profound grief. We hope and trust that the Bangladesh justice system will deal with this case with the swiftness and integrity it demands. The tragedy exposes a deeper societal failure, an erosion of values, accountability, and our shared duty to protect children. We must reaffirm our commitment to dignity, respect, and zero tolerance for abuse. Let's come together, across individuals, communities, and institutions, to take collective action and end violence.”



DOMESTIC WORKERS' RIGHTS REQUIRE MORE ALONG WITH LEGAL REFORM, ADVOCATES SAY

Extending labour-law protections to domestic workers will have little effect unless these rights are genuinely embraced and internalised, labour-rights advocates said at a discussion in Dhaka on June 15.

Speakers also called for mandatory identity cards, appointment letters and stronger enforcement mechanisms to protect one of the country's most vulnerable groups of workers. The recommendations emerged from a panel discussion titled “Study Findings and Recommendations on the Inclusion of Domestic Workers in the Bangladesh Labour Act (Amendment), 2026”. The event was organised by Adhuna Bangladesh Limited with support from Oxfam and Global Affairs Canada.



The Bangladesh Women Humanitarian Platform (BWHP) convened a special dialogue titled “Women-Led Humanitarian Asia” in Dhaka on 17 June under the SHIFT Asia project. Implemented by AVAS with Oxfam’s support, the event examined how gender-transformative approaches can be strengthened across disaster management systems.

Oxfam MEAL Manager Murad Parvez presented key research findings and recommendations. Chief guest Sanjida Yasmin, Deputy Secretary of the Relief, Mitigation and Services Wing, pledged support for strengthening women-led organisations from community to policy level.

Representatives from civil society organisations and humanitarian networks joined the open discussion, which helped shape future actions for embedding women’s leadership and gender-responsive systems in humanitarian planning and response.



**SANJIDA
YASMIN**

Deputy Secretary of the Relief,
Mitigation and Services Wing



CLIMATE JUSTICE AND NATURAL RESOURCE RIGHTS

BANGLADESH MUST MOVE FROM CRISIS TO ACTION THROUGH EVIDENCE-BASED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS, EXPERTS SAY

Bangladesh must urgently shift from reactive responses to evidence-based, data-driven climate action to address its escalating climate emergency, speakers stressed at a dialogue titled “Bangladesh in Climate Emergency: Evidence-Based Pathways for Climate Action” held in Dhaka on 13 May 2026.

The event was organised by Oxfam in Bangladesh and its partners, with support from the Australian government which brought together senior policymakers, development partners, experts, and practitioners to explore innovative pathways for climate action, ecosystem restoration, and climate finance.

The dialogue highlighted Bangladesh’s mounting risks, including frequent floods, cyclones, salinity intrusion, ecosystem degradation and annual economic losses estimated at USD 3 billion. Experts stressed that scientific data, spatial analysis and community-generated evidence must guide policy, investment and climate finance. Oxfam presented its Loss and Damage Dashboard and Interactive Spatial Decision Support System, combining community reporting, earth observation and shared analysis to strengthen accountability and decision-making.



URBAN DIALOGUE 2026 CALLS FOR INCLUSIVE, CLIMATE-RESILIENT CITIES

The 9th Urban Dialogue 2026 concluded in Dhaka on 24 June 2026 with a 16-point declaration urging coordinated action to build inclusive, sustainable and climate-resilient cities. Held under the theme “Policies to Action: Transforming Cities for People,” the dialogue brought together government representatives, development partners, academics, civil society, media, urban practitioners and community leaders.

Discussions focused on affordable housing, secure tenure, equitable basic services, urban livelihoods and climate resilience, particularly for residents of informal settlements. Participants called for urgent implementation of key urban policies and stronger recognition of informal settlements as integral parts of cities.

As a member of the Urban INGO Forum Bangladesh, Oxfam in Bangladesh contributed to the dialogue, collaboration and policy advocacy aimed at ensuring that rapid urban transformation places people, dignity and housing at its centre.





CBO SUMMIT CALLS FOR LOCAL LEADERSHIP AND CLIMATE FINANCE REFORM

The two-day National CBO Summit 2026, held in Dhaka on 24–25 June, united community organisations, women and youth leaders, policymakers, academics, researchers and development partners to advance locally led climate action. Organised by Breaking the Silence and Oxfam in Bangladesh with Australian Aid support, the summit featured policy dialogues, research presentations, a photography exhibition and innovations from 12 coastal CBOs.

Opening the summit, Dr Md Saimum Parvez, Special Assistant on Environment, Forest and Climate Change, demanded grant-based climate finance, saying, “We must transform global injustice into climate justice.”

At the closing session, State Minister for Planning Jonaed Abdur Rahim Saki called for integrated programmes for climate-displaced people, stating that rehabilitation, employment and education could not be secured through isolated projects. The summit concluded with a 10-point declaration promoting women-led adaptation, community participation, local knowledge and stronger recognition of CBOs.



“

Bangladesh bears very little responsibility for climate change. Yet it is forced to borrow from the very countries whose emissions have contributed to its losses, and then repay those loans. That is an absurd situation.

”

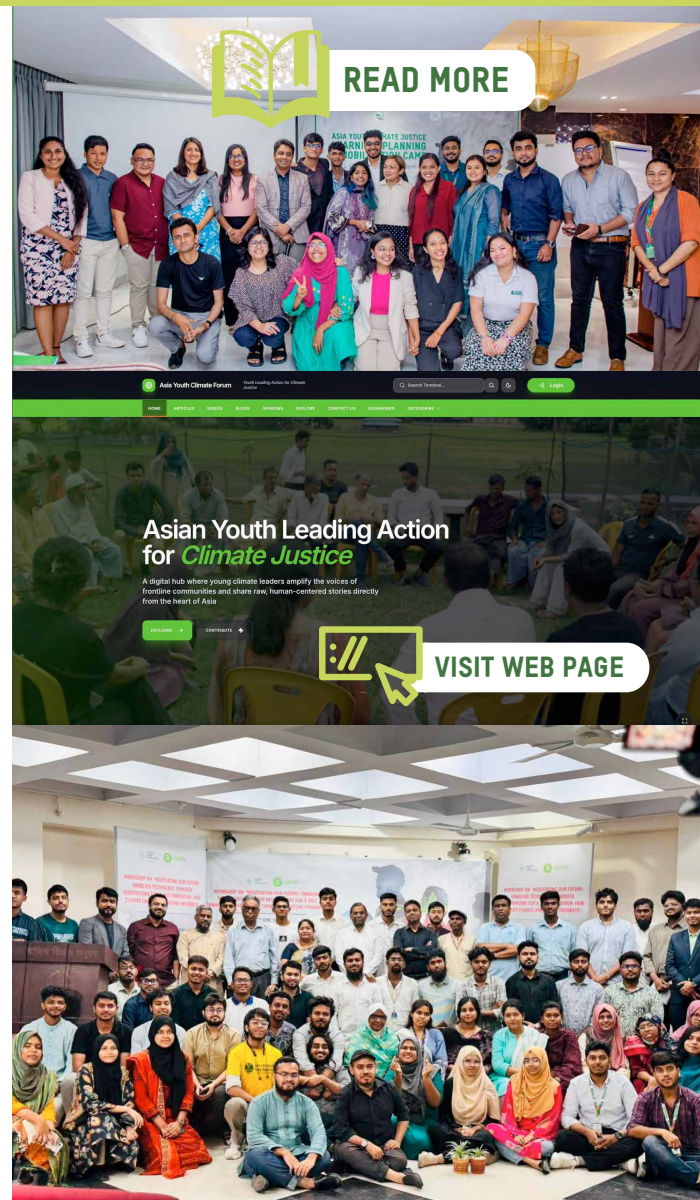
DR. MD. SAIMUM PARVEZ
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

ASIAN YOUTH BUILD A COLLECTIVE VOICE FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Oxfam in Bangladesh and youth leaders from the Asia Youth Climate Justice Learning, Planning and Mobilization Camp organised three major engagements in June 2026 under the global PlantTheFunds campaign.

A national workshop, high-level dialogue and regional online session brought together 235 participants, strengthening youth leadership on fair climate finance, technology transfer, just transition and the road to COP31. The initiative connected frontline experiences from Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and other Asian countries with wider regional advocacy and policy discussions. Young climate leaders developed stronger technical, communication and evidence-based advocacy skills while advancing a unified demand for “Direct Grants, No Loans” for vulnerable countries and communities.

A major outcome was the launch of the Asia Youth Climate Forum website (<https://www.asiayouthclimateforum.com/>), an open-access digital platform designed to document grassroots experiences, share evidence and research, and coordinate cross-border youth-led climate action across Asia.



STAKEHOLDERS REVIEW DRAFT ASSESSMENT OF BANKS' ESG POLICIES

Oxfam in Bangladesh and the Participatory Research & Action Network (PRAAN) convened an internal stakeholder consultation on 19 May 2026 at the BRAC Centre in Dhaka to review a draft assessment of sustainable finance policies among private commercial banks.

Conducted under Fair Finance Bangladesh Phase II, the assessment applies the Fair Finance Guide International methodology to examine the publicly disclosed ESG policies of BRAC Bank, City Bank and Eastern Bank across eight themes, including climate change, gender equality, transparency and accountability.



Fatema Tuz Johoora, Head of Economic Inclusion and Justice, Oxfam in Bangladesh along with the other panel members in discussion.

More than 50 representatives from Bangladesh Bank, commercial banks and civil society provided technical feedback on the draft findings. Oxfam Climate Policy Coordinator Saify Iqbal presented the assessment. Stakeholder recommendations will inform the report's finalisation ahead of its formal public launch.

TROSA MARKS A DECADE OF RIVERS, RIGHTS AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

The decade-long Transboundary Rivers of South Asia (TROSA) programme was celebrated in Dhaka from 9–12 June 2026 under the theme “Rivers, Rights and Resilience for a Just Future of South Asia.” Supported by the Government of Sweden, TROSA has worked with more than 25 partners to advance inclusive water governance across the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna basins.

The regional gathering brought together community leaders, youth, researchers, civil society, media and policymakers to reflect on achievements, share learning and identify priorities for continued cooperation. Discussions focused on citizen participation, Indigenous knowledge, ecosystem health, youth leadership, transboundary diplomacy and sustainable financing.

Apart from internal events, knowledge sharing and exchanges, Oxfam in Bangladesh co-organised the media dialogue “People and River Ecosystems: Rights, Diplomacy and Sustainability,” strengthening journalists’ engagement on river rights and regional cooperation. The programme concluded with a regional closing ceremony and planning for sustained partnerships beyond current funding cycles.





ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND JUSTICE

GREEN BUSINESS TOOLKIT MOVES CLOSER TO NATIONAL ROLLOUT

A validation workshop on the Green Business Assessment Toolkit (GBAT) brought together experts to review field findings, test the tool through a live demonstration and provide recommendations for its finalisation. Developed for small and medium enterprises, GBAT enables businesses to assess their environmental performance, demonstrate green credentials and identify practical opportunities to improve operations. The toolkit can also support faster access to finance by complementing bank verification processes and helping enterprises enter corporate and export markets.

As Bangladesh faces severe climate risks, particularly in rural areas dependent on agriculture and natural resources, GBAT offers a practical pathway to strengthen climate-resilient businesses, sustainable livelihoods and inclusive green economic growth.



NEER GREEN MARKET FAIR PROMOTES COASTAL ENTERPRISES AND SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION



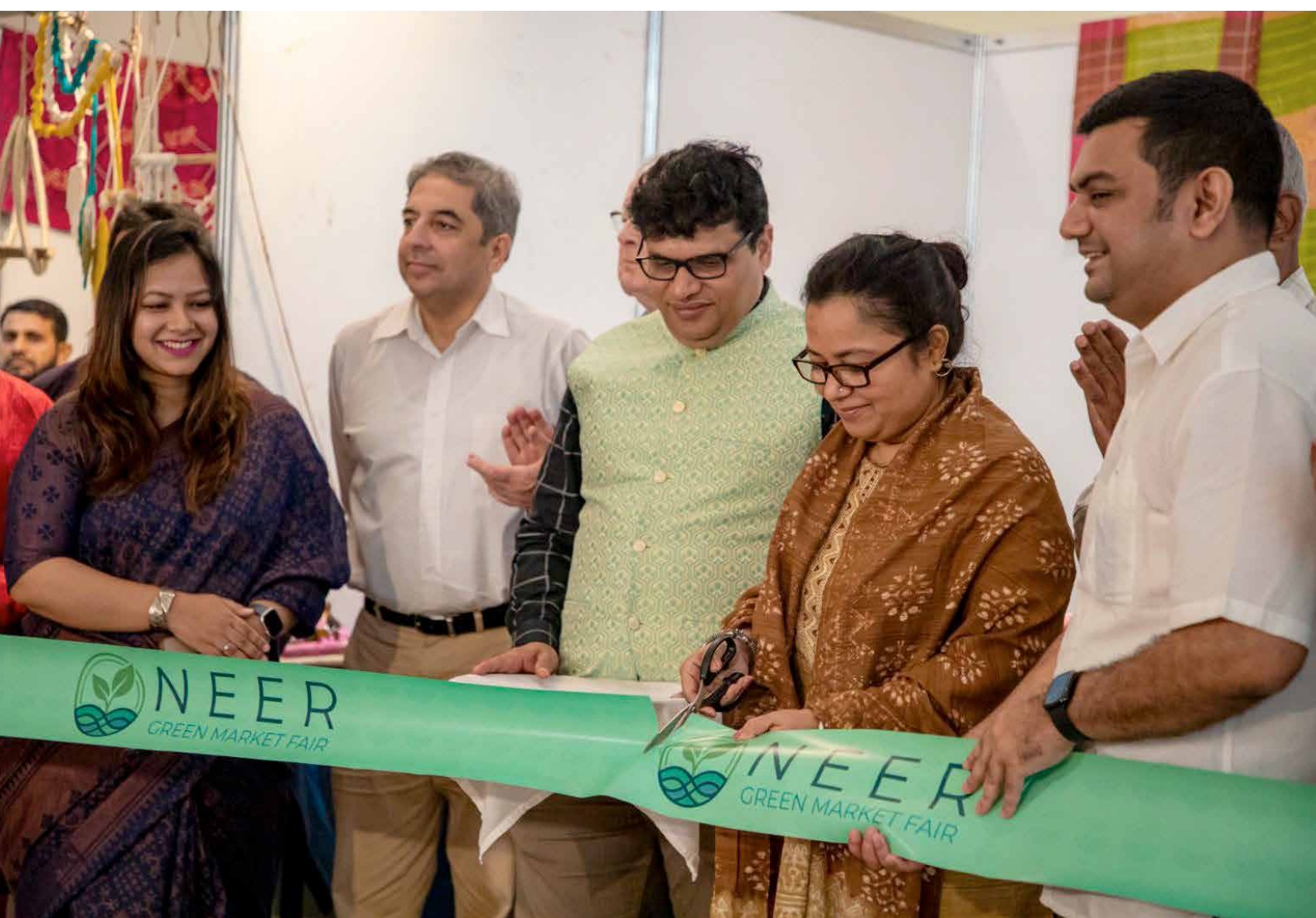
The NEER Green Market Fair 2026 brought coastal entrepreneurs and sustainable products to Dhaka on 26–27 June at Lakeshore Hotel. Organised by Oxfam in Bangladesh and CODEC under the Australian Aid-supported BID4CJ project, the fair aimed to expand market access for green businesses and encourage environmentally responsible consumption.

Baby Rani Karmakar, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, opened the event and highlighted the role of green products in strengthening climate resilience and protecting the environment.

Eighteen entrepreneurs from Cox's Bazar, Satkhira and Bagerhat showcased handloom textiles, Nakshi Kantha, honey, herbal products, handicrafts, natural oils and local foods. Around 350 visitors attended,



creating sales and networking opportunities with government, media, development partners and private-sector representatives. The fair demonstrated how green enterprises can support sustainable livelihoods, local innovation and climate adaptation.



BID4CJ WORKSHOP CONNECTS GREEN ENTREPRENEURS WITH NEW MARKETS

A Market Linkage Workshop under the BID4CJ project was held in Dhaka on 25 June 2026 to strengthen business opportunities for climate-resilient enterprises.

Jointly organised by Oxfam in Bangladesh and CODEC with support from Australian Aid, the workshop brought together 30 participants, including 15 green entrepreneurs from Shyamnagar, Chakaria and Maheshkhali, alongside buyers, journalists and development partners.

Through technical sessions, product exhibitions and individual feedback, market actors advised entrepreneurs on quality, branding, packaging, customer preferences, sustainability and export readiness. Participants also explored partnerships and future business collaboration. The workshop strengthened entrepreneurs' confidence, market knowledge and capacity to develop competitive green products while promoting sustainable livelihoods and stronger connections between producers and buyers.



HUMANITARIAN ACTION & DISASTER RESILIENCE

CASH-FOR-WORK INITIATIVE STRENGTHENS FLOOD RESILIENCE IN SIRAJGANJ

A cash-for-work initiative supported 500 flood-affected people in Sirajganj during June 2026, while restoring essential community infrastructure and strengthening disaster preparedness. More than 85% of participants were women, highlighting their leadership in community recovery.

Over 15 days, participants constructed climate-resilient roads and raised a primary school playground that will also serve as a flood shelter across Rajapur, Belkuchi Sadar and Baradhul unions. Each participant received BDT 6,000 through mobile money, distributing a total of BDT 3 million to vulnerable households.

The rehabilitated infrastructure has improved year-round access to schools, markets, healthcare and public services. During floods, the elevated roads and school grounds will provide safer spaces for families and livestock. The KOICA-funded project is implemented by MMS with Oxfam's support.





CASH FOR WORK STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Through its Anticipatory Action project, Oxfam implemented eight Cash for Work (CFW) schemes to strengthen community resilience by repairing critical local infrastructure, including shelter access roads, community ring dams, and raising house yards in low-lying areas. The initiative provided temporary employment, enabling community members to improve local infrastructure while earning income to support their disaster preparedness. It also allowed male members to remain close to their families during disasters. Overall, the intervention benefited approximately 7,293 households by improving community resilience and reducing disaster risks.

INNOVATION THROUGH ANTICIPATORY ACTION

Through Anticipatory Action initiative, Oxfam has installed six floating boat platforms across three unions in Barguna Sadar Upazila—the first initiative of its kind in Bangladesh. Designed for cyclone-prone coastal communities, the platforms protect fishing boats and equipment during disasters, reducing the risk of loss of lives and livelihoods. During normal times, they also provide secure mooring facilities that support fishing activities and local livelihoods. This innovative solution is expected to benefit around 847 fisher households, strengthening community resilience and helping coastal families better prepare for and withstand future disasters especially cyclones and high tidal surges.



ROHINGYA RESPONSE

NGOAB DIRECTOR REVIEWS OXFAM'S ROHINGYA RESPONSE IN COX'S BAZAR

Barrister Khalilur Rahman Khan, NDC, Director of the NGO Affairs Bureau, visited Oxfam in Bangladesh's Rohingya response interventions in Camp 4 on 17 May 2026. He reviewed community-led initiatives on livelihoods, skills development, food security and communal lighting, implemented with local partners PROTTYASHI and Mukti Cox's Bazar.

During the visit, he met Rohingya participants, partner representatives and field teams to understand how the initiatives are strengthening resilience, safety and self-reliance amid worsening camp conditions and declining humanitarian funding. Nearly a decade into the crisis, more than 1.2 million Rohingya remain in Bangladesh, over half of them children. Oxfam's response is supported by Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and philanthropic funding channelled through Oxfam affiliates.



OXFAM ELECTED TO FOOD SECURITY ADVISORY GROUP IN COX'S BAZAR

Oxfam in Bangladesh has been elected to the Food Security Sector Strategic Advisory Group in Cox's Bazar for a two-year term through a formal vote involving UN agencies, international and national NGOs, and local partners.

Represented by its Food Security and Livelihood focal point, Oxfam will contribute to sector priorities, Joint Response Plan development, technical standards, advocacy, partnerships and resource mobilisation. The role will strengthen Oxfam's ability to identify response gaps, improve coordination and promote inclusive, evidence-based programming. The appointment also creates a stronger platform to advocate for the food security and livelihood needs of Rohingya refugees and host communities.

COMMUNITY NURSERIES STRENGTHEN FOOD SECURITY IN COX'S BAZAR

Oxfam in Bangladesh and Mukti Cox's Bazar transformed six community nurseries into agricultural knowledge hubs between July 2025 and June 2026, supporting 4,500 Rohingya and host-community households in Ukhiya.

The nurseries produced more than 100,000 climate-resilient seedlings for homestead, sack, rooftop and vertical gardening. Managed by trained local entrepreneurs, many of them women, the hubs also provided practical training, vermicomposting demonstrations and round-the-clock technical guidance.

Around half of the seedlings were supplied to NGOs through advance orders, while the remainder were sold to households at 20–30% below market prices. The model is strengthening livelihoods, local food systems and climate resilience.

NEW STUDY SETS PATH FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT WATER SUPPLY IN ROHINGYA CAMP 22

Oxfam in Bangladesh and ARUP have completed a Surface Water Treatment Study for Rohingya Camp 22 in Cox's Bazar, providing practical recommendations for reliable and climate-resilient water supply in an area where groundwater is not a feasible option.

Developed through technical analysis and field-based assessment, the study identifies sustainable surface-water treatment approaches designed to address environmental pressures, climate risks and the long-term needs of camp communities. The findings were presented to WASH Sector partners to support evidence-based planning, future programme design and coordinated investment across the Rohingya response.

The initiative demonstrates Oxfam's commitment to advancing innovative and context-specific water, sanitation and hygiene solutions. It also contributes to wider sector learning by offering a practical model for improving water security, operational sustainability and climate preparedness for highly vulnerable communities.



PROTECTION SECTOR COORDINATOR AFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR REFUGEE-LED ACTION IN CAMP 22

Protection Sector Coordinator Johanna Reina Picalua visited Oxfam's protection programme in Rohingya Camp 22 on 17 June, where Oxfam and Mukti Cox's Bazar are supporting the Refugee Led Organization (RLO) named Change Together.

Refugee-led action places displaced people at the centre of humanitarian decision-making, not only as recipients of assistance, but as leaders who identify risks, design solutions, mobilise communities, and strengthen accountability. This approach helps ensure that protection initiatives remain relevant, trusted, and sustainable.

The Rohingya-led actions are shaped through the "Centrality of Protection in Protracted Crises" project, funded by DFAT-AHP (Australian Humanitarian Partnership).

During the visit, Picalua affirmed the programme's alignment with Protection Sector priorities and the Joint Response Plan, stressing the importance of community leadership amid declining humanitarian funding. Discussions explored stronger collaboration with UNHCR's Community-Based Protection teams, access to global learning tools, and continued advocacy with government and sector stakeholders.

She also connected Oxfam with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), whose representatives expressed commitment to providing technical support and transferring knowledge and skills to refugee-led groups in the camps.



OUT OF THE BOX

BRIDGE TO BANGLADESH LAUNCHES DIGITAL GATEWAY FOR GLOBAL DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT

Oxfam in Bangladesh officially launched the Bridge to Bangladesh digital platform on 28 June 2026 in Dhaka, creating a trusted digital gateway between the country and more than 2.4 million Bangladeshis living abroad.

Through its website and mobile ecosystem, the first-of-its-kind platform enables diaspora members to contribute knowledge, mentorship, professional skills, innovation, advocacy, philanthropy and investment linkages through verified organisations and individuals in Bangladesh. The launch brought together government officials, international organisations, civil society, businesses, academics, diaspora leaders and journalists.



BEYOND REMITTANCES

Bangladesh's diaspora has long supported the country through remittances, humanitarian assistance, professional networks and international influence. However, opportunities to contribute expertise and ideas have often remained informal and fragmented. Bridge to Bangladesh has been created to transform these connections into structured, transparent and measurable partnerships, particularly as Bangladesh prepares for graduation from Least Developed Country status.



A PLATFORM BUILT THROUGH RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION

The digital platform emerged from a journey between June 2022 and June 2026. Its development included a survey of diaspora members across 12 countries, consultations with international experts, analysis of 11 diaspora platforms worldwide, and workshops with NGOs and civil society organisations. The initiative was first introduced in London in May 2025 before moving through research, stakeholder consultation, technological development and community engagement toward the Dhaka launch. Trust, credibility, verification and effective matchmaking were identified as its central foundations.



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Global Bangladeshis. National Priorities. One Trusted Bridge

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Empowering local communities through knowledge exchange, global networking, and impactful activities.

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Connect & Network

Discover Projects

Explore local initiatives and grassroots community projects aligned with sustainable development

Knowledge Exchange

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An Ecosystem Built on Trust and a Vision

Initiated and backed by Oxfam's legacy of robust governance, transparency, and grassroots connection, this platform is built on trust. While Oxfam provides the structural foundation and initial trust framework, the platform is transitioning into a fully independent stand-alone entity. Moving forward, it will be guided by a multi-stakeholder governance board comprised of global diaspora representatives, and international development bodies to ensure a truly neutral, community-owned future.



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[BB](#) Bareera Borhan · 25 Jun 2026 · 2 min

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I am an architectural designer in Geneva, curious about Bangladesh's design culture but still finding my way in. Without a strong network there... my outreach often goes unanswered—and I want

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HOW THE PLATFORM WORKS

Diaspora professionals and Bangladesh-based organisations can create verified profiles, present their expertise or institutional needs, and connect through intelligent matchmaking. The platform offers mentorship opportunities, professional and thematic networks, community forums, project connections, knowledge exchange and impact tracking. Its two-way model allows local organisations to access global expertise while enabling diaspora members to identify credible opportunities aligned with their interests and skills.



WHY IT MATTERS

As Bangladesh approaches graduation from Least Developed Country status, it needs new partnerships, knowledge networks, technologies and investment models. Bridge to Bangladesh offers an institutional pathway to convert the diaspora's emotional connection and global experience into transparent, inclusive and measurable national contributions.

Dr Md Nazrul Islam said diaspora engagement requires stronger trust and institutional support, noting that regulatory reform, transparency and better government services are essential. "Many investors are coming to Bangladesh. But they could not invest here because of a trust deficit," he said. Md Mokhtar Ahmed said the initiative could reinforce the government's forthcoming diaspora policy: "Once the connection is well established, it can bring about revolutionary change."

Dr Laura Tomm-Bonde described Bangladesh's diaspora as one of the country's greatest strengths, adding that its contribution extends beyond remittances to knowledge, skills, innovation, networks and mentorship. Max Tuñón highlighted the importance of linking diaspora knowledge with skills development, decent work, inclusive growth and meaningful global partnerships.

Farah Kabir called for the platform to remain inclusive of women and marginalised communities, support two-way learning and uphold equity, accountability and progressive governance.

LEARN MORE FROM THE LINKS BELOW



PEOPLE AND CULTURE

OXFAM STRENGTHENS ANTI-CORRUPTION AND SAFEGUARDING CULTURE

Oxfam in Bangladesh hosted the Oxfam Great Britain Anti-Corruption and Safeguarding Team from 28 June to 2 July 2026 for an intensive capacity-building visit across Dhaka and Cox's Bazar. The five-day programme engaged staff, senior leadership, partners and community-facing teams through anti-corruption training, Country Management Team sessions, MEAL and Speak-Up discussions, partner consultations and field-level exchanges.

Participants strengthened their understanding of corruption risks, safeguarding responsibilities, accountability mechanisms and ethical decision-making. The visit reinforced leadership commitment and collective responsibility for protecting communities, promoting transparency and ensuring that integrity remains central to Oxfam's organisational culture and programme delivery.



MOTHER'S DAY PROGRAMME PROMOTES WORKPLACE WELLBEING AND INCLUSION

Oxfam in Bangladesh, in partnership with Moner Bondhu, organised a special Mother's Day wellbeing programme on 19 May 2026 for working mothers, parents and future parents. Open to all colleagues regardless of gender, the programme recognised the diverse and deeply personal experiences of motherhood and caregiving.

Through guided conversations, practical exercises and interactive activities, participants explored ways to manage stress and anxiety, strengthened emotional wellbeing and support colleagues with empathy. The initiative created a safe and inclusive space for reflection and learning while promoting a workplace culture grounded in respect, understanding, wellbeing, mutual support and inclusion.



PARTNERSHIP WITH GRAMEENPHONE RENEWED

Oxfam in Bangladesh has renewed its corporate telecommunications partnership with Grameenphone to strengthen reliable connectivity across its development and humanitarian operations.

The continued collaboration will support seamless communication among teams working in Dhaka, Cox's Bazar and other programme locations, helping staff coordinate activities, respond efficiently and maintain uninterrupted workflows. A stable communications infrastructure is particularly important for managing field operations, emergencies and engagement with partners and communities.

The partnership will enable Oxfam's teams to remain connected and focus their efforts on delivering effective programmes and advancing organisational priorities across Bangladesh.



COMMUNICATIONS AND INFLUENCING IN NUMBERS

32,000

CONTENT
INTERACTIONS

2.6M

REACH

133

TOTAL
CONTENT

7,500

LINK CLICKS

1.3M

TOTAL
VIEWS

80+

TOTAL MEDIA
REPORTS

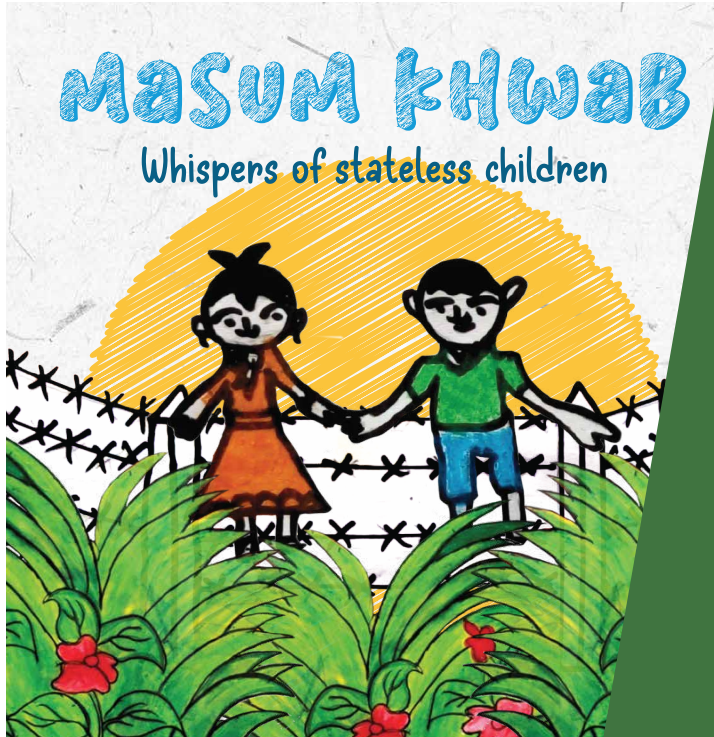
5,200

FOLLOWS

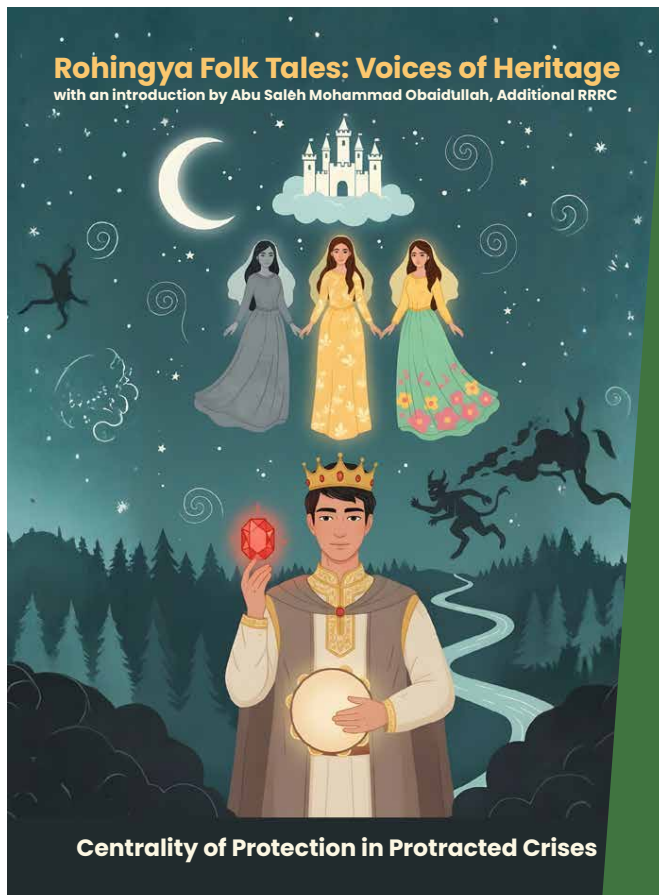
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Social impact and mainstream entertainment can and must walk together

By Md Sariful Islam, Head of Influencing, Communications, Advocacy and Media, Oxfam in Bangladesh.



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