

Health Waqf Report 2004



Profits from the Health Waqf for the year 2003 went towards the “Restoring Eyesight” project in Rangpur, Bangladesh.

Project Background

The Restoring Eyesight project is an eye treatment and awareness building programme. It is designed to respond to the needs of the poor through the provision of healthcare, education and other activities.

Cataract operations are not included as part of primary healthcare. A survey conducted in 2000 by Bangladesh National Council for Blindness found that 1.2% of the population is blind.

The Rangpur District which has a total population of 2,527,000 has 30,320 blind patients of which 80% of the blindness is due to cataract. Since the beginning of the project in August 2002, cataract operations for 553 persons have been performed.

The overall objective of the project is to achieve healthy eyesight for the people of Rangpur district in Bangladesh. Other objectives include: raising awareness regarding proper eye care, providing effective primary eye care treatment, helping people with low vision through provision of spectacles etc. and conducting cataract surgery and restoring eyesight at an affordable cost.

Summary of Project Implementation

The office in Bangladesh is situated at Baldipukur of Mithapukur sub-district of Rangpur district. The Restoring Eyesight project is situated in this area which lies by the side of Rangpur- Dhaka highway. Rangpur is 300 km North West of Dhaka the capital city of Bangladesh.

There are 3 kinds of activities: raising awareness through health sessions, patients screening Programme (PSP) through arranging regular eye camps and cataract operations.

For the awareness Programme, senior nurses, health organisers and community organisers are already trained for primary eye care at the beginning of the project.

These field staff give priority to primary health care in their everyday health session to raise awareness amongst the community. Twelve to fourteen eye camps are organised each month. Extensive publicity is made through talks, announcements and health sessions before the camp starts. Cataract patients are screened at the camp and the operation then takes place.



In the eye camps, Islamic Relief staff first register the patients followed by a doctor's examination for eye disease and a prescription of the proper treatment. Patients can buy the medicine at cost-price from the medicine-dispenser accompanying the team. Separate forms are filled in for cataract patients and sent to the eye hospital for operations. The patients deposit their contribution of 100 Tk to the project (50 % of total cost). Then the patient is operated on. A key point of the project is that poor patients unable to afford the operation are operated on free of charge.

Case Study

Mr. Momin Uddin is a 70 year labourer living in Nasirabad, Mithapukur in the Rangpur area of Bangladesh. Recently, he became blind in both eyes due to cataracts. He had feelings of low self-esteem and felt he was a burden on his family. He heard Islamic Relief was conducting affordable eye operations and attended a patient screening-programme. He underwent an operation on his right eye as a result. The operation took place at the Community Eye and Research Centre, Rangpur.

Now his sight is restored in one eye and he no longer feels he is a burden on his family. He conducts household tasks and his feeling of independence has been restored. He is very thankful to Islamic Relief for the part it played in restoring his eyesight.



Achievements / Outputs

The project started its activities in August 2002. Initially, the activities were implemented on project areas of Mithapukur sub-district. It then expanded its activities to other areas of the Rangpur district. During this time nearly 240 PSP (Patients Screening Programs) were arranged, a total of 6,534 eye patients were treated. Out of which a total of 1992 mature cataract eye patients were screened. Up to May 2004, 553 mature cataract patients were successfully operated on. Among these patients, 58 patients were operated on free of cost. These patients were either beggars, widows or the elderly.

In the Rangpur area, there are no NGO organisations that provide cataract screening or give patients treatment free of charge or even at low cost. Some private services are available, but their activities are insufficient, costly and sometimes not easily accessible.

The Islamic Relief eye activities have created a positive impact on the poor beneficiaries for eye care service in Rangpur District.

Analysis of activities in the year 2004 (Jan -May):

Restoring Eye Sight Project Expenditure

Description	Expenditure
Salaries/Personnel	£ 610.32
Running Costs	£ 4,927.13
Logistics	£ 14.70
Community Awareness	£ 20.00
Total Project Costs	£ 5,572.15



Description	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Total
Eye patients	383	402	514	387	441	2127
Cataract eye patients	131	154	189	151	148	773
Eye patients operated on	25	37	45	39	24	170
Beneficiaries received awareness on eye care	760	809	1025	774	790	4158
Patient Screening Programme	10	7	12	0	11	49
Average number of patient per eye camp	38	59	42	43	40	222

Islamic Relief wishes to thank all those who participated in its Waqf Future Fund project. May Allah SWT bless this effort to alleviate the suffering of the world's poorest people.

