# TEACH FOR BANGLADESH

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

# **CRISIS IN EDUCATION**





of third-grade students had such poor reading skills that they could not even be tested.

.........................

Among those who were tested, 43% were unable to answer a single Bangla reading question correctly.



75%

of fifth-grade students did not meet the minimum threshold for learning in mathematics.



# **IMPACT OF COVID**



Lack of meaningful leadership that understands complex problems on the ground brings commitment, passion, and innovation, and puts student and community perspectives at the center means that systemic inequities persist not just in education but ultimately across society.



A UNICEF-supported study by the Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) showed that two out of three pre-primary to upper secondary students in Bangladesh were not reached through remote education during pandemic school closures.

## **ABOUT US**

#### TEACH FOR BANGLADESH



#### **VISION**

We envision a society in which all children receive an excellent education that empowers them to realize their full potential and shape their own future through talent and hard work.

#### **MISSION**

Our mission is to launch a movement of capable, committed, & compassionate leaders who share an understanding of inequity and are working tirelessly inside and outside the nation's classrooms to end its impact on children.

### **OUR STORY**

#### TEACH FOR BANGLADESH



Teach For Bangladesh (TFB) was founded in 2012 by educator-turned-social entrepreneur Maimuna Ahmad. Maimuna grew up between Dhaka and the suburbs of Washington D.C., witnessing from a young age how systematic disparities persisted through generations, impacting the people and communities around her in both countries. TFB Founder Maimuna Ahmad started as a secondary mathematics teacher in Washington, D.C., in 2009. After graduating from Mount Holyoke College, Maimuna joined Teach For America, teaching secondary school mathematics to 150 underserved students at Cesar Chavez Public Charter School in Washington, D.C., for two years. The experience inspired her to complete her M.A. in teaching at American University and return to work in Bangladesh. She set up Teach For Bangladesh with her savings as a public school teacher with the vision to mobilize a generation of Bangladeshi leaders working to end disparity in our education system.

# **HOW WE WORK**

#### TEACH FOR BANGLADESH



#### **RECRUIT PROMISING YOUNG LEADERS**

Teach For Bangladesh (TFB) recruits outstanding and diverse leaders to our unique Fellowship program with an acceptance rate of 6%.

#### **INITIAL PRE-SERVICE TRAINING**

Fellowship starts with a rigorous six-week "Winter Academy" – intensive pre-service training. Winter Academy builds a strong foundation and boosts Fellow confidence for a successful school year ahead.

# TWO YEAR TEACHING & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Fellows are in the driver's seat of their learning and growth through the two-year program. The Fellowship is an opportunity to discover true values, develop a personal vision, and transform leadership capacity to serve our nation's future.

#### COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP OF ALUMNI FOR SYSTEMIC IMPACT

Fellowship sets up for lifelong leadership in the service of educational equity. When Fellows complete the two-year program, they join a dynamic and inspiring national movement of TFB Alumni working for equity in education, along with a global community of Alumni across the 60+ Teach For All partner organizations.

# THE FELLOWSHIP

#### TEACH FOR BANGLADESH

#### "Throughout the two-year Fellowship Program, Fellows become full-time teachers, actively engaging with their placement school and community to expand opportunities for children while experiencing the joys and challenges that arise on this journey"

Teach For Bangladesh (TFB) recruits outstanding and diverse leaders to our unique Fellowship program. Our Fellows commit to teaching for two years in a low-income community, where they work as a teachers at local schools. During those two years, Fellows are immersed in their placement school and community, working as full-time teachers, and discovering the joys and challenges that come with expanding opportunity for all children. After successful graduation from the Fellowship in two years, they become part of the TFB alumni network. Informed by their experiences, inspired by their students, and equipped with the leadership skills they developed through the program, TFB Alumni go on to pursue impactful careers both inside and outside the education system, helping to build a Bangladesh that better serves all children.



#### WINTER ACADEMY

Fellowship starts with a rigorous six-week "Winter Academy" – intensive pre-service training. Winter Academy builds a strong foundation and boosts Fellow confidence for a successful school year ahead.



## ONGOING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

Monthly professional development sessions, held virtually and in-person in each placement region, aim to enhance Fellows' teaching and leadership abilities. Guided by a Coach, Fellows participate in Learning Circles for customized support and group learning during the two-year commitment.



#### POST-GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

During the Fellowship, Fellows enroll in a Post-Graduate Diploma (PGD) in Educational Leadership and School Improvement at BRAC Institute of Educational Development (BIED). Classes start 2-4 months after they begin teaching, occurring weekly in the evening. The PGD provides educational insights and the option to convert it into a Master's through thesis completion.



#### ONGOING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

Joining the TFB Fellowship means joining a global network of like-minded leaders. Teach For All offers many unique opportunities for learning, sharing and networking both virtually and through in-person travel. Fellows can leverage these opportunities to broaden their horizons and develop skills as an educator.



To solve the diverse and critical challenges the country is facing, more analytical thinkers and system leaders are required. Young leaders can play a significant role in this regard. That is why I joined the Fellowship Program."

Irin Jahan Afroze

(Alumni 2021) Staff Researcher at BRAC Institute of Educational Development



### **LEARNING INTERVENTIONS**

- To keep children learning in Bangladesh, TFB strengthened its remedial learning support using our proven blended learning and socio-emotional learning strategies that impacted more than <u>7,000</u> students in 40 <u>schools</u> in Dhaka and Chattogram regions.
- With support from partners like Anonymous Foundation, the Internet Society Foundation, TFB was able to provide training to 500+ parents and caregivers on digital literacy. This has allowed us to support <u>2,732</u> <u>students</u> with online and/or blended learning using the internet, workbook, and SMS/phone calls.
- In addition, we have developed a self-guided distance learning toolkit for <u>3,000 students</u> and parents. 87% of parents shared they felt confident in supporting students with internet-based learning.
- We reached <u>1018 students</u> with online support and <u>2290 students</u> with phone and printed workbooks during school closure due to the pandemic.
- TFB took the initiative to arrange Digital Literacy Workshops and build digital literacy skills among parents, and the number of parents attending the "Digital Training" workshops was <u>2333</u> in 2022.

# TEACH FOR BANGLADESH





Mridula Islam Jeni

Тоуа

Shakil Rayhan







"Fatema Miss supports each of us with so much enthusiasm and love. She has given us belief that we can achieve anything."

Shafique, Grade 4 Student of 2019 Alum Fatema Akter \*Children's real names are hidden to protect their safety and security



OF STUDENTS IN TEACH FOR BANGLADESH CLASSROOMS DESCRIBE THEIR TEACHERS AS ENCOURAGING AND SUPPORTIVE



### **PROJECTS AND EVENTS**

- To celebrate the Bangladesh Youth Development Initiative (BYDI) launch event in partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka inception, Bangladesh's 50th year of independence, and the US-Bangladesh 50-year bilateral relationship, we organized the 'BYDI Launch Event' on March 20, 2022. Through the BYDI project, <u>23,218 community members</u> were reached in the schools and communities, including parents, head teachers, assistant teachers, school management committee members, and local education and government officials. Therefore, <u>26,804 people</u>, in total, were reached through the <u>54 Capstone Projects</u> from Dhaka and Chattogram.
- To celebrate the annual DHL Global Volunteers Day, our corporate partner DHL opened its doors to TFB Students for an office tour, followed by a panel discussion focused on <u>"Employability and Transition to the</u> <u>Workforce."</u> During the office tour, our high school students got the opportunity to interact with DHL Employees and learn the functions of each team. This exposure enabled our students to explore their career aspirations and learn how to become strong professionals. The panel discussion, titled <u>"Empower Her Career Aspirations"</u> particularly focused on female students as an active effort to empower more females to join the workforce, fighting the inequality they face regularly. To provide female role models for girl students, in the panel discussion, three female students from TFB classrooms interviewed three female Senior Managers from DHL. The conversation focused on discussing challenges and experiences that the DHL Senior Leaders faced while transitioning into the workforce and building their careers as females.
- By the end of September 2022, <u>95% of our Fellows</u> had completed all four stages (Educate, Motivate, Activate, Advocate) of their Capstone project activities with their students, and <u>54 projects</u> were executed.
- We organized the grand finale of <u>'Agents Of Change 1.0'</u>, the first-ever education idea challenge in Bangladesh, in partnership at the American Center- Dhaka in June, 2022 reaching more than <u>140 youth from 40+</u><u>universities.</u>



### **PROJECTS AND EVENTS**



#### Why Pushpa is afraid to go to school?

- Unsuccessful at class
   Bad feedback from berteenb
- peers
  Lack of attention from teachers

These poor learning outcomes contribute to grade repetition and dropout, and 20 percent of all students drop out before completing fifth grade.

unhappy.







### FELLOWSHIP RECRUITMENT, SELECTION AND MATRICULATION



- We have successfully completed the recruitment process for our 2022 Cohort which comprises our 9th Cohort of Fellows. TFB's Recruitment, Selection, and Matriculation Team received 2,420 Fellowship applications throughout the past recruitment year, out of which 106 (4.5%) candidates passed the four-stage rigorous selection process and have received offers.
- In 2021, our Program Team worked to follow a hybrid approach with most sessions online and some activities in person. The 63 Fellows cohort completed their Winter Academy in December 2021 and started teaching in schools in January 2022.
- We continued the annual recruitment cycle in September 2022 in preparation to welcome the 10th Cohort of Fellows into our movement. Within September over 60 Fellows were recruited to teach in classrooms. From January to September 2022, our 8th and 9th cohorts continued to teach in their placement schools.



### **ALUMNI IMPACT**



TFB's theory of change rests on enlisting the talent of young, Bangladeshi future leaders, most of whom would not have entered the education sector on their own. These future leaders influence the quality of education that students in underserved communities receive while increasing their own capacity and education. TFB's Fellowship Program serves to catalyze their long-term leadership which amplifies their impact in line with TFB's mission. With 6 generations of alumni having completed the program, we are beginning to see the long-term dividends of this investment come to fruition. We are proud of our first cohort of Fellows who graduated from our Chattogram region.

Below is a snapshot of what our current alumni pool looks like:

- 215 total alumni (projected to become ~250 when the current cohort completes the program this December)
- 100% of alumni have earned PGD from BRAC University IED
- More than 70% of alumni working in the Development Sector
- 22 alumni working at BRAC
- 04 alumni received Chevening scholarships
- 02 alumni are Acumen Fellows
- 02 alumni received Erasmus Mundus Scholarship
- 01 alumni received the Humphrey Fellowship (Fulbright)
- O1 Alumni is leading the Abinta Kabir Foundation
   School



### **FUNDRAISING ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- We had very successful fundraising for the fiscal year 2021 2022. One of our new grants will enable us to partner with the International Rescue Committee and place TFB Fellows in host community schools in Cox's Bazar starting from January 2024, while amplifying the impact of TFB alumni working in the region.
- We've had several successful key partnerships, including with BSRM, Ernst & Young, the Internet Society Foundation, and the World Bank.
- We remain grateful for the ongoing support of multi-year partners like DHL, and BRAC. We have successfully raised 100% of our goal of BDT 110,977,224/ USD 1,061,983 for Fiscal Year 2021-22 and 66% of our FY 2022-23 fundraising goal of BDT 157,782,746/ USD 1,509,883.
- TFB has continued to diversify its fundraising sources through varying collaborations with new partners such as the Global Partnership for Education, and Sonali Bank, among others.







### FINANCIAL YEAR 2021-2022\*

# TOTAL EARNINGS: 131,351,034 BDT / 1,256,948 USD TOTAL EXPENSE: 93,430,577 BDT / 894,073 USD

Туре	2021/2022
Corporation	4.8%
Foundation	83.0%
Individual	2.8%
Other	9.2%
School Contribution	0.2%
Grand Total	100%

# **PARTNER VOICES**

Investing in education is an investment in the future of a country and a region. DHL was one of the first international logistics operators in Bangladesh and we know that supporting Teach For Bangladesh will have a long-term positive impact on individuals and on the whole community by improving the quality of education and employability in one of the world's most challenged economies.

Desmond Quiah, Country Manager, DHL Express Bangladesh, 2015

We appreciate the program run by Teach For Bangladesh. It is challenging to convince the new generation that teaching in primary education is an opportunity, and it is the best opportunity to be adopted.

#### Dr. Mahfuzul Islam, Deputy Director, Training Division, Directorate of Primary Education, 2016

TEACH FOR

RANCI ADESH

Education is the most important aspect of any human being. In Bangladesh, we have had education opportunities, but the poor have not had good opportunities for going to schools where teaching, and learning are good. Teach For Bangladesh of course is going to chart a new trajectory for quality education in not-so-well-endowed schools.

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, 2015



# **OUR YEAR AHEAD**



### FUNDRAISING FOR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR

We are raising funds for the 2022-23 fiscal year (October 22-September 23). Our total fundraising goal for the 2022-23 fiscal year is BDT 157,782,746/ USD 1,509,883. We have raised 66% of this amount (in cash/commitments), leaving roughly BDT 53,646,134/ USD 513,360 as our goal for this fiscal year which we aim to raise by the end of March 2023.

### **ALUMNI LEADERSHIP PATHWAY STRATEGY**

We are developing a robust Alumni Leadership Pathway Strategy to increase our Alumni impact by directly working in the education, development or social equity sector. Knowledge-sharing sessions and workshops will be facilitated where alumni can share their strategies for success and connect with alumni leaders all over the country.

#### **TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING PROGRAM**

We are focusing on preparing our program to become more resilient, agile, and impactful to combat learning loss during the pandemic. We have plans on deepening practices on blended learning and socio-emotional learning for remedial learning as well as student wellbeing. TFB is proud to say that it contributed to the development of Bangladesh's National Blended Learning Framework through its involvement and commitment to minimizing the loss of learning.

### **CSO COLLABORATION**

Along with BRAC, Save the Children, and 19 other national and international development organizations, TFB is part of the 'Safe Back to School' alliance to create countrywide awareness to ensure the safe return and safe learning environment for children in schools in the post-pandemic reality and beyond



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