



Vocational Training for the Bihari Community

Budget: \$29,800 for a one year project. \$9,000 funded. \$20,800 still to raise.

Update:

Since the time of independence in 1971, 500,000 Bihari people have lived mostly in or near to extremely crowded refugee camps. They are trapped in poverty with limited education, few skills and low self-respect. Skills-training is prohibitively expensive. Our partners aim to help break this cycle by providing quality, low-cost skills training. For men, this training is in house wiring and refrigeration/air conditioning, which are big growth industries in Bangladesh. For women, they provide tailoring training which is a tool that changes their reality at home and in the local community. Dedicated staff members, who demonstrate high standards of integrity and commitment, teach the courses.



During the first six months of the program, 28 women from the Bihari camp have been trained in tailoring skills. This provides them with extra income to help with the family expenses. 15 young men from the Bihari and neighbouring slum areas were provided with air conditioning/refrigeration and electricity training. A few students dropped out for unforeseen reasons. The facilitators maintained contact, visited them in their homes and encouraged them to continue when their circumstances changed. These skills open the door for future employment or the possibility of starting a small business.

Shohan* (name changed) lives in a small room in the refugee camp with his mother and four siblings. He had to leave school and work in his brother's mobile phone repair shop. He struggled with the work but had few options until a friend recommended our partner's electrical course to him. Initially, he found the concepts very difficult but slowly he started to enjoy it and succeed. His instructor, who spends many evenings mentoring the young men, advised Shohan to set up his own electrical shop in the camp.



Shohan holds his head up high.
"I am a skilled worker now and I am not a burden to my community anymore."

Thank you for helping to transform the lives of young men and women through vocational training in this forgotten part of the world.