

VISION FOR BANGLADESH

The Vision for Bangladesh charity was registered by Rachel Andrews and six trustees in 2017, after she retired from working as an NHS Ophthalmic Sister. But her work in Bangladesh has been ongoing since 2006.

Previously Rachel had worked for 11 years in a voluntary capacity supporting a Muslim eye hospital in North East Bangladesh. The BNSB Eye Hospital in Moulvibazar was built specifically in 1981 to help the very poor who were going blind, especially the children.

In addition to supporting the hospital, Vision for Bangladesh also works alongside a Christian evangelist in the unreached Hindu Tea Gardens of Bangladesh, where there is no healthcare available. The workers and their families live in abject poverty leading to severe malnutrition. Most children have a childhood of illness with some going needlessly blind due to cataracts or simply for the need for glasses.



A Vision for Bangladesh sponsored field worker (brought up in the Tea Gardens herself) currently finds children in the Tea Gardens and arranges transport, and medical care, at the Eye Hospital in Moulvibazar.

Rachel's visits and work in this hospital has established a close liaison and friendship with the medical staff, who are extremely grateful and supportive of every aspect of the work the charity does.

Since 2019 the work of Vision for Bangladesh has expanded to help Tea Garden adults who, due to premature ageing and malnutrition, have early onset cataracts which preventing them from working and providing for their families. Their cataract surgery is also fully funded, but the volume of need is extensive as the Tea Gardens have 100,000 workers, all living in these conditions.

Vision for Bangladesh now has seven trustees working hard to help those living in extreme poverty, while working closely with, and supporting, BNSB Eye Hospital in Moulvibazar.

Further to our sight saving treatments, another aspect of the charity's work is to educate Tea Garden parents on aspects of healthcare, sanitation and nutrition - especially during pregnancy and childhood. This is a whole new venture within the Tea Gardens for a people marginalised by mainstream society and with no means of access available to them for modern medicine or education. No other charity is helping in this way or attempting to reach out to them.



Ivan Samadder, the Christian evangelist who voluntarily manages our work and liaises with the eye hospital, is also able to witness about the love of Jesus and show the Tea Garden workers, in a practical way, that God cares deeply for them.

Ivan has already established two small churches in two of the 120+ Tea Gardens, and also several prayer groups. His dedication remains as committed as ever to a Hindu people in need of the gospel.



THE STORY OF MUNNI TATI:

Munni Tati lives with her parents in Kalighat Tea Garden and she gradually went blind in her right eye from a young age. Sadly, Munni's left eye also has a squint and very low vision. She was found by our field worker, Mamony, in March 2020 and taken to the hospital in Moulvibazar. The doctor examined her and gave her medicine and a pair of high-powered glasses to save what little sight she had left.



Today Munni (centre of photo) still has some vision to play and look after the goat we bought her. With the help of the glasses she finally has a future with some vision and hope.

The gift of a goat provides the family with an additional source of income for the future.

THE STORY OF MEGNA TANT:

Megna Tant lives with her mother. Sadly her father died of leprosy when she was just 7 years old. Following his death the family became destitute and now live in someone else's house, because her mother has no permanent work. Megna's vision was impaired due to a squint and therefore she was unable to work.



Mamony found Megna and took her to the hospital where she had an operation to correct her squinting eye. Megna can now see sufficiently to enable her to work and to help her mother support younger siblings. The family are so grateful in their hearts for the surgery, but life still remains incredibly hard. Sadly many families endure such hardship that they even lose the ability to smile.

'I opened two gifts this morning. They were my eyes.' Zig Ziglar

Vision for Bangladesh is entirely funded by donations and we're so thankful for every penny. Each donation helps us give someone the priceless gift of sight.

If you'd like to support our work, visit: www.visionforbangladesh.org/donate

