

SWISSCONTACT BANGLADESH



480

young people are trained in a two-year programme.

69,444

people living in rural communities have profited from qualified healthcare services.

Medical care as a way out of poverty

Swisscontact is a business-oriented foundation for international development cooperation. Founded in 1959 as an independent foundation by notable members of the Swiss business community, it has maintained close ties with the private sector. Today, it implements over 100 projects in 34 countries and promotes economic, social, and environmental development. Swisscontact further seeks to reduce poverty by developing people's own initiatives. They also advocate an 'inclusive markets approach' by facilitating access to improved goods and services, business opportunities, and jobs. Therefore, they identify limitations and opportunities inherent in existing market systems to define intervention strategies. Swisscontact acts as a catalyst in project implementation by fostering a sustainable environment for entrepreneurship and by providing practical, locally adapted solutions.

In Bangladesh, the Julius Baer Foundation supports a programme executed by ASTHA, a local implementation partner of Swisscontact, which fosters an understanding of health among the population. It trains 480 young adults in a two-year programme to be skilled health workers (Community Paramedics CP), who are urgently needed in rural areas and can provide initial medical care. After completion of the programme, the qualified local healthcare providers receive a nationally recognised certificate, and around 60% of the 480 graduates will be helped to launch their own small health consultancy business. They will be in a position to provide professional support during pregnancies and assistance at births and can improve their income as independent health workers.



Marzia Akhtar Popi

“I never really thought that I could do both, i.e. look after my family and at the same time make such a respectable living. The mothers and children in my community now come to me for their healthcare needs. None of this would have happened if without the support of ASTHA.” Marzia Akhtar Popi (24) approached the project in 2016 for support and started attending scientific seminars organised by ASTHA. Based on her performance and willingness to set up a practice in her village, the project donated her a medical toolkit with all the essential equipment required to provide primary healthcare services.

Julius Baer Foundation

For more than fifty years, the Julius Baer Foundation has dedicated itself to making meaningful and impactful contributions to society. The grant foundation of the Julius Baer Group was founded in 1965 by Walter J. Bär to support all forms of art and culture, various sciences, and carefully selected charitable causes within Switzerland. The Foundation's reach has extended along with the growth of the Group, and, today it collaborates with partner organisations worldwide in the core areas of Vocational Training, Recycling PLUS, and Wealth Inequality.

How you can contribute

Clients and employees of Julius Baer can support the Foundation.

Your donation will be used specifically for the core area of your wish. IBAN: CH 94 0851 5072 8789 4200 9

Contact

Julius Baer Foundation
Bahnhofstrasse 36, P.O. Box
8010 Zurich, Switzerland
Tel.: +41(0)58 888 4422
foundation@juliusbaer.com
www.juliusbaer.com/foundation

Creating primary healthcare services in rural communities

Through Swisscontact, 215 graduates have found employment or work independently. Together, they have enabled that 69,444 community people (70% females) to receive quality healthcare services in the project districts so far. In total, 150,729 people have been made aware of improved healthcare services.

Facts and figures: Bangladesh

Bangladesh became an independent country in 1971. The succession of political regimes that followed independence has yet to produce a stable democratic system. Around 47 million people still live below the poverty line in Bangladesh. The significant lack of high-quality, affordable healthcare services and trained health staff poses a great challenge. Fortunately, the government of Bangladesh recognises this challenge and has formulated the National Health Workforce Development Strategy in order to counteract the shortage and unequal geographic distribution of qualified health professionals. Through this strategy, a new

category of healthcare personnel has been introduced — so-called community paramedics. The strategy further underlines that training must be much more practice-oriented and private training institutions must be strengthened in a targeted fashion so as to enable high-quality training for qualified local healthcare providers.

- Inhabitants: 157.8 million
- Capital: Dhaka
- Language: Bangla (also known as Bengali)
- Youth unemployment rate (15–24 years old): 9.4%
- Physicians density: 0.39 physicians/1,000 population
- Exports: Despite the prevalence of farming in Bangladesh, its export earnings mainly come from the garment industry.
- The Royal Bengal Tiger is Bangladesh's national animal. This majestic creature has a roar that can be heard up to 3 kilometres away.

For more information about Swisscontact, please visit: www.swisscontact.org

“Truly affordable but high-quality healthcare tools and services are the only means by which quality healthcare can be provided to all.”

Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate