

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Spreeha Foundation
empowering people - transforming lives



spreeha.org

Sprezha envisions people
empowered
to permanently break the cycle of
poverty

Sprezha touched **76,775** lives in 2020

Sprezha meets **9** United Nations
Sustainable Development Goals





Dear Friend,

The pandemic made 2020 an unprecedented year full of challenges. Many of us lost our dear ones. In 2020, we paused, spent time with our dear ones, grieved, and reflected.

At Spreeha, our communities in Bangladesh were impacted in multiple ways. The pandemic posed constant health risks in a dense and congested setting. Due to the slowdown of economic activities, our members faced unemployment as most of them are daily wage earners. About 80% of our community members lost their jobs; malnutrition among children increased by approximately 18%; education programs came to an almost halt for several months. We also saw a reverse migration trend to villages from slums that tended to show the risk of early marriage among young girls.

In order to serve communities, we took innovative approaches. We redesigned our service delivery with extreme precautions that you will find in this Annual Report. We added an emergency relief program to distribute food and hygienic material to our community members. Our chapters in Boston, Dallas, and Seattle were vigilant in serving communities. We are staying on course with our Strategic Plan. As part of that, we were able to increase our capacity in the USA by adding an additional part time employee. Commitments from our volunteers and donors continue to be our core strength.

We couldn't be here without our supporters, donors, and team members. My heartiest thanks to you for empowering people and transforming lives!

Ferdouse Oneza
Chief Executive Officer



Healthcare



Education



Skills Training



Economic Opportunities

24 million

people still living below the poverty line.
Total population in Bangladesh: 164 million.

April 13, 2020 World Bank

64% of THE (Total Health Expenditure)

is out of pocket expenditure and no health insurance program exists.

Health Care Financing Strategy 2012-2032. Bangladesh Govt.

only about 20%

of the total workforce are formal paid employees and the rest are engaged in informal, unpaid, or agriculture work.

UNDP Bangladesh quarterly report 2018



Nilphamari ▶ Rangpur ▶ Kurigram



project locations



Bangladesh

2020 Highlights

76,775

total lives **served**
in 2020

26,865

persons served in
healthcare
in **Bangladesh**

29,000

persons served in
COVID
emergency response

Bring school to home
Education

1,535

students and community
members served



The Pandemic Year

Challenges

- Unemployment on the rise. About 80% of our community members lost their jobs
- Malnutrition among children increased by approximately 18%
- People being too reluctant about COVID-19 precautions
- Postponement of all project activities

We postponed programs at Spreeha's premise such as health clinic, pre- and after-school activities, adolescent girls club, mom's club to avoid close contact among community members. Progga program activities were also postponed from March to the remainder of the year.

Mitigation and Adaptation

Spreeha adapted to the new realities with the following measures.

- Add an emergency relief program - food and nutrition supplies
- Redesigning our service delivery at the clinic and other programs.
- Raising an extensive awareness campaign.
- Introducing an extensive door to door program.
- Taking schools to our students' homes (teachers & community workers went door to door with school supplies, engaged students in pre- and after school).
- Our community workers worked extra hours to maintain the programs in a new model.



COVID RESPONSE

Spreeha distributed food to families and individuals who cannot afford basic food because of the ongoing pandemic. Initially starting with the Rayerbazar community, Spreeha extended food supply to people living in Kallyanpur Slum, Mirpur, Sylhet tea gardens, Gazipur, Chattagram, Barishal, Naogaon, Sathkhira, Comillah, and to many individuals who reached out to us for emergency assistance. Spreeha partnered with BUETian Investment Network (BIN) on this effort.

We distributed food packages, hygiene material, and essential medicine to 14,000 people, and masks to 15,000 people.

29,000 persons

Emergency support

- Food supply
- Hygiene materials
- Essential drugs
- Door to door awareness and counselling
- Online doctor helpline



Impact Healthcare

Healthcare Components

- Preventive Healthcare
- Maternal and Child Healthcare
- Malnutrition Screening
- Primary Healthcare
- Pharmacy and Laboratory
- Family Planning Program
- Events
- Partnership

In 2020, the Healthcare program served a total of

14,857 persons.



Pregnant mother registered for ANC **286**



Postnatal mother cared **158**



Neonate cared **150**



Patient treated **4806**



Fertile couples received family planning counselling **1789**



Children screened for malnutrition **515**



Awareness outreach **14372**



Mother-child healthcare makes underprivileged pregnant mothers aware of the importance of antenatal and postnatal checkups during pregnancy. No maternal deaths were reported among these cases. The number of maternal mortality this year was zero.

Spreeha also provided malnutrition screening for under-five-years old children at their homes. There was a rising trend of malnutrition cases during the pandemic. Spreeha is closely monitoring this along with food and nutrition capsules distribution.



“ I can’t
describe the
feeling....”

Giving birth during a pandemic:
Rubina's story of hope,
courage, and resilience

Rubina has faced many challenges even before the pandemic: She lost her baby girl two years ago to the flu. The country went on lockdown just a month before her due date.

Rubina found a new source of strength through Spreeha. Health workers at Spreeha regularly checked up on her at home keeping her on a follow-up routine. Given the situation, they also guided her on how to keep her family and herself safe while maintaining social distancing all the time. On April 23rd, with the country still consumed by the virus, Rubina was blessed with a beautiful baby girl - Nusrat Akter, a beaming light of hope amidst the most stressful time of her life. Holding her child she recalls “I can’t describe the feeling - only a mother knows what I felt holding my little girl that day”.

Impact Education

Education Components

- Pre school program for children 3-5 years
- After school program for children 6+ years
- Scholarship program
- Education counselling and awareness
- Clubs:
 - Drawing Club
 - Cultural Club
 - Book Reading Club
 - Kid's Club

In 2020, The Education Program served a total of

1,535 persons.



Children in Pre-school **180**



Children in After-school **240**



Students Received Scholarship Award **7**



Awareness Outreach **1445**



During the pandemic, Spreeha brought schools to our students' homes. Maintaining the safety measures, teachers & community workers went door to door with school supplies and engaged students in pre- and after school activities.

Shams & Nasreen Scholarship Award of Spreeha has been designed to help students to sustain in multiple levels of education. It provides support for admission and tuition fees, books, supplies, and equipment related expenses. A total of seven (7) students, five girls and two boys received scholarships this year.



Liza: A Story of a Young Artist

Liza is just twelve years old and has already seen the harsh reality of life. Her father was a fish vendor in a nearby market. He lost both legs in a road accident last year. Since then, Liza's mother has been doing multiple jobs to support her family. It won't take long for Liza to give up her dreams unless she gets the support and encouragement.

“Colors are magic, they bring life to a drawing!”



Liza holds a genuine passion for art. She comes to Spreeha after school classes every week and loves experimenting with colors. She thinks she is developing an art style of her own. With precise strokes of colorful crayons, she creates a series of drawings which are mostly inspired by nature and surrounding incidents. She aspires to be an artist someday. A dream like this is not considered realistic in urban slums. Spreeha recognizes her passion and stands by her side so her dream can come true one day.

Impact Skills Training Progga



Progga is a creative leadership program empowering adolescents with essential life skills that bring forth their leadership qualities from within. Through the club, young girls and boys engage in activities promoting self-definition, confidence and thus enabling them to transform societies as active participants. Spreeha completed the following milestones in 2020:

- Student enrolment
- Progga handbook development and distribution to sixth grade students in 15 Progga schools
- Orientation Workshop with Head Teachers of Progga participant schools
- Organize Teachers' Training (ToT)
- Organized Knowledge Sharing session with SMC members, Teachers, and Parents at Progga School's in Nilphamari and Kurigram Districts



Adolescent Girls' Club Program **90**



Head Teacher Orientation Workshop **15**



Training of Trainers for Progga Club Teacher **15**



Number of attendees Knowledge sharing Session **284**



Support for Rohingya Refugees



Healthcare 1,041



Counselling



18,000 solar power

A total of 19,141
refugees served.

In 2017, people from Myanmar fled to Bangladesh to avoid a military crackdown and mass killing that the UN described as “ethnic cleansing”.

Spreeha’s work in the Rohingya refugee camps builds on its core values of empathy, creativity, lean methodology, continuous learning, and partnership. The objective is to create long term positive changes like healthcare and education for women and children.

We partnered with Extend the Day in solar light distribution.



Emergency Disaster Responses



Telemedicine Service

An Online Doctor Helpline portal was opened as part of our telemedicine service through which patients are now able to access doctor consultation anytime from the comfort of their home. Be it primary health counselling or COVID-19 related advice, a pool of doctors are available to provide any free consultations round the clock.

Super Cyclone Amphan and School Reconstruction

Super Cyclone Amphan impacted Bangladesh's coastal areas. One of Spreeha's Progga participant schools, Katthalbaria A.G. High School was affected as a result of the super cyclone. Spreeha donors raised funds in reconstruction of the school.



Shayan's Story

Shayan, a 7th grade student from Bellevue thought about children living in the under-served areas in Bangladesh, where the barrier for children's education is poverty. He started a fundraising campaign to support Spreeha students. His fund was use in rebuilding a remote school in Satkhira devastated by the Cyclone Amphan. Thanks to Shayan students had their school fixed!

Spreeha encourages youths like Shayan to make a difference!

Finances 2020

	2019	2020
REVENUES	302,029.35	292,646
Event Ticket Sales	14,151.00	0
Grants	500.00	15,033
Individual and Business Contributions	268,278.35	260,613*
Restricted - operating	12,000.00	12,000
Sponsorships	7,100.00	5,000
EXPENSES	280,906.82	285,308
PROGRAMS	210,797.67	232,129
Global	172,600.00	192,933**
Local	6,125.00	7,876
Program support in HQ	32,072.67	31,320
FUNDRAISING **(EVENTS COST AND STAFF TIME)	29,037.26	12,075
COMMUNICATION AND NETWORKING	14,715.50	12,332
Advertising, Membership & Promotion	3,762.23	2,723
Donor outreach picnic	1,803.33	
Business Registration Fees	195.00	213
Staff time	5,870.84	9,396
Travel	3,084.10	
MANAGEMENT / ADMIN / ACCOUNTING	26,356.39	28,772
Facilities rent, parking, utilities	3,006.00	2,675
Accounting services	3,850.00	4,078
Management staff	14,589.31	15,660
Banking and software fees and office expenses	4,771.07	6,359
Insurance	140.01	
BALANCE	21,122.53	7,338

* Includes \$11,614 donated directly in Bangladesh

** Includes \$11,614 direct donation to program in Bangladesh

Highlights and Community Outreach

Spreeha team, with support from our donors and volunteers, delivered lunch to frontline healthcare team at Evergreen Hospital ICU unit in Kirkland, WA.

On September 19th, 2020, Spreeha launched its first virtual fundraiser. This three-day event highlighted Spreeha's beneficiaries and team members.

At this event, we heard from Shabnaz, one of the the first Spreeha students to complete her Bachelor's Degree. She is now a Community Officer at Spreeha. An avid reader, Shabnaz was determined to get an education despite the endless hardship and the poverty she faced all around her. Spreeha's scholarship changed her life.

In 2020, Spreeha reached a new milestone by adding a part-time staff in Spreeha team. This improved Spreeha's capacity to serve our community.



Serving Local Communities

Seattle, Dallas and Boston Events

Food and Holiday Drives

Spreeha Dallas Chapter was heavily engaged in serving local communities as follows:

- 8 monthly food drives
- 2 holiday food drive (thanksgiving and Christmas)
- 1 holiday gift drive
- 1 school supplies drive.

Spreeha Seattle Chapter served meals to local health care workers and acknowledged their kindness and courage.

Spreeha Youth Club

The intent of the Spreeha Kid's/Youth Club is to engage children in various youth activities. Youth Club members helped raise funds in 2020.

Spreeha Kitchen

Thanks to our community members for serving **560 meals** in 2020.

Spreeha Pathshala

- Fall 2020 **33 students**, 1 out of state student!
- Spring 2020 **31 students**
- Winter 2020 **22 students**



Volunteer

Share your passion by getting involved with Spreeha. The majority of our organization is volunteer-run. We need help from individuals from all sorts of backgrounds. Opportunities are available no matter how much or how little time you can commit. We fit your skills, interest, and schedule. We also have virtual volunteer opportunities available. Every minute counts! If you are interested, please feel free to contact us at volunteer@spreeha.org

A big shout out to the 84 Spreeha's volunteers.

1889 hours volunteers donated!



Start a new chapter

Spread your leadership and passion with others in your area by setting up a new Sprezha chapter in your area. Please contact us and we can support you throughout the process.

Spread the word

You know your friends and family best, so use your own words - tell them why you are involved in Sprezha and what it means to you. The more people who know about us, the more good we can do in the world. Help us get the word out to your friends and loved ones!

Donate

Many companies have giving campaigns or matching donations. Check with your employer to see how you can include Sprezha in your organization's philanthropy. Sprezha is also a Zakat-approved charity. You can donate via Facebook or webpage at sprezha.org.

Key Partners

BEXIMCO PHARMA: Supply of Nutritious meal supplement for Rohingya refugees
BRAC: Curriculum and content support for adolescent girls' club
BUETian Investment Network (BIN): COVID emergency response food program
Extend The Day: Solar powered lights among the Rohingya Community Gana
Unnayan Kendra: Rohingya refugee healthcare partner
Global Giving: Donation platform and onsite visit
Global Washington: Feature on Global WA newsletter and social media
Lake Washington United Methodist Church in Kirkland: Sprezha Kitchen partnership
Johnson & Johnson: Grant for implementing mobile based health education for underprivileged pregnant women
Microsoft: Selection as Microsoft YouthSpark partner
Sisimpur: Content for education program
Tasveer: Promotion on mutual topics
UNDP: Kusholi, the skilled training partnership
University of Washington Law, Societies, and Justice Department: Grant for Rohingya project

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