

# LIFE IN BANGLADESH



A photographic exhibition examining the work of the church in one of the world's most populous nations

# LIFE IN BANGLADESH

**The photographs in this exhibition offer a snapshot of life in Bangladesh, a country with a population of 150 million people living in an area the size of England.**

Many of these people are living in extreme poverty, on land that is prone to frequent flooding.

It is in this context that the Church of Bangladesh – with the support of USPG: Anglicans in World Mission – is demonstrating God’s love by reaching out to the poor and vulnerable, regardless of their faith.

Christians in Bangladesh are in a tiny minority, comprising less than 0.3 per cent of the population, compared with 83 per cent Muslim and 16 per cent Hindu.

Within this Christian community is the Church of Bangladesh, which is a United Church – being made up of both Anglicans and Christians of other traditions – and part of the Anglican Communion.

It is not a wealthy church – like much of the population, most Christians are poor farmers or day labourers.

But despite its poverty and its small size, the Church of Bangladesh is working hard to make a difference. Through its Social Development Programme, the church is providing vital health care, supporting the elderly, tackling human trafficking, providing schooling for vulnerable children, and digging safe wells in areas where the water is poisoned by naturally-occurring arsenic.

USPG’s support for the Church of Bangladesh takes many forms: we provide direct funding, we are partners in prayer, and we are co-workers in the shared objectives of global mission.

We hope these photographs will inspire you to find out more about the Church of Bangladesh and the work of USPG around the world.

For further information and resources, phone 0845 273 1701 or email [enquiries@uspg.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@uspg.org.uk)

USPG: Anglicans in World Mission is enabling churches to share God’s love in practical and life-changing ways.

We work in direct partnership with Anglican Churches in over 50 countries, helping to strengthen the church and build communities.

USPG needs your donations to support vital church work, including healthcare, education, leadership training and action for social justice.



Rickshaws on the crowded streets of Bangladesh's capital city Dhaka. Bangladesh is one of the world's poorest and most densely populated countries, with 150 million people, many of them living in poverty.



Every day, boats sail through Dhaka, on the Buriganga River, carrying considerable local passenger traffic and national cargo.



A boy plays in a flooded slum area, in the Pargandaria section of Dhaka. Many people are compelled to live on flood-prone land where they are vulnerable to water-borne diseases.



Drying onions in Old Town Market, Dhaka. Two thirds of Bangladesh's population are employed in the agricultural sector, but there is growing unemployment as the agricultural industry struggles to absorb a rapidly expanding labour force.



A carpenter at work on the streets of Jurain slum, in Dhaka.



Ranu Begum, a widow from Jurain slum, is part of the Ekota Women's Development Project, which is supported by the Church of Bangladesh. The project gave Ranu a loan to set up a small business selling healthy food and snacks to families in the community. Ranu said: 'I'm so grateful for this project. It means I am able to support myself, my mother and my daughter.'



Anna Akter, in the foreground, is a pupil at the Verandah School, which is run by the Church of Bangladesh in Dhaka. The school provides poor children like Anna, who comes from a slum area called Patlakhallen, with their only chance of an education. Anna said: 'I like school, especially drawing and singing. When I grow up I want to be a doctor.'



Upen Mollick, from Bollobhpur, is a member of the Golden Age Project, which provides the elderly with a place to go and a sense of worth. Upen – shown here weaving, an activity he learned at the project – said: 'Before the project there wasn't much to do. Most of the time I stayed at home, but now I can come here and make friends.'



A mother watches over her baby in the USPG-supported Bollobhpur Hospital. There are 12,000 people per doctor in Bangladesh, so the church-run hospital in Bollobhpur is a vital source of health care for impoverished communities.



Asura Khatun, in Alumpur, had painful sores on her hands – a sign that she was being poisoned by naturally-occurring arsenic in the water. The Church of Bangladesh dug safe wells and encouraged families to eat more nutritiously to counteract the effects of the arsenic. Asura said: 'I was in a lot of pain, but the church took care of me.'



A boat on flooded land in Kandi. Every year, the monsoons in Bangladesh claim lives, flood huge swathes of land and hamper communications. At the same time, the waters carry minerals that make the soil rich and fertile – which is extremely important in a country with so many mouths to feed.



**‘The main vision of the Church of Bangladesh is to share the love of Christ.’**

*James Pender, USPG-supported mission companion*



**USPG: Anglicans in World Mission**

200 Great Dover Street  
London  
SE1 4YB

[www.uspg.org.uk](http://www.uspg.org.uk)

Tel: 0845 273 1701

e-mail: [enquiries@uspg.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@uspg.org.uk)

Registered charity number 234518



**Anglicans in  
World Mission**