

*Click above to read full Newsletter

DONATE TO
HOPE & HUMANITY



HAEFA
BEYOND BORDERS



Journey of Alex Jin from Brown University USA

Alex Jin, a dedicated USA Intern of Health and Education for All (HAEFA), visited HAEFA operations in March 2024 as a monitoring and evaluation officer. She observed various HAEFA activities, conducting interviews, gathering information, and generating media content. She also worked at the two health posts in the FDMN camps, conducting exit polls to evaluate patient satisfaction and identify aspects for improvement.

She hopes the information she has gathered will be used to make organizational improvements to achieve project goals more effectively. Additionally, she aims to increase awareness when she returns to the U.S. and assists in fundraising campaigns.

Reflecting on her overall experience, she states, "It's been so rewarding to see the impact of the organization firsthand after working behind the scenes for so long. I have been especially impressed by the compassion of the staff and am inspired by their commitment to serving underprivileged communities. I hope to showcase their selflessness and dedication on the USA website and the annual report because they deserve recognition for the incredible work they do."

HAEFA's Ongoing Projects

* Click on each to learn more

-  Healthcare Services and Tuberculosis Screening in Kutupalong, Balukhali, Ukhiya and health post at Bhashan Char
-  Mobile Medical Health Clinics for Host Communities in Ukhiya
-  Tuberculosis Screening and Cervical Cancer Screening with Treatment at Cox's Bazar
-  NIROG: Empowering NCD Care through Digitalization in Noakhali and Cox's Bazar

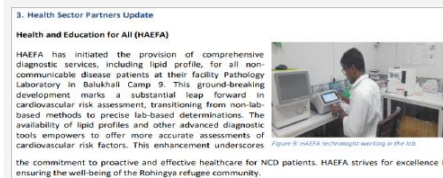
Health care delivery to FDMN population from HAEFA health camps



- Number of Patients Received Treatment in Kutupalong Camp 1W
- Number of Patients Received Treatment in Balukhali Camp 9
- Number of Patients Received Treatment in Bhashan Char
- Pathology Lab Test
- Ultrasonography Services
- Family Planning Service

Pioneering Healthcare: HAEFA Diagnostic Laboratory Elevating Cardiovascular Diseases Management in Rohingya Camps

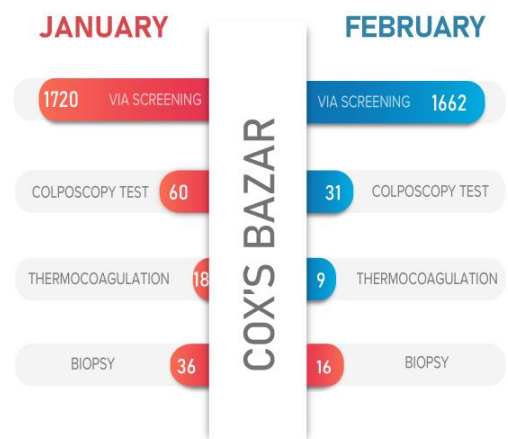
In the February 2024 edition of the Health Sector Bulletin, Cox's Bazar, the World Health Organization (WHO) featured the Health and Education for All (HAEFA) Diagnostic Laboratory at the HAEFA FDMN (Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals) Camp health post (Balukhali Camp 9). This Path Lab marks a significant milestone in the diagnostic precision of numerous diseases, optimizing the timely delivery of healthcare services and improving access to community healthcare. It reflects HAEFA's ongoing efforts to enhance healthcare infrastructure and uplifts the well-being of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.



3. Health Sector Partners Update
Health and Education for All (HAEFA)
HAEFA has initiated the provision of comprehensive diagnostic services, including lipid profiles, for all non-communicable disease patients at their facility Pathology Laboratory in Balukhali Camp 9. This ground-breaking development marks a substantial leap forward in cardiovascular risk assessment, transitioning from non-lab-based methods to precise lab-based determinations. The availability of lipid profiles and other advanced diagnostic tools empowers to offer more accurate assessments of cardiovascular risk factors. This enhancement underscores the commitment to proactive and effective healthcare for NCD patients. HAEFA strives for excellence in ensuring the well-being of the Rohingya refugee community.

Health Sector Cox's Bazar Monthly Bulletin: Feb 2024 ([Click Here](#))

Cervical Cancer Screening Update In Cox's Bazar :



Capacity Building Training on Mobile Colposcopy and Thermocoagulation "See and Treat" for Health Facility Focals and Service Providers

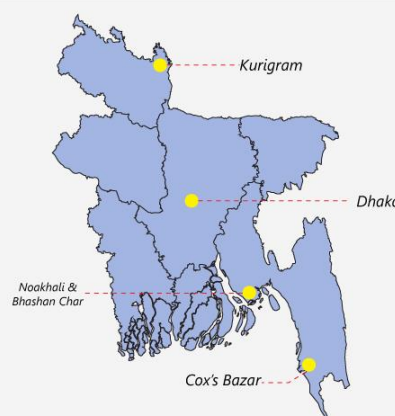
Health and Education for All (HAEFA) organized a hands-on training session focusing on Mobile ODT and Mobile Thermocoagulation. These technologies form a comprehensive diagnostic and treatment solution for precancerous lesions of Cervical Cancer through a single visit. Accessibility and loss to follow-up are major challenges in reducing the high mortality rates associated with cervical cancer. The single-sitting "See & Treat" Program allows to overcome the major challenge of loss to follow-up. This initiative aimed to enhance the capabilities of Health Facility Focal and Service Providers. By providing practical orientation, participants gained essential skills and knowledge crucial for improving community healthcare services.



ARTICLES

* Click to read full article

-  **New HAEFA Student Organization Chapters in Maryland and Washington, D.C.**
-  **Member Spotlight: Introducing Dr. Sumashree Roy**
-  **A Mother's Gratitude to HAEFA**
-  **Meet HAEFA's Editorial Staff!**



New HAEFA Student Organization Chapters in Maryland and Washington, D.C.

By *Ishan Abdullah*,

Two new student organizations representing Health and Education for All (HAEFA) have recently been established at the University of Maryland (UMD), College Park, Maryland, and the George Washington School of Medicine and Health Sciences (GW SMHS) in Washington, D.C. The student organizers of both Chapters have expressed a central interest in sharing the vision and mission of HAEFA through educating students about the current conditions faced by the marginalized populations living in the coastal regions of Bangladesh and the plight of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. The major goals of these Student Chapters at UMD and GW SMHS are to organize the following:

- (1) Teach-in Sessions attended by the students and faculty to discuss and learn about the state of underserved populations here in the USA and globally, humanitarian needs for disadvantaged populations, global health, management of humanitarian crises, healthcare in resource-limited settings including disaster-affected areas and refugee camps, and innovations in healthcare and education globally
- (2) To organize community Fundraising Events to support the humanitarian services provided by HAEFA to the marginalized and refugee populations
- (3) Connecting students with HAEFA professionals, mentors, and professors for International Internship opportunities, development of research projects and scholarship applications;
- (4) Establishing a website for the Chapter on their respective University webpage, including member details and showcasing the Chapter's past activities, and future events
- (5) Explore opportunities for publication of a quarterly or half-yearly journal highlighting activities and future events
- (6) Connecting to similar student Chapters in the USA and internationally to learn from each other and for efficient collaboration.

The HAEFA Students Chapter at UMD, Maryland, was created in 2023 by Areeb Uzzaman, an undergraduate student majoring in international business, and the Chapter at GW SMHS in Washington, DC, was established in 2024 by Ishan Abdullah, a first-year graduate medical student who has been with HAEFA since his undergraduate years. Currently, 12 active members at the UMD chapter have been organizing a fundraising raffle event to be held in

April. This raffle event is supported by a mini-grant of \$750 received from the Do Good Institute under the UMD School of Public Policy, which will support illustrious prizes at the upcoming raffle event. The collected funds will be sent to Bangladesh for procuring medicines and food supplies for HAEFA's Free Health Clinics in the Rohingya refugee camps for chronic disease patients, including malnourished children and pregnant women.

GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences Student Chapter plans to offer a unique opportunity to medical students with global and public health experience alongside their basic sciences. This chapter will provide opportunities for medical students with a global health concentration who plan for scholarly research work/fellowship and international medical missions during their 3rd or 4th year. Currently, the GW SMHS chapter has 15 active members and is in the process of setting up a Teach-in Session on Health Care Equity in LMIC (low- and middle-income countries). Through capitalizing on the public health framework at his school, Ishan hopes to encourage members of the organization and other GW SMHS global health students to consider medical rotations working with HAEFA in Bangladesh.

Both Chapters are collaborating to develop a few short video films focusing on HAEFA's different humanitarian activities in Bangladesh's coastal regions and refugee camps.

Member Spotlight: Dr. Sumashree Roy

By Somaeya Sultana Meem,



Dr Sumashree Roy, a dedicated and hardworking medical officer at NCDC Project, Ukhia Health Complex in Cox's Bazar, has had quite an impressive journey in the field of healthcare. Born in Rangpur and brought up in Kurigram district. She obtained her MBBS degree from Prime Medical College in Rangpur in 2018. Currently, she is pursuing her MPH from State University of Bangladesh.

Upon completing her education, Dr Sumashree began her career as an HMO at Rangpur Medical College Hospital, specializing in Gynaecology and Obstetrics. She then transitioned to Surjer Hasi Clinic in Saidpur, gaining valuable experience before joining the Cervical Cancer Screening and Treatment program at LAMB Hospital during the pandemic. Her commitment to serving underserved populations was further demonstrated during her two-year tenure at the Cervical Cancer project in Kurigram district, where she worked tirelessly to provide healthcare services across all Upazilas.

Currently, Dr Sumashree fulfills her responsibilities at Ukhia Health Complex in both the VIA room and NCD room. In the VIA room, she monitors every VIA suspected/positive patient, conducts colposcopy, and performs biopsy and thermocoagulation if necessary. She also guides government staff nurses and medical workers regarding the full VIA procedure. In the NCD room, she registers every patient in the EMR system of NIROG Plus and provides management according to their needs alongside government doctors. Dr Sumashree is also responsible for monitoring all stations of the NIROG Plus system conducted by staff nurses. She introduced colposcopy, biopsy, and thermocoagulation in the VIA room and the NIROG Plus app in the NCD corner for the first time after joining.

Starting VIA and NIROG Plus for NCD at Ukhia posed some initial challenges, but with proper guidance from HAEFA office and cooperation from UHC staff, Dr Sumashree and her team are now able to carry out their work effectively. They have established a dedicated VIA room, provided with desktops, and conducted VIA basic training for staff nurses and medical workers.

Dr Sumashree has completed VIA basic training from BSMMU and Colposcopy training from OGSB, which she considers her best achievements at HAEFA. The memory of performing her first colposcopy and thermocoagulation at Kurigram is also cherished by Dr Sumashree, as she was congratulated by her colleagues. The supportive and family-like environment at HAEFA,

where every member is willing to help each other, is something she truly appreciates and values.

Dr Sumashree's journey with HAEFA has been nothing short of inspiring, as she has been able to pursue her passion for serving the underprivileged and unreachable populations. Her dedication to public health and her desire to make a difference in the lives of those in need have led her to focus on Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) for underserved communities. With the support of her family, mentors, and colleagues, Dr Sumashree is determined to continue her work and make a meaningful impact in the field of public health.

Dr Sumashree's personal and professional life is intertwined, as she draws inspiration from her father and husband, both of whom are involved in the healthcare field. Their support and guidance have been instrumental in Dr Sumashree's decision to pursue a career in public health and to focus on Sexual and Reproductive Health for those in need

. With the mentorship of Dr Abid and Dr Susan and Md Saim khan, Dr Sumashree has been able to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in her field and to make a difference in the lives of those she serves.

In her free time, Dr Sumashree enjoys watching movies, dramas, and listening to music as a way to relax and recharge after a busy day at work. These activities help her to refocus on her goals and to maintain a healthy work-life balance, allowing her to continue her work with passion and dedication.

Dr Sumashree is grateful for the opportunities and support provided to her by HAEFA and is confident in the organization's ability to make a difference in the lives of those in need. She appreciates the commitment of Dr Abid and the team at HAEFA to serving the underprivileged populations and looks forward to continuing her work with the organization to create a positive impact in the field of public health.

Dr Sumashree's journey with HAEFA is a testament to her dedication to public health and her passion for serving the most vulnerable populations. With the support of her family, mentors, and colleagues, Dr Sumashree is determined to make a difference in the lives of those in need and to continue her work in public health.

A Mother's Gratitude to HAEFA

I am Fatema (name has been changed to maintain privacy), a 25-year-old mother of two from FDMN Rohingya Camp 9 in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. This is my story, one that intertwines the fears and hopes of a journey that could have ended in tragedy but instead became a testament to the power of medical advice and timely intervention.

Being pregnant for the fourth time, I was determined to deliver at home again as this was the course that I was most familiar with. Three days of unsettling calmness, a lack of fetal movements, and a worrying, watery discharge prompted me to seek help. Because of a prior stillbirth, I was worried that these signs were all too familiar. After discussing my concerns with a neighbor, I was advised to receive a fetal ultrasound available at the nearby HAEFA health post.

Upon my arrival at HAEFA facilities, the health workers greeted me with kindness and professionalism. The ultrasound revealed a concerning truth: my amniotic fluid was dangerously low. My baby was in an abnormal position, known as breech position. The recommendation was clear and urgent: I must not attempt a home delivery, rather should seek immediate medical management.

In addition to being referred to a nearby maternity facility equipped to handle my complicated case, HAEFA healthcare staff provided ample counseling extending to my family, and was a beacon in understanding our storm of worries. The HAEFA workers explained the risks of home delivery in my conditions, emphasizing the dangers of a breech position and low fluid level. Their words, steeped in care and urgency, convinced my family to take the necessary action to deliver my baby safely.

In March of 2024, with my healthy newborn in my arms, I returned to the HAEFA Health Post. It was a visit charged with emotion, a full-circle moment that allowed me to express my gratitude once more. HAEFA's medical services and timely counsel may have been the deciding factor between delivering a healthy newborn and another stillbirth. My baby's healthy cries, a sound so dearly bought, were a testament to the crucial importance of seeking and heeding medical advice.

Meet HAEFA's Editorial Staff!



Dr. Samia Tasneem, *Mentor and Advisor* to the Newsletter Editorial Board. She joined HAEFA in 2020 and serves as the Honorary Chief NCD Consultant. Dr. Tasneem is a Heart Transplant Cardiologist at St. Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, Australia.



Sajia Haque is the *Editor-in-Chief*, as well as the Intern Coordinator for HAEFA. She joined in 2021. She lives in Dhaka, Bangladesh and is an ***Intern Doctor*** at Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College Hospital.



Ishan Abdullah is an *Associate Editor*. He joined HAEFA in 2019. He lives in Washington, D.C. and is a first-year medical student at the George Washington University.



Somayea Sultana Meem

She is a 4th year medical student at International Medical College and Hospital, Gazipur, Dhaka, Bangladesh



Tanzina Toma

She graduated with a degree in English Language and literature in 2023 from Ananda Mohan College, Mymensingh, Bangladesh.