

## What is the PGF?

### Postgraduate Fellowship (PGF) in Refugee and Migrant Health

The PGF is a 13-16 week medical education programme designed to **strengthen the capacity of local Bangladeshi doctors** in response to the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh. This was implemented in Bangladesh for 3 years. The PGF training programme consists of **8 medical modules** developed and put together by over **50 medical and humanitarian experts from Doctors Worldwide**, including doctors from Bangladesh to ensure contextual application of knowledge and learning, international and nationally recognised standards, as well as local customs and culture. Topics include: Health in Humanitarian Emergencies, Triage and Acute Care Management, Communicable Diseases, Non-Communicable Diseases and Palliative Care, Mental Health in Humanitarian Emergencies, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Family Planning and Gender-Based Violence, Clinical Assessment, Professional Practice, and Communication Skills, Leadership & Governance.

### PGF's Focus:

The PGF is centred around the delivery of 8 medical modules focusing on primary care in humanitarian settings:

Health in Humanitarian Emergencies

Triage and Emergency Care Management

Communicable Diseases

Mental Health

Clinical Leadership and Governance

Non-Communicable Diseases

Maternal Health

Sexual & Reproductive Health & GBV

Palliative Care

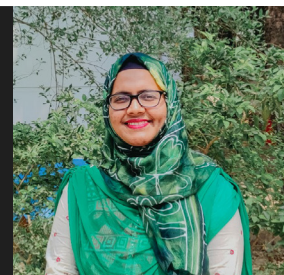
Paediatrics

Professional and Communication Skills



One of our medical faculty conducting clinical mentorship to our PGF Cohort E participant in his primary care clinic using our bespoke logbooks.

"PGF is unique in many ways. In all the training I had previously, they only focused on improving our clinical knowledge, but the PGF focused on our clinical and other skills and knowledge, including our leadership & governance which was interesting." - Dr Sumaya Tasnim, Cohort E Participant, 2021



## PGF Has Achieved:

**129**  
Medical Doctors Trained

**986,400**  
Patient Consultations Benefited

**20%**  
Average Increase In Knowledge Demonstrated By Each Participant

**55** Leadership & Governance Conference hosted for clinic leaders

**32** NGOs, iNGOs And GOs Represented Across Trained Cohorts

**260**  
Clinical Shadowing Sessions (1040 Hours)

**722**  
Additional Professional Certificates Achieved

**1,839**  
workplace-based assessments recorded

**34** Medical Experts Deployed To Teach The Programme In-person

**172**  
Sessions (525 Hours) Of Teaching Conducted



# Training Results:

## Our PGF doctors have reported:

**Increased** confidence in patient management from real-time clinical shadowing

**Improved** patient experience, diagnosis, and treatment through national and international medical standards of teaching

**Demonstrated** leadership in the clinics they serve e.g. introducing and teaching triage to their clinical team

**Overall, our long-term, comprehensive training has:**

**Built** strong health response leaders in the camp clinics to lead diverse teams

**Increased** the humanitarian medical skills & knowledge of local doctors who make up the majority of the doctors in the camps

**Enhanced** access of the vulnerable Rohingya and local host population to comprehensive primary healthcare, standards, and best practice

**Enabled** primary care doctors, i.e. frontline responders (who are almost always the local host community) to manage and respond to the crisis

**Provided** a sustainable and innovative programme providing long-term investment to local health systems to improve the health outcomes of the communities served



PGF participants carrying out group work activities for our Health in Humanitarian Crises Module.



Dr Mir Ahmad (DWW Training Programme Director) facilitating participatory learning and discussions with our PGF participants

# The Background:

Since the Rohingya refugee crisis began in 2017, the Cox’s Bazar region of Bangladesh has experienced an influx of nearly one million refugees escaping violence, discrimination, and statelessness in Myanmar.

This has placed an unprecedented strain on the existing healthcare services in Cox’s Bazar and surrounding areas which has resulted in a shortage of qualified healthcare personnel.

Doctors Worldwide identified a critical need to invest in professional and sustainable training on humanitarian medicine for newly qualified/junior Bangladeshi doctors who are serving in the Rohingya camps and the local host communities.

By supporting Bangladeshi doctors, we are investing in Bangladesh as the learning can be applied to improve the overall health system for the long term. As a result, we have produced 129 healthcare leaders in this humanitarian crises that continues to face environmental, political, and health challenges to date.

Thanks to the determination and hard work of our esteemed medical faculty, the support of our partner the UN-IOM, and commitment from the local Bangladeshi doctors, together we are serving communities to build healthier, happier futures for themselves and their loved ones.



DWW Project Team photo, left to right: Dr Mir Ahmad Medical Training Director, Imogen Ing-Simmons Project Support Officer, Monowara Gani CEO, Georgia Venner Project Manager, Sayeed Ahmad Field Coordinator, Md Lokman Hossain Logistics & Driver

“When faced with a humanitarian crisis of the scale witnessed in Cox’s Bazar, it can seem an impossible task to work towards a vision of quality healthcare which is sustainable and enhances capacity to respond to the health needs of the most vulnerable. However, this was the ambition we set out to achieve, through partnerships and collaboration, a thorough understanding of health quality standards and service improvement, and with the patience and sincerity to work through the challenges, our postgraduate fellowship program is a testament to innovative, practical and exemplary humanitarian response.” - Dr Najeeb Rahman, DWW Trustee



“We are providing long-term investment in local healthcare staff to lead humanitarian responses and reduce the needless suffering of vulnerable communities. The PGF has proven to be a sustainable, comprehensive programme, which has successfully trained healthcare leaders who are determined to provide quality of care to the communities they serve” - Georgia Venner, Project Manager for PGF



PGF participants are encouraged to actively engage and present to their peers to practice public speaking and knowledge sharing on various humanitarian medical topics



“When the concept of the Postgraduate Fellowship in Migrant and Refugee Health was put to me back in late 2017, its potential impact was clearly evident, not just in the case of the Rohingya crisis, but across the world. This was capacity building, systems strengthening and a sustainable solution all rolled into one. As with all projects of this scale, there have been ups and downs, periods of uncertainty and last minute rushes to meet deadlines, but the ethos of the entire team behind the project was that even if we managed to train one doctor effectively, it would all be worth it. As we wrapped up the fifth cohort, having trained 129 doctors, the legacy that each and every one of them will leave behind has definitely made it all worth it!” - Dr Mir Ahmad, Medical Training Director for PGF



Appendix - Other key mentions / wider impact

- More than 30% of the junior doctors trained have gone into leadership positions or more advanced humanitarian healthcare, and public health roles as a result of the PGF (search article in the Education for Primary Care Journal at [www.tandfonline.com](http://www.tandfonline.com))
- A number of the participants have been offered international postings to further develop their skills as a result of their involvement and interaction through the PGF - an opportunity previously unavailable
- The PGF project was selected as an example of SDG Good Practices and promoted on the UN DESA platform. The project is also being published in the Second Edition of the ‘SDG Good Practices: A compilation of success stories and lessons learned in SDG implementation’

Appendix - Distribution of Trained Doctors:

Distribution of Bangladeshi doctors trained by Doctors Worldwide across Rohingya camp sites.

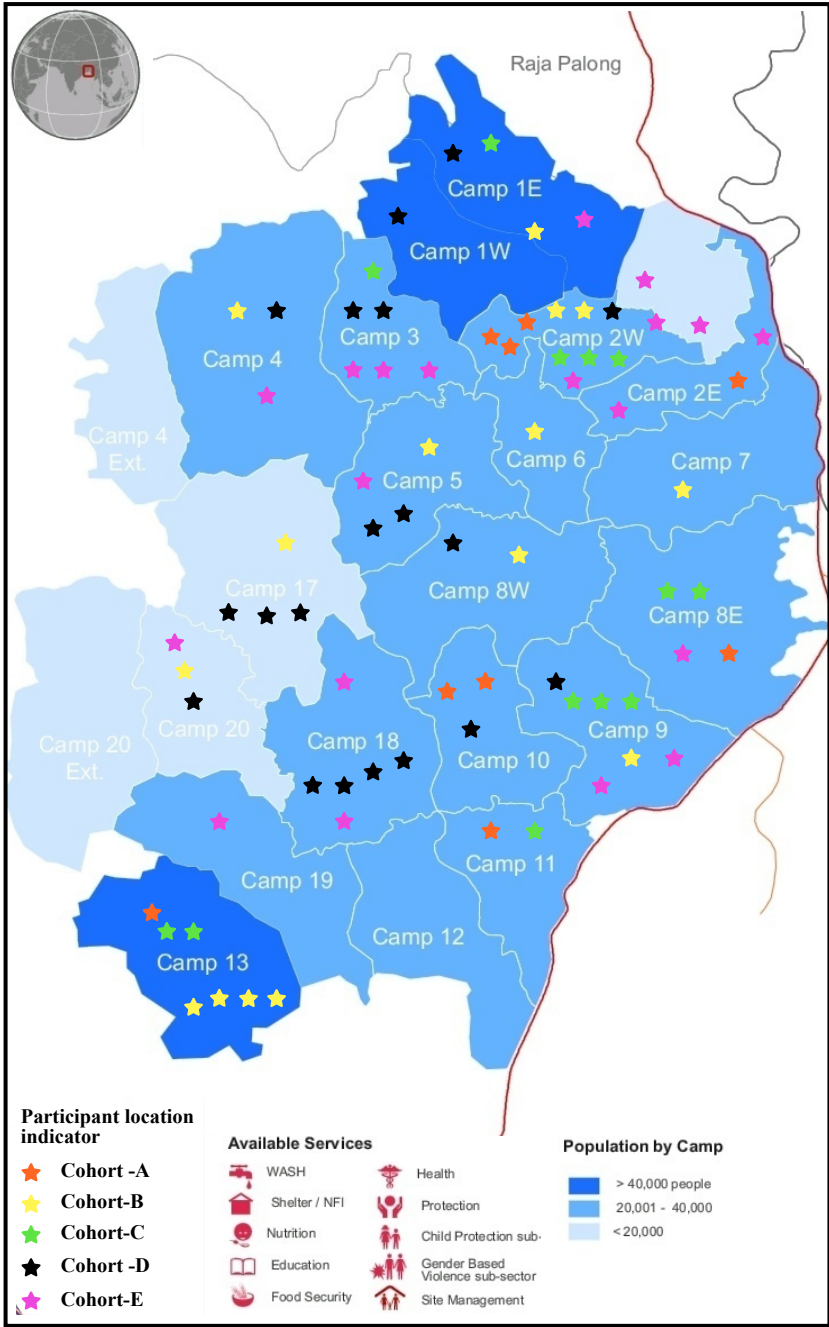


Figure 1

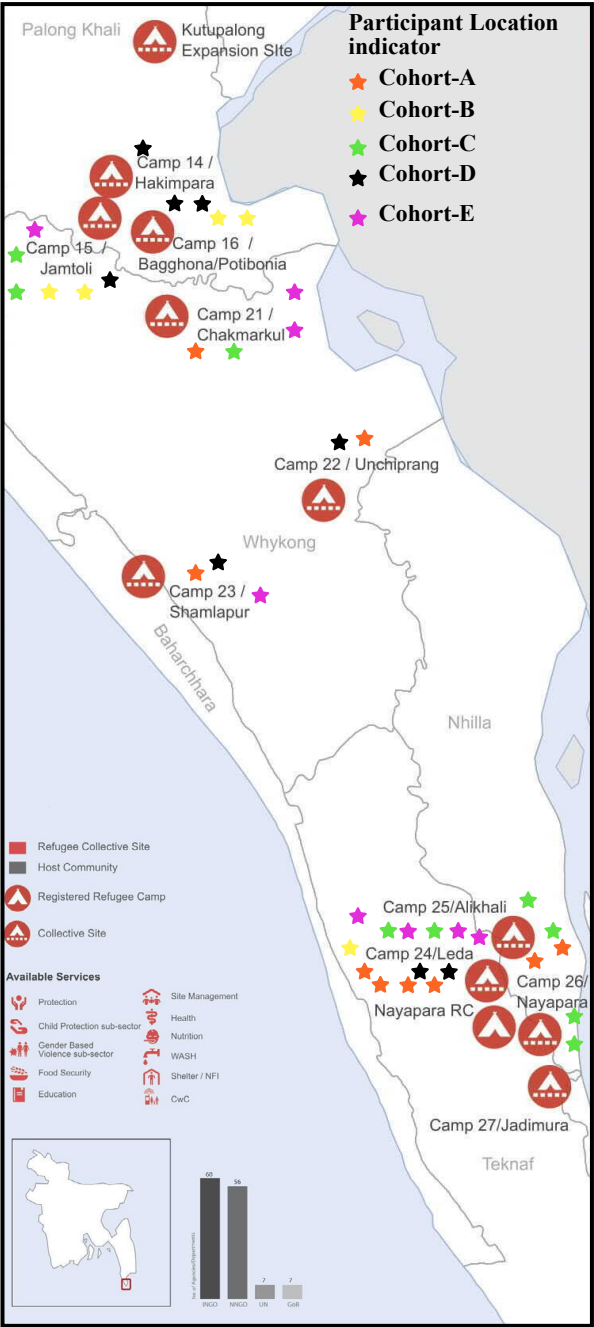


Figure 2

Figure 1 & 2: Map of the distribution of PGF doctors in Bangladesh’s refugee camps and host communities. Adapted from “Bangladesh: Cox’s Bazar Refugee Response (4W at Camp Level) - July 2021,” by ISCG 4W, UNHCR FCN, July 2021, p. 1 & 4. Retrieved from: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/bangladesh/infographic/bangladesh-cox%E2%80%99s-bazar-refugee-response-4w-camp-level-july-2021>

Appendix - Cohort Photos

Group images of Bangladeshi doctors trained by Doctors Worldwide.



Cohort A (2018)



Cohort B (2018-19)



Cohort C (2019)



Cohort D (2019)




Cohort E (2021)





# Doctors Worldwide

Save a Life. **Change a Life.**

 [www.doctorsworldwide.org](http://www.doctorsworldwide.org)

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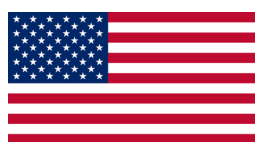
info@doctorsworldwide.org  @dww\_uk 

Doctors Worldwide is a specialist medical charity based in the UK. Our mission is to support and collaborate with local communities in order to build and sustain quality healthcare services in both development and emergency settings. Over the last 20 years we have delivered over 103 medical projects, responded to 13 humanitarian crises, and worked in 25 different countries. Together, we have impacted more than 3.7 million lives and counting. Access to quality healthcare is not a privilege, it is a human right, and we work towards making that a reality, especially for the most vulnerable communities.

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