

Organization for the Poor Community Advancement (OPCA)

A local Initiative for Poverty Alleviation



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1. Organizational information:

Name	Organization for the Poor Community Advancement
Address	Mostannagar, Mirsarai, P/O. Box: 4324, Chattogram, Bangladesh
Country	Bangladesh
Legal Status	Non-Government Organization
Registration Details	Registered with Directorate of Social Welfare, Registration Number: 1846 on July 27, 1994. Registered with Directorate of Youth & Development, Registration Number: 78 on January 18, 1997. Registered with NGO Affairs Bureau, Registration Number: FDR-1850 on June 30, 2003. Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA), Registration Number: 01620-02596-00314 on July 29, 2008.
Total Staff	297
Total District	4
Total Upazila	10
Total beneficiaries	97636
Website	www.opcabd.org
Tel	01819617560, 01877725050
Office Email Address	opca92@yahoo.com , opca1992@gmail.com
Contact Person	Md.Alamgir, Executive Director
Alternate Contact Person	Sayed Hasan Kanon, Manager- MEAL, 01897-646700
Email address	Kanon-meal@opcabd.org



2. Introduction

2.1 History of Establishment:

The acronym OPCA, which stands for 'Organization for the Poor Community Advancement,' is a local voluntary, non-profit, non-political, and development organization situated in the naturally abundant and picturesque locale of Mirsarai Upazila, within the Chattogram district of Bangladesh. OPCA is a beacon of hope for those facing the relentless challenges of nature. This region experiences annual challenges in the form of natural calamities, including cyclones, heavy rainfall, tidal surges, and flash floods. These unpredictable disasters disrupt the normal lives of the local population, causing significant damage to their homes, crops, and livestock, thereby subjecting them to a life of hardship.

In light of the hardships faced by the community, particularly following the devastating cyclone and tidal surge of 1991, Mr. Alamgir, a native of Mirsarai Upazila, was deeply moved and committed to finding ways to assist the disadvantaged members of society and alleviate their suffering. In pursuit of this noble goal, he called for a meeting and invited the energetic youth of the area to join him in establishing an organization aimed at addressing the plight of the less fortunate. He emphasized that it was the primary duty of the younger generation to serve humanity. Inspired by this vision, a group of dynamic and enthusiastic young individuals wholeheartedly joined forces with Md. Alamgir to establish this organization.

The selfless dedication, unwavering efforts, and indomitable courage of these individuals culminated in the formation of OPCA, which officially came into existence on November 14, 1992. Since then, OPCA has been steadfastly committed to its mission of improving the lives of impoverished communities affected by natural disasters in Mirsarai Upazila. Through its tireless efforts, OPCA continues to make a meaningful impact on the lives of those in need, embodying national standards of compassion, dedication, and community development.



2.2 OPCA's Philosophy /OPCA's Guiding Principles:

The Organization for the Poor Community Advancement (OPCA) is founded upon a steadfast belief in the inherent strength and potential of individuals within a nation. We firmly assert that people are the architects of their own destinies, and their empowerment is paramount for the progress of a society. OPCA is dedicated to the conviction that, through education, training, community organization, and capacity building, these individuals can emerge as pivotal contributors to national development.

In stark reality, marginalized and underserved segments of society are often relegated to the periphery of development efforts, burdened by societal neglect. Nevertheless, OPCA remains resolute in its commitment to not waver in these endeavors. Our aspiration is to support, unearth their innate talents, enhance their capabilities, identify opportunities, and harness their potential. We firmly believe that, with our assistance, these individuals can transform from being perceived as liabilities into invaluable assets, reshaping their own destinies for the betterment of our nation.

2.3 Mission:

Our mission is to empower and enhance the capacity of marginalized communities, including Ethnic minorities, Rohingya refugees, People with disabilities, Urban Poor, Coastal inhabitants, and Tea Garden laborers. We aim to improve their livelihoods and empower them to advocate for their entitlements. Our approach is centered on implementing need-based, results-oriented, and rights-based development programs.

2.4 Vision:

OPCA envision poverty free Bangladesh where people live with dignity and enjoy their rights.

2.5 Core Values:

Stewardship: We recognize our responsibility for both the physical and behavioral aspects of our organization's environment.

Accountability: We uphold a strong sense of accountability to our community, development partners, and fellow team members.

Innovation: We are committed to fostering innovation as a means to create a brighter and more inclusive future.



Integrity: Our commitment to fairness, ethical conduct, transparency, and professionalism guides our actions and decisions.

3. Organizational Objective

3.1 Aims and Objectives of the Organization:

To establish rights of marginalized and disadvantaged people especially the Children, Rohingya Community, Peoples with disability, Adibashi (Tribal), Adolescent Girls and Women for reducing all sorts discrimination in society.

To improve livelihood of the Poor and Hard-Core Poor people including Adibashi (Tribal Community) through income generating activities (IGA) and skills development training.

To ensure people's participation for their own development, promote community- led process for their sustainable development through resource mobilization, linking with service providers including the government agencies.

To facilitate and transfer appropriate technical know-how for sustainable community development.

3.2 Advancing the Rights of Marginalized and Disadvantaged Communities:

Our primary mission is to champion the rights of marginalized and disadvantaged populations, with a particular focus on children, the Rohingya community, and people with disabilities, Adibashi (Tribal) groups, adolescent girls, and women. We are committed to reducing all forms of discrimination within society and ensuring equal opportunities for all.

Enhancing Livelihoods for the Underprivileged: We strive to improve the livelihoods of economically disadvantaged individuals, including the hardcore poor and Adibashi (Tribal) communities, through income-generating activities (IGAs) and skills development training. Our aim is to empower individuals to become self-reliant and economically independent.

Fostering Community Empowerment: We believe in the power of community participation and leadership in driving sustainable development. Our organization is dedicated to facilitating people's active involvement in their own development. We promote community-led processes and work towards forging partnerships with government agencies and other service providers to ensure the holistic development of communities.

Transferring Technical Expertise for Sustainable Development: Our organization is committed to sharing relevant technical expertise to enable sustainable community development. We aim to empower communities with the knowledge and skills they need to address their unique challenges and build a brighter future.

3.3 Strategic Objectives:

Innovative programming.

Strengthening funding base.

Organizational excellence.

Promote visibility of the organization

Community participation in program planning and implementation.

4. For whom OPCA works:

OPCA is dedicated to serving individuals regardless of their caste, creed, or gender. However, the primary mission of OPCA is to uplift marginalized communities, with a particular emphasis on Adibashi (Tribal) groups, fishermen, people with disabilities, beggars, tea garden laborers, transport and garment workers, and the Rohingya Community.



5. Management of OPCA

OPCA has a General Body (GB) consisting of 30 members which is the supreme authority of the organization. In addition, there is an Executive Body (EB) of 7 members and they all are elected by the members of the General Body. This body is responsible for execution of all programs along with transparency and accountability. All programs of the organization are implemented by a group of dedicated, skilled and experienced staff steered by the Executive Director. The Executive Body is accountable to the Governing Body for failure of any program or any unwanted happening occurred during implementation of the program.

6. Major Focus

Our major focus encompasses a diverse range of critical areas which is reflecting commitment to fostering holistic community development and social transformation. We prioritize Micro-Finance and Micro-Enterprise, GBV, SRHR, Equality, WASH Livelihood, Climate Change and Disaster response, Health and Nutrition, Education, , Agriculture and Disability.

7. Target Groups

Our organization is dedicated to serving a diverse and essential target group, including Adibashi (ethnic minority) communities, fishermen, Rohingya community People, people with disabilities, coastal community, marginal farmers, women, children, and adolescents, beggars, tea garden laborers, as well as transport and garment workers.

8. Geographical Coverage

OPCA has been working in various districts within the Chattogram region, encompassing Chattogram, Cox's Bazaar, Noakhali, Feni, Bandarban, Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

8.1 Major Working Areas:

Head Office:	Chittagong Office:
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	Cox's Bazar Office: Organization for the Poor Community Advancement (OPCA) Gulshan Villa, Jhowtala Road, Ukhiya Court Bazar, Cox's Bazar Contact No. +8801815612062, +8801843579575 E-mail: opca1992@gmail.com Website: www.opcabd.org

9. Working Strategy

OPCA fosters non-directive and non-obligatory, but bottom-up and participatory development working strategy for ensuring people's active and spontaneous participation for their own development. Thus, OPCA adopts a target group development approach in implementing its program for sustainable development. With the end in view, OPCA firstly organizes the beneficiaries into homogenous groups through awareness raising activities and secondly, it facilitates them for initiating economic activity to generate income and reduce poverty through their active involvement and participation.



10. OPCA's Programs/Donors/Partners

10.1 Current Donors/Partners of OPCA:

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), Anukul Foundation-MDF, Premier Bank Ltd. The City Bank Ltd., Brac International, Chemonics International/USAID, CDD/LF, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE), ActionAid/UNICEF, Brac,

10.2 OPCA's Current Programs:

- ❖ Micro Finance Program (MFP)
- ❖ ENRICH (Enhancing Resources and Increasing Capacities of the Poor Households towards Elimination of their Poverty) Program
- ❖ Skill Development Program for Social Cohesion fund for Cox's Bazar District (PRISE)
- ❖ Primary Healthcare Project (PHCP)
- ❖ Out of School Children Education Program sub- component 2.5 PEDP4 project
- ❖ Bangladesh Rural Water Sanitation and Hygiene for Human Capital Development
- ❖ Promoting Agricultural and commercialization for Entrepreneurship (PACE)
- ❖ Value Chain Project, Title: Extension and Marketing of High Value Fruit Crops
- ❖ Homestead Gardening & Tree Plantation J. Cultural and sports program
- ❖ Strengthening Production and Marketing of Vegetables through Cluster Contract Farming with 2500 Vegetables Farmers at Cox's Bazar and Bandarban
- ❖ Child Empowerment Program
- ❖ Ensuring Demand Based WASH Service to the Camp by Community-Lead Approach
- ❖ Mirsarai Autism Center
- ❖ O. Vocational School.



10.3 Past Donors/Partners of OPCA (1992-2023):

CARE-Bangladesh, CIDA (Now Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development), DANIDA-RFLDC, Winrock International (USAID/USDA/KATALYST), UCEP-Bangladesh, Grameen Trust/Grameen Bank, Village Education Resource Center (VERC), NGO Forum for Public Health, Social Islami Bank Ltd., Janata Bank Ltd., The Mutual Trust Bank, Directorate of Women/Ministry of Women & Children Affairs, ATDP-||, Directorate of Youth and Sports (UNFPA), DRRA, German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)

10.4 OPCA's Past Programs: (1992-2023)

- ❖ SHOUHARDO – 1(Strengthening Household Ability to Respond to Development Opportunity),
- ❖ Livelihood Improvement Facilities for Ethnic (LIFE),
- ❖ Let Children Speak (LCS),
- ❖ Market Development in Freshwater Prawn (Golda) and Transfer Prawn Culture Technique to present poly culture System in greater Chittagong Region.,
- ❖ Bangladesh Agriculture Research institute (BARI) Vegetable Production Technology Transfer to Small Farmers of Mirasharai Upazila with Development of Domestic and Export Marketing Linkages,
- ❖ WASTAN (water and sanitation),
- ❖ Secondary English Teaching Improvement Project.
- ❖ Tripura Adibashi Community Development Program.
- ❖ Strengthening Local Government Project.
- ❖ Integrated Maize Cultivation its Diversified Utilization and Develop Market Linkage.
- ❖ HIV/AIDS Prevention project,
- ❖ Vulnerable Group Development (VGD).
- ❖ Maternity Allowance to poor mothers,

- ❖ Project Dignity for Honorable Beggars.
- ❖ Adolescent reproductive health (ARH).
- ❖ Agro based Technology development project (ATDP-||),
- ❖ Integrated GBV and SRHR Services for Myanmar Refugee Myanmar'
- ❖ Sanjog (Linkage between demand and services for Rohingya peoples with Disabilities), S. Connect People Project.
- ❖ GBV Project for Myanmar Refugee Response
- ❖ Promote Rights Inclusion of the Disabled people for the Empowerment (PRIDE) Program
- ❖ Ujjiban social and behavior change communication (SBCC) Project
- ❖ AHP ||| SRHR & WASH activities
- ❖ Homestead Gardening (Rohingya Community)

Networking and Membership: CDF: Credit and Development Forum FNB: Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh BASF: Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum ADAB : Association for Development Agencies in Bangladesh NFOWD: National Forum of Organization working with Disabled CAMPE: Campaign for Popular Education CCNF : Cox's Bazaar CSO NGO Forum INAFI : International Network of Alternative Financial Institutions	Founder's Profile in Brief: Name : Md. Alamgir Date of Birth :02/02/1971 Education Qualification : MSS (Political Science) Father's Name; Late Shofi ullah Miah Mother's Name : Mrs. Jorina Begum Wife : Nusrat Jahan Koli Daughter : Israt Jahan Akila Son : Md. Ahnaf Abrar Abir Village : Hazisharai Post Office : Jorargonj Thana : Jorargonj Upazila : Mirsarai District : Chattogram
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11. Members of Executive Body

SL.	Name	Designation	Profession/Address
01.	Dr. ANM Meshquat Uddin	President	Vice Chancellor, Primeasia University, Banani-12, Kamal Ataturk Avenue, Banani C/A, Dhaka-1213. Former Professor of Dhaka University, Former Vice Chancellor, East West University, Former Pro-Vice Chancellor, North South University House/Holding: 41/15C, Village/Road: Haji Afsar Uddin Lane, Post Office: Jigatola-1209, Dhanmondi, Dhaka City Corporation, Dhaka.
02.	Bilkis Akter	Vice- President	Senior Teacher, Mirsharai Girls' High School, Mirsharai, Chattogram. Home: Azad Manzil, W/E-2, West Firozshah Colony, Ward No. 09, Pahartali, Chattogram.
03.	Md. Alamgir	Secretary General	Executive Director Organization for the Poor Community Advancement (OPCA), Home: The BTI Prominence, Flat C-1, Nasirabad Properties Limited, Road 08, Plot No. 114, Khulshi, Chattogram.
04.	Mereline Keka Adhikari	Joint- Secretary	Home-32/5, Flat(3-A), Moholla: West Senpara Porbota, P.O: Mirpur-1216, Dhaka North City Corporation
05.	Md. Kamrul Hasan, FCA	Treasurer	Facy Building (2nd Floor), 87 Agrabad C/A, Chattogram, Bangladesh.
06.	Mrs. Shamsun Nahar	Executive Member	Lecturer Prof. Kamal Uddin Chowdhury College Abutorab, Upazila: Mirsarai, Dist.: Chattogram.
07.	Dr. Mahfuzul Islam	Executive Member	10/A Sheba Nir, Road: CMH Area, P.O: Dhaka Cantonment-1206, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka

12. Members of Advisory Board

SL.#	Name	Designation	Profession/Address	Cell phone.
01.	Prof. Dr. Md. Ismail Khan	Chief Advisor	Vice-Chancellor, Chattogram Medical University, BITID Building, Fouzderhat Chattogram, Bangladesh	031-2780430 031-2780428, 01720964306
02.	Prof. Dr. ASM Lutful Ahasan	Advisor	DVM, M.Sc. (Belgium), PhD (Italy) Vice-Chancellor, Chattogram Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU)	01819821760
03.	Mohammad Mizanur Rahman	Advisor	Additional Secretary, Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), Cox's Bazar	01819173108
04.	Muhammad Anwar Pasha	Advisor	Joint Secretary, Additional Divisional Commissioner (Development), Chattogram Division.	01733399188 01711480320
05.	Md. Shamsud Douza	Advisor	Deputy Secretary (Addl. Refugee Repartition Commissioner) Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief RRRC's Office, Motel Road, Cox's Bazaar	01740585562
06.	Dr. Alim Akter Bhuiyan	Advisor	Senior Consultant, Neurologist & Epilepsy Specialist, United Hospital. MBBS, DTM&H (UK), MD (USA) American Board Certified in Neurology Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Epilepsy (USA)	01713-042793
07.	Md. M. Mohiuddin Chowdhury	Advisor	Director & CEO, Clifton Group, 4 Jubilee Road (2nd Floor) Chattogram-4000.	01819-311224

THANK YOU