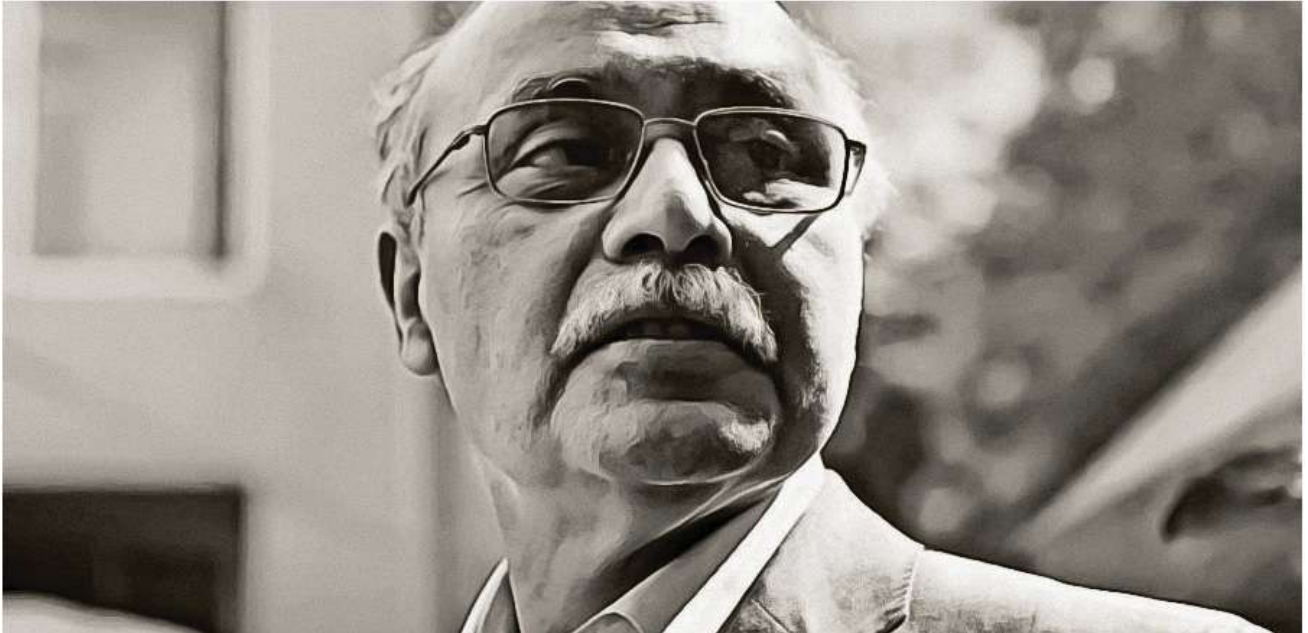




ANNUAL 20 REPORT 23

FOOTSTEPS BANGLADESH

In Loving MEMORY



QUAMRUL ISLAM CHOWDHURY

DECEMBER 30, 1960 - MAY 2, 2023

In the quiet corners of Bangladesh, where the ink of truth mingles with the pages of history, a chapter has closed, leaving a profound legacy. Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, an environmentalist, distinguished journalist, and former News Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) and General Secretary of National Press Club, bid farewell on the sombre evening of May 2, 2023. At the age of 62, he succumbed to the relentless grip of pancreatic cancer, leaving behind a void that resonates in the hearts of his friends, Footsteps Bangladesh family, and the journalistic and environmental community he so ardently served.

Born in 1960, he began his career as a financial journalist at Daily Sangbad and later focused on climate change and disaster management. He was a prominent figure in the field, representing Bangladesh in numerous international environmental and climate change conferences. Chowdhury was also a lead negotiator for developing countries at the UNFCCC, crafting key international agreements such as the Berlin Mandate, Kyoto Protocol, Bali Action Plan, Adaptation Fund, LDC Fund, and Special Climate Change Fund. He was known for his expertise in climate change adaptation and played a crucial role in creating the 16-member Adaptation Committee under the UN Climate Convention. He joined as a Trustee of Footsteps in 2019, playing a crucial role in nurturing climate action and advocacy in the organization. Chowdhury will rest at the Alichapara family graveyard in Noakhali district. His legacy will be remembered for his professional achievements and inspiration for future journalists and environmentalists committed to truth and societal improvement.

As we bid farewell to this distinguished environmentalist and journalist, we remember him not only for his professional achievements but for the inspiration he provided to future generations committed to the pursuit of truth and the betterment of society. May his soul rest in eternal peace, and may his legacy endure, a guiding light in the realm of journalistic integrity and environmental advocacy.

FOREWORD

The year 2023 marks a milestone for Footsteps, where we reached 10 years in successfully creating meaningful impact in the development sector across Bangladesh. With our incredible partners and donors, we were able to increase our efforts in improving community livelihoods for the most marginalized, from ensuring safe water access to improving last mile healthcare facilities. This year, organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme and Prime Bank joined our journey in building resilience against the impacts of Climate Change through our work, where innovation stood at the heart of our interventions. Amidst such a successful year, we experienced tremendous heartbreak by losing one of our founding Trustees Quamrul Chowdhury, who from Footsteps' birth has played an integral role in the growth of our organization and its people. In his loving memory, we strive to make an even bigger difference in the upcoming years, building community resilience in struggling communities with innovation, integrity and most importantly, hope. We look forward to your involvement in our journey of a thousand miles, where we are able to make a true difference for thousands of people across Bangladesh, together.



SHAH RAFAYAT CHOWDHURY

CO - FOUNDER & PRESIDENT
FOOTSTEPS BANGLADESH



FOREWORD

Footsteps Bangladesh has journeyed through a decade of unwavering commitment towards uplifting communities in Bangladesh. Despite facing countless rejections and obstacles, our collective determination propelled us forward. Having celebrated our 10-year milestone this year, we stand proud, impacting the lives of nearly 600,000 individuals across 37 districts in Bangladesh. From pioneering initiatives in WASH, climate action, public health, green energy to waste management, our efforts resonate with transformative change. This challenging journey of ours, embodies resilience, innovation, and the power of collective action. Together, we've turned hurdles into stepping stones, bringing sustainable solutions to the forefront. As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our mission, fueled by the belief that every action, no matter how small, creates ripples of change. Here's to a decade of meaningful impact and the countless lives yet to be touched by Footsteps Bangladesh's unwavering dedication.



BARRISTER MD. TAQI YASIR

VICE PRESIDENT
FOOTSTEPS BANGLADESH



It's been 10 years

10 years of amplifying the voices

10 years of mobilising young people on ground

10 years of listening to the hardships of the

marginalised

10 years of designing solutions to bring a lifetime of impact

10 years of building friendship with ones who catalysed our dream of a better world

10 years of not giving up hope in the face of adversity, and overcoming them with perseverance and dedication

10 years of testing and trialling, creating innovation never thought of before

10 years of risking our lives, just to lend our hand to the ones who needed it the most

Here's to 10 years of empowering communities and changing livelihoods, and to the next 10 years and more of designing social change to break through the barriers of poverty across Bangladesh.

10 years of keeping our promise, our promise of standing by our people to ignite hope, happiness and dignity, leaving no one behind.



CONTENTS



01	JOURNEY OF CHANGE
02-03	OVERVIEW
04	FOOTSTEPS POVERTY ALLEVIATION STRATEGY
05	IMPACT NUMBER TILL DATE
06	OUR CORE PROGRAMS
07-11	JOURNEY AT A GLANCE 2023
12-14	WATER AND SANITATION IN 2023
15-17	PUBLIC HEALTH IN 2023
18-20	CLIMATE ACTION IN 2023
21-22	LIVELIHOOD ENHANCEMENT IN 2023
23	CHANGEMAKER ACTIVITIES IN 2023
24-25	RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN 2023
26	PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS IN 2023
27	AWARDS AND RECOGNITION 2023
28-29	IN THE MEDIA
30	GROWTH COMPARISONS
31	FUNDING & STRATEGIC PARTNERS
32-34	MEET THE TEAM
35-36	TESTIMONIALS
37	FINANCIAL REPORT 2023

MAJOR MOMENTS IN OUR 10 YEAR JOURNEY OF CHANGE

2013

- Footsteps founded by 6 high school friends, led by Shah Rafayat Chowdhury

2014

- Footsteps receives its Trade License as a social enterprise
- Creates the Inspiration Crew to make documentaries on social issues
- Launches Project WECan, Footsteps' first program providing a CSR platform to enhance waste management in urban spaces

2015

- Launched Project Trishna, a core program empowering communities with safe water access. First model for water in public spaces implemented
- Inaugurates Changemakers Program with 30 young individuals as Changemakers
- Shah Rafayat leaves Bangladesh to pursue higher education in United States to learn how the first world works in community development

2017

- Footsteps selected as one of the 60 young organizations making a global impact by Global Changemakers. Invited to attend Global Youth Summit in Zurich, Switzerland
- Launched Project Britto as a skill development and awareness building platform

2018

- Project Trishna expands towards ensuring safe water for children in schools
- Footsteps selected as one of the 16 youth organizations to present its work at the European Development Days Summit in Brussels, Belgium
- Shah Rafayat returns back from United States to commit full time towards the mission of Footsteps
- Footsteps formulates its first advisory board
- Footsteps receives its 501c3 non-profit license under New York State Department of the United States

2019

- Footsteps begins expanding its programs across Bangladesh, beginning with Chittagong and Kushtia
- Footsteps selected as one of the five Bangladesh organizations to represent at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit in Hague, Netherlands
- Footsteps receives NGO status under Bangladesh Trust Act
- Co-Founder Taqi Yasir returns back from United Kingdom to commit full time towards the mission of Footsteps
- Project Trishna announces Goal100- an ambitious plan to reach 100 schools with safe water access

2020

- To address the COVID-19 Pandemic and Cyclone Amphan Disaster, Footsteps launches its Disaster Resilience Programme
- Footsteps receives the prestigious Diana Award, AFS Prize for Young Global Citizens and Joy Bangla Youth Award for its outstanding contribution to Bangladesh's development sector
- Footsteps produces its first Annual Report
- Footsteps begins rapid expansion on a national level with its development activities

2021

- To create better access to healthcare due to the health challenges of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Footsteps launches Shushasther Odhikar Shobar (SOS) Health Program to enhance access to vaccines, medicine and health services in the last mile
- Footsteps formulates its official Board of Trustees and Advisors
- Footsteps organizes its first Annual General Meeting

2022

- Co-Founders Shah Rafayat Chowdhury and Taqi Yasir is enlisted on Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list for their work with Footsteps
- Footsteps relaunches Project WECan with a focus on renewable energy development and lowering community carbon emissions
- Footsteps represented at One Young World Summit in Manchester, United Kingdom
- Footsteps receives the Energy Global Award for its Disaster Resilience Programme
- Footsteps creates Dreamwater Enterprises, the first independent social enterprise under the organization

2023

- Project Trishna reaches Goal100 within 4 years of making the commitment of reaching 100 schools with safe water access
- Footsteps relaunches Project Britto as its poverty graduation and livelihood enhancement program
- Footsteps secures major partnership with United Nations Development Programme to enhance work on Climate Innovation
- Footsteps reaches half a million people in impact
- Footsteps represented at UN Water Summit and COP28
- Footsteps becomes runners up of UNDP Youth Colab Award presented at Bangladesh Startup Summit for its work on Dreamwater Portable Filter
- Footsteps reaches 10 years of empowering communities and changing livelihoods
- Project Trishna expands towards building community water plant in marginalized areas.
- Project Britto launches its first children's library

OVERVIEW

Footsteps, founded in 2013, is a next-generation organization aiming to empower communities to overcome socio-economic challenges and poverty barriers. They design and implement social programs, focusing on capacity development, to build community resilience and create communities free from donor dependency, poverty barriers, injustice, and inequality across Bangladesh.



VISION

We envision a world resilient to every form of poverty, injustice and inequality, where people realize their true potential and have the power to address social challenges with their own capacity.

MISSION

Our mission is to build communities resilient to social challenges through innovative social programs and solutions which last for a lifetime, restoring hope and dignity for communities by breaking their barriers to poverty, injustice and inequality.



CORE VALUES

Integrity, Trust, Innovation, Empowerment, Resilience, Impact and Hope

LEGAL STATUS

Bangladesh: Trade License under Dhaka North City Corporation

Licence Number: 273666, Registered under the Bangladesh Trust Act 1882

USA: Registered as a 501c3 Non Profit under the name 'Footsteps USA Inc. in the New York Department of State

WHAT WE DO

Our aim is to foster community resilience in the face of social challenges through inventive social initiatives and lasting solutions. By implementing innovative social programs and solutions, we aim to create a more equitable and inclusive society where every individual has the opportunity to fulfill their potential and lead a life of dignity and purpose. Through our collective efforts, we aspire to build a world where all communities can thrive, free from the shackles of poverty, injustice, and inequality.



01. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

This aspect is mainly to create and implement programs that take a unique and sustainable approach in solving a major social challenge existing within our communities. The goal is to empower communities with certain resources and knowledge to address the particular social challenge independently and efficiently.



02. CHANGEMAKER DEVELOPMENT

This dimension concentrates on developing an array of skills, knowledge, and empathy among the youth in order to turn them into effective Changemakers within and even beyond their society.



03. ADVOCACY DEVELOPMENT

This facet focuses on creatively conducting events, workshops, videos and promotional material to raise awareness on certain topics and practices within our society.

FOOTSTEPS POVERTY ALLEVIATION STRATEGY

Footsteps has developed five key strategy points for challenging poverty barriers for individuals and communities. Social Programs and interventions are designed by integrating one or more of the following strategy points:



ENSURING ACCESS TO BASIC RIGHTS:

Ensuring access to basic rights such as water, sanitation, hygiene, food, housing, healthcare, energy, etc. through Project Trishna, Project WECAN and Shushasther Odhikar Shobar.

BUILDING RESILIENCE TO DISASTERS:

Creating safety nets for individuals and communities from falling back into extreme cases of poverty catalysed by various forms of natural and human induced disasters through Disaster Resilience Programme.

PROMOTING EQUALITY AND JUSTICE IN COMMUNITIES:

Empowering disadvantaged groups experiencing gender, religious, geographical and physical inequality and injustice through Project Britto.

PROMOTING HARMONY BETWEEN HUMANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT:

Creating and promoting practices that improve the human-environmental relationships and preserve the well-being of our surrounding environment through Project WECAN.

COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT AND GRADUATION FROM EXTREME POVERTY:

Empowering financial and economic well-being of an individual and community to become self-reliant and resilient towards extreme poverty challenges through Shushasther Odhikar Shobar and Project Britto.

IMPACT NUMBER TILL DATE:

5,91,549

People impacted with improved livelihoods through our programs

3,86,638

People empowered through access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene

79,824

People empowered through Campaigns, Humanitarian response and Advocacy

42,789

people impacted with access to public health

41,223

People impacted with improved livelihoods through project britto

35,119

People impacted with improved livelihoods through climate action

5,956

People empowered through ProjectWeCan (Sustainable Energy Development)

37

Districts in Bangladesh reached with Footsteps interventions



OUR CORE PROGRAMS



PROJECT TRISHNA

Project Trishna is a holistic WASH program which empowers communities with safe Water, Sanitation & Hygiene access. The program customizes and implements WASH systems in communities, creates community awareness and value for WASH, and builds community capacity to maintain the given solutions independently without further donor support.



SHUSHASTHER ODHIKAR SHOBAR PROGRAM

Shushasther Odhikar Shobar is a holistic public health program that works towards ensuring and improving the quality of public health Infrastructure and services, especially in last-mile communities. SOS intends to improvise and strategize traditional public health models along with innovative new models which make healthcare services easily accessible and affordable for communities in vulnerable regions.



DISASTER RESILIENCE PROGRAMME

The Disaster Resilience Programme concentrates on building community resilience to natural and social disasters. Disaster Resilience Programme focuses on improving critical aid capacity and deployment, rehabilitating affected livelihoods and building community-resilience in the face of future disasters like floods, cyclones or disease outbreaks, without depending on further external support.



PROJECT WECAN

Project WECan is a program focused on climate action, aiming to promote environmental advocacy and implement green energy and strategies in our communities. The program works towards creating a society that is concerned about promoting renewable energy sources such as solar, hydro, and wind while creating value for a green economy consisting of plastic recycling and pollution reduction schemes.



PROJECT BRITTO

Project Britto works on improving the livelihood of marginalized households, especially socially and physically disadvantaged individuals, through the provision of skills, knowledge, and capacity that promote an individual's financial, social and economic well-being. The program serves as Footsteps' core poverty graduation initiative.

JOURNEY AT A GLANCE 2023



JANUARY

INSTALLATION OF WATER WELLS FOR RURAL LOW INCOME HOUSES IN SOUTHWEST BANGLADESH

Footsteps began its activities in 2023 with installation of multiple tubewells for rural homes in Kushtia, Southwest Bangladesh, with support from local individual donors on a mission to ensure safe water for underprivileged homes for a lifetime.

PROMOTING MENSTRUAL HYGIENE THROUGH BIJOY ANBE BIJOYA CAMPAIGN

Footsteps launched a social media campaign advocated by influencers such as Ridy Sheikh and Rakin Absar which helped crowdfund reusable menstrual hygiene kits for 600 adolescent girls. The menstrual kits were distributed through awareness building programs hosted by local changemakers in marginalized communities of Dhaka, Satkhira and Bagerhat. This initiative also focused on closing the gap between socially influential people and these young girls in an alliance to eradicate period poverty in Bangladesh.



FEBRUARY

EXTENDING DRINKING WATER IN SCHOOLS WITH HAPPY HABIT AND JUST PEOPLES

Australian organizations Happy Habit and Just Peoples extended their support for Project Trishna by supporting drinking water stations in five schools within Dhaka, ensuring safe water for 4,050 children.



MARCH

REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED NATIONS WATER SUMMIT

Footsteps Global Executive Members attended the United Nations Water Summit in New York, advocating for innovative WASH solutions, particularly Project Trishna, to address the global challenges of safe water and sanitation. This marks Footsteps' first participation in the UN Water Summit.

ENSURING DRINKING WATER FOR SCHOOLS AND HOSPITALS WITH OLYMPIC INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Industrial giant Olympic Industries Limited partnered with Footsteps to implement drinking water facilities in four schools and one hospital in Narayanganj, ensuring safe water for 2,500 people in the heavily industrial area.

RAMADAN CAMPAIGN 2023

During the holy Islamic month of Ramadan, Footsteps launched its annual Ramadan Campaign to unlock the potential of Islamic based donations (Zakat) in supporting its development activities. During the campaign, Footsteps raised significant funds from various individual donors through its online campaign which helped provide month long food support for 200 families, install 65 tubewells, establish drinking water stations in two schools, and provide electric vans and rickshaws to the disabled in Kurigram, Kushtia, Satkhira and Sunamganj districts of Bangladesh.



APRIL

REHABILITATING STRUGGLING ENTREPRENEURS AFTER BANGABAZAR FIRE DISASTER

The massive fire event in Bangabazar and New Market in Dhaka, two of the oldest and renowned marketplaces in Bangladesh, extinguished the dreams of thousands of entrepreneurs who lost their livelihoods with everything burning to the ground. In response, Footsteps collected donations from various local and international donors to provide financial recovery support for 30 entrepreneurs who lost everything in the fire through its Disaster Resilience Programme, offering a lifeline in their journey to rebuild and overcome the looming threat of falling into poverty.

UNDP ANNOUNCES FOOTSTEPS AS A RECIPIENT OF THE ADAPTATION FUND FOR CLIMATE INNOVATION ACCELERATOR (AFCIA) GRANT

The United Nations Development Programme selected Footsteps as one of the 22 global recipients of the AFCIA Grant. The grant of USD 125,000 will be utilized by Footsteps in building flood resilience and women in Northern Bangladesh through its Disaster Resilience Programme.



MAY

ENSURING DRINKING WATER FOR PEDESTRIANS WITH PETRONAS AND FINIS

In an incredible partnership with globally renowned brands Petronas and Finis, Footsteps implemented drinking water stations in two areas of the Northern part Dhaka city, ensuring safe water access for 1000 people on a daily basis.

REBUILDING HOMES DESTROYED BY CYCLONE MOCHA

Even after the change in its trajectory, Cyclone Mocha caused widespread devastation, damaging hundreds of homes in Saint Martins and coastal areas in southeastern Bangladesh. Under the Disaster Resilience Programme, Footsteps helped rebuild a number of homes of fishermen and farmers with support from Bangladesh Navy and multiple individual donors.

JUNE

ENSURING SAFE WATER IN MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PRIME BANK LIMITED

Prime Bank Limited, one of the largest banking institutions of Bangladesh, joined hands with Footsteps to work on community development projects in the long term. In the first phase of the partnership, Prime Bank supported Project Trishna in implementing drinking water stations and water extraction systems in schools and hospitals across 5 districts in Bangladesh, ensuring safe water for 14,000 people for a lifetime.

SCHOLASTICA INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AT FOOTSTEPS

Scholastica, a renowned English medium school in Bangladesh, sent 13 high school students for a month long internship program at Footsteps. During the internship period, the students were involved in various activities directly related to WASH, Health and Climate, and launched a health initiative on their own with the skills they learned at Footsteps.





JULY

ENHANCING ENERGY FREEDOM THROUGH SOLAR POWER WITH FARIHA GROUP

With the extended support of Fariha Group, Footsteps mobilized its Green Renewable Energy Development (GRED) model under Project WECAN to install solar panels, lights and fanning devices in the homes of families living in extreme poverty in Tala and Kolaroa upazila of Satkhira district. The initiative is ensuring access to energy for families who have struggled over the years in sustaining electricity in their homes, impacting 128 lives via this extended partnership.

CREATING AWARENESS ON DENGUE FEVER PREVENTION TO TACKLE THE DENGUE EPIDEMIC

Footsteps under its SOS Health Program conducted a month-long online and offline campaign in raising awareness on dengue fever prevention methods. The campaign included changemakers conducting awareness sessions in multiple schools and community sites, along with engaging content and bite-sized reels on social media platforms in order to address the ongoing dengue epidemic in the country.



RUNNERS UP OF UNDP YOUTH CO:LAB AT BANGLADESH STARTUP SUMMIT 2023

Footsteps Bangladesh received the first runners up position of the UNDP Youth Co:Lab Award presented by United Nations Development Programme and Citi Bank at the Bangladesh Startup Summit for its work on Dreamwater Portable Filter.



AUGUST

REACHING 300,000 PEOPLE WITH SAFE DRINKING WATER ACCESS THROUGH PROJECT TRISHNA

In August 2015, Footsteps started Project Trishna with a dream to empower people with access to safe drinking water. In August 2023, Footsteps reached the milestone of ensuring safe water for over 300,000 people every day.

BUILDING A COMMUNITY WATER POINT FOR A CLIMATE VULNERABLE COMMUNITY IN COASTAL BANGLADESH WITH MTB FOUNDATION

Footsteps Bangladesh collaborated with the MTB Foundation to build its first community water point in the rural coastal village of Ayla Patakata, in Barguna. This effort aims to assure sustainable access to Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) for the underprivileged communities in that area. The Community Water Point creates safe water access for 1000 people in the area.

TALKBIJOYA - A PODCAST ON EMPOWERING MENSTRUAL AWARENESS & HYGIENE

Footsteps under its SOS Health Program conducted its first podcast series involving influencers such as Ridy Sheikh, Rakin Absar, Sarah Alam and Zarin Rashid where they talked and shed light on tabooed topics of menstrual hygiene and the challenges of the conversation and practices in Bangladesh's context. The podcast series was designed and implemented by the 2023 intern batch from Scholastica School.



REHABILITATING FAMILIES AFFECTED BY FLOODING IN THE HILL TRACTS OF BANGLADESH

Bandarban, a hilly underdeveloped region in Bangladesh, experienced an unexpected flood due to heavy rainfall, disrupting the livelihoods of isolated families in the region. Footsteps, through its Disaster Resilience Programme, provided emergency relief buckets, containing supplies of food and medicine for a family of four to sustain for seven days, supporting 307 lives and alleviating the misery of the residents.



SEPTEMBER

REPRESENTATION AT AFS YOUTH ASSEMBLY 2023

Shah Rafayat Chowdhury was invited to attend the AFS Youth Assembly held in New York City as a speaker, youth advisory council member and mentor for the AFS Prize for Young Global Citizens Finalists. The assembly brings together young leaders worldwide to create dialogue, partnerships, and actions for achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. He was accompanied by Footsteps Global Team Executive Tahmid Hasib Khan during the Summit.

FOOTSTEPS-BACHARLORAI SOCIAL IN NEW YORK CITY

Bacharlorai, a Bangladeshi-North American expatriate community, partnered with Footsteps to host a networking social in New York City. The networking event focused on mobilizing the Bangladesh expatriate community around the globe in supporting local development initiatives taking place in Bangladesh through research, fundraising and awareness building. Shah Rafayat Chowdhury, Tahmid Hasib Khan and Professor Rubin Harvey represented Footsteps at the networking event.

SPREADING HAPPINESS THROUGH SAFE WATER FOR CHILDREN WITH IDLC FINANCE LIMITED

IDLC Finance Limited joined hands with Footsteps to ensure safe water access for children in schools across Bangladesh, marking another step for Project Trishna in ensuring every child in Bangladesh has access to clean drinking water.

THE YOUTH UNLEASHED WITH ELITA KARIM

Footsteps Bangladesh received the first runners up position of the UNDP Youth Co:Lab Award presented by United Nations Development Programme and Citi Bank at the Bangladesh Startup Summit for its work on Dreamwater Portable Filter.



OCTOBER

REACHING 500,000 PEOPLE ACROSS BANGLADESH WITH RESILIENCE, DIGNITY AND HOPE

In October 2023, Footsteps reached half a million people in impact across Bangladesh through improved WASH access, healthcare services, climate resilience and livelihood enhancement. What started as a dream amongst a bunch of high school students standing by their community a decade ago is making its mark as one of the most impactful development organizations in Bangladesh.

FINALIST OF 2023 LOCAL ADAPTATION CHAMPIONS AWARD BY GLOBAL CENTER ON ADAPTATION

Footsteps Bangladesh became one of the global finalists for the Local Adaptation Champions Award, organized by Global Center on Adaptation at the United Nations COP28 Summit. Footsteps became the finalist in the 'Business Solutions' section of the award for its Dreamwater Portable Filter implemented by the Disaster Resilience Programme in flood vulnerable communities across Bangladesh.

INAUGURATION OF THE FIRST CHILDRENS' LIBRARY UNDER PROJECT BRITTO

Footsteps Bangladesh inaugurated its first Children's Library in Mirpur, Dhaka, supported by Riyad Shahir Husain. This initiative provides space for 32 students and 2 librarians, offering over 3000 books. Through Project Britto, Footsteps plans to establish more libraries, enriching education for young learners across Bangladesh. With programs impacting half a million people, Footsteps continues its vital work with donor support and community compassion.

UNDP AFCIA WORKSHOP IN MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Co-Founders Shah Rafayat Chowdhury and Taqi Yasir, as Footsteps representatives, were invited to attend a 5 day workshop event in Manila, Philippines hosted by the UNDP-AFCIA Program. The workshop covered various topics on project monitoring, fund utilization, project promotions and highlighted past project experiences, providing an enriching learning experience for the organization representatives who are currently partnered with UNDP in Climate Action.



NOVEMBER

JUST PEOPLES DONOR VISIT IN DHAKA, BANGLADESH

A team of 6 Just Peoples donors from Australia and New Zealand came to Bangladesh to visit various project sites of Footsteps. In the two day visit, the donors were exposed to the cultural experience Dhaka had to offer, as well as visit a number of schools where Footsteps is making an impact through Just Peoples and its donors' support. Witnessing the impact Footsteps was making in these communities, the Just Peoples donors left Bangladesh with an incredible experience and a commitment to support Footsteps further in its development activities



REPRESENTATION IN UNITED NATIONS COP28 IN DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Co-Founder and President of Footsteps, Shah Rafayat Chowdhury attended as a representative of both Footsteps and Bangladesh Government at the United Nations Climate Summit (COP 28) 2023 taking place in Dubai.



DECEMBER

FOOTSTEPS BEGINS FIRST PHASE OF UNDP-AFCIA PROJECT

With funding support from the United Nations Development Programme, Footsteps began its first phase of work on ground in three sub-districts of Kurigram under its Disaster Resilience Programme. During the first phase, Footsteps worked on developing a new prototype for the Dreamwater Portable Filter, conducted multiple community awareness sessions for disaster preparedness, and produced a market study on the potential of harnessing surface water as a drinking water source in flood prone Northern Bangladesh.



REACHING 10 YEARS OF EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES AND CHANGING LIVELIHOODS ACROSS BANGLADESH

On December 20th, Footsteps reached its 10 year mark of empowering communities and changing livelihoods across Bangladesh, enhancing hope, dignity and resilience for 591,565 lives.

A young boy in a blue shirt is drinking water from a glass at a public water station. The station has a green and red striped pillar with Bengali text and the letters 'AB'. In the background, there is a large glass window reflecting the boy. The text 'WATER, SANITATION IN 2023' is overlaid on the image.

WATER, SANITATION IN 2023

”

We faced everyday difficulties carrying water bottles from home. Students and teachers were always concerned about running out of water from their bottles during the school day. Now we have access to clean and safe water throughout the day. Thank you, Footsteps, for creating a lasting impact on our school and the lives of every student.

-Mohammad Hasan,
Head Teacher, Kripamoy Talukdar, Sunamganj, Sylhet

SL:TRS107
PROJECT
Empower



In 2023, Footsteps put its core focus on expanding the mission of Project Trishna empowering communities with safe water access across Bangladesh. Trishna targets community sites such as public landmarks, schools, healthcare facilities and rural homes and neighbourhoods to ensure maximum reach of safe drinking water through its WASH systems. With its unique characteristics of community engagement and water technology customization options, Trishna stands out as a unique, effective and efficient WASH program for donors, entities and development organizations interested in empowering communities with safe water access.

The year started with implementing numerous tubewells through multiple individual donors for rural homes in Kushtia, Southwest Bangladesh, followed by a partnership with FMCG giants Olympic Industries to implement drinking water stations in schools and healthcare facilities in Narayanganj, a region where source water is heavily contaminated due to industrial activities in the area.

Project Trishna also secured key new partnerships with financial institutions such as Prime Bank, Mutual Trust Bank Foundation and IDLC Finance Limited, while also expanding on current partnerships with BURO Bangladesh, City Bank, United Group and Fariha Group to implement drinking water stations in schools and hospitals in areas struggling with safe water access due to water contamination and shortage.

International donors such as Australian based meditation app Happy Habit and global brand Petronas joined Trishna's mission by ensuring safe water for children in schools and pedestrians in public spaces respectively. The year truly marked a special moment where 5 year old Dylan from Australia raised funds from his parents to donate and implement a drinking water station in a school in Bangladesh through Project Trishna, marking the global movement Footsteps is creating for local change in Bangladesh.

2023 was also a year where Trishna focused on improving climate resilience in vulnerable communities by creating reliable safe water points in areas prone to floods and cyclones. In cyclone-prone southern coastal village of Ayla Patakata in Barguna district, Trishna in partnership with Mutual Trust Bank Foundation implemented its very first community water point for an isolated coastal neighbourhood where water needed to be sourced more than a thousand feet below ground level. The Community Water Point now serves as the sole water source for 2000 people in the Ayla Patakata Village. On the Northeastern riverlands of Sunamganj, Trishna's partnership with Prime Bank identified three schools used as flood shelters which had no water source and leveraged water extraction and purification technology to create safe water point in these schools, where children have access to drinking water year round and flood refugees have a reliable water source during floods.

This year, Footsteps also expanded its work with Dreamwater, its first enterprise working on developing innovative WASH products and services for the market. Its first product, Dreamwater Portable Filter, is now being utilized by the Disaster Resilience Programme in building climate resilience through converting flood water into drinking water using the device.

With 2023 proving to be a successful year where Trishna reached the milestones of Goal100 (Ensuring safe water in 100 schools) and reaching 200,000 people with safe drinking water access on a daily basis, Trishna looks forward to the following year where it plans to focus more on creating technology to enhance water quality and monitoring as well as reach more climate vulnerable communities with reliable water and sanitation access.

KEY FIGURE

150,418

PEOPLE ENSURED OF SAFE WATER
ACCESS THROUGHOUT
BANGLADESH

31,482

CHILDREN ENSURED OF SAFE WATER
ACCESS THROUGHOUT
BANGLADESH

78

TUBE WELLS INSTALLED IN RURAL
HOMES ACROSS BANGLADESH

50

SCHOOLS ENSURED OF SAFE
DRINKING WATER ACCESS

10

HOSPITALS ENSURED OF SAFE
DRINKING WATER ACCESS

05

PUBLIC DRINKING WATER FACILITIES
IMPLEMENTED FOR PEDESTRIAN USE

01

ONE COMMUNITY WATER POINT
CONSTRUCTED



HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Secured partnership with **Planet Water Foundation** and **Happy Habit** to create access to safe drinking water in schools across Bangladesh
- ✓ Project Trishna reached 100 schools and 200,000 people with safe drinking water access in 2023
- ✓ Footsteps Global Executive Ryan Afreen represented the organization at **United Nations Water Summit in New York**, advocating for the impact Trishna is creating in Bangladesh
- ✓ Project Trishna secures new local partnerships with **Prime Bank PLC, MTB Foundation, IDLC Finance Limited, Finis Oil & Co.** while securing international partnerships with **Happy Habit and Petronas**
- ✓ Project Trishna selected as a finalist for LEAD2030 Challenge organized by **Reckitt and One Young World**

A woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a green vest over a blue patterned shirt, is holding a stack of pink sanitary napkins. She is standing in front of a large window with vertical bars. Other people are visible in the background, including a woman in a purple headscarf.

PUBLIC HEALTH IN 2023

”

Footsteps provided sanitary napkins that are both convenient and eco-friendly. At a minimal cost, it helped us to keep ourselves safe and manage our menstrual hygiene.

-Aysha Khatun,
Sujan Saha Girls High School, Satkhira



In 2023, Shushasther Odhikar Shobar (SOS) public health program of Footsteps concentrated on understanding and developing systems which ensure last mile communities have improved access to healthcare facilities and services. With a focus on improving the mechanisms of the current health program, Footsteps worked significantly in Research and Development in collecting data, analysing current market structure, and needs of communities in order to develop technology and services which will cater to better wellbeing of an individual in the last mile.

The year started with the implementation of 'Bijoy Anbe Bijoya' Campaign, addressing the issue of period poverty amongst young girls in Bangladesh. Through social media campaigns involving a number of local influencers, SOS raised funds to distribute reusable hygiene kits amongst 600 adolescent girls in Dhaka, Satkhira and Bagerhat, where accessing to sanitary pads remain a challenge for young girls even in this current time. SOS also conducted a podcast series in the middle of the year with the influencers involved in the campaign to discuss the challenge of period poverty and the taboo related to its conversation, shedding light and awareness amongst the audience on the importance of promoting quality menstrual hygiene and health of young girls in Bangladesh.

SOS, in partnership with Energize the Chain, worked throughout the year in creating a new model of digitalized rural pharmacies through the integration of technological capital such as computers and software, renovation of pharmacy interior, and training of rural pharmacy owners in managing inventory digitally and providing patients with online consultation from doctors of reputed local health centers. The new model, named Nimbus, aims to transform rural pharmacies into satellite health centers where patients have the opportunity to get quality medical guidance and improve health standards overall in the community.

During the later half of the year, SOS also conducted an online and offline campaign to raise awareness on dengue fever due to the dengue epidemic across the nation. Changemakers went to various community sites and schools to conduct awareness campaigns on prevention methods whereas multiple videos and awareness posters were published to spread knowledge on dengue prevention within communities.

SOS also finalized its design and strategy of mobilizing low cost three wheel ambulances for rural communities, set to be implemented in the first half of 2024.

KEY FIGURE

25,287

PEOPLE REACHED WITH MENSTRUAL HYGIENE AWARENESS THROUGH BIJOYA PODCAST

1300

PEOPLE REACHED WITH DENGUE FEVER PREVENTION KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS

600

REUSABLE MENSTRUAL HYGIENE KITS DISTRIBUTED.

03

PODCAST EPISODES PRODUCED FOR AWARENESS BUILDING

03

PHARMACIES SELECTED FOR PHARMACY DIGITALIZATION THROUGH NIMBUS



HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ SOS launched its first podcast series with three episodes covering **menstrual hygiene and period poverty**
- ✓ Partnership Extension with US Based Non Profit Energize the Chain in creating and exploring the potential of digitalizing rural pharmacies to improve access to healthcare services in last mile
- ✓ Design finalization for implementation of SOS low cost EV ambulance model to improve health logistics in the last mile

A woman wearing a vibrant green sari with large pink and yellow floral patterns and a pink border is speaking into a black microphone. She is holding a blue booklet with Bengali text and a small illustration of a boat. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting.

CLIMATE ACTION IN 2023

”

My husband's illness made it challenging for us to meet the daily needs of our family of four due to our limited income. We were unable to pay the electricity bill, and as a result, our electricity was cut off last year. Thanks to Footsteps' Green Renewable Energy Development Project, a solar power plant has been installed at our home. As a result, my family now has access to solar lights and various amenities.

-Tanjila

Housewife, Tala, Satkhira

The focus on Climate Action was at the core of Footsteps' strategies and interventions in 2023, with programs such as Project Trishna, Disaster Resilience Programme and Project WECan all conducting interventions in promoting both adaptation and mitigation in climate vulnerable communities across Bangladesh. The year also experienced a number of cyclones and floods, where Footsteps proved its impact by deploying rapid response mechanisms leveraging digital technology to raise awareness, funds and mobilize changemakers on ground mitigating the impacts of natural disasters on ground. From deploying flood relief for communities impacted by flooding in the hilltracts of Bandarban to rebuilding homes destroyed by cyclone Mocha in the island of Saint Martin with support from Bangladesh Navy, The Disaster Resilience Programme stood as a shining example in rapid response of aiding and recovering communities impacted by disasters like floods and cyclones.

2023 was also a milestone year for the Disaster Resilience Programme, which secured a key partnership with the United Nations Development Programme. DRP became one of the 22 global recipients of the Adaptation Fund for Climate Innovation Accelerator Grant, a USD 125,000 Grant which will be used in a 16 month period to train rural women in floodprone Northern district of Kurigram in converting flood water into drinking water using the Dreamwater Portable Filter. The first phase of the project was completed in December, where market study and awareness workshops were held for 598 people in 3 subdistricts of Kurigram on improving disaster preparedness knowledge. Leveraging on the potential of Artificial Intelligence, DRP also created a disaster preparedness manual with illustrations visualized by AI. The Dreamwater Portable Filter also became the first runners up for the Youth Co:Lab Award presented by UNDP and Citi Bank at the first ever Bangladesh Startup Summit this year.



Project Trishna focused on creating reliable drinking water points in coastal areas of Noakhali and Barguna, while also building drinking water stations in flood shelter schools in Northeastern Sunamganj District. Parallely, Project WECan focused on eradicating energy poverty for last mile marginalized homes with support from Fariha Group, where local changemakers were trained to install solar panels, lighting and fans in Southwestern coastal district of Satkhira. Under the program's Green Renewable Energy Development (GRED) model, the potential of solar provided such families freedom from energy poverty, where many homes were not able to experience electricity due to gridline connections being expensive for them to maintain in the long run.

The year ended on a high note when Shah Rafayat Chowdhury represented Footsteps and the Bangladesh Government delegation at the UNFCCC COP28 held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. At COP28, Footsteps also became a finalist of the Local Adaptation Champions Award provided by the Global Center on Adaptation for its work on DRP, symbolizing the importance of Footsteps' focus in enhancing innovation and technology to solve the complex challenges presented by the impacts of Climate Change.

KEY FIGURE

598

INDIVIDUALS ENHANCED WITH
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
KNOWLEDGE

64

FAMILIES PROVIDED WITH
EMERGENCY RELIEF SUPPORT AFTER
FLOOD AND CYCLONE DISASTERS

24

RURAL HOMES ENLIGHTENED WITH
SOLAR PANELS, LIGHTING AND FANS



HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ United Nations Development Programme selected **Footsteps** as one of the **22 Global Recipients of the Adaptation Fund for Climate Innovation Accelerator Grant** for its Disaster Resilience Programme
- ✓ Dreamwater Portable Filter became first runners up for **Youth Co:Lab Award** presented by **UNDP** and **Citi Bank** at Bangladesh Startup Summit 2023
- ✓ Partnership extended with Fariha Group in installing solar power in underprivileged rural homes along the climate vulnerable coastal belt of Bangladesh
- ✓ Footsteps selected as a finalist for **Local Adaptation Champions Award** presented by Global Center on Adaptation at **UNFCCC COP28** in Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- ✓ Footsteps represented at **UNFCCC COP28** through the Bangladesh Government for its work on enhancing Climate Action and Innovation

“

-Ashraful Haque
Kushtia

Enhancing low income individuals with skills, technology and market access remains as the ultimate goal of Footsteps in achieving community resilience across Bangladesh. With such focus in mind, Footsteps relaunched Project Britto as its poverty graduation program whereas Disaster Resilience Programme creates safety nets in preventing individuals from falling back into poverty due to social and natural disasters.

In 2023, the massive fire incident in Bongobazar and New Market, two key marketplaces in Bangladesh, threatened the lives of thousands of small scale entrepreneurs falling into poverty, as the fire not only destroyed the place to sell their goods, but their entire supply of goods and products as well. In response, Footsteps raised donations from home and abroad to provide economic recovery support to affected entrepreneurs in the form of cash, supply of goods, machineries, etc, rekindling their hope of getting back on their feet after such a disaster event.

On the other hand, Project Britto started its work with individuals who became disabled due to road or work induced accidents. Britto identified such individuals and provided them with electric rickshaws and vans, creating an earning source where their disability does not hold them back from making financial gain.



The year ended with Project Britto building its first children's library in a primary school in Mirpur, Dhaka. The Itrat Hossain Children's Library, named after the donor's father, has space to accommodate over 3000 books, 32 children and 2 librarians at a time, creating opportunity for children to explore their creativity and curiosity of learning.



CHANGEMAKER ACTIVITIES IN 2023



The Changemakers Development Program in Bangladesh appears to be making significant strides in fostering positive change within communities. The involvement of 102 changemakers in 2023 reflects a strong commitment to engaging youth from diverse backgrounds in meaningful development work. These help them develop professional skills in Project management, Research and Development , Administration, and Communication.



AWARENESS BUILDING :

In 2023, the changemakers at Footsteps exhibited unwavering commitment in raising awareness across various fronts, including promoting better WASH practices, emphasising public health precautions, and championing climate action in schools, households, and public spaces.



FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES:

A notable achievement was the active changemakers throughout the year in diverse fundraising activities. Their efforts were particularly impactful Campaigns and multiple Flood Responses, where they tirelessly worked to support essential projects.



CAMPAIGNS AND EVENT ACTIVITIES:

The heartbeat of Footsteps lies in its campaigns and events, and in 2023, changemakers played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of these initiatives with enthusiastic individuals actively contributing to campaign design, executions, and event planning. Footsteps became more approachable and resonated with a wider audience. The synergy of these changemakers made the organization's mission not only effective but also relatable to the communities it serves.



RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN 2023

PROJECT TRISHNA

Community Water Point

The "Community Water Point" is the fifth model of our WASH program, aiming to provide safe water to marginalised communities in Bangladesh and its hilly areas. It is a central water access point, extracting from depths of 800 to 1200 feet, and will be powered by solar energy. Along with it, a 2,000-litre water tank will be installed which is going to serve as a reservoir for communal use.

Booster Filtration System:

The latest in-house drinking water filtration system by Footsteps
The upgraded filtration system almost doubles drinking water production capacity, serving 1,500 people a glass of drinking water daily. It now offers simplified maintenance using locally available components. The new system strictly adheres to Environmental Protection Agency and WHO standards. As the operating and maintenance cost remains feasible enough, Footsteps believes that the impact is going to be more sustainable than ever.

Digital Drinking Water Kiosk in Public Spaces:

In 2023, Footsteps designed a unique 'Project Trishna public system' consisting of a high resolution LED screen, air quality and water quality monitors. Brands and companies can publish their static advertisements on the screen through an online platform from which the revenue will be used to maintain the quality of water produced from the devices throughout the year. The model is planned to be implemented in partnership with Dhaka North City Corporation in 2024.

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMME (SUSHASTHER ODHIKAR SHOBAR - SOS)

Low-cost Ambulance for emergency transport of patients in rural settings:

Footsteps introduces a low-cost, battery-operated easy bike ambulance to swiftly transport critical patients from remote areas lacking adequate medical facilities to the nearest healthcare centre for urgent treatment.

Nimbus- Digitalization of Last Mile Pharmacies:

Footsteps through its EtC model will be building the capacity of last mile pharmacies in managing their inventory using computers with customised software, creating access to doctors from reputed hospitals through online interface, and using solar power to meet the energy needs of the pharmacy.

DISASTER RESILIENCE PROGRAMME (DRP)

Climate Resilient Bazaar

Footsteps is designing a disaster-resilient market infrastructure with essential amenities like bathrooms, drinking water stations, shelters, clinics, and solar power. It offers refuge during disasters, ensuring economic continuity and safety for people.

DRP Resilience Bag

The DRP Resilience Bag, crafted by Footsteps Bangladesh, is a waterproof, floating solution designed to protect documents and electronics during floods and cyclones in Bangladesh. It offers durability and portability, enhancing disaster preparedness while fostering partnerships for distribution.

PROJECT BRITTO

Britto Bhaater Hotel

Footsteps designed the Britto Bhaater Hotel concept where a hybrid restaurant and day care facility will be operated by single mothers in rural communities, where income will be generated through their local culinary skills.

Britto Sports Complex

Due to the absence of quality playing fields in rural Bangladesh, Footsteps is designing a state of the art sports facility through Project Britto consisting of turf and solid fields, where children and youth can enjoy sports such as football, cricket, volleyball and basketball throughout the year.



PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS 2023



PARTNERSHIP WITH UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

2023 marks an incredible moment with Footsteps securing partnership with United Nations Development Programme. UNDP in 2023 supported the work of Footsteps through the Adaptation Fund for Climate Innovation Accelerator Grant as well as the Youth:Colab Grant provided jointly with Citi Bank.



EXTENSIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL BANKING AND FINANCIAL SECTOR

In 2023, Footsteps secured key partnerships with banking institutions such as Prime Bank PLC, Mutual Trust Bank PLC and financial institutions such as IDLC Finance Limited to further the mission of Footsteps in building a resilient Bangladesh together.



NEW PARTNERSHIPS WITH LEADING PRIVATE SECTOR ENTITIES

Renowned local entities such as Olympic Industries Limited, Finis Group and global brand Petronas joined our journey of empowering communities across Bangladesh in 2023.



HAPPY HABIT EXTENDING HAPPINESS FOR CHILDREN THROUGH SAFE DRINKING WATER

In 2023, Australian based meditation application Happy Habit provided support to implement drinking water stations in schools across Dhaka throughout the year. The meditation app donated a portion of its profits to spread the happiness of safe drinking water for children, year round.



EXTENDING CURRENT PARTNERSHIPS TO REACH MORE LIVES IN THE LAST MILE

Long term local partners such as BURO Bangladesh, City Bank PLC, United Group and Fariha Group extended their support to reach more people with impact in 2023, along with international partners such as Energize the Chain, Just Peoples, Aqua for All and Young Water Solutions.



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Footsteps received incredible support from fellow local NGOs such as Its Humanity Foundation, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Uttaran, EDUCO, Smile in Life and Green Man to increase its impact quality in the last mile across Bangladesh in 2023.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS IN 2023



Recipient of the Adaptation Fund for Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) Grant

Footsteps became one of the 22 global recipients of the Adaptation Fund for Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) Grant provided by the United Nations Development Programme and the European Union. The USD 125,000 Grant was provided to enhance the organization's Disaster Resilience Programme in building flood resilience in Northern Bangladesh within a 16 month period.



First Runners Up of UNDP Youth Co:Lab Award

In 2023, the first ever Bangladesh Startup Summit was a huge win for the climate and environment sectors. The prestigious Youth Co:Lab award is organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Citi Bank. Footsteps secured the 1st runner-up position for the Dreamwater portable, highlighting its role in nurturing and supporting startups at the forefront of environmental innovation. This recognition highlights Footsteps' commitment to fostering impactful solutions in the climate and environment sector and the potential of startups in Bangladesh to lead the way in addressing global challenges through technological innovation and climate action.



Finalist of LEAD2030 Challenge 2023 by Reckitt Benckiser

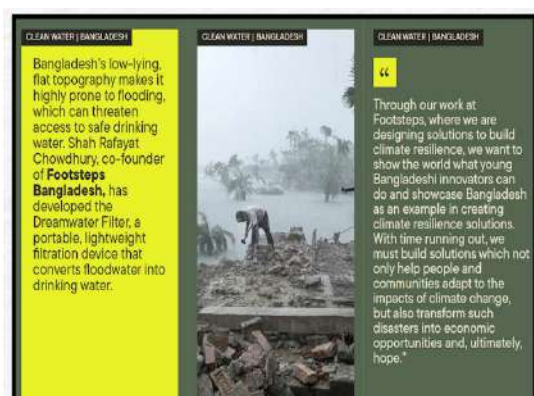
Reckitt Benckiser and One Young World selected Footsteps as a finalist for their LEAD2030 Challenge for its work on empowering communities with safe water access through Project Trishna.



Finalist of Local Adaptation Champions Award at UNFCCC COP28

The Global Center on Adaptation selected Footsteps as one of its 5 finalists for the 2023 Local Adaptation Champions Award in the category of 'Business Adaptation Solutions' for its work with Dreamwater Portable Filter through the Disaster Resilience Programme in flood-prone communities across Bangladesh. The award was hosted at UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

IN THE MEDIA



The New York Times

December 24, 2023

Dispatches on Climate and Health

Through our work at Footsteps, where we are designing solutions to build climate resilience, we want to show the world what young Bangladeshi innovators can do and showcase Bangladesh as an example in creating climate resilience solutions. With time running out, we must build solutions which not only help people and communities adapt to the impacts of climate change, but also transform such disasters into economic opportunities and, ultimately, hope.



Business Times

September 20, 2023

From Idea to Impact

In 2013, Shah Rafayat Chowdhury asked five friends to form an organisation that would assist marginalised areas in overcoming poverty. Rafayat saw it as his duty to empower people to solve their social and economic issues. As the country's first next-generation organisation, Footsteps holds several principles at heart – a human-centric approach to understanding, designing and solving complex, interconnected development problems; mobilising young people's potential in solving global development challenges; ensuring every stakeholder wins; focus on social programs and product innovation to solve development challenges; adapt to needs and culture with time to stay relevant and attract participation; build social business and programs which are both affordable and just for the stakeholders; design solutions which create lifelong impacts; do it with heart, do it with joy, and never give up.

Footsteps allows young people from across Bangladesh, regardless of their social backgrounds, to collaborate on creative social programmes and initiatives without the bureaucracy of traditional non-profits. The organisation encourages these young individuals to share their ideas, interests, and dreams, with its leadership offering guidance and education to help shape their ideas for addressing societal issues.



THE BUSINESS STANDARD

June 28, 2023

Dreamwater: Solving the paradox of water crisis in flood-prone Bangladesh

As a non-profit initiative focused on overcoming a multitude of social challenges, Footsteps designs social ventures to address three key areas: water and sanitation, climate action, and public health. They work with marginalised communities by developing their capacity and transforming them from being dependent on aid to becoming self-resilient. Since 2013, Footsteps has impacted over 300,000 people across 27 districts in Bangladesh, transforming community mentality from aid dependency to self-reliance in order to create resilient and sustainable communities.



Becoming A Stubborn Dreamer – TEDxDPSSTSSchool

In TEDx talk, Shah Rafayat Chowdhury discussed his journey into environmental activism, which began at the age of 16 while working with the Bangladesh team at UN summits. He created Footsteps at the age of 17, inspired by the stark issues that impoverished communities face. In TEDx 2023, Shah passionately recounts his organization's outstanding projects, including programs that empower communities in disaster-prone areas and ensure access to safe water and sanitation.



Story of Shah Rafayat Chowdhury

Footsteps' President Shah Rafayat Chowdhury shared his story in a Lead Talk organized by Lead Academy. Inspired by his environmentalist father, at just 17, he took the first step in forming his organization with five friends in a school canteen. He emphasized that solving problems at their root was crucial, and charity alone wasn't enough. His vision leads to the creation of Footsteps, aiming to empower the marginalized charity-dependent people.



The Youth Unleashed with Elita Karim

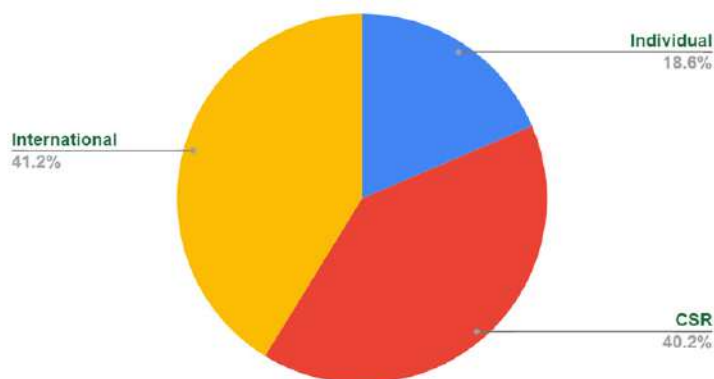
Shah Rafayat Chowdhury, Co-Founder and President of Footsteps Bangladesh, joined in a discussion on "The Youth Unleash with Elita Karim," an innovative initiative by the EMK Center. He gave insights on the young people's tremendous perseverance and contributions to the country's growth. Shah emphasized their hard efforts to improve the town, demonstrating that young people are at the forefront of constructive change. It was an uplifting conversation that highlighted the critical role of the younger generation in our country's progress.

STATISTICS 2023

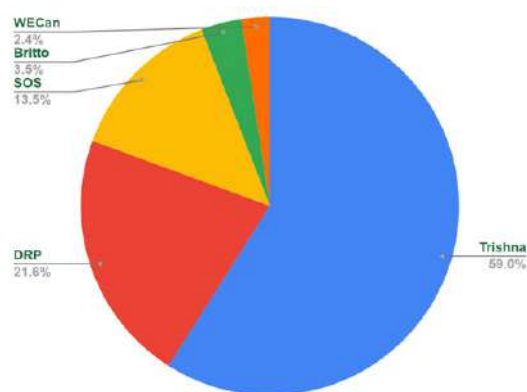
FUNDS RAISED DETAILS IN JAN 2023 TO DEC 2023

Total Funds Raised in 2023 – 19,994,091.00 BDT

Funds Breakdown			
	International	Individual	CSR
Amount in BDT	82,43,968.00	37,13,692.00	80,36,431.00
Amount in Percentage	41.2%	18.6%	40.2%



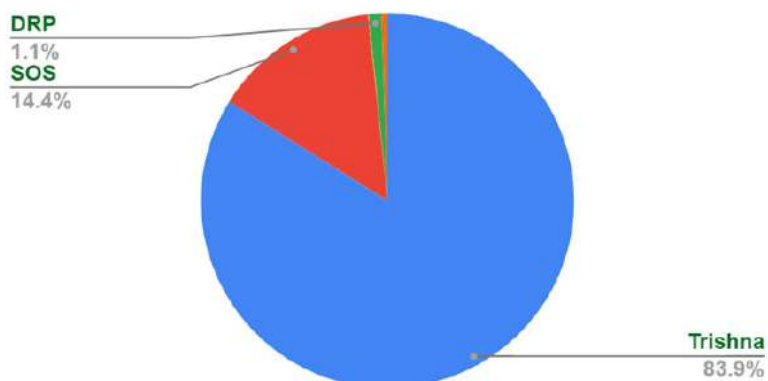
01. TOTAL FUND RAISED (DONOR WISE)



02. TOTAL FUND RAISED (PROGRAM WISE)

PROGRAM WISE IMPACT IN JAN 2023 TO DEC 2023

	Trishna	SOS	DRP	BRITTO	WECan
Impacted People	1,50,318	600	1,954	26,223	128
Impact in Percentage	83.9%	0.3%	1.1%	14.6%	0.1%



FUNDING & STRATEGIC



MEET THE TEAM

TRUSTEE & ADVISORY BOARD



SHAH RAFAYAT CHOWDHURY
Co-Founder & President



**BARRISTER
MOHAMMAD TAQI YASIR**
Vice President



KAZI SHAHNAZ
Trustee



KHONDAKER ZAYED AHSAN
Trustee



SHEIKH APURBO
Trustee



ALI MOHAMMAD HAFIZ
Trustee



FATEMA TUZ JOHORA
Trustee



MD. ABU TAHER
Trustee



ZAHIN KHALED
Advisor



FARMINA HOSSAIN
Advisor



YASNA RAHMAN
Advisor



TAHMEED IBNE MAZHAR
Advisor



MD. ADNAN HOSSAIN
Advisor



**DR. ENGR.
TARIQ BIN YOUSUF**
Advisor



ERAD B. KAWSER
Advisor

MEET THE
TEAM

GLOBAL ADVISORY & EXECUTIVE BOARD



DR. RUBIN HARVEY
Advisor



DANIEL OBST
Advisor



ELIZABETH BRADY
Advisor



KANISHK CHANDRA
Advisor



GABRIELA JAEGER
Advisor



FAHMEED SHEEHAN
Executive
New York, United States



ZAHIN REAZ
Executive
New York, United States



TAHMID HASIB KHAN
Executive
New York, United States



ADAM TIDBALL
Executive
New York, United States



RYAN AFREEN
Executive
Philadelphia, United States



TOM BEEBY
Executive
Washington D.C., United States

MEET THE TEAM

BANGLADESH TEAM



EBRAHIM DAUD RAHMAN
Program Coordinator



ALI MAHI
Assistant Program Coordinator



MASUMA AZIZ
Program Development &
Growth Coordinator



ZAYNAB SAMARA QUADER
Program Development &
Growth officer



MD ASEFUR RAHMAN
Admin & Finance Manager



SHORIFUL ISLAM
Administrative Officer



AYESHA SABERIN
Finance & Accounts Officer



ABU ZAFAR ISHRAQUE
Program Communications Coordinator



FARUK HOSSAIN
Program Communications Officer



MEHREEN BUSHRA
Partnerships Officer



MD NABIL
Business Development Manager



FARHAN SAFKAT MOLLA
Program Operations Officer



MD. SOHAG
Program Operations Officer



MD AL IMRAN KHAN RABBY
Program Operations Officer



MD MAHADUL ISLAM
Office Assistant

TESTIMONIALS



Tanjil Chowdhury
Chairman,
Prime Bank Limited

“

Along with poverty alleviation, access to clean drinking water is a fundamental right of all citizens of the globe. Footsteps is doing exactly that through building impact projects that harness social and environmental empowerment. We are proud to be an alliance partner in their journey towards a sustainable future.

“

We, the authority and students of Paradogar Mannan Government Primary School would like to express our deepest gratitude to Footsteps Bangladesh. Unfortunately our school is located in a place where clean water is hard to find. And because of that we have seen some devastating impacts over the years. Waterborne diseases are very common to our students and their families. Last year, two of our students even lost their lives. The first child died because of a severe stomach problem and another one died because of Hepatitis. But, with your kind support we now have clean water access in our school. We cannot express in words how impactful this contribution will be to us and our students. Your gracious support will help our students to lead healthier lives. We will pray for you all. May Allah bless you with all its mercy. May you gain more and more progress in the upcoming years.



Shahnaj Shimla
Head Teacher
Paradogar Mannan GPS

“

The authorities of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) and its Department of Hospital Social Services would like to convey sincere gratitude to Footsteps Bangladesh for ensuring access to drinking water for thousands of underprivileged patients and their family members who are receiving treatments. We wish to continue our relationship and collaborate for the well-being of our patients.



Sitara Yesmin
Social Services Officer
Dept of Hospital Social Services
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University
(BSMMU)



Jinat Mahal Beli

Head Teacher
Senpara Parbata Government Primary

“

Our students and parents have been asking for safe drinking water access in this school for a very long time. Though our teachers had access to a small drinking water filter, it could not meet the needs of the 840 students in our school, especially in the summer season. The students suffered a lot because they did not have access to safe drinking water. But now, with the help of Footsteps Bangladesh, we can ensure a simple but important resource for our students: safe drinking water.



Md. Rawfun Rahman

Changemaker

“

I enrolled in the six-month Changemaker Program at Footsteps and actively contributed for a year, including my internship. My passion for social development aligns seamlessly with Footsteps mission and vision. Engaging in various projects provided me with valuable learning experiences in the supportive atmosphere of Footsteps.



Sadia Tanzim Tania

Changemaker

“

The Changemaker Development Program (CDP) provided me with an excellent opportunity to broaden my knowledge. Working with Footsteps is truly an honour for me. I was able to get over my fear of work-life because of the friendly working environment. I also gained hands-on experience, which helped me develop my skills in different fields.



Tahannun Mostafiz

Changemaker

“

I joined as a changemaker at Footsteps Bangladesh, immersed myself in program development and management, witnessing firsthand the organization's commitment to building resilience in underprivileged communities. The joy of transforming unused spaces into libraries in schools left a lasting impact on my journey as a Changemaker.



FINANCIAL REPORT OF FOOTSTEPS BANGLADESH

FOR THE YEAR July 2022– June 2023



Footsteps Bangladesh
Statement of Financial Position
As at 30 June, 2023

	Notes	Amount in Taka	
		30-Jun-23	30-Jun-22
<u>PROPERTY & ASSETS</u>			
Non - Current Assets :			
Property, Plant & Equipments	4.00	197,094	146,224
Current Assets :			
Advances, Deposits & Prepayments	5.00	263,684	55,531
Loan to Footsteps Foundation		780,000	680,000
Cash and Cash Equivalents	6.00	1,725,537	3,149,359
TOTAL ASSETS		2,966,315	4,031,114
<u>FUNDS & LIABILITIES</u>			
Funds :			
Surplus Fund	7.00	2,641,315	3,881,114
Current Liabilities :			
Accrued for Expenses	8.00	325,000	150,000
TOTAL FUND AND LIABILITIES		2,966,315	4,031,114

The notes are integral part of the Financial Statements.

Approved and authorised for issue by the board of Trustee on 21 December, 2023 and signed for and on behalf of the Board :


President

Vice President

As per our report of even date

Date: December 21, 2023
Place: Dhaka.




Mohammad Ata Karim & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Footsteps Bangladesh
Statement of Income & Expenditure
for the year ended 30 June, 2023

	Notes	Amount in Tk	
		30-Jun-23	30-Jun-22
<u>INCOME</u>			
Donation		10,217,037	14,504,898
Interest on Bank Accounts		14,361	30,659
Total Received		10,231,398	14,535,557
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
Project Expenses		8,240,323	14,152,997
Administrative Expenses	9.00	3,230,874	1,901,843
Total Expenditure		11,471,197	16,054,840
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year		(1,239,799)	(1,519,283)
		10,231,398	14,535,557

The notes are integral part of the Financial Statements.

Approved and authorised for issue by the board of Trustee on 21 December, 2023 and signed for and on behalf of the Board :

President

Vice President

As per our report of even date

Date: December 21, 2023
Place: Dhaka.



Mohammad Ata Karim & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Footsteps Bangladesh
Statement of Cash Flow
for the year ended 30 June, 2023

Amount in Taka	
30-Jun-23	30-Jun-22

RECEIPT

<u>Cash in Hand :</u>	420,600	283,517
<u>Cash at Bank :</u>		
United Commercial Bank Ltd - 201-60	1,327,884	3,451,041
City Bank Ltd-48001	1,400,874	1,147,883
Total Cash & Bank Receipt (A)	3,149,359	4,882,441
<u>Donation :</u>		
Donation	10,217,037	14,504,898
Total Donation Receipt (B)	10,217,037	14,504,898
<u>Other Receive :</u>		
Bank Interest	14,361	30,659
Total Other Receipt (C)	14,361	30,659
Total Receipt (A+B+C)	13,380,757	19,417,998

PAYMENT

<u>Project Cost :</u>		
Project Expenses	8,240,323	14,152,997
Total Project Expenses (A)	8,240,323	14,152,997
<u>Administrative Expenses :</u>		
Salary and Allowance	2,246,709	1,523,563
Utilities	27,000	32,210
Office Rent	579,702	144,000
Conveyance Bill	44,350	55,025
Entertainment	16,520	9,865
Miscellaneous Expenses	42,520	33,652
Consumable Goods	25,882	4,521
Stationery Expenses	5,580	36,521
Repair & Maintenance	9,785	12,532
Total Administrative Expense (B)	2,998,048	1,851,889



Other Expenditure :

Bank Charge	7,895	8,505
Due Audit Fees Payment	20,000	30,000
Advance Office Rent	206,000	-
Advance Income Tax on Bank Interest	2,154	4,598
Total Other Expenditure (C)	236,049	43,103
Fixed Assets Purchases (D)	80,800	40,650
Payment to Footsteps Foundation (E)	100,000	180,000
Cash in Hand :	511,741	420,600
Cash at Bank :		
United Commercial Bank Ltd - 201-60	65,192	1,327,884
City Bank Ltd-48001	1,148,604	1,400,874
Total Cash & Bank Payment (F)	1,725,537	3,149,359
Total Payment (A+B+C+D+E+F)	13,380,757	19,417,998

The notes are integral part of the Financial Statements.

Approved and authorised for issue by the board of Trustee on 21 December, 2023 and signed for and on behalf of the Board :

President

Vice President

As per our report of even date

Date: December 21, 2023

Place: Dhaka.





©2024 Footsteps. All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced
in any form or by any means without prior
permission of Footsteps.

Report Designed By

Farabi Ahmed Faruk

Annual Report Prepared By

Abu Jafar Israque

Masuma Aziz

Footsteps Bangladesh is a next-generation development organization which empowers communities to tackle community specific problems through effective self-sustaining initiatives.

FOOTSTEPS' CONTRIBUTION TO SDG GOALS



GET INVOLVED

www.footstepsbd.org
facebook.com/footsteps.organization
youtube.com/footstepsbangladesh