

SDG AT AIUB

American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) is committed to achieve the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals through different initiatives. These reports outline year-long different activities, such as research & publications, enhancing social inclusion, encouraging environmental sustainability, partnerships, good governance, and diversity among students and employees as well as its associated mapping to different SDGs.



American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB)

SDG Activity Report - 2022

SDG 2: Zero Hunger



End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

AIUB SDG Activity Report 2022

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) is actively contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 2: Zero Hunger through a combination of impactful university activities and insightful faculty research. AIUB's commitment to addressing food security and hunger-related issues is evident in its diverse initiatives that extend beyond traditional academic boundaries.

The university activities reflect a hands-on approach to understanding and addressing hunger-related challenges. The visit by MMC students to the Resettlement area of Kumarabhog, Mawa, is a prime example of AIUB's commitment to real-world exposure. By immersing students in the community and providing them with firsthand experiences, AIUB is fostering a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by communities, especially those related to food security. This initiative not only benefits the students but also contributes to community engagement and awareness.

The AIUB Social Welfare Club, known as "Shomoy," plays a pivotal role in addressing hunger-related issues through its "Standing with the Flood-Affected 2022" initiative. By actively participating in relief efforts during natural disasters, AIUB demonstrates a keen sense of social responsibility. The "Oder Eid, Amader Khushi" Campaign further exemplifies the university's commitment to spreading joy and alleviating the impact of hunger during festive seasons. These campaigns showcase AIUB's holistic approach to addressing hunger by integrating social welfare into its core values.

On the faculty research front, AIUB's commitment to generating knowledge that addresses hunger-related challenges is apparent. Research papers such as "Microcredit and the household food security of the fish farmers: evidence from rural Bangladesh" showcase the university's dedication to exploring sustainable solutions. By delving into the impact of microcredit on household food security, AIUB contributes valuable insights that can inform policies and initiatives aimed at eradicating hunger, particularly in rural areas.

The research paper on "Impact of monthly repayment system on the household income and food expenditure of the rural women borrowers: Evidence from Bangladesh" further underscores AIUB's dedication to understanding the intricate connections between financial systems and food security. This research not only adds to academic discourse but also provides practical insights that can be crucial for designing financial systems that support, rather than hinder, food security in rural households.

In conclusion, AIUB's positive contributions toward SDG 2: Zero Hunger are notable and extend across both university activities and faculty research. The university's commitment to real-world experiences, community engagement, and insightful research reflects its proactive stance in addressing the multifaceted challenges related to hunger. As AIUB continues to blend academic excellence with a strong sense of social responsibility, it stands as a beacon for positive change in the pursuit of a world with zero hunger. Through these initiatives, AIUB is not only nurturing well-rounded and socially conscious individuals but is also making meaningful strides towards achieving a hunger-free world.

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University Activities

MMC Students visited the Resettlement area of Kumarabhog, Mawa

The Padma Multipurpose Bridge is a long-awaited dream of the citizens of Bangladesh. On June 25, 2022, Honorable Prime Minister of the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the Padma Bridge, embarking the country into a new era of self-sufficiency. In the international arena, it is a sign of bold proclamation and pride.

This bridge exists entirely for the service of general, and mainly for north and southern people of Bangladesh. However, the question that really arises is; "Is it truly serving its purposes? The question is "where they are living whose ancestral home, land, farms, etc. have to be handed over to the government for this Padma Bridge and how is the government assimilating them? In addition, is it truly serving the masses the way we all expect it to?

To answer such hundreds of questions on the minds of the Media and Mass Communication (MMC) students (budding journalists) of the American International University Bangladesh (AIUB) a study tour was arranged by Mr. Niaz Majumdar on Thursday, July 29, 2022. Students of Photojournalism and Introduction to Communication courses conducted a survey to find out the actual condition of rehabilitation centers for sufferers or marginalized groups at the resettlement area of Kumarabhog, Mawa.

The Kumarabhog rehabilitation site is a natural beauty with glimpses of greenery. All houses are wonderfully constructed (tradition and modern) and decorated. There is a beautiful mosque at the entrance, with ponds, and many small shops. The overall atmosphere is very calm and relaxing.

It was a part of students' course fieldwork which turned out to be a unique one as identified from the responses of the people of that area. Students conducted a 3-hour long survey, and it was one of its very first kind to be conducted in that area.

At the end of the day, based on the responses of the local people, it was briefly summarized that 85% people showed positive response, 10% mixed feelings and 5% no annotations regarding their resettlement caused by the establishment of the Padma Multipurpose Bridge project.



AIUB Social Welfare Club – “Shomoy”: “Standing with the Flood-Effectuated 2022”

Natural disasters rob us of our sense of control in the world, rendering us helpless to its chaos and leaving us to pick up the pieces that lie in its wake. But just as rain turn into floods, one drop at a time, while alone, we may be drops of water, but together, we can form an ocean. And it is at times of such tragedy and turmoil, that we re-find hope in mankind.

This year, record-breaking rainfall causing a flash flood in upstream Meghalaya and Assam areas of India, followed by torrential rainfall in the north-eastern districts of Bangladesh lead to more 70% of the Sylhet division being submerged, marooning around 40 lakh people in several upazilas. But within days, various voluntary and charitable organizations came forward to aid in the recovery and restoration of the flood-affected regions. From UNICEF, United Kingdom, European Commission, Prime Minister’s Office, and several other local organizations and individuals, everyone did whatever they could to lend a helping hand and overcome the unprecedented calamity. And the American International University – Bangladesh (AIUB) takes pride in the fact that the AIUB Social Welfare Club – Shomoy, a voluntary student organization working towards social development, took an initiative to run a fund-raising campaign to support the cause. After a week-long campaign, donations from students and staff enabled the club to distribute relief packages of flattened rice, puffed rice, molasses, dates, first-aid medication, saline, sanitary pads, candles, lighters, water, and polythene packets, to over 260 households in need, with the help of local authorities, on the 29th of June 2022, across the flood-affected areas of Moghla Bazar in Sylhet.

In such dire circumstances, every bit of contribution plays a valuable role in getting through the calamity, rising above, and persevering to rebuild a better tomorrow, and the university and its student community hopes to continue doing that and serving the greater good.



“Oder Eid, Amader Khushi” Campaign 2022 by Shomoy Club

Albert Einstein once said, “Those who have the privilege to know have the duty to act.” Because we may not be able to help everyone, but everyone can help someone. It is with that very notion, like every year, even throughout the pandemic, the AIUB Social Welfare Club – Shomoy, arranged their annual flagship fund-raising campaign for underprivileged children, “Oder Eid, Amader Khushi (Their Eid, Our Happiness) 2022”. Eid-ul-Fitr is one of the major religious festivals for the Muslim community, but it is also an occasion that creates numerous childhood memories that are cherished for life. Due to their financial constraints, many struggling with poverty, is unable to celebrate the occasion of Eid. So, this year, students, faculty members, administrative officials, and the management of the American International University – Bangladesh (AIUB) came together and contributed around 2,00,000 BDT towards the noble cause. On the 29th of April 2022, the AIUB Shomoy Club distributed Eid rations like rice, oil, onions, potatoes, salt, sugar, spices, vermicelli, milk, etc. that are the basic requirements for traditional meals prepared by Muslim households for their families during the auspicious festival. As a result, over 200 students of ‘Kathpencil Pathshala’, a school for underprivileged children in the Tejgaon area, along with their families truly enjoyed and commemorated the joy and spirit of Eid. In that light, moving forward, everyone at the university hopes to continue sharing the blessings, seeking forgiveness, and easing the suffering of all, together.



Faculty Research and Publication

Microcredit and the household food security of the fish farmers: evidence from rural Bangladesh

Author: FARHANA RAFIQ et al.

The credit-constrained poor fish farmers in Bangladesh usually have limited access to formal credit institutions. As a result, NGOs took an effort to provide collateral-free microcredit support for the fish farmers to tide over their credit-related problems. This study empirically assesses the impact of microcredit on the household food expenditure of fish farmers. The empirical results challenge the existing literature that access to credit increases the food expenditure of poor fish farmers. However, household assets played a pivotal role in increasing the food expenditure capacity of fish farmers.

Source: <https://doi.org/10.1080/09614524.2022.2101618>

COVID-19 and Sustainable Development Goals: Bangladesh Perspective

Author: MD. MORTUZA AHMMED et al.

The objective of this study is to evaluate the state of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Bangladesh before the arrival of COVID-19 along with its apparent impact on the accomplishment of SDGs in the future. Data from several national and international sources have been utilised to serve the analytical purpose of the study. Obliteration of the commendable accomplishments regarding some of the SDGs so far and resetting of the goals in terms of precedence are going to be the main consequences of COVID-19 concerning SDGs in Bangladesh which would impede attaining SDGs. However, constrictions in the production of industries along with a massive drop in fossil fuel usage through vehicles would give some respite to nature leading to notable progress regarding SDG 13, SDG 14 and SDG 15. But it would never recompense significantly for the overall effect resulting from COVID-19.

Source: <https://www.inderscience.com/info/inarticle.php?artid=125098>

Impact of monthly repayment system on the household income and food expenditure of the rural women borrowers: Evidence from Bangladesh

Author: FARHANA RAFIQ et al.

The main objective of this study was to assess the impact of the Monthly Repayment System (MRS) on the living standard of poor women borrowers in terms of household income and food expenditure. Primary data were collected from the women borrowers of NGOs in the Mymensingh district of Bangladesh using the Simple Random Sampling (SRS) technique. In this study, the Propensity Score Matching (PSM) method was used to assess the impact of MRS on the household income and food expenditure of the women borrowers. This study demonstrated that MRS played a significant role in improving the women borrowers' household income and food expenditure. The 'Five-Point Likert Scale' was also used to assess the borrowers' opinions on whether they were economically better off under the MRS or not. The majority of the borrowers had opinions that they preferred MRS for their economic betterment. This study suggests that MRS should be practiced among women borrowers who received loans for pursuing agricultural activities.

Source: <https://ajbe.aiub.edu/index.php/ajbe/article/view/114>