

KHALIQUE foundation

ANNUAL UPDATE 2020

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The Khalique Foundation aims to directly improve the lives of impoverished people in Bangladesh by providing training and education.

Working both in Bangladesh and the UK, the Khalique Foundation team visited Bangladesh for a due diligence trip in February 2020. Following this, activities were unfortunately paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We continued to support the team emotionally and financially in Bangladesh and took the opportunity to think deeper about our strategy, further brainstorm product ideas and consider future fundraising options in the UK.

Covid-19 update



Due to the Covid-19 global pandemic and associated safety concerns, the sewing school has been closed since March 2020. We continue to support the team during this very difficult time by paying allowances to the sewing teacher, providing admin support, and rent for the sewing school premises.

We have kept in regular contact with the team and despite the school closure, the sewing teacher, Nabila Akhter, was able to make 500 masks, which the admin team safely distributed to those who needed them the most.



With a slight ease in restrictions and the hope of recovery, Nabila is slowly inviting students back to the school and we are continuously monitoring their safety – ensuring that everyone wears masks, and the school is well ventilated.

Educational support

We continue to be in contact with Jhalopara School in Sylhet. The school has also been shut due to Covid-19 and opening discussions are ongoing. We will support the school when it reopens and discuss what is required.

We plan on resuming our three scholarship programmes and will discuss requirements with the students. For more information on why we work with this school, please click [here](#).



UK activity

Here in the UK, we welcomed a new volunteer Meera Shah. We have been working on new ideas to support the sewing school and students for when they have fully returned. These include:

- Supply – contracting independent UK designers to partner with us and help us overcome supply issues caused by the pandemic. Any products made in the UK will be sold in the UK and profits continue to support Khalique Foundation.
- Marketing – preparing social media sites, updating the website, and establishing an Etsy page that is ready to start selling any clothing made by students/partners of the Khalique Foundation. The communications will emphasise our passion for sustainability and encourage clothing to be multi-purpose – beachwear/loungewear/eveningwear – all-in-one!
- Products and packaging – coming up with sustainability-focussed ideas that also enable us to diversify our range (e.g., upcycling old clothes, a natural jute homeware range, and eco-friendly, reusable packaging solutions).
- Fundraising – we have been unable to hold any fundraising activities this year but were lucky to receive some donations that help us continue to support the team in Bangladesh. We are focused and continue to brainstorm ideas, including food and culture-related virtual and physical events; and monitor the situation so that we are ready to start up when it is safe to work in the UK and Bangladesh.

We will also conduct our next trip to Bangladesh as soon as travel restrictions are eased, and it is safe to travel again.

Support Khalique Foundation

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smile.amazon.co.uk

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