OPEN SOCIETY IN

BANGLADESH

The Open Society Foundations, established by George Soros, are one of the world's largest private funders of groups supporting human rights, justice, and accountable government—with annual expenditures of $1.7 billion in 2025.

From 2004, Open Society has provided funding for a range of human rights and justice issues in Bangladesh, including support for the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, freedom of expression, and education.

Open Society's engagement with Bangladesh has included significant cooperation with BRAC, the nongovernmental organization that is now one of the world's largest nonprofit groups working on international development.

BANGLADESH: 2025 EXPENDITURES

Total Expenditures for Bangladesh in 2025:

$2.9M

Total Expenditures in Asia in 2025:

$73.6M

Total Global Expenditures in 2025:

$1.7B

9 FACTS ABOUT THE OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS IN BANGLADESH

1. Open Society was one of the first major foundations to support the creation of the Asian University for Women, an independent university in Chattogram (Chittagong), Bangladesh, dedicated to women's education and leadership development. As of 2026, nearly 2,000 women from 18 countries, including Bangladesh, have graduated from the university.

2. In 2018, Open Society supported Bangladesh's response to the arrival of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya fleeing persecution in Myanmar, providing $10 million to support refugees and local host communities.

3. In 2020, BRAC University became the first university from South Asia to join an Open Society–supported global network of educational institutions dedicated to advancing knowledge, promoting civic engagement, and expanding access to higher education.

4. In 2022, Open Society provided financial guarantees to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to lower the costs of COVID-19 vaccines for low-income target countries including Bangladesh.

5. Open Society's current work in Bangladesh focuses on collaborative initiatives that advance inclusion, equity, and good governance.

6. Open Society collaborates with local partners to strengthen grassroots public engagement and advocacy efforts that advance anti-corruption reforms and engage young people and the broader public on issues of transparency and accountability.

7. Open Society works with local and international partners to strengthen worker welfare, economic opportunity, and inclusion, with particular attention to women workers.

8. Open Society collaborates with Bangladeshi think tanks and researchers to promote a people-centered foreign policy by engaging citizens across the country in discussions about Bangladesh's role in the region and globally, including opportunities to strengthen South-South cooperation and multilateral engagement.

9. Open Society supports efforts to strengthen an independent information ecosystem that promotes healthy public discourse and elevates the voices of marginalized communities.