



ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

ACTION AND LIGHT

Research • Rights • Resilience • Sustainability

Empowering Communities through Research-Based, Climate-Friendly and Conflict-Free Transformational Initiatives

Established 2005 | Joypurhat, Bangladesh

Registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau, Government of Bangladesh | Reg. No. 3560

www.actionandlight.com

1 About Action and Light

Action and Light is a Bangladeshi non-governmental, non-profit, research-based and volunteer-driven organization founded in 2005 in Joypurhat, in the Barind tract of northern Bangladesh. Originally established as Subuj Unnayan Sangstha, it adopted its present name on 26 October 2022, reflecting an expanded and renewed commitment to the multi-sectoral development of individuals and communities.

The organization is registered with the Directorate of Social Services (2 April 2007) and the NGO Affairs Bureau of Bangladesh (18 January 2026), enabling it to receive and manage foreign-funded development assistance. Over more than two decades, Action and Light has grown into a trusted local actor at the intersection of research, human rights, community resilience and environmental sustainability.

Guided by evidence and grounded in the lived realities of marginalized communities across Joypurhat and the wider Barind region, we design and deliver programmes in food security, youth skills development, climate action, heritage preservation, human rights protection, and public knowledge-building through research and library services.

21+

years of community work in
northern Bangladesh

9

interlinked thematic areas

4

government registrations

3

published research books

2 Organization at a Glance

Legal name	Action and Light (formerly Subuj Unnayan Sangstha; renamed 26 October 2022)
Type	Bangladeshi non-governmental, non-profit, research-based, volunteer-driven organization
Founded	2005, Joypurhat, Barind tract, northern Bangladesh
Registrations	NGO Affairs Bureau (No. 3560) · Directorate of Social Services (Joy: 445/2007) · Directorate of Youth Development (Joy: 55) · Directorate of Public Libraries (Joy: 112)
Thematic areas	Food security · River and environment · Social research · Library · Youth skills · Climate action · Heritage · Human rights · Community engagement
Geographic focus	Joypurhat District and the wider Barind region, northern Bangladesh
Foreign funding	Authorized to receive and manage foreign-funded assistance (NGO Affairs Bureau)
Chairman	Dr. Sazzadul Bari
Contact	actionandlightbd@gmail.com +880 1719-454941

3 Vision, Mission and Values

Our Vision

A just, peaceful and sustainable society — together.

Our Mission

To empower marginalized individuals and communities in northern Bangladesh through research-based, climate-friendly and conflict-free transformational initiatives that advance social inclusion, human rights, food security, and environmental resilience.

Strategic Pillars

Research	Rights	Resilience	Sustainability
Evidence to inform community development and public policy	Defending dignity and access to services for marginalized groups	Strengthening capacity to withstand social, economic and environmental shocks	Protecting climate, natural resources and cultural heritage

Core Values

- **Inclusivity** — We embrace everyone.
- **Solidarity** — We stand together for change.
- **Innovation** — We create impactful solutions.
- **Integrity** — We act with honesty and transparency.
- **Compassion** — We care for people and the planet.

4 Legal Status and Registration

Action and Light holds the following government registrations, which together authorize us to implement development programmes, operate a public library, and receive and administer foreign-funded grants in Bangladesh.

Registering Authority	Registration No.	Date
NGO Affairs Bureau, Government of Bangladesh	3560	18 January 2026
Directorate of Social Services, Government of Bangladesh	Joy: 445/2007	2 April 2007
Directorate of Youth Development, Government of Bangladesh	Joy: 55	11 December 2023
Directorate of Public Libraries (Action and Light Library)	Joy: 112	16 September 2023

5 Thematic Focus Areas

Our work spans nine interlinked thematic areas that together advance an inclusive, resilient and rights-respecting society.

Food Security Gynti Gola, a community food bank supporting marginalized households.	River and Environment River-conservation campaigns and biodiversity protection across the Barind tract.	Social Research Evidence-based knowledge for social change through an active research programme.
Library and Documentation A public library and documentation centre promoting a knowledge-based society.	Youth Skills Training Language, computer and technical skills to build youth employability.	Climate Action Climate-resilient agriculture and conservation of indigenous agricultural biodiversity.
Heritage Preservation Conserving and revitalizing the spiritual and cultural heritage of northern Bangladesh.	Human Rights Safeguarding Justice, equality and dignity for all through rights-based programming.	Community Engagement Self-help groups and participatory local initiatives.

6 Current Programmes and Initiatives

Partner-supported projects

- **Defending Human Rights Through Network Strengthen (DHRNS):** funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), USA; associated with Manabadhikar Shongskriti Foundation (MSF); implemented by Action and Light in Joypurhat District.
- **MSF EmpowerHer (EHer):** funded by the Embassy of Switzerland and Global Affairs Canada (GAC), co-funded by the European Union; associated with MSF; implemented by Action and Light in Panchbibi Upazila, Joypurhat District.

Own initiatives

- **Gynti Gola — A Community Food Bank:** supports the food security of marginalized people in Joypurhat.
- **Conservation and Revitalization of Spiritual Heritage of Northern Bangladesh:** an ongoing programme documenting and preserving the region's spiritual and cultural heritage.
- **Gaoer Goppo:** self-funded study circles for peasant communities that preserve indigenous knowledge, strengthen social harmony and support climate conservation.
- **Research, Documentation and Public Library Services:** an active public library and ongoing research to promote a knowledge-based society.
- **Climate Action in the Barind Tract:** initiatives to protect the climate and natural resources of the region.
- **Human Rights Defence:** ongoing work to defend and promote human rights across the communities we serve.

7 Key Achievements and Track Record

Youth, education and skills

- Empowered marginalized children through the “Technical Skill Enhancement Programme for Residents of Orphanages” at Din-E-Markaz Atimkhana, Madina Mahal Campus, Joypurhat Municipality.
- Delivered vocational and language-skills training with logistical support to orphanages, including Qumi-based madrasah orphanages.
- Implemented “Fostering Scientific Awareness in Qumi Madrasa Students,” a research programme supported by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Bangladesh.
- Partnered with the Social Service Academy, Ministry of Social Welfare (2022–2023), to assess vocational-education opportunities and recommend policy for orphanage residents receiving government capitation grants.

Environment, climate and food security

- Organized the River Justice Boat March (24 July 2026) along the Tulshiganga, Chhoto Jamuna and Atrai rivers, from Akkelpur Upazila (Joypurhat) to Kalikapur Union, Atrai Upazila (Naogaon), raising awareness on river conservation and biodiversity.
- Completed a 10-day Indigenous Seed Distribution Mobile Campaign to strengthen household food security and conserve local agricultural biodiversity; distributed seeds to peasant members of our village organizations.
- Distributed around 1,000 trees to children across roughly 20 villages and 10 educational and multi-religious institutions.
- Distributed 1,000 blankets to marginalized people during winter, and 400 kg of Qurbani meat to 200 underprivileged villagers, alongside broader food support.

Health, inclusion and rights

- Hosted free eye camps for underprivileged people, madrasa students, orphanage residents and disadvantaged school students, with Khanjanpur Mission health services; operated free health camps offering information, primary treatment and referrals.
- Advanced the rights and facilities available to persons with disabilities in Joypurhat and facilitated public access to government services.
- Formed income-generating self-help groups spanning diverse ethnic, religious, class and gender backgrounds.
- Provided self-funded support to vulnerable families of migrant workers who died abroad.
- Organized regular public-awareness programmes on the coronavirus pandemic, bio-violence, human rights and the education crisis.

Culture, knowledge and social harmony

- Sustained a self-funded public cultural collective of local folk artists to preserve regional culture and strengthen social harmony while countering radicalization and militancy.
- Established and operates an active public library serving the general population.
- Published peer-reviewed research articles in international journals through the Action and Light Research Cell.

8 Research and Publications

Action and Light maintains an active research programme through the Action and Light Research Cell, which has published 10+ research articles, including peer-reviewed articles in international journals. Our published books are listed below and available through www.actionandlight.com, where full citations and access links can be found.

- Islam, M.R. (2026) *Pir Syed Wazed Ali Mehedibagi (Q.S.A.) and the Spread of the Naqshbandi-Mujaddedi Sufi Order in Northern Bangladesh*. Translated by S.M.G.G.A. Azam Azizi. Joypurhat: Action and Light. ISBN 979-8-18357-713-6.
- Bari, S., Rahman, M.M. and Soren, J. (2024) *Commodification and Marketization of Water: The Exploration of the Unheard Cries in the Barind Tracts of Bangladesh*. Joypurhat: Action and Light. ISBN 978-984-36-0681-5.
- Bari, S., Soren, J. and Shome, M. (2024) *Agricultural Museum of Barind Tract: Analysis of Exchanging of Knowledge among Local Community and Shah Agricultural Museum and Library*. Joypurhat: Action and Light. ISBN 978-984-36-0682-2.

9 Policies and Governance Framework

Action and Light has established a comprehensive framework of policies to promote good governance, accountability, safeguarding and transparency. Copies of any policy are available to donors and partners on request.

- Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Financial Management Guideline and Policy
- Gender Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Safeguarding (GEDSI) Policy
- Digital Safety and Cyber Security Policy
- Conflict Management Guideline and Policy
- Lobbying and Advocacy Guideline and Policy
- Recruitment, Job Placement and Human Resources Policy
- Training Guideline and Policy
- Communication Platform Use Guideline and Policy
- Logo Guideline and Policy

10 Governance and Team

Executive Board

Position	Name
Chairman	Dr. Sazzadul Bari
Vice-Chairman	Mst. Murtaza Akter Banu
General Secretary	James Soren
Treasurer	Shariul Hasan
Executive Member	Sri Sumun Kumar Shil
Executive Member	Umme Tamanna
Executive Member	Md. Aminur Rashid

Advisory Board

- **Chairman:** Professor Muhammad Mahmudur Rahman, Chairman, Department of Political Science, University of Rajshahi
- Dr. Parimal Sarkar, Development Consultant
- Dr. Golam Sarwar, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Rajshahi
- Professor Dr. Rawshan Jahid, Department of Folklore and Social Development Studies, University of Rajshahi
- Md. Abdur Razzak, Associate Professor and Chairman, Department of Bengali, Rangpur Government Teacher's Training College
- Mahmudul Haque, Social Worker
- Al Imran, Lecturer, Shajadpur Government College
- MT Sharmin Sultana (Surovi), Environment, Climate Resilience and Sustainability Professional

11 Networks, Affiliations and Visibility

- Active member of the District NGO Collaboration Committee (Zila NGO Somonnay Committee), under the District Commissioner of Joypurhat.
- Member of the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB).
- Positive coverage in national and regional media, including Somoy News (winter-clothing distribution) and Bangla Times (Qurbani-meat distribution). Further coverage is on our website.

12 Partner With Us

Action and Light welcomes partnership with international donors and fund agencies, international and national NGOs, government bodies, corporate (CSR) partners and individuals who share our commitment to a just, peaceful and sustainable society. We bring:

- **Local trust and reach:** over 21 years of presence in Joypurhat and the Barind region, with village-level organizations and self-help groups.
- **Legal readiness:** NGO Affairs Bureau registration for foreign-funded projects, plus social services, youth and library registrations.
- **Evidence-based practice:** an in-house Research Cell and a public library and documentation centre.
- **Accountability:** written policies on finance, anti-money laundering, safeguarding, GEDSI and digital security, available on request.
- **Proven partnerships:** implementation of donor-funded projects with MSF, and collaboration with government bodies and local institutions.

CONTACT US

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