



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 the People's Republic of Bangladesh | Reg. No. 3560

www.actionandlight.com

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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, the organization adopted its present name, Action and Light, on 26 October 2022, reflecting an expanded and renewed commitment to the multi-sectoral development of individuals and communities.

The organization is legally registered with the Directorate of Social Services, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (2 April 2007), and with 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 working 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, Action and Light designs and delivers programmes in food security, youth skills development, climate action, cultural and spiritual heritage preservation, human rights protection, and public knowledge-building through research and library services.

2. Vision, Mission and Core Values

Vision

A just, peaceful and sustainable society — together.

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 — generating and applying evidence to inform community development and public policy.
- Rights — defending human rights, dignity and access to services for marginalized groups.
- Resilience — strengthening communities' capacity to withstand social, economic and environmental shocks.
- Sustainability — protecting the climate, natural resources and cultural heritage of the Barind region.

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.

3. Legal Status and Registration

Action and Light operates under the following government registrations, which together authorize the organization to implement development programmes, manage a public library, and receive and administer foreign-funded grants in Bangladesh:

Registering Authority	Registration Number	Date of Registration
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, Government of Bangladesh (Action and Light Library)	Joy: 112	16 September 2023

4. Thematic Focus Areas

Action and Light's work spans nine interlinked thematic areas that together advance an inclusive, resilient and rights-respecting society:

- **Food Security** — Operating Gynti Gola, a community food bank supporting marginalized households.
- **River and Environmental Protection** — Organizing river-conservation campaigns and biodiversity protection initiatives across the Barind tract.
- **Social Research** — Generating evidence-based knowledge for social change through an active research programme.
- **Library and Documentation** — Running a public library and documentation centre to promote a knowledge-based society.
- **Youth Skills Training** — Delivering language, computer and technical skills training to build youth employability.
- **Climate Action** — Promoting climate-resilient agriculture and conserving indigenous agricultural biodiversity.
- **Heritage Preservation** — Conserving and revitalizing the spiritual and cultural heritage of northern Bangladesh.
- **Human Rights Safeguarding** — Promoting justice, equality and dignity for all through rights-based programming.
- **Community Engagement** — Mobilizing communities through self-help groups and participatory local initiatives.

5. Current Programmes and Initiatives

- **Language and Technical Skills Development Programme for Youth in the Northern Border Areas of Bangladesh** — provides practical training in Spoken Arabic, Spoken English, computer skills and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to young people in the northern border districts.
- **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** — supporting an active public library and ongoing research activities to promote a knowledge-based society.
- **Climate Action in the Barind Tract** — initiatives to protect the climate and natural resources of the Barind region.
- **Human Rights Defence** — ongoing work to defend and promote human rights across the communities Action and Light serves.

6. Key Achievements and Track Record

- Empowered marginalized children through the “Technical Skill Enhancement Programme for Residents of Orphanages,” implemented at Din-E-Markaz Atimkhana, Madina Mahal Campus, Joypurhat Municipality.
- Organized a River Justice Boat March on 24 July 2026 along the Tulshiganga, Chhoto Jamuna and Atrai rivers, from Akkelpur Upazila (Joypurhat District) to Kalikapur Union, Atrai Upazila (Naogaon District), raising public awareness on river conservation and biodiversity protection.
- Completed a 10-day Indigenous Seed Distribution Mobile Campaign to strengthen household food security, promote climate-resilient agriculture and conserve local agricultural biodiversity.
- Hosted free eye camps for underprivileged people, madrasa students, orphanage residents and disadvantaged school students, in partnership with Khanjanpur Mission health services.
- Partnered with the Social Service Academy, Ministry of Social Welfare, Government of Bangladesh (2022–2023), to assess vocational-education opportunities and recommend policy for orphanage residents receiving government capitation grants.
- Sustained a self-funded public cultural collective of local folk artists to preserve regional culture and strengthen social harmony while countering radicalization and militancy.
- Published peer-reviewed research articles in international journals through the Action and Light Research Cell.
- Established and operates an active public library serving the general population.
- Provided self-funded support to vulnerable families of migrant workers who died abroad.
- Facilitated public access to government services for the general population.
- Advanced the rights and facilities available to persons with disabilities in Joypurhat.
- Operated free health and eye camps in villages, offering health information, primary treatment and referrals for further hospital care.
- 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.
- Formed income-generating self-help groups spanning diverse ethnic, religious, class and gender backgrounds.
- Distributed around 1,000 trees to children across roughly 20 villages and 10 educational and multi-religious institutions.
- Distributed 1,000 blankets to helpless and marginalized people during winter.
- Distributed 400 kg of Qurbani meat to 200 underprivileged villagers across Joypurhat, alongside broader food support for marginalized people.
- Distributed a range of seeds to peasant members of Action and Light's village organizations.
- Organized regular public-awareness programmes on issues including the coronavirus pandemic, bio-violence, human rights and the education crisis.

7. Research and Publications

Action and Light maintains an active research programme and has published the following books, available through the organization's website:

- Islam, M.R. (2026) *Pir Syed Wazed Ali Mehedibagi (Q.S.A.) and the Spread of the Naqshbandi-Mujaddedi Sufi Order in Northern Bangladesh: In the Context of the Singergari Jahuria Darbar Sharif (Rangpur), Sarail, and Ramshahar Darbar Sharif*. Translated by S.M.G.G.A. Azam Azizi. Joypurhat, Bangladesh: 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, Bangladesh: 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, Bangladesh: Action and Light. ISBN: 978-984-36-0682-2.

Full citation details and access links for each title are available on the organization's website, www.actionandlight.com.

8. Institutional Policies and Governance Framework

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

- Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Communication Platform Use Guideline and Policy
- Conflict Management Guideline and Policy
- Digital Safety and Cyber Security Policy
- Financial Management Guideline and Policy
- Gender Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Safeguarding (GEDSI) Policy

- Lobbying and Advocacy Guideline and Policy
- Logo Guideline and Policy
- Recruitment, Job Placement and Human Resources Policy
- Training Guideline and Policy

9. Governance and Team

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

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

10. Networks and Affiliations

- 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).

11. Media and Visibility

Action and Light's development activities have received positive coverage in national and regional media, including reports on winter-clothing distribution for cold-affected communities and Qurbani-meat distribution for underprivileged families in Joypurhat, published by Somoy News and Bangla Times respectively. Further coverage and updates are available on the organization's website.

12. Contact Information

- **Address:** Action and Light, Dhanmondi, Joypurhat-5900, Bangladesh
- **Website:** www.actionandlight.com
- **Email:** actionandlightbd@gmail.com
- **Phone:** +880 1719-454941

Action and Light welcomes partnership with international donors, fund agencies, government bodies and individuals who share our commitment to a just, peaceful and sustainable society.