

IIRD Program
Integral Institute for Rural Development
Bangladesh

1. **Motivation:** A volunteer should want to live and work among the rural poor. However, there are opportunities at our liaison office in Dhaka the capital for clerical work, if this is preferred.
2. **Goal of the program:** The goal is to assist poor families to come out of poverty through economic and social development.
3. **Responsibilities:** A person can choose according to her/his talents and inclination. There are a wide variety of development activities such as elementary education, medical treatment, special women's programs, agriculture, construction works, small industry and marketing, etc.
4. **Place of Service:** IIRD works in six rural areas and has a coordinating office in Dhaka. Volunteers are welcome to visit all areas and choose the place of service as well as the activity.
5. **Time of Service/Schedule:** Volunteers are welcome for any length of time. The government requires a special visa for anyone desiring to stay in Bangladesh more than 3 months. It usually takes several weeks to process a work permit here once a volunteer sends documentation to us.
6. **Requirements:** Anyone staying more than a few weeks and intending to work in the rural areas needs to learn the Bengali Language. IIRD workers can assist with this; also, there is a six-week course offered in Dhaka and IIRD pays the cost for this.
7. **Financial arrangements:** The volunteer only needs to pay travel to and from Bangladesh. All other expenses are the responsibility of IIRD hospitality.
8. **Housing arrangements:** IIRD provides simple accommodation free of cost.
9. **Size of the program:** There are usually about 4,000 workers, mostly paid regular or semi-volunteer salaries. Of the workers all are Bangladeshi except a few volunteers from other countries.
10. **Training:** Volunteers are welcome to participate in any training offered to the village development partners and IIRD workers.
11. **Deadline for enrolment:** Any time.
12. **Support Groups:** The population and culture of the country is mostly Muslim, with about 10% Hindu and 1% other. Any volunteer should be prepared to share the different culture. The IIRD workers live in small supportive communities in the rural areas. The one Marianist here will be happy to be available to any volunteer as desired for guidance, spiritual direction, etc.
13. **Evaluation:** Volunteers are encouraged to share their experience regularly and, as desired, in writing. Likewise, feedback can be given to the volunteer by any IIRD team member that she/he may want.
14. **Contact person:** William Christensen, IIRD Consultant. When not available, Abd al-Wahid Sameer can be contacted. Both can be contacted at <iird@bdmail.net >.