Md. Arif Al Mamun

contact@arifalmamun.com | arifalmamun.com | ORCID 0009-0002-1793-411X

Profile

I hold a Master's in International Humanitarian Action (Ruhr University Bochum and Uppsala University, 2025) and a BSc in Statistics. From 2009 to 2026 I worked at BBC Media Action, where I led research on the Rohingya response in Cox's Bazar from 2017 to 2025.

My work combines survey and quasi-experimental methods with qualitative fieldwork, including interviews conducted in the Rohingya language. I have authored or co-authored 4 peer-reviewed journal articles and 14 research reports, edited 12 others, and managed research teams and external agencies throughout.

Education

08.2023 – 09.2025

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's in International Humanitarian Action (120 ECTS)

Ruhr University Bochum, Germany, and Uppsala University, Sweden

- Final grade 1.2 (German scale, 1.0 = highest).
- Thesis (grade 1.1): "From Margins to Mediators: A Typology of Older Rohingya Refugees in Conflict Transformation."

2009 – 2011

MBA (Marketing)

University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

- Grade 3.76 on a 4-point scale.

1999 – 2003

BSc (Statistics)

University of Dhaka, Bangladesh

- Session 1999–2003; final examinations held in December 2005. Second Class.

Scholarships and grants

2024

PROMOS scholarship, DAAD and Ruhr University Bochum: funding for Master's thesis fieldwork in the Rohingya camps, Cox's Bazar.

Professional experience

05.2026 – present

Independent researcher

- Manuscript on refugees in conflict mitigation.
- Scoping review on older persons in armed conflict; protocol registered on the Open Science Framework.

02.2026 – 04.2026

Research Consultant

Research and Learning Team, BBC Media Action, London (remote)

- Quantitative analysis and design for evaluations in Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania and Nepal.
- Led the analysis of a 1,214-household survey in Somalia and designed a broadcast-boundary natural experiment in Kenya.

08.2024 – 12.2024

Management Tutor

NOHA Humanitarian Management, Institute for International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV), Ruhr University Bochum, Bochum, Germany

- Supported course development.
- Taught tutorial sessions.
- Mentored international master's students in preparation for examinations.
- Held during study leave from BBC Media Action (01.2024 – 01.2026) for the Master's programme.

08.2022 – 12.2023

Country Research Manager, Myanmar (80%) and Head of Research, Bangladesh (20%)

BBC Media Action

- Research on social cohesion programmes, including randomised-trial and process-tracing designs.
- Monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning guidance for YouthRISE (USAID).

11.2016 – 07.2022

Head of Research, Bangladesh

BBC Media Action

- Led the research team.
- From 2017, led the research function for the Rohingya response in Cox's Bazar.
- Contributed to proposal development.

04.2017 – 10.2017

Head of Research, India (attachment)

BBC Media Action, New Delhi

- Monitoring for two mHealth services (USAID).
- Designed a randomised controlled trial for a television drama (UNICEF).

02.2016 – 10.2016

Acting Head of Research, Bangladesh

BBC Media Action

07.2015 – 01.2016

Research Manager, Bangladesh

BBC Media Action

- Research design.
- Commissioning of external agencies.
- Quality oversight.

06.2009 – 06.2015

Senior Research Officer, Bangladesh

BBC Media Action

- Senior Research Assistant from 06.2009, Research Officer from 09.2009 and Senior Research Officer from 05.2012.
- Formative, tracking and evaluation research.
- Survey analysis and weighting guidance.

06.2007 – 05.2009

Research Executive

Ideas N Steps (commercial research agency), Dhaka

08.2006 – 05.2007

Executive (Allocation)

Service Engine (now Data Path Limited), Dhaka

- Back-office processing of US 401(k) retirement plans, including calculation of financial outcomes for individual account holders.

Research projects

2026 — **Evaluations in Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania and Nepal.** BBC Media Action Research and Learning. Somalia: Nabadaynta (IOM, with FCDO, Netherlands and EU funding). Kenya: BRIDGES (NORAD). Tanzania: Niambie. Nepal: BRIDGES. Research Consultant.

2021–2023 — **Cohort and case-control study of Rohingya and host communities.** BPRM-funded consortium with the International Rescue Committee, Cox's Bazar. Head of Research; led the design.

2021–2022 — **YouthRISE: young people near the refugee camps.** USAID, with the International Rescue Committee. Head of Research; monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning guidance.

2015–2023 — **Myanmar programmes on tolerance, migration, health and disability.** Tea Cup Diaries (tolerance and social cohesion), Yay Kyi Yar (safe migration and remittances), Ma Shet Ne (sexual and reproductive health information for young people) and Tu Tu Pae (disability rights and health). Research on the projects while they continued; Country Research Manager from August 2022.

2018–2022 — **Common Service for Community Engagement and Accountability.** Rohingya response; EU humanitarian aid and FCDO. Includes the "What Matters?" community feedback bulletin. Head of Research.

2018–2021 — **Gender-based violence in the Rohingya community.** Norwegian Church Aid; Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Lead author (2018); sole author (2021).

2019–2022 — **Rights and participation in the Rohingya community.** Porticus. Led project implementation and research; Head of Research.

2019–2022 — **Community leaders, age and disability in the Rohingya response.** ECHO. Head of Research; editor.

2019 — **Radio drama, accountability mechanisms and foresight in Cox's Bazar.** IOM; UNOPS. Head of Research.

2018	**Rohingya society, content preferences and emergency radio.** UNICEF; IOM. Co-author; Head of Research.
2017–2021	**Hello I Am: child marriage and girls' education.** Rutgers; IKEA Foundation. Bangladesh. Head of Research.
2020–2021	**Future of Work and Water for Women.** H&M Foundation (Future of Work); DFAT (Water for Women, SHOMOTA). Head of Research.
2015–2018	**Adolescent, maternal and reproductive health.** UNFPA (Project AGAMI and digital content). Research.
2015–2017	**Disaster preparedness, nutrition and communicating with communities.** ECHO DIPECHO, CIFF nutrition, Generation Breakthrough and DEPP (Communicating with Communities; social media in disasters). Research Manager, Acting Head of Research (2016), then Head of Research.
2012–2017	**Governance, health, resilience and climate in Bangladesh.** DFID Global Grant, Bangladesh; Climate Asia (2012–2013). Co-author and lead author.
2009–2012	**English in Action and BBC Janala.** DFID. Research.

Teaching, training and presentations

08.2024 – 12.2024	Management Tutor, IFHV, Ruhr University Bochum. Supported course development, taught tutorial sessions and mentored international master's students in preparation for examinations.
2012 – 2024	Research methods trainer, BBC Media Action: survey weighting, questionnaire design, fieldwork quality and qualitative interviewing for research staff, partner agencies and enumerators.
2021	South Asia SBCC Conversation (9 December 2021): "Pitching it right: Bringing communication and health expertise together to support Rohingya refugees through the COVID-19 pandemic" (with Khandokar Hasanul Banna).
2016	Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union Media Summit on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, Krabi, Thailand: panel presentation, "Information, education, communication: Building the toolbox for knowledge security."
2015	Gobeshona International research seminar, Dhaka (June 2015; with Aniqa Tasnim Hossain): resilience research.
2015 – 2024	Findings presentations to donors and partners, including ECHO (Brussels policy event, 2019), the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (2018), USAID and FCDO.

Methods, software and languages

Quantitative	Survey design and sampling (stratified cluster, probability proportional to size, Kish grid, power calculation with design effects); survey weighting; OLS and logistic regression; propensity score matching; natural-experiment, dose-response, cohort, case-control and randomised controlled trial designs; composite index construction and factor analysis.

Qualitative	Qualitative formative studies; process tracing; life-history, key informant and paired interviews; focus group discussions; document analysis; typology building.
Software	SPSS (advanced, syntax-based); R (working proficiency); MAXQDA; KoBoCollect and ODK.
Data and ethics	Pre-registration on the Open Science Framework; codebooks and syntax-based data cleaning; informed consent, anonymisation and do-no-harm protocols for research with displaced people.
Languages	Bengali (native); English (C1; IELTS 8.0, 2023); Hindi and Urdu (conversational); German (actively learning).

Publications

2025 **Al Mamun, Md. A.**, & Zaman, B. (2025). *Beyond dichotomies: Rethinking conflict dynamics between the refugee-host community in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh*. International Journal of Social Science Research and Review, 9(1), 27–45.

2025 Zaman, B., & **Al Mamun, Md. A.** (2025). *Invisible labour, visible struggles: Understanding the socioeconomic drivers of rural-to-urban migration among female domestic workers in Dhaka, Bangladesh*. SUST Journal of Social Sciences, 36(2), 212–238.

2025 Zaman, B., **Al Mamun, Md. A.**, & Shill, S. (2025). *'Conditional fragmentation': An intersectional account of migrant women's empowerment in Dhaka, Bangladesh*. SUST Journal of Social Sciences, 36(1), 84–110.

2025 **Al Mamun, Md. A.**, & Zaman, B. (2025). *Navigating liminal space: Identity reconfiguration among Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh*. Jagannath University Journal of Social Sciences, 13(2), 75–90.

2025 **Al Mamun, Md. A.** (2025). *From margins to mediators: A typology of older Rohingya refugees in conflict transformation* [MS thesis]. Ruhr University Bochum, Germany, & Uppsala University, Sweden.

Plus 14 research reports as author or co-author, 12 as editor, and 3 conference papers and blog posts. Full list: arifalmamun.com/publications

Voluntary work and civic engagement

2004 – 2006	Debating, University of Dhaka. Elected President (2005–2006) and Publication Secretary (2004–2005), Dhaka University Debating Society; General Secretary (2004–2005), F.H. Hall Debating Club, Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall. Led the university team to an inter-university championship, won best speaker awards, and adjudicated a debate broadcast on national television.
Since 2000	Member, Badhan, a volunteer organisation in Bangladesh that arranges free blood donations (founded in 1997 at the University of Dhaka).
Since 2000	Life member, Rangpur Old Cadets Association (ROCA). Supported flood victims through the association and took part in tree plantation and road-cleaning campaigns.

References

Available on request.