



Voluntary Association for Rural Development (VARD)

Reduction of Avoidable (Cataract) Blindness in Bangladesh Project

Funded by: Human Appeal UK

A Case Story

Sight is everyone's right

70-year-old old lady Rina Begum is a resident of Paschim Kashikapan village of Balaganj (now Osmaninagar) Upazila under Sylhet district in Bangladesh. Her father's house is in Beanibazar Upazila of Sylhet district. She got married to Md. Ishaq Mia soon after independence of Bangladesh in 1971. Their happy days were passing. The financial condition was also good. Gradually four sons



and three daughters were born in his family. But her happy family suddenly gets sad after her husband dies. Meanwhile, the three eldest sons are married and living separately with their wife. After her two elder daughters got married, now her younger son and younger daughter are her only hope of survival. Rina Begum can't do much family work anymore due to her age. She

Rina Begum middle in the front line before surgery.

has cataracts in both eyes. The younger boy sells vegetables in the market and whatever he earns, he pays for his family's expenses and his mother's medical expenses.

One day they heard the miking of free eye treatment on the street next to their house. This gave Rina Begum a little hope. Next day she attended the free eye treatment camp with her younger son in their Union Parishad. The free eye camp was sponsored by Human Appeal, UK and conducted by the medical team of VARD Eye Hospital, Osamaninagar, Sylhet.



Rina Begum, the next day of surgery.



Rina Begum at Home. Now she sees everything.

Rina Begum's eyes were examined and found to have cataracts. After the cataract patient selection phase, she was brought to VARD Eye Hospital for cataract surgery. Before the operation, her vision in the right eye was FC (Finger Count). Her vision has improved to 6/9 the

day after the surgery.

30 cataract patients

were given free cataract surgery that day from that camp. She was overwhelmed with emotion at this old age when she regained sight in one eye. She requested the donor to operate her other eye. She was sent home with next one month of free medicine and one black glasse and necessary advices. Follow-up after next 7 days shows that she is fully recovered and has regained normal vision in her right eye.