



## End of an era in Bangladesh

**After 25 years, MAF operations in Bangladesh have come to a close.**

On 1 August 2022, MAF International CEO Dave Fyock officially announced the closure of MAF's flight operations in Bangladesh. Due to significant growth in the country's transport infrastructure in recent years, demand for MAF's services has continued to decline.

Improvements include the country's longest bridge from Shariatpur to Madaripur, which opened on 25 June 2022. This six-kilometre bridge enables access across the Padma River, connecting the south-western region to the rest of the country and opening routes for regional



PHOTO: ADAM DICKENS

and international trade.

Installation of rail tracks on the Padama Bridge began on 22 August, which will form part of a new rail link project spanning 172km and linking 21 southern districts. The route will connect locations which have been served by MAF's southern shuttle since 2008, which helped NGOs reach some of the country's most underdeveloped areas.

Dave Fyock says, 'We celebrate with the people of Bangladesh the progress that has been made and are glad for the dramatic difference that this will make to the country's

southern region.

'Following a review of the Bangladesh programme in late 2021, we concluded that, in conjunction with the improved transport infrastructure, there was insufficient demand for MAF in the country.

'MAF's priorities are shaped by the greatest impact on isolated communities. Closure of the Bangladesh programme will release resources to invest in new opportunities where we can make a more significant difference. Please uphold the team in prayer as they work through the closure.'

### Pause for prayer

MAF is grateful to have served the people of Bangladesh since the 1980s. Responding to multiple disasters including cyclones, flooding and storms, MAF has been a lifeline for many vulnerable communities. Please pray that the country continues to develop, and that long-term investment would improve the lives of countless families.

### Find out more

MAF's service in Bangladesh has saved months of overland travel and enabled hundreds of development organisations to reach areas cut off from education, aid and medical care. To read an in-depth overview of MAF's impact in Bangladesh, visit [www.maf-uk.org/news](http://www.maf-uk.org/news) and see our August news update.

### MAF Youth

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