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Council of Management

Mr. Martin Shirley, Chairman
Mrs. Neaz Ahmed, General Secretary
Mrs. Shamim Saifullah, Treasurer
Mr. Kazi Rafiqul Alam, President of DAM Bangladesh
Mr. David Fear
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Mrs. Zina Fear
Mr. Shah Kibria
Mr. Ehsanur Rahman, Executive Director of DAM Bangladesh
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Cover photo: Multi-grade teaching/learning session at the Drop in Centre for Street Children
About Dhaka Ahsania Mission

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) is a Bangladesh-founded and Bangladesh-run non-governmental organisation which was established in 1958. Its vision is of a society free from poverty, in which everyone achieves fulfilment of their basic rights and improved social, economic and spiritual living conditions, irrespective of religion, political allegiance or ethnic identity.

Its award-winning work with some of Bangladesh’s most vulnerable urban and rural communities is focused on non-formal education, livelihood development, health, human rights and social justice.

DAM UK was set up in 1995 with the aim of working in partnership with DAM Bangladesh and raising funds to supports its work. Our work is focused on education, skills training, water & sanitation, and trafficking prevention.

Thanks to the support of numerous trusts, foundations and individual donors, we have provided support to:

- Ganokendra (people’s centres) and Community Resource Centres, a network of village development and resource centres that empower rural communities, giving them access to information, education, skills training, health care and micro-credit;
- Urban Community Learning Centres for working children and their families in slum districts of Dhaka City;
- A Drop-in Centre in Dhaka for street children;
- A Vocational Training Centre for older working children;
- The Ahsania Mission-Syed Ali Memorial Education and Vocational Skill Training Centre at Shyamoli, Dhaka;
- A Shelter Home and Vocational Training Centre at Jessore for women and children who have been rescued from trafficking;
- An organic vegetable garden at the Shelter Home at Jessore;
- A Vocational Training Centre at DAM’s Drug Rehabilitation Centre at Gazipur;
- Arsenic-free safe drinking water in Jessore, Satkhira and Narshingdi Districts;
- Community managed safe water and sanitation project in Kaliganj;
- Flood relief and rehabilitation.
- A Drug Rehabilitation and Training Centre at Jessore

A music session with children at the Shelter Home for Rescued Trafficked Women and Children
Chairman’s Report

"The trouble with you Western organisations is that you wait until we are drowning before you throw us the lifeline." This was said by Rab Chowdhury, the Bangladesh Government’s Coordinator for External Aid, during a meeting with relief and aid agencies, while the newly liberated country was in its first year of independence, and his words come back to me from time to time.

I trust that we have long since moved on from the days when Western agencies thought and behaved as if they had the right to determine the priorities and the timescales for aid work in the developing world. At Dhaka Ahsania Mission UK we do not presume to know better than the people at Dhaka Ahsania Mission Bangladesh. We see ourselves as their supporting partners and friendly critics, by virtue of our shared commitment to the principles of DAM, and to the importance of working together to help and enable people and communities to run their lives to their own satisfaction.

The period covered by this Annual Report is one in which it has become harder to raise funds for our key programmes, which is to a good extent a reflection of the perceived economic climate in the Western world. We know full well that if our indefatigable Fund-Raising Coordinator, Zina Fear, is finding that some trusts and foundations are not as generous as they used to be, the funding climate really is changing for the worse.

We have nonetheless done our level best to help keep the main projects going, and at the same time we have been involved in reviewing our capacity and our strategy, with the aim of getting DAM UK to a point where we can work yet more effectively in support of the programme in Bangladesh.

We have strengthened our Council of Management by welcoming some new members, but whether we are fresh to our charity or have a long-standing commitment to it, the contributions of everyone on the Council are enormously appreciated. We are also much indebted to our colleagues at DAM in Dhaka for their continuing dialogue with us.

The latest report from the Drop In Centre for Working and Street Children in Mohammadpur includes the following Child Profile:

"Nasrin aged 13 joined the group in January 2012. She came from a very dysfunctional family and was to be married against her will by her parents. However, with the aid of the DIC Counsellor, the Community Mobiliser and the Outreach Worker and with the backing of the local community, who have now been versed in the rights of the child, we were able to intervene and make the parents realise that the wedding was illegal and Nasrin and the family have a much brighter future once she had completed a skills training course through the DIC."

This reads like a case of the lifeline being thrown in good time...

Martin Shirley
**General Secretary’s Report**

There are now 12 members in our UK Charity and as usual our core members show solidarity and team spiritedness in our small organisation. This year Victoria Seaman and Raymond Kennedy Jr. joined our Committee and we welcome their youthful contribution in our midst and feel that they will bring fresh ideas to our organisation.

As customary, I prepared and submitted the Annual Returns for the Charity Commission and Companies House on-line, which saves time and money. I attended meetings, wrote the minutes and agendas and covered all the Committee decisions in meetings. As usual our Chairman is very supportive and always at the end of the phone and internet for any queries I may have. I am very happy with the work that I do which contributes to our Charity work annually and as usual it gives us all a boost when the year ends on an encouraging note.

I have taken on extra work with the Consortium for Street Children as a liaison person for our Charity which is now an active member of the Consortium. We hope we will be “louder together”.

I have completed 16 years as General Secretary and hope that I can be extra helpful towards future endeavours of our committee. The Olympic 2012 was indeed a great success for Britain in the face of much criticism in the construction years and I fervently hope that our small charity may be successful in the application for a Drop in Centre in Dhaka in the coming year. That would be the icing on the cake for us.

*Neaz Ahmed*

**From Kazi Rafiqul Alam, President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Bangladesh**

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has been working over the period of last five and a half decades towards the development of poor and marginalized people of Bangladesh. The main focus has been in removing illiteracy and poverty through a multi-dimensional approach. With the philosophy of divine and human services, DAM has continued to implement development programmes in the areas of education, skill development training, health care, provision for safe water supply, improved sanitations, climate change, disaster management and human rights over 50 out of 64 districts of the country with financial support from development partners.

DAM has a special interest for the development of the destitute children living both in urban slums and in rural areas. DAM's initiative to set up a Children City in Panchagarh, a northern district of Bangladesh has been progressing. Construction of the necessary infrastructure for a children’s village for accommodating some 1,000 destitute children is under way and expected to be completed soon. Meantime, pending completion of the construction, activities of a village has already been started from July this year in a hired house having provision for enrolment of 50 children. DAM has also taken a new initiative for rehabilitation of the newly born children who become abandoned for various reasons and four such rehabilitation centres have been set up which will start functioning soon.

DAM’s latest move has been to set up an Old People’s Home, which will be run mostly on humanitarian considerations meaning those people who are really poor and cannot find the resource to pay, will be maintained free of cost and fees will be charged from the others.
according to their paying ability. In this connection, a plot of land has been received from a donor at Savar area free of cost and a proposal is being developed for seeking funds from donors for construction of the centre.

We are highly pleased to acknowledge here that DAM UK Charity has always extended their all out support to almost all our programmes through mobilising a substantial amount of funds for the implementation of those programmes. We are fully confident that DAM UK Charity will continue their support to DAM Bangladesh to work for the development of the hardcore poor and needy people of our society.

We take this opportunity to express our heart-felt thanks and gratitude to the Chairman, Members of the Council, Fund Raising Coordinator and all others involved in the activities of the Charity for their voluntary efforts in extending continuous support to us over the period of almost two decades.

*Kazi Rafiqul Alam*

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*From Ehsanur Rahman, Executive Director, Dhaka Ahsania Mission Bangladesh*

From Bangladesh we convey our warm wishes and gratitude for professional and generous support of the DAM UK team in the activities at the ground level capacitating the downtrodden people and contributing to their movement towards an improved living. We are amazed seeing the commitment and relentless efforts of the DAM UK team to serve the suffering humanity, a founding aim of Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

The devotion and voluntary spirit of the friends of DAM in UK is a glaring example and source of inspiration for others, particularly the members of Ahsania Mission family across the globe. In the journey of becoming Ahsania Mission an international organization, DAM UK could show the path for others, demonstrating the process how continuous efforts can make change in the lives of the people. An account of this process would be a big resource for the world of volunteers and social development organizations.

As the second generation workforce of the organization founded more than half century back, we feel proud to be associated with accomplishment of the duty conferred to us by the great Founder of DAM, Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah (1873-1965). We are happy to see that many people in other parts of the world share the vision of the Founder ‘Divine and Humanitarian Service’ and gradually the family of DAM volunteers at the international level is becoming bigger and bigger. On the occasion of releasing the report of another year by DAM UK team we congratulate the leaders and express our gratefulness to all supporters.

*Ehsanur Rahman*
Sponsored events

This year we have had three young people doing sponsored runs for us, which has raised over £700 for our Urban Community Learning Centres in Dhaka city. We are extremely grateful to Amy, Alice and Richard for their support and would be delighted to receive offers from any other kind person who would like to do any sponsored event on our behalf!

Amy Fear who successfully completed a 10 km run held at Bath University on 26th February 2012

Alice Wyatt and Richard Jackson having just completed the Two Castles Run between Warwick Castle and Kenilworth Castle on 10th June 2012.

So strange the other one, so strange, so familiar, so identical, so different other side, other world, distant planet very close, living on the same earth, family member. body of your body, soul of your soul, be amazed, respectful, embrace and love.

Translated from Hans Bouma
DAM UK becomes a network member of the Consortium for Street Children

Information from the Consortium:

The Consortium for Street Children (CSC) is the leading international network dedicated to realising the rights of street children worldwide. We are Louder Together.

CSC support and complement the work of our network members by focussing on four key strategic areas: Advocacy, Research, Shared Learning and Capacity Building.

The CSC Network
The CSC network is continually expanding and we currently have over 80 network members operating in approximately 130 countries worldwide. Our network comprises small NGOs delivering grassroots work in-country, large international NGOs, multilateral agencies, academics, corporates and individuals, as well as affiliated groups of street children. We believe that collectively we can achieve maximum impact through being ‘Louder Together’.

Advocacy
The Consortium for Street Children advocates for the rights of street-connected children in order to influence policy makers worldwide. We amplify street children’s voices so that their concerns are acted upon by organisations, governments and the public.

Research
Historically, research about street-connected children has been fragmented, hard-to-access and not used enough in the development of interventions or policies. CSC is addressing this, working towards being recognised as a one-stop-shop for street children research.

Shared Learning and Capacity Building
CSC brings organisations together so that they can collaboratively identify and meet the needs of street-connected children. Our network members benefit through sharing knowledge and experiences and can build their own capacity by developing programmes based on this shared learning. For example, CSC, alongside network members Chetna and Hope for Children, is running shared learning workshops in India, focusing on violence against street children. We are also researching the feasibility of supporting the set up of networks.

International Day for Street Children
The International Day for Street Children is celebrated every year on 12th April. The Day provides a platform for the millions of street children around the world – and their champions – to speak out so that their rights cannot be ignored. The International Day for Street Children was launched by CSC in 2011.

CSC is delighted to welcome Dhaka Ahsania Mission as a network member; by working collaboratively we can be Louder Together for street children.
PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY DAM UK IN 2011 - 2012 with the generous support of numerous Trusts, Foundations and Personal Donors

Urban Community Learning Centres (UCLCs)
We now support 9 UCLCs in the slum areas of Dhaka. UCLCs offer life-changing, flexible educational opportunities to poor and working children and provides information and advocacy services for the benefit of the children’s families and the local community. The families and community are equipped with information and strategies to demand their rights for basic services such as education, water, sanitation and medical facilities from local government.

There are regular links with government departments dealing with health, water and sanitation, plus awareness-raising discussions on nutrition and hygiene, weekly visits by a doctor, and links with NGOs such as Marie Stopes Clinics, Association of Women Lawyers, Bosty Odhikar Surakka Committee (Committee on Protection of Rights of Slum Dwellers) and Breaking the Silence (child abuse). Other activities include linkage with NGOs providing micro-credit, leadership development for parents and an Adolescent Development Forum for young people. Resources for community use include education and information materials and access to daily newspapers; there are regular discussions on childcare and education, child rights and the harmful effects of child labour. Links are also being made with local employers.

Drop in Centre for Street Children (DIC)
With continued support from Comic Relief this centre carries on its important work. The DIC has now moved to better accommodation offering improved facilities for toilet, washing, rest and sleeping, cooking food, health care, literacy and awareness raising education, safety and rights, vocational and life-skills training followed by placing the children in suitable jobs or encouraging self employment. Special counseling, motivation and other support services are provided for families. In the whole process, work with parents/guardians, especially mothers and older siblings, is critical in helping children avoid hazardous work and dangerous situations, and to give real, practical long-term alternatives and aspirations.
Safe water and sanitation in Kaliganj
Approximately 388 more families in south-west Bangladesh now have access to safe water thanks to installation of 56 new tube-well platforms and three completely new water points as part of a safe water and sanitation project that started in 2009. Other achievements this year include construction of three new public toilets in busy shopping areas that will benefit around 1,700 people each year, plus renovation of latrines at six primary schools for the benefit of around 2,000 children. The building programme is accompanied by a community-wide hygiene awareness programme that highlights the link between disease and poor hygiene and sanitation.

Arsenic-free Safe Drinking Water
During this reporting year a further two plants have been installed in Jessore District and a further one is in the process of being installed. Each community managed pump and filtering system provides safe water to over 6,000 people, thus improving their health and opportunities. This is an on-going project with more pumps badly needed.

Training and Resettlement Grants for Rescued Trafficked Women and Children
We continue to support training and resettlement costs for residents of DAM’s Shelter Home. This continues to be a successful way forward, giving the individuals concerned a meaningful route back to life in the community with the means to support themselves.

Establishment of a Drug Treatment & Rehabilitation Centre in Jessore
The centre will provide drug users with proper treatment, counseling and guidance as well as skill training for their social rehabilitation. This centre is expected to be very effective in treatment and rehabilitation of the drug users. It is anticipated the centre will open early in 2013.

Empowering Adolescent Girls through education and vocational skills training to become the Agents of Social Transformation (EAST)
This is a new project in Barguna District, Southern Bangladesh, with the specific objectives to increase the level of education and awareness of young girls in the project area, empowering them and enhancing their capabilities through mainstreaming to government schools, life skills education, leadership and empowerment training, livelihood training and business assistance for becoming agents of social transformation, particularly for the desired changes in poor women’s situation.
# Statement of Financial Activities

**For the Year Ended 31 December 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted Funds</th>
<th>Restricted Funds</th>
<th>Total Funds 2011</th>
<th>Total Funds 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>£</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Incoming Resources</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary income</td>
<td>30,178</td>
<td>112,834</td>
<td>143,012</td>
<td>205,792</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Incoming Resources available for Charitable Application</strong></td>
<td><strong>30,194</strong></td>
<td><strong>112,892</strong></td>
<td><strong>143,086</strong></td>
<td><strong>205,837</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Resources Expended</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs of generating funds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund raising</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costs deductible</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Incoming Resources available for Charitable Application</strong></td>
<td><strong>30,194</strong></td>
<td><strong>112,892</strong></td>
<td><strong>143,086</strong></td>
<td><strong>205,837</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(121,728)</td>
<td>(121,728)</td>
<td>(151,675)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance costs</td>
<td>(2,084)</td>
<td>(826)</td>
<td>(2,910)</td>
<td>(2,624)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support costs</td>
<td>(19,250)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(19,250)</td>
<td>(2,398)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Resources Expended</strong></td>
<td><strong>(21,334)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(122,554)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(143,888)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(156,697)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Incoming / (Outgoing) Resources Transferred to Funds</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,860</strong></td>
<td><strong>(9,662)</strong></td>
<td><strong>(802)</strong></td>
<td><strong>49,140</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Funds Brought Forward 1 January 2010</td>
<td><strong>16,073</strong></td>
<td><strong>79,066</strong></td>
<td><strong>95,139</strong></td>
<td><strong>45,999</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Funds Carried Forward 31 December 2010</td>
<td><strong>24,933</strong></td>
<td><strong>69,404</strong></td>
<td><strong>94,337</strong></td>
<td><strong>95,139</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All activities are continuing and the retained surplus for the year was the only recognised gain or loss in the year. Some project funds are carried forward to the following year awaiting Bangladesh NGO Affairs Bureau permission to receive money in country.
We are extremely grateful to the following donors for their support in 2011/2012

**Trusts, Foundations & Organisations:**

- Clark Charitable Trust
- Comic Relief
- Cotton Trust
- Dorford Charitable Trust
- ElectricAid, Ireland
- Equitable Charitable Trust
- Forest Hill Charitable Trust
- Sydney E. Franklin Deceased’s New Second Charity
- Fulmer Charitable Trust
- Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust
- Mrs. K.M. Harbinson's Charitable Trust
- Philip Henman Trust
- Kenmore Congregation, Australia
- Kirby Laing Foundation
- Lions Club of Sidmouth
- Madeline Mabey Trust
- John Mason Family Trust
- Oak Trust
- Oakdale Trust
- Open Gate
- Salters’ Charitable Foundation
- Rhododendron Charitable Trust
- Ryklow Charitable Trust 1992
- N. Smith Charitable Settlement
- Souter Charitable Trust
- C.B. & H.H. Taylor Trust
- Trusthouse Charitable Foundation
- Harold Hyam Wingate Foundation
- Waterloo Foundation

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- Jackie & Tom Cowley
- Chris, Amy & Joe Fear
- David & Zina Fear
- Paul, Jane & Holly Fear
- Sheila Fear
- Nicola & Rob Griffiths
- Imogen Groves
- Ruth Hereward-Isaac
- Christine Isaac
- Ted & Annie Jones
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