‘Shifting the Power’ project launched

A project titled ‘Shifting the Power’ aimed at sharing and shifting the power was launched in Bangladesh at a programme at Spectra convention Centre at Gulshan in the city on 13 August. This is a new initiative under the global START network which is a consortium of 24 leading international development organizations came together in a platform, said the organizers.

There are number of initiatives by different organizations under this global network but “Shifting the Power” is initiated by a consortium of 6 INGOs, Action Aid, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Concern Worldwide, Oxfam and Tearfund, and simultaneously going on in 5 different countries—Bangladesh, Pakistan, Kenya, Ethiopia and Congo. Globally, this consortium is led by Action Aid and CAFOD and in Bangladesh this consortium is led by Christian Aid.

Mohammad Reaz Ahmed, Director General, Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief, and KM Abdus Salam, Director, NGO Affairs Bureau, Prime Minister’s Office, attended the programme as the chief guest and special guest respectively. Representatives from donors, UN, INGOs, local & national NGOs, private sectors, print and electronic media were also present on the occasion.

“Shifting the Power” is a new paradigm to empower local governments, community organizations, faith networks and local NGOs who deliver a significant amount of humanitarian assistance and are fundamental to people’s survival in the immediate aftermath of disasters. Unless this power in the international humanitarian system is proactively shifted to them, their vital role in relief will be undermined at a time when humanitarian disasters are increasing in number and complexity, the function was told. Shifting the Power initiative acknowledges this fact and aims to support local actors to take their place alongside international actors in order to create a balanced humanitarian system that is more responsive and accountable to disaster-affected communities. A study shows about 75 percent of humanitarian responses are being managed by national and local organisations globally but only 01 percent of total humanitarian aid/assistance directly come to them while 99 percent are being mobilised by the international NGOs. “The vision of this initiative of “shifted power” is the power that is shared and balanced”, the speakers said addressing at the function.
A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Limited was signed on 13 August 2015 at its (HSBC) management office Tajgaon, Dhaka. DAM Executive Director Dr. M. Ehsanur Rahman and Chief Executive Officer of HSBC Bank Limited Bangladesh Francois de Maricourt signed in the agreement on behalf of their respective organizations. Education Team Leader of DAM Md. Shahidul Islam and Corporate Sustainability Manager of HSBC Bank Abdullah Al-Jubair were present on the occasion. As part of social responsibility HSBC Ltd. will assist this to educate the poor students of slum areas.

According to the MoU, students of those areas will get opportunity of learning through non-formal education. Moreover, they will be skilled technically, quality of the teachers would be improved and the management system of the schools would be regularized. The project titled, Educate and Empowering Disadvantaged Children through Non-Formal Education will impart education in the slums through DAM. DAM has been working for a quality and sustainable education in the Secondary Level. Through the project, Art and Craft, Small and Medium, Entrepreneurship development, Computer Course Training and follow up activities would be conducted. Mentioned that two Community Learning Centres (CLCs) at capital’s Mirpur area will be the center points for the out-of-school and dropped-out children. Through this MoU a total of 550 non-privileged students will get opportunity to enlighten themselves.

Information Knowledge Fair

An information knowledge fair on ‘Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation in Climate Change’ was held on 26 and 27 August 2015 at the Barisal Model School and And College. Secretary of the Ministry of Relief and Disaster Management Md Shah Kamal visited the stalls and The Additional Secretary, also National Project Director-CDMP-2 Mohammad Abdul Qayyum presided over. Director General of the Department of Disaster Management Md Riaz Ahmed, Additional Secretary Md Shahid, Dean of Disaster Management faculty under Patuakhali University of Science and Technology Professor AKM Mustafa Zaman, and Divisional Commissioner-Barisal (Additional Secretary) Md Gaous were also present. A total of 48 government and non-government organizations participated in the fair. Of them 30 organizations took part in poster and video display. Later, in the poster and video display, Dhaka Ahsania Mission become first, Patuakhali University of Science and Technology second and Save the Children become third. Chief Guest Md. Shah Kamal distributed crest among the winners. On behalf of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, the project coordinator of School Feeding Md Nasir Uddin Ahmed took the crest from the chief guest.

5 daylong training held in Tongi

With the assistance of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), Surovi (a non-government organization) organized a 5 day long Pedagogy Training for the Tutors and Supervisors. Fifteen tutors and a supervisor participated in the training. Master Trainer of UNIQUE II Project under Dhaka region Lutfunnahar Kona and Juliana Ratna Gomez facilitated. Manager of Tongi area Md. Ayeb Hossain inaugurated the training. In the concluding day, training co-ordinator of UNIQUE central office Md. Nurul Islam Regional Manager, Dhaka Md. Asadullah and Tongi Upazila Correspondent of Daily Alokito Bangladesh Md. S.M Monir Hossain Jibon were present.

A basic concept on various subjects from Class I to V including Bengali, English, Mathematics, Bangladesh & World Introduction was provided among the trainees.
Project Inception Meeting held in Sarisabari

A Project inception Meeting was held with the NGO representatives at the Sarisabari Upazila under Jamalpur District on 24 August 2015. Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) Area Manager Md. Asadullah delivered speech on the introduction of DAM and its overall activities. In Sarisabari 37 Community Learning Centres (CLC) are assisting in the community people to be skilled on various issues including education. The Area Manager said, almost 30 students are imparted education in a Multi grade Learning Centre. Students are divided into 4 groups- Primary, Advanced, Skilled and Independent. In every class, students sit on the chair being divide 4 groups. Class Teachers observe their progress. Moreover the extra curriculum classes are conducted in the method of Peer Learning, group task, project work, usage of mobile board and social learning.

Chief Guest Upazila Nirbahi Officer Flora Bilkis Jahan visited schools and enjoyed recitation, song, acting and sports. Upazila Agriculture Officer Md. Nuruzzaman said, the project will encourage guardians to send their offspring to school. This method will also attract the children to take higher education and in the way they will be resource in our country. He also assured the assistance to implement the project successfully.

Annual Retreat of UNIQUE-II project held

Annual Retreat of UNIQUE-II project was held at the Sonargaon Upazilla base training centre on 9 – 11 August 2015. In the three-day long program, all regional managers, master trainers, Monitoring officers, assistant project coordinators and the technical team members of the project’s central office attended. Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) Executive Director Dr M Ehsanur Rahman, Director Dr Khawja Shamsul Huda and Team leader of Education sector Md Shahidul Islam did their duties as resource persons. DAM Executive Director Dr M Ehsanur Rahman said, it is needed to transform the LRC into Ganokendra for the project sustainability. This is why Dhaka Ahsania Mission and UNIQUE-II jointly would monitor LRC. Materials, developed in LRC would be exchanged with the government schools.
General Meeting of SCAN held

General Meeting of Street Children Activist Network (SCAN) was held at a capital restaurant on 22 August 2015. Representatives from 21 organizations were present in the meeting. An Executive committee was formed. Freedom Fighter and Social Activist Rezaul Karim Khokon and Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC) Program Manager M. Jahangir Hossain were made President and General Secretary respectively. The Committee member hoped that they would play a vital role in the overall development of street children. General Secretary M. Jahangir Hossain upheld the overall situation of the country’s street children and informed that all responsibilities of the street children go to the state. President Rezaul Karim said, street children also pay tax to the government. So, alongside government, corporate sector should to come forward to save the street children.

Other members of the committee Vice-president are Country Coordinator of KNH Germany Maroof Montaj Rumi; and Country Coordinator of Muslim Charity UK Md. Fazlul Karim, Joint Secretary-Project Coordinator of SEEP Md Moniruzzaman, Treasurer-Executive Director of Leedo Md. Forhad Hossain and Executive Members are official of Color of Paradise (CoP) Lisa Asma Akhtar, Executive Director of APON Foundation Md. Aftabuzzaman, Coordinator of CTL Md. Zahid Hossain, Assistant Director of SOS Shisu Palli Azizur Rahman and President of Ek Ronga Ek Ghuri Nil Shadhu.

DAM President Visits AMCC

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) President Kazi Rafiqul Alam visited Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC) in Panchagarh recently. While visiting the place he talked to the children, teachers and the officials of the city. CEO of DAM Shahnewaz Khan Program Manager of Children City Md. Jahangir Hossain and Teachers were present at the time.

Project inception workshop

Enhancing Inclusive Disaster Resilience in Bangladesh (DE-PICO-8) project organized a project inception workshop at Savar Pourasava Conference Room on 17 August 2015. With the financial assistance of ECHO and the technical assistance of NARRI, Dhaka Ahsania Mission is implementing the project at Savar Upazila of Dhaka District. Acting Pourasava Mayor Md. Aynal Haque, was present in the workshop as chief guest and Assistant Project Manager-Consul Universal Bangladesh Runa Jesmin was present as special guest. Senior Assistant Secretary Sarfuddin Komol Presided over the workshop. Word Councilors Members of Disaster Management Committee and officials from various government and non-government level were also presents.
Service Providers Mapping workshop for developing district level directories

A service mapping workshop has been done with government, non-government and private institutions in Jessore sadar on 16th August, 2015. A total of 35 participants including 26 male and 9 female attended in this workshop. The Department of Women Affairs, Department of Youth Development, Department of Social welfare, Department of Manpower and Employment, Technical Training Centre (TTC) and Probashi Kallayan Bank (Migrants welfare Bank) were present from government service providing institutions. NGOs like World vision Bangladesh, BN WALA, JIS, RJ, ACD, BRAC, Joyoti Society, Jagoroni Chakra Foundation, BOMSA, Blast, Bachte Shekha, Rupantor, Muslim Aid, FPAB attended in the workshop. Private institutions like Divine Group, Bangladesh Clinic and Diagnostic Owners Association, Bus Owners Association attended in this workshop. Besides that print media representatives from Alokito Bangladesh attended in this workshop.

At the closing session of the workshop, Assistant Commissioner, Jessore Md. Minhajur Rahman said, ‘It is not possible for one organization or institution to prevent trafficking. All government and non-government organizations should come forward together. Let local people realize that human trafficking is a heinous offence’

Awareness program on Drug and Tobacco

On 12 August, Dhaka Ahsania Mission conducted an awareness program with Mohammadpur central university college students & teachers on drug and tobacco. The program was held in the Auditorium of the campus and nearly 300 students and teachers were also present. Principle of Mohammadpur central university college professor Abdus Sallam Hawlader presided the program. Dhaka ahsania mission deputy director, Iqbal Masud, Vice principal Abu Jahid Md Jogul Pasha, Social welfare department head Roton Tonu Gosh, delivered the speech in the program.

There were two presentations - Syda Akther coordinator of Tamak Birodhi Bari Jote presented harmful effects of smokeless tobacco and Sharmeen Rahman, program officer of Dhaka Ahsania Mission presented harmful effects of tobacco and drug. Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Mohammadpur Central university college jointly organized the program with the supported by lions club of Dhaka Oasis and campaign for Tobacco Free Kids.

Race for Survival

Race for Survival, a campaign to save child health was held under the joint initiative of Save the Children, Association of Bangladesh Child Doctor and Everyone Campaign of AMIC-Dhaka Ahsania Mission at the residence of Deputy Speaker on 16 August.

Deputy Speaker Fazle Rabbi Mia MP, Deputy Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Iqbal Masud, Treasurer of the Association of Bangladesh Child Doctor Dr AKM Amirul Morshed Khasru, Senior Advisor of Children Health and Nutrition department of Save the Children Dr Golam Modabbir and eighteen advocates hailed from Chittagong, Moulvibazar and Barisal.

Advocate Fazle Rabbi Mia said, government emphasized most on child health protection to achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG-4) and two-third death rate has been decreased. A letter written by a youth leader Moni Aakter was handed over to Deputy speaker.

In the letter, four issues were mentioned- ensure pneumonia treatment in community clinic at ward level, protect child marriage, prevent violence against children, and arrangement of child birth.
Activities of ‘Educate and Empowering Disadvantaged Children through Non-Formal Education’ Project

Children attend in ICT class

Project orientation

English and social development class

Children are watching International Cricket Match