



Mission Barta

E-Bulletin of Dhaka Ahsania Mission

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JANUARY 2012



Education, health sector dev impossible without non-govt sector's participation

-Barrister Rafique-ul Huq

Development of education and health sector is not possible if non-government sector does not come forward. In this field, role of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) is unique. It is expected that Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital will also be established in the same manner the National Heart Foundation was established by renowned physician of cardiology and National Professor Brig (Retd) Abdul Malik.

Noted lawyer Barrister Rafique-ul Huq said this while addressing as chief guest at

Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah Gold Medal-2010 awarding ceremony organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) at the Mission Bhaban auditorium at 10:30 am on Saturday, 10 December, 2011.

He further said that Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital, a full-fledged cancer hospital, for common people, is going to be established soon. He called upon all to come forward with generous donation towards the hospital fund.

DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam presided over while A S

M Babar Ali read out a report on Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah's philosophy in spreading the light of education, written by Prof Dr Moniruzzaman, Department of Bengali, Chittagong University.

National Professor Dr M R Khan, former chairman of National Board of Revenue Md Abdul Majid and Joint Secretary of National Heart Foundation Dr Sirajul Islam and were main discussants. DAM Executive Director Dr M Ehsanur Rahman delivered the welcome address.

Chief Guest See page > 3



AMIC representative to participate in 15th World Confce

A representative of Addiction Management & Integrated Care (AMIC) of Dhaka Ahsania Mission will take part at 15th World Conference on Tobacco or Health, scheduled to be held in Singapore on 20-24 March, 2012. Iqbal Masud, Assistant Director of AMIC, will place two selected reports at the world conference. The reports are: Awareness Through Community Involvement Can Make a Significant Impact on Policy Changes in National Level: Dhaka Ahsania Mission Experience and A Study on Effectiveness of Pictorial Warning Message on Tobacco Packets to Reduce Tobacco Use. Earlier, AMIC representatives took part at 12th, 13th and 14th world conference.

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Arrangements should be made for education of out of school children through 3rd primary education development scheme

Pry & Mass Edn minister

Arrangements should be made for education of out of school children through third primary educational development programme. Government has undertaken various steps to prevent primary school dropout rate.

Minister for Primary and Mass Education Dr Md Afsarul Ameen said this while addressing as Chief Guest at a dissemination seminar on the findings and recommendations of a study report titled "Flexibility for Effective Learning: UNIQUE Approach to Quality Primary Education" organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission's (DAM) UNIQUE Project at Dhanmondi Mission Bhaban auditorium in the city at 4:00 PM on 12

December, 2011.

He further said that all concerned must have to come forward to prevent school dropout rate. Fruits of non-formal education (NFE) must have to reach everywhere.

In his presidential address, DAM President and CAMPE Chairperson Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, the rate of school dropouts has come down from 50% to 40%. We shall remain illiterate if we cannot ensure quality education. Multigrade system of education is very effective and fruitful for non-formal education programme. Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) will have to play a pioneering role to ensure quality education under the purview of Education for All



programme of the government. He further said that DAM's UNIQUE Project, with support from the European Union, has been providing non-formal education to 1,20,000 dropouts and out of school children in 24 districts of Bangladesh, since 2007. UNIQUE Project, in the meantime, attained various successes in five years. A team of experts has conducted a study to assess tangibility of the achievements and impact of the project so far on the target community.

Chief of Human Resources and Social Development of the

European Union Libuse Soukupova was present as Guest of Honour. DAM Executive Director Dr M Ehsanur Rahman delivered the Welcome Address. Dr Rezaul Karim placed an assessment report. Representatives of government and non-government organisations, educational experts and representatives of donor agencies took part in the open discussion.

DAM tops list of annual evaluation test of BEHTRUWC project

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has topped list of annual evaluation test of Basic Education for Hard to Reach Urban Working Children (BEHTRUWC) Project implemented by 20 non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The evaluation test was done by a team headed by Prof M A Malek of the Institute of Education and Research (IER) of Dhaka University.

A total of 40 educational centres, each having two centres, were selected from 20 implementing organisations. Written and viva-voce tests were also held for the purpose.

DAM has successfully implemented the project in 363 educational centres, with 100, 100, 50, 63 educational centres in first, second, third and fourth stages. The project was implemented in six divisional towns including Narayanganj and Gazipur district towns.

DAM implemented BEHTRUWC Project in collaboration with Non-formal Education (NFE) Bureau.

AMCH fund

Bank Alfalah Limited donates Tk10 lakh

Bank Alfalah Limited has donated an amount of Tk10 lakh to Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital fund for building a 500-bed world class specialised cancer hospital at Uttara in the capital.

Muhammad Shahab Khattak, Country Operations Head of Bank Alfalah Limited and S A A Masrur, Country Head Bangladesh, jointly handed over a cheque for Tk10 lakh to Kazi Rafiqul Alam, President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), at a simple ceremony held at DAM Auditorium in Dhanmondi, Dhaka, on 28 December, 2011.

Among others, noted physician Dr M A Jalil and Vice President of Hajj Finance Company Limited, Monzur Md Kawser



were present during the cheque handing over ceremony. It is mentionable that Bank Alfalah Limited also donated Tk10 lakh last year.

Welcoming the noble initiative, Muhammad Shahab Khattak, Country Operations Head of Bank Alfalah Limited said that in Bangladesh facility for cancer treatment is very limited. Most of the cancer patients have to go abroad for treatment. If the hospital is commissioned then modern facilities for cancer treatment will be available in Bangladesh. He called upon

people from all walks of life for generous donation.

While receiving the cheque, DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, if the corporate sector comes forward, Inshallah, we shall be able to start the primary activities of the hospital in the next year by opening Radio Therapy unit, Out-patient Department and laboratory. He urged upon well-to-do people of society as well as corporate sector to come forward with generous donation for construction of a full-fledged hospital.

Dr Mirza Abdul Jalil says at int'l sharing meeting

Combat effects of climate change

Acceleration of movement at community, state and international level is essential to combat the adverse effects of climate change. Alongside combating disaster, coordinated efforts should be taken to resolve the economic and food crisis. Chairman of Privatisation Commission, Dr Mirza Abdul Jalil, said this while addressing as Chief Guest at an International Level Sharing Meeting on Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation organised under the aegis of Concern Universal-Bangladesh, in Partnership with 67 partner NGOs, at SETARA Convention Hall, Mirpur 11½, in the capital at 9.30 am on 20 December, 2011. He further stressed on a bold role at government and non-governmental level to combat the

adverse effects of climate change and reduce risk of disaster through creating a strong network in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, China and Bhutan.

Speakers said, Concern Universal conducted trainings on Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction, local participation, resource collection and strategy for their usage, participatory monitoring and evaluation to strengthen capacity of 67 partner organisations of Bangladesh, India and Nepal in last 19 months. Three lakh beneficiaries from seven divisions of Bangladesh, India and Nepal have been brought under the 'Capacity Strengthening on Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation' Project. The activities will be extended to China and Bhutan.



Chaired by the Executive Director of 'Friendship,' Runa Khan, the inaugural session was addressed by the Director General of National Academy for Planning and Development, Bangladesh, Dr M A Kamal and the Advisor for Cordaid-India, Munish Kaushik. Head of Education, Concern Universal-Bangladesh, Abdul Hamid, delivered the Welcome Speech.

Prof Dr M Shahidul Islam, Department of Geography & Environment, Dhaka University, Convener, State IAG, Paschim Banga, Father Reggie Fernandes and President, JCYCN, Nepal, Tilotam Paudel addressed at the

second session.

Executive Director, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, Dr Atiq Rahman, Executive Director, PIDIM Foundation, Advin Barun Banerjee, journalist of Himalayan TV, Nepal, Kapil Dev Kafle and Executive Director, AVAS, Rahima Sultana Kazal addressed at the third session. A video documentary on Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation was displayed. Executive Director, SLARTC, Paschim Banga, India, Manabendra Mondol addressed at the closing session.



DAM signs accord with 7 national NGOs to implement NFPE

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) signed an accord with seven national NGOs to implement non-formal primary education (NFPE) through UNIQUE-2 Project at Dhanmondi Mission Bhaban auditorium at 3 PM on 18 December, 2011.

DAM will work, in collaboration with Plan Bangladesh, in partnership with SOD, CCDB, Dorp, Padakkhep

Manobik Unnyan Kendro, Surovi, Verd and Ipsa in 84 upazilas of 26 districts to gear up government's Education for All programme.

DAM Executive Director Dr M Ehsanur Rahman and chiefs of the aforesaid NGOs signed the accord on behalf of their respective organisations.

During the accord signing ceremony, DAM Executive

Director Dr M Ehsanur Rahman urged all to come forward to prevent school dropouts for ensuring Education for All. UNIQUE-2 Project will play a vital role in bringing school dropouts under the fold of government's 3rd Primary Education Development Programme.

He further said that especially coastal Char areas, haor, inaccessible hilly areas of Chittagong hill districts and slum areas of Narayanganj and Gazipur districts will remain

under the programme. Under the project, 2,05,912 school dropout children and 30,000 backward children of primary schools will get an opportunity of education. Besides, 61,475 children will come under the fold of pre-school programme.

In the meantime, UNIQUE Project has immensely contributed towards implementing quality primary education to children through multigrade teaching and learning system thereby building capacity of targeted beneficiaries.

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Education, health sector dev impossible

Barrister Rafique-ul Huq handed over Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah Gold Medal-2010 award to renowned physician of cardiology and National Professor Brig (Retd) Abdul Malik. While expressing his feelings, gold medal awardee Brig (Retd) Abdul Malik said, honest work, honest thoughts and prayer of other's welfare make life fulfilled.

In his presidential address, DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, recognition to genius people is a must for their good deeds, otherwise, genius people will never born. It is possible to build a socially and politically developed nation through education. We too want to work by involving ourselves with the development activities of government.



DAM participates in Satkhira Digital Innovative Fair

E-services being provided by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) were exhibited at Satkhira Digital Innovative Fair organised by the district administration on 18-20

December, 2011. Services provided by Community Resource Centre (CRC), model of information service centre, ICT services, awareness creating DVD and laptop were shown to the visitors. Information on DAM and employment were also provided through Internet browsing.

Minister for Health & Family Welfare Dr A F M Ruhul Huq and Prime Minister's Private Secretary and National Project Director of Support to Digital Bangladesh Nazrul Islam visited the stall.



Workshop for reviewing Social Safety Net Programme

A workshop for reviewing ongoing Social Safety Net Programme was held under the joint aegis of ACCESS (Health & Empowerment) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and upazila administration at Keshobpur Upazila Parishad auditorium on 21 December, 2011. Keshobpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Khan Md Reza-un Nabi presided over while Branch Manager of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Micro-finance Programme Jalal Uddin delivered Welcome Address.

Upazila Social Service Officer Abdullah Al Masud presented a concept paper. Upazila Women Affairs Officer Tahira Khatun, Upazila Project Implementation Officer Meherunnessa was the main discussants. Area Coordinator of DAM Alamgir Hossain conducted the activities at the discussion session. Union Parishad (UP) chairman,

presidents of three CRCs, journalists and NGO representatives took part.

Another report says, the ongoing activities of the Social Safety Programme of government sector were reviewed at a meeting held at the conference room of Noapara Hasimukh Community Resource Centre (CRC) on 29 November, 2011. Noapara Hasimukh CRC, Noapara Union Parishad and ACCESS (health & empowerment) Project of DAM jointly organised it. President of Hasimukh CRC Md Kamal Hossain chaired the occasion while Jessore ADC (Gen) Mir Zohurul Islam was present as Chief Guest.

Deputy Director of Social Welfare Directorate Abdul Haque, Programme officer of DAM Ali Alaul Md Kabir, chairmen of Deara and Noapara unions Ashrafuzzaman Mithu and Md Altaf Hossain were present as special guests. Representatives of Ganokendra (people's centres) and CRCs, civil society members, newsmen, imams, teachers and workers of DAM were present.



SuJol Project's research work

The Creativity Manager of Proportion Foundation, Lieke Pijper, and the Product Manager of

Technological organization Voltea, Kim Visser, have conducted a research work with partnership of DAM WatSan on Prospect of Extension of Social Business through Community Management at Baksa village in Kalaroa upazila of Satkhira district under "SuJol: the Bangladesh Project". The project was undertaken for supply of pure water to poor people in rural areas and extension of social business under community management of WatSan Sub-sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Coordinator Social Mobilisation (CSM) of WatSan M M Ahidul Islam Kazal and Field Coordinator Md Rafiqul Islam assisted in the research work. The research team also met Mr. M.A Samad, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Satkhira. They also discussed with the Upazila Health Officer, Union Parishad Chairman, ward members and people from poor community for their opinion on implementation of the work. It is to be mentioned here that SuJol Project is being implemented with financial assistance of the Royal Government of the Netherlands and with partnership of the Ecological Management Foundation (EMF), Netherlands. Dhaka Ahsania Mission is the key partner for the project implementation in the field. Kim Visser conducted the first field trial of 'CapDI,' in front of the Hotathgonj High School where the plant is installed in the land donated by the school Management Committee. Project Engineer Md Irfan and Field Engineer Shantanu Kar assisted in the programme activities. The team leader of WatSan Sub-sector, Engr. Imam Mahmud Riad, supervised the overall activities. Alongside purification of excess arsenic and saline, the plant will be capable to purify the water by removing at least 51 harmful constituents through its cutting edge technology namely 'CapDI'.

Japanese student's internship in micro-finance

Keita Kanoke, a Japanese student of Social Science Faculty in Hose University, Japan, has done internship for a month in Dhaka Ahsania Mission's (DAM) Micro-finance programme.

As part of his degree course, he did the internship through Bangladesh Reading Association, in the entire month of November, 2011. His subjects were micro-credit programme and women's



empowerment. During internship period, the Japanese student visited various branches of DAM's Micro-finance programme. He also conducted a study on the beneficiaries of Micro-finance programme to have a clear concept on participation of rural women in micro-credit programme and procedure of women's empowerment.

Roundtable for ensuring improved healthcare services

A roundtable conference for ensuring improved healthcare services at Union Health & Family Welfare Centre and Community Clinic was held at the conference hall of Jhenidah Deputy Commissioner (DC) under the aegis of ACCESS (Health & Empowerment) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) on 21 December, 2011.

Project Coordinator Selim Uddin presided over while it was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Sheikh Rafiqul Islam as Chief Guest. Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Kalachand Singh and Senior Consultant of Jhenidah Sadar Hospital Dr Ratan Kumar Pal were special

guests.

Health workers of Jhenidah Sadar upazila, union chairman, Standing Committee members, beneficiaries, NGO

representatives, Ganokendra and CRC members, civil society members and journalists were present. Project's Technical Officer Suraya Sultana delivered Welcome Address. Project's Area Coordinator Rabiul Islam played the role of presenter at the roundtable conference.

Another roundtable conference on the same title was held at the conference hall of Jessore Collectorate on 19 December, 2011. Jessore Deputy Commissioner (DC) Md Mostafizur Rahman was present as Chief Guest while it was



attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Mir Zohurul Islam, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Education & ICT) Shefina Begum, Deputy Director of Family Planning Department Dr Dilip Kumar Brahma, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Abul Kalam Azad, President of Jessore Press Club Ikram-ud-Doula, acting Civil Surgeon Dr Imdadul Huq Razu, Upazila Health & Family Planning

Officer Dr Rashidun Nessa were present as special guests.

Health workers of various union health & family welfare centres and community clinics in Jessore Sadar upazila, chairmen of different unions, members of the Standing Committee on Union Health Affairs, project beneficiaries, Ganokendra and CRC representatives, civil society members, journalists and representatives of Dhaka Ahsania Mission were present.

UNODC-Vienna representative visits AMIC

UNODC-Vienna representative Monica Beg recently visited Addiction Management & Integrated Care (AMIC) of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, in the city, to observe its activities inside Barisal and Gazipur district jails. Kamrul Ahsan was also present as a representative of Bangladesh UNODC.

They met the jail super of Gazipur jail and discussed progress of the project.

It is to be mentioned here that the risk of health and HIV among jail inmates is much greater in most of the jails across the world. With a view to lessening the risk HIV and venereal diseases among jail inmates, UNODC has been implementing a project titled 'H-71' in Bangladesh through AMIC.



DAM conducts training course in garments sector

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has been conducting a training course in garments (RMG) sector since April 2011.

State Minister for Women and Children's Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, MP, formally inaugurated the training course in April, 2011. Director General of Women Affairs Directorate Md Ashraf Hossain and Executive Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Dr M Ehsanur

Rahman were also present.

Thirty-two women are being imparted training every two months. A total of 168 poor women underwent trainings in garments machine operator course from January, 2011 to November, 2011. Trained women are being absorbed in various garment factories including those of Dhaka Export Processing Zone (EPZ).

Since January, 2011, Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been providing technical assistance for the courses being imparted in Shaheed Government Sheikh Fazilatunessa Mujib Women's Training Academy situated in Zirani, Gazipur. Garman government, through German Development Cooperation (GIZ), has extended hands of financial cooperation to disadvantaged poor women for their training so that they can get employment in garment factories as skilled operator and trained supervisor. Ultimately, standard of life of disadvantaged women are being enhanced thereby ensuring women's empowerment.

Exhibition of documentary film shows in Barguna

ACCESS-CAFOD Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission has exhibited three documentary film shows in Barguna district.

A show was held at Kewrabunia Secondary School of Burirchar union on 17 November, 2011, while the second show was held at Purakata Girls' School in Ailapatakata union on 23 November, 2011, and the third one was held at Parirkhal Secondary School in M Baliatoli union on 24 November, 2011. Field Coordinator Mizanur Rahman was present on behalf of Dhaka Ahsania Mission while the headmasters, teachers and students of the respective schools were also present.

The film shows have created much enthusiasm among the school students. Issues on disaster, ill effects of child labour, education for all children and right to information were highlighted. ICT Facilitator Md Raihan Morshed conducted the activities. After the film shows, the school students informed that this type of activity will help assist in acquiring knowledge out of their text books.



Blankets distributed among cold stricken children

Dhaka Ahsania Mission, in collaboration with Emirates Airlines Foundation, distributed blankets among 200 cold stricken children of Mohammadpur Drop-In Centre and Urban Community Learning Centre run by the Mission in the capital on 27 December, 2011. President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Kazi Rafiqul Alam and Sales Manager of Emirates Airlines-Bangladesh Ismail Bhuiyan distributed the blankets.

While speaking on the occasion, Kazi Rafiqul Alam said, 'We are grateful to Emirates Airlines Foundation for their noble gesture.' Among others, Executive Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Dr M Ehsanur Rahman and other officials were present. The blankets were distributed as part of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's programme to distribute 6,000 blankets donated by Emirates Airlines Foundation, among the cold victims, especially children of 21 districts across the country.

AMIC takes part in int'l training course

Senior Programme Officer of Addiction Management & Integrated Care (AMIC), Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Mahfida Dina Rubaiya has taken part in 12th Regional Training of Women Counsellor on Treatment and Rehabilitation, held in Chennai, India, as a representative of Bangladesh, on 14-22 November, 2011.

Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Programme and TT Ranganathan Clinical Research Foundation, a drug treatment and drug treatment centre of India, jointly organised the nine-day training course.

A total of 22 representatives of 11 countries participated. Issues on Psychoactive Substance, Science of Addiction, Social Stigma, Family System, Basic Principle of Drug Treatment, Recovery Capital, Case Management and Counselling were discussed. Honorary Secretary of TT Ranganathan Clinical Research Foundation Dr Thirumagal, Programme Consultant and Counsellor Additi Ganekar played the role of facilitator.



Climate change

Linkage establishing meeting with UDMC, CAG members

A communication and relationship development meeting on climate change and disaster risk reduction was held with members of Union Disaster Management Committee (UDMC) and Communication Action Group (CAG) at the meeting room of Chandpai Union Parishad (UP) under Mongla upazila in Bagerhat district on 13 December, 2011. Held under the aegis of Improved Food and Livelihood Support in the Context of Climate Change in Bagerhat district (IFLS) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), the meeting was presided by acting UP chairman Agnesh Sarder. Disaster related Adviser of CAFOD UK, Kait Crowley and Consultant of CAFOD UK, Md Khalid Hossain were present as special guests.

Programme Coordinator of DAM Md Mokhlesur Rahman, field coordinator Uzzal Kumar Kundu, field worker of CARITAS Bangladesh, Rebeka Snigdha Baroi, field officer Biswajit Biswas and UDMC and CAG members of the same union were also present. Disaster related adviser of CAFOD UK, Kait Crowley, expressed his firm optimism saying that disaster risk reduction is possible in the locality through coordinated efforts of CAG and UDMC.



Roundtable meeting on ensuring improved healthcare service at community clinics

A roundtable meeting on ensuring improved healthcare service at union health and family welfare centres and community clinics was held at Moheshpur Upazila Poura Public Library Auditorium in Jhenidah district under the aegis of ACCESS (Health & Empowerment) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) on 27 November, 2011.

DAM Programme Officer Ali Awal Muhammad Kabir chaired the occasion while Moheshpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Abul Kalam Azad was present as chief guest. Upazila health and family planning officers Dr Abdul Aziz and Nasima Yasmeen, SBK Union Parishad (UP) chairman Sazzadul Islam Sazzad were present as special guests. A total of 40 participants took part. Prominent among them were UP chairmen, members, Health Standing Committee members, Community Group members, health workers of community clinics, family welfare workers, NGO representatives, journalists, CRC president and beneficiaries of Ganokendras. Various aspects of healthcare service and role of UP in qualitative improvement of healthcare service were discussed.

DAM's community-based Early Childhood Programme wins recognition from ARNEC

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) is among the few pioneering NGOs in Bangladesh which has extended community-based Early Childhood Development (ECD) Programme at the grassroots level. Children at the grassroots level are most often neglected and denied to their access into the desired ECD services. It is only a few years ago, the concept of ECD has gained momentum in Bangladesh. Since early 90s, DAM has been at the forefront of grassroots ECD movements. To be specific, DAM has started its ECD programme more comprehensively in the year of 1992. The major objective of DAM's ECD programme is to nurture children for their physical and mental development and prepare them for

and habit. Besides, DAM has recently started launching day care centres at the grassroots level.

DAM has so far implemented a good number of projects on Early Childhood Development. Projects such as NFE-Amtali and Comprehensive Basic Education Programme (CBEP) had been implemented during 1992-1997 period. In Amtali of Barguna district, NFE-Amtali and Comprehensive Basic Education Programme (CBEP) established 120 and 640 centres respectively for extending pre-primary support. A project named Adult Mass Education Demonstration Unit (AMED) was implemented from early to mid 90s. Another such project called Community Learning Centre (CLC), supported by UNESCO, was

in ECD initiative of DAM. This project was implemented in Gazipur district within a period from 2006 to 2010 with the support of Plan Bangladesh.

At presents, Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Early Childhood Development programme is comprised with many different components spreading over all regions of the country. The EU funded 'Up-scaling Non-formal Education through Institutionalising Qualitative Endeavour (UNIQUE)' project alone covers 78 upazilas of 24 districts. Another project named 'Early Childhood Development Support Programme-Bangladesh (ECDSP-B)' has been working in Barguna district of the coastal region of Bangladesh. This project is being supported by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and AGA Khan Foundation. Besides, a Plan Bangladesh supported project named Quality Primary Education (QPE) is being executed in Gazipur district. The present goal and objective of DAM's ECD programme is to contribute to the improvement of the situation of young children in Bangladesh through strengthening of Early Childhood Development as an integral part of community development programmes. DAM's Early Childhood Development programme offers a range of services to include training, research, evaluation, curriculum development, advocacy and many more. The organisation has played a major role in shaping policy over the last few years.

DAM works as an ECD resource organisation facilitating partnerships for collaborative action to improve early childhood policies and programmes at all levels. DAM's key strategies include policy engagement and advocacy, strengthening ECD capacity, promoting ECD information, communication, and public awareness rising, information sharing and networking. Besides, DAM has been providing support to a number of local organisations and working collaboratively to implement ECD programmes. Jago Nari, Avas, Multi Tasks, DORP, Padakkhep, Surovi and CCDB are among few such organisations that are given support and assistance. At present DAM is an active member of Bangladesh ECD Network (BEN). Recently, Asia-pacific Regional Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC) has recognised DAM for being effective in implementing its community-based ECD programme.



schooling with right attitudes and habits. DAM's ECD components are designed to focus on the children and parents in an integrated manner.

DAM's ECD programme renders support for promotion of many areas of child development including physical, sensorial, cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional development. Children are also oriented to social norms and values and being provided assistance to flourish creativity. It also extends support for child preparedness and mainstreaming children in primary schools. The main focus of the programme is to nurture children for their physical and mental development and to prepare them for schooling with right attitude

also implemented in early 2000s. This project established quite a few child development centres in the target area. In recent past, DAM also implemented a specialized project named 'Community Learning Action Project (CLAP)' with major focus on early childhood development. With the objective of young children's development, CLAP Project started in July 2005 and closed down in 2008. CLAP covered three major districts including Narshingdi, Jessore and Satkhira. Early childhood Development and pre-primary education were chosen to be the major components of the project. Improvement of Quality Primary Education (IQE) is another important project that contributed immensely



DAM in frame

Snaps from the People's organisations' convention -2011

