



Mission Barta

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Food security

DAM helps improve livelihood of vulnerable elderly people

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), in collaboration with Concern Universal and Helvetas Swiss Inter-cooperation, has implemented 'Reduction of Food Insecurity for Poor and Extreme Poor Households Project' in Jamalpur district during January 2010- October 2011 period.

The Food Facility Project (FFP) was undertaken in the backdrop of soaring food prices directly affecting the livelihood of poor and extreme poor people in Bangladesh. Elderly people were the most vulnerable ones. The European Union (EU) allocated Euro 50 million to Bangladesh as a rapid response to the emergency.

The project immensely benefited vulnerable elderly people through attainment of food security in the FFP working areas.

Under the project, DAM extended all-out support to 3,412 beneficiaries of 22 unions in five upazilas of the district. The upazilas are Dewanganj, Jamalpur Sadar, Madarganj, Melandaha and Sarishabari. Most of the beneficiaries are 50 years of age or above.

Selection of beneficiaries was made through Focus Group Discussion (FGD) in presence



of local government representatives and local elite.

Following project interventions, beneficiaries became owners of cows, goats, poultry birds, rickshaws, vans, boats, leased lands and trees.

Interventions generated off farm income. At the same time, a linkage was established with the service providers.

Elderly people improved their livelihood status through enhanced monthly income, food intake and establishing linkage with different stakeholders including agricultural organisations, research and local government institutions etc.

The project target was

achieved through attainment of agricultural diversity, increased food productivity and empowerment of vulnerable elderly people. Farmers' access to markets also increased considerably.

During intervention period, selected beneficiaries had undergone core occupation group (COG) training, organisational development training and micro and small Enterprise (MSE) training. Moreover, workshops, issue-based group meetings and study visits were also organised for skill development of the beneficiaries. Cash for work (CFW) and cash **See page>5**

Nominations for DAM Best Performance Award 2011 invited

Every year, DAM Best Performance Award is awarded to the employees of Dhaka Ahsania Mission in recognition to their outstanding contributions as well as to encourage them to be more pro-active in taking innovative measures towards continuous development of the organisation.

This year also, nominations are invited for the same. Officials and employees of all classes except Director and equivalent level official (i.e. Grade 13) are eligible for nomination of the Award.

However, nominees **See page>4**

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Milk-MSE, Melandah- Jamalpur milk vita dairy coop partnership



The Deputy Manager of Milk Vita Dairy Co-operative, Jamalpur, Dr Khandaker Rezaul Karim, visited Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Milk-Micro and Small Enterprise (MSE) at Melandah in Jamalpur district on 24 October, 2011.

The visit was organised as part of partnership of Milk Vita

Dairy Co-operative, Jamalpur with Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Food Facility Project (FFP).

The official expressed eagerness to set up a milk collection system by establishing primary milk producers' co-operative.

Milk producers who are beneficiaries of Dhaka Ahsania Mission can get training in milk

production and productivity enhancement technology. Ultimately, it will turn into self-sustaining livestock support as Dhaka Ahsania Mission's poor and extreme poor beneficiaries depend largely on livestock for their subsistence.

This will result in rise in income of the beneficiaries, especially

of women, who generally undertake milking and marketing of milk, leading to increased spending power.

The collaboration will help play a key role through extension of sharing of information, knowledge and experience of those working with FFP farmers.



Meeting to raise awareness on rural people's right to information

A meeting was held at No-5 Mangolkot Union Parishad (UP) auditorium in Keshobpur Upazila of Jessore district to raise awareness on Rural People's Right to Information on 30 October, 2011.

ACCESS (Health & Empowerment) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission and No-5 Mangolkot UP jointly organised the meeting where

the main issues on right to information was discussed.

No-5 Mangolkot UP Chairman Md Monowar Hossain presided over while the key-note paper was read by the Technical Officer of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Nazmeen Nahar.

Local Area Coordinator Alamgir Hossain and Jessore Representative of ZICA Mari-Yaota took part in the

discussion.

Among others, Mangolkot Parodorshi CRC President Abdur Rahim, Sub-Assistant Medical Officer Nurul Islam were present. Besides, UP

members, representatives of government and non-government organisations, CRC and Ganokendra members and local elite were present.

Workshops on violence against women for school students

Promotion of Human Rights for Preventing Violence and Discrimination against Women and Girls (PPVD) Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission has organised two workshops for school students in Barguna district to raise awareness on violence and discrimination against women and girl children.

The first workshop was held at Napitkhali Panchagram Secondary School in Burirchar union of Barguna Sadar upazila on 26 October, 2011. The second workshop was held at Choto Labongola Hazarbiga Secondary School on 27 October, 2011.

Upazila Secondary Education Officer Md Shahidul Islam graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Union Facilitator Saleha Khanam Lata discussed the aims and objectives of the project as well as expected results. Discuss of ants dwelt on issues like reasons for violence and discrimination against women and girl children, laws to prevent the same, harassment to girl students by stalkers, anomaly at school level and ways to prevent torture on women and girl children etc. Upazila Coordinator of PPVD Project Md Rafiqul Islam assisted in holding the workshop. A total of 60 students took part.



Freshers' reception at AUST

A freshers' reception was organised for the new comers of Fall Semester at the Multipurpose Hall of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST) in Tejgaon in the city on 20 October 2011.

AUST Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr

A M M Safiullah presided over while the reception ceremony was attended by the Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC), Prof Dr A K Azad Chowdhury, as Chief Guest and the Advisor of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, Prof Dr M H Khan, as Special Guest. M Abul Hussain delivered the welcome address.

During address, most of the speakers assured the freshers of high standard of education being pursued in the university as well as favourable atmosphere of the educational

institution.

They also assured better jobs for students after their graduation. They hoped that the students would be able to earn reputation by serving the nation by being worthy citizens of the country. Among others, AUST Treasurer Prof Dr Kazi Shariful Alam, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Prof Dr A F M Anwarul Haque, Dean of the Faculty of Business and Social

Sciences Prof Sirajuddaula Shaheen, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Planning Prof Dr M A Muktadir and Prof Dr M Shahabuddin spoke on the occasion.

Heads of all departments, teachers, staff and employees were also present. Both the students and their guardians attended. This was followed by a lively discussion.

Workshop on Nacotics Anonymous Programme

A workshop on Nacotics Anonymous Programme and formation was held at Gazipur Drug Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre in Gazipur on 20 August, 2011. Programmers, programme assistants and friends who recovered from drug menace took part. Nacotics Anonymous Programme is on use at YWCA Auditorium in the capital for about 20 years for an addiction-free life. Ming Paolo, Philips and Joydeep acted as resource persons. They discussed, made presentations and did group activities on the 12-step programme, 12 traditions and team work. Personnel from various drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation centres and NA group members took part.



13 Parenting centres open in Barguna

Thirteen Parenting centres were opened in the ECDSP-B Project areas of Charduani and Kathaltoli unions under Patharghata upazila in Barguna district within a period from 23 August to 29 August, 2011. ECDSP-B Project is a project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) implemented by Multi Task .

Just after the opening ceremony of the centres, a president was elected for each

centre at the inaugural meeting. Efforts were made to give a clear concept on the activities of the ECDSP-B Project of DAM at the inaugural function. Issues like mother care during pregnancy and Parenting Programme were discussed. Based on the opinions of all participants, a nine-member centre committee was formed. The timetable of the activities at the centres was determined from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

Workshop for Barisal Central Jail officials, inmates' families

An workshop was held in Barisal Central Jail for jail officials and families of inmates on 15 August, 2011. Jail officials candidly discussed various issues on HIV and drug addiction with the family members of jail inmates. The Site Officer of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Prison Intervention Project, Abdul Quader and deputy jailers Md Nizamuddin and Md Fakhruddin acted as presenters. Participants took part with much interest.

Life skills module sharing workshop

A life skills module sharing workshop was held at Spectra Convention Centre on 19 September, 2011. The Director of Training and Material Division of Dhaka Ahsania Mission M A Rashid, PC Sharmen Shahria and Reshma, member of Anirban (Survivor Voice group) participated in the workshop organised by Winrock International. This workshop was organised for getting feedbacks from participants of different organisations and make finalisation of the module which was developed mainly for trafficked survivors.



CCRVT project staff orientation programme

An orientation programme was organised for staffs of CCRVT project in Jamalpur on 12 October, 2011. ACT project organized the orientation programme in cooperation with CCRVT project. Upazila coordinators Md Abdul Alim, Md Abdul Halim, Md Sahabul Islam, Accounts Assistant Md Manowar and Abdullah Al Mamun, DPSO-Relief International, Jamalpur participated.

Sharmeen Shahria Ferdush, PC of ACT Project facilitated the orientation programme. Participants were given a clear concept on trafficking and migration, rehabilitation process of trafficked survivors and services available for the survivors in Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Shelter Home. The Counselor of Shelter Home, Shahanaz Parvin, Livelihood Officer Md Nazrul Islam and two survivors from shelter home were also present. Participants learnt about the trends and



complexities of trafficking in persons and services are available for survivors and ways to link survivors with the services.

Opening ceremony of Uttar Shilamondi Non-govt Pry School

The opening ceremony of the new building of Uttar Shilamondi Non-Government Primary School, built by Dhaka Ahsania Mission with the financial assistance of Korea Wees School Project, was held at Uttar Shilamondi village under Shilamondi union in Narsingdi district on 24 July, 2011.

The opening ceremony was rounded up with a cultural function.

The Director of Korea Wees School Project, Er San Wang, General Manager Lee Myng Hee, Assistant Director of Resource Mobilisation, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Md Abdul Hye, Narshingdi Coordinator of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Tapan Kumar Sarker, President of Narsingdi Press Club, Nibaran Roy, journalists, school teachers, students and local elite were present.

Because of lack of an educational institute, the children of the local-



ity were deprived of education at the village. One Md Khorshed Alam Baten of Shilamondi village came forward to establish a non-government primary school. He started the school activities at a thatched tin shed room where there was no favourable educational atmosphere. When the Dhaka Ahsania Mission authorities came to know the matter, they arranged a visit to the school for a team of Korea Wees School Project. Following the visit, an amount of Tk 10 lakh was donated to the school fund. More allocation came from other local sources. Ultimately, a six-room one storied school building was built. A resulting, a congenial education atmosphere was created at the school.

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Nominations for DAM

should have uninterrupted service of at least 3 years in Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

Selection will be made as per the following evaluation criteria and Value:

Accomplishment of nominee's own duties and responsibilities in qualitative and efficient manner, knowledge of work, accomplishment of additional work beyond job assignment, innovativeness in work, impact of nominee's work in the development of DAM, nominee's role in upholding or promotion of DAM image,

nominee's teamwork capacity, length of service, character and exemplar to others etc.

Nomination form along with all supporting papers including basic information and contributions to the Mission should be submitted to the Head of Admin & HR Division in closed envelope before 30 November 2011.

DAM President will formally announce the name of the award winner and hand over the Award on the New Year's Day (1 January, 2012).

A certificate, a crest and Tk25,000 prize money will be awarded to the winner.

Winrock Int'l chief visits trafficked survivor's beauty parlour

The Chief of Party of Winrock International, Sara Piazzano, visited the beauty parlour of a trafficked survivor named Rumi (not a real name) in Jessore on 18 September 2011. Project Coordinator Sharmen Shahria was also present. During the visit, the survivor informed her that she had worked at Cafe Mukti in the capital for about one year and saved money from her salary. After one year, she came back to Jessore and opened the beauty parlour.

Rumi told the visiting Chief of Party of Winrock International that she underwent a life skill development training as well as training on small business for her rehabilitation in society during her stay at the shelter home of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. It helped her a lot in building her confidence and successfully coping up with the situation, she said. During her one-hour stay at the beauty parlour, Sara Piazzano talked to her about her future plan. She came to know that Rumi earns, on average, Tk 10,000 per month from the parlour. Now, she leads a decent life with dignity, she said.

5 child day care centres open in Barguna

Five child day care centres have been opened in Barguna district. The centres were opened under the Early Childhood Development Support Programme-Bangladesh (ECDSP-B) Project (Innovation component) of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, funded by Aga Khan Foundation and Canadian CIDA.

The centres, three in Dhalua union and two in Kumarkhali village of Basarkhali union under Kumarkhali Ashryan Project, were opened on 11 November, 2011. The centres are: Mim Anandamela Child Day Care Centre, Potkakhali Anandamela Child Day Care Centre, Uchchhas Anandamela Child Day Care Centre, Kumarkhali Anandamela Child Day Care Centre-1 and Kumarkhali Anandamela Child Day Care Centre-2. The centres were opened to take care of the children of landless rural working mothers.

Dhirendra Debnath Shambhu, Member of Parliament (MP) elected



from Barguna-1 constituency, Sarah Begum Kabori, MP elected from Narayanganj-4 constituency, Mohammad Ali, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC-Revenue) of Barguna district, Shafiqul Islam, Director of Programme of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Md Shahidul Islam, ECDSP-B Project Manager, Mohammad Halimur Rahman, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, Material Development, officials of the project field office and officials and staff of Barguna office were present.

DAM programmes mark opening of e-service centre in Jessore

With a view to building a Digital Bangladesh, e-service centres have been opened across the country. Earlier, union information and service centres were opened for attainment of the same objective.

In Jessore district, various programmes were chalked out to mark the opening of e-service centres and anniversary of union information and service centres. Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) spontaneously participated in the programmes.

In Sadar upazila, DAM workers took part at a rally held on 14 November, 2011. State Minister for IT and Communication Architect Yasef Osman formally inaugurated the rally.

In Keshobpur upazila town, staffs of Keshobpur Area Office of DAM, CF, CAG and GMC members of CRC took part in a day-long programme marking the occasion. In Chowgachha upazila town, DAM, in collaboration with the upazila administration, organised a colourful rally. Chowgachha UNO Delwar Hossain Matabbar led the rally. The rally paraded different streets of the



Peer-to-peer workshop for survivors from YPSA, SHISHUK, ACD

A 3-day peer-to-peer workshop for the survivors from YPSA, SHISHUK and ACD was held in Rajshahi from 16 to 18 September, 2011. Four survivors from Dhaka Ahsania Mission participated in the workshop organised by ACD. Participants shared their experiences and lessons learnt on ACD's Youth Performer's Programme. Survivors also discussed their future plan. All the survivors shared their experiences and observed some of the activities of ACD's Youth Performer's programme.

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DAM helps improve

stipend, working capital against early and flood tolerant rice cultivation, vegetable cultivation in khas/ lease/fallow land and fish culture in cages were introduced. Beneficiaries learnt the technique of vegetable cultivation in floating beds of derelict water bodies during lean period. This has resulted in reduction of seasonal migration. Beneficiaries were provided with necessary working capital for doing agricultural activities. Farmers got seeds during Boro and Aman cultivation seasons. Power tiller, shallow machine, spray machine and small agricultural equipment were also supplied to them. Although, 178 beneficiaries died of old age ailments during project period, but support to their families still continued.



upazila town and terminated near the upazila auditorium. Ganokendro and CRC working committee members, Ganokendro and CRC ICT CAG members, general secretaries of Ganokendro, DAM Area Coordinator Ashok Kumar Ghosh and staffs participated.



20 small entrepreneurs undergo training on cow rearing

A four-day training course on cow rearing for small entrepreneurs was held at the training room of Narsingdi District Livestock Resources Office on 17 October, 2011.

The training was held under the aegis of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's

Micro-finance Programme, funded by FEDEC Project of Palli Karmo Sahayak Foundation (PKSF). Twenty trainees underwent training as part of first step to develop small entrepreneurship.

Programme Coordinator of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Micro-finance Programme Md Rezaul Karim presided over while it was attended by the Assistant Manager of Palli Karmo Sahayak Foundation, Md Rashedur Rahman, as Chief Guest. Narsingdi District Livestock Officer Dr Md Hasan Imam and President of Narsingdi Press Club Nibar Roy were present as special guests.

Programme Officer of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Agriculturist Md Niamul Kabir and Programme Officer (Micro Enterprise) S M Iqbal Hossain, Area Manager Md Akteruzzaman, Area Coordinator Tapan Sarker, branch managers of Narsingdi and Madhobdi Maksudur Rahman and Dulal Chandra Debnath were present. It is to be mentioned here that an amount of Tk 2,57,73,000 was distributed among 424 out of 485 small entrepreneurs of Narsingdi district. Later, rest of the small entrepreneurs will be imparted training.

USAID team visits Jessore shelter home

A two-member team of USAID consisting of Robert Patrik and Rumana Amin visited Jessore shelter home on 18 September 2011. The team members observed the entire activities of the USAID funded shelter home.

During the visit, Project Coordinator Sharmeen Shaharia gave a presentation on the activities of Action for Community Trafficking (ACT) project. This was followed by an open discussion. Patrik also interacted with the integrated survivors. Members of the Survivor Voice Group (Anirban) briefly presented their activities before the team members. The Chief of Party of Winrock International, Sara Piazano, was also present.



Consultancy workshop on social security

A consultancy workshop on social security was held at Patibila Union Parishad (UP) in Chowgachha upazila of Jessore district on 31 October, 2011. Held under the aegis of ACCESS (Health & Empowerment) Project, the workshop was presided by Patibila UP Chairman Shahidul Islam. Chowgachha Union Chairman Rafiqul Islam, Narayanpur UP Chairman Rabiul Islam, Social Welfare Directorate official Abdus Sobhan, official of Upazila Rehabilitation Office Motiar Rahman, Upazila Women Affairs Directorate official Saidur Rahman, Hakimpur Shimul CRC President Shahidul Islam, Narayanpur Protyasha CRC President Mizanur Rahman, Dhaka Ahsania Mission Area Coordinator Ashok Kumar Ghosh, Technical Officer Azizul Hakim and staff were present.

Workshops on material dev in Patharghata

Workshops on material development were held in Patharghata upazila of Barguna district during 19 October-30 October, 2011 period. Held under the aegis of Multi Task Early Childhood Development Support Programme (ECDSP-B), financed by Aga Khan Foundation and CIDA, with technical support of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, a total of 26 workshops were held with participation of guardians. Dividing into 12 clusters, 168 participants took part in the workshops.





'Sujol'- a ray of hope for perilous lives

People of 30,000 villages set to get arsenic-free clean water within a decade

Arsenic contamination of groundwater has posed as a major public health threat in Bangladesh recently. Presence of arsenic in drinking water is a new and unfamiliar problem for the entire population of Bangladesh. There are millions of people who are vulnerable to arsenic menace by drinking arsenic-contaminated water.

Estimates show that about 80 million people are at risk of arsenic-related health hazard. The phenomenon has been termed as "the largest possible mass poisoning in history."

However, there is a ray of hope for the people. A new product named, 'Sujol,' has aimed at providing millions of people in Bangladesh with arsenic-free drinking water within next 10 years. It wants to bring qualitative change in water by introducing a unique combination of water treatment technology (CapD-I) and micro entrepreneurship. Some 30,000 financially

independent micro water businesses will be established throughout the nation, operating CapD-I units that purify water by removing contaminated ions. Developed by Voltea, this technology is non-chemical, highly energy and resource efficient, easy to maintain and operate as well as affordable.

Sujol is incubated by the Ecological Management Foundation (EMF), Netherlands while Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) implements the project locally. From mid 2011, the technological concept is being tested (Phase 1), which will continue till June 2012. Subsequently, a commercial test phase of 12 months will start (Phase 2), in which the commercial viability will be tried and the model will be optimised.

Voltea B.V. is responsible for developing and delivering the CapD-I units, as they are experts in water desalination technology. Dhaka Ahsania Mission, one of the largest

NGOs in Bangladesh is the local project manager and implements the CapD-I solutions in Bangladesh. It will not be out of context to tell that Dhaka Ahsania Mission is a specialist in microfinance and has a broad water and sanitation programme. A second non-profit foundation, Akvo, provides the tools for both internal and external communication during the project period as it focuses on helping donors connect to water and sanitation projects. ProPortion Foundation identifies community and stakeholder needs, and leads the co-creation of the Sujol model.

At present, this project is being piloted in Shyamnagar, Kolaroa and Kaliganj upazilas of Satkhira district. The major activities will be done in the pilot phase including water quality test, Plant installation and testing of CapD-I in Bangladesh. Initially, 600 households are going to be benefited by the project. Satkhira is especially prone to natural disasters and its ground water is contaminated with arsenic. Scarcity of fresh water in the whole region is likely to worsen further with the rise in sea level and intrusion of saline water deep into the region due to climate change. As a result, both salinity and arsenic will put the people of Satkhira district in peril.

Sujol-the Bangladesh project is going to be a different kind of technological breakthrough in Bangladesh. It is also going to be remarkable as long as mass arsenic mitigation is concerned. The project has been launched on a small scale. But soon it will leave its mark across the country. As this technology is a unique and simple way to obtain clean, desalinated water with low energy consumption, no added chemicals and a high water recovery rate, this award-winning technology is going to contribute immensely in ensuring purified water where people's lives are in real peril!

It is to be mentioned further that Dhaka Ahsania Mission extends diversified water and sanitation services across the country. It has already gained adequate experience in organising community for ensuring cost-effective way to have access to the pure drinking water. This brand new project of DAM is an initiative dedicated to the idea of fighting against the 'pure water crisis' by providing immediate clean water access to the vulnerable people. Access to water is a human right!



DAM in frame

National Sharing Event on Reduction of Food Insecurity for Poor and Extreme Poor Households Project



Land Minister Rezaul Karim Hira MP delivering his speech as chief guest



Project officials welcoming the chief guest at the venue



Refreshment after a brief break from the opening session



A few female beneficiaries are seen during the programme



A partial view of the audience

