



Mission Barta

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Advocacy meeting with different ministries on HIV

A higher level advocacy meeting with different ministries on HIV was held at the conference room of Ministry of Education on 10 November 2013. Additional Secretary (Administration & Finance) S. M. Ghulam Farooque chaired the meeting while Education Minister Mr. Nurul Islam Nahid, MP was present as chief guest and other ministries high official and UN representatives were present.

Ministry of Education and Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) jointly organized the program while it was supported by the Save the Children International under Global Fund, RCC-phase-2 program.

Education Minister said that the role of Education Ministry is very impor-

tant and already this Ministry has included HIV issue in the text books and curriculum.

Dr. Simon Rasin, Chief of party of Save the Children, Shaikh Masudul Alam, Deputy Director HIV Program of Save the Children, Dr. Anisur

Rahman, National AIDS/STD program, A. K. M Nasirul Haq, PIACT Bangladesh and KSM Tarique fhi 360 were the other speakers in the meeting. The meeting was moderated by Iqbal Masud of Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

Program activities sharing meeting held

A program activities sharing meeting held on Saturday noon, 9 November, 2013 at AMCC's campus at Jalpara, Panchagarh. Mr. Jahangir Hossain, Program Manager, shows the background, objectives and recent program activities of Ahsania Mission Children City and a documentary named-"Alor Pothe". Honorable

Shahdat Hossain, Chairman, Hafizabad Union Parishod, Mr. Touhidul Bari Babu, Environment specialist, Ershad Hossain, Advocate, MA Proddhan, NGO person, and many other local elites, like teachers, journalist, Government and NGO's representatives presented the meeting and give their valuable speech.

Training on natural calamity held

A one-day training course on natural calamity was organized for volunteers of Sagorika Ganokendro, Ganokendra Management Committee (GMC) members and UP Standing Committee members on October 10, 2013. Trainees were imparted training on pre-disaster, during disaster and post-disaster cautionary signal.

Discussion on project profile, activities of Dhaka Ahsania Mission in Barguna district, danger, capacity, definition of disaster, its causes and kinds of disaster, disaster losses, duties and responsibilities of Union Disaster Management Committee, cautionary signal, planning for disaster, estimating disaster losses, report and climate change etc., were held.

Field Coordinator of DAM Mizanur Rahman and supervisor Abdur Rab Akand acted as facilitators.

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Fish cultivation in cages getting success in Jamalpur

Fish cultivation in floating cages in river water has made fish cultivators optimistic for getting success with extra income in Dewanganj upazila of the district.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission, a well-known NGO, said a total of 99 fishermen under the up-

azila engaged in cage fish cultivation from November last. Among the cages, 32 were set up in the Katakali river, a tributary of the Brahmaputra river, at Jhaudanga village, 27 in the Brahmaputra river at Sanandabari village, 24 in the Jamuna river at Chukaibari village and

16 cages were set up in the Brahmaputra river at Bahadurabad village under the upazila, the sources added. Project Manager of Ahsania Mission in Jamalpur M Shadiqur Rahman said they provided all logistic supports like net-made cages to the fish

cultivators for launching the cultivation and hoped that they would sustain their business from their won profit.

Abdul Halim, a beneficiary of Jhaudanga village, said they have formed two groups with 16 members in each group and set up 32 cages together to reduce cost.

“Their team members look after the fish cultivation site by turn,” he said, adding 27 women came under the groups out of 32 members.

Yakub Ali, another beneficiary of the area, said they released mono-sex Telapia fish in all cages and expected profit from it because of fish farming in the cages is more profitable.

District Fisheries Officer Ranjit Kumar Paul said fish cultivation in floating cages in river water might bring more profit for the cultivators as a huge area of river remained unused. If required they will impart them training for fish cultivation in a scientific way, he added.

Advocacy meeting with Ministry of Youth and Sports

To increase awareness and creating enabling environment and support for prevention of HIV and AIDS in Bangladesh, a higher level advocacy meeting was held with Youth and Sports on 13 November 2013 at 11.00 am to 1.30 pm.

The meeting was chaired by

honorable Secretary, Nur Muhammad. All institutional head under youth and sports ministry and other ministries high officials and UN representatives were also presented in the meeting. At the starting of the meeting the Chair Welcomed to all participants and requested for self

introduction. The meeting was moderated by Iqbal Masud, Assistant director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Dr. Md. Abdul Waheed Line Director, National AIDS/STD Program presented the current scenario of HIV and AIDS and National Response. Shaikh Masudul

Alam, Deputy Director, HIV Program of Save the Children presented GFATM Funded HIV/AIDS Program Successes and Future Opportunities. After all presentation an open discussion has taken place to all the participants and there was lively discussion.



Roundtable Discussion Meeting with Information Ministry held

The Secretary of Information Ministry Mr. Martuza Ahmed said that the Information Ministry will issue an official letter to its concern department for implementing the amended tobacco control law towards betterment of the masses. The Information Secretary expressed it in a roundtable discussion meeting on “Amended Tobacco Control Law and Our Responsibilities” held in the Ministry of Information.

The roundtable discussion meeting was jointly organized by the Information Ministry, Dhaka Ahsania Mission and EC Bangladesh on 11 December 2013 which is chaired by the Information Secretary. A

total of 65 participants from ten concern departments under the Information Ministry, tobacco activists and other tobacco



program implementation organizations were present in the meeting. Six Joint Secretaries of the Information Ministry, Director General (DG) of Bangladesh Betar, Director General of

Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB), Director General of Department of Film and Publication (DFP), Vice Chairman of Bangladesh Film Sensor Board were spoke. Mr. Aminul Ahsan, Project Manager of NTCC presented the key note paper of the meeting. Mr. Azam-E-Sadat, Deputy Secretary of MOHFW and Pro-

gram Manager of Tobacco Control Program was brief about the tobacco control program of Bangladesh under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. Md. Emdadul Haque Bhuiya, Project Coordinator of EC Bangladesh has given a presentation on “Tobacco advertising, promotion & sponsorship and its implementation challenges”. Mr. Taifur Rahman from CTFK, Khondoker Hasib from Progga were share their views in the panel discussion. The meeting was moderated by Iqbal Masud, Assistant Director of Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

In the meeting, participants were discussed about the amended tobacco control and its way of implementation especially what are the responsibilities of the Information Ministry and how they can support for the implementation of the Law. Some important recommendations have come out from the meeting to implement the amended tobacco control law. The concern departments of Information Ministry will broadcast Public Service Announcement (PSA) and fiction on tobacco control. When the rules and regulations of the amended TC Law will be approved, than the Information Ministry will take needed initiatives for executing the law through its concern departments.

Int'l Right to Information Day observed in Barguna

ACCESS-CAFOD-II Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission observed the International Right to Information Day in CRCs and MCRCs in Barguna district.

This year's theme was “Esechhe Deshe Natun Niti Tatthyo Dite Nei Bhiti Tatthyo Prapti Apnar Amar Sakoler Odhiker” (nobody should fear to provide information because access to information is everyone's right, according to new principle). Colourful rally and discussion were organised at Ganokendra, CRC and MCRC to mark the International Right to Information Day. In Shanta Ganokendra, the discussants informed that Right to Information law had been passed in July, 2009.

We shall have to know much more to get benefits from the new law.

With a view to turning Bangladesh into Digital Bangladesh, issues on health, education, local government, agri-services and right to information act had been incorporated in the national web portal.

Meanwhile, a total of 2,494 participants took part in various programmes organised to mark the International Right to Information Day. Of them, 2,264 were women and 230 men. Participants included women, children, adolescents, GMC members, teachers and students of different schools, civil society members and people's representatives.

Opinion exchange meeting at Ahsania Mission Children City

An opinion exchange meeting on dissemination of information was held at Ahsania Mission Children City at Jalapara under Hafizabad union of Panchagarh Sadar upazila on November 10, 2013.

Jahangir Hossain, Programme Manager, Ahsania Mission Children City, disseminated information on the activities of the children city, its background and objectives. He also displayed a documentary show

on 'Alor Pathey.'

The Chairman of Hafizabad union, Shahdat Hossain, environmentalist Touhidul Bari Babu, advocate Arshad Hossain Sarker, NGO chief M A Prodhan, Karimul Islam and local elite took part in the discussion. They provided their valuable opinion and suggestion.

Besides, Fazlul Karim of Muslim Charity from Dhaka, and Farhad Hossain of Lido, ex-



pressed their valuable opinion. Participants pledged to play their due role at Ahsania Mis-

sion Children City at Jalapara, according to their right.



Workshop to resist human trafficking in Satkhira

Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Plan Bangladesh are jointly implementing a programme through the Missing Child Alert (MCA) project. Under the project, a workshop was held at Satkhira Sadar upazila auditorium on November 23, 2013. Representatives of non-government organisations, Ganokendra members, shelter home/ transit home inmates, government officials and media activists were present.

Abdus Sabur Biswas, executive director of Agragati Sangstha (Satkhira) presided over the workshop. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC-General) of Satkhira Laskar Tajul Islam was present as chief guest.

Satkhira Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Asaduzzaman, Satkhira district women affairs officer Taramoi Mukherjee, upazila social welfare officer of Kalaroa, Satkhira, Adhir Kumar Gain, Kaliganj upazila youth development officer Sanjib Kumar Das and D.net and DAM representatives were present.

Abdus Sabur Biswas delivered the welcome address. He stressed on collective efforts to resist trafficking of women and children. This was followed by an introductory session before starting the main programme of the workshop.

Advocate Ferdousi Akhter, project coordinator of the MCA project highlighted the objectives of the workshop and progress of the project. She mentioned that various government and non-government organizations as well as social organizations are working for a long time to resist trafficking of women and children. However, she mentioned about lack of coordination in this respect.

D.net representative tried to highlight the means to trace missing children through MCA system and effective communications among three countries (Bangladesh, India and Nepal).

While addressing as special guest, Kaliganj upazila youth development officer Sanjeeb kumar Das said victims aged 18 years or above can get training from the youth development department and other cooperation.

Field Day observed in Jamalpur

Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been implementing the Transfer of Agri-Technology Project in six unions of Dewanganj upazila, a riverine flood-prone locality in Jamalpur district, inhabited by poor population. Funded by the European Union, the project aims at alleviating poverty of poor people. Concern Bangladesh is in overall supervision of the project while HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation is providing necessary technical cooperation.

A Field Day was held in Dewanganj upazila on November 19, 2013 through handing over the improved agriculture tech-

Upazila Fisheries Officer Md Sekander Ali, field assistant, Union Parishad member Md Nahijol Haque, Area Coordinator Nitai Chandra Roy, CMO Mostaque Ahmed, FF and local civil society members were present.

While addressing, Dewanganj upazila fisheries officer said, "Nowadays there is dearth of fish in rivers, ponds and water bodies. He also thanked Dhaka Ahsania Mission for implementing the project. Later, he observed fish cultivation in floating cages and provided valuable suggestion. On the other hand high standard brinjal seeds



nology and highlighting importance of fish culture in floating cages, technique and its trade profitability.

Among others, Dewanganj Upazila Fisheries Officer A S M Sarwar Russel, Assistant

were distributed among the 1505 beneficiaries. In this connection brinjal farmer solaiman said, 'I have cultivated brinjal at the 15% of my total land. I have benefited much than I expected.'

Right-based workshop held at Chowgachha



A right-based approach workshop was held recently with the service-oriented organisations in Chowgachha upazila

of Jessore district. ACCESS (Health & Empowerment) project of DAM extended whole-hearted support in holding the workshop. Alhaj Nazrul Islam Mantu presided over while the workshop was attended by Chowgachha UNO Susama Sultana. Sheikh Khalil al Rashid, social service official, Sakina Khatun, women affairs officer and Arab Ali, youth development officer, Chowgachha, were present as special guests. Among others, Chowgachha Union Parishad chairman Rafiqul Islam and representatives of Narayanpur and Hakimpur UPs, Shimul CRC president Sahidul Islam,

Narayanpur Protysa CRC president Mizanur Rahman Dudu, Kabita Ganokendra president BM Azimuddin, presidents and general secretaries of different Ganokendra (people's centres), beneficiaries, DAM area coordinator Ashok Kumar Ghose, technical officer Azizul Hakim and other officials and staff were present. Speakers, specially the officials of Social Service, Women Affairs and Youth Development elaborated about the services rendered by their departments concerned and assured their cooperation so that ultra-poor people can avail of the existing facilities.

Orientation course on Right to Information Act at Maheshpur

An introductory orientation course on Right to Information Act was held at Maheshpur regional office of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) in Jhenidah district on December 23, 2013. Maheshpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Nasima Khatun was present there as a resource person. She discussed about the Right to Information Act, 2009, as per Bangladesh Gazette. The area coordinator

of DAM, Quamruzzaman, discussed about close relationship of the Dhaka Ahsania Mission (Access & Empowerment) project programmes and Right to Information Act. DAM branch manager Abdul Alim presided over while chief executive of RDC, a human rights organisation, and journalist Abdur Rahman participated in an analytical discussion on Right to Information Act.



Technical officers Tapan Kumar and Rabiul Islam supervised the orientation course. Officials of government and non-government organisations and journalists took part.

Workshop on RTI Act at Narsingdi

ACCESS (Health & Empowerment) project of DAM organised a workshop relating to Right To Information (RTI) Act at the meeting room of Basail office of DAM in

Narsingdi on December 7, 2013. Area coordinator of DAM Narsingdi Tapan Kumar Sarker presided over while Narsingdi district information officer San-



jeeda Amin was present as a resource person. Narsingdi Sadar Upazila Parishad vice-chairman Sakhwat Hossain Saka was present as chief guest. Narsingdi district women affairs officer Umme Mahmuda Khanam was present as special guest. Narsingdi district information officer Sanjeeda Amin discussed in detail about the RTI Act. She said all have a right to information on various subjects by applying to the respective office at fixed time. She called upon all to receive necessary services from government and non-government organisations after having a clear concept on the Act.

Officials working at different offices of Upazila Parishad, executive heads of various non-government organisations working in Narsingdi, journalists, schoolteachers, representatives of CRC, Ganokendra and unions were also present.

Experience-sharing workshop held in Satkhira

DAM area coordinator Rafiqul Islam along with the members of Jessore and Sharsha child protection group (CPG)/ youth media group (YMG), arrived at Boikery Union Parishad in Satkhira Sadar upazila to participate in an experience-sharing workshop on November 24, 2013.



CPG and YMG members of various unions of Satkhira Sadar, Kaliganj and Kalaroa upazilas were present. Participants consisted of students, housewives, teachers, farmers,

club-NGO workers and UP members.

Harun-or-Rashid, area coordinator of MCA project of Satkhira district, and coordinators of various unions were present.

A total of 67 participants took part. Of them, 38 came from Jessore district and 29 came from Satkhira district.

Golam Sarwar, panel chairman of Boikery UP, presided over. At the outset of their experience-sharing, CPG and YMG members delivered introductory speeches and narrated their aims of life. Many of them said they want to see a drug-free country. Others said they want to see a society free from human trafficking. Many children said they want to work for a bright future.

Many expressed an intention to work for physically challenged children while others said they would work for making shelter

for children and elderly people. Earlier, Ferdousi Akter, project coordinator of MCA project made all concerned aware about the objective of the experience-sharing workshop.

As many as 200 CPGs and 20 YMGs were formed to implement various social awareness programmes. Activities include online birth registration, resisting child marriage and human trafficking, identifying human traffickers and handing over to police. Every participant discussed about ways to emulate the good practices. Participants also discussed ways to overcome the obstacles being faced during practice.

Participants were divided into four groups: (1) child labour, (2) resisting human trafficking, (3) resisting child marriage (4) stopping violence against children. The workshop formulated a recommendation and placed before all participants.

World Aids Day observed in Barguna

World AIDS Day was observed in Barguna district in a befitting manner on December 01, 2013.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Plan Bangladesh, BRAC, Save the Children, Marry Stopes, TIB and Jagoroni jointly observed the Day at Ganokendra (people's centre), CRC and MCRC levels in collaboration with ACCESS-CAFOD-II project of DAM.

The Day was observed with an objective of making people aware about HIV/AIDS and finding out ways to prevent the

disease. This year's theme was "Getting to Zero: Zero New HIV Infections Zero Discrimination and Zero AIDS Related Deaths."

Programmes included rally and discussion on significance of World AIDS Day.

A total of 2,597 people took part. Of them, 2,314 were women and 283 men. Participants comprised children, women, juveniles, GMC members, representatives of various educational institutions, civil society members and people's representatives.



Human Rights Day observed in Narsingdi

The Human Rights Day was observed in Narsingdi in a befitting manner on December 10, 2013.

To mark the occasion, ACCESS (Health & Empowerment) project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission brought out a rally from DAM Narsingdi Basail office. This was followed by a discussion at the meeting room of DAM. The discussion was presided over by the area coordinator of DAM, Tapan Kumar Sarker. BRAC district

representative Probol Kumar Saha was present as a resource person. VDS executive director Md Shajahan Mia graced the occasion as chief guest. Dilip Kumar Das, district coordinator of ODPAP was present as special guest.

Representatives of various non-government organisations working in Narsingdi district, journalists, schoolteachers, representatives of CRC and Ganokendra were present on the occasion.



Survivors' Rights & their Protection

Who are survivors?

The person who sustains in face of disaster, devastation or loss, he/she is called a survivor. A survivor may face disaster, violence, devastation or loss domestically, socially, culturally, politically or economically. The nature of violation of his/her rights in disaster, loss, torture or devastation needs to be identified. To live and sustain as a human being, to get back his/her previous status that he/she used to enjoy before disaster, torture, devastation or loss, his/her rights should be returned to him/her.

Who will be responsible for protection of survivors' rights?

It is the responsibility of all-state, society and family-to protect the rights of survivors. Within the framework of state and through organisations at all levels there exists policy guidelines, certain rules and regulations to protect the rights of survivors.

There are certain laws and policy guidelines to resist torture on women, children or neglected class of people in society. Similarly, there are certain laws and rules to give back their violated rights, security, social status to ensure their healthy living. There are rules and policy guidelines to resist any type of natural disaster or social indiscipline. Different social organisations, volunteers, socially conscious persons and various non-government organisations relentlessly work for protecting survivors' rights. At family level, parents or family members always remain active to protect survivors' rights.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission's activities in protecting survivors' rights:

Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been engaged in multifarious activities in slums, char (shoals) & river erosion-affected areas, hill region, haor and coastal areas to protect rights of survivors in four sectors such as education, health, life and livelihood and human rights and social justice. In work plans adopted in various programmes of the four sectors, DAM extends all-out assistance to survivors for their education, healthcare, treatment, shelter, food, building economic capacity, life-skill development and improvement of lifestyle giving priority on survivors' rights.

There are ward-based women, adolescent and children's groups to resist discrimination and torture on women, adolescents and children. The groups also assist elderly people in getting government-non-government services. Awareness creating discussions, sessions of jarigan are held, books, leaflets and posters are printed and distributed and dramas are staged for the purpose. Dhaka Ahsania Mission has a



disaster management unit. In DAM working areas, specially in disaster-prone areas, the unit sends information on disaster forecast at national and international level. Alongside, DAM conducts orientation or training courses on tasks to be done during disaster and post-disaster period for its workers in community and government and non-government organisations. DAM also distributes, food, clothes, safe water, medicine and winter clothes in disaster-affected areas. In some cases, local people are involved and in other cases, Dhaka Ahsania Mission conducts the activities in collaboration with some organisations. The organisations are Ganokendro, CRC, Vocational Training Institute, AMIC and Shelter Home etc.

The organisation like Ganokendra/CRC is meant for the people, run by the people and participated by the people. Government, non-government and various social organisations conduct programmes on human rights, empowerment of women and neglected class of people, improvement of standard of living and rights awareness programmes in Ganokendra/CRC. Alongside, skill development training and assistance in getting access to government and non-government services on education/ health/ treatment facilities are being provided to underprivileged people. Credit assistance, information and social protection-related services are also rendered through these organisations. There are community-based groups at village, ward and union levels who resist torture and violence and works for social protection. The groups are CAG, CPG, women's group, adolescent group and youth media group. These groups regularly organise meetings, enquire about well-beings of neighbours and if situation arises take help of local elite, Union Parishad (UP) chairman or member to organise arbitration meeting as well as for legal protection. Youth media groups create mass awareness by staging drama and singing songs. Trainings on pre-disaster,

post-disaster and disaster period activities are organised for poor and neglected people living in disaster-prone areas so that they can successfully combat disasters.

Vocational Training Institute (VTI): Poor, underprivileged and semi-literate people, woman and child victims of torture, trafficking and illegal migration are given trainings on hardware and software, tailoring, boutique, handy work, house-keeping and mobile-servicing at the VTI. These trainings help raise their capacity and capability. Alongside they emerge as entrepreneurs.

AMIC programme of Dhaka Ahsania Mission: There are three treatment and rehabilitation centres for drug users at Gazipur, Jessore and Comilla. In these centres, the drug users regain their self-confidence and return to their families and society after treatment. During short-term and long-term treatment they are given counseling, sports and games facilities and skill development training.

Shelter Home: Besides shelter, counseling, healthcare facilities educational opportunities, recreational facilities, skill development and leadership trainings are given to woman and child victims of trafficking, domestic torture and violence at Vekutia Shelter Home in Jessore, established by DAM. Various national and international NGOs such as World Vision and Rights Jessore refer rescued trafficked victims to the DAM shelter home. They do so following signing of memorandum of understanding with DAM. Trafficked victims regain their self-confidence and go back to their families and mainstreamed in society after taking services at the DAM shelter home.

Ahsania Mission Children City: With a view to rehabilitating deprived tortured and underprivileged children of society, Ahsania Mission Children City has been established at Jalapara village under Hafizabad union of Panchagarh district. Children aged 6-8 years who have been orphaned and do not get shelter at relatives houses or parents are alive but they remain missing, get shelter at the children city. Here the children are given socio-economic security and social protection. They also get opportunities of education, healthcare service and technical training so that they can grow up as skilled manpower.

Collective efforts of all are needed so that the survivors do not always face torture, loss, disaster or devastation and can ultimately bring back to the mainstream of family, society and state with full dignity.



DAM IN FRAME

Different Rihts based activities of DAM



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