DAM provides medical services to Rohingyas

Around 435,000 Rohingyas have fled to Bangladesh since the latest military crackdown began in Myanmar’s Rakhine state on August 25, with 80% of them being women and children and they are suffering from various health problems. Many necessary initiatives have been taken by Bangladesh Government. Dhaka Ahsania Mission is also providing medical services to Rohingyas alongside the government.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission started a health camp in Jamtola Camp, Ukhiya with the support of Christian AID Bangladesh. Three doctors and two paramedics are providing the health services from 10 am to 3 pm every day. More than 250 Rohingyas are receiving healthcare services from the health camp every day. Doctors are also providing necessary medicine along with the other health facilities.

The Health Sector and Disaster Management Unit of Dhaka Ahsania Mission are jointly conducting the health camp and it will continue till 10 October 2017.
The Children Learning Centre (CLC) under Second Chance Education (SCE) project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been commenced in Dhaka North City Corporation and 3 Upazilas of Kishoreganj District from 6 September and total 666 centres will be in full swing gradually.

Government of Bangladesh through DPE under PEDP-III, MoPME is the funding source of this project with the three major partners in this project BRAC, Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and Save the Children in Bangladesh (SCiB). Total 1 lakh children from 37 Upazilas/Thanas of 6 Districts will be covered throughout this pilot project between July 2017 and June 2018. For DAM’s part, 20,000 never enrolled or dropout children of 8-14 age groups from marginalized and excluded community will be covered in this project. Aim of the SCE project is to create second chance and to complete primary education for the children who are out of school and never enrolled or dropout for any reasons through Multi Grade Teaching Learning (MGTL) with 5 Steps Principle model of DAM.

As part of the commencement, Dr. Khawja Shamsul Huda, Director Programs; Mr. Md. Shahidul Islam, Team Leader of Education Sector; Mr. Md. Modasser Hossain, Project Manager of SCE; Mr. Zakaria Rahman, Sr. Manager of Technical Compliance & Capacity Building, SCiB; Mr. Rahul Barua, Sr. Manager of MEAL, SCiB and other senior staffs of SCE project were present in the opening ceremony of CLCs in different project locations of Dhaka North City Corporation. Local elites, parents, teachers and students from different localities were also present in the event.
5-day long sub-regional workshop on "Capacity Building in Designing Community Based Integrated Early Childhood Care and Development Program" held

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) in collaboration with Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO, UNESCO Dhaka, UNICEF and Bangladesh ECD Network (BEN) organised a sub-regional workshop titled ‘Capacity Building in Designing Community Based Integrated Early Childhood Care and Development Program’.
Safe raising of underprivileged children

M. Jahangir Hossain, Programme Manager, Ahsania Mission Children City

The National Children Policy 2011 of Bangladesh mandated, "the Social Safety Net has to be expanded to ensure the rehabilitation of all poor children and street children", acknowledging the presence of street children in an underprivileged category of its own, and thus recognising their special needs. To support the initiatives of the governmental bodies, the non-government and not-for-profit sectors have been actively working towards addressing the crisis of the underprivileged children. The latter have engaged themselves in securing basic human rights, physical, mental and moral development, education, basic refuge and empowerment for these children.

The capital and most metro cities of the country, in particular the slums, public parks, pavements, bus terminals, railway station and ferry terminals, are thronged with informal settlements of homeless people, who have embraced those available spaces as their own. A huge proportion of this population is made up of street children. These children and their fates have been resigned to the mercy of the laws of the street and a very unusual upbringing that involves deprivation of all basic rights, violence and abuse. It has turned into a national epidemic and the numbers of these neglected children keep increasing with more than a staggering 13 lakhs currently, as obtained from various survey reports.

The life of the street children entail unhygienic, deplorable conditions that violate all form of human rights and hence, in pursuit of providing a safe refuge, rehabilitation and empowerment in the long-term, based on the President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Kazi Rafiqul Alam’s vision, adopting the philosophy of Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah (R.) and keeping in line with his ideology, the Ahsania Mission Children City was established in 2011. Staying true to the belief that the best way to serve god is to serve humanity, the first children city for the underprivileged children started its construction in the Jalpara village of the Sadar Thana, Hafizabad Union in the Panchagarh district. Currently, 270 underprivileged children reside at this campus. Kindernothilfe, a charity organisation from Germany, have financially contributed in establishing the children city and various others from all across the country have donated to ensure smooth operation of the institution.

Ahsania Mission Children City admits children between 6-8 years old and through coordinated care, caters for their socioeconomic protection; literacy and vocational training for their financial and emotional empowerment; nutrition, safe lodging, clothing, medical observation, securing up until secondary form of formal education and scholarship opportunities, to providing important life skills to become a resourceful part of the community by adopting the right attitude towards life, develop morally conscientious values, a positive transformation, and life coaching to become a responsible citizen in their professions on a national stage. The idea is to reintegrate these children back into the mainstream society after proper rehabilitation.

Ahsania Mission Children City relentlessly works towards making that dream a reality one day.

Besides all that, freedom is observed for the practice of all religions; there is provision for indoor and outdoor playing; singing, dancing, performing and recitation classes; arts and home economics; sports and social work training; book club; higher studies; edutainment; healthy competitions; physical fitness classes; counselling services; legal services; work placement opportunities. The children are left in the charge of capable hands including on-campus workers, teachers, sports and music instructors, and providing counselling care are clinical psychologists and overseeing the regular exercise sessions are paramedics and professional medical officers.

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Safe raising of underprivileged children
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The children in the city are trained to perform agricultural work and look after farm animals. Once the children come of age, they will be enrolled into various vocational training programmes that would equip them with the real-life knowledge and expertise to convert into financial independence. Every year, the children city celebrates national and international days, education fairs, annual picnic, and sports and cultural events. Weekly competitions are also held to encourage them in maths, home-economics, recitation, dancing, singing, performance, debate, public speaking, storytelling, creative writing and through their activities in indoor games, display their brilliance and creativity. In 2016, six students from the children city appeared for Primary Education Completion Examination and all of them successfully passed. Out of the six, two of them received scholarship.

A talent hunt is also conducted to identify and uncover those extraordinary capabilities hidden in children in a particular field. Every person is born with a talent in their most pristine state and it is possible for that ability to resurface, provided the right environment is created in which it can thrive. The children in this city is provided leadership skills training and life coaching regularly. Every month on the 29th, children’s day is celebrated at this institution. For that one day, all the children take over the responsibility of managing and running the campus. The children are represented in every committee of this institution through a democratically selected child representative. To better practise democracy, a child counsellor in charge of the seven sections are elected directly through voting. The seven sections are: environment, sports and culture, plantation of trees and gardening, water conservation, health, books and stationary, reception and hospitality counselling.

The honourable Prime Minister had long since declared the freedom of street children from their maladies. The children city plans on playing a key role in supporting the Prime Minister’s goal in this aspect. The objective is to take in 100 children every year to accommodate 1,000 children in ten children cities and 10,000 children altogether in capacity. In turn, the concept of this children city will be replicated and adopted by every zila in the country through the efforts of governmental and non-governmental organisations to reach underprivileged children everywhere, to ensure no child is seen occupying the streets anymore. The children will be raised with the expectation, through the state of the art care facilities and training that they can take on any role nationally or internationally through the embodiment of their abilities. In parallel, to build a Bangladesh without street children, the children city will work in harmony with other organisations invested in similar efforts to advocate creating governmental policy in favour of street children. In pursuit, Dhaka Ahsania Mission has joined the ‘Street Children Activist Network’ with the intent to produce a social protection body for street children, prevent them from becoming a burden on society and instead, become an asset to the nation with significant contribution in the socioeconomic prospects of the country.
Successful Entrepreneur Rabeya Begum

Rabeya Begum (38) is a woman who lives Parbortipur village, Bagarpara, Jessore in a small straw house. Her husband Mr. Abdul Jalil works as a Rickshaw-puller. They have 10 decimal lands which they used for farming. It was very hard to afford living cost with their an early age. Their younger son worked as salesman in shop and earned daily Tk 100 to BTk 150. Due to his work load, he used to go to school irregularly.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission started its project with ELTE group on Women’s Empowerment Activity from the last of 2015 in that area. Rabeya became the member of the ELTE group of Eidgahpara and received training. She learned primary knowledge and came to know awareness issue for the training. She learned how to increase family income through doing small business in the house. She wanted to rear goats and asked permission from her husband. Her husband agreed to extend his cooperation to the new initiative. To expand her capacity and skill, she also received 3 days training on goat farming which was facilitated by DAM Women Empowerment Activity (WEA) project.

After completion of the training in 2016, she brought two goats with the cost of Tk 4000 and started farming following modern techniques which she learned from the training. After a few months, two goats gave birth to more three babies. Gradually, the number of goats rose to 7 in 2017. Now the monetary value of her 7 goats is nearly Tk 18000. "I am really happy and thankful to DAM for giving me opportunity to receive training" said Rabeya.

Now many neighbors come and visit her farm and want to know the secret behind her success. Rabeya now dreams of expanding her farm and income. Now she wants her son to receive higher education.
DAM concerned over persecution of Rohingyas

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) expresses grave concern over the recent exodus of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people from Myanmar into Bangladesh due to atrocious activities carried out against them by the Myanmar’s security forces.

DAM strongly condemns the persecution of Rohingya people and called on the United Nations, International Human Rights Organizations and the governments of other countries to support Bangladesh government.

DAM also urges the international communities to take necessary steps to end the genocide against innocent people, particularly the Muslim community in Myanmar.

DFED organizes Health Camp on ENT and Diabetes

A health camp was held on 26 September in Nowshingdi Monohardi with the financial support of the Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation, organized by DAM Foundation for Economic Development (DFED), an institution of Dhaka Ahsania Mission on Ears, Nose and Throat and dermatology.

A day-long camp was held at Narandi Sharafat Ali Government Primary School of Shukundi Union of Monohardi Upazila of Narsingdi. The health camp was organized due to the increased prevalence of nose, ear, throat and diabetes in the Shukundi Union. In view of local needs in the health camp, medical examination of diabetes was provided with the treatment of nose, ear and throat diseases. A team comprising of expert doctors in the camp examined the health of 308 patients.

The Health Camp was inaugurated by Family Planning Officer of Health Complex of Monohardi Upazila Nizam Uddin Sukundi. Union Parishad Chairman Sadekur Rahman Shamim, DAM Foundation for Economic Development (DFED) microfinance Program Area Manager Dulal Chandra Debnath were present among others.

DAM Education Programmes Celebrate International Literacy Day 2017

Education projects of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) celebrated the day in a befitting manner on Friday, 8 September 2017 at various places of the country including Dhaka on the basis of theme of the day in Bangladesh “Achieve Literacy, Build Digital World” jointly collaborated with BNFE, District and Upazila Administrations, Govt. Officials, College, High Schools, Primary Schools, SMC Members, Teachers, Learners, NGO Representatives and journalists.

As a part of the celebration, in Dhaka, the day has been observed at Paris Road, Mirpur jointly collaborated with various projects of DAM namely EduEmp, UCLC, UNIQUE-II and Second Chance Education (SCE) in Mirpur and Mohammadpur working areas.
Pictures from the field

AMCC children celebrate Eid-ul-Adha

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and Government Laboratory High School, Dhaka, jointly organized an awareness program on tobacco control and anti-drug on 19.09.2017. A total of 270 students of class IX & X and teachers were present in the event.

Ahsania Mission drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation center Gazipur and district drug anti-drug forum Gazipur jointly organized an anti-narcotics seminar in Gazipur titled "Say no to drugs, build up social movement against drugs"

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