

Dhaka Ahsania Mission
Program Division
[Dhaka Regional Strategy Document:](#)

On the occasion of DAM annual conference 2012 initiatives has been taken to document regional diversities, challenges, opportunities, priorities, DAM strengths and how to address those challenges and priorities. Each regional team made a presentation in DAC 2012 and got comments and feedback. Based on the presentation and feedback the respective regional team later prepared, developed and shared the regional strategic document for comments. The following is the strategic document for Dhaka region.

The purpose of the document:

1. to utilize it as guiding document for program planning, to address DAM Dhaka regional diversities, challenges and priorities;
2. to promote regional cooperation, collaboration and integration process for replication and scale up of good practices;
3. a presentation of the strengths and position of DAM as a development actor in the region.

Regional socio-economic diversity and challenges:

Rapid Urbanization:

Dhaka is the capital city of an independent densely populated country of Bangladesh growing fast. Five years back the population was below 10 million but now it is 15 million. National population growth rate at present is 1.6 but population growth in Dhaka city is 4.5 (source: DCC website). Unemployment, river erosion, floods tornado and land less ness of millions of people in every year making the Dhaka City over crowded.

Floating and Street Population & Children:

The city does not experience well planned growth of basic civic facilities rather it is most unplanned and haphazard. Due to huge migration of labor force from rural areas due to the city for employment opportunities slums, floating and street population are increasing day by day. A large number of people, children, adolescent are working and forced to live in the city in open air on the street as floating community. They have to spent their night in the street, open space, park, railway platform , footpath and in different 'illegal' places.

Child labor:

Many families cannot survive by the income of one member as a result engage children in income earning activities to supplement their family income instead of sending to schools. A survey says that at present 6 million children are engages in child labor.

Worst forms of child labor:

Dhaka city accommodated 94 % of the total worst forms of child laborers. (1 . 3 millions ,ILO). Engaging children in any hazardous work is the violation of the human rights. Protecting children from abuse or harassment is both national and international obligation which have been categorically mentioned in ILO convention on Worst forms of Child Labor (WFCL)1989 .It has been mentioned in that convention that in no any circumstances children will be allowed to work in hazardous work in nature or circumstances. But now a days many thousands children from the poor disadvantaged families or homeless families in the city are forced to engage in hazardous work. The child laborer working in the different work places particularly those working in hazardous conditions receive very minimum wages and have to work in cost cases for longer period. These working children are therefore, deprived of the

basic facilities and their rights. The children are abused, physical and mentally tortured which is a serious threat to their development and growth.

Environmental pollution:

Clog up the ditches and canals in and around Dhaka city and adjoining areas and filling with earth and garbage of the rivers and canals in around Dhaka city becoming more threats for the people specially for City dwellers of Dhaka, Gazipur and Narayanganj. Blocking the outlets of the City creates water logging and occurrence of monsoon floods are becoming growing natural hazards day by day endangering poor dwellers daily life.

Cost of living:

Dhaka region encompasses the high urban and semi urban population and the two city corporations and other emerging cities as corporation under this region also belonging in this region. High social and economic stratification are main feature of this region. High economic vulnerable population and the most vulnerable population in terms of financial and social status are living in this region who are striving for their survival.

Huge unemployed population, vulnerability of the slum dwellers not only the scenario Slum dwellers have to fight for shelter and food, other basic civic facilities such as electricity, gas, sewerage, dish antenna. Peoples are busy with economic life and benefit and they have little time for social engagement and work. cost of message dissemination and motivation also much higher than rural context.

Opportunities in the region:

Huge rich section of population, corporate sectors, businessman, industrial growth, financial institutions for lending working capitals and the GO-NGO and public private partnership are the potentials side to be considered. Slum dwellers have to fight for shelter and food but some civic facilities such as electricity, gas, sewerage, dish antenna facilities are in the reach to the urban poor. They are in easily of reach of messages if to communicate.

Small and Medium Enterprise opportunities are available in this region. For employment and better livelihood development and growth of SME can play vital role for the regional population specially those are striving for survival in the very high competitive urban and semi urban periphery.

Regional focus:

- Address the high risk vulnerable children of the poor families to protect their survival, protection, development and participation rights.
- Reaching the poor un-reached children, unemployed youths both girls and boys their families to increase livelihood opportunities and options;
- Policy advocacy for mainstreaming of the good practices through GO-NGO collaboration;

DAM program interventions, achievements, challenges and lessons;

Dhaka Ahsania Mission believes that the child labor issue is a dilemma for Bangladesh. DAM as a leading development organization has undertaken different initiative to address the problem with different categories of children in the line of our national commitment on education, elimination of child labor and eradicate extreme poverty.

DAM implemented projects for prevention and elimination of the worst forms of child labor in the Dhaka city area. Basic non-formal primary education and life skill training were provided to the child laborer and out of school children through different 85 Multipurpose Centers

(MPC). Approximately 35,000 children were provided non formal primary education through 5 years duration project and 60% of the graduated children were mainstream govt. and non govt. primary schools.

Approximately, 4,300 children and either fully or partially withdrawn from labor and offered non formal primary education for achieving competency on basic literacy, numeracy and life skills. Half of them were pushed to mainstream schools for further education in higher grades and 20% of the graduated older children have been selected for skill training based on their eligibility, interest and employability.

With support from DCC 1724 children have been provided with different six month and one year training courses in DAM run Vocational Training Centers. Out of them 1379 children have been received profitable decent job which helped increase their family income.

Health and hygiene promotion education through, "Wash in School" project were implemented in Dhaka city by DAM in Mirpur area.

Drop In Centers (DIC) operated by Dhaka Ahsania Mission accommodates 150 Street Children who are most vulnerable to meet their daily needs like, shelter, food, treatment, education. Awareness of the parents are created as an important stake of the greater community. Our engagement and awareness raising activities has led to life changing opportunities, safe working practices and shelter, engagement of whole community leading to fewer children living to streets, less child labor, more basic schooling, better health safety and hygiene. It works and we are learning all the time.

We intend to increase outreach work with families communities and local government institutions to bring a long lasting sustainable in the living conditions of the street and hazardous working children of Dhaka and other densely populated cities where children are mostly disadvantaged and invulnerable conditions.

To clarify DAM's position to work with working and street children a strategic plan document has recently been developed and finalized.

DAM has been working to promote people's right and access to information and basic services for the disadvantages population to empower men and women.

To increase the retention rate, ensure competency based education, promote good governance in primary education ensure children's participation in school improvement activities and for community engagement in school a model QPE project is being implemented for quality primary education.

Issues and problems of the Street and working children in Bangladesh is very complex and deep rooted. It has very strong link with the existing social, economic and political perspectives. To address the complex nature of the problem for a long term solution, interventions to provide services to the stakeholders in need may not be enough to sustain. Finding the root causes, identify the policy gaps and creating synergy among the factors responsible could help to develop more appropriate programmatic interventions to address the problems of the SWC. Advocacy on the issues could be another important strategy in this regard. Advocacy could play an important role to review, change and formulate policies to facilitate creating an enabling environment for the SWC to live in a better world.

DAM's priorities and focused to address:

Vulnerability of street/working children and their families:

Street and working children is a phenomenon of the poverty and rapid urbanization. They are the worst sufferers and it impedes their nourishment, growth, survival and development as a potential citizen of the country. Exploitation begins at the family through internal conflict,

parental quarrels, broken family, insecure family employment and insufficient income. Harassment at the work place by the employer, police at the street or other public at any place create a resistant mental situation and SWC become desperate not to care anything. They are surviving unsafe at home and outside causing finding out a different survival strategy which may not be legal all the time pushing them to commit unsocial activities.

The family, community, state and other duty bearers are lacking positive attitude and sometime too harsh to consider the needs and demands of the SWC. The consultation process with groups of SWC highlighted the above scenario. The condition and position of the girls SWC are even worst in the existing gender differentiated society. The girls are abused at home (mentally/sexually), by peers, employers at workplace and law enforcers at street. Often the girls (in some cases boys too) are trafficked in the name of false hope/lucrative employment opportunities. There may be thousands of children missing for whom no tracking and tracing initiatives of these major victims are the children working and staying on the street.

The state policy compliance to address the issues and problems of the SWC could bring significant changes if along with this civil society remains vigilant and advocate for more accountability of duty bearers.

The present strategy paper of DAM reflects the needs by priority of the SWC which has been expressed in a number of consultations with various stakeholders groups. Child labor issue specially in Dhaka city becoming growing concern due to frequent slum eviction, rural - urban migration. The following needs DAM will try to adhere while implementing any interventions focusing the SWC issues and problems.

Vision:

High risk's Street and Working Children and their families, in Dhaka region both in urban and rural areas, are supported through community engagement for sustainable improved living standard.

Beneficiaries:

The direct beneficiaries are the un-reached out of school, school dropped out, street working children and their families.

Major stakeholders:

The community people at large, employers, LGIs, public and private service giving agencies/institutions.

Expected changes:

- Reaching the 100% un-reached, drop out and street working children for education, vocational training, health education, job placements in DAM working pockets during the plan period.
- Awareness on child labor prevention, withdrawal from hazardous work add value in ongoing projects from 2012 across the region.
- DAM continues to joins national networks and campaigns child labor reduction and elimination of hazardous child labor.
- Ensure community engagements and participation by replication of Ganokendra and Community Resource Center (CRC) model in urban context (UCLC) and in rural Micro Finance Program (MFP) and in UNIQUE-II within 2012.
- Promote Multi-grade Teaching Learning (MTL) approach through other projects such as UCLC, DIC in the region

- DAM good practices of remedial package measures (learning camps) for the slow learner's, experiences of DIC and quality primary education through good governance are shared with major stake holders and public policy planners in 2012 and 2013.
- Disaster, Gender, Climate Changes issues are considered as a cross cut which need to be addressed through integration and incorporation in the ongoing and any future projects.
- Peoples access to services are ensured through linkages with the public and private providers.

Advocacy:

DAM will give emphasis to following important aspects to develop it advocacy strategy to address the SWC diversified needs and issues.

1. Prevention and Protection issues of the SWC
2. Strengthening social accountability to create an enabling environment for the SWC

In the whole process of advocacy work, strong lobby and alliance should be developed with all forms of media, civil society organizations, coalitions; network bodies specialized with children issues and as others to be appropriate. DAM as member of various network and groups of the children will also be willing and play pro-active role to participate in the advocacy campaign and representation. Community groups will also be consulted and make involve within the process.

The proposed strategic plan period:

2012 to 2015 for 4 years

Divisions/institutions/sectors to extend support and cooperation:

DAM Human Resource division can contribute and making a data bank and analysis of the potential corporate and business organizations.

Training divisions can play an important role to motivate people to inviting them for reduce the vulnerability and may be employment creation. Make readiness the regional staff through training and orientation to address the diversified need of the region.

DAM research division can offer authentic information by doing action research.

Implementation strategy:

- Community mobilization and sensitization campaign will be launched for community contributions, ownership building, continuation and replication of the good practices of the people's empowerment activities;
- Regional and national advocacy campaigns will be launched by documenting and sharing the good practices.
- Reaching the un-reached working street children and their families for education, health, vocational training, employment and livelihood supports;
- Strengthening the capacity of CBOs, SMCs, Employers Association, Ward Commissioners and LGIs for extending supports and services.

- Communicating the results of the project, grass roots experiences and lessons to the local and national authorities and provide technical assistance and ideas to the concerned ministries/departments for poor friendly policy formulation.
- To document the good practices of the development interventions with SWCs, their families and communities and take initiative to replicate those through other ongoing projects in the region.

Planning, organization and management structure:

An annual regional work plan to materialize the regional strategic priorities will be developed and established on participatory process for joint collaboration, advocacy and add value in the ongoing projects. Respective potential ongoing and any future projects/program of DAM in the region will plan and implement such good practices to scale up of the work. Internal coordination and cooperation will be ensured through regional, district and upazilla meetings and seminars. The district wise coordination of Dhaka, Gazipur, Narshingdee shall be promoted to strengthen regional cooperation. Appropriate representation has to be ensured in the district level government meetings, forums and other places and issues. In this regard the district focal person in consultation with RFP will decide nominations.

Follow-up, review, monitoring and feedback:

The plans, progress, challenges will be shared in the overall monthly program coordination meeting. The regional meeting will be organized on quarterly basis to review and keep track of the planned activities.

Other priorities need to be addressed as follows:

- Primary and secondary education for the un-reached and out of school children
- ECD
- Housing
- Documentation
- Regional coordination
- Private public partnership
- Policy advocacy (national and local)
- Secondary education
- Mainstreaming follow up



Dhaka Ahsania Mission

3rd Version

Dhaka Region

Theme Paper: Child Protection

What do we mean by Child Protection?

This Child Protection Policy is DAM statement of intent that demonstrates our commitment to safeguarding children from harm and makes clear to all in the organization and who come into contact with us what is required in relation to the protection of children, and that child abuse in any form is unacceptable to organization.

We aim to create 'child safe' environments, both internally and externally, where children are respected, protected, empowered and active in their own protection, and where Staff are skilled, confident, competent and well supported in meeting their protection responsibilities. We are committed to actively safeguarding children from harm and ensuring children's rights to protection are fully realized. We take seriously our responsibility to promote child safe practices and protect children from harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation in any form. In addition, we will take positive action to prevent child abusers from becoming involved with the organization in any way and take stringent measures against any DAM staff and/or associate who abuses a child. Our decisions and actions in response to child protection concerns will be guided by the principle in the light of DAM Child Protection Policy.

Country context of the Theme:

Bangladesh is one of the first countries that ratified the convention of child rights immediate after opening for signature on 26 January 1990. The Convention stipulates, among other things, that every child has their right to life, and that states shall ensure the maximum child survival and development; that every child has the right to a name and nationality from birth; and that when courts, welfare institutions or administrative authorities deal with children, the child's best interests shall be a primary consideration. Furthermore, States shall ensure that each child enjoys full rights without discrimination or distinction of any kind, and shall ensure that children should not be separated from their parents, unless by competent authorities for their well-being. In addition, States shall facilitate reunification of families by permitting travel into, or out of, their territories; and States shall protect children from physical or mental harm and neglect, including sexual abuse or exploitation. Also according to the Convention, disabled children shall have the right to special treatment, education and care; primary education shall be free and compulsory and discipline in school

should respect the child's dignity; capital punishment or life imprisonment shall not be imposed for crimes committed before the age of 18; no child under 15 should take any part in hostilities and children exposed to armed conflict shall receive special protection; and children of minority and indigenous populations shall freely enjoy their own cultures, religions and languages. The UN definition of a child is limited to 18 years old. Ratification and importance to this in real life situation in Bangladesh where about 35% of total population are children need special attention being the fact of issues on child labor, abuse, violence, trafficking and so many other rights of children. Dhaka Ahsania Mission founded in 1958 has been working to address the issues of disadvantaged and deprived people including children through many projects and programs. DAM has set out policy for common values, principles and beliefs to meet our organizational commitment to protect children and work for their rights and entitlements. Some clauses of DAM explicitly states that the organization will initiate and implement projects with special emphasis.

Context of Dhaka Region:

Dhaka is the capital city of an independent densely populated country of Bangladesh growing fast. Five years back the population was below 10 million but now it is more 15 million. National population growth rate at present is 1.3 but population growth in Dhaka city is 4.5 (source: DCC website). Unemployment, river erosion, floods tornado and landlessness of millions of people in every year making the Dhaka City over crowded.

The city does not experience well planned growth of basic civic facilities rather it is most unplanned and haphazard. Due to huge migration of labor force from rural areas due to the city for employment opportunities slums, floating and street population are increasing day by day. A large number of people, children, and adolescent are working and forced to live in the city in open air on the street as floating community. They have to spend their night in the street, open space, park, railway platform, and footpath and in different 'illegal' places.

Many families cannot survive by the income of one member as a result engage children in income earning activities to supplement their family income instead of sending to schools. A survey says that at present 6 million children are engages in child labor.

Dhaka city accommodated 94 % of the total worst forms of child laborers. (1.3 millions, ILO). Engaging children in any hazardous work is the violation of the human rights. Protecting children from abuse or harassment is both national and international obligation which have been categorically mentioned in ILO convention on Worst forms of Child Labor (WFCL)1989 .It has been mentioned in that convention that in no any circumstances children will be allowed to work in hazardous work in nature or circumstances. But now a days many thousands children from the poor disadvantaged families or homeless families in the city are forced to engage in hazardous work. The child laborer working in the different work places particularly those working in hazardous conditions receive very minimum wages and have to work in cost cases for longer period. These working children are therefore, deprived of the basic facilities and their rights. The children are abused, physical and mentally tortured which is a serious threat to their development and growth.

The above critical and challenging circumstances of the region seriously affecting the life specially the Dhaka city dweller. Vulnerability of street working children; unemployment; school dropout both in Primary and secondary level, health and hygiene situation, social vandalism and other social degradation.

In the diverse socio economic context of Dhaka Region in the Child Protection issue has its huge challenges to address on the other hand the opportunities to mobilize the local resources both individuals and institutional can be mobilized. Some issues are so challenging then greater networking and advocacy issues are also equally important to address the issue.

Theme and implementation strategy briefing:

Under the policy obligation of the organization Dhaka Region will facilitate the following scope and opportunities for the children.

- Rehabilitation facilities and living services
- Life skill education and support services
- Skill development and vocational training for self development
- Organizational and management support
- Job placement and linkage program with employer's business and entrepreneur
- Provide micro finance package support for self reliant program.

Focus programmatic area where the children are in the risk of violation of rights and abuse.

- Child Protection issues (protection from abuse, sexual exploitation, physical and mental harassment-----)
- Targeting street and hazardous working children , their families, neighborhood, relevant institutions , communities, employers and policy makers
- Child labor issues
- Education, recreation, life skills, creation of hopes, vocational skills, capacity building and employment.
- Building family and community safety net
- Mainstreaming children where possible
- Marketable vocational training to the older children
- Linkage and coordination with other support giving agencies
- Counseling
- Reaching families and encouraging income generating activities to increase family income.

Internal capacity building and project capacity building for implementation of CP

Projects of Dhaka region would undertake child protection issues in program planning, designing in new projects, when communicating with children and orientation on CP policy of DAM and rights issue of the children will be oriented.

For initial phase the direct service recipient will come under child birth registration which has been considered as a major reason for violation of child rights, particularly sexual abuse and early marriage.

Operational strategy and scope (present interventions, linkage with current Dhaka Region Strategy)

Address the high risk vulnerable children of the poor families to protect their survival, protection, development and participation rights.

Reaching the poor un-reached children, unemployed youths both girls and boys their families to increase livelihood opportunities and options;

Policy advocacy for mainstreaming of the good practices through GO-NGO collaboration;

DAM CP policy implementation (synergic issues)

DAM envisions a world where justice, respects, dignity prevail for all. For that, the policy sets out how to work to achieve this in practice and protecting children both from intentional and unintentional harm and behavior.

- DAM has a duty of care and a duty to act solely in the interests of the organization and its beneficiary's thus regional operational and implementation plan will follow the rule of law of Bangladesh for any legal aspect in respect of children issues.
- Abuse of any child by employees of members of the organization constitute misconduct is subject to disciplinary measure as per norms of the organization.
- Create and maintain an environment that prevents exploitation and abuse, and promotes child rights.
- Treating children with respect and dignity
- Plan and organize the work and the work place so as to minimize risks.
- As far as possible, be visible in working with children.
- Implement child interest events line, Child education day, child rights week, child labor day, etc.
- Ensure that a culture of openness exists to enable any issues or concerns to be raised and discussed on children issues.
- Ensure that a sense of accountability exists between staff so that poor practice or potentially abusive behavior does not go unchallenged.
- Talk to children about their contact with staff or others and encourage them to raise any concern.
- Take all practical steps to develop procedures and protecting child practices as a continuous process of DAM.
- Ensure DAM supported projects routinely report on the status of child protection activities.

Networking and linkages (with other similar initiative)

Child protection issues a challenging when total 96% child labor is in hazardous situation in only Dhaka City. Then individual and unilateral initiatives would not be sufficient to address the issues. Where and when applicable net working with employer (child labor), net working with the like minded organization, to create a social consensus on child friendly society, and create and facilitate forum on child rights to be undertaken and support will be provided.

Organization declaration (ED responsibility to follow up CP implementation)

- All partners will abide by the code of conduct
- Induction will include briefing on child protection issues

- Every work place will display contact details for reporting possible child abuse.
- Ensure child consultation and participation in program implementation as appropriate.
- Implement project for the children and by the children where and when it is possible.
- Systems will be establish by every member/ partners to investigate possible abuse once reported and to deal with it
- Training, learning opportunities and support will be provided as appropriate to ensure commitments are met.

Under the policy decision of DAM, Executive committee of DAM have the overall responsibility to ensure this policy and guidelines and will evaluate regularly for its effectiveness and make amendment if necessary. He is also responsible to implement and use of policy guideline as appropriate to program and management of the organization.

Resource Pool (To conduct orientation on Child Protection):

1. Mr. Md. Saiful Islam, Regional Focal Person
2. Mr. Md. Abdur Rouf, District Focal Person, Dhaka
3. Ms. Ferdousi Akhtar, PC, MCA
4. Mr. Md. Asadullah, RM, UNIQUE-II, Dhaka
5. Mr. Tapan Kumar Sarker, AC, ACCESS H&E, Narshingdi
6. Ms. Nilufa Aktar, Field Trainer, QPE- Sreepur

Reference Documents:

1. DAM Child Protection Policy
2. National Child Policy
3. Sectoral Strategy Papers'
4. Dhaka Regional Strategy Document
5. UN CRC
6. ILO Convention 182.



Dhaka Ahsania Mission
WORK PLAN on Child Protection Theme

Dhaka Region

Area	Events	location	Time line										Support required	Responsible	
			Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec			
A. Macro and Micro level	Child protection policy orientation	Project, Upazila and District and Regional meetings												PC, PM and RF and CF are aware on the issue	Central and Regional Focal person
B. Macro level	Linkage & Networking with likeminded organization within the region	Upazila and District level												PC & PM	District & Upazilla Focal
	Community sensitization on Abuse & Exploitation	ECD Center, Primary & High School												C and R Focal person	PC & PM
C.	Children birth	all union and												PC and	PC, PM and

Micro level	registration	upazila of Dhaka Region											PMs have been taken initiatives	C R Focal person
	Developed girl and young women Forum	Unions under Dhaka regional working area											PC and PMs taken initiatives	PC, PM