



Dhaka  
Ahsania  
Mission



# e-Newsletter

## HEALTH & WASH SECTOR

Issue 25: April - June 2023



## Demand immediate passage of draft tobacco control law

On the occasion of World Tobacco Free Day on May 30, 2023, Dhaka Ahsania Mission organized a discussion on the topic 'Grow food, not tobacco'. Among many others, National Tobacco Control Cell, Additional Secretary Hossain Ali Khondkar, SDF's Chairman and former Senior Secretary Abdus Samad, CTFK-Bangladesh Lead Policy Advisor Md. Mostafizur Rahman, President of Bangladesh Cancer Society Professor Dr. Golam Mohiuddin Faruque, National Professional Officer of the World Health Organization Syed Mahfuzul Haque were present at the program. The program was presided over by The President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Kazi Rafiqul Alam. Director of Health and Wash Sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Iqbal Masud gave the welcome speech on the occasion.

## Young people petition to raise tobacco tax and amend the law

Students participating in the youth campaign organized by Ahsania Mission Youth for Health and Well-Being said that there is no alternative to amend the Tobacco Act and increase the tobacco tax at a higher rate in the next budget to protect the young society from the clutches of tobacco. They said this at the anti-tobacco youth campaign program organized at Dhaka University's Sergeant Zahurul Haque Hall Auditorium on Sunday afternoon, May 14, 2023. At this time, the organization organized mass signatures in favour of a tobacco tax increase. More than 300 Dhaka University students signed it.

## Letter to 350 MPs to increase tax-price on tobacco products in the budget

Kazi Rafiqul Alam, President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) has written to 350 members of Parliament for the formulation and implementation of the tobacco duty policy through the imposition of specific taxes on all tobacco products including cigarettes in the 2023-24 financial budget. In the letter, he mentions that raising taxes through international means on tobacco products is an effective method to discourage tobacco use. However, the current tobacco taxation system in Bangladesh is not effective in reducing tobacco consumption. Kazi Rafiqul Alam proposes three measures in his letter for the budget of the fiscal year 2022-23 to increase tobacco tax and prices.

## Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology campus declared e-cigarette free

The students of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology have expressed their urgent demand for the amended comprehensive tobacco control law. At this time, the Vice-Chancellor of the university, Professor Dr. Mohammad Fazli Ilahi, declares the university campus tobacco-free, including all forms of tobacco and e-cigarettes. On Monday (12 June 2023), during the afternoon, students reported demands for

an anti-tobacco campaign on the university campus organized by Ahsania Mission Youth Forum for Health and Wellbeing. At this time, students participate in a campaign involving various festivals to protect the youth, advocating for the prohibition of e-cigarettes, cessation of tobacco-related exhibits, and banning the sale of loose cigarettes and biri-cigarettes.

## Proposed tobacco tax threatens young society



On the occasion of the reaction program held by Ahsania Mission Youth for Health and Wellbeing on June 3rd, in response to the announced national budget, the youth stated that currently, 75 per cent of the cigarette market consists of low-income and youth groups who are the primary consumers and suffer from poverty. At this time, Dhaka Ahsania Mission Youth for Health and Wellbeing presents three budget proposals.

## Agreement signed between Dhaka Ahsania Mission and UNODC



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Dhaka Ahsania Mission signed an Agreement on the 26th of April 2023 to implement a project titled "Enhancing the Capacity of the Civil Society to Prevent Drug Abuse among the Youth" with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The project will be implemented in 5 schools in the Ukhiya district of Cox's Bazar. The project will work on creating awareness about substance use in youth. It will also work on capacity building of the teachers on substance use and the development of family skills.



## Distribution of Red Cards with the Aim of Providing Free Healthcare Services Among the Poor and ultra-Poor Communities.



On April 13th, as part of the Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project - Phase II, managed by Dhaka Ahsania Mission, a revisit and re-evaluation of the project were conducted. In the pursuit of providing a comprehensive range of healthcare services to the urban poor and extremely poor communities through the project, a distribution of red cards was carried out. In the conference hall of Cumilla City Corporation, a total of 704 new individuals were provided with red cards with the aim of delivering free healthcare services of all kinds. Present as the chief guest at the event was the honourable Mayor of Cumilla City Corporation, Mr. Arfanul Haque Rifat. Dr. Safiqul Islam (Deputy Secretary), Chief Executive Officer of Cumilla City Corporation, presided over the event. In addition to this, councilors from all the wards were also present.

## On the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Hazrat Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah (R.) an Iftar party is being held



Organized by the Urban Primary Health Care Service Delivery Project (DNCC PA-3) managed by the Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector, an Iftar gathering and a discussion meeting on the life and work of the founder of the mission, Hazrat Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah (R.), was held on April 5 at the Matrisadan in Mirpur.

## A 3-day comprehensive training program was conducted for the skill development of the employees of the Urban Primary Health Care Services

Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-Phase 2, DSCC, PA-3 organized three training sessions on "Infection Prevention, ICT (Online Reporting System) and Skill Development Training on BCC Activity" for skill development of staff from June 20th to June 22nd.

## A health camp and discussion session were organized at Rajshahi under the Urban Primary Health Care Services

Over the past three months, the Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project, in collaboration with Rajshahi City Corporation, has been providing free healthcare services to underprivileged patients at the city's health centers and satellite areas. Under the supervision of PHCC-1, a blood group examination was conducted for a total of 47 students of Kashiadanga School.



Kashiadanga School. Under PHCC-2, services are provided to a total of 21 mothers for antenatal care, and nutritional checkups are conducted for 12 children to ensure their growth and well-being in the Tultuli area. Additionally, a Family Planning Camp and discussion session were organized at the City Matri Sadan Center on May 24th.

In Rajshahi City Corporation, under the real-life Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project, 2nd phase, separate meetings are also organized for pregnant mothers in the five urban health centers and one city maternal care center.

### **Evening Clinic operated at Rajshahi Under the Urban Primary Health Care Services**

Under the Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project, PA-1 of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, in collaboration with Rajshahi City Corporation, an Evening Clinic is operated from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM for male and female workers at Urban Health Center-5 in Chota Bongram on May 10, 2023. The clinic provides services to a total of 43 clients, among whom 7 are Red Card holders, 27 are females, 4 are males, and 12 are children.

### **A discussion session was held on the occasion of the 9th anniversary of the establishment of the Female Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center**



An awareness session was organized on April 12th in celebration of the 9th anniversary of Ahsania Mission Female Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center.

### **A campaign against tobacco use was organized at the 71 Hall in Dhaka University**

A campaign was conducted at 71 Hall in Dhaka University on May 24th to raise awareness and promote mental health among students. The campaign was organized by Ahsania Mission Female Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center with the goal of creating consciousness about mental health improvement among students. The campaign elaborated on various aspects such as the harmful effects of tobacco use, excessive mobile phone usage, addiction to pornography, and fascination with social media platforms like Facebook. Young students take

### **A recovery reunion fair was organized with the initiative of the recoveries**

An initiative by 22 recoveries who are leading healthy lives after treatment at the Ahsania Mission Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, Gazipur, led a recovery reunion fair. The event included activities such as an iftar party, a photography session, and special food arrangements for Sehri. Before the iftar session, a prayer was offered for the late Khan Bahadur Ahsanullah (R.) by the center's khateeb. Additionally, prayers were made for all the recoveries and staff members.

### **Family meetings were conducted at various drug treatment and rehabilitation centers of Ahsania Mission**

On May 27th, the initiative of Ahsania Mission Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, Jessore, organized a family meeting on "Family Education on Parenting Style". The event was attended by a total of 35 members from 20 families. At this time, discussions were conducted with clear explanations about the role of the



family during the treatment period and later in relation to parenting style. Similarly, on May 19th, a family meeting on the topic "Role of Family During Treatment" was organized at the Gazipur center. In the mentioned meeting, a total of 53 members from 20 families were present. Additionally, on May 27th, as a part of continuous activities, a family meeting was organized at Ahsania Hena Ahmed Mono Jatno Kendra. In the mentioned family meeting, 17 members from 9 families were present. Furthermore, on May 20th, Ahsania Mission Female Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center also organized a family meeting on "Parenting Techniques".



### The mission conducts health service camps as part of its initiatives



On June 19th, a satellite health service camp was organized in the morning at Hena Ahmed Hospital for Laskarpur Hossainia Qasimul Uloom Alim Madrasa located in Laskarpur. In the mentioned camp, free medical services were provided by residential medical officers to 22 children and female guardians. Additionally, blood group tests were conducted for 174 students. Additionally, on May 19th, with the initiative of Ahsania Mission Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation center, Gazipur a "Free Medical Camp" was organized at the Ahsania Mission Model Pharmacy.

### Gender-based Violence Awareness Session with Khulna District Police



Within the framework of the "Prioritizing HIV Prevention and Treatment Services for Key Populations in Bangladesh" project, a Gender-based Violence Awareness Session was conducted on June 22 in the conference room of Khulna District Police Super Office by Dhaka Ahsania Mission. The session aimed to raise awareness about gender-based violence among the members of the law enforcement agencies in the district, adhering to the legal principles and duties.

### Meeting on Facilitating Government Services for Female Sex Workers

Under the project "Prioritizing HIV Prevention and Treatment Services for Key Populations in Bangladesh," a coordination meeting was held at the conference room of the Rajshahi District Social Services Office on the morning of June 14. The meeting aimed to facilitate access to government services for female sex workers, and it was attended by representatives from the Rajshahi District Social Services Office, the Department of Women's Affairs, and the Civil Surgeon's Office, along with members of the government departments providing services to female sex workers.



The stakeholders provide crucial advice on how sex workers can easily access services from various government departments. They emphasize the importance of offering guidance on how sex workers can avail services smoothly and efficiently from different government offices. They also ensure all forms of support from their respective departments to ensure comprehensive assistance for female sex workers in their service delivery.

### A meeting to exchange opinions and raise awareness of HIV/AIDS was organized

Under the management of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, a well-organized and effective advocacy program on HIV/AIDS was conducted with financial support from the Global Fund and in collaboration with UNAIDS and IOM. The program aimed to maintain the smooth and successful operation of activities related to raising awareness and reducing risks associated with HIV/AIDS. The program involved administrative officials, health-care workers, service providers, legal professionals, notable individuals from various sectors,

religious figures, and civil society leaders from Faridpur, Pabna, Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Barisal, and Patuakhali districts. The program focused on productive discussions, information exchange, and creating awareness to ensure the program's sustainability and effectiveness. All attendees at the event were encouraged to support the transgender community in their own respective capacities.

### **Dhaka Ahsania Mission Organizes Various Activities during World Road Safety Week**

Dhaka Ahsania Mission organized various programs to observe the 7th United Nations Global Road Safety Week 2023. Through the theme 'Rethink Mobility,' the mission's health sector highlighted different activities to promote road safety awareness. As part of this, on Tuesday (May 16th), a human chain was organized at 10 AM in the Mirpur Mazar Road area. In the human chain, Dhaka Ahsania Mission highlighted various demands, including determining the maximum speed of motor vehicles on roads, ensuring mandatory use of helmets, and providing suitable seating arrangements for children in transportation, alongside promoting making roads pedestrian-friendly. Along with Dhaka Ahsania Mission, representatives of the National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh, BRAC, Dhaka International University and the Urban Primary Services Delivery Project run by Dhaka Ahsania Mission joined in expressing solidarity with this initiative. In addition, on Saturday (May 20), at 11:00 AM, a human chain was organized with CNG drivers in the Mohammadpur area of the capital, demanding safe roads including determining the maximum speed of vehicles on the road. The CNG drivers' notable demands on the human chain included making roads pedestrian-friendly, not parking vehicles anywhere, pedestrians not crossing the road irregularly, not using mobile phones while crossing the road, and following traffic instructions. Dhaka Ahsania Mission, along with various organizations working on roads, and the Dhaka Uddyan CNG Drivers Association joined the human chain to express unity through this alliance.

### **To ensure safe roads, everyone must work together**

Shirin Ahmed, Member of Parliament from Reserved Seat-1, emphasized the need for everyone to work together to ensure safe roads. On Monday, June 12th, she met with a delegation from Dhaka Ahsania Mission representing the Road Safety project in the health sector. During the meeting, she was briefed on road safety issues. She praised the work of the Road Safety project and expressed her support for it. Furthermore, on Tuesday, June 6th, Manoranjan Shil Gopal, Member of Parliament from Dinajpur-1, met with representatives of the Road Safety project. During the meeting, Sharmin Rahman, the project coordinator, briefed him on the current road accident situation in the country and the activities of the Dhaka Ahsania Mission related to road safety. He agreed with the discussion and stated that he would raise his speech on road safety in the parliamentary session.

### **Youth play an important role in creating safe roads according to the Minister of Youth and Sports.**



A delegation from Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Health Sector met with the Honorable Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, Mr. Mohammad Jaheed Ahmed Rasel MP, on Thursday, June 15, 2023. The delegation included members of the Ahsania Mission Youth Forum for Health and Wellbeing Team, Road Safety Team, and Tobacco Control Team. The Minister emphasized the crucial role of young people in promoting road safety, stating that their efforts can significantly reduce road accidents. He assured the Road Safety Team of his full support in their endeavors to ensure safe roads.



## Dhaka Ahsania Mission representative participates in Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative in Mumbai



Sharmeen Rahman, Project Coordinator of the Road Safety Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Health Sector, participated in the Bloomberg Philanthropies Initiative for Global Road Safety Asia. She participated in the Asia Regional Meeting held at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel in Mumbai, India on April 5 and 6, 2023. She presented information about the activities of the Road Safety Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Health Sector, the current situation of road accidents in the country, and safe road activities. Eight members of Road Safety Coalition Bangladesh member organizations participated in the workshop. In addition to Bangladesh, road safety stakeholders from China, India, Malaysia, and Vietnam participated in the workshop.

## Nutrition Coordination Committee Meeting and Interactive Community Nutrition Game-Show to Raise Public Awareness

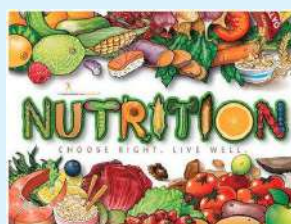


On May 18, as part of the Feed the Future Bangladesh Nutrition Activity Project, a meeting of the District Nutrition Coordination Committee was held in the conference room of the Barguna District Administrator's Office. During the past three months, a total of 24 interactive community nutrition game shows were organized in 24 growth centers across 9 upazilas in Patuakhali and Barguna districts. The main themes of the game shows were nutrition, women's empowerment, and safe water and sanitation.

## Celebrating Days on Different Topics in Different Areas of the Health Sector

### "Strong nutrition foundation for smart Bangladesh for sure"

Feed the Future Bangladesh Nutrition Activity, Dhaka Ahsania Mission celebrated the 7-day National Nutrition Week-2023 in 24 growth centers in 9 Upazilla of Patuakhali and Barguna districts from June 7 to 13, 2023, with the theme "Strong nutrition foundation, smart Bangladesh for sure". Discussion meetings, rallies, and courtyard meetings were held in the project area on the occasion. Thirty pregnant women, lactating mothers, and adolescents attended each courtyard meeting.



### The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is observed

On June 26, 2023, a rally and discussion meeting were held at the Ahsania Mission Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, Gazi-pur under the Health and Wash Sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking-2023. The theme of the day was, "People first: stop stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention." The clients, along with the center's officials and employees, participated in the event.



## Human Chain, Rally, and Memorandum Presented in 30 Districts on World No Tobacco Day

On the occasion of World No Tobacco Day, Dhaka Ahsania Mission organized human chains and rallies in 30 districts under the theme of 'Grow Food, Not Tobacco'. At the time, speakers



demanding that the proposed draft law be passed quickly and implemented in order to achieve the target of making the country tobacco-free by 2040, as announced by the Prime Minister, and to amend the Smoking and Tobacco Products Use (Control) Act 2005 (amended in 2013). Later, a memorandum demanding the quick passage of the tobacco control law amendment was submitted to the district magistrate.

## World Health Day celebrated in Cumilla



World Health Day was celebrated in Cumilla on April 7, 2023, with a rally and discussion meeting under the theme of "Health for all". The event was organized by the Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-Phase II, COCC, PA-1, Cumilla in collaboration with the district health department, district civil surgeon, and government and non-government organizations. The rally paraded the main streets of the district town and the discussion meeting discussed the importance and significance of World Health Day.

## Safe Motherhood Day celebrations are held with various activities initiated by different projects



Safe Motherhood Day is celebrated every year on May 28 to ensure maternal and child health, reduce maternal mortality rates, and ensure the health of newborns. As part of this, various activities have been organized on the occasion of the day by the Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector. On the occasion of the day, primary health care was provided in 24 wards of the city through one urban maternity home and six urban health centers under the Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-Second Phase, under (UPHCSSDP-2nd Phase), Partnership Area-3, celebrated Safe Motherhood Day. On the occasion of International Safe Motherhood Day, a discussion meeting on the importance of institutional delivery and a free medical service camp were held in Islambagh. These events were organized by the Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-2 (UPHCSDP-2) under the supervision of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. The camp provided free healthcare services to promote safe motherhood and improve maternal and child health.

During the day's activities, discussions were held to emphasize the significance of safe delivery practices and the importance of institutional deliveries. The event also featured rallies and discussions organized by Dhaka Ahsania Mission, UPHCSDP-2, with support from Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) and PA-03. The meeting was attended by various stakeholders, including pregnant women, postpartum mothers, and adolescent boys, and girls. Ward Councilor Razia Sultana from reserved wards 9, 10, and 11 also participated as the chief guest, highlighting the importance of safe motherhood during the discussions.



## Activities of the WASH Sector

### The auspicious inauguration of the installation of arsenic and iron-free water technology in Benapole

On April 6, 2023, the inauguration ceremony of the AIIRP (Arsenic and Iron-free Water Technology) installation work was held in the Benapole municipality area within the Jessore district. During the inaugural event, the chief guest, along with other dignitaries and local residents, expressed special gratitude to Dhaka Ahsania Mission for their collaboration in extending support for the safe drinking water solution project.

### World Menstrual Hygiene Day celebrated in Benapole through various awareness-raising activities

In collaboration with Benapole Municipality and Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health and Wash Sector, various awareness-building programs were conducted at Benapole Habibur Rahman Biswas High School to celebrate "World Menstrual Health Management Day-2023" on May 28. The central theme for this year's event was to highlight making the Menstrual cycle a normal occurrence by the year 2030. During the event, female students, teachers, and beneficiaries of the shelter program for women at the school participated in a colourful rally, awareness sessions, a quiz competition, and an award distribution ceremony.



### A quarterly meeting and workshop on the topic of safeguarding were held

A quarterly meeting was held to review the progress of work on safeguarding in the health and wash sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. The meeting was held online on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, and discussed progress, monitoring checklists at various stages, reporting, and future plans. At the end of the meeting, an orientation was given on the Dhaka Ahsania Mission's PSA policy. The meeting was attended by safeguarding focal and co-focal from various projects and institutions in the health sector.

Editor:  
Iqbal Masud

Editorial Team:  
Md. Shahedul Haque  
Md. Shariful Islam  
Mst. Akhi Khatun

Computer Graphics:  
Baiged Hossin

[www.dam-health.org](http://www.dam-health.org)  
[www.amic.org.bd](http://www.amic.org.bd)  
Phone: +88-02-58151114  
E-mail: [dam.healths@gmail.com](mailto:dam.healths@gmail.com)