



**Dhaka  
Ahsania  
Mission**



# e-Newsletter

## HEALTH SECTOR

Issue: 17, April - June 2021



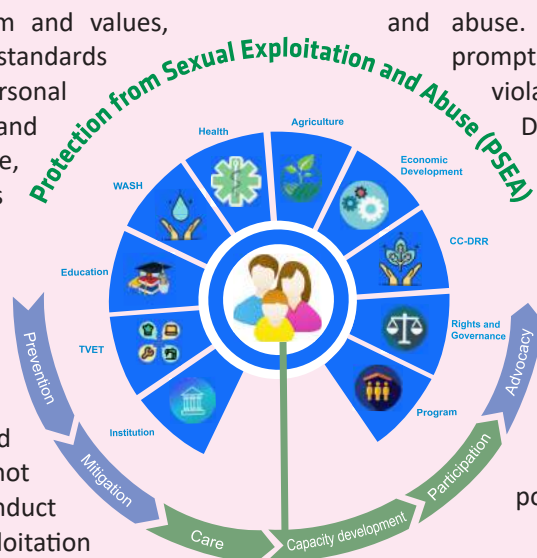
## COVID-19 Vaccination

Vaccination is an important factor in preventing COVID-19. Adhering to hygiene rules, maintaining mutual distance, and using appropriate quality masks, the Health Sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been operating three COVID-19 vaccination centers since February 7, 2021. From these vaccination centers set up at Nagar Matrisadana Mirpur, Hazaribagh and Cumilla. Skilled vaccinators are providing vaccinations to the registered people in an orderly manner with utmost sincerity. In order to maintain the quality of the vaccine, the sensitive work of keeping the vaccine at the right temperature and administering the vaccine in the right way is also being properly managed and monitored by the organization. In addition, the Department of Health and the local City Corporation have been working tirelessly to ensure the supply of vaccines. Vaccine recipients are also expressing satisfaction at being able to receive services from the centers in a beautiful environment with sincerity. Total 21,361 people have received first dose and 19,043 second dose vaccines from the centers. Vaccination centers will continue until further notice by the government.



## Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy development

In fulfilling its founding aim and values, DAM upholds highest standards of professional and personal conduct with rights, dignity and equality irrespective of race, cast, political and religious views. DAM has developed PSEA policy in June 2021 for ensuring safety and protection of all members, staffs, consultants, volunteers, partners and program participants involved with DAM. So that they are not exposed to any threat or conduct of harassment, sexual exploitation



and abuse. DAM is committed to responding promptly and appropriately to any PSEA violations. Moreover, through this policy DAM is committed to ensure human dignity, rights and protect values of the organization. Partners will also take responsibilities for ensuring proper implementation of PSEA policies.

The policy is largely guided by the UN conventions on the rights, national laws and DAM's other relevant policies including Gender Policy, Anti-Harassment policy, Whistle-Blowing policy and Code of Conduct (CoC).

### Ambulance Handred Over to Prisons

Dhaka Ahsania Mission had provided three ambulances to the three prisons of the country (Dhaka Central prison, Feni and Kishoreganj District prisons) on 26 June 2021 as part of the Covid-19 response. During the handing over of the ambulance, Inspector General of Prisons Brigadier General



Md. Mominur Rahman Mamun, Additional Inspector General of Prisons Col. Md. Abrar Hossain, Director of Health and Wash Sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Iqbal Masud, Project Coordinator, Md. Amir Hossain and other officials were present. The initiative is being implemented with the technical assistance of GIZ on behalf of the German government as part of the activities undertaken during the Pandemic.

### "DAM Health" Tele-Medicine Service

In Bangladesh, providing in-person health care is becoming challenging, particularly given the existing financial constraints and enduring pandemic situation, a limited number of specialist doctors, resources, and remote locations. The main objective of DAM telemedicine application is to provide cost-effective health services with little effort, especially for rural patients, as they need

not travel long distances for obtaining consultation and treatment. This application has two ended subscriptions: the service provider end and the service receiver end. This telemedicine service offers mainly mental health care services, nutrition services, and general health services. It also provides some added services like- admission service, community-based telemedicine services, and counseling on substance use and HIV/STD-related issues with the assurance of patients' privacy and confidentiality as per the regulations of BMDC.



**Fruits Festival:** Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam visited the 'Fruit Festival' held on June 7 at the head office of Dhaka Ahsania Mission in Dhanmondi. General Secretary of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Khalilur Rahman was present at the time. Executive Director, M Ehsanur Rahman, Director (Health and Wash Sector) Iqbal Masud and others were also present. This 'Fruits Festival' was organized by Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector. All staffs of Health Sector attend the festival and brought variety of fruits.





Mr. Iqbal Masud, Director of Health and WASH Sector, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, joined as a speaker among other Asian development leaders in a virtual conference organized by the Federation of Therapeutic Communities in Asia (FTCA), entitled as 'Getting to Know One Another' on Monday, June 7, 2021 and highlighted the mission and vision of Dhaka Ahsania Mission.



## Drug Demand Reduction and Treatment

### Monojotno Kendro has signed a MoU with AUST for Mental Health Service

On June 22, 2021, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology with the "Monojotno Kendro" a Center for Mental and Drug Addiction Services run by the Health Sector, Dhaka Ahsania Mission. In the presence of Honorable Vice-Chancellor of the University, Prof. Muhammad Fazle Elahi, the agreement was signed in the meeting room of the university by Treasurer Professor Mustafizur Rahman on behalf of Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology and Iqbal Masud, Director, Health and Wash Sector, Dhaka Ahsania Mission on behalf of "Monojotno Kendro". According to the



agreement, the "Monojotno Kendro" will provide mental health services to the students studying in the university as per their need. Registrar of the University Dr. Sharmin Reza Chowdhury, Professor and Head of the Department of Civil Engineering were also present at the signing ceremony.

### Provision of grant from Ministry of Home Affairs to Dhaka Ahsania Mission for drug addiction treatment

On June 21, 2021, Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan MP distributed cheques of grants among the private drug rehabilitation centers organized by the Department of Narcotics Control at the Secretariat. Mr. Iqbal Masud, Director, Health and Wash Sector, received the grant on behalf of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. The government has taken up the task of providing

grants to improve the medical system by increasing



the capacity of private drug addiction treatment and rehabilitation centers. Secretary of the Security Department Mr. Md. Mokabber Hossain was present as the special guest and Director General of the Narcotics Control Department Mr. Mohammad Ahsanul Jabbar presided over the event.

### Drug treatment and rehabilitation centers

Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been conducting anti-drug activities since 1990 with experience in anti-drug activities at home and abroad and successfully running four Drug treatment and rehabilitation centers. Drug treatment and rehabilitation centers are established at Gajipur, Jashore and Munshiganj for men and at Dhaka for female. The female center is a unique center located at the heart of Dhaka city at Shyamoli with all modern facilities for



the patients. The relatively new center named 'Ahsania Hena Ahmed Monojotnokendro' has been established in its own building at Munshiganj. The center is run by professional, trained, specialist psychiatrists, medical psychologists and internationally recognized experienced counselors on drug addiction. Mission has been awarded multiple times at the national level for quality treatment of drug addicts. Currently 158 numbers of clients are receiving the quality services from the centers where the number of male is 135 and female is 23.

### **'Madok ke Joy/Conquer drugs' on SA TV**

Ahsania Mission Drug Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Center organized a special talk show '**Madok ke Joy/Conquer drugs**' for SA TV on the occasion of 'International Day



against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking-2021' on June 26. Iqbal Masud, Director of Health and Wash Sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission was the moderator in the program. Dr. SM Shahidul Islam, PPM Director (Superintendent of Police) and Oasis Drug Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, Bangladesh Police and Rakhi Ganguly, Senior Psychologist and Addiction Professional, Dhaka Ahsania Mission were present as speakers.

### **Discussion on LSD and its side effects**

On June 8, 2021, a Facebook live discussion program was organized on the drug 'LSD' and its side effects. Dr. S, M, Shahidul Islam, PPM Director (Superintendent of Police), Oasis Drug Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, Bangladesh Police and Dr. Helal Uddin Ahmed, Associate Professor, Child Adolescent and Family Psychiatry, National Institute of Mental Health. The program was conducted by Iqbal Masud, Director, Health and Wash Sector, Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Member, National Anti-Drug Committee, Ministry of Home Affairs.

### **Roundtable meeting on increasing participation of journalists of Natore and Rajshahi districts in building anti-drug society**

Under the initiative of Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Light House Consortium to prevent drug abuse in Rajshahi and Natore districts under the "Drug Abuse Resistance and Understanding (DARAU)" project to make the government's anti-drug program more dynamic, an online roundtable meeting was organized on May 9, 2021 through Zoom with the participation of national and local level journalists of Rajshahi district. The meeting was presided over by Iqbal Masud, Director, Health and Wash Sector, Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Rajshahi District Additional Deputy Commissioner (Overall) Muhammad Shariful Haque, Puthia Upazila Nirbahi Officer Nurul Hai Mohammad Anas, Durgapur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mohsin Mridha and Additional Director of Rajshahi Division, Department Narcotics Control Md. Zafarullah Kajal were present as guests at the meeting. The meeting was attended by 30 journalists working in various media in Rajshahi.

In the same vein, a round table meeting was organized on May 24, 2021 to increase the participation of journalists



in Natore district. Natore district deputy commissioner Shahriaz PAA said that in this case, journalists have to work to increase public awareness on various anti-drug issues through their work in a speech as the chief guest. The meeting was chaired by Iqbal Masud, Director, Health and WASH Sector, Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Rajshahi District Additional Deputy Commissioner (Overall) Muhammad Shariful Haque, Puthia Upazila Nibahi Officer Nurul Hai Mohammad Anas, Durgapur Upazila Nibaha Officer Mohsin Mridha and Additional Director Rajshahi Division of Narcotics Control Department Md. Zafarullah Kajal were present and spoke as guests at the meeting.

Iqbal Masud, Director of Health and WASH Sector, Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been appointed as Region Chairperson Headquarters 2021-22 with the assignment of "Drug Awareness", Lions Club International District 315 A2. Bangladesh.





## COVID-19 Response

Bangladesh Nutrition Activity is working as an implementing agency for Dhaka Ahsania Mission in Patuakhali district. Dhaka Ahsania Mission has taken various initiatives during the Covid-19 epidemic. 613 face masks and hand sanitizers were distributed among the participants of the training and meeting. Awareness of Covid-19 was carried out for 28 days in 118 villages, 7 upazilas and district level under 15 growth centers / markets. The Growth Center conducts awareness miking activities for vendors and buyers to wash their hands frequently with soapy water and to ensure social distance.

### Free Rapid Antigen Test at Urban Health Center of Urban Project run by Dhaka Ahsania Mission

Dhaka Ahsania Mission-run Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-Phase-II Karna

Area PA-1 Urban Health Center-2, Tultulipara and Urban Health Center-3, Kadirganj at the initiative of Rajshahi City Corporation Corona (Covid-19) Antigen test has started from 06.06.2021. Free Corona (Covid-19) Rapid Antigen is being tested at the mentioned centers and instant results are being given.

### Cash transfer to Marginalized beneficiaries

20<sup>th</sup> June 2021, in savor project beneficiaries received the Cash through Rocket MFS, total beneficiaries received among one thousand extreme poor peoples. This cash transfer program is inaugurated by two cities mayor of two intervention project areas that is Savar and Satkhira. Amount paid to each family is about 3750 BDT, whom are very needy in this pandemic situation.



## Training and Orientation

### Safeguarding Policy Update and Orientation on Employees' Code of Conduct

As a renowned organization Dhaka Ahsania Mission has an approved code of conduct for the employees. The code of



conduct of the organization has been translated in Bengali. Health and WASH sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission was taken initiatives to translated it Bengali and provide refreshers orientation to all employees of project and institutes of Health and WASH sector. The orientation programme was chaired by the Chair of DAM Gender Cell and the General Secretary of DAM Dr. SM Khalilur Rahman.

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy has been developed under the safeguarding policies. And a refresher training is decided to be conducted for all staffs of Dhaka Ahsania Mission gradually.

### Universal Treatment Curriculum (UTC) Training and Certification

12 candidates who are receiving the training from DAM are taking the ICAP1 & ICAP II examination through online. ICAP Remote Proctoring Examinations has started from 29 May 2021 and the exam is ongoing. Meanwhile 4 candidates have passed the exam. This is the 2nd international exam DAM has arranged with Colombo Plan and DAM will continue the training program in the future.

### Initiative to prevent HIV infection in prisons

The Dhaka Ahsania Mission has taken initiative to increase the awareness of HIV and AIDS among the inmates and prison officials. With the support of United Nations Office



on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) an awareness and skill building activities on HIV and AIDS prevention will be held

among the officers and inmates of Kashimpur Central Jail 1 and 2 and Kashimpur Women's Central Jail and among the jail officials of 68 jails of the country.

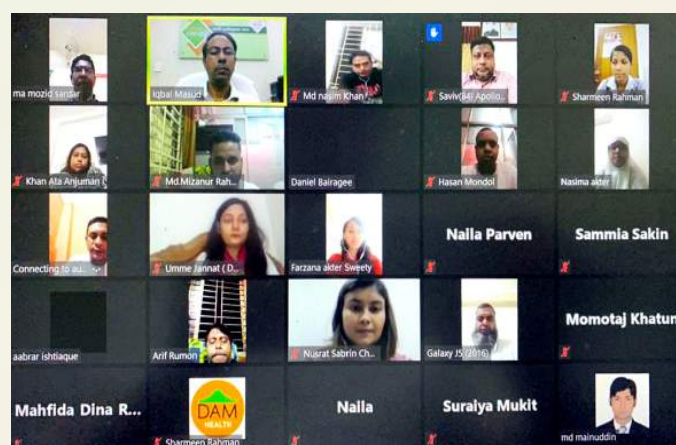
A “Message Development and Orientation” workshop was held on 4 April at the head office of the Health Sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM). Where Mr. Md. Abu Taher, National Program Coordinator (Drugs and HIV / AIDS), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Mr. Iqbal Masud, Director, Health and Wash Sector, Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Team Leader of the Project, Mr. Md. Shahedul Haque, Program Coordinator, AMIC-DAM and Program officer of the Project and all the project staffs and media manager of Health sector of DAM were present at the Workshop.

### Training Workshop on ‘Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases’

A one-day training on ‘Prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases’ was held on June 19 at Hazaribagh in the capital.



The training was organized by Urban Health Care Services Delivery Project Phase-II, DSCC, PA-3, conducted by the Health Sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, to enhance the skills of the staff.



The chief guest of the training program was Md. Altaf Hossain, Project Director (Joint Secretary), Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-II, and Mahfida Dina Rubaiya, Project Manager of the project. At the concluding ceremony, the chief guest handed over the certificates to the participants.

### Training for food vendors

137 food vendors were trained in Patuakhali district under Bangladesh Nutrition Activity Project run by Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Among the participants were 6 males and 8 females. Food vendors have also been trained on “nutrition and safety of food”. The main objective of the training was to identify the potential of food vendors for business and expansion, collect and store customer information, Identifying business barriers and opportunities and identifying how training courses can help entrepreneurs.

### Training on “Treatment and Management of Drug Dependent Prisoners” in 13 Central Prisons

The online training titled “Treatment and Management of Drug Dependent Prisoners” had been completed through three batches of prison staff and employees of 13 Central Prisons of the country. The first batch was inaugurated on 29 May 2021. The three-day training was organized by the Bangladesh Prisons Department and Dhaka Ahsania Mission through a joint project of the Department of Security Services, Ministry of Home Affairs and GIZ, funded by the German Government and the British Government. The inaugural ceremony was attended by Additional Secretary (Development Division) Md. Khairul Alam Sheikh, Inspector General of Prisons, Brigadier General Md. Mominur Rahman Mamun and Miss Tahera Yasmin, Director Operations of Rule of Law Program of GIZ Bangladesh and Director of Dhaka Health and WASH Mr. Iqbal Masud, a member of the National Anti-Drug Committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The training was conducted by expert trainers who have obtained international certifications on drug addiction. It may be





mentioned that the training was imparted to a total of 116 jail workers and employees through three batches under the supervision of Health Sector Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

### Training on Living Drug Free (Child)

The rate of drug dependence among children is increasing at an alarming rate. All these drug dependent children need skilled professionals for proper treatment and rehabilitation. Dhaka Ahsania Mission is conducting training activities to improve the skills of doctors, counselors, managers and other professionals involved in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicted children. The training of this course curriculum started from last October 2020 and the course

was completed on June 3, 2021. 47 representatives from different medical institutions of the country participated in this online training. The training was conducted by Iqbal Masud, Global Master Trainer of The Columb Plan, a member of the National Anti-Drug Committee and Director of Health Sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission.

It is to be noted that Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been recognized as an approved education provider in Bangladesh by the International Center for Credentialing and Education of Addiction Professionals (ICCE) of the Colombo Plan for the development of skills of professionals engaged in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

## Day Observance

### Global Road Safety Week 2021

Health sector officials took part in the week-long campaign "UN Global Road Safety Week" (17-23 May) organized by Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector to mark Global Road Safety Week-2021 expressed solidarity with the demand "Control the speed of vehicles, ensure a safe life" through Facebook. About 20 police officers of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, one of the law enforcement agencies, took part in



the campaign as part of various programs organized during the week. Police officers participating in the Ahsania Mission Health Sector Campaign called on the police to "abide by the road rules, live a safe life" and spread the message through their respective Facebook pages to raise public awareness. Not only that, the children participating in the campaign demanded "safe seats for them in transport." This demand of children is propagated in various media.

### "The government has taken initiative to amend the road transport law again" - Minister Obaidul Quader, MP

Mr. Obaidul Quader, Minister of Road Transport and Bridges, spoke as the chief guest at a live discussion titled "Roads and Safe Life" organized by Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector on May 23 to mark the occasion. He said, coordination and co-operation was needed to ensure safety on road transport. Former Health Minister Prof. Dr. AFM Ruhul Haque MP, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the



Ministry of Science and Technology, spoke as a special guest. The program was moderated by Mr. Iqbal Masud, Director, Health and Wash Sector, Dhaka Ahsania Mission. President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Mr. Kazi Rafiqul Islam presided over the function and Global Road Safety Grants Program Manager Taifur Rahman delivered the keynote address. The National Professional Officer of the World Health Organization, Syed Mahfuzul Haque, Global Health Advocacy Incubator Bangladesh Country Co-coordinator, Shariful Alam and BRAC's Road Safety Program Head Dr. Kamran ul Baset also took part in the event.

## Nutrition Day Celebrated

29<sup>th</sup> May 2021, Nutrition Day Celebrated by Satkhira Project Team. Slogan was “when we think of food, think of nutrition”. The day observed was successfully accomplished and everyone have the guideline to understand the conceptual of Nutrition and its requirement.



## Celebrating the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

This year marks the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking under the theme “Become Aware of Drugs, Save Generations, Save Lives”. In view of the celebration of this day, various programs were organized at Ahsania Mission Women’s Drug Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Center on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2021, including discussion and sharing programs, indoor games and quiz competitions, film screenings, award ceremonies and arranging special meals etc. Similar day-long programs were organized by Ahsania Mission Drug Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, Gazipur and Jessore.

An online discussion program was organized on June 24 by Ahsania Mission Drug Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Center to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The chief guest at the event was the President of the Standing Committee on the Ministry of Home Affairs. Shamsul Haque Tuku, MP. Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control Mohammad Ahsanul Jabbar and Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs Ishrat Chowdhury were special guests at the function conducted by Iqbal Masud, Director, Health and Wash Sector, Dhaka Ahsania Mission. The keynote speaker was the resident psychiatrist of the Central Drug Addiction Treatment Center, Raihanul Islam. Also present were Emdadul Haque Khan, Treasurer of the Crime Reporters Association and Tawfiq Maruf, President of the Health Reporters Forum.

## Observation of Menstrual Hygiene Day 2021

DAM WASH Sector had celebrated Menstrual Hygiene Day on 28 May 2021. DAM field team celebrated the day with the residents of Telkhola village in the presence of local government representatives. 2021’s theme was “More Action and Investment in Menstrual Health and Hygiene Now.” The local government representatives, as well as the people promised to let go of the social stigma and taboo regarding the subject and build their lives around an environment that encourages safe menstrual hygiene practices.



## World Environment Day

Benapole WASH team celebrated this year’s World Environment Day on 05 June by organizing a discussion session jointly with the Municipality. Local government representatives, civil society, and local leaders, along with the citizens of Benapole were present in the programme. This year’s theme was “Ecosystem Restoration”.





## Rohingya Response

### Director General of NGO Affairs Bureau visits Primary Health Care Center

On June 17, 2021, the Director General of the NGO Affairs Bureau Mr. K. M. Tariqul Islam visited the primary health care center of Rohingya Camp No. 13, Ukhia Upazila, Cox's Bazar



District, implemented by Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector. Additional Commissioner for Refugee Relief and Repatriation, Mr. Mohammad Samsudduja, Camp-in-Charge Mr. Muhammad Wasikul Islam, Assistant Health Coordinator, RRRC Office, Dr. Sarwar Jahan, Mr. Sukanto Chandra from Christian Aid, Afroza Hossain and Dr. KM Halimur Reza and Mr. Iqbal Masud, Director, Health and Wash Sector, Dhaka Ahsania Mission were present during the visit. At the end of the visit, Mr. Iqbal Masud on behalf of Dhaka Ahsania Mission presented crests to the distinguished guests.

### Distribution of relief items among disadvantaged and helpless Hijra/ hermaphrodite communities

Necessary food items for the holy Eid-ul-Fitr were distributed among 30 disadvantaged and helpless Hijra/ hermaphrodite communities in various camps organized by Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Health Sector at Rohingya Camp-13 on May 9, 2021. The site management manager of Camp-13, representatives of CIC, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and representatives of Dhaka Ahsania Mission were



also present. The helpless people have benefited a lot from the necessary support and conveyed sincere thanks and best wishes to the organization.

## Health Care Program

### Providing free health care services organized by Monasef Ahsania Health Center

A free medical camp was held on Saturday 12th June 2021 at the hospital premises organized by Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Health Sector and Monasef Ahsania Health Center. This service was provided to a total of 48 patients from 10 am to 4 pm. The free medical camp was conducted by forming a team of 5 members.

### Blood donation program

Under the Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-Phase II, COCC, PA-1, conducted by Dhaka Ahsania Mission, blood donation program was organized at Nagar Matrisadan, Nawabbari, Dakshin Chartha in association with Nagar Matrisadan and Nagar Swasthya Kendra. In addition, the blood donation program highlights the need for blood donation and the importance of blood donation in saving lives and encourages voluntary blood donation.

### Free health camp

Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project run by Dhaka Ahsania Mission; Phase II, COCC, PA-1, Urban Health Center-2, Sujannagar, Comilla, a free health camp was organized Maintaining social distance in the office and following the health rules from 9 am to 2 pm.

### Vitamin A Plus Campaign

Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Health Sector - Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-Phase II, Dhaka North City Corporation, Region-4 on June 05, 2021. Kazi Rafiqul Alam, President, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, inaugurated the Vitamin A Plus Campaign, which was also attended by the

Project Manager, Dr. Nayla Parveen, and other colleagues of the project.

In addition, children of zero (0) to five (5) years of age are fed Vitamin A in Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-Phase II, COCC, PA-1, Comilla run by Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-Phase II, run by Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Nagar Matrisadan, Nawabbari, Comilla. The baby was given a red vitamin A capsule.



A free medical camp for pregnant mothers was organized at Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-Phase II, DSCC, Partnership Area-3, Kamrangirchar, conducted by Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector. Shefali Akhter reserved women councilors of wards 55, 56 and 57 Dhaka South City Corporation was present at the camp. The camp provides free medical care and pathology services to 26 pregnant mothers as well as medicines.

## Tobacco Control Initiatives

### Series of virtual discussion meetings to make tourist spots and restaurants smoke-free

The Tobacco Control Project of Dhaka Ahsania Mission organized three virtual seminar meetings to make tourist spots and restaurants smoke-free. State Minister for Aviation and Tourism Mahbub Ali, MP, as the chief guest at the seminar on April 4 said, it is necessary to make the public place smoke free by amending the law and the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism will work to make the tourist spots completely smoke-free.

The seminar was presided over by Iqbal Masud, Director, Health and Wash Sector, Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Former Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha ASM Arefin Siddique, former Chairman of Bangladesh Chemical Industry Corporation (BCIC) and Lead Policy advisor of Campaign for Tobacco free Kids Bangladesh Md. Mostafizur Rahman, Sabira Akhter, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Aviation and Tourism and Focal Person for Tobacco Control, and Nadira Kiran, President, Aviation and Tourism Journalists Forum (ATJFB) and News Editor, ATN Bangla were present as special guest.

Besides, in a virtual discussion meeting titled 'Role of Bangladesh Restaurant Owners Association in amending Tobacco Control Act' jointly organized by Bangladesh Restaurant Owners Association and Dhaka Ahsania Mission on June 18, Bangladesh Restaurant Owners Association wants to ban 'certain smoking areas' in restaurants considering public health. The meeting was presided over by Anwar Hossain Mridha, vice-president of the Bangladesh Restaurant Owners Association. Also spoke at the meeting, Rezaul Karim Sarkar Robin, acting secretary general, Firoz Alam Sumon, Organizing Secretary Syed Mohammad Andalib, Treasurer Taufiqul Islam, Vice-President and President of Cox's Bazar Restaurant Owners Association Naimul Haque Chowdhury, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids Bangladesh's Lead Policy Advisor Md. Mostafizur Rahman and others.

On the other hand, at a virtual exchange meeting on 'Need to amend the Smoking and Tobacco Use (Control) Act 2005' organized by the Dhaka Ahsania Mission on June 22, leaders of journalists (ATJFB) demanded that there should be no smoking zone in the restaurants to protect non-smokers from the harm of secondhand smoking.

### Various initiatives and campaigns to increase tobacco tax in the budget

Dhaka Ahsania Mission's tobacco control project has taken various initiatives to increase tobacco tax in the budget. These included virtual discussion meetings with e-Cab and Economic Reporters Forum, handing over of DAM President Kazi Rafiqul Alam's letter to 336 MPs, statements demanding increase in tobacco tax from 121 doctors, collection of DO letters from MPs etc.

**Facebook Talkshow :** In the live dialogues, the MPs demanded to increase the tobacco tax in the budget. The

demand was made by Md. Habibe Millat, MP, Professor, Md. Abdul Aziz, MP, Md. Saifuzzaman Shikhar, Member of Parliament (Magura-1), Arma Dutt, Member of Parliament



(Women's Seat-11), Member, Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Social Welfare, Former Chairman of the National Board of Revenue Mohammad Abdul Majid, World Health Organization National Professional Officer, Syed Mahfuzul Haque and Md. Mostafizur Rahman, former Chairman of Bangladesh Chemical Industry Corporation (BCIC) and Lead Policy Advisor of Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids Bangladesh in the 23rd and 25th episodes of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector Corona Dialogue.

**Call by e-CAB :** The e-Commerce Association of Bangladesh (e-Cab) has strongly demanded to amend the existing law to stop the advertisement and marketing of tobacco products including e-cigarettes online. The demand was made at an online seminar jointly organized by E-Cab and Dhaka Ahsania Mission on May 11. The topic of the seminar was



'Amendment of Law to Build a Tobacco Free Bangladesh 2040: Context E-Cigarette'.

**Meeting with ERF :** 'The current tobacco tax structure is very complex which is a major obstacle in the way of discouraging tobacco use. And so this tax structure needs to be simplified. If the tobacco tax is increased it would be effective in reducing tobacco use in a proper manner', said the speakers at a virtual exchange meeting with members of the Executive Committee of the Economic Reporter's Forum on May 3 organized by Dhaka Ahsania Mission.



**Budget Reaction** : On the evening of June 3, Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector announced the budget 2021-22 titled 'Tobacco Tax in the Budget and Our Response' in the virtual live discussion presided over by Iqbal Masud, Director, Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health and Wash Sector. Mohammad Abdul Majid, former secretary and former chairman of the government National Board of Revenue, Professor Nasir Uddin Ahmed, former chairman, National Board of Revenue, Professor Rumana Haque, Department of Economics, University of Dhaka, Convener, BNTTP, Syed Mahbubul Alam, Technical Consultant, The Union, Sushant Sinha, Special Representative, Jamuna Television and Ataur Rahman Masud, Senior Policy Advisor, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids also took part in the discussion.

### Journalist Fellowship Activities

The Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Tobacco Control Project started its Fellowship in Journalism in April with the aim of providing

fellowships in anti-tobacco journalism in Bangladesh. Following this, a workshop was organized. 25 journalists participated in the workshop. The participants published a total of 21 reports, including 2 TV reports from May 1 to June 15. 4 journalists were



selected and given fellowships prizemoney and certificate.

## WASH initiatives

DAM WASH Sector is implementing a project in a host village in Ukhiya which works to ensure safe water and sanitation facilities by installing deep tube-wells, constructing new latrines, and repairing latrines that has fallen into disrepair.

On 26 April 2021, DAM WASH Sector field team conducted a project launching workshop at Palangkhali Union in the temporary office hallroom of the Union Parishad. Mr. Mohammad Gafur Uddin Chowdhury, Chairman of Palangkhali Union Parishad, Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar was present as the chief guest. Ward President, Bangladesh Awami League, Ward 06, Palangkhali Union was present as a special guest. Also, present were prominent people of the area, imams of mosques, schoolteachers, businessmen, farmers, tribal representatives, officials and employees of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Humanitarian WASH Project. Chairman Mr. Gafur Uddin Chowdhury thanked Dhaka Ahsania Mission for implementing the project in his union and assured overall cooperation.

One of the project activities is arranging awareness sessions for Hygiene Promotion among the beneficiaries. WASH field staff have conducted a total of 72 WASH sessions to cover the whole population of our target area which will help the people develop better sanitation and hygiene practices.

DAM is supporting Benapole citizens by providing water safety through Arsenic and Iron filtration water options.

The technology used is called AIRP (Arsenic and Iron Removal Plant).

DAM WASH Sector has been serving the people of Patuakhali region for a number of years. The project currently being implemented is a Nutrition-WASH combo project. During this period, 140 women bathing chambers, 107 deep tube wells, 563 latrines, 2475 dining basins, and 3317 latrine basins were installed.

DAM has been implementing Amader Kalaroa Project since 2012. This project has installed 95 Arsenic and



Iron Removal Plants, (77 at community level, and 18 at educational institution level) and are currently overseeing their regular operation and maintenance. 2 granular ferric hydroxide water treatment plants are also running here.

Editor:  
**Iqbal Masud**

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

Computer Graphics:  
**ATM Forhad Pintu**

[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)