



**Dhaka
Ahsania
Mission**



e-Newsletter

HEALTH SECTOR

January - March 2021



Dhaka Ahsania Mission Provided Livelihood Support among Trained Released Prisoners

In order to overcome the criminal tendency of the prisoners and bring them back to a healthy normal life and to rehabilitate them as good citizens in the society, livelihood materials were distributed among the inmates who were trained in the prisons on 18 February 2021.

On the same day, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan, MP, inaugurated the program by distributing livelihood items among 9 released prisoners as the chief guest. Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Dr. Tarun Kanti Sikder German Ambassador Peter Fahrenholtz, British High Commissioner Robert Chatterton Dickson, Dhaka Ahsania Mission President Kazi Rafiqul Alam, Pramita Sen Gupta, Head of Program, Rule of Law, GIZ and Iqbal Masud, Director, Health and Health Mission were the special guest in the program. The program was presided over by Inspector General of Prisons Brigadier General Md. Mominur Rahman Mamun.

As part of the program, the Dhaka Ahsania Mission, a project implementing agency of the Department of Prisons and GIZ, jointly distributed 26 type of livelihood support products including sewing machines, electronic toolboxes, computers, bicycles, utensils for floating tea stalls, rickshaws, vans and goats. The livelihood items were distributed among a total of 100 detainees. The program is funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation (BMZ) and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the British Government.

Drug Demand Reduction Programmes

Raise Awareness at All Levels on the Need for Drug Prevention

On 21 January 2021, an advocacy meeting was organized at the Department of Narcotics Control under



the project 'Drug Abuse Resistant and Understanding (DARAU)' jointly by Dhaka Ahsania Mission and Light House Consortium. Director General of the Department of Narcotics Control Mohammad Ahsanul Jabbar was the chief guest, and the meeting was chaired by the Director of Prevention Education, Research and Publication of the Department of Narcotics Control, Nuruzzaman Sharif. Directors of Drug

Addiction Treatment Centers licensed by the Department of Narcotics Control and Additional Directors of seven Divisions of the Department of Narcotics Control, Directors of various departments, Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors were present at the meeting.

Dialogue with religious leaders and members of the Drug Control and Promotion Committee on drug prevention in Rajshahi district

A dialogue meeting with religious leaders on drug prevention was held on 26 January 2021 in Rajshahi. Director of Islamic Foundation, Rajshahi Division Jalal Ahmed was the chief guest at the meeting. Participants in the meeting shared their views on how to conduct anti-drug campaigns through group-based discussions, including khutba guidelines, and various religious ceremonies. Speaking as the chief guest of the meeting, Jalal

Ahmed said, "We have been informed about a lot of important information on drug prevention through this anti-drug dialogue meeting."

On the other hand, a dialogue was held on 18 February 2021 with the members of the Drug Control and Promotion Committee in Rajshahi District to Prevent Drug Abuse in Rajshahi under 'DARAU' project. The participants in the meeting gave their views on



increasing the awareness programs in the educational institutions, including increasing the monitoring of the work of the Drug Control and Promotion Committee.

Tobacco Control Initiatives

Meeting with media journalists

As a regular activity of the tobacco control project, 4 meetings were held with the journalists of the media from January to March 2021. Two meetings were held on January 21 and March 25 at the health sector head office of the Dhaka Ahsania Mission in the capital's Shyamoli. 22 journalists working in different media took part in the two meetings.

In addition, two virtual meetings were held with the Aviation and Tourism Journalists Forum of Bangladesh (ATJFB) on 3 February and 13 March. The two meetings were chaired by ATJFB President and ATN Bangla News Editor Nadira Kiran and were attended by 20 members of ATJFB.

Training of professional drivers in enforcing tobacco control laws

As a regular part of the Tobacco Control Activities, three trainings on

implementation of Tobacco Control Acts for the professional drivers had been conducted from January to March 2021. The trainings were held on 25 January, 24 February and 22 March. Resource person from DAM presented a documentary on Tobacco



Control Law Implementation and Health Harm among more than 300 professional drivers in 3 trainings. The trainings were conducted as a joint effort of Dhaka Ahsania Mission and BRTA to keep public transport 100% tobacco free.

Meeting with Members of Parliament

As a continues efforts of the Tobacco Control Project, five advocacy meetings were made with four MPs from January to March 2021. The delegation of DAM Tobacco Control Project met Kazi Firoz Rashid MP on 28th January and 27th March, Md. Mujibul Haque MP on 16th February, Md. Sadeq Khan MP on 23rd February and Prof. Dr. Md. Abdul Aziz, MP on 15 March and briefed them about the various activities of Dhaka Ahsania Mission in Tobacco Control.

A Call by e-CAB

The E-Commerce Association of Bangladesh (e-CAB) has called for an end to online marketing and selling of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes. The call was made at an online seminar jointly organized by e-CAB and Dhaka Ahsania Mission on the afternoon of February 4.

The topic of the seminar was 'How harmful e-cigarettes are to health and what online entrepreneurs should do in enforcing the tobacco control law'. Ibrahim Khalil, Chairman, Rural E-Commerce Standing Committee, moderated the seminar whereas Syed Mahfuzul Haque, National Professional Officer, World Health Organization; Sahab Uddin Shipon, Vice-President, e-CAB; Iqbal Masud, Director, Health and Wash Sector, Dhaka Ahsania Mission; Dr. Saleh Mahmud Tushar, Chairman, e-CAB, e-Health Standing Committee; and Md. Mokhlesur Rahman, Assistant Director, Health Sector, Dhaka Ahsania Mission spoke at the webinar.

Survey on display of tobacco products in sales outlets

Health experts have called for amendments to the law to ban the

retail sale of tobacco products at outlets. They called for a ban of tobacco products display at tobacco sales centers and a ban on the sale of tobacco products within 100 meters of educational institutions. They made the call at a discussion organized by Dhaka Ahsania Mission on January 4 titled 'Publication of Results of Survey on Display of Tobacco Products at POSs'. Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health and Wash Sector Director Iqbal Masud presided over the online discussion meeting; the chief guest was the Secretary of the Department of Health. Abdul Mannan.

Discussion meeting on the amendment of Tobacco Control Law jointly organized by NTCC and DAM

Additional Secretary (Health) Kazi Jebunnesa Begum, who was the chief guest at a discussion titled 'What to

do to build a tobacco-free Bangladesh 2040', said on March 23, 'Laws need to be amended to build a tobacco-free Bangladesh'. The meeting was held at 11:30 am in the meeting room of the Health Economics Unit on Topkhana Road in the capital. Director General of the Health Economics Unit of the Department of Health Service Md. Shahadat Hossain Mahmud and Additional Secretary of Health Service Tahmidul Islam spoke as special guests at the meeting. Former Chairman of BCIC and Lead Policy Advisor of Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, Bangladesh Md Mostafizur Rahman presented the keynote paper at the meeting. The meeting was jointly organized by the National Tobacco Control Cell and the Dhaka Ahsania Mission in collaboration with the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids (CTFK).

Health Care Support



Distribution of red cards for the purpose of providing free health care to the extremely poor and needy

Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-Phase II, Project Area-1, Cumilla is providing primary health care services under the supervision of Comilla City Corporation and run by Dhaka Ahsania Mission. 7011 red cards have been distributed to provide free health care to the poorest people in the city. Cumilla City Corporation Mayor Monirul Haque Sakku distributed red cards as the chief guest on the occasion. With a red card, all members of a family can get maternity services, postnatal services, neonatal and child health services, diagnostic services, family planning services and treatment of common ailments completely free from 6 urban health centers and 1 city maternity hospital located in the city.

Besides, Health Card (Red Card) on 23 March and Family Health Card (Red Card) on 8 March 2021 under Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project Phase II, Dhaka North City Corporation, Region-03 was distributed. To ensure health services, Family Health Cards were distributed among 6226 families in phases.

Free eye care activities

Free eye care is provided by Monasef Ahsania Health Center run by Dhaka Ahsania Mission on 16 January 2021 in collaboration with First Eye Hospital. Total 65 eye patients received the services.

Besides, an eye camp was organized on 21st March 2021 at Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-II Phase, COCC, PA-1, Nagar Matrisadan Kendra, Nawab Bari, Dakshin Chartha, Cumilla. The Eye Camp provides low-cost primary eye care to all the people of the city including the poor and the extremely poor. Due to the Corona epidemic, health care was provided maintaining social distance. A total of 45 service recipients were provided primary eye care under the service.

Free health camp

On 26 January 2021, a free health camp was organized by Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Health Sector, Monasef Ahsania Health Center and in collaboration with Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital. This service was provided to a total of 36 patients.

Rohingya Response

Providing assistance to the hijra community in the Rohingya camp



At the initiative of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and with the support of Health Sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, on March 9, 2021, at Camp-13, Ukhia Cox's Bazar, 35 helpless Rohingya transgender people were provided with their daily necessities (Dignity Kits). There is a need to provide adequate help and cooperation to bring these underprivileged backward communities back into the mainstream of society. They sincerely

thank the two organizations for involving them in such collaborative activities like other groups.

COVID-19 Response

During The Pandemic Period, 400 Mothers and Their Children Received Medical Supplies

During the pandemic period, 400 mothers and their children in Satkhira and Savar Municipality areas were provided hygiene kits for health equipment and personal protection in compliance with the health guideline under the project Health and Nutrition Voucher Scheme for Poor, Extreme Poor and Socially Excluded People (PEPSEP) Project run by Dhaka Ahsania Mission and funded by European Union (EU). The project provides health and nutrition voucher cards to 6418 poor, extremely poor and socially backward families in Satkhira and Savar municipal areas.

Covid-19 vaccination activities

It is important to follow the rules of hygiene, maintain distance and use appropriate quality masks as well as vaccination to prevent COVID-19. The Health Sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission has been operating three COVID-19 Vaccination Centers at Mirpur, Hazaribagh and Cumilla Nagar Matrisadan since February 2021 in connection with this important work of the COVID-19 vaccination program of the Government of Bangladesh.



So far, 21,214 people have received first dose and 12,050 second dose vaccinations from the centers.

Celebration of International and National Day

Women's Day-2021

Actress Farzana Chhobi and singer Nowrin Sharif Sharleen celebrated International Women's Day on March 8, 2021 in a different way. The two of them spent the afternoon of International Women's Day with the drug dependent and recovered women of Ahsania Mission Women's Drug Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Center at Shyamli in the capital. During this time, three recoveries who have been healthy for a long time from this center shared

their healthy life experiences. Sharing included dancing, singing and reciting poems with the participation of in-house patients and recoveries.

Holiday health cards for working women

Holiday Health Cards are distributed to working women on the occasion of International Women's Day. Holiday Health Cards are issued to provide low cost health care to working women. Holiday Health Card holders will be able to avail health services from

Physician and Gynecologist from City Health Center and City Maternity Home by showing this card as much as required in a year.

Independence Day-2021

On the occasion of the golden jubilee and national day of the independence on March 26, various activities were organized in different areas by the initiative of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Following this, a drawing competition on 'Independence in My Eyes' was held on March 26 at Nagar Matrisadan



Hazaribagh of DSCC, Partnership Area-3, Phase II of Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project conducted by Health Sector of Dhaka Ahsania Mission. 50 children participated in the drawing competition. Prizes, crests and certificates were awarded to the winners. In addition, on the occasion of the day, the project provided free primary health care through 8 urban health centers and one urban maternity hospital.

World Tuberculosis Day-2021

March 24, 2021, World Tuberculosis Day-2021 is celebrated in Bangladesh.

Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-Phase II, COCC, PA-1, Cumilla of Dhaka Ahsania Mission celebrated World Tuberculosis Day in collaboration with the District Health Department, District Civil Surgeons and government and non-government organizations. Rallies and discussion meetings were organized on the occasion of the day. Officials and employees of government and non-government organizations took part in the program organized by keeping the social distance due to the corona epidemic.

International Mother Language Day-2021

Ahsania Mission Drug Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, Gazipur, Ahsania Mission Drug Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, Jessore celebrates International Mother Language Day or Martyr's Day with due dignity. In the morning, the national flag was hoisted, and flowers were laid. The day is celebrated with the performance of national anthems, homage to the sacrifices of the martyrs, discussion meetings, volleyball tournaments and indoor chess, ludu, Keram competitions, film exhibitions, poetry recitations etc.



Celebration of Mujib Centenary

Ahsania Mission Drug Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, Gazipur: Ahsania Mission Drug Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, Gazipur celebrated the birth centenary of Bangabandhu with due dignity through various programs. The morning begins with the hoisting of the national flag. Free counseling services were provided on the occasion of Bangabandhu's birth centenary. The center organized volleyball matches, chess, ludu and keram games. Bangabandhu's birth centenary-2021 was celebrated throughout the day by organizing a pleasant cultural program in the evening.

Ahsania Mission Drug Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, Jessore: Ahsania Mission Drug Addiction Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, Jessore celebrated the day with providing free counseling services of a total of 5 people.

Urban Primary Health Care Services, DSCC: Free Medical Services Activities-2021 on the occasion of Bangabandhu's birth centenary started from 7 March 2021 under the overall supervision of Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh Mayor, Dhaka South City



Corporation. Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-Phase II, DSCC, Partnership Area-3, run by Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector, provided overall support. Regular 3

days service was provided in each ward through medical services and free medicine distribution program. A total of 4405 people received primary health care.

Urban Primary Health Care Services, RCC: Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector managed Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project Phase II, RCC, Partnership Area-1 project provided free health care to a total of 75 patients on the occasion of Bangabandhu's birth centenary.

Urban Primary Health Care Services, Cumilla: Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-Phase II, all health services including delivery services were provided free of cost at every urban health center and urban maternity center. A total of 108 people were provided free medical services. In addition, 2 mothers were given normal delivery and 2 were given caesarean delivery completely free of cost.

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