

Annual Report
of
AL-FALAH BANGLADESH
2012

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Introduction:

The organization Al-Falah Bangladesh was formed in June 1980 to take over the Dhaka Camps project from an NGO HEED Bangladesh. It is registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau of Bangladesh.

Al-Falah Bangladesh is the only registered NGO in Bangladesh, which has pledged in its Constitution to work for the Urdu speaking Bangladeshi citizens to rehabilitate them socially and economically in the mainstream of the society by improving their quality of life and increasing their access to education, skill, health, economic opportunities and cultural activities. The mass of this Urdu-speaking community lost the privileges of social living being the worst victims of political and historical developments in 1971 that downgraded their social, cultural and economic status from top to bottom level.

Since its foundation, Al-Falah has been delivering health services in Geneva Camp through its project Al-Falah Model Clinic. The other significant project is Community Development Centre (CDC), which established Foundation schools and sponsorship program for the camp based Urdu-speaking poor male and female students to continue their education from pre-primary to Master Degree level. Another project is for skill development. Under this project, community students are being trained on basic computer literacy.

In addition to the above service delivery and development projects on health, education and skills, Al-Falah Bangladesh has also completed a few important research and studies works with support from UN Agencies and other international organization for collection of basic data in the context of social, economic and political status of the community.

Al-Falah Bangladesh has completed its 32 years of establishment. These thirty two years are considered as a combination of its successes and failures, experiences and lessons learning and of great challenges.

History:

Al-Falah Bangladesh:

The organization Al-Falah Bangladesh was formed in June 1980 to take over the Dhaka Camps project from an NGO HEED Bangladesh. It has a 21 Members General Body that constitute a 7-Member Executive Committee according to the Constitution to run the affairs of the organization through the Executive Director.

Vision of the organization:

The Urdu speaking community must take part equally and with dignity for the national development as citizen of Bangladesh

Mission:

To improve the quality of life of the Urdu speaking people and increase their access to education, skill, health, economic opportunities and cultural activities.

Legal Status:

The organization is registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau and Directorate of Family Planning, Government of Bangladesh.

The Urdu speaking community:

There are estimated four hundred thousand Urdu speaking people in Bangladesh; about two hundred thousand have been languishing in 116 large and small settlements, which are located in various cities, and towns of Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Khulna Divisions. Geneva Camp is the largest single concentration of this community with about 20,000 populations. They have a distinct cultural background; speak Hindi and Urdu and observe strictly their cultural norms that their previous generation had brought with from the Indian State of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, when India was partitioned in 1947. The partition of 1947 forced the community to migrate from their own homeland to the then East Pakistan.

Affiliation/Membership:

The organization is a member of different Association and Networks, which include CUP (Coalition for the Urban Poor), BSAF (Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum).

Al-Falah was a COR member of APCASO (The Asia Pacific Council of AIDS Services Organization) for South Asia Region until October 2001. Besides, the organization served as a Member of the Steering Committee of UNDP SSWA Project -Delhi for its GIPA projects in South Asia until December 2001.

Present Executive Committee (2012-2014)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Dr. C. R. Abrar: | President |
| 2. Mr. Mohammad Shoaib: | Vice President |
| 3. Mr. Shamim Ahmed Khan: | General Secretary |
| 4. Syed Afzal Hussain: | Treasurer |
| 5. Mrs. Rahima Begum: | Executive Member |
| 6. Mrs. Khondaker Rebaka Sun-yaat: | Executive Member |
| 7. Mr. Haikal Hashmi: | Executive Member |

Community Development Centre (CDC):

Background:

The CDC project commenced in 2007 with fund raised locally from the well wishers of the community. The first Foundation School was established in the premises of Al-Falah Model Clinic. By 2010 the number of Foundation Schools increased to 40 throughout Bangladesh in various camps at Mohammadpur, Mirpur, Mymensingh, Chittagong, Khulna, Bogra, Rangpur, Ishurdi and Syedpur.



Students receives half yearly examination result held at the Foundation School

A USA based donor Target International Giving Program (TIGP) financially supported CDC in 2009 and 2010, but regretted to support in 2011 & 2012. This unfortunate situation

forced CDC to close down its 30 Foundation Schools in 2012 and also to reduce sponsorship program due to financial constraints. However, the TIGP agreed to provide one-year financial support for Foundation School and Sponsorship programs in 2013.

Goal:

The primary goal of the CDC is to save the Urdu-speaking children from being lost as street children, as these children have been living in camps and deprived from their schooling and provide support to the community in its struggle to join the mainstream of the society with improved social and economic status.

Foundation Schools:

These schools were established on the basis of “Self-help education.” The Community Development Center (CDC) provides sponsorship to the secondary level students to continue their studies. In exchange, the sponsored students teach daily two hours to a batch of 30 children and prepare them for admission in to Primary Schools, situated outside the camp area. The responsibility of teacher also includes orientation to mothers/guardians on health & hygiene and how to prepare and encourage their children during their schooling period.



Foundation School Students of Geneva Camp celebrates victory Day in 2012

Achievements in 2012:

- 346 Children under age of 4-5 years were given pre-primary education
- 347 Sponsored Children got admission in class I after attending Foundation Schools
- 3 Sponsored Female students continued their SSC classes
- 10 Sponsored Male students continued their HSC classes
- 30 Sponsored Female students continued their HSC classes
- 6 Sponsored Male students continued their Degree Classes
- 8 Sponsored Female students continued their Degree Classes

On 22nd November 2012, local representative of the community in Bogra organized a program to distribute the sponsorship among the selected students. Mr. Md. Abdur Rahim Pramanik, Ward Councilor, Ward # 12, Bogra Pourashava attended as Chief Guest while Mr. A. S. M. Hasanut Zaman (Ritu), General Secretary, Sabuj Shangha, Bogra, Mr. Md. Zulfiquar Ali (Biddyut) and Mr. Md. Zarreyab Nannu attended the function. Mr. Wasi Ahmed Chunnu presided over the meeting.



During distribution of the sponsorship students of Md pur are seen in the picture

Mr. Asghar Ali Khan, President, Al-Falah Bangladesh handed over sponsorship among the selected students of Md pur, Dhaka



Success stories:

- In the smaller camps outside Dhaka CDC has provided sponsorship to 1 female student in Class VI and 2 female students for Class VIII in Mymensingh Camp as the students were scored highest marks and selected for Government scholarship program.
- Three sponsored students and computer Instructors from Mohammadpur got a full time job in an NGO, Group of Companies and a private firm respectively
- One sponsored student from Mohammadpur is placed in Master's final and he is doing a job as a Marketing Officer.
- One sponsored student from Mohammadpur is placed in Honor's final and she is doing a job as an Accounts Officer in an NGO.
- One Foundation School Teacher from Mymensingh Camp passed her Degree level of education and now got admission in Bachelor's of Education (B.Ed) course which provides opportunity to her to get a public job in the teaching sector which is her ambition too.
- One student from Staff Quarter Camp successfully got admission in the Accounting Department of Dhaka University which happens first time in the 40 years of the camp history.
- One sponsored girl student from Mohammadpur had ambition to be a physician but she could not get admission in the Medical College so she tried for a Diploma Course of Ophthalmology. Now she is doing her 2nd year of the diploma and will be placed as Mid Level Ophthalmology Personnel (MLOP)
- One sponsored student from Mohammadpur dropped out from education a long ago. She is an orphan and wanted to support her family. She contacted to CDC so the project encouraged her for education and now she is studying in SSC 2nd semester from Open University.

Al-Falah Model Clinic:

The Clinic was originally established by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in



1972 when the ICRC built Geneva Camp to provide shelter to the war affected Urdu-speaking minority community. From 1975 to 1984 a Mission NGO HEED Bangladesh run this clinic and handed over it to Al-Falah in 1985. From 1985 to 1990 Al-Falah managed to run this Clinic with local support. In 1991 ODA of the British Government signed an Agreement with Al-Falah Bangladesh to provide financial and technical support for the Clinic. ODA later became BPHC (Bangladesh Population and Health Consortium), which continued its support to the Clinic up to 2000 when BPHC decided to divert its funds for rural

development causing a major setback to Al-Falah Model Clinic.

After a long 10 years of slow function, the Al-Falah Model Clinic at Geneva Camp once again reorganized to serve the community who had no adequate access to health services. The long delay in getting support virtually deprived the community of vital health services like immunization of the children, family planning and maternity services.

Dr. Arnold Sholder visited the clinic in 2009. He had come from USA to meet her daughter Hannah Sholder, a Fulbright Scholar, who was doing her research on the Geneva Camp. He was shocked & moved at the dilapidated status of the clinic and promised to raise fund to support Al-Falah Model Clinic in reorganizing the health services for the inmates of the Geneva Camp. Accordingly, he mobilized some fund in USA for the repairing and renovation of the clinic and succeeded in securing a substantial amount of fund from The Pittsburg Foundation, USA. With support from The Pittsburgh Foundation new medical staffs were appointed and the Clinic was officially opened on 23 July 2010 in a simple ceremony attended by the community leaders, inmates of camps and some special guests including Mr. Richard Geier, International Program Manager of UNDP, and his wife, Mr. Wasim Ahmad, Urban Planning Expert-UNDP & Mrs. Salma Shafi, Architect and Planner. President of Al-Falah Bangladesh, Mr. Md. Asghar Ali Khan formerly opened the clinic



which continues its program for one year from 1st July 2010 to 30th June 2011. The organization, Al-Falah Bangladesh tried to secure funding for the clinic but its all efforts went in vain.

Under the above circumstances, the management of the organization decided to provide cut off some program and run a partial program in the clinic.

Objectives:

The Al-Falah Model Clinic will provide health services to the inmates of Geneva Camp located in Mohammadpur under Dhaka City Corporation (North) Ward No. 30. The Clinic in its limited resources delivers the following services to the community:

- Antenatal & Post Natal check-up
- Child Immunization Limited Curative Services
- Family Planning
- Circumcision
- Health Education
- Referral Services

Al-Falah Model clinic provide services for immunization by getting support from Health Department of Dhaka City Corporation. They are provided free vaccination. During the reporting period a total of 5 national days were observed for EPI. Al-Falah Model Clinic participated in these event and following services were provided to the children of the community:

- 1955 Children (0yrs-5yrs) were given Polio drops & Vit. A Cap under NID program
- 2612 Children (2yrs-5yrs) were given Polio drops & anti Worms Tablet under NID program
- 1662 Children (6yrs-12yrs) were given anti Worms Tablet under NID program
- 2690 Children (6m-5yrs) were received Vita-A Cap & anti Worm Tablet under NID program

Achievements in 2012:

The following numbers of the children were immunized at the clinic on weekly immunization day:

- 542 Children (0-1 yr) received vaccines for BCG, Penta and Measles under EPI program
- 36 Children (9m-1 ½yr) received Rubella vaccines under EPI program
- 522 Children (0-1 yr) received Polio drops under EPI program
- 209 Children (0-5) years received limited curative services

Mothers/Women of the community received following services at the clinic:

- 16 Mothers were provided Ante-Natal and Post Natal care
- 466 Mothers received Family Planning services
- 262 Mothers received limited curative services
- 35 Reproductive women received TT/Boosters
- 311 Unmarried girls received TT/Boosters

The clinic provided following general treatment to the community:

- 45 Male general patients received treatment for minor complications
- 50 Female general patients received treatment for minor complications
- 77 Patients were treated for RTI and STI
- 40 Pregnancy tests were conducted
- 63 Blood Sugar tested

During the reporting period field staffs referred the community members for the following services these services are not available at the clinic:

- 237 mothers were referred to the nearest Government hospitals for Obstetric services
- 79 women referred to the nearest Government hospital for the Family Planning services (Norplant, Ligation, NSV & IUD).
- 77 Patients were treated for RTI and STI
- 40 Pregnancy tests were conducted
- 01 Blood Sugar tested

Health Education:

Health education program was run by the 4 community volunteers who were sponsored students in



Community Development Center (CDC) were specially trained as Health Educators. They worked in this project for two hours daily to disseminate health related information and educate women under reproductive age and the adolescents at field and clinic level. In 2012 CDC could not secured proper funds so the management decided to withdraw their services. However two Health Educators who were earlier a full time staffs agreed to provide voluntarily services two a week and provide education on issues concerning health and hygiene and disseminate information on subjects like:

- Personal Hygiene, Safe Motherhood and risk at home delivery,
- Breast Feeding, Extended Program of Immunization (EPI), Maternal and Child Nutrition, Worm Infection, Night Blindness, Skin Diseases, ART, Diarrheal Disease and ORS.
- Family Planning.
- Reproductive Tract Infections, STI, HIV/AIDS

Circumcision Program:

Al-Falah Bangladesh jointly initiated circumcision camp with Quantum Foundation. In this year 2 circumcision camps were organized where a total of 62 children under age of 2-12 years old were done minor surgery for circumcision.

The Donors:

Al-Falah Bangladesh thankfully acknowledges the support from generous donors in Bangladesh & abroad. We are optimistic that you will find our efforts worth your continued support in the future.