

Progress Report

of

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CENTER (CDC)

January 2009 – December 2009

Implemented by:



Al-Falah Bangladesh

Supported by:



**Target International Grant
Program (TIGP), USA**

Address:

Al-Falah Bangladesh

9/16, Iqbal Road,

Mohamadpur, Dhaka-1207

Phone: 0088-02-8130827

Cell: 0088-01937115979

e-mail: alfalahbd@gmail.com

web: www.alfalah.bd.com

Preface

During the last 38 years, when the literacy rate among the local Bangladeshi boys and girls under 6-12 years has reached 85.4 percent and 87.2 percent respectively, the literacy rate among the boys and girls in camps under the age group of 4 to 12 years was found to be 7.48 percent and 6.40 percent respectively. A very insignificant number of Urdu speaking students living in camps have succeeded to pass the higher secondary level education. But they could not proceed further due to poverty. During the last 38 years only one boy among the 18,000 population of Geneva Camp could achieve master degree from a private university.

In this background, Al-Falah Bangladesh took an initiative with support from the affluent members of the community to bring the young generation of the camp dwellers into the fold of social and economic development. Subsequently a Foundation School was established in Geneva Camp in December 2007, some selected students were given sponsorship and a Computer Class started in April 2008.

In 2008, Al-Falah received support from the Target International Giving Fund, USA to implement its CDC project in 2009. The organization expresses its thanks to the TIG for its support. We also appreciate the services of the staffs, Mohammad Hasan, Coordinator, Ziauddin Ahmed, Accountant, Khalid Hussain, Shahed Ahmed, and Seema Naz, Assistant Coordinator, who successfully implemented the project

Ahmed Ilias
Executive Director
Al-Falah Bangladesh

Introduction:

The Urdu-speaking community had migrated from India to the then East Pakistan, when India was divided in 1947 that resulted into creation of Pakistan. These Indian immigrants preferred to settle in urban areas to shape their social and economic destiny in their new homeland. Gradually they emerged a privileged community in East Pakistan because of their social, cultural and political affiliation with the establishment. With the passage of time, the community became isolated from the mainstream. When Bangladesh became a free country in 1971, most of the Urdu-speaking community, took shelters in refugee camps after being forced by the political situation. Since then, they have been languishing in these camps.

After the emergence of Bangladesh the Urdu-speaking community lost their fundamental rights, as they were not accepted citizens of this country. This deprived them from the benefits of basic education and caused rapid degeneration in their social, economic and cultural life. In May 2008 Bangladesh High Court pronounced that the Urdu-speaking camp dwellers were citizens of Bangladesh. This landmark verdict by the High Court restored the voting rights of the community. Since then the situation has considerably changed as far as the legal and constitutional status of the citizenship is concerned.

Concept of Self-Help:



Foundation School Students with Target education materials in Geneva Camp, Mdpur, Dhaka

Charity and relief cannot help a person or a community to regain the lost pride, dignity and also social and economic status. Charity and relief may provide support temporarily but it cannot be a lasting solution particularly in the case of economic and social issues.

The Urdu-speaking camp dwellers waited to have a permanent solution of their complex issues for over three decades. During the period their young generation instead of education, skill, and job were

given relief and charity, which not only made the community dependent on regular supply of relief by the government and charity from the affluent members of the community, but also spoiled and damaged the potentials of the growing generation. This situation also caused a great amount of frustration, sense of dejection and social degeneration among the general members of the camp dwellers.

It is understandable that charity and relief cannot be an alternative to social and economic development. Under the existing situation, the camp dwellers have no option but to initiate self-help education and skill development programs by mobilizing their limited resources within the community and seeking supports from those who believe on development and not charity.

Charity and relief cannot help a person or a community to regain the lost pride, dignity and also social and economic status. Charity and relief may provide support temporarily but it cannot be a lasting solution particularly in the case of economic and social issues.

The Urdu-speaking camp dwellers waited to have a permanent solution of their complex issues for over three decades. During the period their young generation instead of education, skill, and job were given relief and charity, which not only made the community dependent on regular supply of relief by the government and charity from the affluent members of the community, but also spoiled and damaged the potentials of the growing generation.



Students in the Foundation School in Mirpur, Dhaka

This situation also caused a great amount of frustration, sense of dejection and social degeneration among the general members of the camp dwellers.

It is understandable that charity and relief cannot be an alternative to social and economic development. Under the existing situation, the camp dwellers have no option but to initiate self-help education and skill development programs by mobilizing their limited resources within the community and seeking supports from those who believe on development and not charity.

Al-Falah Bangladesh

Al-Falah Bangladesh is a Government Registered non-profit, non-political, non-religious, welfare and voluntary organization. It has a 7-member elected Executive Board to run the affairs of the organization through the Executive Director. The organization by creating an environment of unity, discipline and cooperation and through voluntary activities shall undertake social and economic development programs for the underprivileged and underserved people living under sub-human conditions within camps built for the Urdu-speaking community, who are commonly known as Bihari.

This organization, was formed in June 1980 with a view to addressing the social, cultural and economic issues and challenges of the poor urban slum dwellers in general and Urdu-speaking marginalized people in particular, who had been languishing in camps since 1971.

Main objects of the organization are to provide health services to the women and children, technical training and education to reduce the risk of diseases and economic imbalance in the society. Other mandates include research, study, advocacy and lobbying for human rights. The organization intends to explore various innovative measures to sustain the achievements of its objectives.

Al-Falah is duly registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau. It is also a member of different Association and Networks, which include Coalition for the Urban Poor (CUP) and Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF).

The organization has enhanced the capability and capacity of the management and staff members to deliver quality services and run the project with responsibility, accountability and transparency.

Vision

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

The Community

The Urdu-speaking community had migrated from different provinces of India in 1947 when India was divided. The members of the community settled in various parts of urban areas of Bangladesh. When Bangladesh emerged in 1971 as a sovereign country, the Urdu-speaking camp dwellers lost their citizenship in the new country. Pakistan Government took a substantial number of them to Pakistan in 1974 under an International Agreement with Bangladesh. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) provided temporary centers, food and health services to the camp people all over Bangladesh. Since then the community has been languishing in these camps. In May 2008, the High Court ruled that the camp people were Bangladeshi citizens. Consequently, Government of Bangladesh recognized the Urdu-speaking camp dwellers as Bangladeshi citizens and



A view of Geneva Camp, Mohammadpur, Dhaka

restored their voting rights. These camp dwellers were, however, deprived of their basic human rights and fundamental rights for the last 38 years.

Being a linguistic minority and marginalized community, they are scattered all over Bangladesh but their major concentration are in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Chittagong, Khulna, Ishurdi, Mymensingh, Rangpur and Syedpur. According to a survey of the UNHCR, (2006) population of the Urdu-speaking camp dwellers people in 116 Camps was 1, 56,000/-. Almost same numbers of Urdu-speaking people live outside camps and they are largely integrated in the mainstream.



A narrow ally of a camp in Dhaka

Gender Equity:

Al-Falah believes in gender equity. It has been found that huge gender disparity exists among the male dominated Urdu-speaking community particularly within the camp dwellers. After the emergence of Bangladesh, the children of this community lost their access to education and skills, elder members of most families lost their jobs and business. Subsequently, the situation forced them to become confined within the boundaries of camps.

Economic and cultural reasons compelled the growing male and female children to earn daily bread for the family members by making handicrafts inside camp instead of going to school, On the other hand, when situation improved, most of the affluent members of the community sent their male children to public and private schools located outside camps. The female children could not get the opportunity for going outside camp for their education due to cultural reasons. They continued to earn through handicrafts inside camp.

While young boys after attending education institutions placed on jobs fit to their education and skills, most young girls remained uneducated, unskilled and without an appropriate mean of earning except doing as handicraft workers.

Socially and culturally, women have no decision making authority in the family. It is the male member, who is usually considered as head of the family and as such he is the supreme authority in the family.

Earlier, Al-Falah had a 9-Member Executive Board, and all the nine members were male. Now it has a 7-Member Board in which 2 are female members. Among the 5 staff members of CDC, 2 are female and in the proposed project of Al-Falah Model Clinic, out of 39 staffs, 28 are female staffs.

Al-Falah Bangladesh, according to its Gender Policy, has been implementing projects based upon gender equity. Female students are the focused targets in promoting education among the community. .

Education Policy and Plans:

Human resource development is at the core of Bangladesh's development effort and access to quality education is critical to poverty reduction and economic development. The Government's commitment to undertaking structural reforms to education has been clearly stated in its Constitutional and development plans. These plans give education the highest priority in the public sector investments. Education sector allocations are currently about 2.3 percent of GDP and 14 percent of total Government expenditure. Maintaining this commitment to the education sector is imperative in order to achieve Education for All (EFA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Use of information and communication Technologies (ICT), in sectors especially those related to the internet are still underdeveloped. The ministry of science and information and communication technology (MOSICT), the government agency responsible for ICT related issues is yet to achieve the goals set out for e- Governance in the national ICT policy of 2002. Though the Government is yet to come out with a comprehensive national action plan for promotion of practical and Vocational training in ICT sector, however, expert view that this is a potential area for future manpower export and therefore this sector is required to be geared up at securing foreign placement for Bangladeshi trained personnel.

Community Development Center:

Al-Falah Bangladesh taking the above situation under its consideration established the Community Development Center (CDC) in 2007 to project and promotes the concept of Self-Help Education and Skill Development and subsequently developed a one-year project proposal for the year 2009. Education was the major component of the objectives of the project. It was pledged that the project would protect the children from being lost as street children and provide support to the community in its struggle to join the mainstream of the society with improved social and economic status.

Subsequently, a one-year project proposal for the year 2009 was developed for which the TIGP granted fund for its implementation.

Components of CDC:

1. Foundation School
2. Sponsorship
3. Computer Training

Objectives of the CDC project:

Following were the major objectives of the project that was implemented by Al-Falah Bangladesh from January to December 2009.

1. To provide Pre-Primary education to Urdu- Speaking camp children
2. To give sponsorship to selected students of class VI level, and SSC, HSC, Honors and degree level students for their admission and continuation of studies at various schools, Colleges and Universities.
3. To provide training to students on fundamental computer training course.

Specific Activities:

- Organizing new 15 shifts under foundation school for 450 students under the age of 4-5 year old children in selected camps, which are located in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, and Rajshahi Divisions.
- Continuing support to the 750 students under the age of 4-5 year old under ongoing 25 shifts of Foundation School located in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, and Rajshahi Divisions.
- Supporting 340 successful students of Foundation Schools for their admission into Class I of public Primary School
- Giving sponsorship to 26 camps based students for their admission into Class VI
- Granting sponsorship to 160 camps based selected SSC/HSC/Degree level students for continuation of their study.
- Providing sponsorship to 40 teachers of Foundation Schools, 10 Supervisors and 3 Computer Instructors for continuation of their studies.
- Providing basic Computer Training to 100 poor camps based students.
- Monitoring and supervision of the progress of the project.
- Documentation and reporting
- Audit of the project accounts.

Targets:

Targets will be identified and established from the Urdu-speaking community that lives in camps located in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Bogra, Mymensingh, Rangpur, Syedpur, and Ishurdi as follows:

Foundation Schools:

The Foundation School aims to save the children under 5 years from being lost and becoming street children. At the end of the year 2009, 27 Foundation Schools were established with 40 shifts in the following places:



Result day of foundation school in Geneva Camp, Mohammadpur, Dhaka

S.I. No.	Name of the Location	Total centers	Total shifts	Total students
1	Dhaka	6	11	278
2	Mymensingh	1	2	60
3	Chittagong	4	7	210
4	Khulna	4	5	150
5	Ishurdi	2	3	90
6	Bogra	1	1	30
7	Syedpur	7	8	249
8	Rangpur	1	3	90
Total		27	40	1,157

Foundation Schools were established in the following centers:

No	Name of Centers	Name of Camp	Foundation School	Total Shifts
1	Dhaka: Mohammadpur	Geneva Camp	1	4
2	Dhaka: Mirpur Sec. XI	Muslim Camp,	1	2
3	Dhaka: Mirpur Sec. XI	Rahmat Camp	1	1
4	Dhaka: Mirpur Sec. X	Madrassa Camp	1	2
5	Dhaka: Mirpur Sec. X	WAPDA Bldg No.5	1	1
6	Dhaka: Mirpur Sec. XI	WAPDA Bldg No.3	1	1
7	Mymensingh	Patgodam Camp	1	2
8	Chittagong	S.B. Nagar Camp	1	1
9	Chittagong	BW, 3 Camp	1	2
10	Chittagong	BW, 1 Camp	1	2
11	Chittagong	Islamia School Camp	1	2
12	Khulna	Khalispur Camp # 7	1	1
13	Khulna	Khalispur Camp # 3	1	2
14	Khulna	Khalispur Camp # 1	2	2
15	Ishurdi	Fateh Mdpur Camp	1	1
16	Ishurdi	Urdu Girls School Camp	1	2

No	Name of Centers	Name of Camp	Foundation School	Total Shifts
17	Bogra	Latifpur Colony Camp	1	1
18	Syedpur	Chamragodam Camp	1	1
19	Syedpur	Rasoolpur Camp	1	1
20	Syedpur	Durga Mills Camp	1	1
21	Syedpur	Hathi Khana Camp	1	2
22	Syedpur	Gola Haat Camp # 2	1	1
23	Syedpur	Gola Hat Cinema Camp	1	1
24	Syedpur	Godown Camp # 7	1	1
25	Rangpur	Alam Nagar, Rangpur	2	3
	Total		27	40

Sponsorship for getting admission in Class I of the public primary schools:

After a year of learning (2008), 235 children got admission into public primary school in January 2009 to get free education up to grade V

Center wise details:

S.I. No.	Location	Number of students
1	Dhaka	66
2	Chittagong	13
3	Ishurdi	30
4	Khulna	42
5	Syedpur	52
6	Mymensingh	32
	Total	235

Sponsorship for completion of Secondary, Higher Secondary and Degree level education:

The aim of this program is to promote higher education among the poorest camp based students, the following number of students in various camps received sponsorship from the project:

Regular SSC:	15
Regular HSC:	72
Degree/Honor's:	16
Open University SSC:	11
Open University HSC:	07
Total:	121



A group photo of students of Mohammadpur and Mirpur in Dhaka, who received sponsorship

Location:

S.I. No.	Location	Regular SSC	Regular HSC	Degree / Honor's	Open University SSC	Open University HSC
1	Dhaka	6	37	9	6	6
2	Chittagong	--	20	2	3	--
3	Ishurdi	--	--	4	--	--
4	Khulna	--	10	--	--	--
5	Syedpur	--	5	3	1	--
6	Mymensingh	9	--	1	1	1
Total		15	72	16	11	7



Group photo of students of Chittagong after receiving sponsorship



Students of Mohammadpur & Mirpur Center attending a sponsorship distribution ceremony

Fundamental Computer Course for skill Development



Computer Instructors and Students are busy in computer center at Geneva Camp, Mohammadpur

Two sponsored student-instructors from the community conducted training courses. This program only carried out in Geneva Camp, Mohammadpur, Dhaka. This program aims to enhance the knowledge of the target population on basic computer. From January 2009 to December 2009, 58 students completed their training course.

Course						
Office Course		Typing Course		Graphics Course		Total
Gender		Gender		Gender		
31	17	3	1	5	1	58

Parents Motivation Program:

This program aims at distribution of the messages on goal and objectives of the project and to involve the parents in their children's education. With this program the project reduced drop out rate of the students. It also encouraged the parents and shows that the parents are interested for their children's education.



Parents meeting held at Ishurdi center under Pabna district

Visit by the US Ambassador:

US Ambassador Mr. James F. Moriarty visited the Foundation School of CDC Project at Geneva Camp in Mohammadpur Dhaka on 23rd November 2009.



Talking to the Executive Members of Al-Falah Bangladesh, he said, Bangladesh Constitution guarantees same rights to all citizens in terms of social, economic and political development

Fund Raising:

At the initial stage funds were raised locally through individuals. Besides, individual affluent from the Urdu-speaking community, the major contributor of fund for the Community Development Project was Target International Giving Program (TIGP) Through Associated Merchandising Corporation (USA). The individual contributors were from UK, Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh.

In November 2009, the TIGP extended its support for the year 2010 to continue the Self-Help Education and Skill Development Programs under the project CDC



Mr. Shujaat Ali, Managing Director, Target Sourcing Services/AMC Bangladesh office handed over a grant certificate to the officials of Al-Falah Bangladesh

**Local Contribution received for CDC
from the well wishers and their friends 2007- 2009**

Tk. 100,000 and above

S.I. No.	Name	S.I. No.	Name
1.	Mr. Azmat Ashraf	5.	Dr. Hashmat Ashraf
2.	Friends of Mr. Azmat Ashraf	6.	Mr. Dawood Batla
3.	Mr. Abdul Hayee	7.	Mr. Rashid Ali Khan
4.	Mr. Mohd. Hafizullah	8.	Mr. Sayeed Ahmed

Total BDT: 24,53,100

Less than Tk. 100,000

S.I. No.	Name	S.I. No.	Name
1.	Mr. Syed Anisur Rahman	4.	Mr. Nazmul Islam
2.	Mr. Tariq Rasheed Dar	5.	Mr. Sarwar Zafri
3.	Mr. Mohammad Soaib	6.	Mr. Jawaid Hasan Stationwala

Total received amount: BDT 1,97,530

Foreign Contribution

S.I. No.	Name	S.I. No.	Name
1.	Target International Giving Program, USA	3.	Mr. Altaf Shoab
2.	Mr. Zia A. Nadwi	4.	Mr. Monowar H. Osman

Total received amount: BDT 23,58,002

Total contribution received from local and foreign sources: BDT 50,08,632

Name of Volunteer Teachers, Supervisors and Instructors:

S.I. No.	Name	Designation	Category	Location
1.	Afsana Akhter Putul	Community Teacher	Volunteer	Al-Falah Model Clinic, Geneva Camp, Mohammadpur, Dhaka
2.	Sabina Akhter	Community Teacher	Volunteer	
3.	Shabnum	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	
4.	Shahana Akhter	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	
5.	Yasmin Akhter	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	WAPDA Building Camp No. 5, Mirpur-10, Dhaka
6.	Rafia Khatun	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	Muslim Camp, Mirpur-11, Dhaka
7.	Munira Akhter	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	
8.	Sufia Akhter	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	Rahmat Camp, Mirpur-11, Dhaka
9.	Nahid	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	Madrasa Camp, Mirpur-10, Dhaka
10.	Nargis Akhter	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	
11.	Fatema Akhter	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	
12.	Nasrin Sultana	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	Patgodam Camp, Mymensingh
13.	Shahidul Islam Roni	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	
14.	Reshma Khatun	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	Fateh Mdpur Colony, Ishurdi
15.	Kaniz Fatema	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	Urdu Girl's School Camp, Ishurdi
16.	Rumana Parveen	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	
17.	Jahanara Begum	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	Chamragodam Camp Syedpur
18.	Nagma Parveen	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	Rasulpur Camp Syedpur
19.	Md. Jony	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	Hatikhana Camp Syedpur
20.	Chanda	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	
21.	Ajmeri	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	Golahat Camp No. 2, Syedpur
22.	Ruma Khatun	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	Golahat Cinema Camp, Syedpur
23.	Khaleda Khatun	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	Durga Mill Camp, Syedpur
24.	Oyashim	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	Godown Camp # 7, Syedpur
25.	Md. Tipu Sultan	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	Camp # 7, Old Housing Estate, Khalispur, Khulna

S.I. No.	Name	Designation	Category	Location
26.	Tamanna Khanam	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	Camp # 3 Old Housing Estate, Khalispur, Khulna
27.	Shabnam Parveen	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	
28.	Nilufar Yasmin	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	Camp # 1, Old Housing Estate, Khalispur, Khulna
29.	Shahina Akhter	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	
30.	Nilufa Yasmin	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	Latifpur Camp Colony, Bogra
31.	Abid Hussain	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	SB Nagar School Camp, Chittagong
32.	Rozi Akhter	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	Islamia School Camp, Chittagong
33.	Papiya Nasrin	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	
34.	Hena Akhter	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	
35.	Setara Akhter	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	BW/3 Camp, Chittagong
36.	Shama Afrin	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	
37.	Sharmin Akhter	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	BW-1 Camp, Chittagong
38.	Mst. Ishrat Jahan	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	
39.	Faisal Iqbal	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	
40.	Mst. Sabrina Afrin	Community Teacher	Student/ Volunteer	
41.	Md. Sarfaraj Khan	Community Supervisor	Student/ Volunteer	Mirpur, Dhaka
42.	Md. Ali Nadim	Community Supervisor	Student/ Volunteer	
43.	Md. Nesar Ahmed	Community Supervisor	Volunteer	Mymensingh
44.	Md. Shahnewaz Khan Rumi	Community Supervisor	Student/ Volunteer	Isurdi
45.	Majid Iqbal	Community Supervisor	Volunteer	Syedpur
46.	Md. Ali	Community Supervisor	Volunteer	Khulna
47.	Md. Shamsuddin Khan	Community Supervisor	Volunteer	Chittagong
48.	Md. Ashik Ali	Community Supervisor	Student/ Volunteer	
49.	Nagma Khatun	Community Supervisor	Student/ Volunteer	Rangpur
50.	Md. Imtiaz Ahmed	Computer Instructor	Student/ Volunteer	Dhaka
51.	Mohd. Ziauddin	Computer Instructor	Student/ Volunteer	
52.	Noor-e-Omar Khan	Computer Instructor	Student/ Volunteer	

Details of the Members of the Executive Committee:

S.I. No.	Name	Position
1.	Mr. Asghar Ali Khan	President
2.	Ms. Rahima Begum	Vice President
3.	Mr. Ashraful Haque Babu	General Secretary
4.	Mr. Shamim Ahmed Khan	Treasurer
5.	Ms. Sakina Begum	Executive Member
6.	Mr. Abid Hussain	Executive Member
7.	Mr. Arman Shamshi	Executive Member

List of Staffs:

S.I. No.	Name	Designation
1.	Mr. Ahmed Ilias	Executive Director
2.	Mr. Ziauddin Ahmed	Accountant
3.	Mohammad Hasan	Coordinator
4.	Mr. Khalid Hussain	Asst. Coordinator
5.	Mr. Shahed Ahmed	Asst. Coordinator
6.	Ms. Seema Naz	Asst. Coordinator
7.	Mr. Mukhtar Ahmed	Messenger
8.	Ms. Shaheen Begum	Aya/Cleaner

For more and update information please visit www.alfalah.com.bd

Or

For your queries please contact at: alfalahbd@gmail.com

Ahmed Ilias

Executive Director

Al-Falah Bangladesh

9/16, Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur,

Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh

Phone: + 0088 02 8130827

Cell: 017 2002 7178