

# Progress Report

January 2010 to December 2010

Implemented by:



**Community Development Center (CDC)**  
(A self help education & skill development program  
of **Al-Falah Bangladesh**)

Supported by:



**The Associated Merchandising Corporation, USA**  
**Target International Giving Program (TIGP)**

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## Preface

During the last 40 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 40 years only a small number of students among the 25,000 populations of Geneva Camp could achieve master degree from private universities.

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 through The Associated Merchandising Corporation, USA to implement its CDC project in 2010. The organization expresses its thanks to the AMC and TIGP, USA for its support. We also appreciate the services of the staffs, Mohammad Hasan, Senior Coordinator, Ziauddin Ahmed, Accountant, Khalid Hussain, Md. Ali Imran and Seema Naz, Assistant Coordinators 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 like 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:**

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.

## **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 1981 with a view to address 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, Government of Bangladesh.

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



Courtesy: ummid.info

### **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.



Courtesy: Andrew Biraj

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 restored their voting rights. These camp dwellers were, however, deprived of their basic human rights and fundamental rights for the last 40 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 settlements about 2,00,000. Almost same numbers of Urdu-speaking people live outside camps and they are largely integrated in the mainstream.

### **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 3 are female members. Among the 5 staff members of CDC, 2 are female and in Al-Falah Model Clinic, out of 18 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



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

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 project proposal for the year 2009-2010

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 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.



Students of Foundation School center in Bogra received Target Education materials

### Specific Activities:

- Organizing and establishing 40 shifts of foundation school for 1156 students under the age of 4-5 year old children in selected camps, which are located in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, and Rajshahi Divisions.
- CDC supported a total of 296 students of Foundation Schools for their admission into Class I of public Primary School.
- Granting sponsorship to 111 camps based selected SSC/HSC/Degree/Honor's level students for continuation of their study.
- Providing sponsorship to 40 teachers of Foundation Schools, 10 Supervisors and 2 Computer Instructors for continuation of their studies.
- Providing basic Computer Training to 32 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 Foundation school centers from the Urdu-speaking community that lives in camps located in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Bogra, Mymensingh, Rangpur, Syedpur, and Ishurdi.

### Foundation Schools:

The Foundation School aims to save the 4-5 years old children from being lost and becoming street children. During the year 2010, 26 Foundation School centers were established with 40 shifts.



Students of Foundation School attended final examination in Mohammadpur, Dhaka

Total 1156 student were admitted in the foundation school. The details are as follows:

S.I. No.	Name of the locations	Centers	Schools	Gender		Total no. of students
				Boys	Girls	
1	Mohammadpur of Dhaka Division	1	4	84	71	155
2	Mirpur of Dhaka Division	5	7	95	83	178
3	Mymensingh of Dhaka Division	1	2	32	13	45
4	Pahartali, Khulshi of Chittagong Division	4	7	91	119	210
5	Khalishpur of Khulna Division	4	5	77	73	150
6	Syedpur of Rajshahi Division	7	8	106	106	212
7	Rangpur of Rajshahi Division	1	3	51	39	90
8	Ishurdi of Rajshahi Division	2	3	36	50	86
9	Bogra of Rajshahi Division	1	1	12	18	30
<b>Total</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>1156</b>

A total number of 108 students were dropped out from the school due to change of their locations, teachers got off and some were admitted in other schools.

In 2010 a total number of 1048 students were attended the final exam conducted by the project:

S.I. No.	Name of the locations	Centers	Schools	Gender		Total no. of students
				Boys	Girls	
1	Mohammadpur of Dhaka Division	1	4	66	55	121
2	Mirpur of Dhaka Division	5	7	85	71	156
3	Mymensingh of Dhaka Division	1	2	31	12	43
4	Pahartali, Khulshi of Chittagong Division	4	7	81	106	187
5	Khalishpur of Khulna Division	4	5	77	73	150
6	Syedpur of Rajshahi Division	7	8	103	104	207
7	Rangpur of Rajshahi Division	1	3	51	39	90
8	Ishurdi of Rajshahi Division	2	3	31	41	72
9	Bogra of Rajshahi Division	1	1	09	13	22
<b>Total</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>1048</b>



**Foundation Schools were established in the following centers:**

<b>No</b>	<b>Name of Centers</b>	<b>Name of Camp</b>	<b>Foundation School</b>	<b>Total Shifts</b>
1	Dhaka	Geneva Camp, Mohammadpur	1	4
2		Muslim Camp, Sec-XI, Mirpur	1	2
3		Rahmat Camp, Sec-XI, Mirpur	1	1
4		Madrassa Camp, Sec-X, Mirpur	1	2
5		WAPDA Bldg No.5, Sec-XI, Mirpur	1	1
6		WAPDA Bldg No.3, Sec-XI, Mirpur	1	1
7	Mymensingh	Patgodam Camp	1	2
8	Chittagong	S.B. Nagar Camp	1	1
9		BW, 3 Camp	1	2
10		BW, 1 Camp	1	2
11		Islamia School Camp	1	2
12	Khulna	Khalispur Camp # 7	1	1
13		Khalispur Camp # 3	1	2
14		Khalispur Camp # 1	2	2
15		Baitul Falah Camp	1	1
16	Ishurdi	Fateh Mdpur Camp	1	1
17		Urdu Girls School Camp	1	2
18	Bogra	Latifpur Colony Camp	1	1
19	Syedpur	Chamragodam Camp	1	1
20		Rasoolpur Camp	1	1
21		Durga Mills Camp	1	1
22		Hathi Khana Camp	1	2
23		Gola Haat Camp # 2	1	1
24		Gola Hat Cinema Camp	1	1
25		Godown Camp # 7	1	1
26	Rangpur	Alam Nagar, Rangpur	1	3
<b>Total</b>			<b>26</b>	<b>40</b>

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

After a year of learning in 2009 a total of 296 children supported by the project got admission into public primary school in January 2010 to get free education up to grade V. Locations wise details as follows:

#### Center wise details:

S.I. No.	Location	Gender		Number of students
		Boys	Girls	
1	Dhaka	37	43	80
2	Chittagong	12	07	19
3	Ishurdi	10	14	24
4	Khulna	29	44	73
5	Syedpur	40	43	83
6	Mymensingh	13	04	17
<b>Total</b>		<b>141</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>296</b>

### 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:	01
Regular HSC:	78
Degree (pass course):	02
Honor's:	12
Open University SSC:	03
Open University HSC:	02
Open University Degree:	03
<b>Total:</b>	<b>111</b>



Distribution of sponsorship among the students of Mirpur and Mohammadpur camps

#### Location:

Name of Division	S.S.C**		S.S.C/ BOU**		H.S.C**		H.S.C/ BOU		Degree		Degree/ BOU		Honors		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Dhaka	-	1	2	1	3	17	-	2	-	1	-	-	5	5	37
Chittagong	-	-	-	-	3	7	-	-	2	7	-	-	1	-	20
Khulna	-	-	-	-	15	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
Syedpur	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	5
Bogra	-	-	-	-	3	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Rangpur	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	7
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>50</b>	-	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	-	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>111</b>

\*\*SSC : Secondary School Certificate

HSC : Higher Secondary School Certificate

BOU : Bangladesh Open University

### Fundamental Computer Course for skill Development:

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 2010 to December 2010, 32 students completed their training course. Total male 18 and female 14.



Students attending computer class  
Instructors are seen conducting class

### 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.

### Community Celebration Program:

At the initial stage funds were raised locally through individuals. Besides, individuals an USA based donor agency Target International Giving Program (TIGP) Through Associated Merchandising Corporation (USA) supported this project in 2009 and 2010.

In January 2010 Al-Falah Bangladesh was organized a Community Celebration program with the support of AMC/TIGP. The officials of AMC were present in the program and formally hand over an over sized Cheque and an appreciation certificate on behalf of their respective agency. They also distributed the education materials among the foundation school students.



Mr. Shujaat Ali, Managing Director, Target Sourcing Services/AMC Bangladesh office handed over an over sized Cheque to the officials of Al-Falah Bangladesh

**Name of Volunteer Teachers, Supervisors and Instructors:**

<b>S.I. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Location</b>
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.	Taslima 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	WAPDA Building Camp No. 3 Mirpur-11, Dhaka
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.	Setara Parvin	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. Shahid Reza	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
26.	Tamanna Khanam	Community Teacher	Student/Volunteer	Baitul Falah Camp, Khalispur, Khulna
27.	Shabnam Parveen	Community Teacher	Student/Volunteer	Camp # 3 Old Housing Estate, Khalispur, Khulna

<b>S.I. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Location</b>
28.	Nilufar Yasmin	Community Teacher	Student/Volunteer	Camp # 1, Old Housing Estate, Khalispur, Khulna
29.	Reshma Khatun	Community Teacher	Student/Volunteer	
30.	Tanveer Jahan	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.	Moni Akhter	Community Teacher	Student/Volunteer	BW/3 Camp, Chittagong
36.	Shama Afrin	Community Teacher	Student/Volunteer	
37.	Sanjida Parvin	Community Teacher	Student/Volunteer	BW-1 Camp, Chittagong
38.	Mst. Ishrat Jahan	Community Teacher	Student/Volunteer	
39.	Imran Ahmed	Community Teacher	Student/Volunteer	
40.	Mst. Sabrina Afrin	Community Teacher	Student/Volunteer	
41.	Md. Ali Nadim	Community Supervisor	Student/Volunteer	
42.	Md. Nesar Ahmed	Community Supervisor	Volunteer	Mymensingh
43.	Md. Shahnewaz Khan Rumi	Community Supervisor	Student/Volunteer	Isurdi
44.	Majid Iqbal	Community Supervisor	Volunteer	Syedpur
45.	Md. Ahmed Hossain	Community Supervisor	Student/Volunteer	
46.	Md. Ali	Community Supervisor	Volunteer	Khulna
47.	Nawshin Farzana Shanta	Community Supervisor	Volunteer	Chittagong
48.	S. M. Imran	Community Supervisor	Student/Volunteer	
49.	Lovely Sweet	Community Supervisor	Student/Volunteer	Bogra
50.	Nagma Khatun	Community Supervisor	Student/Volunteer	Rangpur
51.	Nasrin Akhter	Computer Instructor	Student/Volunteer	Dhaka
52.	Mohammad Hasan	Computer Instructor	Student/Volunteer	

**Details of the Members of the Executive Committee:**

<b>S.I. No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
1.	Mr. Asghar Ali Khan	President
2.	Ms. Rahima Begum	Vice President
3.	Mr. Shamim Ahmed Khan	General Secretary
4.	Mr. Syed Afzal Hussain	Treasurer
5.	Mr. Ashraful Haque Babu	Executive Member
6.	Ms. Sakina Begum	Executive Member
7.	Ms. S. M. Reshma	Executive Member

**List of Staffs:**

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