

AHSANIA MISSION CHILDREN CITY



ANNUAL REPORT
2016-2017



Making differences in a child's life

Ahsania Mission Children City

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MESSAGE OF DAM PRESIDENT



Thousands of children in Bangladesh who become victims of the socio- economic deprivation and family disputes end up on the streets. These most vulnerable and disadvantaged street children live, play, earn and sleep on the streets without access to modern utility services as safe drinking water, hygienic sanitations and basic needs like foods, education, healthcare. On top of it these children grow up without parental love and care, which is considered the highest priority for mental as well as physical growth and development of every child for a normal life. Street children are a major national issue as well as global concern. The problem cannot be addressed in isolation, we need collective efforts.

Keeping the vulnerability of the street children in view, Dhaka Ahsania Mission in collaboration with KNH-Germany designed a program with intent to rehabilitate 10,000 street children in 10 children villages across the country, each consisting of a 1000 children. At the first phase, the program is in implementation in the Panchagarh region, remotest northern part of the country, targeting 1000 children.

Currently, AMCC has the capacity to accommodate 300 children at a time. With financial supports of P&G, another five-storied residential building block is under construction, which will provide accommodation for another 300 street children. We are thankful to KNH-Germany, for their help and contribution in implementation of this very crucial and challenging program.

I am personally very pleased that AMCC management has taken a good and timely initiative to publish AMCC Annual Report 2016-17. The Annual Report focuses and highlights the activities undertaken, services delivered and challenges encountered by the project during the reporting period.

Kazi Rafiqul Alam

President, Dhaka Ahsania Mission



MESSAGE OF DAM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC) is a unique venture of Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) to extend support to the vulnerable groups of children in Bangladesh to become active citizen of the country and contributing to the national development. Vulnerability of children from disadvantaged community, particularly the children living in the streets and the abandoned children is a complex concern which cannot be addressed in isolation by just providing them shelter and living services. There is need for comprehensive and long-term support service to these groups of children for their survival, protection and development both mentally, intellectually and socially.

DAM envisions a society free of street children and end of all forms of discriminations to the children in distress conditions. Creating an enabling environment for the vulnerable and most disadvantaged children in support of their growth is a prime agenda for action before DAM. AMCC is planned to that end creating institutional facilities for these children, the first city of which is established in Panchagar. It is providing all necessary supports like safe and secured residential facility, foods, education, healthcare, recreations and trainings to the children.

It is pleasure to see that the AMCC activities are gradually getting consolidated and establishment more villages and cities of AMCC are being planned. Publication of a separate Annual Report of AMCC documenting its activities over the year is a gallant step on the part of the management. I understand, it is the first step so far since establishment of the institute in Panchagar in 2012. I wish success of the effort.

I convey my heartfelt thanks to the entire team for their hard work and also to the supporters of AMCC who contributed financially and technically in the journey of the institute. Together we shall reach our goal Inshallah.

Dr. M. Ehsanur Rahman

Executive Director, Dhaka Ahsania Mission



MESSAGE OF KNH COUNTRY COORDINATOR



Kindernothilfe (KNH) has been supporting children in need in 31 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America for more than 50 years. In the field of development cooperation and humanitarian aid Kindernothilfe reaches more than 780.000 children and their families with sustainable projects.

In Bangladesh, KNH actively supports NGOs and civil society organizations to work on Child Rights, Women Rights, Women Empowerment, Disaster Risk Reduction, Humanitarian Assistance etc. With the financial support of KNH, DAM is implementing AMCC at Panchagarh to provide all necessary supports ranging from safe home, foods, education, healthcare, trainings to the most vulnerable and street children. This has been a unique and challenging programmatic intervention for street children rehabilitation being implemented by DAM.

KNH is pleased to be a part in the implementation of MVDSC program since December 2012. Currently about 300 children are enjoying all services to shape up their lives in the best way possible. Talent hunt is another important drive of AMCC. Our children have already shown their potentials in the areas of education, music, drawings and games at the district level and beyond!

I'm glad to know that AMCC is going to publish its 2nd Annual Report which can be a source of valuable information highlighting diverse interventions about children including their development and hope to see this publication on a regular basis.

My sincere thanks to the ones who are involved with this publication and my best wishes for the AMCC Children and Staff!

Maruf Momtaj Rumi

Country Coordinator, KNH-Bangladesh



EDITOR'S NOTE



With sixty years of experience in working in all the development sectors of Bangladesh, Dhaka Ahsania Mission has implemented many rights based projects including child rights and protection for many years now. Street children issue is a vital issue which needs to be addressed comprehensively. DAM President has a great vision to set a replicable model by establishing 10 such children villages, with each children city hosting ten thousand street children.

We are very grateful to KNH-Germany for their continued support to establish an ideal children city.

Since the implementation of the project, a total number of 407 children were enrolled; and with a few drop-outs 259 children are currently living in AMCC. Last year we could achieve our set targets in the area of enrollment, education, health, food distribution, counseling, training, agriculture and extracurricular activities with remarkable accomplishment. I'd also like to thank those people, whose tireless dedication and sincerity helped in moving forward the successful implementation of the activities of the children city.

I would like to extend my special thanks to my editorial panel for their tireless contribution in publication of this Annual Report.

M. Jahangir Hossain

Program Manager, Ahsania Mission Children City

AMCC AT A GLANCE

Dhaka Ahsania Mission with its long experience and expertise in working with street children, has conceived the idea of developing a Children City with the objective of rehabilitating street children and allowing them to grow in an enabling environment where they can unleash their latent talents and unlock their potentials and creativity.

AMCC aims to provide support to the homeless and most vulnerable street children of 6-8 years of age who live, work, play and sleep on the street and ensure holistic development meeting their basic needs together with safe home, good foods, health care, formal education, psychosocial counseling, recreation including life-skills and vocational trainings for mainstreaming in the society with dignity. The children will be provided with services and assistance until the age of 18.

Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC), being implemented under the project entitled "Integrated Development Program for Most Vulnerable and Disadvantaged Street Children (IDP-MVDSC)" started its journey back in 2011. From July, 2012 the project launched its operation from a rental house. In fact the pilot phase of the project started in December 2012 and ended in December 2013. However, until May 2014 the project was managed by DAM own fund. From June 2014 the current phase of the project was started which will continue over a period of 5 years until 2019 with the financial support of KNH-Germany. Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC) expresses its sincere gratitude to KNH Germany, DAM management, local administration, community people and other stakeholders for their continuous cooperation.

To protect the rights of the street children and to fully equip them to be reintegrated in the society as productive citizens of the country, AMCC is implementing various activities.





AMCC'S IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

From the very beginning to date, 407 children were enrolled at AMCC. Out of them, 148 were reintegrated and relocated to families and organizations. Currently, 259 children are living at AMCC Panchagarh center. During the reporting period, 107 children were enrolled and 20 children were reintegrated with their own families and drop-in-centers. There are 150 children within the age bracket 6 to 8 years and 109 children from the age of 7 to 14 years.

Meet Sohan

"My name is Sohan..."

I want to be a doctor, so that I can serve the poor people and gain their love"

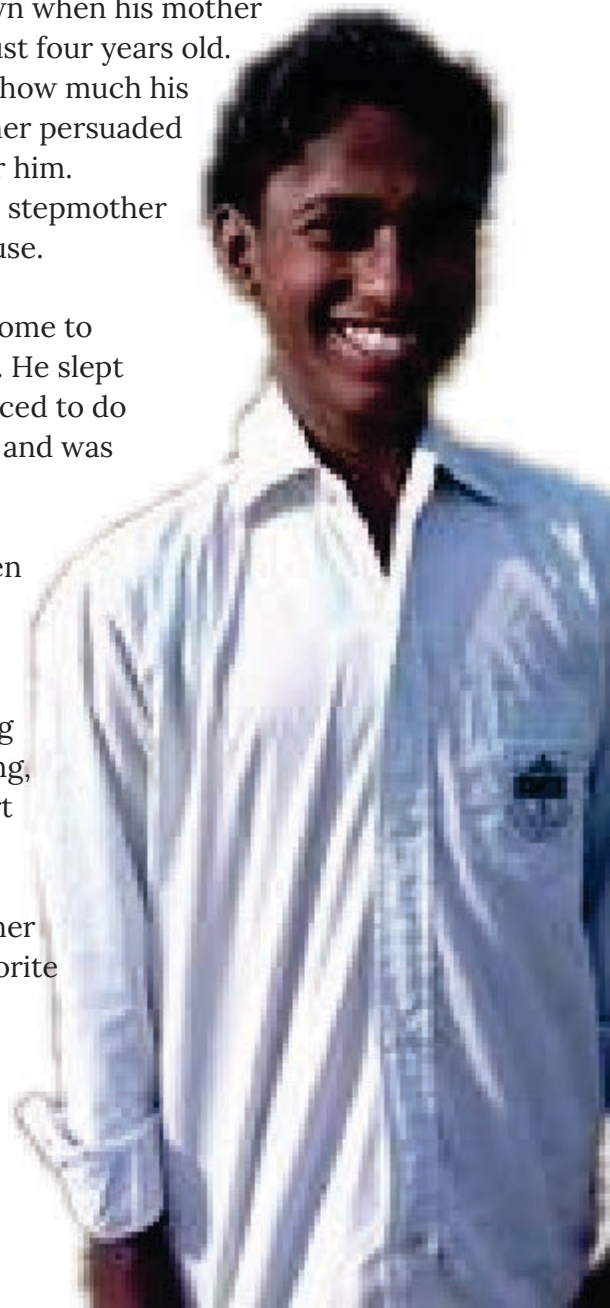
Sohan was not born a street child. His life turned upside down when his mother committed suicide due to domestic violence when he was just four years old. Sohan's father remarried subsequently. Sohan soon realized how much his world has changed. Earlier when he didn't want to eat, his mother persuaded him to do so. Now suddenly there was a shortage of food for him. Everything he did earned him a scolding or beating from his stepmother while his father turned a blind eye to everyday domestic abuse.

Unable to bear the abuse any longer, Sohan ran away from home to Tongi railway station and began another harsh and cruel life. He slept in the station with other street children like him and was forced to do manual labor to survive. Sohan had no access to basic needs and was not aware of child rights.

In 2012, Sohan came to the notice of Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC) Programme Manager and was brought to AMCC in Panchagarh along with six other street children.

Initially, Sohan did not like the routine life. He hated studying and found it difficult to adjust in AMCC. By proper counseling, through encouragement of AMCC staff, teachers and support from his peers, Sohan started feeling at home in AMCC and began focusing on his studies. Gradually he started to do better in his studies and took great interest in sports and other activities. He is particularly interested in football and his favorite team is Brazil.

In the year 2016, Sohan secured highest marks GPA 5 (A+) in Primary School Certificate (P.S.C.) examination and also secured government primary scholarship making everyone in AMCC proud.



SERVICES

AT AMCC



ACCOMMODATION

AMCC provides a safe and secure home for the children of AMCC.

Minor children are kept under the care of a mother. There are five residential mothers to take care of the children.

Elder boys live without supervision of the mothers.

FOOD

Nutritious and fresh foods are provided to the children. Food quality is regularly checked and assigned employees are responsible for ensuring balanced diet of the children. In consultation with children, the food committee comprised of staff and children prepares a food menu every month and food schedule is maintained strictly.

Vegetables, fish, meats, eggs and milk are procured from local market on a daily basis in order to ensure fresh quality.



HEALTHCARE

The children are provided with a regular health check-up by a competent physician twice a month. In the health check-up weight, height, eye vision, tooth, hair and nails are checked properly.



EDUCATION



AMCC is providing education to the children following the government primary education and own curriculum.

Achievement during the last year:

All 259 students in different classes from pre-primary to class (V) were found satisfactorily making steady progress in lesson learning.

In order to create interest in the students towards education, a few effective measures were taken such as :

- child friendly behavior by teaching faculty
- use of different types of education materials in the class rooms
- group works
- encouraging kids for creative works etc.

Teachers work hard to provide noticeable improvement of the children. Weaker students are provided with extra care and provided with extra classes.

PEC students are taken to other schools for model tests to check their progress.

Key focus of AMCC is education. This year 6 students attended Primary School certificated Exam (locally known as primary school exit exam which is held all over the country) and did outstanding results. Passing rate is 100%. Out of 6 children 4 got GPA 5 and 2 got GPA 4.25. To inspire other children towards education, DAM management outlined a program to recognize their achievement ceremoniously inviting Deputy Commissioner and other senior government officials in the program.

AGRICULTURE

Agricultural training is provided to the children of AMCC.

1. In 2017, agro-based trainings were provided to eighty children
2. Hundred kilograms of vegetables were grown during reporting period which were sold in the market as well as consumed by the students.
3. AMCC staff also helped children in crop production
4. Five local agriculture department officials visited AMCC
5. Nearly twenty bighas of land was brought under irrigation and cultivation
6. Many crops were produced in consultation with local agriculture office
7. Kids learnt how to produce different variety of crops in different seasons
8. Children learnt when to irrigate and how to apply fertilizers
9. Close to 2030 saplings of different varieties were planted



PSYCHOSOCIAL COUNSELING

Counseling is the key focus of AMCC. Initially, when children are enrolled in AMCC, they are distracted, they do not have any particular dream and objective. Counseling helps change minds and behavior of the children to required standard.

During, the last year, 92 individual counseling sessions and 65 group counseling were held. Individual counseling sessions developed children's disciplinary attitudes, cleanliness and helped them to overcome various negative behavioral problems. On the other hand, the group counseling sessions helped them to adapt and cope up with different situations.

MEET THE TEAM

PEOPLE BEHIND AMCC



Project staffs are recruited based on HR policy and an impartial selection process prioritizing experience, skills and sound knowledge about child rights and child protection policy with proven track record and work experience in the field of child rights.

Currently, a 34-member team works for the project. Among them, 28 are field staff and the rest work in the head office. Alongside, some daily basis employees are also assigned.

Program Manager is the key personnel of the project; he is supported by Center Manager, Accounts officer and Admin officer. The Head Office based employees work under direct supervision of PM. At Panchagarh shelter home, Center Manager has the supreme authority. Education coordinator, counselor, paramedics, social workers, agriculture expert are supervised by CM. Teachers report to Education Coordinator.

AMCC TRANSITIONAL SHELTER HOME



AMCC transitional shelter home is located at Paikpara, Mirpur in Dhaka. It is a 5 storied building with all modern facilities and mini park.

Transitional shelter home is an important part of the project. Dhaka based front line staffs collect street children as per criteria from different sources. Children are kept in this center for 2 to 3 weeks. During this period, children's overall physical condition is checked and their behavior and attitudes are brought under close observation by experienced counselor and paramedics.

Following are series of counseling when children are found physically fit and their mind is set they are considered for AMCC Panchagarh. Transfer of children to Panchagarh is subject to approval of a selection committee headed by AMCC Program Manager. In the reporting year, a total of 100 street children were collected and out of it 82 children were transferred to Panchagarh and rest 11 to family and 6 kids were sent back to NGOs.

MEET ABDULLAH

REINTEGRATION OF ABDULLAH TO FAMILY



Abdullah (9) lost his father at the age of 5. His mother worked as a day laborer in a jute mill in Bogra to meet day's end. Abdullah's elder brother Babu (12) took a job at a local carpentry to help his mother. Scared of her daughter's security, Abdullah's mother married off his sister at the age of 13.

Abdullah was naughty by nature. He used to roam around the city with other local children all day long. Sometimes, they used to steal things from others. Abdullah's mother used to scold him but he never listened to his mother. One day, Abdullah ran away from his family to Dhaka. There his new life started. The life of a street child. He used to beg in Kamlapur Railway Station to survive. This was how he spent a year at Kamlapur Railway Station.

Oneday, a social worker from Leedo, found him and brought him to their centre. For his long time rehabilitation, he was brought and admitted to Ahsania Mission Children City (AMCC). Initially, he did not enjoy the disciplined life at AMCC and tried to runaway. Conspiring with other children, he and the others broke the furnitures, windows, toilets etc. He also used to fight with the other children.

Gradually due to proper counseling and guidance from AMCC staff, Abdullah started accepting his new life. He calmed down and started concentrating on his studies. He secured first position in annual examination proving his intelligence. Although he had accepted his new life Abdullah was not in peace. He missed his mother and siblings and wanted to contact them. Unfortunately, Abdullah did not remember his home address. He became depressed and cried regularly for his mother. AMCC staff by quizzing him found out he lived somewhere near Charmatha Mor in Bogra. They took him there and still no trace could be found. Suddenly, a rickshawpullar started shouting for passengers to Arula. Abdullah remembered his sister's in-laws lived in Arula Bazaar. From there they went to Mistripara where his brother-in-law is a carpenter. There his brother-in-law recognized him and started crying. Abdullah has finally found his family. Finding his family, Abdullah was really happy. Abdullah told his family he is really happy in AMCC and wants to continue his life there. He wants to be a good human being. His family was both surprised and very happy. They handed him over to AMCC. Abdullah now reads in class two. He talks to his family members regularly and once in a while, during holidays, goes to visit his family.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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Daily assembly: Children attend daily assembly ahead of school start time. They start the day by recitation from the Holy Quran, show respect to the national flag, take oath and sing the national anthem. Then the children take part in PT.

Weekly Cultural Program: Weekly cultural programs are held regularly. Children compete with each other in the area of music, dance, rhymes, role play, debate, quiz etc.



Friendly Matches: AMCC children played 6 cricket matches and 3 football matches with guest teams. Out of the matches, AMCC children won 4 football and 2 cricket matches.

Computer Education: Computer training is provided to students of class four and five considering their level of understanding and age factors. They are made familiar with basic concepts, hardware items and safety devices.



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Drawing and Arts: 65 children were enrolled in especial art class. Kids on the basis of ages were divided into small groups to learn basic of drawings. By careful mentoring of the faculty, AMCC children have received prestigious awards from Upazila and district level competition showing outstanding performance.



Scouts: AMCC has a 30 member scout team. The scout team and performed in different national events like independence day, victory day etc.

Exercise: The children of AMCC take part in regular physical exercise under the guidance of a game teacher.



Student body election was held in AMCC, where the children elected their own representatives by casting votes in ballot boxes. The whole election process was done in a very disciplined way with an Election commissioner, Presiding officer and Polling officer are responsible for a free and fair election ensuring participation of all children.

EVENTS IN PICTURES



AMCC children celebrating Eid-UI-Fitr



AMCC children celebrate "International Literacy Day with Panchagarh Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Amal Krishna Mondal



With financial support of KNH-Germany Ahsania Mission Children City organized an education tour-2017 to Tentulia 'zero' point and Tentulia 'Dak-Bangalo'.



Children planting saplings on World Environment Day



Rally celebrating Bangla New Year 1424

EVENTS IN PICTURES



AMCC children brought out a rally to mark "National Mourning Day - 2017"



Teachers and children playing together

AMCC staff and selected children took part in a training on Shelter Home Management held "AMCC Transnational Shelter"



EVENTS IN PICTUTES



Disaster preparedness training held for Children and Staff

RE-START OF CONSTRUCTION OF 2ND BUILDING



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

For the period from 01 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

Amount in Taka

Income

Fund Received from KNH	22,675,906
DAM Contribution received	2,370,424
Bank Interest	147,075
Other Income	19,360

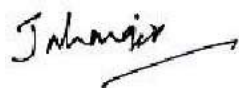
Total Income (BDT) 25,212,765

Awareness & Child Development	144,786
Advocacy Meeting/ Seminar/Publicity/Monitoring & Evaluation	186,517
Organization Development(Office Maintenance)	976,814
Furniture Fixed Asset & Capital Item	-
Child Enrollment	205,036
Skill Development for Children	108,695
Training/Orientation of teachers/Cucurulam Development	100,198
School Material for Learners	290,825
Cloth and Liveries for Children	754,474
School & Hostel Furniture	-
Salary & Allowance	5,290,752
Children Food Medicine & Toiletries Cost	4,690,204
Community Participation/Socialization	26,919
Building Construction	-
Management Cost	929,081
Depreciation	550,742

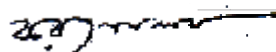
Total Expenditure (BDT) 14,255,043

Excess of Income over Expenditure 10,957,722

Total BDT 25,212,765



Program Manager
AMCC



President
Dhaka Ahsania Mission



AMCC children taking part in various activities



DAM president Kazi Rafiqul Alam visiting AMCC in Panchagarh



Children of AMCC taking part in various activities



AMCC main building in Panchagarh



AMCC students on an education tour to Tetulia 'zero' point



Ahsania Mission Children City

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