

Newsletter May 2023



LAMB HEALTH Bangladesh

Focus on Poor Fund

LAMB Health has been asked by LAMB to try and raise an extra £35K for poor fund as Bangladesh faces a cost of living crisis similar to the UK. Fortunately the exchange rate is good at the moment.....

Below you can find 3 short stories of people who have really been helped by the poor fund - without it, they just would not have managed. Thank you to those of you already giving - but please can everyone help with a donation, however small? Thank you!



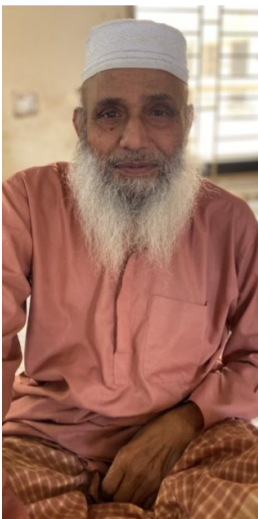
Beli

Beli Begum, in her 3rd pregnancy and with no living children, chose LAMB for her care even though it is 50km away from her home. At 30 weeks she went into early labour and delivered a very small baby - 1360g (3lbs) only. She couldn't imagine the baby would survive, but with good care at LAMB he did and the parents were delighted. The cost of her care was around £600. Somehow they managed find £250 and poor fund took care of the rest. Without this kind of support, Beli and her baby would simply not have got the care they



Habib

Habib, 45, had a large ulcer on his leg which a local village practitioner couldn't help, and the family was too poor to see a doctor. Eventually he found his way to LAMB, where unfortunately he needed an amputation and a 6-week stay in hospital. His hospital bill, over £1000, was far too much for the family to pay but they managed £150 and the poor fund paid for the rest. Habib's wife said with joy: "My husband would have died if such support for the poor was not in place"



Yonus

Yonus, 60 years old, has leprosy and was referred from a nearby leprosy hospital since he needed an amputation for a non-healing leg ulcer. 50% of the £600 bill was paid for by poor fund, the rest by the leprosy hospital. Yonus said: "I was admitted at LAMB and the next day my leg surgery was done. Doctors told me that I will get better soon. The doctors' treatment and their behaviour is very good. They nicely take care of the patients. The doctor used to come asked me how I am doing. I liked it!"



ACT Project not quite finished...

Although the ACT project officially finished at the end of Dec 2022, as a result of a generous donation, some work has continued so that the Aunties (the listening community volunteer counsellors), have continued to be supported, as have the 144 wedding buster groups. In addition, the teaching has been taken into 18 local secondary schools by the workers – encouraging the teachers and developing a sustainable method to perpetuate the new ideas. Some interesting findings from the final report:

- The proportion of girls who said they were married at age over 15 increased from 25% to 41%. (Still a lot of work needs to be done!!)
- 1 in 3 married girls able to continue school
- The number of boys doing vocational training at the end of the project had changed from 1 in 20 to 1 in 7. Was this because they gained self-confidence and a sense of responsibility in their groups?
- Girls may be taken out of school early because a more educated girl requires a more educated groom which increases the dowry costs.
- Eve-teasing and illicit relationships are often given by parents as the reason for marrying off their daughters; society always seems to blame girls while boys are seen as innocent.
- At the end of the project 40% of boys still wanted to marry a girl under 20
- By the end of the project, many more adolescents said they would be able to talk with their parents if they were struggling with mental health issues or if they disagreed with their parents' choice of marriage partner for them.



Our supporter (left), his parents, and some LAMB staff

A supporter writes....

"I have just recently come across the great work that LAMB is doing in Bangladesh when my wife attended her maternity appointment with Dr Edwards at Gloucestershire Royal hospital. Being originally from Bangladesh, it was heart-warming to listen to Dr Edwards speaking about the service provided there by a dedicated bunch of volunteers and staff. So, when we had the chance to visit Bangladesh in Nov 2022 to see the family, I took the opportunity to visit Parbatipur from Dhaka. My parents were particularly excited and wanted to come along with me to visit the facility to see for themselves how LAMB is helping the local community. The welcome to the hospital was really warm with the staff taking a lot of time to give us an overview, how it is run, and showed us around various departments and the nursing school. We had the chance to speak with some of the patients there who were eternally grateful for the support provided in such a remote part of the country. Although it was a very short trip, it left us with a lasting memory. We truly look forward to going back to LAMB again in the near future and plan to increase our support for the wonderful work being done there"

The LAMB Health Annual Report 2022 is available! You can download a copy by going to :

www.lambhealth.org.uk/annual-reports

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