

# Newsletter March 2023



**LAMB** HEALTH  
Bangladesh



## Some things take a long time...

Back in the 1980s TB was one of the biggest killers of adults in Bangladesh. It was much more common in poorer people whose nutritional status was poor and living conditions crowded. And the more people who have TB the more it spreads. There was one other big problem; patients bought and took one month's costly medicine, but then felt better and stopped the medicine – and their TB returned but with germs resistant to the usual TB medicines. Even with the newer medicines, treatment needs to be for a minimum of 6 months. LAMB's TB programme started in the mid 1980s and year on year the number of patients, despite hard searching, is decreasing. Last year only 1693 TB patients received treatment (supplied by the Government of Bangladesh) from LAMB. Diagnosis is usually from a sputum test and LAMB uses 172 sputum collection centres – where patients can pick up a pot and take it home to collect their sputum. The photo shows one of the field workers handing over sputum pots to a medicine shop where the shop keeper will kindly give them out to be done by anyone who comes to him with a cough. They are then returned and sent to the nearest microscopy centre. Last year 20,871 sputum tests were screened! It's great to see the prevalence of TB in the area round LAMB falling dramatically – although there is still lots of work to be done.

## Blessings overflow!

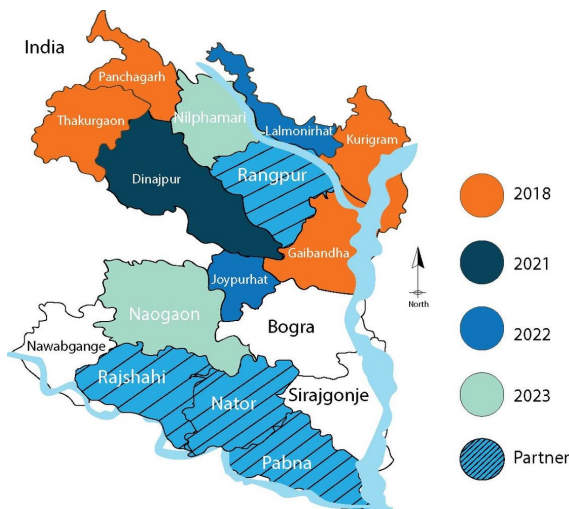
- Fire hydrants have been installed all over LAMB's campus paid for by a grant which LH applied for, and the security team is being trained in proper usage.
- The boundary wall has been improved paid for by a grant from a church in Reading, and a new guard tower has been built to watch over the residential area.
- There is a pilot biogas programme and a 'safe rubbish' disposal project sponsored by TEARfund.
- A sewage treatment plant was installed to filter waste water that comes from the hospital.
- Almost £6,000 was saved through the use of the solar panels in 2022.





## A change at the top

Kyle Scott, Executive Director of LAMB, is stepping down from his role in Bangladesh, to become the next Executive Director of World Mission Prayer League, LAMB's parent organization. The target now is to find a new leader for LAMB...will you pray? Difficulty in obtaining a visa contributed to this need to move on, and several other expatriates at LAMB are facing the same problem.



## Fistula treatment programme

We praise the Lord that our Stop Suffering from Genital Fistula (SSFGF) project was able to expand into two more districts during 2022 and we look forward to expanding the work into another district next month! After surgery, some of the former fistula patients become advocates for their community. Fistula survivors become Community Fistula Advocates who help locate others suffering from fistulas and refer them to LAMB for proper care. Take a look at the map to see how this program has grown since it started in 2018 and our plans, Lord willing, for future expansion. **Since the beginning of this programme, through partnerships with Engender Health, Women's Health International and UNFPA, over 1700 women have received life-changing fistula operations at LAMB.**



## Rehab team celebrations

Janie Robson writes: I had the joy of visiting the LAMB Rehabilitation team in Nov/Dec 2022. I worked there as a physiotherapist from 1994-1997 and again from 2016-2018 with several little trips in between. This time we celebrated Rehab's 28th birthday on 20<sup>th</sup> November!

We estimate that over 9000 disabled children and their families have been helped, 850 babies have had their club feet corrected and over 20,000 pieces of equipment have been made in the workshop. The tailors have made numerous cushions for chairs, as well as splints and gaiters. There are now 28 community clinics providing regular therapy in the community and in general attitudes towards disabled children are changing and it is easier for them to attend school than it was at the beginning. Many of our disabled children have grown up and we can think of those who have attended university, or colleges. Others are employed as teachers, tailors, shop keepers, making handicrafts, one as a pharmacist, and at least one other is employed in government service. LAMB employs 21 gardeners with disabilities to tend the hospital compound and gardens outside in the community. They also keep goats and cows, make handicrafts and will soon have a chicken project. There are 18 rehab staff now whereas when we started in 1994 there were just 3 of us. Two of our staff members have a disability.

We praise God for His faithfulness to us through the years; there have been many challenges but the Lord has carried us through them all. The rehab centre remains a haven of loving acceptance where every child is valued and helped to reach his or her potential. I thank God for the huge privilege of being a part of all of the work that He is doing here and may the years to come be even more fruitful and to the praise and honour of His name.

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