

Newsletter March 2024



LAMB HEALTH
Bangladesh



Roksana becomes an Aunty

Roksana writes: *'Because of poverty, my parents married me before I was legally of marriageable age but my curiosity for learning continued and I was delighted to get the chance to train to be an Aunty of the local ACT adolescent's group. I learnt a lot about mental health and how to support women and girls who are struggling with problems. At first only 4-5 adolescents were visiting me each month, but now many more (between 15 to 20 girls and women) come to speak with me. I listen to them and support them to make their own decisions despite their difficult situations.'* Sumaiya Begum, one of the group members, praises Aunty Roksana Begum for her help, saying *'This accessible, close-to-home service has improved mental health and provided a better environment for everyone'*. Manowar Hossain, her husband describes how he initially disliked her role as an Aunty, but now supports her, recognising the importance of her work. Despite the project's end, 405 skilled Aunties have been trained and will continue to help adolescents to change their thinking and behaviour.

Achievements of the ACT Project in its last 4 months (not too bad!):

- 66 child marriages were prevented with the help of Wedding Buster Groups (WBGs), Aunties and/or community.
- 9 schools had 6 sessions each on life skills.
- 151 adolescent girls, at risk of dropping out of secondary school, received educational support (books, notebooks, tuition fees).
- 31 adolescent girls who had dropped out from school because of poverty were able to return with the help of income-generating activities (IGAs) such as tailoring, handicrafts, and farming projects. The 12 most vulnerable girls from remote areas were given bicycles to enable them to continue their education.
- 91 vulnerable adolescent girls and their families received food and cash support following requests made to local government.
- 1595 boy and girl adolescents were referred to Community Health Clinics.
- 1718 Married adolescents received counseling on family planning methods and menstrual care at Family Welfare Centres.
- Aunties provided 6041 counseling services to vulnerable adolescent girls in their communities.
- 39 parents' gatherings were held to raise awareness about teenager's issue.



Rubbish!

Some of you may have seen Tearfund has been working with a team at LAMB to tackle the rubbish pollution, plastic bottles and bags that line roads, railways and rivers all over Bangladesh. They have worked with groups of young people to find local solutions, including a very active group in Parbatipur where LAMB is based.

Families are encouraged to separate their organic, non-organic and plastic waste and bin collections have been set up for the first time. The young people have been really active in letting every resident of Parbatipur know of the new scheme and why it is so important.



Poor Fund 2023 - where your donations went!

- LAMB treated 8158 inpatients in 2023. Of them, 32% received a Poor Fund subsidy. The average subsidy was £36 per patient.
- In addition, 2955 outpatients, 147 children from the rehabilitation centre, and 343 extremely poor pregnant women received Poor Fund.



LAMB School

The school is an important part of LAMB Project. Staffed by national and expat teachers, it takes both staff and local children and gives them a first-class educational experience right through to age 16. It enables staff to remain at LAMB with their children instead of having to move away for education. It teaches and models Christian values to all 115 students.

Heather, Dave & Shannon are three UK staff who have been working there for many years. Heather writes very enthusiastically about meetings with alumni who many years ago passed through the school and are now studying or working in various places throughout Bangladesh. She gives thanks to God for His provision over the years of teachers, resources and inspiration to touch so many young lives.



£5000 received for our Christmas appeal!

Thank you so much for the ten donors who have contributed a total of £5000 to enable the community rehabilitation clinics to continue running for another few months. It costs £12,500 to enable the 28 clinics to run for a year. It would be very good if we were able to send some more to LAMB. Be generous! Thank you.

LAMB Health Registered Charity no: 1101217
 56A St Peters Road, Reading RG6 1PH
 Tel: 0118 9260672
 Email: enquiries@lambhealth.org.uk
 Website: www.lambhealth.org.uk
 The Cooperative Bank, SC:08-92-99,
 AC:65401602
Please tell us if you can receive this letter by email and save us postage!

