

- ❖ Training on healthy cooking and selection of nutritious food
- ❖ Facilitating links to organizations with expertise in livelihood development □ Linking the SHG members with micro-credit lending institutions
- ❖ Providing information and support in marketing of the SHG members' products
- ❖ Supporting the development and registration of a cooperative of waste-pickers' SHGs

Outcome 4: 2,500 children, women and men, including people with disabilities, are aware of their rights to education, employment and access basic entitlements, engaging in policy discussions that affect them. The outcome will be achieved through implementing the following activities:

- ❖ Network with 50 other child rights, women's empowerment and disability organisations, and identify opportunities for collective action
- ❖ Training of seven young waste pickers as community facilitators to work as catalysts and change agents
- ❖ Educate 500 children and adolescents on their rights to have access to basic services and protection from violence, hazards and drug addiction
- ❖ Raise awareness of 2,500 people on the need for and benefits of obtaining birth certificates and other entitlements; facilitating 500 children, men and women to obtain birth certificates to access citizenship, government services and entitlements.



- ❖ Support 2,500 people to participate in rights awareness campaigns to access government entitlements, i.e. education, health, safety nets, legal assistance and credit support for livelihoods
- ❖ Assist 100 waste pickers to participate in policy discussions in relation to child labour and waste-pickers issues to develop three Advocacy Briefing Notes on health, education, livelihoods
- ❖ Enable target women and children to participate in advocacy groups to lobby with the National Human Rights Commission, City Corporation and local elected representatives to incorporate child, disability and waste-pickers' issues as a priority in their programme strategies
- ❖ Mobilise target 150 women and children to attend three national consultations to discuss policy issues and support revision of government policies in favour of waste-pickers
- ❖ Launch media campaign through talk shows, documentaries, press conferences, case studies and feature publications to raise awareness on the problems and challenges faced by the waste-pickers
- ❖ Invite relevant, reputed professionals to visit this project in order to exchange learning on strategies to work with the children and waste-pickers.



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Education and Health for Child Waste Pickers



Implemented by
Grambangla Unnayan Committee & Nari Maitree



Supported by
ChildHope UK & Big Lottery Fund



Project Background

Waste-picking in Bangladesh is the occupation of the poorest of the poor. In the Matuail waste dumping site in Dhaka City there are over 2,000 waste-pickers, mainly women and children, picking through the 3,000 metric tons of waste deposited each day to identify recyclable materials. Although they are exposed to unhygienic conditions, toxic fumes and injury from sharp objects and machinery, their lack of skills, discrimination and dire poverty means waste-picking is their only means of survival. This cycle of poverty means children are unable to access education, adolescents are unable to develop the skills needed to access alternative employment and women, often single mothers, are unaware of their rights or how to change their situation. A combination of lack of empowerment, knowledge, skills, aspirations, birth certificates and opportunities is keeping vulnerable women, children and adolescents in inhumane conditions with little hope for change. This is heightened for disabled people.

Grambangla Unnayan Committee is working with this community since 2008 for promoting access to education and health services by the waste pickers.

Location of The Project

Matuail waste dump site area, Mirdhabari, Matuail, Demra, Dhaka.

Project Duration

42 months (July 2015-December 2018)

Beneficiaries of The Project

2500 waste pickers including 200 waste picker children for primary education, 150 adolescent waste pickers for technical and vocational education and training, 100 waste picker women for diversifying into alternative non-hazardous occupations and 2500 waste pickers for promoting rights and access to social safety net benefits.

Implementing Agencies

Grambangla Unnayan Committee & Nari Maitree

Financial & Technical Assistance

ChildHope UK & Big Lottery Fund (BLF), UK

Project Description

This project aims that Child, adolescent and women waste-pickers of Dhaka slums have the knowledge, skills, rights awareness and aspirations needed to access life changing opportunities and improve their health. It will strive to achieve four project outcomes through implementing various activities. The outcome and its associated activities are described below:

Outcome 1: 200 child waste-pickers (6-10 years - 60% girls and 10% children with a disability) access primary education and are integrated into mainstream schools, leading to healthier lives and better life chances. This outcome will be achieved by implementing the following activities:

- ❖ Inclusive primary education to 200 child waste-pickers of 6-10 years of age at Grambangla school including 20 children with disability (CWD)
- ❖ 5-day refresher training to six primary school teachers
- ❖ Formation of Parents' Welfare Groups in order to obtain support for improved educational attainment, school attendance and monitoring of project activities
- ❖ Group-counseling to waste-picking mothers, fathers and children about the importance of education for all (including CWD) and the opportunities available.
- ❖ Medical and educational assessment of 20 disabled children to identify the needs of CWDs and provide assistive devices and support
- ❖ Facilitation in enrolment of 200 children in government sponsored schools on completion of the cycle of primary education.
- ❖ Lessons on health education and hygiene to the schoolchildren
- ❖ Construction of two disability-friendly sanitary latrines (male and female), one deep tube-well

and two bathing facilities (male and female) near the Grambangla School to enable access to sanitation and safe water for 200 students, 150 adolescents and 100 women waste-pickers.

Outcome 2: 150 adolescent girl and boy waste-pickers (14-18 years) access Technical and Vocational Education and Training, acquiring the livelihood skills needed to obtain safe alternative employment. (75% female: 25% male, including 10% of adolescents with disability). The outcome will be achieved through implementing the following activities:

- ❖ Selection of adolescent trainees
- ❖ Finalization of curriculum and training manual for Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) courses
- ❖ TVET for 6 months to 150 adolescents in six separate trades (Paper bag making; Food processing; Tailoring and embroidery; Motorbike repair and servicing; beauty parlour and mobile phone servicing)
- ❖ Job placement of trained adolescents
- ❖ Support linkage of trained adolescents to enable self-employment
- ❖ Facilitate organization of 6 self-help groups (SHGs) of adolescent trainees to facilitate their savings and future investment

Outcome 3: 100 waste-picking mothers improve their health and access non-hazardous occupations to supplement their income, so they are able to invest in the education and health of their children. The outcome will be achieved through implementing the following activities:

- ❖ Facilitation in development of 5 SHGs
- ❖ Support by SHGs to increase in school attendance for the target children
- ❖ Awareness to 100 waste-picking mothers on general hygiene, health and child healthcare
- ❖ Training on functional literacy, bookkeeping, entrepreneurship development, leadership and gender issues for 100 waste-picking mothers