



KHAN FOUNDATION

In Special Consultative Status with the Economic & Social Council of the United Nations

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

On

**MOBILE CLINIC FOR THE ADOLESCENT GIRLS
OF THE SLUMS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT ON
STDs /HIV /AIDS.
(CLINIC SUPPORT PROJECT)**

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Preface

Khan Foundation was formed more than a decade ago primarily being motivated by the basic concept of "Democracy for development vis-a-vis development for democracy" espoused by the Foundation starting from national and international levels down to various grass root level action programmes at the remotest of our villages. The vision of the Khan Foundation for the next millennium is firm but yet quite flexible. It would like to see a future Bangladesh where liberal democracy flourishes and sustains along with the growth of Economic Development, where basic human rights and dignity are honored, where the millions of downtrodden Bangladeshis no longer suffer under the yoke of poverty, rather adapt to a lifestyle which is simple, yet not impoverished, which is peaceful, yet not extravagant and which is decent yet not too materialistic.

Khan Foundation programmes are conducted in an inter-disciplinary approach, through its various activities in the areas of democracy and development like strengthening of local government and cultivating bonds of friendship between Parliaments across the party lines, empowerment of women, realization of children's rights, reproductive health rights, as well as advocacy/mobilization efforts through training and reforms exercise.

The Khan Foundation has extensive experience in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, women's and children's rights and empowerment of women and has drawn upon this knowledge base to design a project, which will provide for the needs of urban adolescent girls. The research that Khan Foundation conducted in this sector indicates an immediate need for counseling, education and medical services to be provided on an informal, confidential and very accessible and inexpensive manner. Keeping that in mind, Khan Foundation has implemented a one-year project, with the assistance of Clinic Support Project under Japan Embassy in Dhaka City & Clinic Support Project for the HIV/AIDS victims ,street children (bus terminal, station, foot-path, park etc.) and child domestic workers (employer house).

One of the key components of the project undertaken is to set up a mobile clinic and strengthen the capacity of the static clinic of the KF so that it can provide primary health care and counseling services on unwanted pregnancy, create awareness about STDs/ HIV/ AIDS and other issues of reproductive health to uphold the rights of the adolescent girls of the slums and garment factories.

Advocate Rokhsana Khondker
Executive Director

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***Project Completion Report on
“Mobile Clinic for the Girls of the Slums to Provide Support on
STD’s/HIV/Aid’s.(Clinic Support Project)”***

1 *Introduction*

Khan Foundation is one of the pioneer institutions that has been working for the improvement of the lot of those who are less privileged and disadvantaged. One of the numerous programmes that it has been carrying out to fulfill its noble cause is the “*Mobile Clinic for the Girls of the Slums to Provide Support on STD’s/HIV/Aid’s.(Clinic support Project)*”. It did not confine its era of activities within the boundary of the country but also has been able to achieve its international goals with the help of the development assistants and the institutions having the same mindset and mottos. It envisages to make Bangladesh such a country where basic human rights would be honored, millions of helpless and underprivileged would not have to suffer under the yoke of poverty rather adapt to a lifestyle which is simple yet not impoverished, peaceful yet not extravagant and decent yet not materialistic.

Khan Foundation is conducting its programmes in an inter-disciplinary approach, through its various activities in the areas of democracy and development like strengthening of local government and cultivating bonds of friendship between parliaments across the party lines, empowerment of women, realization of children’s rights, reproductive health rights, as well as advocacy/mobilization efforts through training and reforms exercise.

It is mentioned that Bangladesh has a mature family-planning programme which platitudes in many senses by the end of the 1980s’. The remaining needs are for those who are difficult to reach, or who require a different kind of reproductive programme. While Bangladesh is noted as having made the greatest progress in the promotion of contraception, and has been successful in lowering the number of girls per family to 3.1, the status of women’s health remains abysmally low.

The objectives of the project entitled “Khan Foundation Clinic Support Project” contributed by Embassy of Japan and Khan Foundation” are to set up a mobile clinic and strengthen the capacity of the static clinic of the Khan Foundation so that it can provide primary health care and counseling services on unwanted pregnancy, STDs/HIV/AIDS and other issues of reproductive health as the rights of the adolescent girls of the slums, streets and garment factories.

2 *Background Information*

While considerable achievements have been made, the progress made so far could be undone if this large population of adolescents is not provided for with the necessary reproductive health counseling. This necessity for such services was also substantiated in “The Hague” in the following manner,” The choices adolescent girls make about the timing and spacing of their children will determine the pace of future population growth. The education and opportunities they are given from a young age will determine the quality of their lives” (ICPD+5 Report –The Hague).

In the ICPD+5 Report from The Hague on the Progress of the Implementation of the Program of Action noted that while considerable progress has been achieved generally, there has been a global failure to provide for adolescents. One of the emphasized 'Issues and Constraints' highlighted by The Hague was the lack of programs which targets this group.

Khan Foundation realized that the violent exploitation is rooted in societal intolerance, lack of choices for girls and strict societal allegiance to a gender specific role for young girls. It also realizes that the society, in the process of perpetuating the gender-biased status quo, has developed certain coping mechanism at the individual and collective level under which they give sanction to such abusive exploitation.

It is reported that Khan Foundation has extensive experience in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, women's and children's rights and empowerment of women. It has also drawn, upon this knowledge base, to design a project, which would provide for the needs of urban adolescent girls.

The research that Khan Foundation had conducted indicates an immediate need for counseling, education and medical services to be provided on an informal, confidential and very accessible and inexpensive manner. In view of that, Khan Foundation took initiatives to establish Reproductive Health Education Centers (RHEC) in the slum areas of Dhaka and one mobile Center for the street children (bus terminal, station, footpath, park etc.) and child domestic workers (employer house) and last but not the least to conduct education course and advocacy workshops.

3 *Goal of the Project*

The project was designed to improve the sexual and reproductive, mental and physical health of the disadvantaged group and also to create awareness about HIV/AIDS with the view to ensure reproductive health rights.

4 *Objectives of the Project*

Objectives of the project were

- ❑ The Objective of the project is to set up a Mobile Clinic and strengthen the capacity of the static Clinic.
- ❑ To create awareness and offer information about the sexual and reproductive issues to the disadvantaged group.
- ❑ To provide counseling and guideline to adolescent girls of the slums, specially to those who are domestic servants or garment workers.
- ❑ To raise awareness about HIV/AIDS.
- ❑ To undertake initiatives in addressing the issue of sustainability by involving KF in the planning and implementation of health care services, fostering community ownership of the services etc.

5 *Duration of the Project:*

Duration of the project was one year.

6 *Project Area*

Project area covered selected slum centers in Dhaka that included bus terminal, footpath, station, ghat, market, park and employer's house.

7 *The Key Stakeholders*

The Key Stakeholders of the projects were

- ❑ Children (street children, slum children, child domestic hands and children who work in the garments)
- ❑ Parents of the children
- ❑ Employers of domestic hands

8 *Project Expenditure*

Expenditure of the project is reported in the audit report attached here.

9 Completion of the challenging tasks undertaken at the end of the Project:

For achieving the objectives and targets of the project, Khan Foundation preformed the following activities:

a) Providing Medical Services:

For achieving the objectives of this project, Khan Foundation has already appointed, one Project Officer, one doctor, one pathologist, one office assistant and a nurse to render primary medical services to the adolescent girls of the slums, streets and garments factories in the selected centers in and around Dhaka city.

b) Medical Services Rendered so far

A total number of about 15000 beneficiaries got free medical treatment and medicine from different centers of the project. The adolescent girls were provided with primary health care on different aspects of reproductive health and for achieving their reproductive rights. As most of the slums, streets and garments people do not have any clear idea about the HIV/AIDS, Khan Foundation has started to organize campaigns to increase awareness on HIV/AIDS. As its first step towards generating awareness about such lethal diseases, it has established a static clinic for the diagnosis and procured other equipments for the diagnosis, treatment and referral service. One of the major aim of the medical services is to reduce unwanted pregnancy and health hazards amongst its beneficiaries.

c) Procurement of Ambulance

Khan Foundation Purchased an Ambulance which was used for Mobile clinic in Dhaka City.

Details are given in Annexure –“A”

d) Construction of Clinic

The construction of the clinic has been completed.

Details are given in Annexure –“A”

e) Pathological Instruments:

Khan Foundation purchased the following pathological instruments with the support of the grant of Japanese Embassy along with own contribution and provided the following pathological support:

Sl.no	Name of Instrument	Quantity
01	Biochemistry Analyzer	01
02	Centrifuge Machine	01
03	Incubator	01
04	Elisa Reader	01
05	Automated Plate Washer	01
06	Microscope	01
07	Colorimeter	01
08	Auto Cleave	01
09	Micropipette	03
10	Balance	01
11	Water Bath	01
12	Disposable Gloves	12.00 per pair
13	Syringes	1 box (2000 pcs per box)

Details are given in Annexure –“A”

f) Provide free Medicine:

Khan Foundation purchased superfluous amount of life saving drugs and medicines for the slum children of different areas and also provide primary health care on different aspects of reproductive health among the beneficiaries.

The numbers of beneficiaries who are provided the medicine support are as follows:

Sl. no	Name of the Place	Number of spots	Total Beneficiaries	
			Male	Female
01	Manik Nagar Ainalar Basti	2	146	753
02	Manik Nagar Telego Basti	3	165	695
03	Maniknagar Novor Basti	1	212	556
04	Manik Nagar Adarsha Basti	2	320	845
05	IG Gate Bank colony Basti	1	460	1095
06	Tikatoli Kampuri Colony Basti	2	190	960
07	Tikatoli Telego Colony Basti	1	280	740

08	Wari Rabi Das Colony Basti	1	130	285
09	Wari Balda garden Basti	1	377	920
10	Miron Zilla Sweeper Colony	1	420	680
11	Miron Zilla Bangali Basti	1	385	875
12	Azimpur Ganaktoli Sweeper Colony basti	1	175	466
13	Agargaon Taltola basti	1	368	436
14	Rampura Bhuyan basti	1	169	325
15	Mohamadpur Sweeper Colony Basti	1	200	187
16	Ramna Park	2	187	296
17	Shangshad Bhaban	1	200	217
18	Chandrima Park	1	186	312
Total			4570	10643

Details are given in Annexure –“A”

g) Electronic Equipments

KF purchased the following Electronic Equipments:

Sl.no	Name of the Equipment	Quantity
01	AIR Conditioner 2 Ton	01
02	Refrigerator	01

Details are given in Annexure –“A”

e) Equipment for Counseling:

KF purchased the following Equipments for counseling:

Sl.no	Name of Equipment	Quantity
01	Multimedia Projector	01
02	Overhead Projector	01
03	Computer with Multimedia	01
04	UPS	01
05	Laser Printer	01
06	Photocopier	01

Details are given in Annexure –“A”

- f) Furniture:
KF purchased the following Furniture for the Project activities:

Sl.no	Name of Equipment	Quantity
01	Chair for Project officer	01
02	Secretariat table	01
03	Visitor Chair	05
04	Steel Almirah	02

Details are given in Annexure –“A”

- F) Awareness campaign:

KF Printed flip charts, posters and stickers to create mass-awareness about reproductive health and lethal STDs. All of posters, sticker flip charts are distributed in Dhaka city.

Details are given in Annexure –“A”

□ **Medicare Assistance**

Khan Foundation has also provided medical facilities and distributed medicine among the beneficiaries. Medical Officers provided medical services and counseling to the disadvantage groups of Clinic regularly with the aim to lower the rate of unwanted pregnancy, decrease the incidence of STDs/HIV/AIDS and rendered other reproductive care services.



A beneficiary is receiving health service from the Medical Officer of Khan Foundation in the Clinic Support Project.



A Children is receiving health service from the Medical Officer of Khan Foundation in the Clinic Support Project.

❑ **Steps Taken by Khan Foundation before the Project**

Khan foundation had taken some steps before the project implementation to make the enforcement easier and congenial to the current societal perspectives.

- Capacity build up training of staff and field workers on gender and reproductive rights knowledge was organized before the training course. Measures were also taken to increase their efficiency to teach, counsel and communicate effectively with disadvantaged groups. Khan Foundation tried to increase the ability of the training staff so that they can protect the privacy and confidentiality of the disadvantage groups and maintain their trust.
- Before the implementation of the training course, Khan Foundation tried its level best to assess the need of the beneficiaries. During field visit, as a part of project need assessment, children were interviewed and asked about their needs i.e. recommendations, suggestion, advice etc. Children were invited to the Khan Foundation's head office in Momenbagh and the respective personnel took their suggestions under consideration prior to project design. The children proposed themselves what services they needed, in what manner and where. The parents and community leaders in slum and garments areas also to part to ensure their support.

Sex education is a must and awareness on HIV/AIDS and sex should be generated from home. Awareness should be created on these

issues among the sex workers. Concern ministry should consider this immediately for implementation.

In Bangladesh family planning was first started by the NGOs, so in mitigating AIDS, NGO leaders could play a very crucial role. KF requested government, NGOs and the religious leaders to work unitedly towards overcoming this social stigma.

Present initiatives of the government towards empowering women include programs pertaining AIDS issues within the VGD cards.

Political commitment is needed for changing the feeble position of women in the society whose participation in education and in income generation activities are low and for solving the problems of women, issues of empowerment of women must be included in our National Action Plan.



Khan Foundation Mobile Clinic is giving Treatment to the Park Beneficiaries

Present government is committed to ensure health services for all. Bangladesh is a developing country with a population of over 130 million. Bangladesh is relentlessly trying to check its population boom especially during the last 12 years. It has achieved an appreciable success in the population control sector. But unfortunately, the reality is that women are less educated, much less employed and generally less healthy than men in most developing countries including Bangladesh. They have less access to health services and as conscious citizens our duty is to ensure the equal access of both male and female to health services. So despite this success, we need to do a lot and we have to ensure the rights of women in the decision making process for reproductive health issues. This will set the basis for ensuring their fundamental rights.

Regarding HIV/AIDS, awareness generation, it was regrettably discussed that Bangladesh this is in its early stage in this respect. Government of Bangladesh, being conscious of the gravity of the situation, has initiated all possible measures to prevent the spreading of HIV/AIDS. Ensuring the highest political commitment, present government is following a multi-level, multi-sectoral and multi-dimensional approach for the implementation of preventive and controlling measures connected to HIV / AIDS. In the meantime GoB has already approved a national policy on HIV/AIDS related issues and the PoA is being well implemented within its limited resources.

The low literacy rate of the general population makes the penetration of AIDS awareness efforts difficult. Only 19% of never-married women and 33% of currently married men had heard of AIDS. Over 90% of rickshaw pullers could not name the basic modes of HIV transmission.



Khan Foundation Medical Center is giving Pathological Support to the beneficiary

Low usage of condoms

Only 2.4% to 6% of males consistently used condoms in all their encounters with commercial sex partners. The main reason for this probably is the lack of awareness. The conservative culture and the miniscule number of organizations importing and marketing condoms are partly responsible for this grave situation. An unexpected delay in a single import can have catastrophic effects on the country. There is no competition in the condom market. Approval of commercial advertising material promotes safe sex. Condoms in the media also need to be

encouraged. To ensure all the suggestions, bureaucratic support is absolutely necessary.

▪ ***High infection rates among drug users***

IV drug use is quite common among the drug user population. Majority of IV drug users (90%) share needles. The prevalence of HIV among this group is currently the highest (1.7%). The rates of Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and Syphilis are also high in them. But where NGOs work with vulnerable population such as sex worker and drug user, the number working with IDUs is very small.

Recommendation

In this project, the beneficiaries pointed out that women are the basic vehicles towards socio-economic development. But these women are vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections including HIV. The recommended suggestions are:

Information, education, and counseling for sexually transmitted infections including HIV should be the integral part of all reproductive and sexual health service of the country.

Government of Bangladesh should take necessary steps and draw policies on it for preventing and reducing the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/ AIDS with special attention to women.

Donor agencies and NGOs should provide all means to reduce the spread rate of transmission of HIV/AIDS infection.

Other problem like trafficking should be recognized and local as well the donor agencies should come forward to work together towards minimizing these problems.

It is hoped that the Clinics would create a firm position to adopt mechanisms to create awareness and generate social mobilization in order to make substantial changes in the society. It will help to lower the rate of unwanted pregnancy, decrease STDs morbidity and mortality associated with sexual reproduction. It would also help to establish reproductive rights as human rights and directly advocate social mobility.

Annexure A