

CB installs a Time Capsule of its golden jubilee



The 50 Years' Time Capsule of Caritas Bangladesh (CB) was installed in a befitting manner on 6 June 2023 at Caritas Central Office. Most Rev. James Romen Boiragi, Bishop of Khulna Diocese and President of Caritas Bangladesh graced the event as Chief Guest. Mr. Sebastian Rozario, Executive Director of CB chaired the event while Rev. Fr. Gabriel Corraya, Vicar General, Dhaka Archdiocese and Vice-President of Caritas Bangladesh, Rev. Fr. Leonard C. Rebeiro, Residential Professor, Holy Spirit Major Seminary and Secretary General of Caritas Bangladesh were present as Special Guests. All Central Directors, three Trust Directors, All Regional Directors, all staff members of Caritas Central Office and Caritas Development Institute attended the program.

In total 165 items were put in the Time Capsule. The Time Capsule will be opened again in 2032 during the diamond jubilee of CB. In the Time Capsule, CB placed souvenirs, Project Proposal, model of cyclone shelter, machinery parts of CB's Airplane, historical pictures, and many more goods and information.

A time capsule is a historic cache of goods and information usually intended as a deliberate method of communication of the present with the future population, and to help future archaeologists, anthropologists, or historians to use past data/information for their study/document/research activity. Time Capsules are sometimes created and buried during celebrations such as a jubilee or at other ceremonies.

Luxembourgish Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs visits activities of Caritas Bangladesh

Franz Fayot, Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs of Luxembourg, along with six official delegations and four Luxembourgish journalists visited the activities of Caritas Bangladesh in Savar, Dhaka on April 30. Mr. Sebastian Rozario, Executive Director of Caritas Bangladesh, two representatives from Caritas Luxembourg Ms. Honorez Paulon Charlotte and Ms. Lam Thuon Mine Hannah, Mr. Subhash



Saha, Country Program Manager, Bangladesh of Caritas Luxembourg, and Mr. Jyoti Gomes, Regional Director of Caritas Dhaka Region accompanied them.

They visited Jamgora Day Care Center (DCC) of the Ankur project and attended a sharing of learnings and good practices of the Uddyam project supported by Caritas Luxembourg. The Minister expressed his satisfaction over the visit to Caritas activities. He asked questions and project participants answered. The project participants, community people and staff members of Caritas Bangladesh were highly inspired by the visit.

Franz Fayot and his delegation team arrived Bangladesh on April 29 for a four-day visit. The Luxembourgish team also visited S.B. Kitting Ltd, a clothing factory in Ashulia of Savar.

CB Organizes Training on Sustainable Social Enterprise



A three-day long Training on Sustainable Social Enterprise was held at the Central office of Caritas Bangladesh in Dhaka from 5 to 7 June 2023. The training was facilitated by MDF Training and Consultancy. Most Rev. James Romen Boiragi, Bishop of Khulna Diocese and President of Caritas Bangladesh was present in the training for few minutes for encouraging the participants. A total of 32 participants, including all Central, Trusts and Regional Directors, and selected CB's staff members participated in the training.

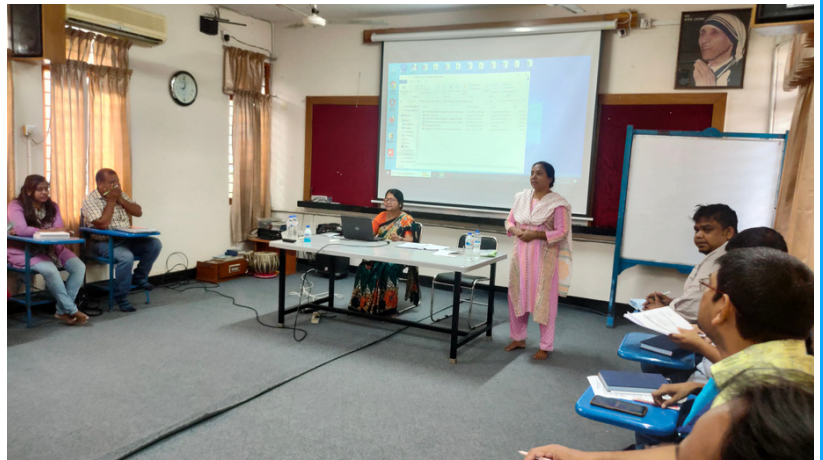
Mr. Thilakan Sathasivam, Director Bangladesh Office, Mr. Saifuddin Mahmud, Trainer - Consultant, and Ms. Sanjida Islam, Trainer - Consultant were

present from MDF as facilitators.

Sustainability and Internal Resource Mobilization is one of the priorities as per revised mandate and strategic priority of Caritas Bangladesh. Taking into consideration of the above priority, Caritas Bangladesh will start more Social Enterprises in the upcoming day of continuation of its love and service.

Piloting Organizational Feedback & Complaints Response Mechanism

The Safeguarding Mainstreaming Project of CB developed an initial draft on Feedback & Complaints Response Mechanism (FCRM) Guidelines. These FCRM guidelines were elaborated to serve the organization's FCRM purpose and set of 12 tools on FCRM system for CB under the ALLRight Project. Before finalizing the guidelines and tools, the Safeguarding and ALLRight Project organized five orientations with 86 staff members (31 women) on piloting FCRM at the Project, Field and Regional level



to make it more effective and user-friendly. In the orientation, FCRM guidelines and tools were discussed thoroughly in order to increase understanding of FCRM and its tools and pilot the guidelines in the respective project level and the participants identified some gaps of the guidelines. An action plan for the implementation of the guidelines and tools was also prepared by the staff members. It is hoped that within September 2023, CB will be able to complete the piloting and update the FCRM guidelines and tools fully.

Six monthly Evaluation and Learning meeting of ECD sector



Evaluation and Learning meeting of Education and Child Development sector was held at Caritas Mymensingh Regional Office on June 10-12, 2023. A total of 67 staff members (men 58 and women 9) from different projects under ECD sector (technical and general education) under eight Regional Offices and Central Office participated in the meeting.

Most Rev. Paul Ponen Kub, CSC, Bishop of Mymensingh Diocese was present as the chief guest and Mr. Apruba Mrong, Regional Director, Caritas Mymensingh Region was present as the special guest. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Sukleash George Costa, Director, Programs, Caritas Bangladesh.

Most Rev. Bishop Paul Ponen Kubi, CSC expressed his expectations to be more careful and dedicated to the

children for their education and formation because children are the gift for the society, family and this earth.

Rev. Fr. Ashesh Marcellinus Dio, Diocesan Education Officer, Mymensingh Diocese and General Body and Executive Board member of Caritas facilitated a session on "Caritas Synodality-Building New Paths of Fraternity (কারিতাস সিনোডালিটি-ভ্রাতৃত্বের নতুন পথ)" in the meeting. He shared the main objectives of Synod. He said Synod means togetherness and to go ahead to the future where nobody will be left behind. Caritas has to extend its services irrespective of caste, creed, political views, ethnicity and religion. Besides, he expects to give emphasis on poorest of the poor, marginalized persons and groups. In meeting challenges, problems and way forward issues were also discussed. All concerns among the participants gave emphasis on ensuring the quality training, collection of local contributions and sustainability of the projects.

National Education Convention 2023 Special Highlight: "Synodal Church"



Under the auspices of Caritas Formation of Youth and Teacher Program (FYTP) with the kind support and guidance from Bangladesh Catholic Education Board (BCEB) a three day-long National Convention took place on 4-6 May 2023 at Caritas Barishal Regional Office. A total of 120 participants from eight dioceses including representatives from the diocese, head-teachers and major superiors were present in the convention.

Theme of the convention is "Extend your tent" (Isa. 54:2) as the follow-up activities of "*Laudato si*" and "*Fratelli tutti*" two important and very significant Encyclicals of the Holy Father Pope Francis. The convention was inaugurated by Most Rev. Bejoy N. D'Cruze, OMI, Metropolitan Archbishop of Dhaka Archdiocese and President of BCEB. Most Rev. Immanuel Kanon Rozario, Bishop of Barishal Catholic Diocese; Dr. Benedict Alo D'Rozario, President, Caritas Asia; Mr. Jyoti F. Gomes, Executive Secretary, BCEB; Rev. Br. Subal L. Rozario, CSC, Provincial Superior, Holy Cross Brothers and Treasurer, BCEB; Rev. Fr. Hemanto P. Rozario, CSC, Principal, Notre Dame College; Rev. Sr. Shikha L. Gomes, CSC, Principal, Holy Cross College and other distinguished persons of the Catholic Education arena were present among the other guests. Topics discussed in the convention includes (1) In the light of Synodal Church "Extend your tent"; (2) The blessings and challenges of working together; (3) Panel discussion: Duties and Responsibilities of an ideal teacher; (4) Eight habits of the successful people; (5) The Catholic Church's a educational philosophy; (6) Panel discussion: Experiences of Heads of Schools Implementing Establishing Child Protection Mechanism in Schools (ECPM) Project, etc.

In the context of the above discussions the participants pledged the following:

- Inspired by the spirit that Jesus Christ is the greatest

teacher, educator and witness of all time, we teachers will practice Christian values according to the Bible Teaching and Matthew-5:3-11 will be our inspiration and guidance.

- We pledge to adopt, hold and implement the concept of the Synodal Church as a principle and will ensure the motto of the Synodal Church in education and administration - union, participation and transmission.
- In order to enlarge the space of the tent, we will carry out educational activities with the managing committee, students, teachers, parents, and participants with the importance of human dignity, formation and transformation of the heart and mind in the education service.
- Realizing divine presence, we will strive to strengthen the culture of love in learning, inter-religious dialogue, harmony, peace and tolerance practice
- We will include poor, marginalized and marginalized groups in decision-making and implementation process with compassionate listening and openness of heart.

Sokkhomota Project Empowers Farmers: Boosting Betel Leaf Cultivation

On June 4, 2023, the Sokkhomota Project of Caritas Sylhet Region, took a remarkable stride in empowering farmers through a recent Follow-up Training on Betel Leaf Cultivation and Disease Management. With the aim of promoting sustainable practices among betel leaf farmers, the training equipped 20 participants with valuable knowledge and skills.



Led by renowned horticulture expert Professor Dr. Md. Shahidul Islam, Head of the Department of Horticulture at Sylhet Agricultural University, the training focused on sharing research findings, disease identification, improved cultivation techniques, and enhancing farmers' productivity and livelihoods. During the one-day training session held in Patrakhola Punjee, Kamalganj upazila, participants delved into various aspects crucial to betel leaf cultivation. The training shed light on research outcomes, emphasizing sustainable practices for betel leaf cultivation and disease management. Practical sessions enabled farmers to identify common diseases, differentiate between pest damage and disease symptoms, and adopt effective disease management practices including organic pesticides and proper sanitation. Best practices such as optimal spacing, regular pruning, and integrated pest management were highlighted to maximize yield.

Enthusiasm and active participation marked the training's impact on the farmers. Bimol Dalbot, a participant, expressed his commitment, stating, "This training has equipped me with valuable knowledge and practical solutions. I am dedicated to implementing these techniques on my farm to boost productivity and reduce losses caused by diseases." Similarly, Roni Sungoh voiced appreciation, saying, "I am grateful for the opportunity to learn and plan to monitor my betel plants diligently, adopt organic pest control methods, and maintain proper sanitation for healthier growth and better yields." Hasanli Sungoh emphasized the empowerment gained, stating, "This training has provided me with the skills needed to enhance my betel leaf cultivation practices. I pledge to share this knowledge, participate in knowledge-sharing platforms, and contribute to our farming community's sustainable development."

The training also led to valuable recommendations for further improvements. Suggestions included regular disease monitoring, early detection, and the promotion of organic pesticides and integrated pest management. Proper sanitation practices, training on balanced organic fertilizer use and water management, as well as establishing farmer networks for ongoing learning and knowledge-sharing platforms, were also recommended.



Caritas helps Transform Lives with Eye Camp 2023

Caritas Sokkhomota Project, in collaboration with Bangladesh National Society for the Blind (BNSB), made a significant impact on the local community by organizing an Eye Camp on June 4, 2023. The Patharia Tea Estate in Barolekha upazila witnessed the successful implementation of the Eye Camp 2023, providing essential eye care services.

With a focus on cataract operations, distribution of spectacles, blood grouping, and eye health awareness, the camp reached a remarkable number of 230 individuals, ensuring improved vision and overall well-being.

The Eye Camp aimed to address the eye care needs of the community, particularly focusing on cataract surgeries and refractive errors. A total of 39 individuals (men-21, women-18) underwent successful cataract surgery, restoring their vision and transforming their lives. Additionally, 64 individuals received spectacles, enabling them to overcome refractive errors and experience a new clarity of vision. The distribution of spectacles played a crucial role in enhancing their quality of life.

Recognizing the importance of comprehensive healthcare, the Eye Camp also facilitated blood grouping for 120 participants. This additional service highlighted the camp's commitment to holistic care and its dedication to addressing diverse health needs within the community.

The participation of 230 individuals in the Eye Camp is a testament to its impact and the pressing need for accessible eye care services. Such initiatives play a vital role in ensuring equitable access to healthcare and improving the overall well-being of communities. The Sokkhomota Project, in collaboration with BNSB, continues to make significant strides in transforming lives through their impactful interventions.

High Level Delegate of NGO Affairs Bureau, Prime Minister's Office, Dhaka visit the MUKTE-III Project



Caritas Barishal Region has been implementing MUKTE-III project with the support of CRS at Monpura island in Bhola coastal district in southern part of Bangladesh. The Deputy Director of NGO Affairs Bureau of Prime Minister's Office Md. Shafiul Alom visited MUKTE project interventions on May 29, 2023.

He visited the project supported Risk Reduction Action Plan implementation sites such as rehabilitation of Rural earthen road which has connected the shelter and markets and multipurpose shelter ground raised. He also met with Shewli Savings Internal lending Community Group members during their regular meeting and observed the system of accounting and talked to them about the use of saving money in terms of IGA/ disaster preparedness.

He visited the Demonstration plot of Selina Begum at 55 no. cluster and observed the climate resilient varieties, technologies and appreciated Selina Begum's skill about vegetable cultivation. Finally, he visited the Union digital center (UDC) at Union Parishad Office, and he said that it is a big dream of the government where underprivileged people will get around 150 services, so he was happy and acknowledge the contribution of MUKTE project for upgradation of the UDC (Union Digital Center) and strengthened knowledge and skill of UDC entrepreneurs. His visit was accompanied by local government representatives like Rural Development Officer, Monpura, Chairman of Dakshin Sakuchai Union, Union Parishad members and MUKTE III team, etc.

After visiting all the activities of MUKTE III project, he expressed his satisfaction and thanked Caritas and CRS for helping the helpless and poor community peoples in a proper and justified way.

Handingover the Cooperative Credit Union responsibility formed by ICDP-Rakhaine

The handing over ceremony of the responsibilities of 21 Cooperative Credit Unions of Taltoli upazila formed with the collaboration of Caritas ICDP-Rakhaine Project was held on 23 May, 2023 at Taltoli Caritas Office Conference Room. The Chief Guest was Sifat Anower Tumpa, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Taltoli, Barguna. She said in her speech that in most cases the project starts formally but ends informally. But Caritas ICDP Rakhine project has been ceremonially completed after registering 21 cooperative credit unions formally.

Mr. Francis Bepari, Regional Director Caritas Barishal Region, said that the main problem of Tribals is land. However, this project included land, education, health and culture along with socio-economic upliftment of the people. Respected special Guest Dr. Md. Helaluddin Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health said in his speech that through the formation of 21 cooperative credit unions in Taltoli Upazila, a mutual relationship has been created between Rakhine and Bengali. Special Guest: Md. Azadur Rahman, Upazila Cooperative Officer, Taltoli Barguna said that the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has faith in the cooperative. He believes that the development of the people is possible through cooperatives.

Up Chairman Barobogi & Sonakata. Pannel Chairman Nisanbaria, Taltoli, Barguna . Rakhaine Senior leader Mr. Maung Tahan CCU Federation Leader Mr. Maungthinjo, Sanjib Chandra Roy, JPO, ICDP etc attendant were present



in the Ceremony. It should be noted that 94 (54 women) including CCU leaders were present in the workshop.

Similarly, Handing over/takeover and phase out workshop of 18 Cooperative Credit Unions of Kalapara Upazila formed in collaboration with Caritas ICDP-Rakhine Project was held on 29 May 2023 at Caritas Office Chattar, Mahipur. Chief Guest was, Valiant Freedom fighter S.M.Rakibul Ahasan, Honorable chairman, Kalapara Upazila Parishad. Chaired by MD.Jahangir Hossin, Upazila Nirbahi officer kalapara, Also present Respected special Guest Mr. Francis Bepari, Regional Director Caritas Barishal Region. special Guest Mrs, Sahina parvin Shima, Vice chairman, Kalapara Upazila Parishad, Md. Farid Hossion, Cooperative Officer, kalapara upazila, Mr. Mejbuha Uddin Mannu, former president of Kalapara upazila press club and senior journalist, Mr. Jahidul Islam shalim, Panel chair of Mohipur Union Parishad, Mr. Monirul Islam, Former president of Mohipur Press Club, Mr. Sanjib Chandra Roy JPO, ICDP etc. attendant were present in the Ceremony. It should be noted that 121 (55 women) including CCU leaders were present in the workshop.

Concert for Education

Caritas Mymensingh Region, in collaboration with musical band "Bring", successfully organized the "Concert for Education" event at Caritas Mymensingh Regional Office premises on 26 March 2023. The event brought together music enthusiasts, philanthropists, and community members to support the basis of promoting education for underprivileged children. The "Concert for Education" featured an impressive



lineup of well-known musicians among the Indigenous Peoples' communities from several musical bands, like; F Minor, Madol, Bring, and local child and youth artists who generously volunteered their talents to entertain the audience while championing the importance of education. The event showcased various music genres, including classical, traditional, and patriotic songs, ensuring a vibrant and diverse musical experience for attendees.

The primary objective of the event was to raise funds for supporting education of the underprivileged children by running two primary schools at Bhabanipur village in Durgapur upazila of Netrakona district and Defuliyapara village in Dhobaura upazila of Mymensingh district. The schools are situated in remote and border belt areas of the northern part of Bangladesh. Attendees were encouraged to contribute to the origin through ticket sales, donations, and sponsorships. The overwhelming response from the audience and sponsors reflected the community's commitment to improving access to education for children in need.

During the concert, Mr. Apurbo Mrong, the Regional Director of Caritas Mymensingh Region and a member of "Bring" shared insightful information about the initiatives. The audience was informed about the positive impact of their contributions on the lives of the disadvantaged children in the region. This awareness-raising session served as a reminder of the transformative power of education and the importance of collective efforts in empowering future generations.

The "Concert for Education" brought together diverse members of the community, including children, students, parents, educators, church and social leaders, civil society members, and local leaders. The event served as a platform for networking, exchanging ideas, and fostering a sense of unity in support of a common root.

The "Concert for Education" event was a resounding success. The funds raised through ticket sales, donations, and sponsorships will significantly contribute to Caritas Mymensingh Region's efforts (in fact, it was the efforts of all of us together) in providing quality education to underprivileged children. Beyond financial contributions, the event's impact resonated with attendees, inspiring them to become active advocates for education and positive change in their communities.

Garó Women Leaders Conference 2023



In a remarkable display of unity and empowerment, the Garó Women Leaders Conference 2023, for the first time ever, concluded on a high note, leaving attendees inspired and motivated. The event, held at Homeric Auditorium of "Ama Achik Rasong Museum" (the Museum, established by the Catholic Diocese

of Mymensingh, is the first and only museum in the Greater Mymensingh area to preserve the history, culture and heritage of the Garó Indigenous People), Bishop House, Bhatikashore, Mymensingh on 15-16 June 2023, brought together about 60 women leaders from various sectors of Garó communities, fostering dialogue, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas. The conference organized by the Mymensingh Catholic Diocese with the collaboration of Caritas Mymensingh Region aimed to provide a platform for Garó women to voice their

opinions, share experiences, and discuss pertinent issues facing their communities. The theme of the conference, "Development of Garo Women's Leadership," resonated with attendees as they explored ways to empower women and achieve sustainable development in Garo society. Distinguished speakers, including renowned Garo activists, community

leaders, and experts, captivated the audience with their insights and stories of success. They addressed a wide range of topics, including women's rights, education, healthcare, economy, entrepreneurship, leadership, networking, political, and cultural preservation. His Excellency Most Rev. Bishop Ponon Paul Kubi, CSC (Bishop of Mymensingh Catholic Diocese), Mr. Jewel Areng, MP, Mymensingh-1), Mr. Hemonto Henry Kubi (Honourable State Minister's Private Secretary (Deputy Secretary) – Ministry of Housing and Public Works), Mr. Sanjeeb Drong (General Secretary at Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum, Columnist & Writer), Dr. Ms. Catherin Daisy Gomes, Professor, Department of Architecture, BUET), Ms. Rita Roseline Costa (Director – Operation, Data Consultancy), Mr. Theophil Nokrek (Director – Caritas Development Institute), Mr. Ajoy A. Mree (President, United Council of the indigenous organizations of Greater Mymensingh - UCGM), Ms. Alpona Areng (Vice-chairman, TWA – Haluaghat Upazila), Rev. Fr. Biolen Chambugong (Chancellor – Mymensingh Catholic Diocese), Rev. Fr. Ashesh Marcellinus Dio (Secretary – Education Commission, Mymensingh Catholic Diocese), Sr. Mary Jacinta Mrong (Provincial – SSMI), Mr. Apurbo Mrong (Regional Director – Caritas Mymensingh) were present in the conference.

One of the highlights was a panel discussion featuring successful Garo women leaders who have broken barriers in traditionally male-dominated fields. Their stories of perseverance and determination served as an inspiration to aspiring leaders, igniting a collective sense of purpose and encouraging women to pursue their dreams fearlessly.

As the conference came to a close, participants expressed their gratitude for the transformative experience. They left with renewed enthusiasm, armed with a stronger sense of purpose and a commitment to creating positive change in their communities. The Garo Women Leaders Conference 2023 not only united Garo women but also served as a testament to their resilience, strength, and unwavering determination.

The three-day MEAL Plan workshop completed successfully



Caritas Khulna Region successfully organized a three-day MEAL Plan workshop for the BMZ-DRR-CCA project team. The workshop held from 17 to 19 June 2023 at the conference hall of Caritas Khulna Region, brought together 28 participants (5 women) representing a diverse range of stakeholders.

Mr. Raju Pradhan and Mr. Suman Khadka, MEAL consultants from Caritas Germany, played pivotal roles in coordinating the development of the MEAL Plan for the BMZ-DRR-CCA project. Over the three days, the project team collaborated to finalize

indicator definitions, determine data collection methods, establish calculation processes, identify the type of analysis required, and set clear targets for the project duration.

One of the significant outcomes of the workshop was the completion of the Indicator Tracking Table (ITT). This table will serve as a valuable tool for the BMZ-DRR-CCA project team, facilitating smooth monitoring and evaluation processes. By referring to the MEAL Plan and the Indicator Tracking Table, project stakeholders will be able to quickly assess the project's status and identify areas that require to pay attention. The development of a comprehensive MEAL Plan is essential for the success of any project, and the completion of this workshop marks an important milestone for the BMZ-DRR-CCA

project team under Caritas Khulna Region. With a well-defined plan in place, the team is now equipped to effectively monitor and evaluate the project's progress, ensuring it stays on track and achieves its intended outcomes.

Caritas Khulna Region extends its gratitude to all the participants for their active engagement and valuable contributions during the workshop. The Caritas Bangladesh Khulna Region also expresses appreciation to Mr. Raju Pradhan and Mr. Sumon Khadka for their expertise and guidance in facilitating the development of the MEAL Plan.

As the BMZ-DRR-CCA project team moves forward, Caritas Khulna Region remains committed to its mission of promoting disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the region. With a solid MEAL framework in place, the team is poised to make a significant impact on the lives of vulnerable communities.

Tree exchange event among children of the slum inspire them to care for the creation of God

To create awareness among the slum residents, "Enhancing the Capacity and Resilience to the Adverse Impacts of Migrated People in Four Slums under Khulna City Corporation (HOPE, Phase-II)" project of Caritas Khulna Region celebrated World Environment Day 2023 on 05 June 2023 with the theme #BeatPlasticPollution at Kodomtola slum, 15 no ward under Khulna City Corporation. This celebration included rally, discussion, sharing, and tree



exchange events where a total of 40 (Men-09 and Women-31) community people and children of Kodomtola slum participated. In this program, participants shared their experiences as well as discussing how to safeguard the climate and how to decrease the effect of environmental change.

The most attractive part of the celebration was the "Tree Exchange Event" where 14 slum children exchanged tree plants with each other. Slum Development and Networking Committee (SDNC) of Kodomtola slum under HOPE, Phase-II project encourage children to participate in tree exchange programs. Every youngster brings a tree willingly and exchanges

with each other. The objective of the tree exchange event is to create awareness among children and encourage them to care for the creation of God. The children were so excited. They participated in this kind of event for the first time in their life.

In the sharing session, little Mira said, "I feel blessed to be a part of this amazing event for the first time in my life. I will share all the learnings with my friends." Sultan said, "It is a wonderful experience. I would like to request Caritas Khulna to arrange this kind of program for us again." Parents of the children were also pleased to attend the event.

"Emergenze Complesse in Bangladesh" Project Launches

A new project titled "Emergenze Complesse in Bangladesh" started in Caritas Khulna Region from April 2023 with the financial support of Caritas Italiano. The project aims to improve the living conditions of climate vulnerable slums' residents. Project goal is "Slums' vulnerable residents will enjoy enhanced living conditions by reducing risk factors through increased accessing and receiving of public social services and awareness".



A total of 10,256 households and subsequent poor and destitute slum dwellers of those families in four targeted slums of four wards (Bastuhara Colony-Ward no 09, Machghat Montur Colony-Ward no. 21, Rupsha Char Colony-Ward no. 22 and Labanchara Sluice Gate-Ward no. 31) under Khulna City Corporation will be directly benefited from this project.

The poor men and women, day laborers, van/rickshaw and hand cart puller, domestic laborers, rice mill workers, cement factory workers, hawkers, fish factory workers and other vulnerable targeted slum residents will get project services through participatory approaches by forming community-led Slum Development Committee (SDC) for each working slum. Project will take initiative to build capacity of SDC members and community people through different awareness sessions, meetings, trainings,

Six Years old Rajia is now with her foster-parent

Six years old Rajia has been growing up in Mirpur Sha Ali Majar area since her birth. Her father Md. Chan Mia is a drug addict person who is also a drug peddler, even he is involved with begging, scorching and garbage collecting, etc. whatever make scope for earning to buy drugs. Her mother Pinki Begum was also a street girl and stayed in the Majar area. Both got married through an informal arrangement, just by touching the saint Majar and accepting each other as a couple. Thus, the couple became parents of three daughters and one son. But in 2022, Rajia's mother got married to another guy and left them. From then Rajia and her other three siblings lived with their father. Being an addicted person, Md. Chan Mia took very little care of them, mainly Rajia's elder sister, twelve years old Chadni looked after them. Since January 2023, Chadni started to come to Gabtoli DIC mainly for food with her three

seminars, workshops and advocacy events, therefore vulnerable slum community people. It is expected that they will be more resilient against natural disasters, climate change impacts and socio-economic vulnerabilities. Moreover, targeted vulnerable families will have diversified income and livelihood opportunities to enhance their financial conditions in addition improved advocacy & networking capacity to access Government safety net supports and other GO/NGOs' support services for the slum residents. The project is also intending to provide the following support for the targeted community people:

- Treatment support with medical camp and medicines;
- Cash support for pregnant mothers & poor elderly patients to purchase medicines for proper health care;
- Cash support to differently able people or their families for improving their livelihood;
- Devices/appliances to differently able poor people/children e.g., wheelchair, tricycle, crutch, hearing aid, etc;
- Infrastructures repair and renovation e.g., water points, toilets, bath house, drainages, fire protection equipment, walkways etc.



siblings. So, staff members of Gabtoli DIC started to work with these children and their family members. They started to search other relatives of those children and finally they found their grandmother and Aunt's house at Savar area. With tearful eyes, the grandmother said, for many years she has been detached from her son Chan Mia. Only with her daughter's support, she is staying in a tiny, rented house. She is an

old aged women, widow and without any earning source she is surviving. What can she do for her grandchildren? Among four brothers and sisters, Rajia was willing to stay with her grandmother. When their grandmother was assured that, Caritas Alokito Shishu Project will provide all expenses for Rajia if she takes responsibility of Rajia as her foster parent, she gladly accepted the offer.

On 18.06.2023, an agreement for foster parenting was signed between Caritas Dhaka Region and Fatema Begum (Rajia's Grandmother as foster parent) with some condition for wellbeing support to Rajia. Now Caritas Alokito Shishu Project is paying Tk. 7,000/- (seven thousand) each month for Rajia for her nutrition, health care, education, and other supplements. Now six years old Rajia found the warm lap of her grandmother, found a family where her aunts and other relatives are coming to see her. She is admitted to school also.

Foster parenting is a new introversion for Caritas Alokito Shishu Project. Through successful implementation of this process any person or institution can provide family support to a street child with love, care, and dreams.

Since January 2023, Chadni started to come to Gabtoli DIC mainly for food with her three

MCMPP Project, Dhaka Runs Health Related Campaign parent



Caritas Medical Centers for the Poorest of the Poor and Marginalized People (MCMPP) project under Caritas Dhaka Region organized a Free Blood Grouping Test Campaign on 09-05-2023 at Zirabo Health Centre, Savar, Dhaka conducted by Dr. Edward Pallab Rozario, Manager (Health), Caritas Bangladesh. A total of 128 beneficiary tested their blood group. It was a day-long event for the people those who did not know their blood groups.

Ms Jamila (65), one of the beneficiaries said, "First of all I would like to thank Caritas MCMPP Project Dhaka for arranging the free blood grouping campaign for us. I did not know about my blood group but now I know that my blood group is B+". Another beneficiary Ms. Samia, (15) said, "As a student I should know my blood group, but I did not have any opportunity to know my blood

group. I am very grateful to Caritas MCMPP project for the service. I have known my blood group from this camp. They provide me a card where my blood group is mentioned which will be helpful in any emergency of my life especially, I can use this information in my National ID Card."

Furthermore, the project arranged an awareness session on STI, STD, personal health and hygiene for seven transgender participants.

Another free blood grouping campaign was held on 25/05/2023 at MCMPP Dhaka Jamgora and 113 persons did their blood grouping.

MCMPP Dhaka Project organized a Free Eye Care Camp on 12/06/2023 and 128 persons attended and received the free eye care services from Prime Bank Eye Hospital, Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

Caritas MCMPP Dhaka organized another day-long activities on Child Protection Campaign on 19-06-2023. The activities were divided into three parts. A free blood grouping test campaign for school going children, Art Competition and a Stage Song performance of spreading awareness on child protection. Total 250 participants have participated spontaneously.

Visit of Ms. Bronwen Moore, Country Manager of CRS Bangladesh to Caritas Bangladesh



Ms. Bronwen Moore, new Country Manager of CRS Bangladesh visited Caritas Bangladesh (CB) on June 20, 2023. During this visit, she had a meeting with the Directors of CB. She attended interaction sessions with Sector/Section Heads, Disaster Management Team and Finance & Audit Team of CB to get an orientation about CB as new Country Manager of CRS Bangladesh. Donough Ryan of CRS accompanied her. In the second half of the day, she visited Mirpur Agricultural Workshop and Training School (MAWTS), a Trust of Caritas Bangladesh. There she met James Gomes, Director and senior staff

members of MAWTS. Later she also visited Caritas Dhaka Regional Office. There she met Mr. Jyoti Gomes, Regional Director, Caritas Dhaka Region and senior staff members. She was accompanied by Mr. Sebastian Rozario during this visit. Ms. Moore enjoyed the day-long visit and admired the activity of Caritas Bangladesh.

Our Visitors: April to June 2023

During the reporting period, a total of 38 visitors/partners visited Caritas Bangladesh for project visits, workshop, monitoring and evaluation. They were:

April-May: Mr. Jesper Juel Rasmussen and Ms. Sidse Helene Surel Mogensen of Caritas Denmark; Ms. CHARLOTTE HONOREZ and Ms. HANNAH LAM THUON MINE of Caritas Luxembourg;

June: Mr. Raju Pradhan and Mr. Suman Khadka from Nepal (for Caritas Germany); Sr. Subeshna Thapa and Vikash Pradhan from India (for Caritas Germany); Mr. Hridesh Sharma, Mr. Hari Prasad Dhungana, Mr. Mahendra Prasad Tharu, Ms. Kaushila Sapkota Kandel, Ms. Shobha Acharya Paudel, Mr. Khamb Singh Basnet, Ms. Sushila Karki, Ms. Laxmi Oli, Mr. Rishi Prasad Sharma, Mr. Shanta Milan Dewan, Mr. Bal Kumari Lama Thapa of Caritas Nepal; Mr. Maya Muchahary; Mr. Prabin Narzary; Ms. Deborah Priya Sangma; Mr. Thangsha Sebastian Anchong; Ms. Prerana Rajkonwar; Mr. Seemanta Jyoti Baishya; Mr. Suresh Babu Venkatachalapathi; Ms. Nilima Xalxo; Mr. Lijo George; Mr. Bimal Kumar Nayak; Ms. Kalika Mohapatra; Mr. Tapas Kumar Jena; Ms. Monisha Majumdar; Mr. Abhishek Kumar; Mr. Jaison Varghese; Mr. Jolly Lukose and Ms. Rucha Bhogilal Thakkar of Caritas India; Ms. Bronwen Moore and Mr. Donough Ryan of CRS.

CJW Unveils its Golden Jubilee Logo



CJW is going to celebrate its 50 Years Golden Jubilee in 2023 with the theme **walking together with LOVE, NATURE, and TRADE JUSTICE**. The celebration began through unveiling the Golden Jubilee Logo on 8 June 2023. The Board of Trustees Chairman and Executive Director of Caritas Bangladesh, Mr. Sebastian Rozario inaugurated the logo as Chief Guest. Honorable Life Trustee member of CORR-The Jute Works Sr. Mary Lillian SMRA and Sr. Mary Protiva SMRA were also present in the program as Special Guests. The Director CORR-The Jute Works Mr. Shishir Angelo Rozario chaired the event. The logo was made with jute which was designed and made by the CJW staff themselves.

In the same program the primary track of the theme song of jubilee program was released. The Director was happy to inform that the theme song was written, given cord and composition everything was done by the CJW staff members.

It was a memorable day for CJW family, and the jubilee program began with this joyful event.

Contributors:

Shiba Mary D' Rozario, Lily Antania Gomes, Sumon Corraya, Dipok Ekka, Rocky Corraya, Chandan Rozario, Samrat Serao, Sanjib Chandra Roy, Bulbul Mankhin, Badhon Chiran, Chonda Hawee, Albino Nath, Provash Ch. Biswas, Quamrunnaher, Edward Pallab Rozario, Lipi Mondal.