

DEVtalk

Celebrating “World Day Against Child Labour 2021”



“Act Now: End Child Labour” with the global theme Educo Bangladesh has observed World Day Against Child Labour on 12 June 2021, as part of observing International Year for Elimination of Child Labour declared by UN. With the country theme “Mujib borsher Ahban, Shishu Sromer Oboshan” Educo has organized series of programs exclusively and also along with the government (Ministry of Labour and Employment), ILO, UNICEF, MJF, BSAF, Save the Children as well as separately. Jointly with these organizations and GoB, Educo has published and disseminated 20,000 posters on the Bangla theme of the day along with publishing a newspaper supplementary in 11 national newspapers to mark the day.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE), Educo has organized a TV talk show to mark the day and to share the initiatives of Educo’s ODHIKAR project. The talk show was telecasted in a private television channel Rtv on 12 June. Honourable state minister of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, Secretary of Ministry of Labour and Employment, Country Director of Educo Bangladesh and a prominent Child Labour Specialist of Bangladesh participated in the talk show as discussants. Two children from Educo’s ODHIKAR project expressed their life and sufferings due to pandemic and lockdown. A documentary on the life story of some child labour, government initiatives, current situation of child labour and opinion from government and experts has been described in the documentary that was telecasted on the same day at the same channel.

At the project locations of Educo in Dhaka and Cox’s Bazar, different events (art competition, prize distribution, discussion etc.) were organized at community level maintaining the health hygiene rules. Educo’s noticeable presence was also visible through colourful decorations of various banner, which were installed and displayed at the Secretariat, MoLE, and several other ministries.

An animation video, child labour case stories and drama serial have been produced and shared in Educo’s social media to sensitize and aware community people against child labour.



Changed mode of organisational operations



- Educo Bangladesh shifted its mode of operation from direct implantation to partnership approach for achieving Educo’s Social Impact Outcome and contributing more to the relevant SDG goals.
- In 2021, Educo Bangladesh initiated 10 new projects in partnership with 10 organizations. These new projects are located in 11 districts of Bangladesh, explicitly - Dhaka, Gazipur, Narayanganj, Mymensingh, Thakurgoan, Rajshahi, Shatkhira, Shariatpur, Barisal, Barguna and Cox’s Bazar (including host community).
- In next 2 years (2021-2022) Educo Bangladesh will directly reach more than 100,000 children and adolescent through these projects with the support of its implementing partners, namely - NSS - Nazrul Smriti Sangsad, POPI- People’s Oriented Program Implementation, SDS - Shariatpur Development Society, SAINT-BD - SAINT-Bangladesh, ESDO - Eco-Social Development Organization, SACHETAN, DAM – Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Uttaran, JCF - Jagorani Chakra Foundation and SKUS - Samaj Kalyan Unnayan Shangstha.

Baseline survey of nine projects in 2021

- The MEAL Team of Educo Bangladesh has completed the Baseline Assessment Survey of 9 internal funded new projects in March 2021.
- The assessment has been completed with the support of Educo Bangladesh’s internal resources and technical expertise, with extensive support of the partner organizations.
- The findings have been shared with Educo and partner staff.



Standing beside the fire affected Rohingya refugees



On March 22, 2021, a massive fire broke out in the Rohingya Refugee Camps. The fire began through Camp 8W and quickly spread over 4 camps - Camp 8E, Camp 8W, Camp 9 and the associated host community. Approximately 10,000 shelters were fully damaged, and 55,000 people had been displaced. After the Rapid Needs Assessment conducted by Educo Bangladesh, 14,623 fire-affected beneficiaries were supported through providing them with dried food, clothes packages, NFI Items, education materials etc. Along with that, El Corte Ingles and the Spanish Embassy joined the Educo led fire response initiative through donating clothes. After the first phase of support, Educo Bangladesh has launched a second phase of response for both the fire affected Rohingya refugees and the associated host community members. Immediate assistance to more than 2,000 fire-affected households shall be provided along with ensuring that 3,000 fire affected children, adolescents and their families are protected, and their rights are restored.

Capacity building initiatives for partners during the reporting period

- 10 partners attended Project Implementation Plan workshops
- 14 Sessions on Project monitoring, project progress report and Suggestion, Complaint and Commendation (SCC) were organized by MEAL team
- 10 partners are oriented on standard financial compliance and policy procedure to run the Educo projects
- 30 members of 10 PNGOs have received orientation on Child Safeguarding policy and child protection measures

Capacity building initiatives for Educo Staff during the reporting period



Global Impact Framework (GIF), Global Programmatic Framework (GPF), Country Programmatic Framework (CPF) and new projects were shared to enhance staff's knowledge to walk together in the same pace for achieving Educo's common goal



Entire Educo team was oriented by internal experts on Gender Equality and mainstreaming



Lessons learned, and best practices were discussed within the team to collectively make external partnerships successful and reach the targets efficiently while ensuring quality



Finance team shared the financial standards and documentations to the program staff for handling projects and partners more efficiently



Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan was oriented to the managers by experts.



Key staff of Educo were oriented on climate change by external youth activists



A walk through "Digital Learning" in the Refugee Camps

Amongst the 10 Home Based Learning Centers (HBLC) of Educo Bangladesh, 2 HBLCs and 1 Multipurpose Center is providing digital learning for the students in the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The digital learning centers are allowing kids to escape from the harsh realities of their existence while still educating them. In the digital learning system, currently, a total of 51 students are being catered. Each student is provided with a digital tablet along with a headphone, and are taught English, Burmese and mathematics through gamified apps. Being a girl prioritized facility with female teachers, adolescent girls finally get a chance to learn according to their wishes.

Safe back to school campaign launching

Educo Bangladesh, along with 14 national and international development organizations (currently 18) launched 'Safe Back to School (SB2S)' Campaign on 10 February 2021. The SB2S campaign aims to support the government to prepare children, families, parents and educational institutions to resume the educational activities so that students can go back to the school safely after a long school closure. The organisations who joined hands for the campaign are- BRAC, Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), Educo Bangladesh, FIVDB, Friendship, Humanity Inclusion (HI), Jagorany Chakra Foundation (JCF), Plan International Bangladesh, Room to Read, Save the Children in Bangladesh, Sesame Workshop Bangladesh, Stromme Foundation, World Vision International and Young Power in Social Action (YPSA). Education minister Dipu Moni inaugurated the campaign, where Director general of the Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Professor Syed Md Golam Farooq, UNICEF deputy country representative Veera Mendonca and Head of AID, development assistance to the Canadian high commission Phedra Moon Morris spoke as the special guests.



Project launching at Cox's Bazar



Educo Bangladesh held its project start-up workshop on 04 March 2021 at Cox's Bazar, to launch a two-year project, "Prevention of and response to GBV and sexual violence to Rohingya refugee children and adolescents", in partnership with JCF and SKUS at Camp-8W, 8E and 17 at Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The project is contributing to achieve gender equality and creating an environment that prevents, responds to, and protects children and adolescents from various child protection violations, forms of gender-based and sexual violence while empowering communities, adolescents, and children. This intervention, funded by Barnfonden (member of Child Fund Alliance) and Radio Hjälp, will develop a safe and inclusive condition for the children and adolescents of the Rohingya refugee camps, working directly with 6,554 beneficiaries.



After shifting to a new office, Educo Bangladesh team inaugurated a childcare corner - Educo Kid's Home for the kids of the employees. Kids ageing from 6 months to 8 years will be able to avail the support of the childcare corner.



Educo Bangladesh celebrated International Women's Day on 8 March, acknowledged women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.



163 Adolescent and Youth Clubs (AYC) under Educo Bangladesh's 5 projects of 8 districts with the objective to empower them becoming active and committed citizen for positive social transformation. Currently, 7,245 adolescents and youths (majority girls) are engaged with these clubs.



Joint Committee meetings with its 9 partner NGOs of Educo Bangladesh (namely- POPI, SDS, SACHETAN, SAINT-BD, ESDO, NSS, DAM, Uttaran and JCF) were organized by June 2021. Educo funded Projects have joint committees consisting of members from PNGO and Educo for efficient supervision of the management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the projects.

Quick links

- **Photobook: Visual Journey Towards Development**
- **Animation video: A day in the life of laguna conductor Suruj**
- **Report: Multi Sector impact on children during COVID-19**

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Contact us Level 03, House # 30 CWN (A), Road # 42/43, Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212.
Tel. (+880) (2) 41.080.858 – 59

www.educo.org.bd