Mainstreaming Children with Disabilities in Bangladesh

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CSF Global Bangladesh

Access to HEALTH

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CSF Global activities (overview)

**Research**
- Disability prevalence studies
- Qualitative research on child disability
- Rapid assessment of refractive error (RARE)
- Rapid assessment of avoidable blindness (RARE)
- Cerebral Palsy visual morbidity studies

**Advocacy & Networking**
- Mass awareness campaigns
- Development of information and advocacy resources
- Member of national and international disability networks

**Service Delivery**
- Diagnosis and treatment
- Primary eye care
- Therapy and rehabilitation
- Inclusive education
- Self-help groups
- Distribution of assistive devices
Mainstreaming Children with Disabilities

Shahjadpur sub district: service area

Service area: 296 villages, 70,998 households and 500,000 in a total area of 324.47 km²
Methods: Identifying children with disabilities

Key Informants Method (KIM)

- NGO field-worker
- Imam
- School Teacher
- Local council Member
- Government Officer
- Health worker
- Community leader


How do the key informants work?
Methods: Medical Assessment
Burden of Childhood Disability

- Till December 2017, **1,500 children** with disabilities identified in Shahjadpur
- Estimated ~**350,000 children (4.0 per 1000)** with CP in Bangladesh
- Estimated 0.7 children with SVI/Blind
- Est. 650,000 children with SVI/Blind, Physical, Hearing and Epilepsy in Bangladesh
Child with spastic CP & Epilepsy
## Access to services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immunisation</th>
<th>Children with CP %</th>
<th>National Data %*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BCG at birth (vaccine mark)</td>
<td>92.3</td>
<td>~90.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MR vaccine†</td>
<td>47.5</td>
<td>~90.0</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School attendance</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main stream school</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>90.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special school</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data from multiple sources: EPI report and National demographic and health surveys
† 2014 National MR Campaign
Taking a Public Health Approach

1. At Child and family level
   - Personal health
   - Nutrition
   - Assistive devices
   - Rehabilitation (OT, Physio)
   - Education

2. Community level
   - Community awareness
   - Accessibility
   - Integration

3. Policy level
Physical Rehabilitation: Assistive Device

1,150 wheelchairs have been distributed till December 2017
Accessibility

“Creating a wheel chair accessible environment for children with cerebral palsy in rural Bangladesh: 50 ramps has been built at houses and schools”
Transition Program Manual for **Children with disabilities and their families** in collaboration with **CSF Global, Perkins International and AVID**

- Three special schools supporting **120 children with CP** every year
Social Participation

• Incontinence is a major issue
• Reusable Nappy
• 300TK each
“After 5 days survey on oral health of disabled patients, I think they need dental treatment for the improvement of their oral health as well as general health”

The following treatments can be performed in a dental setup

- Treatment of Gingivitis
- Treatment of Periodontitis
- Treatment of Dental caries
- Extraction of badly damaged teeth which cannot be treated by endodontic procedure
Awareness.. Six key areas for change

- Public awareness
- Civil rights
- Medical/Therapeutic
- Quality of life
- Education
- Contribution
A ‘One Stop’ solution for children with disabilities and their families

- Assistive devices centre
- Parents and HCWs education & training
- Parents club
- Inclusive children’s club
- Physiotherapy centre
- Medical care (e.g. Epilepsy)
- Research, advocacy and awareness
Acknowledgement

- Children with disabilities and their families in Bangladesh
- CSF Global, Bangladesh
- Cerebral Palsy Alliance Research Foundation, Australia
- Wheelchairs for Kids, Australia
- tna Solutions, Australia
- Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney, Australia
- National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Australia
- Asian Institute of Disability and Development (AIDD)
- Perkins International, USA