

Health for Villagers®



মুন্সি আতার আলী স্বাস্থ্য কেন্দ্র **Munshi Atar Ali Health Complex** **Earpur, Noakhali**

Est. 2012



Health for Villagers[®]





Dedicated in loving memory of
Dr. Sitara Choudhury.

It is with your guiding light that this organization has
grown to what it is today.



মুন্সি আতর আলী স্বাস্থ্য কেন্দ্র

Munshi Atar Ali Health Complex
Earpur, Noakhali

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There are countless people that have supported MAAWS throughout the years. It would be impossible to name you all but we always remember those acts of kindness, whether big or small.

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National Institute for Population Research and Training (NIPORT)
of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (NIPORT), 2007
Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey

Organization Mission

The mission of our organization is to assist the Bangladeshi people in uplifting themselves out of poverty. We seek to provide people with opportunities to take control of their future.

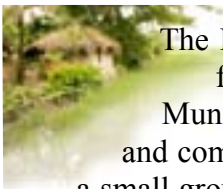


Teaching a young boy basic computer skills increases his odds to obtain a job after he graduates from college. Teaching a young girl how to sew and make her own clothes enables her to make an income that will support her parents. Installing a sanitary latrine lets a mother not have to wash her clothes in the same river where others openly defecate and providing her easier access to clean drinking water lessens the chances her children will contract diarrhea and cholera. Our aim is to empower people, especially the youth, into taking their lives in their control by providing them with opportunities within their reach that will improve their lives.



The founder, Munshi Atar Ali, a benevolent and twentieth century landlord lived by the saying, “No pan-handling, teach them how to fish, teach once and help for life.”

How did we start? History



The Munshi Atar Ali Welfare Society (MAAWS) was founded during British colonial rule. The late Munshi Atar Ali realized the importance of education and community activism. Ali was successful in gathering a small group to meet monthly to promote formal education, religious instruction and create a spirit of community. Inspired by Ali's efforts, the community built a Daftar (Community Office) that became a focal point for the organization. Ali founded the Earpur Preschool and Primary School in the early twenties in the village of Earpur in Senbagh, Noakhali, Bangladesh



Today, the society has expanded to include a vocational school, a high school and other programs to uplift participants. The organization he founded still thrives and reaches more families through the organization's programs and the support of people previously helped.

Although originally founded in the 1930s, MAAWS became an officially registered non-governmental grass-roots organization with the Bangladesh Government Ministry of Social Welfare in 2000 and NGO Affairs Bureau in 2002. Our project area is located in the village of Earpur in Senbagh, Noakhali, Bangladesh, 165 miles from Dhaka. In the United States, MAAWS is a registered 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. Ali focused on implementing programs where people could learn the necessary skills to seek employment. Today, we are continuing the same legacy with modernized approaches and know-how.



Letter from the CEO



When I came to the United States in the early '80s, I used to live in an apartment with some of my friends in New York City. It was always a fun place to be and there was always something going on. Our friends that just came to the country from Bangladesh would come to stay with us while looking for jobs and apartments of their own. Far away from home, families and traditions, we started traditions and celebrations of our own.

Despite the fun we were having, I always used to say that we had to give back in some way to our home much in the same way as my great-grandfather, Munshi Atar Ali did. We collected all our spare change in a mayonnaise jar I got from a deli I worked at during the time. Everyday, our roommates and guests would drop their spare change into the mayonnaise jar. With the spare change, we were able to fund the teachers' salaries at the Earpur High School, buy rickshaws for the vocational program and start a small fund for girls when they got married.

A lot has changed since our fun times in that apartment. Many of our friends have become very successful in their respective fields, moved away, gotten married and started families of their own. But we have never forgotten that mayonnaise jar or our home. When I think back to those times, I never expected to accomplish as much as we have throughout the year and one of our biggest dreams is coming true: a health facility is being built for the people that really need it that most.

Thank you to everyone that I met along the way and invested in the mission and dreams of MAAWS. It is with your support that MAAWS is what it is today and is able to provide the poor with opportunities to uplift themselves out of poverty. We must continue to serve in order to bring light to Bangladesh's bright future.

Best,
Golam Mawla Manik



Letter from Dr. Rehman



Having spent some five years in Bangladesh, then East Pakistan, when I was a student, I instantly fell in love with the beauty of the land and its people. I was quick to learn enough Bangla to carry out day to day conversation.

I was especially taken back by the degree of poverty in the villages and the disastrous cyclones that hit the country time and again. I was part of relief efforts in Chittagong and many off-shore Islands and I came back with extreme pain in my heart after seeing the suffering of the people and the terrible loss of life, property and livestock. I will never forget the scenes of those natural disasters.

During my term as the Chair of the IMANA Relief Committee, I initiated some projects with MAAWS. We have been part of deep-well drilling in many villages where the population was able to access fresh drinking water for the first time in their lives and install sanitary latrines.

We are especially proud at IMANA to be part of this new hospital that will bring much needed medical care to this area as well as be a source of medical knowledge transfer between the US and Bangladesh. This is a dream come true for me and I cannot wait for the day I can travel to Bangladesh to see this hospital with my own eyes.

Dr. Hafizur Rehman
Chairman, Board of Regents
Islamic Medical Association of North America

About Dr. Rehman

Dr. Rehman is a pediatrician and humanitarian based in Bayshore, New York. He is a board member of FOF Relief and Education. He has received the Martin Luther King Public Service Award and Suffolk County Community College Leadership Award. He is currently a senior attending in pediatrics at Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center and Southside Hospital. Dr. Rehman is also Adjunct Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at New York Institute of Technology and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Hofstra Medical School.

Project Vision



Many in rural Bangladesh do not have access to the most basic essentials of life such as adequate food and water much less access to basic health care. The Health Complex will be serving approximately 30,000 people in the Senbagh/Begumganj area. The closest government hospital is 6 km (4 miles) away. Although that does not sound very far, rural Bangladesh does not have a road and transportation infrastructure that is easy to travel so the journey to the nearest hospital takes hours. The MAAWS Health Complex was built to address these issues and provide easier access to quality health care.



We will strive with the highest of integrity to:

- treat all patients with the upmost value and dignity while respecting patient's cultural and religious background
- provide basic healthcare for the people of Earpur and surrounding areas, irrespective of their ability to pay
- provide immunizations and similar protection to children
- provide prenatal and maternity care for expectant
- promote health education in the community through outreach programs
- build bridges in the community locally and globally by providing a platform for youth, locals and expatriates to make a difference

Current Health Issues in Bangladesh

Infectious diseases such as cholera, malaria, diarrhea and respiratory infections are huge problem in Bangladesh. There has also been in a rise in diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, sexually transmitted disease (STDs), and HIV/AIDS in recent years. Many of these conditions can easily be prevented with routine screening and health education.



Although Bangladesh's mortality rates have declined over the years, 48 per 1000 children are expected to die before reaching their 5th birthday (UNICEF). In rural areas, only 11% of births occur at a health facility. A large majority of births occur at home assisted by an untrained traditional birth attendant. Postnatal care is critical in order to prevent complications after childbirth however only 30% of women receive postnatal checkups (2007 Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey).

There is an obvious need of educated and trained nurses and doctors working at the grassroots level to lower the infant and maternal mortality rates. The health complex will increase accessibility and quality of health care to patients. Routine screening and testing are vital in preventing and managing many diseases.



Health Complex Services

The Health Complex strives to increase the accessibility of health care in the Earpur area. Routine screening and testing are vital in preventing and managing many diseases. Detection and awareness is the key. Services provided will include:

- Pre and Post Natal Care
- Midwife Training
- Optometry
- Diabetes and Cancer Case
- Finding
- Lab Testing
- Clinical Services
- Referral Services
- Tele Medicine and consultation
- services provided by local and
- expatriate medical professionals





The MAAWS Health complex provides a platform for not only youth but also professionals seeking to reconnect with their roots to learn and make a difference by volunteering their time, skills and expertise.

There are many ways and opportunities to serve:

- Medical and college students from local and foreign universities will be able to shadow physicians at the Health Complex
- Expatriate physicians can serve as consultants to local physicians in order to provide patients with the best health care available. In this collaboration, local doctors get to learn about treatments and techniques used abroad and expatriate physicians get the chance to give back to their community while learning to adapt to a different health care setting.
- Don't have a medical background? Not a problem. We are looking for volunteers with skills in computer programming, accounting, graphic design, photography, etc. to serve the MAAWS Health Complex and other projects. As long as you have the heart and desire to serve, there are always opportunities!



For more information about volunteer opportunities in the US or Bangladesh, please e-mail: info@maaws.org.

Youth Corner



Our youth volunteers are the driving force behind our organization. Our volunteers are creative, inspirational and visionary young people. It is with their ability and knowledge that we can bring transformational change in our community.

Vanessa Dispigna and Nicole Gosda organized the first ever Mr. NFA Ultimate Goldback Competition hosted by the Newburgh Free Academy Key Club. The handsome pageant contestants strutted their stuff across the stage competing to see which of them would be crowned Mr. NFA. The event raised enough money to install a tube well in a Bangladeshi village and provide clean drinking water to children.

Ishrat Jahan Preya, a Earpur High School student, is the volunteer coordinator of youth and child health services. She also volunteers as the organizer of the special campaign of Health Services. She will soon be serving as supervisor of the residential treatment facility.





Dr. Nurun N. Yusuf, M.D., is the current President of the US chapter of MAAWS since February 2012. She earned her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor Surgery from the University of Chittagong, Bangladesh. She is a dedicated mother, wife and doctor practicing pediatric medicine at Getwell Pediatrics in New York.

Dr. Fazlul Yusuf, M.D., is the US Project Director of the Health Complex Program. He received his Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (M.B.B.S.) from Chittagong Medical College in Chittagong, Bangladesh. He was employed at the Dhaka Shishu Children's Hospital as a Registrar and Residency. He has served as a director of pediatric hematology and oncology at Flushing Hospital Medical Center since 1993 and a pediatrician at the New York Hospital Medical Center of Queens and Alexander Cohen Children Hospital, New York.

Dr. Quasar Choudhury, M.D., is the U.S. Project Coordinator of the Health Complex. He received his Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (M.B.B.S.) from Sylhet Medical College, Chittagong University, Bangladesh. He holds an American Board Certification in Internal Medicine and is a fellow of the American Academy of Cardiology. Dr. Choudhury has been practicing for the last 30 years and is affiliated with St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital in New York.

United States Advisory Board

Dr. Sarwar Saleh, M.D., is an advisor and former President of MAAWS. He received his Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (M.B.B.S.) from Dhaka Medical College, University of Dhaka and holds American Board Certifications in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Cardiovascular Disease. He is currently a practicing cardiologist at St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital in New York.

Dr. Syed Moin, M.D., serves as an advisor to MAAWS. He received his medical degree from Osmania Medical College, NTR University of Health Sciences in India. He holds American Board Certifications in Geriatrics and Internal Medicine. Dr. Moin is a practicing physician and is affiliated with St. Luke's Cornwall Hospital in New York.

Dr. Zubair Zoha, M.D., is an advisor of MAAWS. He received his medical degree from Sind Medical College, University of Karachi in Pakistan. He holds American Board Certifications in General Surgery and Critical Care Surgery. Dr. Zoha is affiliated with Saint Francis Hospital and Vassar Brothers Hospital in New York.

Dr. Wadud Bhuiyan, D.D.S, is an advisor and practicing dentist in New York for the last 30 years. He graduated from Dhaka Dental College, University of Dhaka.

Nasir Mahmood, RPh, MBA, CCP is an advisor of MAAWS. Mahmood also serves as President Emeritus of the Pharmacists Society of the State of New York.

Raihana Mawla earned her Masters of History from the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh. She works for the United States Postal Service and is a dedicated activist deeply involved in women and children's issues in Bangladesh. Mawla served as an outreach worker for Mitra and Associates, a survey research firm in Bangladesh.

Dr. Shamim Ahmed, M.D., specializes in internal medicine and geriatrics in Woodside, NY. He earned his medical degree from Mymensingh Medical College, Bangladesh. Dr. Ahmed completed his residency at Lincoln Medical and Mental Health Center and is affiliated with Elmhurst Hospital Center



Sultan Ahmed has served as Chairman of MAAWS since the very beginning in 2001. He holds a Bachelors of Law from Dhaka University. Prior to joining MAAWS, Ahmed served as the Joint Director of Labour for the Govt. of Bangladesh Dept of Labour.

Mohammad Khorshed Alam is the Senior Vice Chairman of MAAWS Bangladesh. Before joining MAAWS, he worked for Inland Water Transport Authority (IWTA) Govt. of Bangladesh.

Mohammad Fakrul Islam serves as the Executive Director. He earned a Masters of Science in Mathematics from Joganath University and a MBA from Atish Dipankar University of Science and Technology, Bangladesh.

Jahangir Alam serves as the Finance Secretary of MAAWS. He earned his Bachelors of Arts in English, Islamic History and Political Science from Chaumuhani S.A. College, University of Chittagong, Bangladesh. He is a retired Sergeant Officer of the Bangladesh Army Medical Corp, Accounts and Finance Dept.

Juhi Mawla has served as Secretary of International Affairs since January 2012. Prior to joining the board, she served as a volunteer and intern from 2002. Mawla is currently completing her Bachelors of Science in Public Health from Rutgers University in New Jersey, United States.

MAAWS Bangladesh Advisory Committee.

Dr. A.B.M. Abdul Motaleb, MBBS, DMCH & FP, serves as the Chief Advisor of the MAAWS Bangladesh Advisory Committee.

Dr. Tarannum Khanam, MBBS, FCPS, is an advisor and practicing gynecologist.


Dr. Babul Ahmed, MBBS, DMRD, serves as an advisor

Professor Swapan Chandra Roy has a Masters in Commerce. He serves as Principal of Noakhali Govt. College as well as an advisor.


Mohammad Shohedul Alam has a Masters in Communications. He serves as Principal of Baliakandi Degree College as well as an advisor.

Mohammad Khorshed Alam serves as an advisor. He has a Masters in Commerce and Education. Alam also serves as Headmaster of Bagumgonj Government High School






Dr. Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, MBBS, PGT, DCH joins the MAAWS Health Complex as the primary physician. He earned his Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery from Chittagong Medical College, Chittagong University in 1999. Prior to joining the MAAWS Health Complex, Dr. Rahman received resident honorary training for Chittagong Maa-O- Shishu Hospital.



Rabeya Sultana is the new medical assistant of the MAAWS Health Complex. She earned her Diploma in Medical Faculty from the Medical Assistant Training School in Noakhali, Bangladesh. She has experience in pediatrics, surgery, otolaryngology, dental, optometry, and gynecology as well experience in health management and community medicine



Mutalib Hossain is the coordinator of the Special Campaign of Health Services as well as the coordinator of Pharmacy and Medicine Service. Hossain brings his experience as a quality service assurance officer, human resource policy administrator and information system administrator on board.

Other Projects



Literacy/Education

Knowing education was the key to success, Munshi Atar Ali started the Earpur Primary school in his own home in the '30s. He also founded the Earpur Pre-School. Continuing his legacy, MAAWS founded Earpur High School in 1973 and a vocational school for women.

The schools have educated thousands of students since. The government has since overseen the schools but MAAWS continues to support the schools and continuously strives to improve the quality of education.



Computer School

In an effort to get more young people from villages to learn the skills they need to succeed in the professional world, MAAWS started a computer school in 2002 in Earpur, Senbagh, Noakhali, Bangladesh. Through word of mouth, the Windows of the World ® center has grown to train more than one hundred students, who are now working for pharmaceutical companies, school districts, marketing companies, the Windows of the World ® center.



Poverty Alleviation

The Poverty Alleviation Project is an umbrella project for other MAAWS projects, such as Sewing, Computer and Fishing, aimed at enabling people to obtain a stable source of income in order to support themselves and their families. By providing welfare to the community through education, health, income generating and vocational training projects, individuals become sufficient and contribute to society instead of relying on it.

Programs include:

Rickshaw Program: Pay-As-You-Earn

Rickshaws are the principal mode of transportation in Bangladesh. The profits made by the rickshaw program pay off the small loan needed to start before users even know it.

New Life Fund: MAAWS provides support to newly married couples. Men are given rickshaws. Women are enrolled for training at the Sewing center.

Funeral: The poor cannot properly bury their deceased loved ones because of financial costs. MAAWS provides them with the means to perform the funeral rites and bury their loved ones with dignity.



Sewing Training Program

Seeing families trapped in a cycle of poverty, MAAWS started the Sewing Training Project in 2002. Young women, students, housewives take a three month course for a small nominal fee where they learn every step of garments production. Trained to meet the demands of today's fashion industry in Bangladesh, many have presented themselves to be part of a capable workforce for the local garments market and given many women a stable source of income to support their families. For many it is the only source of income. At present, more than five hundred people around the Earpur area have completed the MAAWS Sewing Training Program.



Fish Farming

“Give a man a fish; you have fed him for today. Teach a man to fish; and you have fed him for a life”. Munshi Atar Ali lived by this philosophy. Instead of giving handouts to the less fortunate which would just create dependency, he gave them opportunities to uplift themselves out of poverty. The Fishing Project is one of the largest and oldest MAAWS projects. Cultivating fish in reclaimed ponds provides jobs for many laborers. Laborers then sell the fish in local markets. The profit made goes directly to their incomes, which is used to support their families.

HIV/AIDS Awareness Campaign

Bangladesh has become increasingly vulnerable to an HIV/AIDS epidemic at its borders India and Myanmar, formerly known as Burma.

Coupled with the lack of knowledge and education due to social stigma, HIV infection has increased at an alarming rate. In an effort to educate more people about HIV/AIDS, MAAWS started hosting seminars hosted by doctors about HIV protection and prevention in the community.



Water Resources and Arsenic Mitigation

Arsenic contamination in drinking water contributes to waterborne diseases such as cholera and diarrhea, one of the leading killers in children in Bangladesh. Prolonged exposure to arsenic causes skin lesions, cancer of the lungs, skin and bladder, reproductive problems and many more life-ailing conditions. These conditions rise during monsoon and flooding season when clean drinking water is harder to access as seen during the South Asian Floods of 2007. In order to mitigate this issue, MAAWS has installed over 200 arsenic free tube wells in Bangladesh, primarily in the Earpur project site with the help of small sponsors and US Congress. We have also distributed sanitary latrines in order to foster the growth of hygienic practices. MAAWS has also conducted arsenic contamination testing in affiliation with Columbia University Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory and the University of Dhaka.

Photo Album



Photo Album



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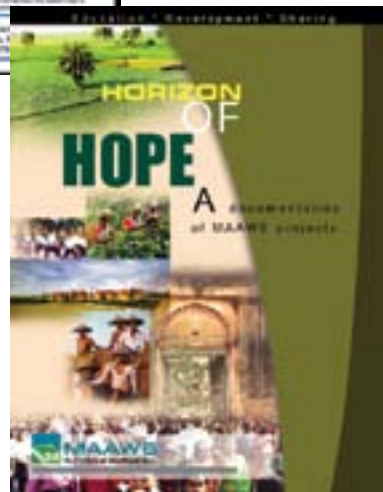
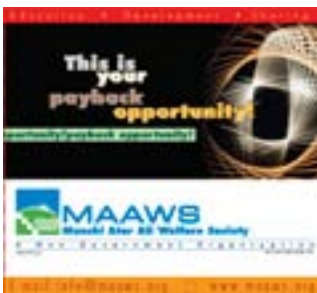
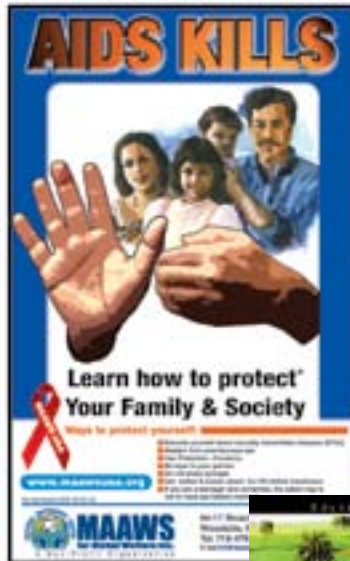
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