



Executive Summary

The name of the project is **Alingan Foundation**. Alingan is a Bengali word for "hug" or "embrace". This foundation is established with the objective of eradicating the poverty of slum dwellers in Bangladesh through education.

Following that aim the project expects to launch some measures to assist destitute people with education mainly through sponsorship programme and some major community development activities. We also aim to develop volunteer services related to the children and their community. They can play an important role in community outreach and prevention efforts, spreading awareness, and educating the community.

We dedicate all our projects to changing the destiny of children. These are primarily orphans and children growing up in slums in Dhaka, Bangladesh who are vulnerable and are under-privileged and often in dire need of education, basic medical care, food and clothing. To break this ongoing cycle of poverty we have found that the only way that we can guarantee the children a better future, is through providing a solid education. We believe that through education, slum children can grow up with the knowledge and ability to break the cycle of poverty in their whole community.

We believe in the motto- we can't help everyone but everyone can help someone. If we can make this work, we will be nearer our aim that poverty will disappear from the world and everyone will live a standard life in equality



Background and Introduction of the Project:

Cities in Bangladesh are overcrowded with dense slums, squatter settlements and pavement dwellings, each home to thousands of children. Increasing rural poverty and corresponding urban migration continue to swell the numbers of people living in urban slums and on the streets. Problems of rural unemployment, landlessness, river erosion, natural disaster, family conflict and weak law and order cause rural families to leave their homes in search of better prospects in the urban centres. This movement contributes to the disintegration of traditional family and community structures and results in an increasing number of children being exposed to deprivation and abuse in urban areas. Children living on the streets fall into several categories, often related to the socio-economic conditions that led to their situation. Many children live with their families, either on the streets or in slum houses. Other children live on their own because they have been orphaned or abandoned by their parents. Children also run away from their families or caregivers, fleeing poverty and physical abuse, and end up living and working alone on the streets. Although no comprehensive and reliable statistics are available on the actual numbers, living conditions, needs and interests of children living on the streets, estimates predict a continuing increase in the number of these children. Thousands of children on the streets of Bangladesh are being denied their rights.

There are some organizations in Dhaka to support the children who are living in slums and on the street, but it is not enough to cover the enormous number of children through those organizations. The supports should potentially be expanded to ensure that all the vulnerable children are under a safe umbrella to secure their life and career. Therefore, Alingan has been established to bring some thousands of children who are still without any support and care from other organizations to a more secure situation.

For a good start, we have already identified 100 children from a massive slum who are vulnerable and without support. They are surviving for living at the beginning of their tender lives. An education can change their entire life and make them good citizens and can break the cycle of their genetic poverty. We expect to ensure a better education for them and provide all related support to allow them to go to school. It is definitely not our intention to let thousands of children embark on a voyage in a boundless ocean without ensuring they reach their destination. Therefore, we are determined to find sponsors and supporters to cover the expenses of 100 children and ensure the support continues until they complete their studies. After completing their studies, they will be capable of finding a better career through their education and knowledge.



Our Mission:

Our mission is to mainstream the slum and street children in a national building by providing care, support & protection through education, shelter and food.

Objectives of the initiative:

General Objective:

- To ensure the most vulnerable and underprivileged children are covered under educational support to become first class citizens and to break the cycle of their genetic poverty.
- To ensure that they benefit appropriately from continuum of care

Specific Objective:

- Put in place an efficient outreach & identification strategy
- Provide slum children with a childhood that they not previously experienced and help them to become useful members of society.
- Ensure keeping children in school or continuing Education
- Ensure access to basic & specific services and well-being through necessary support
- Ensure emotional support for their well being
- Empowering children to keep their resilience and develop protective behaviour
- Protecting children from violation of human rights
- Social contribution of volunteers to the slum communities

Proposed Activity/ Inputs:

- Bring 100 children under sponsorship coverage to educate them.
- Provide counseling to the family members/carers of 200 vulnerable children
- Conduct monthly home visits by community workers and program staff
- Conduct awareness by providing basic information on Life skills, Human rights, HIV/AIDS, Health & hygiene promotion etc to slum children and their families in Dhaka.
- Develop 4 child forum/networks in 4 slums (25 children in each forum)
- Conduct orientation sessions for the school teachers to reduce stigma & discrimination and creating an enabling environment for slum children
- Conduct vocational and life skills training for children and adults
- Provide basic education to parents and guardians of sponsored children
- Volunteers will contribute to the slum communities and conduct different social awareness programs, share their knowledge that benefits the community



Expected Outputs:

- Data and relevant information regarding slum children will be arranged to address basic needs in child education and protection perspective.
- Through sponsorship, a number of children will be well educated to empower them and to break the cycle of their genetic poverty
- Children and adults will be aware and educated on health & hygiene, social behaviors, their rights, family planning and other social awareness activities
- Children will be empowered as agents of change, establish their rights, protection and decision making.
- Children will get opportunities to express themselves, develop leadership capacity and enhance advocacy skills
- Through vocational and life skills training, children and adults will able to empower themselves and to make them ready for further professions
- Through adult education, parents and guardians of children will be aware of their children's education and let them continue their studies
- Children and communities will improve their personal manners and social life from the impact of volunteers.

Conclusion:

Everyone has the right to a standard of living, adequate health and well being, including education, food, clothing, housing, medical care and necessary social services. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. Therefore it is urgently necessary to develop and implement child-focused programs i.e. children's education and health, water and sanitation, nutrition and food security, HIV/AIDS, child rights, participation and necessary care in a comprehensive manner for the protection of the rights of all children and works to safeguard the most vulnerable . In this perspective as a safe umbrella, **Alingan** would like to take initiative in creating an enabling environment for the most vulnerable children of slums mainly through education, where they can find the light of their life, live with dignity and full protection of their basic human rights.