



Dhaka Ahsania Mission UK

Annual Report 2015 - 2016

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Council of Management

Martin Shirley, Chairman
 Neaz Ahmed, General Secretary
 Shamim Saifullah, Treasurer
 Kazi Rafiqul Alam, President of DAM Bangladesh
 Ehsanur Rahman, Executive Director of DAM Bangladesh
 Yasmin Khan
 Zina Fear
 David Fear
 Shah Kibria
 Sally Morgan
 Victoria Seaman
 Raymond Kennedy
 Liz Shepherd

Fundraising Coordinator: Zina Fear

Consultant: Dave Sternberg

Programme and Funding Manager: Emma Crump

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 Company registered in England limited by guarantee no. 3010064

All photographs: Emma Crump
 Cover photo: Audience at a courtyard popular theatre show on the issue of child marriage

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**Dhaka
 Ahsania
 Mission UK**



About Dhaka Ahsania Mission UK

Dhaka Ahsania Mission UK (DAM UK) was set up in 1995 with the specific aim of working in partnership with Dhaka Ahsania Mission Bangladesh (DAM). DAM are one of Bangladesh's largest and oldest Non-Governmental Organisations, set up in 1958. We raise funds to support DAM's work in Bangladesh and we collaborate on monitoring, evaluation and learning, sharing expertise and information. We provide links into networks and we work together to ensure the sustainability and impact of the projects we support.

We give children and adults living in the poorest communities in Bangladesh the opportunities for a better life. We directly fund community led projects that provide education and training, access to water and sanitation and teach people about their rights. We have a particular focus on street and working children. We work from the grassroots level right up to the national government to help individuals and communities become more independent. Our **vision** is of a Bangladesh that is an inclusive and sustainable society where women, men and children alike of all backgrounds, are able to thrive and live their lives with dignity and respect.

Thanks to the support of numerous trusts, foundations and individual donors, we have provided support to:

- A Shelter Home and Vocational Training Centre at Jessore for women and children who have been rescued from trafficking
- Ganokendra (peoples' centres) and Community Resource Centres, a network of village development and resource centres that empower rural communities
- Urban Community Learning Centres for working children and their families in slum districts of Dhaka City
- Two Drop-In Centres in Dhaka for street children
- A Vocational Training Centre for older working children
- The Ahsania Mission-Syed Ali Memorial Education and Vocational Skills Training Centre at Shyamoli, Dhaka
- An organic vegetable garden at the Shelter Home at Jessore
- Vocational Training Centre at DAM's Drug Rehabilitation Centre at Gazipur
- Arsenic-free safe drinking water in Jessore, Satkhira and Narshingdi Districts
- Community managed safe water and sanitation project in Kaliganj
- Flood relief and rehabilitation
- A Drug Rehabilitation and Training Centre at Jessore



Chairman's Report

Martin Shirley

It is all too easy to feel that in recent times the climate of social and political opinion in the UK has become more inward-looking and less sympathetic towards development in other countries. This is the context within which Dhaka Ahsania Mission UK's fund-raising work is undertaken, principally by Emma Crump, our Programme and Funding Manager, and Zina Fear, our Fund-raising Coordinator.

Both Emma and Zina work away tirelessly at making applications to organisations that have supported us in the past, and to organisations which are new to us. Sometimes the results are positive and sometimes not, but it is hard to know which types of applications, for which types of project, are likely to succeed and which are not.

So, DAM UK is kept going by a great deal of hard graft. This was all confirmed as worthwhile once again by the latest visit to Bangladesh as made by Emma Crump and Zina and David Fear. They managed to see all the projects which we are supporting, i.e. the Drop-In Centres for street children, the Urban Community Learning Centres and the clean water pumps/saline and arsenic removal plants. They were able to confirm that all the projects are proceeding more than satisfactorily.

Emma has worked with Dave Sternberg to produce a major document in the form of a mid-term evaluation report on the Drop-In Centres, for Comic Relief : they said that they aimed "to capture the energy and enthusiasm of the children, staff and stakeholders in Dhaka".

The members of our Council of Management continue to give their active support at and in between our formal meetings, and their input is greatly appreciated. We are also very glad to be maintaining good working relations and communications with our colleagues at Dhaka Ahsania Mission in Bangladesh.

DAM UK will keep to its commitment to 'Amar Sonar Bangla' - 'My Golden Bengal' – as in the words of the national anthem of Bangladesh, written by Rabindranath Tagore.

General Secretary's Report

Neaz Ahmed

My job as a General Secretary is to complete the Annual Return for the Charity Commission by October 2016 and Companies House Annual Return in February 2017. My other jobs are to attend the CoM meetings regularly, write and disseminate minutes and agendas to all the Committee Members three times a year. This year I made a private visit to Bangladesh early this year in May and visited the Cancer Hospital which is doing amazing work. I also met Mr Rafiqul Alam and Mr Abdul Hye.

There are 12 members who are the Directors and Dave Sternberg who is our highly worthy Consultant.



Message from the President of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Bangladesh

Kazi Rafiqul Alam

We are highly delighted to see that DAM UK is bringing out its Annual Report for 2015-16, with an overview of its activities carried out during the past year. We take this opportunity to express our heart-felt thanks and gratitude to the Chairman, Members of the Council, Fund– raising Coordinator as well as to all those involved in the activities of the charity for their voluntary efforts in running the charity so smoothly.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM), by way of its multi-dimensional interventions throughout Bangladesh, has been providing services to the poorest of the poor at micro to macro level. DAM's interventions at grassroots level for poverty alleviation, uprooting illiteracy, providing healthcare services to people's doorsteps and building capacity for poor and ultra-poor communities, have continued to be recognised both nationally and internationally. This year, DAM has won the Arab Gulf Fund (AGFUND) International Prize 2015 (NGO Category) for its pioneering human development project titled, “Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)”. DAM has been implementing TVET for alleviation of poverty of the unskilled population for almost two decades by establishing a number of Vocational Skills Training Institutes and so far nearly 22,000 have been trained. DAM has continued to intensify its TVET activities so as to assist in developing skilled manpower in Bangladesh.

Over the past years, DAM has extended its service-providing activities and is now supporting social entrepreneurial activities. Major building works of the Ahsania Mission Cancer and General Hospital (AMCGH) have been completed and the hospital has now started providing health services to the needy people in full swing. DAM's activities with water and sanitation in saline and disaster-prone areas have earned praises from various quarters. DAM's manifold activities are being outreached in a cumulative way.

It is very heartening to acknowledge here that DAM UK has always extended its all-out support to almost all the programmes of DAM through mobilising necessary funds towards smooth implementation of those programmes. We are fully confident that DAM UK will continue its support to DAM Bangladesh to work for the development of the hardcore poor and needy people of the society.

Message from the Executive Director, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Bangladesh

Ehsanur Rahman

We have passed another eventful year working collectively from Bangladesh and UK to serve the suffering humanity. This year witnessed more interactive work environment in the teams through a series of virtual communication and physical visit by DAM UK to Bangladesh meeting people from cross-section in the community who we work with at the grassroots level. 2015 marked first year of DAM's 10 year Strategy Plan where DAM UK is an important development partner contributing to various sectors including education, human rights, water and sanitation. As a process to move forward simultaneously we have been sharing ideas on selected strategic issues like branding, resource mobilization, programmatic sustainability, institutional strengthening, etc. The inputs and insights of DAM UK in these consultations have been invaluable.

We feel proud to be associated with the development of Bangladesh featuring a consistent GDP growth rate over last few years and expected to be one of the ten fastest growing economy in the world. We are firm that in the coming days, with our limited resources and capacity complemented by the supports of partners across the world, we would be able to continue to contribute to the improvement in life of the disadvantaged community and development of the country.

Comic Relief supported Drop-In Centres for Street and Working Children – Mohammadpur and Jatrabari, Dhaka (DICs)

In 2013 Comic Relief provided DAM UK with a grant of £550,000 over five years. We are now into our fourth year of this grant which is supporting two Drop-In Centres (DICs) for street and working children in Dhaka.

This year we carried out a successful mid-term evaluation of the project and look forward to building important learning into the remaining years of the project. Learning includes the need to diversify the vocational training on offer and exploring ways to measure changes in children's confidence and self-respect.

Challenges remain, including some children sleeping on the streets. We continue to address this and work with complementary charities and service providers. We are also working to address the broader negative perspectives surrounding street and working children in the Bangladesh Government and broader society.

The project has suffered with exchange rate losses and we continue to try and adapt as much as possible. We also increasingly turn our attention towards developing plans for sustaining the centres beyond the current Comic Relief grant. We are looking at a variety of strategies and working with different stakeholders including the two Centre Management Committees to develop these and put them into action.

In 2015—16 we...

- **have worked with 250 new children**
- **and over 1,500 parents**
- **were featured on the One Show, Blue Peter and Sport Relief telethon**

In 2017—18 we will...

- **focus on plans to sustain the centres after 2018 when the current grant from Comic Relief ends**
- **focus on building upon the learning so far and making changes identified in the mid-term evaluation**
- **explore additional complementary projects to sit alongside the DICs**



Visit by Alex Jones for Sport Relief on the One Show

This year Alex Jones, presenter of The One Show on BBC One visited the Drop-In Centre project as part of Sport Relief 2016. Alex stopped by one of the centres and filmed for the day with some of the boys who regularly use the centres. We are delighted to have been chosen both for a celebrity visit and to also have a 'good news' story shared on the main television campaign night this Sport Relief.



Community Managed Water and Sanitation (WaSH)

In the summer of 2014 we started our new three year Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) project in Satkhira District, South West Bangladesh. The project aims to improve the health and dignity of 22,000 people in Kaliganj and Shyamnagar Upazilas through the provision of sanitation and hygiene promotion services and context specific water supplies with support from local government and other stakeholders. This year has seen the majority of the water hardware installed, however tube wells are becoming increasingly unsuitable for the area due to high levels of arsenic. We will focus on saline, arsenic and iron removal plants moving forward and constantly seek new innovations and best practice around arsenic removal. This year we have had much larger numbers of individuals both using the new water infrastructure and attending public events that spread hygiene awareness. We believe this is due to DAM's high visibility, and command of trust but also because we were conservative with our beneficiary estimates.

In 2015—16 we...

- **have held over 1,400 courtyard sessions for communities to identify their WaSH needs**
- **have formed 32 school brigades to connect communities and school together in hygiene and sanitation awareness**
- **have constructed four public and six school toilets**

In 2017—18 we will...

- **install two saline, arsenic and iron removal plants to provide safe water**
- **renovate 30 tube well platforms to be safe and**
- **measure the behavioural change and broader outcomes the three years of intervention have had on handwashing, school attendance and waterborne disease rates amongst others**



Empowering Adolescents for Social Transformation through Urban Community Learning Centres (UCLCs/EAST)

Urban Community Learning Centres (UCLCs) are a community managed institution to provide educational and learning opportunities for children who would otherwise struggle to access secondary education. DAM UK funds four centres to provide Junior Secondary Education (JSE) and signposting onto vocational training or further education.

DAM UK continues to support four of the centres. Overall this has been another very good year for the centres and we are delighted that they continue on their journey towards sustainability. This is something we will be increasingly focussing on in 2017.

In 2015—16 we

- **enrolled 245 children in classes six — nine, 97% of these went on to pass their JSE examinations**
- **worked with 1,200 family and community members providing linkages to vital services including employment and health**

Empowering Adolescents for Social Transformation through Urban Community Learning Centres (EAST)

This project finished in Summer 2016. Over various different phases it has provided training, leadership skills, education and job opportunities for rural adolescents not otherwise in education, employment or training.

Although the project has largely met its objectives, we encountered many challenges. As a learning organisation, we have made sure we capture and use this learning to inform future projects involving training.

One of the merits of the project was that it took training to adolescents in rural locations. This meant they could remain at home whilst training. However this has presented its own challenges including finding suitable, quality trainers. We learned that it is important to offer a diverse portfolio of vocational trades and to adequately match these with adolescents' interests and the job market. In future phases of this project we would favour a more tailored approach with emphasis on signposting onto appropriate job opportunities.

This project has...

- **trained 1,197 adolescents in vocational skills**
- **enrolled 323 children in schools**
- **performed social theatre to 2,252 community members on child marriage, reproductive health and gender discrimination**



Saline and Arsenic Removal Plants

We have been supporting DAM Bangladesh in their work to improve the water supply and sanitation condition in rural Bangladesh for several years. Developing low-cost and user-friendly ways of treating saline and arsenic contaminated water, which naturally occurs in Bangladesh, for safe use by rural communities is a key part of this work.

We continue to install these plants as part of our water, sanitation and hygiene work. This year we have started the construction of a larger saline, arsenic and iron removal plant. The particular community we are working with used community maps and situation analysis to identify the need for a larger plant to fulfil the demands of two local schools and a marketplace. This plant will operate at a capacity of 1,000 litres per hour as opposed to previous plants we have installed at half of this.

Plans and new projects



Integrated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Health and Nutrition (IWaSH)

We are delighted to be starting a new water, sanitation and hygiene project largely funded by Human Appeal International. This new project will continue our work in Satkhira District. The project will run for two years and started in August 2016. It will include new water hardware for DAM UK in the form of women's bathing places. The project also includes a focus on nutrition with homestead garden demonstrations and related health and nutrition campaigns.

The project will include the renovation and building of community and school latrines and include sexual health and reproductive rights (SRHR) training in schools and the community. Adolescents who are trained in SRHR will themselves lead discussions and training in their wider communities.

The project will follow the same model of capacity training and hygiene education either side of building the water and sanitation hardware.

Other project plans for 2016-17 include...

- a new vocational training project for adolescents
- partnerships with the British Bangladeshi community
- possible expansion into Sylhet

We have also embarked upon a new fundraising strategy. This will focus on broadening into major donor fundraising and expanding our collaborative projects. We will also be launching a new website.



Bianca is nine years old and lives with her grandmother in Dhaka. They both work hard to give themselves a better future. Each morning they collect litter and sell it to a recycling merchant. The work is dangerous and they often cut or injure themselves. After working in the morning, Bianca attends the Drop-In centre where she gets help to learn to read and write. Bianca hopes to attend a mainstream school in the future and train to become a teacher.

"I often see other children my age carrying their books and going to school. I hope I can be one of them in the future. I love the education at the centre and without the centre I wouldn't have any education at all"

Bianca



Mittee



Mittee finished the tailoring and dressmaking course at the EAST project and is now running a tailoring business from her home. She has taken a microfinance loan from DAM and is paying back 600 taka (£6) a month for a sewing machine over one year. This is very manageable as she is regularly making 300-400 taka per day. She is able to support her family and feels her confidence growing every day.

"I get orders in from around the village and I make some items ready to be bought, such as a maxi. It is a challenge to learn the different designs but I am getting better with practice and hope that I can become very skilled eventually. Without this opportunity I was worried I would have to marry as my parents can't afford to look after me anymore. I am too young to marry, I am only 16, so I am determined to support myself and my family"

Mohammed is the Head teacher at Tirali Girls High School in Satkhira District. Despite lobbying the local government and due to a lack of funding, the toilets at Tirali School were in an extremely poor condition with crumbling walls, no locks on the doors, no running water and little privacy. It was no surprise that they were heavily underused and actually discouraged the girls from attending school, particularly if they were menstruating.

Now with a brand new toilet block the pupils can attend school with dignity. The toilets have now become a facility the school are proud to promote and enable girls to work hard once again for their futures.

"The new toilets have meant more girls are now applying to come to the school. During the inauguration ceremony I invited the community and family and told them about our new facilities, which are very private, safe and clean"

Mohammed



David and Zina Fear’s visit to Bangladesh

We took the opportunity to visit Bangladesh with Emma, who was making her yearly trip to oversee and report on the projects that we, DAM UK, are currently supporting. We arrived in Dhaka tired but in high spirits. We went through the new visa application system with little fuss and were then met by our great friend and colleague, Abdul Hye. It was a wonderful moment for us as we have been great friends for so many years. We were then driven through the chaos of Dhaka’s traffic to our old watering hole, the Ambrosia. It was like a home coming, being greeted by staff who have been working there for so many years.

After a good night’s sleep we arrived at DAM Bangladesh Head Office, again to be greeted by so many familiar faces including Kazi Rafiqul Alam and Ehsanur Rahman. We had forgotten some names but remembered their smiles and generous hospitality. For older people we feel everyone should have name tags in order to maintain a level playing field; it can get very embarrassing.

During our time in Dhaka we visited six UCLCs and the two Drop in Centres supported by DAM UK and were extremely impressed with the way they have progressed. The staff’s commitment is quite astounding and the way the young people are responding is good to see and an honour to witness. We are always amazed and proud to see and be part of such programmes. I think at this point we would like to congratulate the commitment and energy that the team have put into these projects and made them so successful.

Our visits outside Dhaka to the WaSH and EAST projects again were interesting and fulfilling but sadly marred by the fact that we had to be escorted by armed police riding shotgun, although they were very kind and courteous. I think Zina thought she was like Doris Day in Annie Get Your Gun; good job she did not sing or they may have used their guns!

While in the Sundarban area we decided to take a day out to hunt down the Bengal tiger in co-operation with Bangladesh’s most optimistic tracker. We realised that a very old fishing boat with a labouring two-stroke engine, fighting against the incoming tide and a strong head wind would not reach the home of the tigers but maybe Davie Jones’ Locker was the better bet. Eventually we had to make an executive decision and demand that the boat be turned around and we headed back to dry land.

Going back to Bangladesh was like returning home and we are always sad to leave behind such lovely hospitable people. There was one highlight on the way home; having arranged a stop-over in Dubai, we met up with Babule who was our driver in Bangladesh and a great friend. He now works as a taxi driver in Dubai. What a way to end a trip.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds (Note 2) £	Total Funds 2015 £	Total Funds 2014 £
Income				
Donations	49,165	152,299	201,464	191,192
Government allowance	2,040	-	2,040	1,774
Investment Income	30	57	87	95
Total Income	51,235	152,356	203,591	193,061
Expenditure				
Costs of generating funds				
Fund raising	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities				
Grants	-	(144,024)	(144,024)	(125,308)
Governance costs	(5,108)	(1,179)	(6,287)	(4,257)
Support costs	(35,963)	-	(35,963)	(37,111)
Total Expenditure	(41,071)	(145,203)	(186,274)	(166,676)
 Net income/ expenditure and net movement in funds for the year Note 6	 10,164	 7,153	 17,317	 26,385
Reconciliation of funds				
Total Funds Brought Forward 1 January 2015	33,136	69,956	103,092	76,707
Total Funds Carried Forward 31 December 2015	43,300	77,109	120,409	103,092

All activities are continuing and the retained surplus for the year was the only recognised gain or loss in the year.

Personal Donors:

Irene & Greg Bull
Amy Fear
Chris Fear & Viv Jowett
David & Zina Fear
Paul, Jane & Holly Fear
Ruth Hereward-Isaac
Christine Isaac
Ted & Annie Jones
Mary Wright
Marlene & Jim Wylde
Neaz Ahmed
Nicola Griffiths
Becky Leftley
Linda & John Matthews
Jane White
Sheila Radford
Ian McKendry
Shamim Saifullah
Martin Shirley
Sally Morgan
Mumtaz Mahmood
Liz Shepherd
Dave & Alison Sternberg
Patrick Walker
D.R. Stockwell
Celia Hatfield
Annie, Simon & Austin Whitcombe

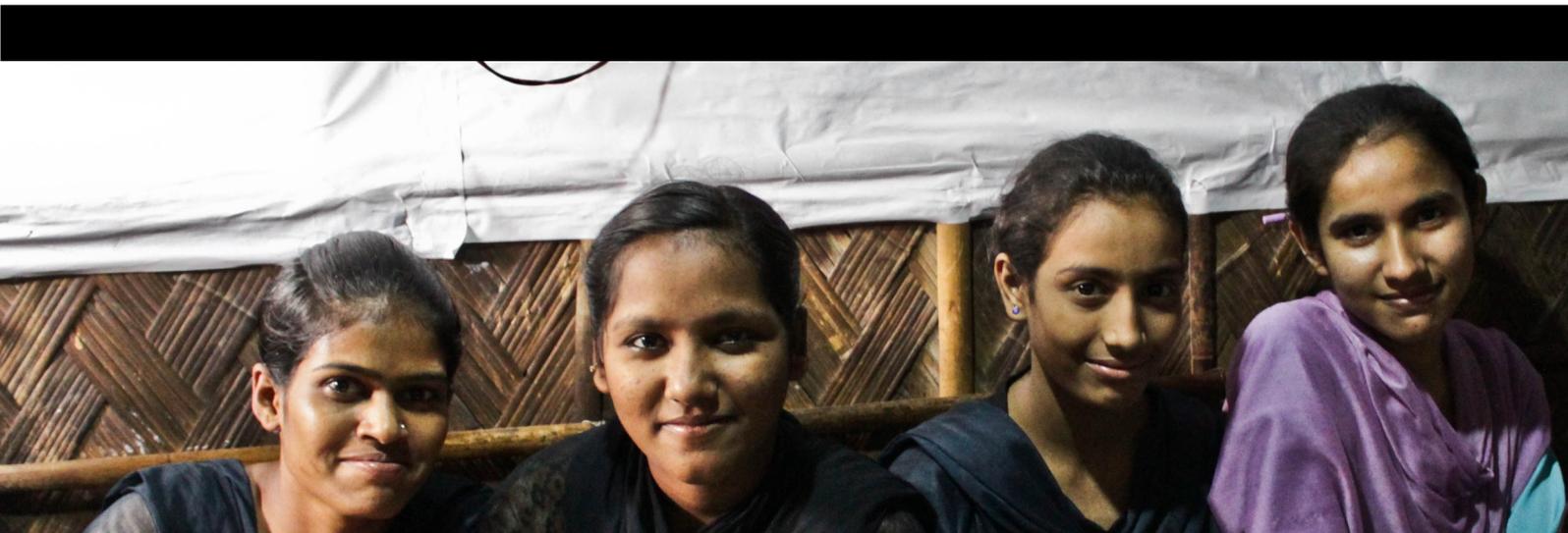
Corporate Support:

Clarke and Jay Surveyors

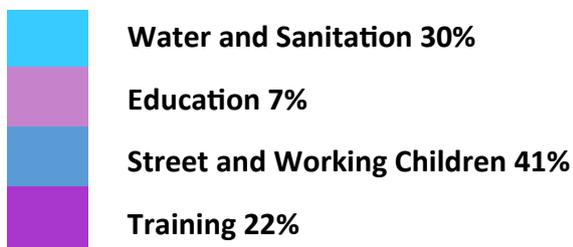
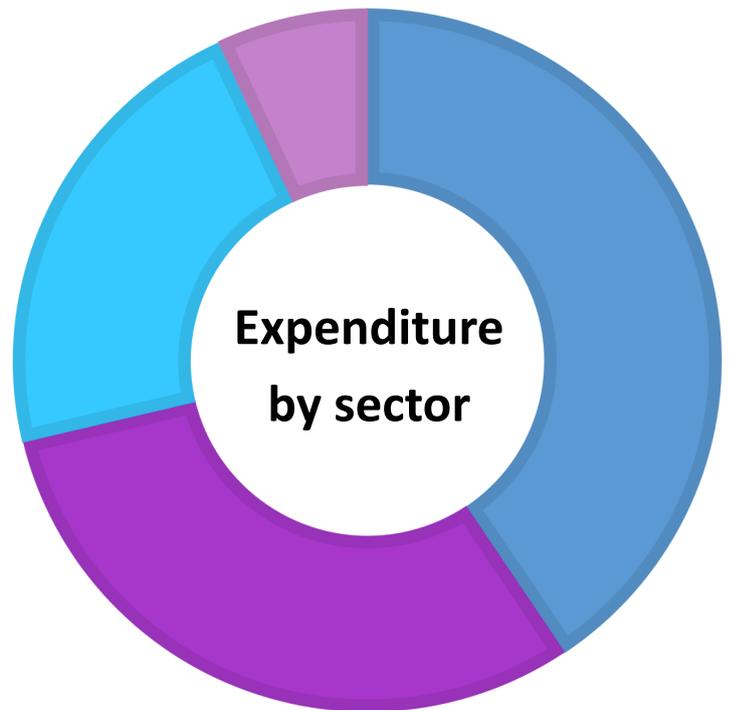
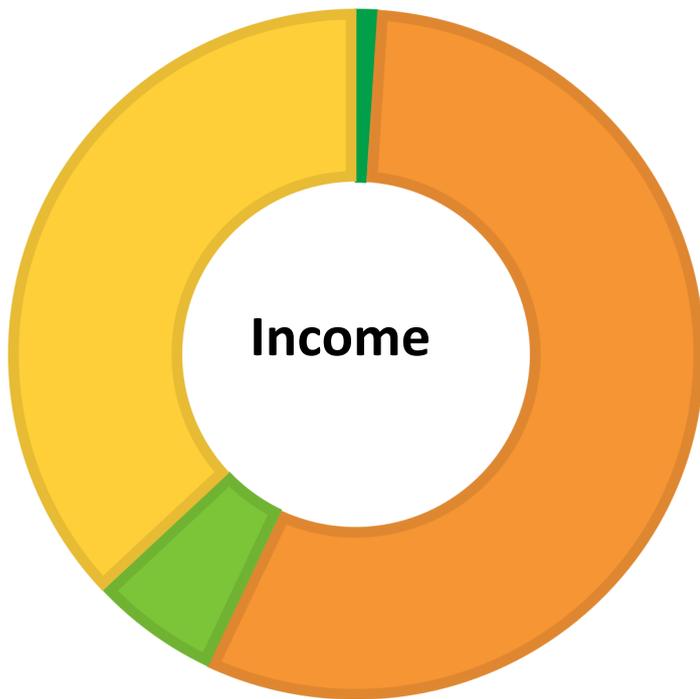
Trusts, Foundations & Organisations:

Comic Relief
ElectricAid, Ireland
Kenmore Congregation, Australia
Kirby Laing Foundation
Lions Club of Plymouth
Madeline Mabey Trust
Souter Charitable Trust
The Waterloo Foundation
Anonymous donations x 2
RTE One World Fund, Ireland
Lady Fatemah Charitable Trust
Evan Cornish Foundation
Human Appeal International
Clark Charitable Trust
Fulmer Charitable Trust
Alchemy Foundation
Oak Trust
Rhododendron Trust
C.B. & H.H. Taylor 1984 Trust
William A. Cadbury Charitable Trust
Forest Hill Charitable Trust
Rotary Club of Warwick
Human Appeal International
Marr-Munning Trust
Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust
Zurich Cares
The Hilden Charitable Fund
Oakdale Trust

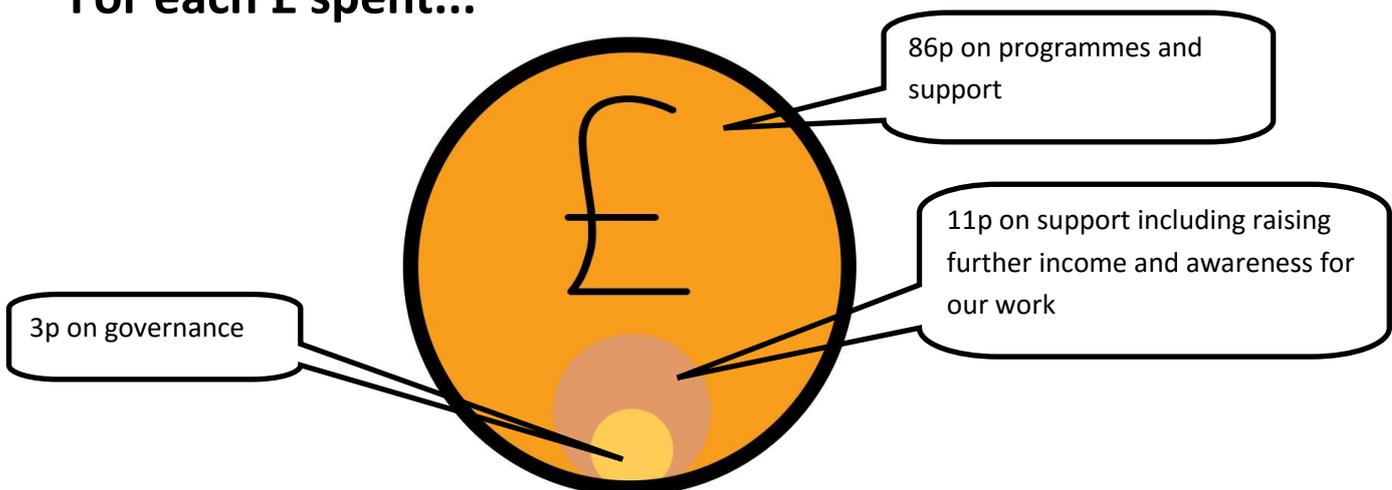
Thank you!



Where our money came from and where it was spent



For each £ spent...



How you can get involved?

As a small charity we are very grateful for the support we receive through our extended networks. There are multiple ways that you can get involved in our work.

Become a regular donor and help us to plan our work. Setting up a regular donation is easy and you can do by visiting our website (<https://www.charitycheckout.co.uk/1053786/>) or getting in touch with us at the office.

Make a donation via our website or send in a cheque to the office.

A donation of...

£7 will provide textbooks and workbooks for one child

£20 will pay for informal education for a child for one year

£80 will buy a sewing machine

£130 will pay for the renovation of a school toilet block

Have a fun or challenge event you are taking part in?

Why not fundraise for DAM UK whilst doing it? We are happy to support you in every way we can.

Owner or employee of a company?

Whatever the size, there are numerous reasons for your company to get involved, from fundraising to joint projects and staff volunteering. Please get in touch with us at the office.



Friends of DAM UK, Christine and Sally successfully competed the JustWalk half marathon this year raising over £500 towards our work. This is a fantastic way to raise funds for DAM UK whilst doing something fun.

We are keen to take part in the JustWalk event next June (which can also be run or cycled) with options for different distances. Please get in touch if you are interested.

A huge thanks to Christine and Sally!

Volunteering

We have lots of interesting pieces of work and short term projects that would be ideal for individuals interested in developing their experience in the international development and charity sectors. We particularly welcome individuals with specific skillsets in marketing, fundraising and social media but we are very flexible and encourage people to get in touch if you would like to volunteer.



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