

ANNUAL REPORT 2016 – 2017



**Dhaka
Ahsania
Mission UK**



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ABOUT US

We are an international development charity registered in the UK. We support communities in Bangladesh with opportunities to improve their own lives.

We do this by directly funding community led projects. These largely focus on providing clean water and sanitation, education, vocational skills training and teaching people about their rights.

We work with adults and children from the most vulnerable communities in Bangladesh and have a particular focus on street and working children.

We work in partnership with Dhaka Ahsania Mission Bangladesh (DAM). DAM is 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.

WHO WE ARE

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
- Raymond Kennedy
- Liz Shepherd
- Dave Sternberg

- Fundraising Coordinator: Zina Fear

- Programme and Funding Manager: Emma Crump

Dhaka Ahsania Mission UK continues to make steady progress in these challenging times. We keep on with our efforts to raise funds for key projects in Bangladesh, and with the objective of covering our core establishment costs in this country.

We are a small and lean charity, with just one staff member: Emma Crump, our Programme and Funding Manager. Emma is a powerhouse for fund-raising, liaising and networking. She also contributes notably by strengthening our partnership with our dear friends and colleagues at Dhaka Ahsania Mission Bangladesh, not least by way of her regular country visits to check on the progress of our projects and to discuss the prospects for new ones.

Emma has successfully launched our new website, an impact report and a newsletter for our supporters, and she has moved our office to the Angel Centre in Worcester.

DAM UK also benefits from the significant voluntary efforts of the members of our Council of Management, in areas such as fund-raising, accounts, statutory returns, governance issues, strategy documents and business planning.

Our colleagues in Dhaka are kind enough to say that DAM UK brings added value to our partnership with them. It is however to their credit that two of the Urban Community Learning Centres (i.e. schools for working and street children) are now funded by their local communities.

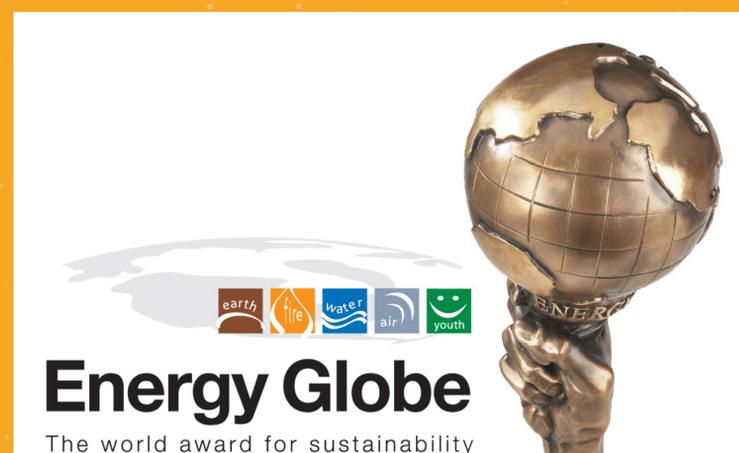
A particularly gratifying achievement was the sponsored cycle ride from John O'Groats to Land's End which was undertaken by Joe Fear and Adam Rowland. They raised nearly £4,000, and we are most grateful to them.

We offer our warmest thanks to everyone who has helped and supported DAM UK in recent times.

DAM Bangladesh has received the Energy Globe Award 2017 from the Energy Globe Foundation of Austria, for its innovative WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) programmes. The realities of the innovations concerned are described thus: "introduction of locally appropriate technological options of safe water supply, low cost sanitary latrine materials, promotion of smokeless ovens, promotion of homestead tree plantation and nursery raising, platforms with water points and sanitary latrines up to flood level, female caretakers for deep hand tube-wells, women's bathing corners & girls' separate toilets".



You can visit our new website at www.damuk.org



I have completed the Annual Return for the Charity Commission in October 2017. The Companies House Annual Return will be completed in February 2018. I have been complying with my other jobs to attend the CoM meetings regularly, write and disseminate minutes and agendas to all the Committee Members three times a year. In 2017 I made a private visit to Bangladesh in June and visited the DIC in Jatrabari. I was quite amazed at how well it is run and the children who benefit from the management and staff's dedication to them. It is a very happy place!



This year I have made a personal visit to the DAM Cancer Hospital where my mother went through a hernia operation in her tummy which was a remarkable success given her age is 87. I do commend the Hospital management for this praiseworthy organisation which is run very efficiently and with care.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF DHAKA AHSANIA MISSION BANGLADESH

Kazi Rafiqul Alam

I am highly pleased to see that DAM UK is bringing out its Annual Report for 2016-17, with an overview of its activities carried out so successfully during the past year. I take this opportunity to express my heart-felt thanks and gratitude to the Chairman, Secretary, Members of the Council, Fund Raising Coordinator as well as to all those involved in the activities of the charity for their voluntary efforts.

DAM Bangladesh has been working over a period of almost six decades and will complete sixty years of its fruitful functioning in February 2018. During this long period of time, DAM has been able to make some significant contributions in many of the development sectors of Bangladesh. DAM has continued to implement programmes in education, skills development, health, safe water supply, sanitation, human rights, Child Protection, climate change, disaster management and other needy areas through grassroots level interventions covering over 170 sub-districts of 43 districts in Bangladesh with support from the government and of the donor agencies, which were mostly in line with the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. DAM has now developed its Strategy Plan for 2015-2025 and will continue to work in supplementing the development initiatives of the Government of Bangladesh in achieving SDGs by the year 2030.

It is very heartening to mention 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. It is because of DAM UK's continuous and untiring efforts that a number of sustainable projects of DAM, especially the Shelter Home for the Trafficked Women and Children, Vocational Training Centres located at Jessore and Dhaka City, Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Centre at Jessore, Water Treatment Plants, etc. with permanent infrastructures are widely visible. These have made unparalleled contributions towards the social development of the unprivileged people of Bangladesh.

I am fully confident that DAM UK will continue its support to DAM Bangladesh in future to work for the well-being of the hardcore poor and needy people of the society.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DHAKA AHSANIA MISSION BANGLADESH

Dr. Ehsanur Rahman

DAM UK in partnership with DAM in Bangladesh works to provide humanitarian and development support services to the vulnerable people towards improvement of their living conditions. This partnership is of development collaboration in the forms of funding support, professional exchange of insights and sharing of information on strategic issues for which both organisations work together.

The focus of DAM UK in supporting DAM's work in Bangladesh during the year 2016-17 has been largely for urban poor children especially those living on the streets through Drop-in-Centres (DIC) and Urban Community Learning Centres (UCLC) as well in the field-based water, sanitation and hygiene promotion services to the rural disadvantaged communities. These supports could have far reaching impacts on the lives of the target population, since the projects have been developed beyond just service delivery. The programme components included capacity development of the local communities as well as linkage building with local government and private sector services. Both elements have embedded seeds for sustainability of the project implementation process branding those as replicable models.

Simple convey of thanks from our end to the DAM UK Council and the management team would not be an adequate expression of acknowledgement. Our deepest gratitude remains all along for them. Their generosity and dedication to the suffering communities in Bangladesh is commendable and on behalf of DAM we feel indebted for these supports. Long live our partnership!

A huge thank you to all of our supporters this year including all of our individual donors, trusts, foundations, organisations and corporate support.....

Trusts, Foundations & Organisations:

Alchemy Foundation
Rhododendron Trust
Quran & Sunnah Academy Ltd
Kenmore Congregation, Australia
William A. Cadbury Charitable Trust
Miss K.M. Harbinson's Charitable Trust
RTE One World Fund, Ireland
Lady Fatemah Charitable Trust
Human Appeal International
Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust
The Hilden Charitable Fund
Drinking Fountain Association
C.B. & H.H. Taylor 1984 Trust
Forest Hill Charitable Trust
Kirby Laing Foundation
The Waterloo Foundation
Anonymous donations x 2
Evan Cornish Foundation
Clark Charitable Trust
Fulmer Charitable Trust
Souter Charitable Trust
Evan Cornish Foundation
Madeline Mabey Trust
Al Khair Foundation
ElectricAid, Ireland
Marr-Munning Trust
Oakdale Trust
Zurich Cares
Comic Relief
Cotton Trust
Oak Trust

Corporate Support: Clarke and Jay Surveyors



STREET AND WORKING CHILDREN

Two Drop-In Centres in Dhaka (DICs)

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

The project has had another successful year although the weakened value of the pound sterling has stretched the budget. With due planning, adaptation and innovation, the centres have continued to carry out most of the planned activities.

The partnerships the centres have with other initiatives and NGOs including Dhaka Ahsania Mission's Addiction Management and Integrated centres and the Underprivileged Children's Education Project (UCEP) have been vital in delivering the project this year.

The project continues to engage high numbers of parents/guardians and the wider community and this year we worked with over 1,800 individuals from these groups,

We are increasingly looking to the future and how the centres can be funded after mid 2018 when the current grant from Comic Relief, comes to an end.

THIS YEAR...

293 new children enrolled

107 children moved into safer jobs

277 children attended education



"LIFE IS BETTER NOW, LIFE IS GOOD. I HAVE A SKILL FOR LIFE"

Earlier this year, Rena and her son, Shaon opened their own tailoring shop after receiving vocational training from the Centres. Rena is very proud of her achievements. Previously she was employed as a domestic worker and despite working very hard, low wages meant she earned just £30 per month.

Rena's son, Shaon, is deaf and she worried he would struggle to find decent work or would be exploited. Determined, Rena took out a small loan to open a shop and equip it. She can now use her new tailoring skills to make clothes for her community. Shaon now works with his mother alongside continuing his education at the Drop-In Centres. Rena is much happier now knowing her son is safe and can grow into the business. She easily earns £100 per month and can even put a little by to save for the future.

Community Managed Water and Sanitation

This project ran for three years and ended in Summer 2017. Overall the project was a success and we have taken on board some great learning on how to improve future projects. Below is a summary of the successes and learning from this project.

Sanitary latrine use has increased from 19.3% to 83%

Number of people using an improved drinking water source within 1km of their home has increased from 56% to 94%

Project reached 68,311 women, men and children in Satkhira District

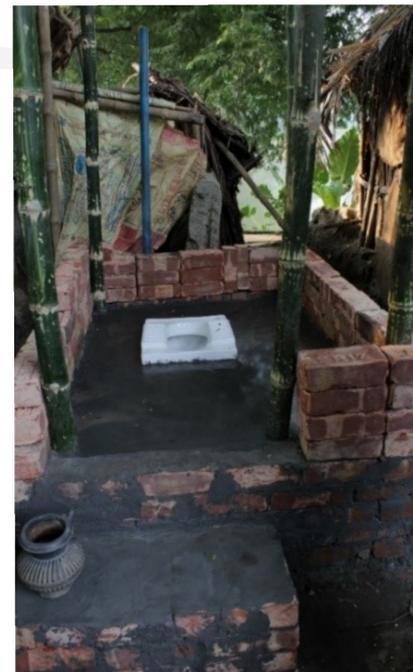
Challenges and learning

There is a significant lack of research and data available on the quality of ground water in arsenic affected areas. This makes it difficult to know the best interventions to combat water high in arsenic.

A major shortcoming is that the local government cannot improve latrines in schools when there is no education budget allocated. The lack of adequate coordination and motivation of local government institutions is a setback for schools to have hygienic latrines. More motivation and advocacy work is needed to inspire the local government to take initiatives to provide hygienic latrines in all schools.

RUPI AND HER SON

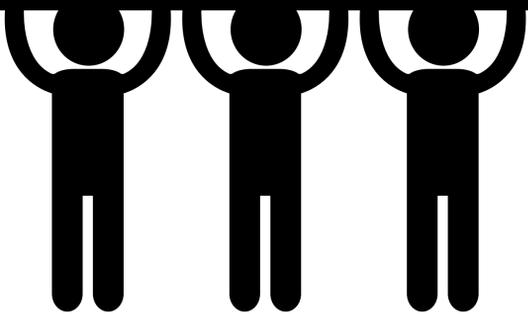
Rupi gave birth to her son, pictured here, six months ago. Rupi learned how important it was to have a hygienic toilet near to her house and wants her child to grow up with the best facilities she can afford. With the assistance of DAM engineers Rupi and her husband learned the best location for the latrine and what type of latrine was most suited. The location they have chosen is close to their home and in front of their old pit latrine, (pictured behind the new latrine above). Rupi and her husband are building the brick walls and soon the toilet will be finished. Rupi knows the new latrine will have no smell, less flies and hopes the family will have less instances of diarrhoea. They will also install a 'tippy tap' with 'soapy water' so they can wash their hands. Rupi hopes to teach her child about hygiene as soon as he is old enough.



Supported by Human Appeal, this project is now 12 months in. We have nearly exceeded the target for total project beneficiaries by the end of year one. The project still has two years left to run. This highlights how great the need is for these sorts of interventions. The staff team are extremely dedicated and passionate and the communities eager to learn and get involved to improve their own hygiene situation. The Union Chairman continues to support the project and guide us. The project has already started having positive impacts on people's health and levels of knowledge.

A particular highlight has been the work with school students. The project staff and volunteers have been extremely well received and the children have loved interacting with the hand washing demonstrations and getting involved in the public events such as rallies. Children are a great mode of transferring knowledge to families especially if they are in school and their parents were not afforded an education.

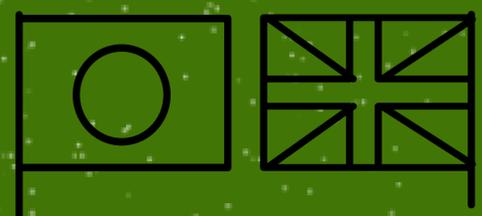
Reached over 17,000 people in 2016 - 17



Saline and Arsenic Removal Plants

The plants are still a key part of our work to improve access to safe drinking water across Bangladesh. This year we installed our first 'double capacity' saline and arsenic removal plant in Satkhira and are working with the Bangladesh UK Environmental Foundation (BUEF) to install an arsenic and iron water filtration plant in Sylhet.

We continue to seek the most viable solutions to removing arsenic from groundwater. Moving forward we will look to introduce a solar powered unit for the plants to run off. This will run alongside the electrical power supply that all plants currently have. This will ensure plants are more robust and can continue to run when power supplies fail. We will also look at running the plants as social enterprises and setting up a small water selling business operating in the local area. This will ensure enough revenue is fed back into the operation and maintenance of the plants.



Educating and Empowering Disadvantaged Children through Non-Formal Education (EduEmp)

This is a new project in partnership with the Al Khair Foundation. The project will provide a course of non-formal education to 240 children aged 6-10 years old and 119 children aged 11-13. It will run over two years providing education in classes I - VIII at two education centres in Dhaka City.

As well as providing non-formal education, the project will create an Adolescent Development Forum (ADF) and establish networks with Community Based Organisations (CBOs) through which adolescents will have an increased voice, an avenue for advocacy and better access to relevant services.



SKILLS TRAINING AND LIVELIHOODS

Women In Agriculture: Enhancing Food Security in Jamalpur (WIA)

This project started in summer 2017 and will run for an initial 12 months. It is funded by the Overseas Aid and Development Commission of Guernsey. This is DAM UK's first project in agriculture and means we now have projects in each of DAM's core strategic areas. The project will enhance food security and livelihoods for 1,000 poor households engaged in smallholder farming. The project will work specifically with women. Women engaged in smallholder agriculture are particularly vulnerable due to their poor position in Bangladeshi society, compounding the poverty they face.

The project has four main aims. The first is to strengthen agricultural service provision through training Local Service Providers (LSPs). The second is to increase women's skills, and knowledge of agricultural techniques. The third is to increase women's awareness of and access to agricultural inputs. The fourth is to link women to markets, consumers and micro-finance.

874 MILES FROM JOHN O'GROATS TO LAND'S END

9

Joe Fear

After months of hard training Friday 16th June finally rolled around and we were ready to embark on our trip! The following 26 hours from Bristol to John O'Groats featured much drama and that was before we even got to our starting point. We had to deal with blown tyres before even leaving Bristol. Then we had a frantic cycle through London traffic, and a uncomfortable overnight train where very little sleep was obtained. Next we got lost in Inverness trying to find our rental car and we just had to have a nap on the side of the A9. But 26 long hours later we finally cycled into John O'Groats ready to start our journey from the top to the bottom of the UK.



An early rise on the first day ensured we were out on the road at 8am after a huge breakfast, a tradition that occurred every morning in our desperate attempts to consume calories! I can honestly say, and I know that I speak for both of us, that the first day through the Scottish Highlands was one of the hardest days of our lives! We were battered with 30mph headwinds all day and no amount of training in Bristol could have prepared us for the hills of Scotland! After the brutality of the first day, it was much to our relief that the wind died down and the rest of Scotland became a lot more pleasant, we even got some sun at points!

Scotland is an absolutely beautiful country with stunning scenery, but we finally made it to England on day five. However our excitement to make it to England was short lived as on day six I unfortunately crashed my bike in the Lake District. A trip to hospital and eight stitches later, my bike ride was over. However Adam, still as determined as ever, carried on (now equipped with a full support vehicle) and plugged away day after day. Morale was raised by seeing our families as we moved through our home town of Bristol and this signalled the start of the final leg of our journey through Devon and Cornwall. When I met Adam on the morning of day 11, part way through Devon, I met a very cold and extremely wet Adam and it was the first time since I had slashed my leg open that I was not jealous of Adam being fit and out on the bike.

Finally on day 12, Adam rode into Land's End at around 2pm and received a thoroughly deserved hero's welcome. In total we raised over £3,750 which will make a huge difference to the work DAM UK undertakes, and I personally am looking forward to the day when I can go to Dhaka and see the impact the money we raised has had!

Joe Fear



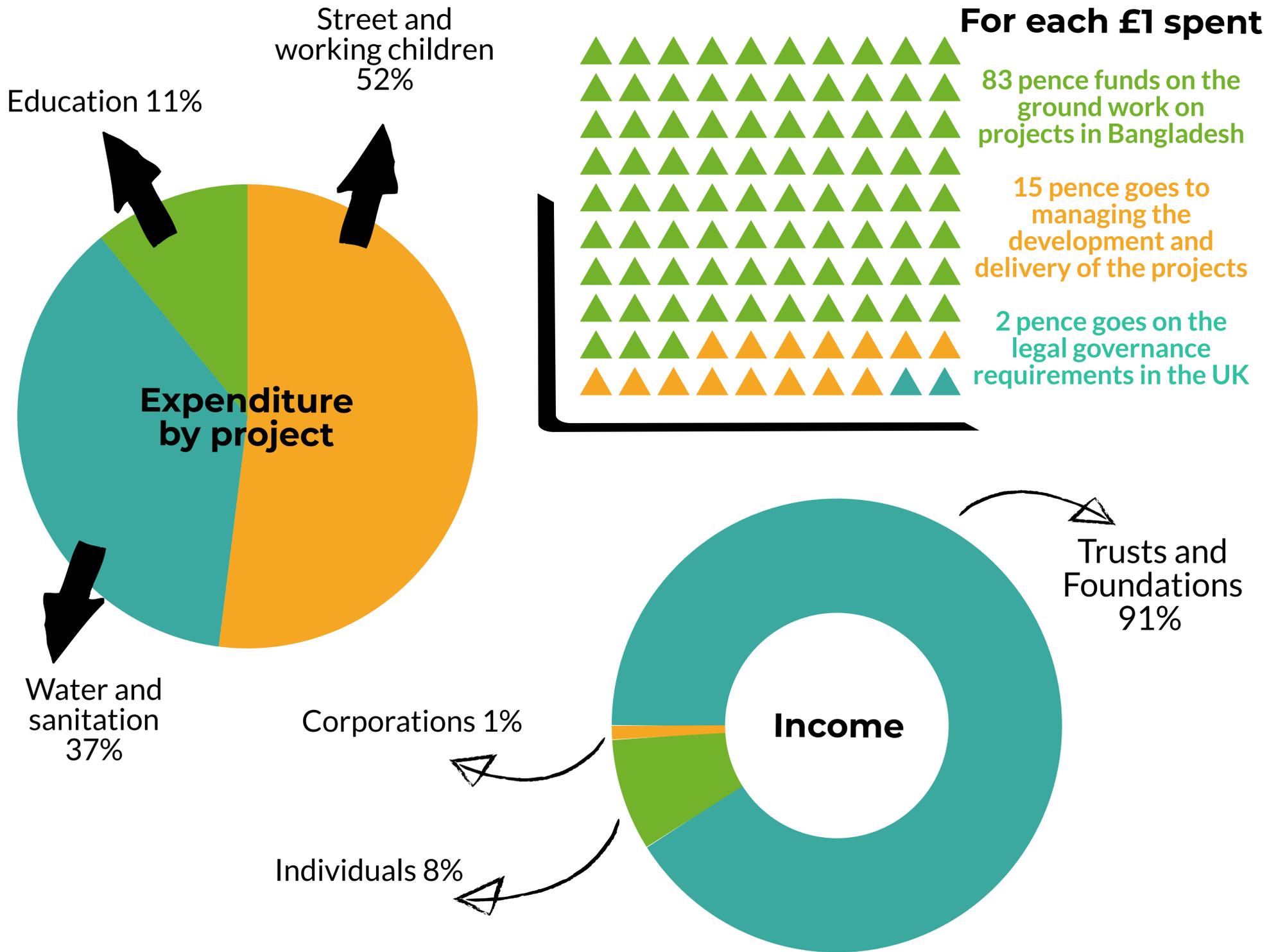
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2016	Total Funds 2015
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Donations	51,117	192,475	243,592	201,464
Government allowance	2,065	-	2,065	2,040
Investment Income	39	55	94	87
Total Income	53,221	192,530	245,751	203,591
Expenditure				
Costs of generating funds				
Fund raising	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Expenditure on charitable activities				
Grants	-	(201,176)	(201,176)	(144,024)
Governance costs	(2,765)	(1,175)	(3,940)	(6,287)
Support costs	(35,443)	-	(35,443)	(35,963)
Total Expenditure	(38,208)	(202,351)	(240,559)	(186,274)
Net income/ (expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year	15,013	(9,821)	5,192	17,317
Reconciliation of funds				
Total Funds Brought Forward 1 January 2016	43,300	77,109	120,409	103,092
Total Funds Carried Forward 31 December 2016	58,313	67,288	125,601	120,409

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

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2016

Where our money came from and where it was spent



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UK Charity registered in England and Wales no. 1053786

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