



DISTRESSED
CHILDREN &
INFANTS
INTERNATIONAL

**Every
20
seconds,
a child
DIES
from
WATER
related
illness**

**NEWSLETTER
TEAM:**

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World Water Day Message

March 22, 2011



It's World Water Day! Today is the United Nation's World Water Day, and we at DCI are taking the occasion very seriously. Do you know where your water comes from? Do you know there are nearly 1 billion in the world who do not have fresh water to drink? On this "World Water Day" DCI would like to focus attention on the importance of fresh water and its sustainable management. Clean water is something most of us take for granted. However, many people in the areas where DCI works do not have access to this most vital resource. As a result, they are forced to drink water from stagnant ponds and use the same water to drink that they use to bathe and wash clothes and dishes. According to UNICEF, about 4,500 children die each day from unsafe water and lack of basic sanitation facilities. In response to this urgent need, we are working hard to provide tube wells and latrines in our project areas. A tube well is a low-cost solution to provide a family access to clean drinking water, preventing diseases spread through contaminated water supply. By reducing the spread of waterborne illnesses, each tube well and latrine promotes the health of the entire community. The installation of water and sanitation facilities in our project areas also helps to employ local villagers and provide income. At DCI we continuously advocate for sustainable, fresh water resources for every child and family as a fundamental right. On World Water Day, please join us in recognizing the enormous privilege we have to enjoy fresh water whenever we please and to be safe from the risk of waterborne disease. Please think of those families who are not fortunate enough to even dream of living in such conditions. With your support, DCI will continue to transform rural communities through the gift of clean water.

Dr. Ehsan Hoque
Executive Director, DCI

www.distressedchildren.org

Health Care for Underprivileged Program

Nasima's Story



Nasima Begum worked in a garment factory until a labor dispute resulted in her and other workers being arrested. She was seven months pregnant at the time, and after paying bail was very weak and in need of urgent care. DCI social workers found her in the slum of Balur Math and took her to the clinic. With financial support from

DCI's Health for Underprivileged program, Nasima received prenatal care including ultrasonogram, blood and urine tests, and regular check-ups. She gave birth to a son and both mother and child are in good health. DCI field officers continue to follow up with Nasima regularly and ensure postnatal checkups.

DCI Health Clinics for the Underprivileged

DCI has two clinics operating in the Mohammadpur and Kallayanpur slum areas five days a week. DCI social workers also visit homes each day to identify women and children in need of extra care.

Health Care for Underprivileged Program

Sumi's Healthy Delivery



Sumi Akter was living with her parents in a slum area. She completed Class 3 at a primary school in Dhaka, but because of her maturity and her family's poverty she was unable to continue her studies. Her parents decided to have her married. In February 2010 she married Md. Harun, a daylaborer.

After her marriage they are living in Balur Math, Beribadh, Dhaka. At the time of field visit social workers found her over there. At the time she was 5 months pregnant. Because of her early marriage she became very up-set and suffering various complexion. As well as she was very thin and weak. She deserved treatment on that time. Social workers advised her to come

to our clinic, where the doctor advised her to contact any clinic providing maternity service. We took her to the Meri Stops satellite clinic, ensured that she received the necessary treatment, and completed her immunization.

The doctors estimated her delivery date as March 28th, 2011, but she gave birth to her daughter well before her date on March 4, 2011. The birth was performed by a trained professional, and DCI assured that adequate natal care was received. Both mother and daughter are now doing well, and DCI field officers are following up with Sumi regularly, ensuring that she receives all necessary postnatal checkups.



DCI's field officer with Sumi and her new daughter

Orphan Support Program

Shelter for Ratna



Ratna, age seven, lost her father when she was four years old. She also lost her mother's care within a short time following her father's death. Ratna was her parents' only child. After her husband's death, Ratna's mother left her in the care of her maternal grandmother and got remarried, unwilling to look after her child. Ratna's grandmother is an old woman who is ill and unable to work much. Most of the time they did not receive enough food, and their living situation was very unhealthy situation. In addition, there was no opportunity to read Ratna in the school.

Ratna's grandmother received news of DCI's Sun Child Home for Orphans from ASD, a non-government organization. She told us Ratna's history and was very anxious about her granddaughter's future.

We recorded all of Ratna's information and admitted her to the home. She now attends school regularly. In addition to her education she is learning the Quran, drawing, dancing, singing, and playing with her new friends.

In Bangladesh there are many unfortunate girls like Ratna. DCI is trying to rescue as many of them as possible from this situation, but at this time we can only attend to a small number of orphans from among thousands. The rest are left to suffer in very risky situations. They have no future and are unable to even dream of a better life. Please join DCI's efforts and help us increase the capacity of the Orphan Support Program, so we can restore hope to many more children.



Ratna (left) playing with her friends

Volunteering with DCI in Bangladesh



It is really amazing what DCI is doing to make a difference and change the lives of the children around us. I wish I could spend more time in the clinic. It was really eye opening how limited the resources are! The level of healthcare that is provided is commendable, but still there is much room for improvement. Very few children in Bangladesh can really reach health care as well as preventive care. We have a lot to do for these children and their families. I hope to continue to do work with DCI in the future, as they are truly performing a great service for some

of the most deserving in Bangladesh. I wish you all the best and congratulations again for your efforts and success!

—Husna Siddique, MD., Brooklyn, NY



It was my great pleasure to work in DCI's clinic for slum residents and see poor patients. I am really grateful that Dr. Ehsanul Hoque gave me this opportunity. I noticed that many poor patients come here every day. Despite being very busy all the time, the poor patients are treated with respect/ dignity. It's obvious DCI is trying very hard to give as much as possible. I am very happy that DCI can do this free of cost to the patients and with free supply of medicine. I did not have an opportunity to practice medicine in my country. DCI gave me that chance. Thank you every one of you for treating me with respect and kindness. I am sure in future we will meet again. —Dr. Afia Zaman, NY



It was a very eye opening experience. I grew up outside of Bangladesh and wanted to be aware of the condition of the poor in Bangladesh and what we can do to make their lives better. DCI is doing an excellent job in helping the urban slum residents from several directions. This was a very heart warming experience and I hope you continue to do this.

—Sharmin (Mouri), WA



I have volunteered three weeks in Bangladesh. I visited SCS project areas in Feni and Patuakhali. I saw many things that I didn't know existed. Here in the USA, an eight-year-old boy goes to school and plays baseball; there I saw boys of that age operating sewing machines and running various types of heavy machinery. A mother walked five miles just to ask for help for her sick child. After witnessing these things, at first I felt ashamed of my designer sunglasses and clothes but then I realized that these people do not want or need these material things; all they want from me is to help them get a better life. This trip inspired me to get even more involved with DCI, and it confirmed my desire to be a doctor. —Lira Chowdhury, Dallas, Texas

Health Care for Underprivileged Program

Hope for Soumyaranjan

“We remain ever grateful to Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI) for giving eye sight to our child.”- Soumyaranjan’s Parent



Soumyaranjan, an eight year old boy, received surgery at the Kalinga Eye Hospital and Research Centre in June to correct his congenital cataracts with the financial support of **Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI)**.

Soumyaranjan lives in Jagamathpur, a small village outside of Dhenkanal, with his parents and sister. He led a fairly normal childhood until he entered school. At school he could only read the capital letters on the blackboard, and his schoolwork was affected by his vision problem. Soumyaranjan’s parents did not know what was ailing their son, but they did know that he should be examined by a doctor. Unfortunately, they were unable to seek medical treatment. Soumyaranjan’s father, a day-laborer, only makes Rs. 3000 per month. The money he makes must support the entire family, so there was not enough to take Soumyaranjan to see a doctor.

When KEHRC set up an outreach clinic in Jagamathpur, Soumyaranjan’s parents took their son to see the doctor. After giving a routine eye exam, the doctor diagnosed him with congenital cataracts and told the family that he would need surgery. On June 18th, a visiting physician from Bombay named Dr. Mihir Kothari came to KEHRC and performed surgery on Soumyaranjan’s right eye to remove the cataracts. Soumyaranjan underwent a small incision cataract removal under general anesthesia. The surgery was a success. Soumyaranjan is now able to see lowercase letters on the blackboard at school. With his improved eyesight, Soumyaranjan will be able to lead a normal childhood. Soumyaranjan’s parents are very pleased.

Soumyaranjan’s parents said: **“We remain ever grateful to Distressed Children & Infants International (DCI) for giving eyesight to our child. Without your help we would never have been able to afford surgery for Soumyaranjan and his sight would have continued to deteriorate. Instead he has received a life-changing miracle that we had only ever dreamed of for him. Thank you, DCI, for the incredible gift of sight you gave our son.”**

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