

## Project No. 46

### ASSISTANCE TO CHARITABLE DISPENSARIES / CLINICS

#### Principle:

The poorest of the poor may also have access to modern medicines and other preventive health services.

#### Objectives of the Project:

The project has the following main objectives:

- To provide medical facilities and preventive healthcare services for poor people, particularly the distressed widows and children who do not have access to existing public and private medical services;
- To provide basic knowledge for the beneficiaries through training on primary healthcare, nutrition, childcare and immunization; and
- To provide medicines and basic medical equipment for charitable dispensaries and clinics for dispensing and using as curative measures for the rural poor.

#### Background:

Caritas Bangladesh initiated this project in 1988 with an aim to reduce suffering of the rural distressed and poor people who are deprived of receiving proper treatment of common diseases from the city hospitals and *upazila* (sub-district) health complexes. Caritas Italiana started supporting this project in July 2001 and completed two phases of three years each in June 2007. The last financial year i.e. from July 2007 to June 2008, was an additional year. Caritas Italiana has already approved the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase project for another three years from July 2008 to June 2011.

**Staff Strength:** Total-31 (Male-19, Female-12). These staff members are also responsible for many other projects under Disaster Management Sector.

**Donor:** Caritas Italiana.

**Expenditure:** Foreign Partner's Contribution: Tk.5,205,202

**Beneficiaries :** Direct: Male: 13771 Female: 50268 Total: 64039  
Indirect: Male: 78792 Female: 67206 Total: 145998

#### Targets and Achievements:

| Sl. No. | Items/Activities                 | Achievements as on June'08 | Performances in FY 2008-2009 |             |                  | Cumulative as on June 2009 |
|---------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|------------------|----------------------------|
|         |                                  |                            | Target                       | Achievement | % of Achievement |                            |
|         | <b>Medicine Distribution</b>     |                            |                              |             |                  |                            |
| 01      | Dispensaries/clinics covered     | 63                         | 63                           | 63          | 100              | 63                         |
| 02      | Patients provided with essential | 1,052,835                  | 35,180                       | 45,334      | 129              | 1,098,169                  |

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|---------|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|------------------|----------------------------|
|         |  |                            | Target                       | Achievement | % of Achievement |                            |
|         | medicines  |                            |                              |             |                  |                            |
| 03      | Patients treated   | 1,467,676                  | 13,200                       | 20,160      | 153              | 14,87,836                  |
|         | <b>Structural Support</b>  |                            |                              |             |                  |                            |
| 04      | Structural support (No. of dispensaries/clinics repaired)  | 4                          | 10                           | 10          | 100              | 14                         |
| 05      | Structural support (No. of dispensaries/clinics constructed)   | 0                          | 3                            | 3           | 100              | 3                          |
|         | <b>Pathological Support</b>  |                            |                              |             |                  |                            |
| 06      | Nos. of clinics provided with pathological support (chemicals/reagents & other materials for common pathological tests)  | 13                         | 16                           | 16          | 100              | 29                         |
|         | <b>Equipments Support</b>  |                            |                              |             |                  |                            |
| 07      | Nos. of clinics provided with equipment support (pathological/medical equipments, water pump, generator, furniture, etc) | 13                         | 17                           | 6           | 35               | 19                         |
|         | <b>Training Support</b>  |                            |                              |             |                  |                            |
| 08      | No. of dispensaries/clinics participated in Staff training   | 10                         | 13                           | 12          | 92               | 22                         |
| 09      | No. of training organized for staff  | 162                        | 24                           | 24          | 100              | 186                        |
| 10      | No. of staff received training   | 5,408                      | 48                           | 37          | 77               | 5445                       |
| 11      | No. of dispensaries/clinics participated in beneficiaries/patients training  | 21                         | 33                           | 33          | 100              | 54                         |
| 12      | No. of training organized for  | 332                        | 199                          | 214         | 108              | 546                        |

| Sl. No. | Items/Activities  | Achievements as on June'08 | Performances in FY 2008-2009 |             |                  | Cumulative as on June 2009 |
|---------|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|------------------|----------------------------|
|         |   |                            | Target                       | Achievement | % of Achievement |                            |
|         | beneficiaries/patients  |                            |                              |             |                  |                            |
| 13      | No. of beneficiaries/patients received training               | 65,033                     | 18,608                       | 18,991      | 102              | 84024                      |
|         | <b>Training materials support</b>                             |                            |                              |             |                  |                            |
| 14      | Nos. of dispensaries/clinics provided with training materials | -                          | 12                           | 12          | 100              | 12                         |

The Table above shows that during the reporting period, the number of patients treated with medicines was 153%, which means that the needs for treatment and medicine in the project areas have increased. On the other hand, the achievement regarding numbers of completed staff training courses was 100% where 77% staff members received training. Besides, the achievement in terms of numbers of completed beneficiaries'/patients' training was 108% where 102% (a total of 18,991) patients received training during the reporting period. Through these training courses, both categories of participants i.e. staff and beneficiaries became aware of positive health and hygiene practices for preventive measures.

### Results:

- The dispensaries/clinics rendered their services effectively to the patients at the remotest areas where the treatment facilities for those patients were unavailable or inadequate.
- The dispensaries/clinics also provide the poor patients with medicine either free of cost or at subsidized prices. Poor and distressed people specially the women and children attacked with common diseases were benefited much.
- Staff have received training on HIV/AIDS, primary and preventive healthcare including general cleanliness and hygiene; and they are imparting the same to the community people for their awareness and practice.
- Quantity and severity of the common diseases are reduced among beneficiaries / villagers around the dispensaries/clinics as they have received knowledge healthcare.
- The beneficiaries / villagers also learnt about basic and emergency treatment, which has made them more capable and confident of handling small accidental and emergency cases.

### Conclusion:

The Charitable Dispensaries/Clinics are very significant supportive means for poor patients living in remote areas. In clinics usually qualified nurses attend upon patients. Those who have acute problems are referred to different hospitals. Some of the clinics have made an arrangement with the local doctors each of whom sits in a clinic twice a week only to deal with complicated cases. But most of the dispensaries cannot render adequate service as the number of patients is always big. If doctors are appointed then a lot of poor patients would be benefited. These charitable clinics need to be supplied with some medical appliances. Steps are being taken to fulfill the requirements.