



ANNUAL REPORT

2022

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President's Message



As 2020 marked a turning point for many communities around the world, it also marked the beginning of the Association for Community Empowerment (ACE). Within two years, we are able to reflect on the stories of development actions in supporting communities to become sustainable in our annual reports.

Through our resolute work for sustainable growth, we strive to tackle the most pressing issues facing the country, such as women's empowerment, nutrition and health, real economic empowerment, high-quality education, youth development, environmental preservation, and biodiversity conservation. We are committed to empowering people of all racial, religious, and ethnic backgrounds to join us in pursuing our objectives and delivering cutting-edge programs that alter behavior, convey personal energy, and create empathy in the development of social good proof. It has been an exciting year for ACE as we continued to excel in our mission to reach out with innovative interventions among the communities we serve.

In 2022, our road to recovery was marked with twists and turns. We navigated the lingering effects of the pandemic as well as shifts in the economy and in how we work and live. For those in our nation rising inflation

has resulted in higher costs for essentials like food, housing, and transportation, with low and moderate-income households particularly vulnerable. We understand the impact this has on people's ability to pay their bills, save, and plan for the future. As we continue our recovery, one thing is certain: We are better together. Our growth and staying power during these challenging times are testaments to our resiliency, adaptability, and collaboration. The society thrives because of the strong bond between the staffs and the rotating volunteer leadership. As the founding board of directors completes their terms, the challenge is to identify new leaders who will embrace the original mission while providing evolutionary changes that meet the needs of a scientific field that is rapidly changing. That said, the maintenance of strength through hard times is a reliable sign that an organization is doing things right. I'm confident the coming year will be the best year yet for the ACE.

I want to personally thank our team members, volunteers, partners, and community supporters. Your partnership and your support are, and always will be, greatly appreciated. We encourage you to become better acquainted with our organization, our mission, and the many ways in which we serve our communities.

With gratitude

A stylized signature of Parveen S. Huda in a dark, elegant script.

Parveen S. Huda
President



Executive Director's Message

We tackled a variety of challenges which inspired us to take more action since we had the support of the entire team. We were able to pursue both short-term and long-term approaches for enduring cooperation. Together, we and our partners are capable of supporting the marginalized with a focus on impactful solutions.

Here are some highlights from the year 2022, that were made possible with your support:

- We have been supporting over 300 waste workers and their families in four wards of Dhaka South City Corporation. We have established a community-based plastic recycling plant in the Dhaka South City Corporation area for supporting these waste workers and their family members. This includes improving the environmentally friendly plastic recycling process and encouraging waste employees' health, safety, and socio-economic development.

- We continued providing better nutrition, hygiene, and sanitation education to women workers in the Ready-Made Garments (RMG) sector in Bangladesh. Launching the fair-price shop in two RMG factories enabled us to offer workers groceries and health nutrition products at a reduced price.

- Creating an effective system for managing waste and reducing pollution of the local land, water, and air have been a great part of our environmental healing approaches. Designing an environmentally friendly, and socially responsible Co-composting Plant in Jankathi, and development of institutional skills, and the provision of a sustainable solution, were great learning opportunities for us. Our learning continued while evaluating the Core Comprehensive Programme of a renowned development partner.

- At the end of the year, we successfully engaged ourselves in designing a protocol on the long-term health effects of switching from combustible to tobacco harm reduction products among Type 2 diabetic smokers in Bangladesh.

Despite the challenges and constraints, it has been a productive year, which would not have been possible without our community support and partners. Moving forward, we will continue to adjust to the new normal in our work environment and adapt to a changing environment. In spite of uncertainty in the face of a global pandemic that magnified and exposed social and economic inequalities, there was an unwavering commitment to our mission to lead positive systemic change that strengthens our communities.



With great appreciation

Md. Tanver Hossain
Executive Director

ACE Philosophy



VISION

Building a world where all communities are equally empowered to access development.



MISSION

Exploring innovative solutions to inspire life and provide livelihood, empowering community and healing environment through collective actions.



VALUES

Innovation
Thinks creatively for solutions while learning from setbacks and mistakes.



Effectiveness
Create positive impacts through the achievement of agreed objectives, resolves issues constructively and effectively.



Diversity
Care and respect for people of all races and economic groups.



Sustainability
Nurturing continuity in project work, especially when change management is needed.

Accountability
Helping ensure that project components are implemented as envisaged and planned.



Area of Excellence



AREA OF EXCELLENCE

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

We think that true community empowerment can only occur when all voices are heard. We employ a participatory method that includes decision-making as well as community empowerment, planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Members acquired the skills necessary to consistently respond to their financial inclusion, economic empowerment, and means of subsistence.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

ACE is developing a replicable integrated model for nutrition activities to improve the health, nutrition, and well-being of RMG workers through a participatory model of cooking healthy food. Through the development of a knowledge base, improved access to nutrition, diet, hygiene, and sanitation education, and the creation of market access through an inclusive business model, the project will help to improve the health, nutrition, and well-being of workers.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

ACE is an organization that is working to revolutionize the way we think about waste management. They are serving as catalysts for permanent changes in attitudes and behaviors, and they are pushing for the adoption of practices that could have a profound effect on waste management. Their mission is to make a meaningful, long-term impact on the way we think about waste management, and to create lasting change in the way we manage our resources.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

ACE's Youth Engagement Program-YEP aims to promote youths' socio-economic standing, environmental sustainability, and cultural coherence by providing an environment that supports their advocacy efforts. In order to encourage youth participation, ACE helps them to create their ideas, agendas, policies, and methods of governance. YEP seeks to incorporate government agencies and interest groups in the process.

CONDUCTING RESEARCH

In order to carry out any projects related to research and evaluation, ACE want to expand knowledge and understanding. Both paper-based and digital assessment are a part of our primary research and evaluation operations. Our main goal is to make sure that the research study is conducted ethically, which involves upholding the rights, safety, and welfare of human subjects, adhering to the protocol, and adhering to institutional rules and guidelines.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Together with its partners and community leaders, ACE is working to provide rapid, effective assistance to communities in need. ACE launched a campaign to provide safety gear and assistance to garbage workers during the COVID-19 outbreak in order to protect them and stop community transmission. We seek to reduce the danger of future risks in communities that are vulnerable to natural disasters or human-caused disasters. We support local economic development, infrastructural development, and sustainable development planning.

Our Impacts of **2022**



**CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**



**CONDUCTED RESEARCH
ON DIABETIC PATIENTS**



**ENSURED THE HEALTH AND
NUTRITION AT LOWER PRICE**



ENABLED EMPOWERMENT



**WORKED WITH WASTE WORKERS
AND THEIR FAMILIES**



PROVIDED FREE HEALTH CAMP

Development Partners and Projects

Programme title

Integrated Management of Plastic Assortment and Contribution Towards Green Economy (IMPACT-GE)

Programme objective

Establishment of waste collection and processing enterprises for sustainable environment, green jobs and inclusive economic growth in 04 wards of Dhaka North and South City Corporation.

Key successes/ achievements of the programme

ACE has been supporting more than 300 waste workers and their family members of 4 wards under Dhaka South City Corporation. Developed an efficient waste management system along with reducing local air, water and land pollution. By encouraging the occupational health, safety, and socio-economic development of waste employees and enhancing the plastic recycling process in an eco-friendly way, ACE is working to protect the urban environment in Dhaka South City Corporation.



"Sokina was in search of a way to secure her family's survival in the megacity of Dhaka. Fortunately, her story took a turn for the better when she found out about the Greenbiz cooperative"

DONOR

COCA COLA Foundation



LEAD PARTNER

SR Asia Foundation



Programme title

Access to Nutrition and Healthy Food for RMG workers and Dependents

Programme objective

"Access to Nutrition and Healthy Food for RMG workers and Dependents" project aims to improve the health, nutrition, and well-being of the RMG workers and their family members through developing access to nutrition, diet, hygiene, and sanitation education through a replicable inclusive business model in 2 factories and in their communities through 2022. The project will benefit 10000 RMG workers and their family members in Dhaka.

Key successes/ achievements of the programme

Implementing two fair price shops in two garment factories and a community kitchen for RMG workers to enhance health and nutrition status of over 10,000 garments worker and their family members with funding support from the donor organization.

DONOR

AUCHAN FOUNDATION, FRANCE

Auchan | Foundation



ACE Team in the Fair Price Shop opening ceremony at Romo Fashion

Programme title

Evaluation of RDRS Core Comprehensive Programme

Programme objective

Assessment of overall effectiveness and identification of worth of future prospects of continuation of the RDRS' Core Comprehensive Programme, if any, for addressing the issues being dealt with by the programme.

Key successes/ achievements of the programme

ACE has intervened the increasing access to health services of poor families supported by RDRS Bangladesh. Increasing the access to health services of poor families considered the quality of life improvement of the pregnant women and adolescents' girls mainly. This included, particularly 48,352 local women, adolescents and girls from the 7 districts of Rangpur Division.

CLIENT
RDRS



ACE - Research Team to conduct End Evaluation Research of "RDRS - Core Comprehensive Program" at Rangpur division

Programme title

Co-Composting Consultancy Service in the municipality of Patuakhali

Programme objective

The primary goal of the Service is to assure the efficient, environment friendly, and socially responsible operation and maintenance of the Jainkathi Co-composting plant, develop institutional skills and provide a sustainable solution.

Key successes/ achievements of the programme

The learning session was conducted by technical experts and assistants on compost processing and waste management for the Jainkathi Co-Compost Plant in Patuakhali. After the session, the participants had a better understanding of the process and felt confident they could run the plant if given the responsibility. The primary goal of the session was to move forward with the development of a step-by-step road map for creating an understanding of various systems available for collection, transportation, recycling, resource recovery, and disposals; an approach to preparing municipal solid waste management plans in the light of the potential problems and issues that may become apparent during project development; and to provide operational guidelines for efficient municipal solid waste management systems.

DONOR

CODEC BANGLADESH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
OXFAM INTERNATIONAL AND ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK



Training on Compost Processing and Waste Management at Jainkathi Co-Compost Plant, Patuakhali

Programme title

Assess the long-term health effects of switching from combustible to tobacco harm reduction products among Type 2 diabetic smokers in Bangladesh

Programme objective

Evaluate the long-term effect of a tobacco harm reduction product (oral nicotine pouch) on smoking cessation and health outcomes among Type 2 diabetes patients who smoke cigarettes/bidis.

Key successes/ achievements of the programme

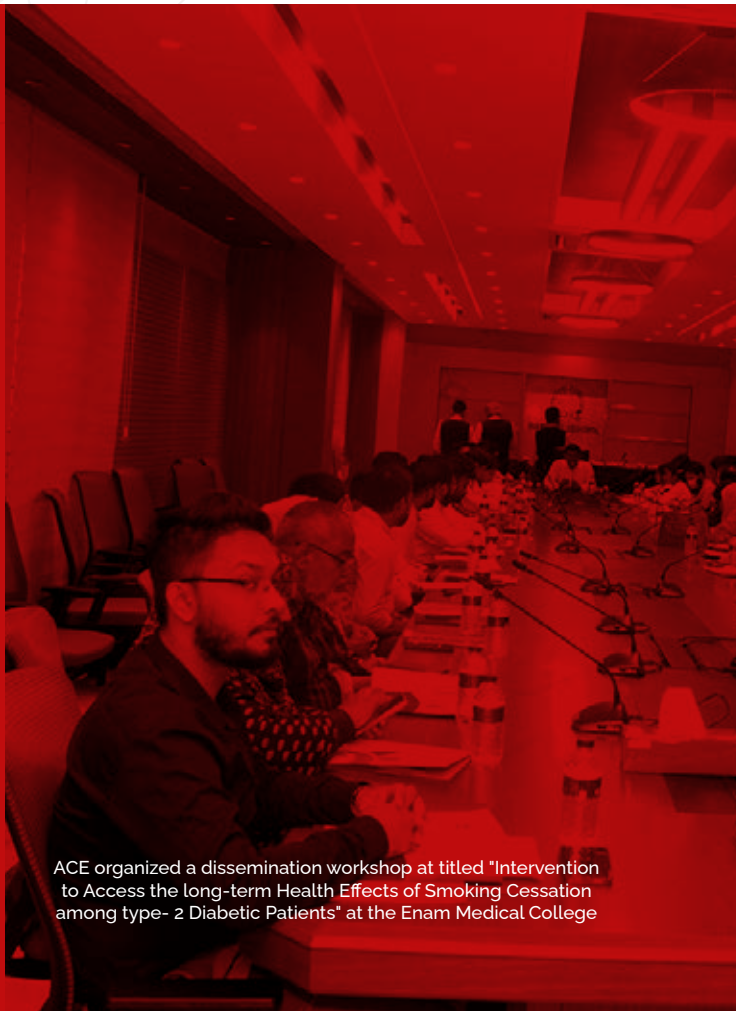
Work in progress

DONOR

Foundation for a
Smoke-Free World

LEAD PARTNER

Centre for Substance
Use Research Ltd. (Scotland)



ACE organized a dissemination workshop at titled "Intervention to Access the long-term Health Effects of Smoking Cessation among type- 2 Diabetic Patients" at the Enam Medical College



Social Enterprise



The Integrated Management of Plastic Assortment & Contribution Towards Green Economy (IMPACT-GE) project is a collaborative effort between the public and private sectors to address this challenge. The project aimed to develop an efficient waste management system to reduce local air, water and land pollution, and promote waste prevention and resource efficiency. It is an ambitious undertaking that is set to have a positive and lasting impact on our environment.

The ACE organization, in partnership with the Integrated Management of Plastic Assortment & Contribution Towards Green Economy project, is working to tackle this issue head-on by focusing on plastic recycling and green skills. This project seeks to create a better environment for human living and reduce the negative effects of plastic waste on our planet.

Plastic pollution is a major environmental challenge that affects us all. In an effort to combat this problem, the National Action Plan for Sustainable Plastic Management focuses on the circular use of plastic, based on a 3R strategy: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. This ambitious project seeks to create value chains for plastic recycling, green skills, and innovative products while addressing social and environmental challenges.

It is clear that no one single solution is enough; rather, a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral approach is needed to address the entire value chain of plastics, from design and reduced use to waste management, reuse, repair, and recycling. The global environment is also facing a critical challenge due to the growing levels of plastic waste, and the need to find new solutions is becoming increasingly urgent.

Through efforts, ACE and the project team hope to make a positive contribution to our future.



Financial
Statement

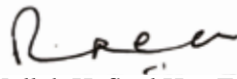
Association for Community Empowerment-ACE
H # 11, R # 05, Shakhertek, Adabor, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207
Statement of Financial position
As at December 31, 2022

Assets	Notes	Amount in taka	Amount in taka
		31.12.2022	31.12.2021
Property & Assets			
Non-current assets		358,382	55,830
Preliminary Expenses	7	44,664	55,830
Property, Plant & Equipment	8	313,718	—
Current Assets			
Advance, Deposits & Prepayments	9	652,000	7,272
Cash and Cash Equivalents	10	7,126,226	7,272
Total		8,136,608	63,102
Capital Fund and Liabilities:			
Capital Fund		5,019,721	(1,380,905)
Fund Account	11	5,019,721	(1,380,905)
Current Liabilities			
Liabilities for Expenses	12	770,628	97,748
Loan Recived From Member's	13	2,346,259	1,346,259
Total		8,136,608	63,102

The accompanying notes from an integral part of these financial statements


Mr. Tanver Hossain
General Secretary

Md. Tanver Hossain
Executive Director
Association for Community Empowerment-ACE


Mollah Hafizul Haq FCA
Managing Partner
Enrl. No.-336
Rahman Anis & Co.
Chartered Accountants
DVC No. 2306140336AS305524
Place: Dhaka, Bangladesh
Date: June 14, 2023




Parveen Sultana Huda
President
Association for Community Empowerment-ACE

Our Stories

Creating the path of a healthy lifestyle for RMG workers in Bangladesh

BY THE NUMBERS



1500
RMG WORKERS
and their families life was improved



2
FAIR PRICE SHOP
to ensure the workers health and nutrition

Salma Akther, a garment worker, was hospitalized for a D&C procedure to stop bleeding and prevent infection due to anemia. Thousands of female Bangladeshi RMG workers are suffering from anemia, which is associated with significant productivity loss, increased maternal and perinatal mortality, and contributes to global mortality. Contributing factors include an inadequate and inappropriate diet, poor absorption of iron by the body, poor nutrition, and dietary knowledge and

practices. The vast majority of the RMG workforce does not have access to quality nutrition or information on health, nutritious food, or hygiene services. A recent study by CPD stated that RMG workers' household income has reduced roughly by 31% while increasing by 29% of their food costs due to COVID-19.

Extreme fatigue pushes female workers to take early retirement from the job, leading to a decline in the RMG sector. The Annapurna project is a 12-month project that aims to improve the health, nutrition, and well-being of RMG workers and their family members by 2023. It is designed to establish 2 fair price shops and a community kitchen in the catchment area of the garment factories, conduct a behavior change communication campaign among garment workers, and train them on health, nutrition, and hygiene practices. The expected outcomes are not limited to the improved ability of RMG workers to get micronutrient-rich foods in their daily diet at an affordable price, as well as the improved ability of RMG workers' family members to learn healthy cooking,

produce healthy meals and snack items for the workers, and generate sustainable income for families. The Association for Community Empowerment (ACE) aims to make change sustainable and would love to see healthier workers and productive RMG sectors.

After the completion of the project period, if not extended, ACE aims to continue their efforts. The Auchan Foundation has created this opportunity and extending their hands to the RMG workers in Bangladesh.



Inner view of Fair Price Shop at Teen Age Modern Fashion Ltd



Fair Price Shop Opening



Annapurna Project Mid-term Progress learning and sharing Meeting

Diabetes and Smoking: A Novel Approach to Help Patients Reduce Health Risks

BY THE NUMBERS



2500
TYPE-2 DIABETIC PATIENTS
were part of the research



12 week
INTERVENTION PERIOD

4 week
PHASE-OUT PERIOD

8 months
TO STUDY

The Association for Community Empowerment (ACE) in Dhaka, Bangladesh has developed a protocol for a clinical trial titled 'Intervention to Assess the Long-Term Health Effects of Smoking Cessation among Type 2 Diabetic Smokers-DISC'. This trial will evaluate the effects of tobacco cessation products on smoking cessation and the health outcomes of diabetic smokers, as well as support the development of suitable interventions for smokers with diabetes. The oral nicotine pouch (ONP) is one of the few tobacco harm reduction products that has yet to be introduced in this country. With 13.1 million adult patients diagnosed as diabetic, the number is expected to double by 2045. To tackle this issue, ACE has developed a protocol for a clinical trial titled 'Intervention to Assess the Long-Term Health Effects of Smoking Cessation among Type 2 Diabetic Smokers-DISC'.

This trial will evaluate the effects of tobacco cessation products on smoking cessation and the health outcomes of diabetic smokers, as well as support the development of suitable interventions for smokers with diabetes. The study aims to assess the long-term effect of an intervention on smoking cessation and health outcomes among type 2 diabetes patients who smoke cigarettes or cigars. It is designed as a randomized control trial (RCT) aimed at assessing the effectiveness of a 12-week intervention and its long-term effects on type 2 diabetic patients. The study will be conducted in two phases: a 12-week intervention period, followed by a 4-week phase-out period. Participants will be followed for the next 8 months to study the long-term effects of the intervention.



Participants were concentrating on Dr. Farhana Hassen's presentation



MoU Signing with Enam Medical College Hospital



The ACE team with Shams Md. Enam, Director, EMCH, and Dr. Shamima

Photo Gallery



End-of-protocol Dissemination Workshop On Diabetes And Smoking Cessation (Disc)



On the day on MoU Signing ceremony with Enam Medical College



Visiting the female workers of the factory



"Anand Prangan" associated with ACE. "Anand Prangan" for developing a world-class physical and mental health care center for senior citizens in Dhaka.



First Dissemination Workshop On Diabetes And Smoking Cessation (DISC)



Tanver Hossain, executive director of ACE, attended as a special Guest at a Round Table Discussion, organized by the Women in Tourism Network Bangladesh.



Free Health Camp At Hazaribagh conducted by ACE



Our ACE Team on End-of-protocol Dissemination Workshop On Diabetes And Smoking Cessation (Disc)



Dr. Farhana Haseen on End-of-protocol Dissemination Workshop On Diabetes And Smoking Cessation (Disc)



Our Head of Research Asif Moinur Chowdhury, giving training on composting waste



Baseline Survey with the female workers at the partner factory



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