

One year from Street Child Cricket World Cup to Corona Virus on the streets of Dhaka

It is one year since Friends of Street Children Bangladesh welcomed the team of 8 children from Dhaka to the UK to take part in the Street Child Cricket World Cup. It was an amazing success, with the team reaching the semi-finals held at Lord's Cricket Ground and also taking part in a cricket game with the All-Party Friends of Bangladesh Group of MPs. We were all very proud of the children who took part. There was a lot of coverage in the press- especially in Bangladesh.

A year later the corona virus has hit the streets of Dhaka and a lock down has been declared. Many day labourers, rickshaw pullers and others relying on their daily income to survive are struggling to get enough food. Children on the street are especially vulnerable as they have no where to go and a curfew has been declared. We are especially proud of the children from the cricket team, along with other older children from the LEEDO Peace Home, who have been out on the streets distributing food to some of the most vulnerable people in Dhaka.

We are in regular contact with LEEDO about the developing situation in Dhaka and the support they are providing to children on the streets. LEEDO are requesting financial help to provide food to children and families on the streets. If you want to continue to support the children from the cricket team in the amazing work that they are now doing to help people to survive on the street in these difficult times, please consider making a donation at:

<https://tinyurl.com/yyn4bkes>



Semi-finalists at the Street Child Cricket World Cup



Food distribution to families in need



Food distribution during the Corona Virus pandemic

The LEEDO Peace Home extension is now being used by the children

The LEEDO Peace Home is located just outside the city of Dhaka, away from the crowded city streets. It was built with generous donations from a family living in Europe. Fifty children live at the Peace Home. Outside there is a large bamboo structure built by architecture students for the children to play on. There is also a small bamboo stage for cultural performances. All the children living at the Peace Home were previously surviving on the streets and for many different reasons after LEEDO found them



Exterior of the new extension to the shelter



New rooms and beds for older children

it was not possible for them to return to live with their families.

For several years, the children have slept in two rooms- one for boys and one for girls. They all had to sleep on the floor. Recently, funds have been provided by the original donors to build a multi-storey extension to the Peace Home. This is now almost complete and includes dormitories for the children. All of the dormitories have bunk beds, cupboards, and a place to study. It means that the children now have much better accommodation and that LEEDO will be able to provide help at the Peace Home for more children who have been surviving on the streets.

Friends of Street Children Bangladesh's support for LEEDOs education work

For the past two years Friends of Street Children Bangladesh have been sending funds to support LEEDO's education work. A UK Charitable Trust has supported the work of the mobile school and we have also raised funds to support the open-air school for children of all ages from the slums of Raya Bazar. One of the teachers at the open- air school is one of the older boys living at Peace Home, who took part in the Street Child Cricket tournament. We have just made a commitment to raise funds to continue to support this important work for a third year, once the facilities re-open following closure due to the corona virus.

The mobile school is of great interest to children who are surviving on the streets and is one of the ways in which the LEEDO outreach team make initial contact with children at the railway station and at the river port. A team of volunteers who perform puppet shows usually accompany the mobile school and involve the children in making masks and puppets. The children attending the school come from all over Bangladesh. For example, Shogor who is 16 years old has spent six years on the streets, mainly sleeping at the station. He originally came from Srimongal, where his parents still live. Abil, who is 10 years old came to Dhaka from Barisal with his parents two years ago. He now often sleeps at the station.

Please **consider making a regular donation** every month to support our commitment to raise funds



LEEDO's Schools under the Sky programme



LEEDO's mobile school programme



Children take part in creative activities

for LEEDO's education work for a third year. £50 pays for a teacher for a month at a school. You can donate at: <https://tinyurl.com/yd69xo36>

Art for Dream

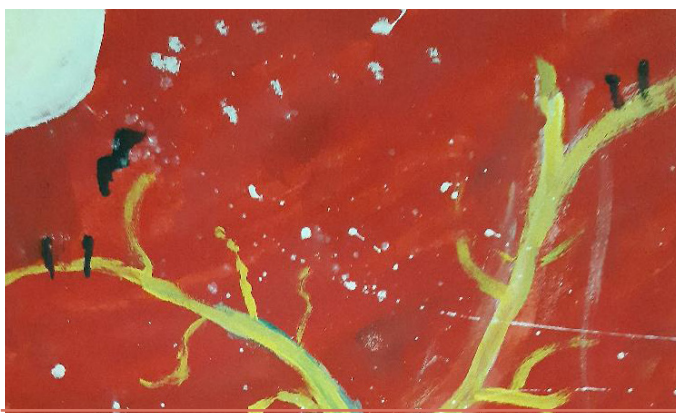
The well-known Dhaka artist and human rights activist Shahana Mojumbar from Gallery Karikor organised an art camp with children from LEEDO Peace Home in September of last year. Many of the children at Peace Home have a keen interest in art and have produced many wonderful paintings. Paintings from the Art Camp were displayed at the British Council in Dhaka and the exhibition was dedicated to Farid Babu, who used to live at Peace Home but very sadly died on 15th September 2019.



Art for Dream in memory of Farid Babu (aged 11)



The water's edge painting by one of the children



Hot daytime sun painting by one of the children

Friends of Street Children Annual Report and Accounts

Our annual return to the Charity Commission and our annual accounts for 2019-20 will soon be available on the Charity Commission web site. You can view them at: <https://tinyurl.com/yarwu7lu>

This year our expenditure was greater than our income and we finished the year with a deficit of £2,954. This was expected as we had raised funds in the previous year towards the cost of the visit by the LEEDO cricket team to the UK. During the year we raised £8,171 including a £1,500 grant from a charitable Trust towards LEEDO's education work, £1,837 from fundraising events (mainly meals) and the remainder from donations. We spent £3,684 to support LEEDO's education work and £7,740 to support the Bangladesh team in the street child cricket tournament.

This year fundraising is likely to be more difficult because the corona virus means that we are not currently able to raise funds from events. Please consider making an online donation at our **Golden Giving page** (below) or, if you have a restaurant providing take-aways please encourage your customers to donate to us. Other on-line fundraising activities to support our small charity would also be very much appreciated.



Street children at Dhaka's ferry terminal

Make a donation today

Friends of Street Children Bangladesh,
Nat West Bank, St. Albans Branch,
10 St Peter's Street, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3LY

Account Number : 21661847

Sort Code: 60-18-11

Make a donation via our online page:

<https://www.goldengiving.com/wall/friends-of-street-children-bangladesh>

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