



APON e-Bulletin
for the period of January-April 2020



Alor Pothe Nobojatray (APON) Foundation (literally translated as ‘*In the journey towards enlightenment*’) is a non-profit, government approved, charitable organization dedicated towards enlightening and improving the lives of the economically and socially deprived members of the community. At APON (literally translated as ‘*warm and friendly*’), we aim to provide basic education to child laborers and to create employment opportunities among the underprivileged and disadvantaged sections of the society. In particular, APON seeks to establish a society which guarantees basic education, improved health and hygiene to underprivileged children and financial independence and empowerment to their families.

1. COVID- 19 Emergency Response by AOPN Foundation

Ever since the outbreak of COVID-19 in Bangladesh, APON has been working at the community level to create awareness about the deadly coronavirus. As part of our relief programs, we have distributed food packages and hygiene materials among APON students and their family members, most of whom are slum dwellers. APON Foundation has accomplished the following programs:

a) **Distribution of food packages among 410 families in Dhaka**

In April 2020, APON Foundation distributed food packages and dry food among 460 destitute families in different slums located in Rayer Bazar, Gulshan Jhilpar, Uttara No. 8 Sector Railgate and also in a remote village in Kurigram district. The recipients of the food packages were underprivileged children and their parents, most of whom work as rickshaw pullers, day labourers and domestic maids in the capital city, but are now struggling to make ends meet because of movement restrictions.



Food packages distribution among slum dwellers affected by Covid-19

The packages distributed included rice (5 Kg), oil (1 liter), lentils (1 kg), potatoes (2 kg), Salt (1kg), Onion (1kg), soap bars and masks and are expected to provide for a 4-5 member family for at least a week. Through the distribution program APON managed to reach out to approximately 2000 members of the country's most vulnerable communities.

Prior to the event, APON had distributed 'donation tokens' to its students to ensure orderly distribution of the food packages while maintaining government rules relating to social distancing.

b) APON Foundation distributed food packages among 50 poor families in Kurigram

On 30 April 2020, APON Foundation distributed food packages among 50 destitute families in Razarhat upazila, Kurigram district. The recipients of the food packages were day labourers who are struggling to make ends meet because of movement restrictions.



Food distribution among COVID-19 victims

The packages distributed included rice (5 Kg), oil (1 liter), lentils (1 kg), potatoes (2 kg), Salt (1kg), Onion (1kg), soap bars and masks and are expected to provide for a 4-5 member family for at least a week. Through the distribution program APON managed to reach out to approximately 250 members of the country's most vulnerable communities.

2. Education program**a) Operating learning centers for underprivileged children**

Every child has the right to receive a basic education. But unfortunately, in Bangladesh, hundreds of thousands of children are being deprived of a basic education because of their socio-economic condition and lack of awareness. According to the National Child Labor Survey 2013, about 17, 00,000 children are engaged in child labor. In 2020, APON operated 14 learning centers for more than 400 underprivileged children in different parks and slums of Dhaka city. Since 2015, APON has also been operating two centers at Gagramari in the Sundarban

region of Shymnagar, Satkhira. Most of the students of Gagramari branch come from disaster affected families.



Children attending class at Dhanmondi Lake Center

These students are currently receiving basic education in English, Bengali and Mathematics. At the same time, the children received basic health and hygiene awareness. Nutritious foods were distributed twice a week for their mental and physical development. APON also arranges cultural events and programs on a regular basis for the recreation and development of the children. Among its 400 students, about 183 students have been admitted this year in formal schools. During this period following events was implemented:

b) APON School for Slum Children

From January 1, 2020 APON Foundation commenced a formal school for 50 slum children of Rayer Bazar. These students are currently receiving basic education in English, Bengali and Mathematics. At the same time, the children receive basic health and hygiene awareness. Nutritious foods were distributed twice a week for their mental and physical development. APON Foundation is regularly taking care of these children and helping them to fulfill their dreams.



Children actively participating in APON School, Rayer Bazar

c) Text book distribution among 400 students of APON Education Program

On January 1, 2020 APON Foundation organized a school book distribution program. APON Executive Director, program officers and teachers of the different learning centers were present at the event. Books were distributed among 400 students of 16 learning centers.



Students receiving books for the new academic year

d) School Bags Distribution Program of APON School

On 10 February 2020, a School bag distribution ceremony was held at APON School, Rayer bazaar. School bags were distributed among the students present at the school. Mr. Jagot Chandra Saha, Deputy General Manager of Pubali Bank was present as the chief guest on this occasion. M. Aftabuzaman, Executive Director of APON Foundation, Md. M.A. Mannan, Principal of Dhaka Ideal School, Poli Saha, Principal of Golden Child School and Jannatul Ferdous, Principal of Alif Ideal School were also present.



Students receiving school bags

e) Visit to Amar Ekhushe Book Fair-2020

On 22 February 2020, 21 students of APON School, Rayer Bazar visited Bangla Academy Book Fair-2020. The Executive Director, three Program Officers, and two teachers were present with the students. Students visited different stalls and enjoyed their time at the Book Fair.



Students of APON School visiting Bangla Academy Book Fair 2020

f) Winter clothes distribution among APON students, Satkhira Center

On 4 January 2020 APON Foundation distributed 150 warm clothes to the vulnerable climate affected children of Shamnagar Upazila, Satkhira most of whom were APON students of Nildumur and Gagramari branches. APON Foundation distributed 50 blankets among the guardians of the students as well.



APON Students receiving warm clothes

g) Extra-curricular Books Distribution

On March 15, 2020 Obhizatrik Foundation and bKash jointly distributed 250 books for APON school students at Rayer Bazar, Dhaka. APON Executive Director and Program Officers were present at this event. APON students were overjoyed on receiving the books.



Students spending time with their books

h) Guardian Meeting at APON School

On January 25, 2020 APON Foundation organized a Guardian Meeting at APON School. As many as 75 guardians were present at the meeting. APON Executive Director, an Executive committee member, two program officers and three teachers were present. The objective of the gathering was to increase awareness regarding the importance of education, health, nutrition, cleanliness, family planning and the negative impact of early marriage.



Guardians attending an awareness session on dowry and early marriage

j) Birthday Celebration

On March 15, 2020, the son of a regular donor and well-wisher of APON (who is a student of Class 3) celebrated his birthday by distributing lunch boxes among 25 students of APON Pathshala, Dhanmondi Lake. At the event, the child's mother was present together with the Executive Director, Program Officer, Teachers and

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Volunteer of APON Foundation. Students of APON Pathshala Dhanmondi were very happy to be able to attend the birthday party.



Celebrating birthday with the students of APON School, Dhanmondi Lake j) APON School for working children at Narayanganj City Corporation

From February 2020, APON Foundation started a new learning center for the working children at Naryangangj in partnership with Narayanganj City Corporation. The objective of the learning center is to educate working children.



Students of APON School, Narayanganj

3. Transitional Shelter for Street Children: APON Thikana Shelter

At present, about 1 million of the country's children are street children. These children live in deplorable conditions in squalid slums and/or makeshift shelters, and are prone to be abused and exploited. Since January 2017, APON Foundation has been operating a transitional shelter for street children with the help of a UK-based charity organization in Dhaka city. The goal of the project is rescue destitute street children from their existing precarious environment and reintegrate them in a

safe and secure environment towards achieving the collective goal of “Street Children Free Bangladesh”. The main activities of the project are: rescuing children from the streets and bus/train stations of Dhaka, re-integrating them with families, referral to permanent home for long term services etc. The shelter is funded by Muslim Charity UK.



Activities of Thikana Shelter

4. Family Support Program

4.1 Tea pot Distribution

On 3 March 2020, APON Foundation distributed tea flasks along with tea, milk, sugar and cup sets among the guardians of three APON students of APON Pathshala Dhanmondi Lake Center. Executive Director and Program Officers of APON Foundation were present at the event. The aim of the event was to help the destitute families in income generation.



Guardians of APON Students receiving tea flasks

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5. APON Youth Program

5.1 APON Computer Training Centre for Vulnerable Youth

At present, the youth comprise about 45% of the population of Bangladesh. In the absence of education, guidance and proper training, a large section of youth find themselves unemployed and often prone to engaging in criminal and anti-social activities. According to a survey of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (2015-2016), 26, 00,000 people are unemployed in our country. To protect our youth from anti-social activities and to create a skilled force, APON Foundation has set up the ‘APON Computer Training Center for Vulnerable Youth’ at Rayer Bazar Slum Dhaka since May 2017. Since its establishment, a total of six batches completed the course and a total 74 students received training.



Youths are very attentive in their computer training class.

6. Women Development Program

6.1 Sewing Training Centre for Destitute Women

As a part of its vocational training program, APON has set up a sewing training center at Rayer Bazaar, Dhaka, In 2019, 14 women obtained training at the centre.



7. APON Girls Club

On March 3, 2020 APON Foundation organized a meeting with Girls club members. A total of 17 members were present. Girls Club members shared some of their experiences and concerns. Program Officers and Executive Director of APON Foundation was present at the meeting. The session was held to motivate them in continuing their studies and to remain vigilant against social ills such as forced child marriages and dowry demands.



Awareness session for APON Girls Club Members

8. Celebrating International Woman's Day 2020

On 8 March, 2019 APON Foundation celebrated International Woman's Day 2020 at APON Office and Gulhan Jhilpar Center with some students of www.aponfoundation.org

Gulshan Jhilpar Center. The Executive Director of APON Foundation and APON staff were also present at the event, where students were appraised of the history of International Women's Day.



APON participating in a rally to celebrate International Women's Day 2020

9. Executive Director of APON Foundation meets the new Chief Executive Officer of Narayangang City Corporation

On 25 February 2020, M. Aftbuzzaman, Executive Director of APON Foundation met Mr. M. Abul Amin, newly appointed CEO of Narayangan City Corporation at his office and welcomed him with a bouquet of flowers. They exchanged their views about working in the city corporation area for the welfare of the working children of the area.



Executive Director of APON meets the CEO of NCC

Vision

Establishing a society where children are secured, healthy and educated.

Mission

Our mission is to protect, preserve and uphold the basic rights of the underprivileged and socially backward sections of the population with a view to alleviating poverty and eliminating all forms of discrimination from society.

Our Programs

APON administers several programs, with the intent of helping the poor and needy community of the country. The joint effort of numerous individuals and corporate groups allows APON to implement its programs effectively. At present APON operates the following programs:

1. Basic Education for Underprivileged Children
2. COVID-19 Emergency Response
3. Nutrition Support Program
4. Health & Hygiene Program
5. Youth Development Program
6. Women Development Program
7. Climate Adaptation and Disaster Support Program

Get Involved

APON seeks your co-operation and contribution in sustaining and expanding its activities. While APON has already started making a difference to the lives of hundreds of children, we are conscious of the fact that this is only the beginning of a long journey. A long and arduous journey can be fruitful, rewarding and enjoyable with your participation and assistance.

You can contribute by making a donation, or even by volunteering to work on the numerous on-going projects of APON Foundation. By donating an amount that you spend on your lunch every day, you can make a child smile entire month. Let us not forget that the child on the street has the same claim on us as do our own children. If we abandon them, wherever they may be. The time to act is now. Delayed action on our part is denial of their rights.

A small contribution from you could go a long way towards our goal of lighting up lives.

Please take a little step with us for a big change.

APON Bank accounts details :

A/C Title:

Alor Pothe Nobojatray (APON) Foundation

A/C No.: 140-152-1946001,

SWIFT Code: CIBLBDDH

Routing Number: 225263701

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