

Girls off the Street

Country: Bangladesh

Category: Education—Community

Project number: 98336

Need October 09: \$71,329



Children like Imran need help, guidance and encouragement to escape a life on the streets.

↓ **This project provides a holistic ministry in Dhaka city for street women, and those involved in the sex trade. This ministry includes a drop-in-centre, training in life skills and character development, and counselling for those with traumatic life experiences. Opportunities for vocational training are also offered. The project provides a safe haven for these young people, including sanitary washing facilities, and affirming educational opportunities, like literacy, in order to build their confidence.**

Note: This project was previously known as the Children's Uplift Programme.

↓ **Update from Project Manager, Beth, November 2009.**

Three year old Imran had a bit of a problem having little 'accidents' in bed. Unfortunately his mother's response was to beat him. Recently, after an altercation he took off, leaving his mother very concerned.

Imran has wandered off by himself before. Once he even came to our office alone. We've talked to his mother about supervising him and not beating him. His older brother, only eight years old, is already living by himself on the streets and only occasionally sees his mother.

"Oh Allah! Bring my son back", Imran's mother came in crying and screaming. She was so distressed she could hardly stand. We looked after her baby daughter while one of our work-

ers helped her search, making use of a photo we gave her.

Imran was eventually found by a local nursery and that night he was back with his mother.

Imran is a lively boy with big eyes and a big smile. He loves to sit under my desk singing. I fear for him; I am scared that he'll grow up too fast and have to learn how to fend for himself too soon, that he'll never go to school and instead learn to steal and survive 'the streets'. Our dream is that this project will be able to prevent Imran and other children like him from having this future.



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PO Box 42 Penshurst NSW 2222 Tel: (02) 8568 8890
ABN 43 484 030 223

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Contact: Juanita Manahan - Project Promotions Manager simaid@sim.org.au