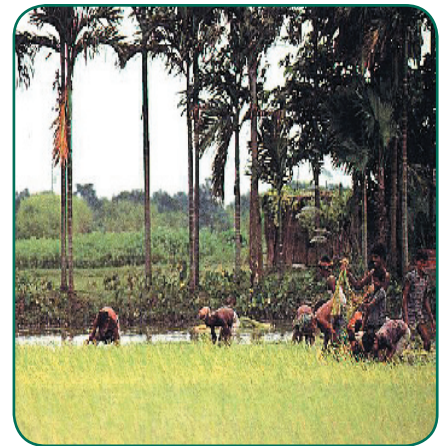


PROJECT REPORT

Bangladesh

- **Population 142 million**
- **Life Expectancy = 61 years**
- **1 dentist for every 101,000 people**
- **60% of population are illiterate**
- **89% of population classed as poor or very poor**



The Country

Bangladesh is in North Eastern Asia, surrounded by India on all sides, with a small border with Myanmar in the south-east. Tropical monsoons and frequent floods and cyclones inflict heavy damage in the delta region of the country.

80% of its 141 million people live in rural areas with very little access to dentists. 31% resort to self treatment for dental problems, extracting their own teeth and 42% seek help from unqualified people. In 1999, there was only one dental hospital for the entire country.

Dental decay is very common. More than 40% of twelve year olds have some form of decay, and this is on the increase in urban areas, with the rising availability of high sugar western food and drinks.

The Project

'Smiles for Life' led by Dr Helen Rema are embarking on a programme that will eventually need six Dentaid surgeries.

The first stage is for two, one of which will be used in a project based in a slum area of the capital Dhaka, the other in a remote rural area serving a population of 750,000.

The programmes involve preventative work as well as responding to people's dental needs. Workers will target women and children through school based education and mothers clubs. Oral Health Education will also be passed on through existing health professionals such as teachers, midwives etc, who will be trained through leaflets and pamphlets etc.

Dentaid are supplying two surgeries for the first stage of the "Smiles for Life" programme which will be shipped from the UK in February 2005.

If you would like to get involved with supporting a project please contact Dentaid at the address below.