

EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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PRESS RELEASE

USAID SMILING SUN CLINIC BRINGS BASIC HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO ANOWARA, CHITTAGONG

CHITTAGONG, MARCH 20 -- Supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the U.S. Government's premier development agency, a Smiling Sun clinic began its journey in Anowara, Chittagong, today as Bangladesh Health Minister Dr. AFM Ruhul Haque, USAID Bangladesh Deputy Mission Director Dennis Sharma, and officials from Smiling Sun Franchise Program (SSFP), Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company Limited (KAFCO), and the Government of Bangladesh jointly inaugurated the new clinic facility. Providing comprehensive health services to the community, the 30-bed Smiling Sun Anowara clinic will be the first 'mega' clinic of USAID's Smiling Sun Franchise Program, able to provide health and family planning services to approximately 350,000 people living in the coastal areas of Anowara Upazila.

The Smiling Sun Anowara clinic demonstrates superior health care services as well as active community participation in clinic operations and management. This combination caught the attention of the KAFCO, the largest international joint venture investment in Bangladesh, which came forward to construct a permanent facility so that the community could better access health services. The launching of the USAID-funded Smiling Sun Anowara clinic is a sterling example of community ownership, with land donated by a member of the local community. The local private sector also stepped in with Corporate Social Responsibility investment. The Government of Bangladesh will provide supplies of vaccines and contraceptives.

USAID, through its network of 323 Smiling Sun clinics and over 8,000 satellite clinics, reaches out to more than 26 million men, women and children with basic health care services across the country.

The U.S. Government, through USAID, administers programs in five key areas in Bangladesh: improving health and pre-primary education; creating income opportunities for rural

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poor; supporting good governance; enhancing food security; and strengthening disaster preparedness and providing emergency assistance following natural disasters. Since 1971, the U.S. Government has provided over \$5.8 billion in assistance to Bangladesh.

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GR/ 2011

Note: A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)