



Press Release

BANGLADESH JOINS GLOBAL EFFORT TO END CHILD HUNGER

Dhaka, Sunday 13 May 2006: The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Bangladesh and its partners mobilized several hundreds of people to walk together today to call for an end to child hunger. The “Walk the World” was held in Dhaka as elsewhere in the world today.

“Every five seconds a child dies because she or he is hungry. In Bangladesh, about 50 percent children under the age of five are underweight and stunted which results in a reduced mental capacity and physical development”, said Douglas Broderick, WFP Representative

WFP with its partners organized the walk to share their concern and come together under a single banner to express their solidarity to end hunger and move forward. This annual event was launched by WFP as a way to help achieve the first United Nations Millennium Development Goals: Reducing by half the number of hungry people in the world by 2015.

The walk in Dhaka was aimed at raising public awareness about child hunger as well as raising funds for WFP’s School Feeding programme. WFP Bangladesh in collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh through its School Feeding programme provides a 75 gram packet of biscuits fortified with vitamins and minerals to 600,000 poor children in 6 targeted food insecure areas. The snack provides 300 calories and 75% of the vitamins and minerals a school child needs every day.

WFP together with its partners, families and friends, teamed up with an array of celebrities, dignitaries, employees, family and friends to literally *walk the world* over a 24 hour period in each of the planet’s 24 time zones.

In Dhaka the Walk with colorful banners and festoons started from IDB Bhaban at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar and ended backside of the Jatiya Sangshad Bhaban, Sher-e Bangla Nagar. WFP Representative Bangladesh Douglas Broderick led the walk and number of eminent personalities joined the walk in Dhaka. Senior officials of UN agencies, social leaders, and representatives from corporate sectors, NGOs, and cultural groups participated in the walk.

After the walk this morning in Dhaka WFP Representative said “*We want to make it sure that we continue to emphasize and highlight the issue of child hunger around the world including in our country Bangladesh*”.

Note to the Editors:

Last year, WFP provided school meals for 19.4 million children in 71 countries. All too often children – particularly girls – are deprived of education because their families cannot afford to send them to school. Yet education is one of the best ways of permanently escaping the vicious intergenerational cycle of poverty, illiteracy, poor health and hunger.

Hunger is the biggest threat to health. Last year, more people died due to hunger and malnutrition than from AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. There are more than 850 million people in the world who know what it is like to be hungry; tragically 400 million of them are children.

WFP is the world’s largest humanitarian agency: each year, WFP gives food to an average of 90 million poor people to meet their nutritional needs, including 58 million hungry children, in at least 80 of the world’s poorest countries. **WFP -- We Feed People.**

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For more information, please contact:

Mr. Douglas Broderick

WFP Representative, Bangladesh

Tel: +880-2-8116344-48, 8119064-73

Mr. M. Emamul Haque

Head, Advocacy Unit, WFP, Bangladesh

Tel: +880-2-8116344-48, 8119064-73,

Ext 2189, Cell: 0171-301-3983