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CANADA TO SUPPORT UNICEF CHILD HEALTH PROJECT IN BANGLADESH

DHAKA, BANGLADESH--The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark, today announced that Canada will provide \$4 million to assist UNICEF-Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) with a child survival program in Bangladesh.

The \$12 million program, aimed at reducing levels of child mortality and educating mothers in primary health care, is being funded equally by Canada, Sweden and Switzerland. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will provide funds for two thirds of Canada's share with UNICEF-Canada paying the other one third.

"This program will benefit families in 155 of Bangladesh's 460 rural sub-districts, called upazilas", Mr. Clark said.

In 140 upazilas, the program will educate mothers in the practice of oral rehydration therapy, a home treatment for diarrhoea, the principal cause of death in infants. It will also provide immunization for mothers and children, and distribute Vitamin A supplements to malnourished children.

In another 15 upazilas, the program will assist the Ministry of Health with its delivery of primary health care. At the village level, skills of traditional midwives will be upgraded. Public participation will be promoted through the development of village health committees.

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"The Government of Bangladesh plans to have an effective primary health care program for all its citizens by the end of the century", Mr. Clark said. "Canada is pleased to be able to offer its assistance in meeting that goal".

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