icddr,b and PRAN-RFL group (Durable Plastics Ltd.) collaborate to improve street food safety

03 April 2014, Dhaka: icddr,b and PRAN-RFL group (Durable Plastics Ltd.) signed a memorandum of understanding today to collaborate on a research project to assess the benefits of safe water use in improving street food safety in Dhaka city. Under the agreement PRAN-RFL, as the research and development partner, will develop and produce 200 narrow-mouthed water containers for use in the icddr,b-led study. icddr,b Executive Director Professor John D. Clemens and RFL Director Mr. R. N. Paul signed the memorandum on icddr,b’s Mohakhali campus.

icddr,b is evaluating a behaviour change communication intervention for promoting safety of street food in a small part of Dhaka city. Although very popular, street food can become unsafe if the street food vendors have inadequate knowledge of safe food handling, use non-potable water, and don’t maintain adequate hand hygiene.

Funded by Grand Challenges Canada, the project will aim to evaluate the impact of the behaviour change communication intervention among a group of selected street food vendors for improving knowledge, attitude and practice of safe handling of food. The knowledge generated from the study may help strengthen street food safety policy in Bangladesh and potentially other low- and middle-income countries where street food is popular.

Also present during the signing ceremony were Dr. Aliya Naheed, principle investigator of the project along with other senior representatives of icddr,b. Mr. Chowdhury Hasan Tariq, chief operating officer of Banga Building Materials Limited (BBML) also attended. Icddr,b and PRAN-RFL representatives expressed hope that this collaboration would improve practice of safe water use and make street food sold in Dhaka safer.

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Please contact the following persons for more details on the study:

For icddr,b: Ms. Nasmeen Ahmed, senior communications manager, Communications & Development, icddr,b nasmeen@icddrb.org

For PRAN-RFL (Durable Plastics Ltd.)

Notes to the Editor:

Dedicated to saving lives, icddr,b is an international health research organization located in Bangladesh. Through translation of research into treatment, training and policy advocacy icddr,b addresses some of the most critical health concerns facing in Bangladesh and the world today.

PRAN-RFL (Durable Plastic Ltd) is country’s one of the largest supplier of plastic goods and participate in the project as a Research & Development partner.