

**AN APPEAL TO ALL CHILD FOCUSED ORGANIZATIONS  
TO PROTECT THE CHILDREN OF SUNDARBAN**



No doubt the situation is impairing after the unpredicted oil spill in Shela river of Sundarban. Shela River is the main source of livelihood for the people living in that area.

After the disaster we did another massive mistake by involving local people especially children to pull oil out of the water without any protection. It is already late to aware people on the effect of health hazard about collecting oil from river with no safety. Former Vice-Chancellor of Bongobandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and President of Bangladesh Health Movement Professor Dr. Rashid E Mahbub said that as a result who collected oil, may cause various skin diseases. It might cause hair fall if the furnish mixed water came in touch with face or hair." A retired Civil Surgeon working in south for more than 30 years confirmed that handling of this type of oil without safety measure may affect the function of the liver, lung causing hepatitis, continuing cough etc.



On December 23, 2014, the forest department temporarily suspended manual cleanup operation along the Shela River.

It is the high time to look closely to the effect from the hazard on local people specially children who directly engaged to decontaminate the oil spill from the river. Here are some recommendations to protect the future impact from the hazards;

- Prepare a list of local people and children those who are involved in cleaning up the oil.
- Ensure the access to basic Medical facilities
- Provide immediate health facilities where needed
- Introduced a systematic regular health check up for the listed people.

**And please stop to use is children such type of hazardous job in future**