

Light House

Light House is a reputed **non-profit voluntary development organization** established in **1988**. It works towards the development of rural and urban populations who are asset-less, poor, marginalized, and high-risk. This includes sexual minorities, particularly male, female, and transgender sex workers, youth and adolescents, including especially vulnerable adolescents (Y&A and EVA), drug users, men who have sex with men (MSM), Rohingya, ethnic communities, as well as distressed individuals, school dropouts, child laborers, and other disadvantaged and marginalized adults and children in Bangladesh.

It is a leading **Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)** in Bangladesh that was founded under the leadership of Mr. Md. Harun-Or-Rashid in 1988 following a devastating flood. Over time, it has earned the trust of the people and established transparency within its working areas, fostering better relationships with civil society, district and upazilla level administration, and local government. Since its inception, Light House has implemented over 124 projects and gained extensive experience in implementing the large projects with the support of renowned donors/clients. Currently, Light House operates in 23 districts across 5 divisions of Bangladesh.

Vision: A society where all people, regardless of their ethnicity, age, economic status, and sexual identity, can enjoy a dignified and healthy life.

Mission: The mission of Light House is to serve socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in Bangladesh who lack access to healthcare, nutrition, income-generating opportunities, justice, governance, and are vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The organization works on both the supply and demand sides, focusing on capacity-building training and supporting community members in utilizing the internet and online platforms, as well as sustainable ICT solutions/services that meet the needs of the target beneficiaries, ensuring accessibility to required services and products.

Objectives:

Light House is committed to strengthening local justice systems including access to justice of marginal population. The organization too pursues the need to improving and developing its services to empower the target groups who become vulnerable due to climate change and other disasters. It is also committed to preventing the HIV/AIDS and TB and also ensuring SRH services for marginal group and under privileged men, women, Transgender, youth, adolescent and children in Bangladesh.

1. Strengthen governance systems, including access to justice, for marginalized populations.
2. Improve and develop services to empower target people.
3. Contribute to the fight against HIV/AIDS and prevent its spread in Bangladesh.

Goals:

1. Ensure social security and justice at the local and National levels.
2. Improve the socio-economic conditions of poor, marginalized, and vulnerable people, reducing the number of individuals living in or below the poverty line.
3. Improve SRH services including prevent transmission of HIV, AIDS, STI and other non-communicable disease.
4. Increase self-sustaining activities including vocational & ICT training for youth & adult and self-sustainability of Light House.

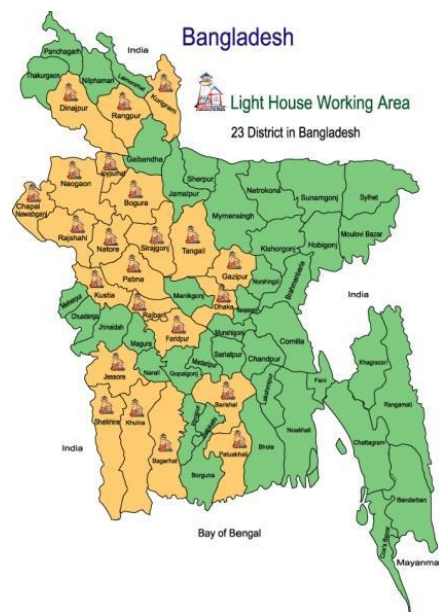
Legal Status:

Light House is registered with the Department of Social Services (Reg. No- DH-02791 date- 6/9/1992) and NGO Affairs Bureau (Reg. No- FDO/R 1307 date- 5/11 1998) to receive foreign donations and operate programs throughout the country. It has a license to run Microfinance Program (Number 21112-00583-00774 dated April 9th, 2017).

Organizational Motto: Empowering Key People

Geographical Presence of Light House:

Light House focuses on addressing inequalities and has its corporate office located in Bogura, a northern regional town of Bangladesh at coordinates 24.8417°N, 89.3750°E. Currently, Light House operates with over 185 staff members across 12 field offices, covering twenty-three districts: Tangail, Faridpur, Rajshahi, Natore, Chapai Nawabgonj, Sirajganj, Bogura, Naogaon, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Pabna, Khulna, Kustia, Bagerhat, Jessore, Meherpur, Satkhira, Barishal, Patuakhali, Rajbari, Dhaka, and Gazipur, spanning 5 divisions of Bangladesh.



Historical Timeline:

Since its inception, Light House has successfully completed more than 124 projects in various areas, including human rights, social security, democratic actions, election monitoring, voter awareness, good governance, reproductive health services, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender issues, HIV/AIDS prevention, poverty reduction, and alternative livelihoods. As part of the historical timeline, information of a few of projects of Light House has given below for the period of last five years:

Year	Project/Initiative	Supporting Organization
2023	Urban Primary Health Care Service Project	Income to Cost Model in partnership with Bogura municipality with technical assistance from the USAID-LHSS

2023	Vulnerable Women Benefit (VWB)	Department of Women Affairs, Ministry of Women Affairs.
2023	Increase climate friendly agricultural productivity for economic empowerment of women	Light House own fund
2023	Strengthening Acid Survivors Network (ASN) to Eliminate Acid and Other Forms of Gender-Based Violence:	ASF/DAFAT (Australia)
2022	Excluded People's Rights (Piloting GRS Intervention)	Manusher Jonno Foundation
2021	Accelerating Universal Access to Family Planning	USAID/Pathfinder International
2021	Promoting Peace and Justice Project -Maherpur	Democracy International/USAID
2020	Sustainable & Integrated SRH & HIV Prevention & Management Service Package	UNFPA/UNAIDS
2020	COVID-19 responses for vulnerable women, girls, children, and elderly Rohingya population living in Ukhiya	University of South Wales
2020	Women-led Gender-Sensitive COVID-19 Response Project at Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar	UN-WOMEN
2020	COVID-19 Advocacy and Response Program	Counterpart International/USAID-UKAID
2020	Humanitarian Response program for women and girls in Cox's Bazar	UNFPA
2020	Providing food support to transgender women (hijra) and male sex workers (MSW) during COVID-19	German Doctors and ICDDR,B
2019	Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project	MoLGRD&C/ADB
2019	Drug Abuse Resistance and Understanding	Counterpart International/USAID-UKAID
2019	Sustainable & Integrated SRH & HIV Prevention & Management Service Package for BBFSWs	UNFPA
2019	Improve the quality of life of women and children residing in the brothels of Mymensingh and Tangail	UNICEF
2019	Sustainable & Integrated SRH & HIV Prevention & Management Service Package	UNFPA/UNAIDS
2019	Promoting Peace and Justice Project -Bogura	Democracy International/USAID
2019	Promoting Peace and Justice Project -Tangail	Democracy International/USAID
2019	Enhancing Community Capacity and Resilience to Promote Female Migrant Workers' Rights	British High Commission
2018	Situational Assessment in 11 brothels of Bangladesh	UNFPA
2018	HIV, SRHR and PMTCT project for brothel-based sex workers	UBRAF/UNAIDS, UNICEF & UNFPA
2018	DIC establishment at Teknaf (Cox's Bazar district)	GF-FR, FSWI
2018	Improving the health and social well-being of adolescent female sex workers	SCI/UNICEF

2018	Strengthening Civic Engagement in Elections and Political Processes	The Asia Foundation/EWG
2018	Improvement of the Real Situation of Overcrowding in Prison in Bangladesh	GTZ
2018	Exchange knowledge and practices of health services among young key populations	FK Norway
2018	Empowering Young Widow through Skill Development and IGA Support	Aus-Aid
2018	Justice for All (JFA), Pabna	NCSC/USAID
2017	Light House School of Learning and Diversity	Light House
2017	Comprehensive prevention programs for MSM/Transgender population	SCI/GFATM
2017	Comprehensive prevention programs for Female Sex Workers and their clients	ICDDR,B/GFATM
2017	Justice for All (JFA), Bogura	NCSC/USAID
2017	Improved Justice and Legal Aid Services (IJLAS)	UKAID, Maxwell Stamp inc

The Major *Current* Projects of Light House:

- **Salient Engagements in: Health, Nutrition & Population Sector:**

Urban Primary Health Care Service Delivery Project (UPCSDP):

Light House has initiated the implementation of the UPCSDP at Rangpur City Corporation since August 2019. The project aims to (i) improve access and utilization of urban primary health care services for the poor, women, and children in Rangpur city, (ii) provide cost-effective quality essential services delivery package (ESD) aligned with UPHCSDP-II efforts to enhance health status, and (iii) enhance institutional sustainability of urban primary health care services centers in Rangpur city by improving utilization and health care financing for the urban poor. The project serves a total population of 366,600 (Male-186,966, Female-179,634), with 39,226 under age 5 children and 87,617 adolescents.



Shukhi Jibon, Accelerating Universal Access to Family Planning supported by USAID,

Pathfinder: Light House has been implementing this project since May 2021, which will conclude in November 2023. The project aims to change harmful social norms related to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) education for vulnerable youth and adolescents, including RMG workers, transgender individuals, and lesbian feminized MSMs. The project focuses on the 3-city corporation area of Dhaka (north and south) and Gazipur city and district. Activities under the project include training volunteers on SRHR issues, facilitating health education sessions, orienting health service providers, distributing brochures, organizing cultural shows and advocacy meetings, conducting community dialogues, developing resources, and engaging in media advocacy and policy dialogues.

Prioritized HIV prevention services among key populations in Bangladesh funded by Global Fund: Light House has been implementing a project on HIV/AIDS prevention for MSM and Hijra with support from ICDDR, B under the Global Fund project. The intervention targets a total of 15,838 Hijra and MSM, out of this 14,428 are MSM and 1,410 are Hijra.

Light House Urban Primary Health Care Service Project:

Light House has started Urban Primary Health Care Services project at Bogura under the leadership of Bogura municipality with technical assistance from the USAID local Health System Sustainability project (LHSS) that signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on 25th June 2023, this strategic collaboration with Light House marks a significant milestone in the pursuit of accessible and quality healthcare in the municipality area. Light House and Bogura Municipality will jointly play a role for providing accessible and quality primary health care in the municipality area.



- **Salient Engagements in: Governance & Justice Sector:**

Promoting Peace and Justice- Bogura, Meherpur, and Tangail District: The PPJ-Bogura, Tangail, and Meherpur Projects are supported by USAID through Democracy International. The projects aim to ensure fair justice and promote access to justice services for vulnerable and underserved populations, especially women, adolescents, and poor groups. The projects have activated and functionalized 13 UZLACs (Upazila Legal Aid Committees) and 94 UPLACs (Union Parishad Legal Aid Committees). They have also provided government legal aid services to 740,462 people. The projects have conducted 142 UZLAC and 1,273 UPLAC bi-monthly meetings, 80 quarterly meetings with judges, court staff, clients, and panel lawyers, 82 public hearings and virtual e-dialogues, 44 school debate competitions, and 68 cultural programs on government legal aid. As a result, most Union Parishads have allocated a budget for the promotion of legal aid activities. They have initiated campaigns with billboards, leaflets, and festoons, and have established legal aid corners in the Union Parishad buildings. Under the PPJ-Bogura, Tangail, and Meherpur projects, 2,041 cases have been referred to the DLAC (District Legal Aid Committee) office, with 510 cases resolved through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). Light House has been implementing the Promoting Peace and Justice (PPJ) program in Bogura, Tangail, and Meherpur since July 2019.



Responsive Local Govt Units for Marginalized People (Responsible): With financial support from FCDO (Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office) and under the overall supervision of the MJF (Manusher Jonno Foundation), Light House is implementing the 'Responsible' Project to ensure the rights of excluded people. The project is being implemented in 9 unions and 2 municipalities of Kahaloo and Dhunat Upazila in Bogura district. The project provides support and assistance to widows, destitute individuals, older people, ethnic minorities, Dalits, people with disabilities, extreme poor, and youth to access government services. A total of 17,649 people will directly benefit from these services, including 7,457 widows and destitute, 5,801 older people, 654 people with disabilities, and 3,737 extreme poor and youth. The project covers various services such as social safety nets, primary health care, agriculture, fisheries, livestock, income-generating activities, and skills improvement training. The project has formed 112 Citizen Support Groups at ward, union, and Upazila levels, with a total of 1,788 members. These groups have been provided training on social accountability tools and service simplification to raise their voices and conduct monitoring. Additionally, 99 community groups have been formed at the ward level. The project has also made formal institutional committees, such as Health Management Committees, UP Standing Committees, and agriculture and social safety net committees, active and effective through regular meetings

Drug Abuse Resistance and Understanding Project: Light House Consortium (Light House along with three CSOs) has developed 23 Community Action Groups (CAG), 10 Youth Brigades, and 2 district-based CSO-led networks to reduce drug demand. The CAG and CSO-led networks have worked closely with the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) on the implementation of the Narcotics Control Act 2018. Advocacy meetings, round table discussions with local journalists, policy development for early prevention, and national-level advocacy efforts have been conducted to reduce existing drug treatment rules. The project aims to strengthen CSO management, orient CSO-led networks, collaborate with print and electronic media for enforcement of laws, and raise awareness for drug abuse control. This project has complemented and expanded multi-sector advocacy networks on drug abuse and established collaboration between civil society and local government to implement social accountability mechanisms. The project operates in Rajshahi and Natore districts. The consortium has successfully advocated for two policy directions from DG-NGOAB (Directorate General of NGO Affairs Bureau) and DG-DNC (Director General of Department of Narcotics Control) and contributed to the passing of rules for the Drug Treatment Act 2005.

Capacity building and increase involvement of Youth in achieving SDG and addressing the climate change issue supported by FK Norway/Norec and other agencies: Light House has been implementing the "Strengthening Organizational Capacity of Dealing with SRHR Project for Young People" project since March 2021. It is a regional initiative where Community Support Groups (CSGs) from Nepal, LIGHT Institute from Bangladesh, and Vietnam are working together with Light House. The project aims to facilitate interaction among young volunteers, youth leaders, and the young population to share knowledge and cultural diversity across the South-South region. The project includes online training on sexual and reproductive health rights, gender equality and climate change issue, e-dialogues or e-clinics for psychosocial health support, ICT training for volunteers and staff, and the development of digital communication materials on SRHR and gender

equality. Light House has extensive experience working with deserving partners in the young key population through different projects in Bangladesh. They have implemented the "National Volunteering Program" and the "Active Citizens Youth Leadership Training Program" in three districts of Bangladesh under the British Council. Light House is also implementing a volunteer exchange project with three partners: CSG in Nepal, AMA (Aye Myanmar Association) in Myanmar, and LIGHT Institute in Vietnam. **Excluded People's Rights (Piloting GRS Intervention):** With financial support from FCDO and the overall supervision of MJF, Light House is conducting the Piloting GRS Intervention program in Dhunat Upazila. The program aims to raise awareness among the general public about the grievance redressal procedure of the Bangladesh Government. The government introduced the online Grievance Redress System (GRS) in 2015 to ensure accountability, improve the quality of public services, and provide hassle-free access to government services. The project's main objective is to increase public awareness and understanding of the grievance redressal mechanism. Activities include awareness-raising and demonstrations on GRS at the union level, awareness campaigns at the college level, orientation for government officials on GRS at the Upazila level, community-based help camps for online support in submitting complaints.



Strengthening Acid Survivors Network (ASN) to Eliminate Acid and Other Forms of Gender-Based Violence: With financial support from the Australian High Commission and technical assistance from ASF (Acid Survivors Foundation), Light House has been implementing the project since January 2023, scheduled to end in December 2023. The project focuses on three major aspects: capacity building of acid survivors, raising awareness in the community, and improving access to services. The project aims to establish a framework to achieve a long-term reduction in gender-based violence.

Repatriation of traffic victims: With the goal of repatriating traffic victims so that they may return to their home country with dignity and access human rights, Light House has been implementing the project since 2014 by establishing a strategic partnership with the Madras Christian Council of Social Service (MCCSS) in Chennai, India. So far, a total of 41 individuals, including 11 males and 31 females, have been repatriated. Most of them were victims of sex trafficking and sex trade, coerced and blackmailed by perpetrators. Light House provides mental health counseling and creates referral linkages to other health services if needed. They also offer family counseling and temporary shelter to help the victims integrate better into society and their families.

Light House is actively involved in establishing social awareness to prevent trafficking and engages in advocacy with local administration. They conduct advocacy meetings with law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders, follow up with victims, and refer them to government and non-

governmental service providers. Light House is a member of the district anti-trafficking committee and works collaboratively on safe migration and prevention of trafficking.

- **Salient Engagements in Poverty Reduction & Sustainable Livelihood sector:**

Microfinance Program (MFP): Light House has been working on a Microfinance Program as a social business initiative to assist small-scale entrepreneurs in nurturing their own thoughts and initiatives for growth. The program was initiated on September 1st, 2014, covering four unions in Kahaloo Upazila (Bogra district), six unions in Rangpur Sadar & Kawnia Upazila (Rangpur district), and Chilmari Upazila (Kurigram district), utilizing the Bank loans and organization's own funding. Light House implements Income Generation Activities (IGA) to empower landless and disadvantaged poor villagers, particularly women, in both urban and rural areas. Assistance is provided to beneficiaries to promote income-generating activities. Currently, Light House operates the program through 177 women's groups, with a total of 3,591 members. The outstanding loan amount is over tk. 7 crores, benefiting 2,923 loan recipients. Additionally, the microfinance program members have deposited savings amounting to Tk 1.5 crores, Light House ensures regular verification of loan utilization for appropriate trade/projects, achieving a recovery rate of 98% and providing benefits to group members.

- **Increase climate friendly agricultural productivity for economic empowerment of women**

Bangladesh has only 18 lakh Sheep for 17 crore people which is very less number compare to the requirement. But it has an opportunity to increase sheep through an innovative way with hybrid / new varieties of sheep as it is climate resilient. Women can be driver of this initiative. Garal look like a new varieties of sheep it is bigger than a normal sheep. A one-year-old Garal can have up to 25 kg of meat. Garal rearing is very easy. They can live in any environment, can prevent normal diseases as well. It can give birth twice a year. Primarily Light House has taken the initiative to distribute Garal among the poor and helpless women so that they can improve their livelihood and quality of life by rearing Garal.

- **Salient Engagements in Disaster Management, DRR, Environment & Climate Change:**

Since its establishment, Light House has been working to assist the poor and marginalized affected by devastating floods, droughts, severe cold, tornadoes, and other disasters. To address the needs and demands of flood-affected people in Bogura, Gaibandha, Rangpur, Kurigram, Sirajganj, Natore, and Pabna areas, Light House focuses on disaster preparedness, risk reduction, recovery, relief, and rehabilitation programs. As a non-governmental voluntary development organization, Light House is a pre-qualified partner of UNDP for implementing early recovery and disaster response in Bangladesh. The organization has collaborated with CCDB, GTZ, CARE Bangladesh, VSO, and Proshika. Light House is a member of Disaster Management Committee (DMC) at national and local level. It works together with government NGO and actors. Light House also member of WASH cluster lead by DPHE and Unicef. Over 213 staff members have been trained and gained experience in disaster management, and there are 230 volunteers in its working areas.

1 Million Palm Tree Plantation Campaign

It is worthy to discuss the contribution of Palm tree to save people and to maintain environmental equilibrium and combat climate change and natural disasters, particularly to mitigate lightning risks, Light House initiative launched a palm tree planting program at Kazipara bus stand in Kahalu upazila of Bogura district. During the inauguration of the palm tree planting initiative, Mr. Harun-or-Rashid, the Chief Executive Officer of Light House, underscored the significance of various tall species, including palm trees, in preserving the environmental balance and safeguarding against natural calamities. He urged Light House staff and everyone to participate in planting of 1million palm tree, that can save us through it's pivotal role in regulating environmental temperatures and substantial contribution to preventing heat-related issues also can fight against thunder Strome.



Awareness via Online Platform

Light House conducts various seminars in Bangladesh centered on enhancing climate resilience. These seminars have tackled pertinent topics like "Climate Action and Justice: Role of Youth," "Climate Change and Health Risks," "Inequalities in Climate Change," and "The Role of Young People in Climate Adaptation." Led by experts such as Md. Mozammel Haque, Senior Governance Adviser of UNDP Bangladesh, Md. Jamil Akter, Deputy Manager of Climate Bridge Fund, and other climate specialists, these seminars engaged youth, adolescent groups, stakeholders, and project staff virtually. These sessions facilitated in-depth discussions, providing participants with a comprehensive understanding of the addressed issues. Following these sessions, Light House made them accessible to the public by uploading them to their Facebook page and YouTube channel, enabling broader access to valuable insights and discussions on climate resilience and related topics

Distribution of Relief and Rehabilitation Materials: Since 1988, Light House has been actively involved in relief and rehabilitation efforts, utilizing its own resources and receiving support from donors such as CCDB, GTZ, BRAC, Action Aid, VSO, and corporate sectors during major floods and other disasters. Light House has played a significant role in responding to relief and rehabilitation needs during major floods in Bangladesh, including the years 1988, 1998, 2004, 2016, and 2019.

Rohingya Humanitarian Response: In response to the influx of Rohingya refugees, Light House has made strategic decisions to address the multifaceted challenges faced by both the refugees and host communities in Ukhiya, Teknaf, and Cox's Bazar sub-districts under Cox's Bazar district. With funding support from UNHCR, Global Fund and internal funding sources, Light House has taken initiatives to protect the most vulnerable women and girls from trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence. Five comprehensive service centers established in Ukhiya, Leda of Teknaf, Teknaf Sadar, and Cox's Bazar Sadar, where MHPSS counseling for GBV victims, legal support, and

healthcare services were provided to both host and refugee communities. Light House also set up a Safe Home for GBV and trafficking victims, supporting 130 GBV and VoTs (victims of trafficking) in 2019. It actively participates as a member of the Anti-Trafficking Working Group and other sectors led by ISCG. With a unique approach, Light House has registered 4,550 women, girls, and adolescent girls who are at high risk and provides protective services through linkages, advocacy, and social networking.

Other Initiatives

Light House School of Learning and Diversity:

Light House School of Learning and Diversity started its journey in October 2018 as a unique educational institution in Muruil village, Kahaloo Upazila, Bogura. It operates as a non-profit and service-oriented institution, aiming to provide modern educational facilities to grassroots students in West Bogura. The foundation stone of the institution was laid on December 30, 2017, by Ekushey Padak laureate novelist Selina Hossain and renowned social activist and Ekushey Padak laureate Late Palan Sarkar.

Academic activities in the school commenced on January 1, 2018, offering education from pre-primary to tenth grade. The vision of the school is to transform into a modern and high-quality institution that meets the educational needs of the 21st century. Its mission is to provide inclusive, equitable, and climate friendly work-oriented education.



The Treatment, Research, and Rehabilitation Centre (TRRC) for Drug Users is an initiative by Light House aimed at providing detoxification, treatment, and rehabilitation services for individuals struggling with drug addiction. BARACA has provided technical support to ensure the sustainability of this initiative. TRRC focuses on delivering individualized, high-quality treatment services to help clients become drug-free. This includes providing life skills training, psychosocial support through counseling, and implementing an integrated approach that incorporates therapeutic methods and the 12 steps of Narcotics Anonymous (NA).

Staffing: Light House has diversity type of e.g. women, person with disabilities, Transgender and other sexual and religious minorities. The senior management staffs have professional degree e.g. MPH, Mphil and Diploma on SRHR and PhD fellow and other professional degrees. Apart from the Executive Committee, Chief Executive, and senior staff has required Skills to work with policy

maker, Govt officials, Media and the community people. The operational staffs available with extensive experience in the field to implement the program.

Donors and development partners:

Light House duly acknowledged its development partners since its inception. These include organizations such as Democracy International, Save the Children, ICDDR,B, UNHCR, Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF), UNFPA, UNWOMEN, Counterpart International, , Local Government Division (LGD), University of South Wales, Norec, German Doctors, British High Commission, British Council, GOB/World Bank, UNICEF, UNAIDS, BRAC, Step Towards Development, Acid Survivors Foundation, NCSC/USAID, Maxwell Stamp PLC-DFID, World Bank, European Commission, CARE Bangladesh, Elton John AIDS Foundation-UK, ILO/USDOL, Action Aid, CCDB, Proshika, ICFHDP-GTZ, HASAB, USAID/PROGATI, UNODC, Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), USAID/The Asia Foundation, The Asia Foundation, URC, WHO/The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands of Bangladesh, FK Norway/Norec, UNHCR, Australian Agency for International Development (AUS-aid), Family Health International (FHI)/USAID, German International Development (GIZ), Pathfinder International, and more.