

## UZLAC-UPLAC Members are Build Capacity through Light House



### UPLAC Orientation Of Vatra Union Of Nandigram Upazilla

With the purpose to describe and make understand on the roles and responsibilities for smooth implementation of the National legal aid program at community level, an orientation program held in Bogra for the members of the Upazila legal aid committees (UPLAC) and Union legal aid committees (UPLAC) where the diffident government officials also participated.

The orientation helped the participants for generating a thorough understanding of the procedural and coordination mechanism in government legal aid service delivery to the potentials and competent victims and their associates who are in need of legal support to access justice.

#### **Regional Meetings:**

Lack of skills and knowledge among the DIC team found as major barrier to ensure the quality implementation of GF-NFM supported female sex worker project. On the other hand; limited scope in building monitoring and supervision capacity as well as absence of opportunity to share learning and failures were also found as other limitations to build team capacity. Keeping the importance of improving the quality implementation; four regional meeting was planned through having special budget approval from Principal recipient (PR). In February 2017. Light House consortium organized a one day long three regional meetings for Southern, Northern and Western regions where 39 DIC Coordinators and Outreach Supervisors participated.



#### **District Level Advocacy:**

Light House Consortium (GF-NFM-FSW Intervention) organized a District Level Advocacy Meeting titled "Coordination meeting for service linkage of Female Sex Workers" in Chittagong dated February 28, 2017 where GO and NGO representatives from whom FSW intervention can mobilize support to address the unmet needs were invited to participate. A total of 30 participants participated. The purpose of the meeting were to (i) brief updates on HIV prevention program for "Female Sex Worker (FSWs) in Bangladesh (ii) brief the unmet need of the female sex workers, e.g. FP, EPI, TB, MCH, alternative livelihood, GBV, etc. (iii) Generate a way forward for service linkage to meet the unmet needs of the female sex workers. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Director - Family Planning and Civil Surgeon joined as Chief Guest. Being Special Guest, Dr. SM Mostafa Sayeed, SIMO-WHO, Dr. Krisno Sharup Dutta, TB Specialist, CS Office, Advocate Tanzima (legal department), BLAST, etc. were joined. Deputy Chief Executive, Light House presented the key note and the National and Global HIV scenario. All the participants from GOB and NGO sectors put commitment in providing support to the intervention from their level best but for this, regular communication and putting request of require support recommended.





# Restorative Justice Restores Friendship

*At the end, the RJ facilitator could not only solve the conflict, but was even able to rebuild trust between Alal and Asir. Sometime it requires only one simple step - approaching an RJ facilitator - to restore a broken friendship.*

Alal and Asir both grew up in Noongola union of Bogra Sader Upazila and have been friends for a long time. Repeatedly, Asir supported his friend financially. Being a reliable friend, Alal always returned the money on time. But the situation changed in 2016. Asir asked Alal to help him out with Taka 2000. Alal was happy to return the favor and lent him the money with the condition to return back within one month. However; one month passed but Asir was unable to return the money. Once Alal met his friend and raised this issue but Asir came up with flimsy excuses and even claimed he had already given back the money. Alal then found himself in a tricky situation - he needed his money back but did not know how. He was thinking that he not only going to loose the money beside he is going loose the faith what they had in their friendship since long. Alal was thinking how he can get return the money with keeping the friendship okay. Alal turned to the CBO and asked for help? The CBO referred him to the local Restorative Justice (RJ) Facilitator. One week later, the RJ Facilitator convened the first session, summoning Alal and Asir to explain their conflict. The session swiftly revealed that Asir struggled to return the loan due to financial restraints. Through the help of the RJ facilitator, Alal and Asir thus came to an agreement that the debts will be paid back in two installments within the end of the year. Admitting his wrong-doing, Asir showed his commitment by paying the first tranche already in the RJ session. At the end, the RJ facilitator could, not only solve this conflict, but was even able to rebuild trust between Alal and Asir. Sometimes it requires only one simple step - approaching an RJ facilitator - to restore a broken friendship.

## Sensitization Meeting for reduce the stigma and discrimination

Light House, since its establishment has been working for bringing positive change in the society towards the marginalized populations through undertaking different sensitization meetings with the different segment of stakeholders like health service provider, religious leader, lawyer, journalist, law enforcement agency and other civil society representatives, etc. These sensitization meetings are keeping significant contribution in the reduction of stigma and discrimination as well as upholding the human rights towards key population who vulnerable to HIV.

In order to sensitize the respective stakeholders and seek support for smooth implementation of the Global Fund supported HIV prevention project for male having sex with male and hijra, a total of 11 sensitization meetings took place in February 2017 at districts level particularly where the DICs are located. A total of 168 different stakeholders including local elite, lawyer, journalist, teacher, local elected bodies, GO/NGO representatives, member of law enforcing agencies and human rights activist participated the meeting.



Sensitization Meeting at Bogra on 12.02.17



Sensitization Meeting at Naogaon on 22.02.17



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