



## Inauguration Report of Rainbow GDP center

*Light House has crossed successfully another milestone at Whykong, Teknaf under the District of Cox's bazar. On the day of 24 February-2021 Md. Harun-or-Rashid, Chief Executive of Light House, Wahida Yasmin, Gender Compliance Adviser, Light House*

*Hazera Legendre Khanam (Protection Associate-SGBV, UNHCR, Jana Lejskeova (Associate Education Officer UNHCR, inaugurated to the Rainbow Drop-in-center for Gender diverse populations. The chief guest was welcome to the other guest and gender diverse populations representatives for jointly cutting the red ribbon and blasting the party poppers and spreading the flowers. After Completing the inauguration session all guest was join the discussion session and consequently enjoying cultural function by gender diverse populations. The sessions were enjoyed numbers Young personnel's, social elites, stakeholders and deferent professionals of local areas. Deferent professionals were showing their positive expression on gender divers populations and giving commitment during delivered their speech. All participants and guests were agreed doing something for the DGPs issues, because they have no previous idea on such type of events. Chief guest md. Harun-or-Rashid sharing the project goals and objectives, he also discusses the country and Cox's bazar health situation and why we are here. Why need takes special care and supports for the genders diver's populations. Still our society are not ready to accepted them and facing huge challenges in their daily life, they have no access to the government facilities so we arrange special care and attention for gender diver's populations as a human being. We will provide health service to them under the "Ensure sexual and reproductive health services among Men, Boys and Transgender from the refugee and host community who are at higher risk of STI and HIV project" with the financial supports of UNHCR. The opening ceremony ended by the vote of thanks to all participants, staffs of Light House's Cox's Bazar project and especially Local guest and UNHCR.*



## I n d e x

- ★ Inauguration Report of Rainbow GDP center
- ★ Some STIs can be life threatening!
- ★ Legal aid and alliance team meeting held at brothels for GBV mitigation system strengthening through community squad
- ★ Capacity building held for front line staff on psychosocial and psychosexual issues for FSW and PLHIV in Cox's Bazar
- ★ Light House distributed Family Health Care Card ( RED Card) among the ultra poor of Rangpur City Corporation
- ★ Covid-19 Vaccine Registration helps out on marking the World Women's Day 2021
- ★ Light House organized a Sensitization meeting with prominent journalists and eminent personnel from electronic media on rights of Key Populations
- ★ Advocacy Meeting with Department of Narcotics Control (DNC)
- ★ Life Skill Education Training for Gender Diverse population (GDP)
- ★ PFT Meeting
- ★ Debate Competition held at Tangail
- ★ Half-yearly Coordination meeting held at Bogura with DLAC, UZLAC, and UPLAC members

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## Some STIs can be life threatening!

Under the overall leadership of AIDS STD Program (ASP), Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is providing technical support to strengthen the Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) services in public and private sector in Bangladesh with the goal to reduce new infections and impact of STIs among individual, family, community and society in order to prevent public health threats to the country. STIs are a major global cause of acute illness, infertility, long term disability and death, with severe medical and psychological consequences for millions of men, women and infants.

Light House, being a national leading NGO in Bangladesh is engaged to support ASP and UNFPA to implement the STI program in 30 targeted districts and 10 districts for 2021, funded by UNFPA, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and Global Affairs Canada (GAC). Under this initiative, Light House is responsible to arrange divisional advocacy meetings and capacity building trainings for the doctors and general practitioners including the development of district level master trainers and strengthening M&E of the initiatives.

Since January 2021, Light House arranged Training for public and private sectors doctors of Khagrachari and Bogura districts including Upozelas. Training was on New National Guideline of Etiological management of Sexually Transmitted Infections. Total 47 Doctors participated to that trainings. National trainers from BSMMU and other master trainers who received TOT were facilitated the trainings in both districts. Besides those training, with the purpose of making a standard STI Register Format a Meeting was held at Dhaka Medical College and Light House distributed draft register books at Gynecology and Skin VD department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Upozela Health complex of Ukhiya and Teknaf for piloting. Light House also distributing STI Management flow charts of STIs and Ante natal care Investigation seal for Gynae and skin VD department of districts hospitals as well as upozila health complexes to ensure etiological management of STIs and to ensure HbsAg, VDRL and HIV testing during ANC visit of every mother.

## Half-yearly Coordination meeting held at Bogura with DLAC, UZLAC and UPLAC members

Light House, Rainbow DIC, Whykong, Teknaf has successfully completed The Project facilitation Team meeting which is held on 29 March-2021, where 12 participants were attending. To ensuring local community support for creating a supportive environment in favor of Gender Divers Populations in the respective area in host and selected refugee camps. The meeting held under the "Ensure SRH Services among Men, Boys and Transgender from the Refugee and The Host Community who are at Higher Risk of STI and HIV" project with the financial supports of UNHCR. Local communities are not aware about Gender Diverse Populations problems, barriers and challenges. In order to smooth operation of this project activities at selected refugee camps and host areas we formed a team comprise of local influential persons from deferent sector of society with the guidance from key project staff. PFT members worked as an agent for change to address the socio-cultural, Gender based violence and religious factors that may hampered the successful implementation of the project activities at local level. Journalist, Teacher, CBO President, CO president, Social Activist, religious leader, Local elected body member, social influential persons, protection focal of camp-21 and UNHCR representatives also attend the meeting. Omar Faruk Akanda, Training and Program Specialist, presented the key note papers in the meeting. All participants were encouraging to us and giving thanks to Light House management for implemented such type project for GDPs in this areas. During the meeting all PFT members committed to extend their support were as needs.







## Light House distributed Family Health Care Card ( RED Card) among the ultra poor of Rangpur City Corporation

In order to provide free medical treatment to the extremely poor people in Rangpur city Corporation a Family Health Care Card (Red Card) distribution ceremony has held on 20.03.2021 at Nagar Maternity Center conference room, Sathmatha, Rangpur. Mr. Harun Or Rashid, Chief Executive of Light House presides over the ceremony where Mr. Mostafizar Rahman Mostofa, Mayor, Rangpur City Corporation was presented as Chief guest. Mr. Md. Rafiqul Islam Selim, Deputy Secretary, Government of Bangladesh & Deputy Project Director (Training and Administration), UPHCSDP-II and Mr. Rashedul Haque Rashed, Secretary, Rangpur City Corporation were present as special guests. Mr. Malek Niaz Arju, Councilor of ward 30 Rangpur City Corporation and Mr. Safiul Ahsan, Senior Program Officer, Project Management Unit, UPHCSDP-2 Project were also present as guest.

At the end of the discussion, the guests of the family health card distribution program given RED cards among the extremely poor. The chief guest expressed satisfaction with the activities of Light House and assured all kinds of cooperation. The program was conducted by the project manager Mr. Abdur Rahim Sumon.

## PFT Meeting

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## Advocacy Meeting with Department of Narcotics Control (DNC)

The Dhaka Ahsania Mission is a member of Light House Consortium, which works to combat drug abuse with support from USAID through a grant to the Promoting Advocacy and Rights (PAR) project implemented by Counterpart International. On January 21, 2021, the Light House Consortium met with the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) to advocate for an office order requiring DNC-affiliated drug treatment centers to collaborate with the Light House Consortium to combat drug abuse. Thirty-nine participants attended the meeting, including 22 from DNC.

After a short presentation, Mr. Muhammed Ahsanul Jabbar, Director General of the DNC, committed to issuing a formal letter to mandate collaboration among drug treatment centers (which are for-profit entities) and CSOs to strengthen services for addicts at the local level, and work to raise awareness of the repercussions of drug abuse so that demand is reduced. Mr. Md. Nuruzzaman Sharif, Director of Prevention Education, presided over the meeting and requested the Light House Consortium prepare and submit a formal event report/resolution for the DNC to initiate follow-up actions. Mr. Kusum Dewan, Director of Operations of DNC along with seven additional Directors from seven Divisions participated in the meeting, all of whom expressed unanimous support for the proposed formal collaboration.







## Light House organized a Sensitization meeting with prominent journalists and eminent personnel from electronic media on rights of Key Populations

Light House organized a sensitive meeting with prominent journalists from print and electronic media on March 25, 2021 at the Light House Conference Room, Bogura under "Prioritized HIV prevention services for key populations (MSM, MSW & Hijra) in Bangladesh" project. The aim was the meeting is to sensitize prominent journalists and eminent workers from the electronic media to write and publish articles and news about the rights of Key population (KP), especially MSW and transgender people.

Light House had shared their experiences of long working with the sexual minority group including Hijra. It had shared practical scenario of KP's stigma, discrimination, gender based violence and human rights violence due to social, economic, religious and power relation. So, the project seeks the help journalist from both print and electronic media by their publications and investigative reports which can help ensure their rights and joy a fear free life in society. A total of 35 journalists from various printing and electronic media, including representatives of the concerned government departments were present in the sensitization meeting.

In the meeting, Mr. Harun Or- Rashid Chief executive, Light House called on the journalists to publish their writings for the marginalized people especially the Hijra and the sexual minority people. If we start for a good and takes side, one day the picture will be changed. He call journalist to come up with their ideas which may catch eye of policy makers. One day a change will come and thus they will enjoy their rights.

Shariful Islam, District Legal Aid Office, Bogura, told we provide legal aid support but none of hijra comes to seek such support. He shared that in our religion their rights are ensuring as per Muslim family law. The district legal aid officer advice, if Hijra and other sexual minority people come at his office for support from him, he will ensure those within the law. Mr. Islam told that "Hijras are our children; we should stand beside them when they are in trouble and violence or violation of rights. None should be deprived of inheritance law in any way," he said.

## Debate Competition held at Tangail

Light house, Promoting Peace and Justice-Tangail program activities organized School debate competitions with video shows at Atia Union Adarsha Girls High School, Lauhati M Azhar Memorial High School under Delduar Upazila and Palshia Rani Dinamoni High School, Nikrail, Bhuapur under Bhuapur Upazila of Tangail district on 23th, 25th and 31th March, 2021. The purpose of these debate competitions with video show was to inform about the Promoting Peace and Justice-Tangail project goal, objectives and activities so that the school students, teachers and their families can aware about government legal aid service. After the end of the debate competitions the students and participants observe a documentary drama related with government legal aid service. An official communication from the project has made with the concerned academic institutions providing with the available information to build capacity of the students for setting logic and anti-logic from their own perspectives. It will help the other students (audience) to learn about pros-and cons of legal services in a different way. Mr. Fazlul Haque Mollick, Founder President of Atia Union Adarsha Girls High School under Delduar Upazila in Tangail District said, the government has taken a great initiative for the helpless poor. As a result, it no longer has to spend its own money on legal aid to the helpless poor. Through today's debate competition students will be able to find out about government legal aid to their families and neighbors.







## Legal aid and alliance team meeting held at 6 brothels for GBV mitigation system strengthening through community squad

Light House team has arranged and conducted 6 meetings in 6 brothels with legal aid and alliance team of community squad with 45 and 42 participants respectively. The purpose of the Community Squad team meetings was to share and discuss on progress and follow-up of the reported GBV cases, mitigation process and challenges. A total of 426 GBV cases were mitigated by the Community Squad throughout the period.

## Life Skill Education Training for Gender Diverse population (GDP)

In the month of March-2021, Light House, Rainbow DIC, Whykong, Teknaf has successfully completed the Life skill training for Gender Diverse Populations with the support of UNHCR, where 52 participants were attending and able to know the main component of life skills, as a human being how to play their roles and responsibility in their family and society. In order to promote healthy lifestyles by using learning skills and knowledge from life skill education training under the "Ensure sexual and reproductive health services among Men, Boys and Transgender from the refugee and host community who are at higher risk of STI and HIV project" under Cox's Bazar District. Men who have sex with men (MSM) and hijra/Transgender populations, we called them as Gender Diverse population (GDP).



## Covid-19 Vaccine Registration helps out on marking the World Women's Day 2021

On World Women Day-2021, BBFSWI, Light House assisted free registration of Covid-19 vaccination to the female sex workers in the brothels. Total 174 female sex workers assisted to confirm Covid-19 vaccination registration via government web site. 20 from Jamalpur brothel, 79 from Doulodia brothel, 11 from CMB Ghat, Faridpur brothel, 14 from Rothkhola Faridpur brothel, 03 from Babu Bazar, Jashore brothel, 8 from Marowari Jashore brothel, 10 from Patuakhali brothel and 29 from Baniasanta brothel have been registered for Covid-19 vaccination and received printed registration card on the day with the assistance of Light House. Then the counselling was provided to 174 female sex workers to make them understand about the importance of the Covid-19 vaccination.

## Capacity building held for front line staff on psychosocial and psychosexual issues for FSW and PLHIV in Cox's Bazar

A 2-day training of trainers (TOT) to develop a pool of master trainers was organized during March 19-20, 2021. A total 20 participants were attended from UNCHR, Global Fund and UNFPA supported projects. The Facilitators were the Associate and Assistant Professors of The Mental Health Institute, Dhaka. Consequently, these Master trainers will arrange and facilitate training for the front-line staffs in quarter

