

## Light House organized a district inception meeting with key stakeholders of Bogra district on "ICT Based response and support Mechanism to address violence against women and girl"



### Deputy Commissioner of Bogra Mr. Mohammad Noore Alam Siddique is speaking in the meeting as a chief guest at the ceremony

"In order to prevent violence, No alternative to raising awareness" with this theme a district inception meeting of "ICT Based response and support Mechanism to address violence against women and girls" project was held at Bogra on December 21, 2017 at Light House conference rooms. The project supported by the government of the Australia and Acid survivors Foundation (ASF). The inception meeting has presided over by the chief executive of Light House, Mr. Harun-or-Rashid; the Deputy Commissioner of Bogra Mr. Mohammad Noore Alam Siddique was present as the chief guest at the ceremony. Honorable chief guest said that, acid violence has ended mostly by the strong position of government and cooperation with everyone and added that everyone must be aware of the prevention of Eve-teasing and child marriage. There is no alternative to creating awareness to stop violence against women and children.

In this ceremony, Additional superintendent of police of Bogra, District Awami League president of Bogra, Deputy Director of youth development department of Bogra, Ms. Selina Ahmed, Executive director of Acid survivor foundation, Upazilla chairman, UNO along with prominent Lawyers, Journalist, and Union council chairman was present as special guest and gave constructive speech.

In the meeting ASF program manager Ms. Nadira Pervin, presented in a detailed discussion about the project through multimedia presentation highlighted the following points-

- " Actively connect and support the establishment of phone/SMS based alert system in the process of immediate reporting and reporting of violence.
  - " To set up help desk at the district level.
  - " Organize E- Clinic programs to provide health, legal and psychosocial services.
  - " Organize an incentive session using information and technology through every home inspection.
  - " Providing tele-counseling services to survivors of Acid and other violence.
  - " Provide life skills and social skills training through information technology based E-Tutorials.
- " She added in her presentation, the project is being implemented in 8 union parishad of 2 upazilla of Bogra district.

The chief executive of Light House and dignified president of this ceremony Mr. Harun-or-Rashid said in his speech that 9 thousand and 196 women are tortured in Bangladesh and under this violence Bogra is the 5th position in Bangladesh which is analyzed the data according to the report of BSS in the year 2016 and 2017. He further added that now a day's Acid violence coming to end at Bogra because of the fact that Light House has successfully worked against acid violence for a long time in collaboration with ASF. He thanked all the honorable guests and participants including ASF officials for their cooperation to successfully implementation the gender based violence prevention and ICT based project.

Along with the cordial cooperation and spontaneous presence of other project officers and staffs of the Light House, the arrangement is done nicely and successfully.



# Awareness Campaign about RJ through posters presentation and displaying



For extensive promotion and awareness of IRSOP project activities by GIZ, Light House and members of Community based organizations (CBO) have undertaken a number of activities during the year 2017. To popularize dispute resolution through the RJ process, GIZ provided 9 PVC posters to Light House. 8 posters are placed at 8 union council's working area and 1 poster is placed at Light House office premises. Those posters will create some interest among the general public to know more about legal aid services available at community level to resolve conflicts. The posters will support the sustainability of activities of CBO members and RJ facilitators.

## Awareness Campaign on IRSOP Project

wider awareness for IRSOP project activities GIZ, LIGHT HOUSE and CBO members of project undertake a number of activities at the end of 2017.

The campaign have used in different ways and organized different program in Fapore Union, Bogra Sadar including a Poush Mela in a festive mode on their council premises. The IRSOP project of Light House participates in this fair with a promotional stall. Various promotional materials of the IRSOP project and Light House were available at this stall. District level Government and Non-government officials were present at this fair. The UP Chairman of Fapore brief details the success of IRSOP project to the Deputy Commissioner of Bogra and the stall visitors when they were visiting stalls. We hope that the campaign of IRSOP project will increase a lot through this fair.



## Stakeholders Workshop held at Bogra

A yearly workshop with different government and non-government organizations for drug referral and skill development was organized by Light House on 19 December, 2017 at the Conference Room of Deputy Commissioner's office, Bogra. A total number of 45 participants were present, among them 37 male and 8 female. Among the participants, there were representatives from different govt. district level officers, for example, District administration, Civil Surgeon, District Police, Department of Narcotic Control, Social Services, Women Affairs, Department of Youth Development, TTC, BSCIC, District Jail, drug treatment centres, ex-prisoners, representatives of GIZ, representatives of IRSOP project and Light House staffs.

### Participant's opinion:

" Deputy Director, Social Welfare Department said that, people must believe in what they are saying. If we can engage the released prisoners in any income generating activities, then they will get better. He said that the Department of Social Services has the opportunity to provide released prisoners with a toolbox.

" Deputy Director, Department of Narcotics Control, Bogra said that, there are 12 registered drug treatment centres in Bogra. The Department of Narcotics Control is taking an initiative to provide loan facilities for drug treatment recipients, thus they can involve them with any income generation activities.

" National Project Coordinator, GIZ said that, we all have to stand beside the released prisoners. He requested the representatives of service providers to keep the contact with the Department of Social Services, Department of Women Affairs, Department of Youth Development and the prison authority with their services. He also requested Light House and the prison authority to prepare the list of tool boxes according to the recommendation of the Chief Guest of the workshop.





" Chief Executive of Light House requested the Deputy Director of DNC for support to drug using prisoners after treatment. He also requested to the Deputy Director, Department of Social Services to provide tool boxes to released prisoners from the assistance of Department of Social Services.

" Coordinator, BLAST Bogra unit said that, we have to maintain these successes which we have achieved. She also said by any means, we will have to engage the released prisoners in income generating activities.

" District Project Officer of IRSOP project mentioned that, apart from non-government organizations, more support from government institutions is needed to help the drug dependent released prisoners. She also said that at least 6 month follow-up session should be continued for their betterment.

" Director, RUN Rehabilitation Centre stated that, they will arrange counseling for drug dependent prisoners. The trainer and owner of the men's parlour said that, the prisoners who received men's parlour training inside the prison will get a job in his parlour or any other parlour.

" A female successfully rehabilitated beneficiary explained that she and her husband were imprisoned for using and selling drugs. After getting released from prison, she received Beautician training and set-up a mini beauty parlour at her home. Still, her husband is in Bogra district prison for that crime. So she is providing for the family with her income. Another beneficiary said that, "I was a drug addict, and I was arrested while taking drugs with my friends and ended up in jail. After release from prison I receive training on "Electronics and Audio Video Repairing and Maintenance course". Now I am working at an electronics shop in Khan Market, Bogra. There was some problem in settling at my family and community after the release from prison but now I am well accepted in my family and society.

" ADC-General, the Chief Guest of the workshop suggested preparing a list of tool boxes/essential utensils and handover it to Jail authority and Department of Social Services for helping the trained prisoners.

" Chairperson of the workshop, the Jail Super, Bogra District Jail has said that, "All the activities that Light House and GIZ are doing inside and outside the prison should be adopted by the Prison Directorate. It will be good if we provide the financial support to the prisoners through local prison authority."

All the participants of the workshop emphasized the engagement of released prisoners in income generating activities. The participants realized that if the released prisoners can be provided with financial and equipment support after the training, they will be rehabilitated successfully and will not get involved in similar crimes. As a result of this workshop, a platform has been created among all the service providers, including government organizations which have expanded the field of service delivery for the released trained prisoners. By establishing effective communication with all government and nongovernment organizations, it is possible to help the released prisoners for their rehabilitation.

## Observance of World AIDS Day 2017

World AIDS Day takes place on the 1st December each year. It's an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate those who have died from an AIDS-related illness. Founded in 1988, World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day.

Under the umbrella of Government, Light House observed World AIDS Day 2017 in 16 districts and three Upazillas under the project of "Prioritized HIV prevention services for key population (MSM, MSW & Hijra) in Bangladesh" supported by the Global Fund Project, icddr,b. For observing this event at national and local level, Light House implemented significant initiative such as Rally at national and local level, information booth for accessing information regarding HIV/AIDS, Counseling, distributing BCC and IEC, promotion and distribution safer sex kit, seminar and discussion session.

The theme of the World AIDS Day in this year of 2017 was "Right to Health" which was awarded by the World Health Organization to reach the goal of universal health coverage. Light House observed national level WAD event with collaboration of the government through rally, exhibition and seminar organized by NASP at Osmani Memorial Hall, Dhaka. An exhibition stall as social mobilization campaign/ information booth was decorated with very much attractive manure where BCC/IEC materials, festoon with different colorful message on HIV & AIDS were displayed as well as distributed condom and different leaflets. Mr. Mohammed Nasim, MP, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Mr. Zahid Maleque, Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Mr. Md. Sirajul Haque Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Md. Ehteshamul Haque Chowdhury, ADG & Line Director, TB-Leprosy & AIDS/STD program, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Md. Belal Hossain, Deputy Director and Program Manager AIDS/STD program, Directorate of Health visited Light House stall and appreciated the delighted effort.



**Honorable Health Minister Mr. Mohammed Nasim, MP, inaugurating Light House stall, WAD-2017 in Osmani Memorial Hall, Dhaka.**

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