

New Projects January - March, 2019

Ensure SRH services among women & girls from the Refugee and the host community who are at higher risk of STI & HIV, Supported by UNHCR;

Sustainable & integrated SRH & HIV prevention & management service Package for Brothels Based Female Sex Workers, Supported by UNFPA.

Coordination Meeting with DG-FP by Functional Engagement of FSW Community, Supported by The Global Fund.

To seek condom support for the key population who are vulnerable to HIV, Light House and Save the Children jointly organized a half day long meeting on March 25, 2019 with the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP) Office where participated 15. The specific objective of the meeting was to share the current scenarios & importance of condom allocation for key population particularly for Female Sex Workers and way-out the recommendations to proceed further for free condom allocation procedure. The Line Director - DGFP lead the team of DGFP and Deputy Chief Executive, Light House and Sr. Manager, FSWI, Save the Children lead their team as well.



Coordination Meeting with DG-FP by Functional Engagement of FSW Community

Light House organized a 1-day long peer education refresher training in March 2019 for the peer educators (Community Organizers) and peer volunteers. 12 batches of training conducted to bring 138 community organizers under the training coverage. The major objective of the training for the community organizers was to increase knowledge on transmission of HIV and STI as well as its prevention and to enhance knowledge on the advantage and disadvantage of condom use and its social marketing.

And besides, 27 peer volunteers completed the refresher training covering the drop-in-centers of Tangail, Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, Khulna, Sathkhira, Jessore, Dinajpur and Cox's Bazar also in March 2019. The major objective of the training was to provide skills for recognizing new sex workers at spot level and adding to HIV prevention services.



Refresher Training for Community Organizers and Peer Volunteers

Refresher Training for Community Organizers and Peer Volunteers under the Global Fund Supported Female Sex Worker's Intervention.

Basic Training Paramedic/ Medical Assistant (MA) on Clinical Service delivery including HTS under the Global Fund Supported Female Sex Worker's Intervention.



Light House organized a 5 day long basic training on clinical service delivery for the Medical Assistants. A total of 12 Medical Assistants participated the training. The objective of the training was to increase knowledge and provide skills of newly hired 12 Medical Assistants for carrying out their assigned roles and responsibilities as desired. The training was guided by the National STI guideline.

Sensitization Meeting with the Journalist Community, SRH Services for the Refugees and Host Community in Cox's Bazar district, Supported by UNHCR.

Light House organised a sensitization meeting with the local press and media on 21st March, 2019 in Cox's Bazar Sader district. The purpose of the meeting was to share about what the project intend to acheive and how the host and refugee community will get benefit through this project activities. Md. Harun Or Rashid, Chief Executive of Light House chaired the meeting. A total of 26 Journalists from both electronic and print media were participated the meeting. Representatives from The Daily Prothom Alo, Dainik Ajker Cox's Bazar, Dainik Ajker Desh Bidesh, Dainik Apon Kantho, Dainik Amader Cox's Bazar, Cox's Bazar Protidin, Dainik, Sokaler Cox's Bazar, Dainik Observer, Dainik Cox's Bazar, Dainik Inani, Dainik Kaler Kantho, Dainik Doinondin and Barta, Dainik Samakal, Desh TV, Independent TV, Jamuna TV, Bangla TV, Masranga TV, BD News, etc. participated the meeting. At the end of meeting, journalist community expressed their willingness to extend possible assistance to carry-out project activities effectively.



Sensitization Meeting with the Journalist Community

Training on Life Skill Education for MSM and Hijra Population, Supported by The Global Fund



Training on Life Skill Education for MSM and Hijra Population

Males who have sex with Males (MSM) and Hijra population are very much stigmatized and socially excluded due to having unaccepted sexual behavior. They are disproportionately vulnerable to HIV due to their high risk sexual behaviors. Male and hijra sex workers sell their sex for generating income but the negotiation skills about condom use with sexual partner specially among the young MSM and Hijra population are very poor; therefore, the rate of consistent condom use is low among those. Decision making skills of MSM and Hijra population in terms of selecting sexual partners and castration is very un-useful. They have poor self-control in terms of emotion and mental pressure; sometimes, which is even converted to suicidal tendencies.

To address the above, Light House provided training on Life Skills to 131 MSM and Hijra population in February 2019 on the 11 basic components which includes decision making, problem solving, deep thought, innovation, effective communication, negotiation skill, empathy, interpersonal communication, survive and protect from mental pressure and anxiety and know thyself.

WOMEN CHANGING THE WORLD a tale of success

Bulbuli wants to forget the past

Bulbuli Aktar, 28 years old women who is the resident of village Maikpara, Eidgah upazila under Cox's Bazar district. Bulbuli was growing up in a happy family along with parents and a sister but suddenly her father got second marriage. And after a few days, her father got separated and enjoying life with new wife and stopped providing support to their family. Ms. Bulbuli Aktar said "after around three years, my mother suddenly got sick and died; and later, I and my younger sister got bound to stay with my step mother where domestic violence was regular phenomena. Notifying the violence to my father, it became extreme instead of stopping. In such situation, I got habituated to accept the violence. In between; I became 14 years old. One day, younger brother of my step mother came and I found him not a good character man. One night, I was sleeping alone, he raped me what I informed to my father but no result rather I accepted physical torture by my step mother for that. I revealed myself alone in the world and thought as no one beside me, so better to leave home and get down to fight with life. Started for Cox's bazar by a Bus. I did not have any single penny with me that I shared to the Bus contractor to get relief. Listening to me, he got sorrow and said that he had an aunt in Cox's Bazar who lives alone, if I want than she can arrange my staying there for few days. I got agreed and went there, the aunt was a residence madam where the Bus Contractor raped me two days and later, I revealed no option in front except sex profession and that was my starting. For around 7-8 years at a stress I was involved with sex work and I worked on street, residence and started going on call as well. Once I met a staff of Cox's Drop-in-centers, named Amena and she took me at the drop-in-center and brief about the center's services. I started visiting the center frequently and came to know later about the support of vocational training. Requested Mr. Humaun who was the manager of that center to involve me with vocational training.



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