

January-March 2022

International Women's Day' 2022 Observation

Light House's ShukhiJibon Project, supported by Pathfinder International/USAID and Female Sex worker Intervention, supported by GF-SCI, observed the International Women Day 2022 on 8th March 2022 jointly with the theme mentioned below in collaboration with Women and Children Affairs of Bangladesh Government, NARIPOKHKHO, and relevant district and sub-district level authorities as well as NGOs working for the same.



"Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow" “টেকসই আগামীর জন্য জেন্ডার সমতাই আজ অগ্রগণ্য”

The activities for observing the event divided in two-part (i) Central level and (ii) field/ DIC/Outlet level.

Central Level

- * Arranged rally and cultural program in Banani, Dhaka in collaboration The Country Representative (UNAIDS); Technical Officer (UNFPA), Chief Health Officer, NCC; Line Director (Clinical Contraception) DGFP; Deputy Secretary and Additional Director, Department of women Affairs, Adolescent Behaviour change Manager (Pathfinder International) etc. joined the program
- * Light House staffs along with KPs joined the human chain and cultural program at National ShahidMinar, Dhaka organized by NARI POKHKHO and Children & Women Affairs.
- * Printed and distributed T-shirts
- * A TV Talk Show aired, with the support of ShukhiJibon Project

Field/DIC/Outlet level

- * Week round HIV testing campaign held in center level
- * Week-round discussion at outreach held on the importance of women empowerment and protection against sexual abuse;
- * MASK UP campaign: half day miking program arranged under ten (10) centers of female sex worker intervention of Light House.
- * A total of 232 staffs (covering 17 centers) along with key population joined rally and human chain, organized by district level authorities.
- * Attending meeting or discussion in Govt Facilities/CWA office
- * Printing banner and distribution of T-shirt to beneficiaries;

Youth Talk show at TV channel

Function of adolescent and youth friendly health services in the catchment area of Light House Shukhi Jibon project (Dhaka and Gazipur) as well as Bangladesh Shukhi Jibon Project, Light House arrange and conducted a youth talk show and broadcast through ATN Bangla on 29th January, 2022. The title of the show is "Reproductive Health Service for Youth and adolescent-Opportunity and Accessibility" ("যুব ও কিশোর কিশোরীদের প্রজনন স্বাস্থ্য সেবা" সুযোগ ও অভিজম্যতা).

Beginning of the TV show a report which taken different part of the Dhaka city presented to the audience for as voice of youth and then representative of Government Family planning department Mr. Dr. Md. Mahmudur Rahman, Director (MCH- Services) & Line Director (MC-RAH), Directorate General of Family Planning discussion and informed the current govt. initiatives for youth and Adolescent consider to health service. Beside this, Md. Rejaur Rahman Limon, Ms. Sabina Sultana and Tanisa Yeasmin Chaiti as representative of youth were participated in the discussion. Youth Talk show moderated by Md. Harun-Or-Rashid, Chief Executive, Light House.

Representative of Adolescent and Youth:

1. Md. Rejaur Rahman Limon;
 2. Ms. Sabina Sultana Soma;
 3. TanisaYeasminChaiti
- (Representative of Hijra community)-connected by online.





COVID-19 Vaccination "one day ten million"

Prevention of COVID -19 pandemic has been considered as a regular work under the Light House's Urban Primary Health Care Services Delivery Project-II which ensures health service to the beneficiaries of Rangpur City Corporation.

Light House has been playing a major role of a collaborating partner for such government initiatives and contributing significantly with the direct support of permanent COVID -19 vaccination centers into its Nagar Matrisadan Kendro (Mahiganj Satmatha Railgate); Nagar Shastho Kendro 01 (Ershadnagar) and Nagar Nagar Shastho Kendro 02(New Jummapara). A good number of people received COVID-19 vaccine from the Light House's health care centers as regular basis.

Besides, DGHS/Ministry of Health and Family Welfare declared 26 February-2022 as a special activity for covering the country wide mass population to achieve a significant number "one day ten million" vaccine in Bangladesh where Light House vaccination centers ensured their participation and contribution. This is to note also that throughout the quarter, Light House showed tremendous success of covering 21,435 people with vaccine where 12,490 were females and 8,945 were males.



MHPSS, are a prime need for women empowerment to address GBV

A female, named Amela, 31 years, resident of Dhaka para slum, ward # 28, Rangpur City Corporation was experiencing torture from her husband and mother in-law for dowry. Amela's mother in-law always insisted her son to bring dowry which caused violence and torture. This kind of mental, physical and verbal torture was making Amela gradually sick mentally she comes to the health center for services, just meets counselor, starts crying by describing her situation at home.

Even though there is huge demand MHPSS Counselor (mental health and psychosocial support services), the project doesn't have MHPSS Counselor for people like Amela.

However; in this case, the project counselor who provides general counseling, has counseled Amela, her husband and mother-in-law on gender-based violence. Beside the counselor, the Field Supervisor and Service Promoters have also started paying frequent home visits. During home visits, the team meets Amela, her husband and mother in-law and run discussions on the negative impacts of dowry; gender-based violence; Bangladesh Government's relevant laws and also about what free legal support of Bangladesh Government are accessible within the reach.

Although Amela was provided with information on free legal aid services, she decided not to use the services due to fear of breaking the family, which is the reality of women of Bangladesh in most cases and to empower women for preventing and addressing GBV - MHPSS can play a major role, where, projects in all sectors needs to raise voice for the similar services during project design.

At this moment Amela is enjoying a healthy and fear free life with her family members due to regular follow-up by the UPHCSDP-II project team members.



Knowing the free legal aid services for domestic and other violence, women of urban slums and rural areas are not willing to take action due to the fear of breaking family which is reality of the women of Bangladesh.

Women empowerment can only break the silence and to prevent and address GBV, MHPSS can play a major role, where, projects in all sectors needs to raise voice for the similar services during project design.

Public Hearing held to improve the quality of services at local level

To improve the quality of service to the desired level by ensuring accountability of the service providers and to build bridges between the service providers and the service at local level, Public Hearings have been held in Kahaloo and Dhunat upazilas of Bogra district with the overall support of Light House Responsible Project, supported by MJF. Specially to improve the quality of government social security services, a direct question and answer session was held between the officials of the Upazila Social Service, Women's Affairs, Union Parishad Chairmen and the general victims during the public hearings.

A total of 2 public hearings took place in the premises of Dhunot Upazila on 16 March 2022; and on 27th March, 2022, the other one took in the premises of Light House School of Learning and Diversity (Murail, Kahaloo), where 206 service recipients and stakeholders were present. Through these public hearings, the awareness among the people/service recipients about their rights has been increased. The path to good governance and empowerment of the common people has paved.

The UNO, Dhunat and the Upazila Chairman, Kahaloo were present as Chief Guests of the hearings.



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The long-neglected important road repairs in the tireless efforts of the Citizen Support Group members

The almost 7,000 inhabitants of Somontahar village and Jattrashul (ward no-1, 2 Muruil) would have been suffering for many years for the broken roads which were also neglected by the union parishad.

The road was about 1 Kilometer from the High road to Rahim's House (Somontahar) and from the main road of Muruil bus stand. Between these roads there were about 300 feet and 1.5 kilometer have been totally damaged.

These roads are actually main ways for school going students and industry workers. Everyday about 600-700 people including students and people of other villages use this road. The road condition is very bad, there are some big holes and during rainy season it becomes very risky. The roads have a history of many incidents. To escape incidents, people started using alternative road which is of long distance and therefore had to spend additional money. Local inhabitants met the Chairman several times to repair the road but did not succeed. At last, the inhabitants of Somontahar and Jattrashul sought the support of Responsible Project's Citizen Support group member to resolve the problem. The Union (Muruil) citizen support group leader Md. Masudur Rahman took the issue under consideration. He along with some of his members took a decision to raise the issue during last July ward sova and submitted demand in favor of the inhabitants but nothing changed. At last, the CSG leader with his followers have raised the demand at the UDCC meeting on September 21st, 2021 at the hall room of Muruil Union Parishad where the Chairman along with UP Shochib and respected UP member of the ward, assured them to repair the road with brick soling/RCC. In this regard, they signed a letter. The Chairman promised to complete the road by November 2021 and finally, the 300 feet road and 1 kilometer of Jattrashul and from the house of Abdur Rahim to Somontahar Bro Mosque have been completed by brick soling and RCC casting.



Sensitization Session on TIP, GBV and VE with Upazila Legal Aid Committee of Nandigram Upazila in Bogura

The legal aid committee members, Nandigram Upazila, received a session to sensitize them on Trafficking in Person (TIP); Gender Based Violence (GBV); and Violent Extremism (VE) conducted on 30th March, 2022. The initiative was taken jointly by the district legal aid committee and Light House under the project support of Democracy International.

The session was chaired by Rezaul Ashraf Jinnah, President, and Chairman of the Upazila Legal Aid Committee and Ms. Shifa Nusrat Upazila Nirbahi Officer was present as Chief Guest of the session.





Day Observance- Arrange Television Debate Session



from left Dr. Sk Muslima Moon, Dr. Samina Chowdhury, Md. Harun-or-Rashid and Dr. Nurun Nahar Begum were seen in the studio of ATN Bangla

Shukhi Jibon Project, Light House observed the "International Women's Day", 2022 on 8th March, 2022. Part of this observation, a television program (TV talk show) recorded on 2nd March, 2022 partnering with the ATN Bangla which was telecasted on 8th March, at 1.05 pm. The main purpose of the TV talk show was to support in creating enabling environment by raising awareness among the women as well youth and adolescents. Theme of the day was **"Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow"**, টেকসই আগামীর জন্য, জেতার সমতাই আজ অগ্রগতি।

The event has been designed in three (3) sections. Along with core participants of the Talk Show, there's a potential 3 more guest was appearance via Zoom/virtual platform. The TV talk show describe below:

Section -1: Discussion on the theme of the International Women's Day, March 8, 2022 (IWD 2022) is, "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow", recognizing the contribution of women and girls around the world, who are leading the charge on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and response, to build a more sustainable future for all .

Question: How Mo WCA, DGFP and the development partner e.g. USAID, Pathfinder, UNFPA and Swiss contract can contribute to improve the current situation?

Answer: Before answer session a report shown in the screen which taken in the char area focusing livelihood of women, adolescent and children considering food, education, child marriage, use of family planning method etc. Mr. Abdul Awal, Team Leader, M4C, Swiss Contract, Dr. Nurun Nahar Begum- Line Director- Clinical contraception services delivery program-DGFP, Dr. Sk Muslima Moon Deputy Secretary and Additional Director - Department of women affairs were participated in the discussion session and address the issue.

Section-2: Discussion on SRHR services and Gender equality issue. Share a view on Adolescent's corner of FWC and comment of adolescents on existing services.

Question: How we can ensure required services for adolescent e.g. more Sanitary napkin required, books, play materials -

" How we can ensure services for women and girls who are living at char land,

" How we can raise awareness on gender equality at the grassroots level to see the change the current situation in future

Answer: Before discussion by the honorable participants a video clip showed about the service delivery of a Union Health and Family welfare center and after that Dr. Samina Chowdhury, Project Management Specialist, Office of Population, Health, Nutrition and Education, USAID, Bangladesh, Dr. Mohammad Munir Hossain, Program Analyst, Adolescent and Youth, UNFPA Bangladesh and Dr. Nurun Nahar Begum- Line Director- Clinical contraception services delivery program-DGFP address the issue.

Session-3: Discussion on all forms of Violence against women & girls including early marriage and it's remedy/justice at charland and plain land;

Question: How can you increase awareness about all forms of Violence against women & girls including early marriage -

" How can we ensure just quickly despite having case backlog and other difficulty?

" Victim from long distance and charland needs shelter to attend the court, how can we arrange it at district level?



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Dr. Samina Chowdhury, Project Management Specialist, Office of Population, Health, Nutrition and Education, USAID, Bangladesh delivering her opinion.

Answer: Before discussion by the honorable participants a video clip showed about the situation actually exist in the rural area, after that Advocate Fauzia Karim Feroze, Advocate Bangladesh Supreme Court, Dr. Samina Chowdhury, Project Management Specialist, Office of Population, Health, Nutrition and Education, USAID, Bangladesh, Dr. Nurun Nahar Begum- Line Director- Clinical contraception services delivery program-DGF Pand Dr. SkMuslima Moon Deputy Secretary and Additional Director - Department of women affairs address the issue.

The TV talk show share in the social media for more views and awareness rising, a total of 38902 people reach and 9321 viewers follow the program.

Quarterly Coordination meeting with Judge and Magistrates

Light House implementing "Promoting Peace and Justice (PPJ) project of Tangail, organized a quarterly coordination meeting with District Legal Aid Committee (DLAC) for Judge and Magistrates under USAID's Promoting Peace and Justice-Tangail project. The District and session Judge Tangail presided over the meeting. The District Legal Aid Officer (DLAO) presented the progress of the PPJ project as a collaborating partner of government legal aid. In this presentation, the successes and achievements of the work were presented at the field level from the PPJ project by the DLAO. The project Coordinator of Light House also shared the progress of PPJ Tangail project in the meeting. The focused issues were: The goals and objectives of the Legal Aid program, Roles and responsibilities of all concerned persons, Legal Aid case management limitations and way out and recommendations and suggestions for improving the quality of services of the District Legal Aid Office.



Ms. Fahmida Quader, Chairman of District Legal Aid Committee and Senior District and Sessions Judge of Tangail said, "Legal aid activities are a good initiative of the Bangladesh government. If we can spread it in remote areas, the poor and helpless people will get the benefits from it, so we must work sincerely." The program was held on 8 March 2022 at hall room of Chief Judicial Magistrate Court building, Tangail. There were 33 participants (Male-17, Female -16).



The path of light house started in Meherpur



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The light house started its activities in Meherpur district on 01 January 2022 through the Promoting Peace and Justice project. The lighthouse in Meherpur district has been conducting USAID's Promoting Peace and Justice (PPJ) activity in Meherpur district with the financial support of USAID and under the overall supervision of Democracy International and National Legal Aid Services Office.

The purpose of project management is

- 1) To increase the level of activation and coordination of Union, Upazila and District Legal Aid Committees. 2) To raise awareness among the people about legal rights and responsibilities and to increase the acceptability of formal justice system in the community.

Light House, PPJ-Meherpur has already implemented several action plans to attain the above objectives. Notable programs are included. Orientation of members of Upazila Legal Aid Committee, orientation of members of Union Legal Aid Committee, Courtyard meeting, miking campaign, bi-monthly meeting with members of Union Legal Aid Committee and participation in meeting of District Legal Aid Committee.

Among the various activities in the implementation of the project, the orientation of the members of the Upazila Legal Aid Committee is particularly noteworthy. Orientation of 3 upazila committees of the district was completed last March 2022. Orientation of Mujibnagar Upazila Committee was held on 28 March. Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mr. Sujan Sarkar and Chairman of Upazila Legal Aid Committee Md. Ziauddin Biswas were present on the occasion. Orientation of Gangni Upazila Committee was also held on 31st March, 2022. Upazila Assistant Commissioner Mr. Nazmul Alam and Chairman of Upazila Legal Aid Committee M.A Khaleq were present on the occasion.



Our mailing address is|

HEAD OFFICE: Light House, Jahurul Nagar, Bogura-5800; Tel.: +88-051+66246, Mobile: 01914-496317

DHAKA OFFICE: Beena Kanon, House # 3, (Level-4), Road # 17, Block-E, Banani, Dhaka-1213.

Tel.: +88-02-8836323, E-mail: info@lighthousebd.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lighthousebogura>

www.lighthousebd.org