

### Message from Chief Executive of Light House

During Covid-19 Pandemic, Light House continued its full effort for its program partner those who really services from Light House.

This quarter -July to September 2021 produced a tremendous results though different project which are captured and reflected by the several articles.

The viewer may find interest to know, How Light House connect justice seeker from remote area through using union ICT centre with District Legal Aid Office.

Public hearing become a feedback instrument for the justice provider/Judges and helping litigant public to solve their problems promptly.

Initiative taken for the drug demand reduction by the youth brigade highly appreciated by the local community and reveal as a model of youth engagement.

Light House Shukhi Jiban Project organize online seminar on adolescent and youth friendly health services become popular to the targeted viewer.

Let me give a big thanks to our funding agencies and my colleagues for implementing projects successfully and produce impact. I also offer my gratitude for the viewer for their attention. And will be grateful if they provide any feedbacks on our e-bulletin.

**Md. Harun-Or-Rashid, Chief Executive,**  
**On behalf of Editorial panel.**

### From Darkness to Light



Md. Parvez Ahmed, age is 23 years; father Md. Mahatab Ali, a businessman who lives in Naopara village of Bhalukgachhi Union of Puthia Upazilla under Rajshahi district. Mr. Pervez used to take various drugs from his childhood. But after the intervention of DARAU project, he came to learn about the evils of drugs and given up it finally. But this journey would not be easier for Pervez if he had not found advice and instruction from DARAU project of Light House.

Mr. Parvez Ahmed said, "I didn't get close to my father since I was a school going child. Thus, I became addicted to drugs from a very young age and I was running out slowly. Moreover, I was used to hanging out with drug addicts' friends from childhood. Members of my family forbade me to mix with them but I didn't listen to anyone rather I used to hang out with my friends all night and took various drugs continuously."

Everyone in his family thought about him but he didn't think of anything. Rather, he continued to take drugs every day. Gradually, his appearance began to change and was always embraced his family in various ways. During the corona, college was closed and his studies were completely stopped. His mother was very worried about him and used to cry a lot in front of people about how to get back him in the right way.

#### Topic

From Darkness to Light

Commitment of YB in Building Drug Stressed Free Society

Training on 'Service Delivery Policy & Monitoring for the Upazila and union level govt. officials

International Right to Know Day-2021 observed by Light House

Institutional Public Hearing on Providing Legal Aid

E-dialogue through utilizing of union ICT center

Quarterly meeting with court staff and officials

Quarterly meeting with panel lawyers:

Advocacy meeting with Deputy Commissioner and Civil Surgeon (CS) Office in priority districts

Training for referral service providers

Quarterly squad team Meeting

Advocacy and Networking meeting with stakeholders and partners.

DIC Visit by High Government Official

Miking & Mask Distribution among BBFSW

Seminar on adolescent and youth friendly health services



He said, "At one point, my family contacted an NGO representative named Mr. Md Sakir Ahmed, a volunteer of DARAU project of Light House who was in charge of the Valukgachi Union of Puthia Upazilla under Rajshahi districts. He contacted me to talk to him in various ways."

Being optimistic he said, "I learned a lot about the evils of drugs from him. More importantly, he explained to me in a beautiful about the terrible aspects of drugs use. Finally, I realized my mistakes and wanted to get away from drugs. From that day I swear to our Union Parishad chairman Takvir Hasan that I will give up drugs soon."

He added, "Chairman would come to me for many more days and I would also go to him. There were many days when he would inquire about me by phone. I tried to follow his advice. Now, I along with three other friends of mine am happy with the help of Light House and we are now leading our life without drugs."

## Commitment of YB in Building Drug Stressed Free Society

Ishrat Jahan Ira, an 18 years old footballer cum student, was very enthusiastic since her childhood and had a strong desire to do social work for the betterment of the society. She was the first daughter of her parents and lived in Tajpur village which was 25 km from Natore district. One day, she came to know about a project called "DARAU" from Singra Upazila coordinator that worked to build a drug free society and shown her interested to work. Now, besides playing football, she is serving DARAU as a member of Youth Brigade.

Before serving DARAU, she did not have much knowledge about drugs but presently has acquired enough knowledge and experience in the field of drugs by getting the orientation of this project. Her perception was that through doing this kind of social work, her position in society would be right and dreams of becoming great by doing many great things in life. She joined the project mainly for social work and her hope is that her skills will increase further if she stays with this project.

She has made plans for the backward people of the society so that she can help them enough and can win a respectable place. As a footballer, she has already found the love of the people of the society through public service and now she is campaigning in the village about drugs and informing people of different professions about the evils of drugs.

Consequently, the demand for drugs in Tajpur of Singra has come down a lot and the people of Tajpur are now aware of the evils of drugs and much more aware than before. She wants the area to be completely drug free in near future and to give a healthy environment to the people of the society. She will always be ready to meet the challenges of any kind of environment in reducing the demand for drugs.



## Training on 'Service Delivery Policy & Monitoring for Upazila and union level govt. officials

The 'Responsible' project was provided two-day long training to Upazila and union level government officials on 'Service Delivery Policy & Monitoring and service simplification. A total of 02 (two) batches of training are conducted in September 2021. The first batch training was held on 18-19 September, 2021 and the 2nd batch was held on 25 & 26 September-2021. The first batch training was inaugurated by the Deputy Director-Local Government, Bogura, and the second batch was inaugurated by the Upazila Chairman, Kahaloo, Bogura. A total of 49 participants (43 male, 06 female) were present in two batches of training. Objectives of those training was-



DDLG Bogura is delivering he speech in the inauguration session of the training on 18th September 2021.

### The objectives of these training:

- The concept of participant's would be more enrich about management of government services (Agriculture, Health & Family Welfare, Social Safety-net, and Service process simplification) at local level.
- The participants can learn about the implementation methods, government policies, etc. of various programs of government services at local level.



### Some important suggestions from this training:

- 1) The beneficiary selections and verification process of social security programs should be hanged at the union Parishad by festoons; as a result, the general public will know the issues and help for the proper beneficiary selections. (DD-LG, Bogura)
- 2) We have many services; we cannot find the farmer to provide them. Therefore, it is necessary to increase the campaign in this regard. (DD-Agriculture)
- 3) Participants are said that, if the Light House informs us the date and time of the events that are implementing through this project, we can attend those events and inform the marginalized people about our services.
- 4) If the Light House helps the health department in promotional works through this project, the COVID-19 vaccination and overall health services will be improving much.

### International Right to Know Day-2021 observed by Light House

The Right to Know Day has been celebrated at Kahaloo and Dhunat Upazila, Bogura on 28 September 2021. To celebrate the day, a colorful rally was held in the two Upazilas at the beginning of the day. The guests then visited various stalls of the information fair. After that a discussion meeting was held highlighting the significance of the day. Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman- Honorable MP Bogura-5 was present as a chief guest at that ceremony in the chair of Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Dhunat, Bogura. On the other hand Mr. Al. Hasibul Hasan, Upazila Chairman of Kahaloo was present as a chief guest in the chair of UNO, Kahaloo, Bogura.

A total of 458 different types of citizens were present in the rally in the two Upazilas out of which 362 were male and 98 were female. Besides, 377 people were present in the discussion meeting.



**Hon'ble Member of Parliament Mr. Md. Habibur Rahman along with Upazila Officials took lead in the rally at eve of International Right to Know Day-2021 at Dhunat Upazila, Bogura**

### Public Hearing held at Bogura



18 September, 2021 Bogura District Legal Aid and Light House jointly organized a total of 196 people (176 women and 20 men). In its presence, the "Institutional Public Hearing on Providing Legal Aid at Government Expenditure" was held. Implementation: Democracy International and Financial Cooperation: USAID. The event was presided over by the Chairmen of the Legal Aid Committee of each Union. The National Legal Aid Act 2000 was discussed in detail. Mr. Shariful Islam, District Legal Aid Officer and Wise Senior Assistant Judge were present as the keynote speakers. representatives of the Light House, representatives of the Union and Upazila Legal Aid Committees, other public representatives, and dignitaries from the area.

Mr. Shariful Islam, District Legal Aid Officer and Wise Senior Assistant Judge, who was the keynote speaker at the discussion, said how the poor and helpless people can get free legal aid from the government - and gave direct advice to the participants. He further said that three works are being implemented through District Legal Aid. One of them is to provide legal advice to everyone. The second is to settle alternative disputes and specially to resolve disputes between people in the society through various means so that the common man does not suffer any time and financial loss by going to court whenever any dispute arises. Another good aspect of this is that the case does not get tangled up in the court. And the third issue is to provide legal aid to those who are unable to handle the case due to lack of money in court. At the end of the program, National Legal Aid Hot Light No. 16430, Police Hotline 999 and Women and Child Abuse Hotline No. 109 were provided.



### E-dialogue for access to justice:

District Legal Aid Committee and Light House arranged an E-dialogue through utilizing of union ICT center at Balua union under Sonatala and Nandigram union in Nandigram Upazila under Promoting Peace and Justice-Bogura Project. The E-dialogue was organized in collaboration with Balua Union Parishad under Sonatala Upazila and Nandigram union under Nandigram Upazila in Bogura District. The purpose of the virtual dialogue was to provide the justice seekers with legal advice and information to access government sponsored legal aid services from the district legal aid office, Bogura. A total of 35 individuals (Female-17 & Male-18) joined the virtual dialogue of legal aid services seekers.



The District Legal Aid Officer, Bogura joined the e-dialogue from her office and provided one to one advice and information to the justice seekers who gathered at Balua Union Parishad under Sonatala Upazila and Nandigram union under Nandigram Upazila in Bogura District. The Balua and Nandigram Union Digital Center provided technical assistance to the participants to connect with the District Legal Aid Officer.

The e-dialogue was an opportunity for the poor men and women to seek legal advice and information to access formal justice system. The issues the justice seekers discussed with the district legal aid officer were related to land dispute, dower and maintenance, guardianship and divorce case.

### Quarterly meeting held at Tangail with panel lawyers:

Light House PPJ Project team has Cooperated a quarterly coordination meeting with DLAC for panel lawyers meeting under Promoting Peace and Justice-Tangail were present total of 17 panel lawyers participated (Male:11 and Female: 06). The Panel lawyers meeting were held month of September, 2021.

The facilitators welcomed all the participants and explained the objective of this meeting. The participant took part in the meeting and sharing their problem in this meeting. The participants have shared their valuable opinions in the meeting. At the Quarterly Coordination Meeting with Panel Lawyers Ms. Fahmida Quader, District & Sessions Judge and DLAC Chairman of Tangail said to the learned Panel Lawyers, "I am requesting you to submit on time monthly and quarterly progress report. I want to see significant progress in this area with all of your sincere cooperation."



### Advocacy meeting with Deputy Commissioner and Civil Surgeon (CS) Office in Dinajpur

Light House has been implementing the project "Prioritized HIV Prevention services for key populations (MSM, MSW & Hijra) in Bangladesh" at district and upazila level. MSM and Transgender Women (locally known as hijra) populations in Bangladesh has been suffering from tremendous societal and cultural pressure due to their "different" lifestyles and behavior. For which the group faces stigma & discrimination, verbal and physical abuse, etc. and ultimately it led them to be marginalized, socially excluded population where their basic rights are often violated. Public denial towards MSM and hijra population still exists in Bangladesh.

Due to their life style and behavior lead multiple health risk factors and they there are discrimination of getting required services from public set up.





Though it has no question that public services are open to all but tolerance toward the male to male sex and Hijra tradition is not grown that much so that they can go every place. In these circumstances, the project kept the provision to address this issue of MSM and hijra at various levels, including conducting a sensitization meeting with Deputy Commissioner and Civil surgeon and other HCPs from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of local level. At the project stage, Light House organized an advocacy meeting with DC and CS office to sensitive Health care providers of Dinajpur on August, 2021 at the DC Office Conference Room under Prioritized HIV prevention and Treatment services for key populations in Bangladesh project and to seek their recommendation to make it successful piloting at the government health service level. The meeting was attended by 14 participants from district administration and Health authority and 2 resource person of the concerned government departments. In the meeting Khaled Mohammad Zaki, Deputy Commissioner, Dinajpur District was present as chief guest and the meeting was chaired by Mr. Abdul Kuddus, Civil Surgeon, Dinajpur. The meeting was moderated by Team Leader Mr. Md. Salah Uddin.

### Report on Quarterly squad team Meeting



The Gender Diverse Populations are very much neglected, stigmatized in our society. They facing various type of harassment like; bullying, physical and mental etc in their daily life. Domestic violence is the part of their daily life. They are extremely vulnerable to Sexual Transmitted Infection (STI) and HIV due to their unprotected and risky sexual behaviors. They have very limited knowledge on prevention of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, protection from gender based violations as well as referral points. This group has less idea on how to manage harassment, how to rescued the affected person/victims. The Gender Diverse Population were facing gender based violence in daily life in the Camp and residence but they are not protecting them from such type of violence. In order to protect them from gender based violence and rescued instantly for providing treatment and ensuring other supports Rainbow DIC of Light House's UNHCR project formed a squad team at local area who are working with other influential persons for GDPs wellbeing. The squad team guided by the organization / Rainbow DIC with the guidance from key project staff.

### Advocacy and Networking meeting with stakeholders and partners

Light House Rainbow DIC, Whycong Cox's Bazar organized an Advocacy and networking meeting with stakeholders and partners in September-21. In order to sensitize to participants like health service provider, Local elite & influential parson, Local elected body members, health service providers, GBV & MHPSS service providers, religious leader, NGO Representative, Community representatives and CBO members. Civil society representatives are not aware on HIV and AIDS as well as Gender Diverse Populations (GDP). Project has to maintain working relation with Most of the stakeholders including referral service providers are unaware and very limited engagement with Gender Diverse Population's rights due less access of information and knowledge as result GDP's are deprived from their basic needs. On the other hand, a strong negative perception on GDP's in exists in the local area. which some time create problems and hamper to implementing the project activities. So that most of cases found that GDP's were affected. At the same time, it found that HIV and AIDS issue is not their priority work of action.

In this regards Light House arranged an advocacy and networking meeting with stakeholders and partners for carried out the desire activities for Gender Divers populations and as well as project activities. our main purpose of this meeting increasing supports for GDPs from local stakeholders and other supportive organization/referral service providers. Considering this situation and local context in this area, we have conduct an advocacy and networking meeting with stakeholders and partners for exploring the possibility of partnering and collaborating with them to address the needs of the Gender Diverse populations at local level.





## Amborkhana Chattogram DIC Visit by High Government Official



Mr. Dr. Aminul Islam, Director, ASP and Mrs. Lima Rahman Madam (Chief of Party, Save the children) came to visit Amborkhana Chattogram DIC Sylhet on September 2, 2021. During this visit Dr. Aminul Islam told that regular Coordination is to be needed by the Civil Surgeon office and notified Civil Surgeon about our intervention. Along with SACMO must build up effective linkage and collaboration with the Government Hospital in order to establish referral integration on SIT-related services.

According to the suggestion, the DIC Manager of Amborkhana already has met with Civil Surgeon and took part in the monthly meeting where aware update information of our FSWI intervention as well as enhance the referral mechanism between Government hospital and private service.

DIC Visit: Dr. Aminul Islam, Director NASC & Dr. Lima Rahman, Chief Of Party. Save the Children.

## Miking & Mask Distribution for COVID support to Brothel Residents



The support of UNFPA and UNAIDS, Light House observed the "8 day of campaign for lives and livelihoods". The campaign held in all 8 brothels covering Rajbari, Khulna, Faridpur, Jamalpur, Patuakhali, Jashore districts and in the outreach spots of Global Fund (GF) supported Female Sex Worker Program based in North and South city corporation of Dhaka. The updates of the campaign include below;

- o 7 days long PSA announcement under 8 brothels which covered 2,429 beneficiaries and approximate 3,500 clients of sex workers
- o 428 Masks distribution ensured under Baniyashanta and C&B Ghat brothels covering 334 beneficiaries. It's to note that 2 mask received by the 94 beneficiaries of Baniyashanta and 1 mask received beneficiaries of C&B ghat. Note please that these 2 brothels were selected for mask distribution keeping the beneficiaries' incomes and poverty issue in mind;

### Activities for GF supported program area

- o 1-day long announcement of PSAs performed in 45 areas covering 164 outreach spots of 6 HIV prevention drop-in-centers situated under North and south city corporation. 5600 female sex workers brought under the announcement coverage.
- o 14 cattle markets also brought under PSA announcement where approximate coverage of population was 280,000.

## Seminar on adolescent and youth friendly health services



Shukhi Jibon Project, Light House organized a seminar titled "Seminar on adolescent and youth friendly health services" at zoom platform where 30 participants have participated from different segments program experts, policy contributors/ influencers; youth and adolescent representatives. Resource person were selected in consultation with DGFP and Pathfinder representatives particularly who has the influence and can keep contribution in ensuring the execution of the current strategies/policies of the Bangladesh Government in regards to adolescent and youth-friendly health services.

The key note presentation was developed by the resource persons and reviewed by the Light House and Pathfinder program personnel. As per plan keynote presenter was Prof. Dr. Shahela Jesmin Shilpi, MBBS, FCPS,DGO; Professor & Head of Dept. Gynae, Barind Medical College & Hospital, Rajshahi. **The major theme of the key note presentation was adolescent health situation; present services in Bangladesh and its gaps and further steps.**



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