Bandhu Social Welfare Society

Architecting the Archways

Annual Report 2015
**Acronyms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tr>
<td>AIDS</td>
<td>Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</td>
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<tr>
<td>BCC</td>
<td>Behavioral Changes Communication</td>
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<td>BPC</td>
<td>Bangladesh Penal Code</td>
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<td>BANDHU</td>
<td>Bandhu Social Welfare Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>COB</td>
<td>Community Based Organization</td>
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<td>CSR</td>
<td>Corporate Social Responsibility</td>
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<tr>
<td>DIVA</td>
<td>Diversity in Action</td>
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<td>DIC</td>
<td>Drop in Center</td>
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<td>DLLG</td>
<td>District Level Lawyer Group</td>
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<td>EKN</td>
<td>Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>FGD</td>
<td>Focus Group Discussion</td>
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<td>FHI</td>
<td>Family Health International</td>
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<td>GOB</td>
<td>Government of Bangladesh</td>
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<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human Immune Virus</td>
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<td>HR</td>
<td>Human Rights</td>
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<td>HR-D</td>
<td>Human Rights Day</td>
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<td>HTC</td>
<td>HIV testing and Counseling</td>
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<td>ICDDR,B</td>
<td>International Center for Diarrhoea Diseases &amp; Research, Bangladesh</td>
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<td>ICAAP</td>
<td>International Conference on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific</td>
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<td>IEC</td>
<td>Information, Education &amp; Communication</td>
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<td>INGO</td>
<td>International Non-government Organization</td>
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<td>International Conference on Population and Development</td>
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<td>MSM</td>
<td>Male having sex with Male</td>
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<td>MSW</td>
<td>Male Sex Workers</td>
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<td>MIS</td>
<td>Management Information System</td>
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<td>Ministry of health and family welfare</td>
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<td>Transgender</td>
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<td>ODPUP</td>
<td>Organization of Development Program for Under Privileged</td>
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<td>PFT</td>
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<td>Sexually Transmitted Diseases/Infection</td>
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<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>UNAIDS</td>
<td>Joint United Nation programme on HIV and AIDS</td>
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MISSION

Bandhu Social Welfare Society works toward the well-being of sexual minorities by facilitating sexual and reproductive health services and supporting human rights, dignity and livelihoods of their choices.

VISION

Bandhu Social Welfare Society envisions a Bangladesh where every person, irrespective of their gender and sexuality, is able to lead a quality life with dignity, human rights and social justice.
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Over the last 20 years of existence, Bandhu Social Welfare Society has made concerted efforts towards addressing the health care needs and human rights issues of gender diversified population and produced many tangible and commendable results.

As an organization responsive to social, cultural and religious values, it has been able to efficiently maintain its kinetic progress towards the betterment of its targeted population throughout 2015 as well.

Bandhu operates within its own strategic framework following the guidelines of relevant ministries of the Government of Bangladesh and like previous years, it has made significant contributions to national development in 2015 across health & wellbeing, human rights and social welfare sectors.

Apart from the regular HIV prevention and SRHR related interventions, the organization took various supplementary initiatives to ensure lasting effects to the initiatives. These include organizing various events involving city corporations, divisional and central Administration, National Human Rights Commission, Journalists, lawyers and civil society organizations. The fellowship to 10 lawyers of different districts was also one such initiative for extending legal support to the beneficiaries.

This year was important for Bandhu in many ways. The groundwork to formulating the organizational 4th Strategic Plan 2017-2021 was initiated to ensure smooth conduction of tasks in 2016. The support from USAID and other development partners, inclusion in UBR alliance, seed grant awarding to downstream partners CBOs across the country remain some of the major milestones of the year.
2015 was also a year of great gains in terms of strengthening partnerships and collaborating on program and activities designed to fulfill the mandate of facilitating the development. In addition to these, the organizational focus remained on further increasing the operational efficiencies, widening the SRHR service provisions and enhancing advocacy initiatives towards improving better living of the targeted communities.

Despite challenges in worldwide funding scenario, remodeling its HIV intervention to increase geographical coverage from 19 to 22 districts within allocated resources for the next two years and advancing towards mainstreaming the human rights issues of gender diversified population in an environment where their behavioral pattern is considered as taboo, Bandhu remained committed to the path charted by its organizational mission and vision and had a successful year thrived with numerous activities and achievements.

These achievements have facilitated to firmly entrench Bandhu’s presence in the national and international arena as the largest organization in the South Asian region in terms of population, activity and area wise coverage. Bandhu is now working towards establishing itself as knowledge management hub on SRHR and gender diversity issues in South Asia.

Bandhu gracefully acknowledges and appreciates the supports of its development partners for its success plethora and thankfully recognizes the ever increasing supports of its Executive Committee, stakeholders, associates, well-wishers and its thriving work force.
Country Reach


Bandhu is currently been implementing its 3rd Strategic Plan 2012-2016 (3rd SP) designed to achieve the organizational mission and vision through ensuring services of HIV prevention on SRHR needs and overall wellbeing of sexual minority population of the country.

The principles, activities and approaches of its 3rd SP correspond to the objectives of current National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS response and designed to contribute to attaining Millennium Development Goals (MDG) particularly, Goals 1, 3 and 6. Therefore the impacts and outcomes of Bandhu program interventions, implemented through 36 field based well-equipped health centres in 22 districts and 25 partner CBOs across the country, are adding significant value to national response for achieving MDGs.
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Key Events of 2015

- Phasing in 'Continuation of the prioritized HIV prevention services among key population in Bangladesh' under NFM project.
- National level Hijra Guru Coordination meeting
- Expansion of service coverage from 19 districts to 22 districts during 2015: Chandpur, Sherpur and Tangail under NFM
- Human Rights in development (HRID) project funded by USAID launched
- Fellowship to Lawyers introduced to support human rights issues of gender diversified population
- Situational assessment conducted on human rights status of the gender diversified population
- Human rights issues of gender diversified communities were surfaced among social gatekeepers at divisional level for greater impact
- Seed fund grant awarded to 11 community based organizations (CBOs) as a part of community system strengthening
- Momentum created on 3rd gender issues involving government policy makers and NHRC for kinetic progress.
- Task force formed to effectively contribute to HIV interventions and human rights
- Gender and Sexuality Resource Center was established as a part of knowledge management
- Roll out of MI+ intervention in Chittagong
- End-line study conducted on MI impact in Dhaka and Chittagong
- The outreach approach of Bandhu's 'HIM' initiative was appreciated and recognized by UNICEF as effective and innovative method to include young and adolescent community in the service safety net.
• Networking extended in two other districts to reach out the female cluster of gender diversified population.

• Capacity development initiatives on SRHR issues implemented for the ever increasing members in collaboration with regional partners.

• First ever study on mental health needs and availability of services in the country for the gender diversified population initiated in association with the department of Clinical Psychology, Dhaka university.
Bandhu has been providing appropriate psychosocial, psychosexual, mental and reproductive health including HIV/AIDS prevention services to MSM and Hijra population through collaboration with government of Bangladesh and a wide range of development partners. Around 22000 population of those target population from different parts of Bangladesh receiving health education, psychosocial, psychosexual supports and HTC services through 36 field offices equipped with clinical facilities. Apart from adding a number of innovations in service delivery modality, Bandhu included the young and adolescent diversified population under service delivery package. Bandhu is significantly contributing to national HIV/AIDS response in Bangladesh through different programs and policy advocacy initiatives. All activities are embedded in grassroots level and which strengthen community systems for emergent CBOs.

**SERVICE DELIVERY: ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT A GLANCE**

For effective HIV response in assigned geographical areas, Bandhu ensured different preventive and curative service delivery packages round the year. The below chart describes the services utilized by the community from Bandhu. A total of 22705 MSM and Hijra received any services from

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**GOAL 1**

ENHANCE COVERAGE AND COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES OF SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS INCLUDING HIV FOR SEXUAL MINORITY COMMUNITIES AND THEIR PARTNERS.
Bandhu while 19,185 MSW visited Bandhu clinic in any time of the year. During the clinic visit a total of 19669 STI episodes were treated by qualified doctors DIC and also in satellite. Among them 5982 MSW and 838 Hijra population know their HIV status by performing HTC from Bandhu clinic.

INNOVATION IN HTC SERVICES

In Bangladesh Hijrs are reluctant sometimes to come for HIV Testing and Counseling (HTC) at centers in office hour due to sex work at night and customary income generating activities during the day time. Aiming to increase HTC coverage among Hijra & MSM and to achieve the national goal, doorsteps (Dera based) HTC service introduced by Bandhu in different area in Bangladesh from where Hijra population can easily receive the services.

It has been observed that HTC coverage for Hijra is increased by introducing Dera base HTC services. HTC services also include pre and post test counseling by a qualified Counselor. The service package also ensures handing over the test reports maintaining highest level of confidentiality and referral mechanism for treatment care and support.

The Dera base HTC service is functioning effectively; consequently number of HIV testing among Hijra is increased. Within one year 30% of targeted Hijras have been tested HIV in the selected areas and identified 3 positives cases and they were referred for treatment and care with full confidentiality.

HIM INITIATIVE

Young and Adolescent MSM and Hijra/TG are living with fear of alienation and stigmatized in relation to their identity disclosure in a conservative society like Bangladesh. As evident from the long experience of working with the sexual minority communities, Bandhu understands that this fear creates emotional distress which leads to depression, mental burden and suicidal ideation.

Considering the reality of these inevitable risks and vulnerabilities, Bandhu established "HIM" expanded aiming to create empathetic center for young MSM and Hijra where they can socialize with their fellows in a safe environment together with getting mental and psychosexual counseling, medical care services and edutainment facilities.
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MENTAL HEALTH & ART THERAPY

Arts therapy is one of the innovation of HIM with each and every activities such as, arts works workshop for mental health services, upholding community arts works regarding gender and sexuality issues, edu-entertainment group therapy and exchange knowledge, painting exhibition based on youth requirement, photographs exhibition focus on SRHR, film screening and arts demonstration/display for build up public awareness in collaboration with the others stockholders.

POSSIBILITY/SHOMBHOB

Possibility work with the mission to break the silence around women’s sexuality topics and it is the first platform in the country that upholds the Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights of women belonging to gender diversity groups.

To indentify and address the health and sexual issues, yearly review meeting was held in October 2015. The Meeting brought the members of SHOMBHOB from different parts of the country, representatives from other like minded organizations, NGOs and civil society organizations in a common platform. An innovative approach helpline service is facilitating by Shombhom since February, 2015. Through this helpline,
support is being provided to the community members regarding their mental wellbeing. This has proved to be an excellent platform for those who do not want to expose their identities, but still need the support. Shombhob now has a virtual networking, which is run by the core group members. The group was created to stay in touch with our members online and to update them with information and notices regarding meetings and events and also provide suggestion time to time when they are in need.

**MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING (MI)**

Motivational Interviewing (MI) is an effective way of talking with people about change. It is a person centered counseling style to elicit and strengthen clients’ motivation for changing. This is a new approach in Bangladesh which has been applied on the intervention of Bandhu as piloting to see the effectiveness/outcomes in terms of reducing the vulnerabilities of STI and HIV/AIDS and improving SRHR among the young MSM. This is a Motivational initiative (MI+) Intervention and matching operational research thus aims:

- To better equip young MSM with the motivation, skills and supportive environment to make healthier choices about their sexuality
- To enhance the skills of health service providers, counsellors and peer educators to assist clients/peers with how they could change their behaviour by helping to explore and resolve
- To provide evidence based information for policy and practice in being more responsive to the SRHR needs and rights of young males including MSM.

Further under this project some IEC materials have been produced only for the relevant service providers that includes the outreach team. Those BCC basically have been using as a tools of learning/teaching on Motivational Interviewing approaches and how to apply while contacting and counseling with project beneficiaries. Following IEC have been developed:
PARTICIPATION OF COMMUNITY TO FACILITATE ONGOING SERVICES

Bandhu always rely on community and stakeholder voice to achieve the goals through ensuring their participation in all cycle of project. As a part of community and stakeholders participation there was a number of advocacy events with Project Facilitation Team, District level lawyers group and Law Enforcement Agency in different areas in Bangladesh for advocating HIV prevention services focused on MSM and TG population. A number of Police, lawyers and local influential persons attended and events and provided their support to make successful the RCC project and then shifting RCC to NFM project.

At the same time, Bandhu facilitated the Hijra Gurus and the government of Bangladesh to ensure reproductive and HIV services to Hijra population as the Hijra community is the influential to their community in a national level consultation meeting. Additional Secretary from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare attended the consultation and had a very good interaction between the government representatives and community people. From the consultation hijra community demanded Dera based HTC and STI services, and next to that that consultation, project expanded the services to their Dera.

"SPARSHA" A SELF HELP PLHIV GROUP UNDER BANDHU

The first HIV case was Bandhu on 11 February in 2008. By the end of February, 2010 number of people willingly came to Bandhu for seeking HCT service. Among them large number are HIV positive and they seek further assistance from Bandhu. Initially Bandhu referred the positive people to AAS but community flavor was missing. Bandhu shared with Asar Alo Society (AAS) to develop PLHIV network of MSM and Hijra and ensure their care and treatment support for reducing stigma and discrimination. The technique was divided the role and responsibility based on resource and the demand of the members both organization so they members can get services as like they are. Numbers coordination meeting were held among the Ashar Alo Society. As per MoU both Bandhu and AAS together organized “Social Day” on September, 2016. In 2016 MSM and Hijra/ TG PLHA formed a self help group called “SPARSHA” with voting process by all PLHA members. 12 “Social Day” successful were conducted in 2016 where participated
RESEARCH:

BASELINE SURVEY ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION OF THE GENDER DIVERSITY POPULATION IN BANGLADESH

The Constitution of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh provides fundamental rights to its citizens that prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion, race, sex or place of birth. But Bangladesh has been witnessing gross violation and discrimination of rights on the basis of religion, caste, ethnicity, sex etc.

Bangladesh Human Rights Report 2013 acknowledges arbitrary arrests, poor working conditions and labor rights, extrajudicial killings, unequal treatment of women, societal violence against religious and ethnic minorities, discrimination on the basis of one’s sexual orientation and like in the country.

Bandhu in 2015 conducted a baseline survey to collect the information on human rights situation and the socio-economic conditions of the gender diversity population in Bangladesh to document the socio-economic conditions and human rights violation of sexual minority population, their knowledge, attitude and perceptions on human rights and identifies the key challenges, barriers and most pressing issues faced by the sexual minority population in the country.

This study results are helping Bandhu to sketch the outline of service delivery pathway and contribute to effective designing and planning of the programs. The broad objectives of the study include capturing the:

• Economic status of various sexual minority communities and its correlation to their experience and enjoyment of their human rights
• Socio political milieu in which the rights environment is played out and its varying impact on various sexual minority communities
• Knowledge, understanding and realization levels of relevant stakeholders (primary and secondary) on the importance of addressing human rights of sexual minority population.
• Percentage of primary and secondary stakeholders who think that Rewonding Gender Diversified Population rights are human rights
X IASSCS CONFERENCE
Dublin/IRELAND
June 17 - 20 / 2015
literacies and sexualities in cultural, fictional, real, and virtual worlds: past, present, future perfect?
www.iasscs.org/2015conference
The rights of gender diversified population in Bangladesh are pointed by homophobia, stigma and social discrimination. Yet the legal entitlement of the overall status of this community is still call for long struggles. The lack of Social security and justice leads this community to occupy a devalued position in the society. Therefore, grave human rights violations towards this community are becoming a common phenomenon. These forms of violence and discrepancy scream for equality and social justice. Bandhu envisions a society where every person can lead a quality life with dignity irrespective of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

**ORIENTATION MEETING IN KHULNA CITY CORPORATION**

Bandhu believes City Corporation can play a vital rule to protect the vulnerable groups from social exclusion. A clear and common understanding about the gender diversified community is very essential to ensure access to all public facilities of the city corporation. With this in mind, Bandhu organized an orientation program with City Mayor of Khulna in December 2015. A total of 50 ward counselors were present in the meeting, understanding the issues following recommendations came out:

**Recommendations**

In Khulna, the Khulna city corporation (KCC) mayor provides different services for livelihood options. As most of the hijra in Khulna are not able to manage any jobs, so KCC will take immediate steps to ensure free Vehicles for hijra for food delivery as alternate earning source. They will ensure equal health service access for hijra community and there will be no discrimination. will create suitable job opportunities for Hijra community as per their capacity.

The Khulna City Corporation Mayor also assured that the corporation shall cooperate with the third gender in any regard they might need. The Commissioner also gave commitment to invite and include them in every event hosted by the KCC. They shall take initiatives to appoint third gender individuals through quota system.
MEDIA ENGAGEMENT THROUGH FELLOWSHIP

As a part of this, Bandhu in partnership with UNDP under the MSA grant of GFTAM (DIVA project), has been offering media fellowship to the journalists every year since 2011. This year Bandhu has rolled out the 5th round media fellowship. A total of 10 journalists from print, online, radio and electronic media were ceremoniously awarded on 27 December 2015 for successfully completing the fellowship period of three months.

Mr. Anisul Islam Hero, Chairman, BSWS said that “we are not alone, media journalists are with us to amplify the requirements of establishing the rights of sexual minority communities”.

Mr. Shale Ahmed, Executive Director of BSWS briefed the audience on the background and overview of BSWS Media Fellowship initiative and underlined the transparent selection process of media fellows. He praised the role of current and old media fellows of BSWS for surfacing the voices of sexual minority communities through their reports and write-ups.

The award recipients are:


Each of them were given a crest, a certificate and some honorarium for completing a three-month fellowship during which each generated three reports.

“It is difficult to change the perception of the society. But media can carry out this task,” said Matiur Rahman, editor of the daily Prothom Alo, the chief guest of the event.

Swedish Ambassador Johan Frisell, as special guest, noted how diversity in societies should be accepted with an open mind. He suggested reporting on same gender relationship along with transgender issues.

Among others, Mr. Matiur Rahman, Editor of The Daily Prothom Alo, His Excellency Mr. Johan Frisell, the Ambassador of Sweden in Bangladesh, Mr. Anisul Islam Hero, Chairman of Bandhu graced the occasion and gave away the awards to the fellows.

A cultural performance by community members made the event even more vibrant.
On the eve of the human rights day, hundreds of people gathered at Abdul Karim Shahittobisharod Auditorium, Bangla Auditorium Dhaka to stare at the cultural show “Srishti, Shomota o Shomoodhikar-Shetubondhoney Songskrity” performed by Essence of Soul.

Establishing the corrective dispersion and understanding of the human rights among Bangladeshi citizens are a challenge itself. It becomes doubly harder when we are dealing with the sexual minority groups as they remain stunted in the conundrum of stigma and discrimination.

In order to relate to them the mainstream audience needs to be sensitized about the livelihood, struggles, desires, aspirations of this neglected community. One effective platform to address this issue is bringing everyone together in the stage of art and culture.

With support from United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Bangladesh, Bandhu is currently implementing a project titled ‘Human Rights in Development’ (USAID’s HRID), organized to commemorate the International Human Rights Day.

The stunning evening was happened with the lean support of country’s most famous choreographers naming Shamim Ara Nipa, Kabirul Islam Ratan, Anisul Islam Hero and Sadia Islam Mou. It also gave the chance to the audiences to watch the talents of the community as 5 dances were choreographed by Mr. Mohor Ali Sakib, a SOGI community member.

Around 400 audiences participated in the program and applauded the gripping performances of Dance, Baul Song and the elegant fashion show with the presence of country’s one of the top models Sadia Islam Mou as the showstopper.
A seminar, titled "Recognition of Hijra Community as Third Gender- Aftermath and Way forward" jointly organized at Bangla Academy Auditorium by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and Bandhu Social Welfare Society on 29th April, 2015.

The seminar was presided over by Professor Dr. Mizanur Rahman, Chairman of the NHRC, while Advocate Tarana Halim, MP, Rupan Kanti Shil, Additional Secretary of the Social Welfare Ministry, Nirupa Dewan, member of the Human Rights Commission, Mohammad Amjad Hossain Khan, Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission and Anisul Islam Hero, Chairman of Bandhu Social Welfare Society were present as special guests.

"Nowhere in the constitution is it stated that people of the transgender community are barred from getting family property. Nor is it banned in any religion practiced in our country," said Suranjit Sen Gupta, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Law Ministry.

Robaet Ferdous, Associate Professor of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, University of Dhaka, presented a keynote speech while noted writer and member of the Human Rights Commission Selina Hossain moderated the seminar and open discussion session. In his key-note speech, Robaet Ferdous stated that the recognition of Hijra as a third gender needs to be molded into a law in order to further facilitate social acceptance and access to state-provided social services.

The NHRC plays a key role in promoting human rights of all populations in society. "The National Human Rights Commission will continue its work in applying pressure on the government to enact a law so that people of the Hijra community do not face any discrimination as citizens," said Prof Dr. Mizanur Rahman, Chairman of the NHRC.

"Respect and dignity cannot be measured by the number of people in a group. The responsibility of the state is to ensure equal rights for every citizen. Mercy and charity funds cannot be a necessity of a citizen."

Tarana Halim, Member of Parliament, proposed an accurate mapping of the Hijra population to be undertaken and to push for inclusion in the national census. Such size estimation would provide much needed evidence to advocacy efforts.

in the event, the National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh and Bandhu Social Welfare Society awarded Labonya Hijra and Nadi Hijra for their heroic roles in catching two of the killers of blogger Oyasiqur Rahman Babu.
Humanity, Human Rights and Health Care-Parity, Social Justice and Role of Civil Society: STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

A consultation session on "Humanity, Human Rights and Health Care-Parity, Social Justice and Role of Civil Society" was organized by Bandhu Social Welfare Society with support from USAID's Human Rights in Development project in Chittagong.

Mr. Shale Ahmed, Executive Director of Bandhu presented a brief on Bandhu and its work for the wellbeing of sexual minorities in Bangladesh. He also gave an overview of the sexual minority community in Bangladesh which included human rights vulnerabilities and legal barriers and health risks they are facing.

Mr. Mesbah Uddin, Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong said as Chief Guest that DC office can allocate government lands to hijras so that they can settle down. He also said government will take initiatives for their livelihood; training programs will be taken as previous so that they can work as beautician, cook and garments worker.

Mr. Chy. Hasan Mahmud Haami, Panel Mayor-1 of CCC as Special Guest said, present CCC Mayor is very supportive towards the Hijras. Bandhu as well as Hijra community should maintain communication with the mayor and his office to follow up the commitments.

Mr. Habibur Rahman, Addl. SP (South) of Police was also present as Special Guest. He echoed the government initiatives to recruit hijras as traffic police. He said, police is always beside the hijras to protect their rights.

Dr. AQM Sirazul Islam, Former Professor of Skin Diseases, AIDS and STD of CMCH said we need to empower the minorities; we need to identify their problems. Govt. will have to take responsibilities of their livelihood, health, education as well as social acceptance.

A range of recommendations came from the consultation which are:

- Regular communication to be maintained with Mayor office to follow-up the commitment made for Hijra population;
- Bandhu has to work on policy level to push the cabinet decision to the parliament;
- Link up with ministry of information and produce/screening short documentary on Hijra issues that will help the general population to change their mind set about Hijra population;
- Communicate with social welfare department to create more training opportunity for Hijra population;
- Appropriate size estimation of the population is very important including the livelihood of old Hijras;
- Work around continuation of education of Hijras.
NEW INITIATIVE:

LAWYERS FELLOWSHIP

Bandhu launched its first ever fellowship for District Level Lawyers Group (DLLG) with the support of USAID’s “Human Rights in Development” project. This three months long fellowship was awarded among the 10 lawyers of Bandhu’s District Level Lawyers’ Group (DLLG) based on their proposals on how DLLG members can more effectively extend tangible support to the sexual minority person for accessing to justice within a given time.

Professor Dr. Mizanur Rahman, Chairman of National Human Rights Commission (JAMAKON) was present as Chief Guest while Mr. Biman Kumar Saha, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Barrister Sara Hossain, Honorary Executive Director of BLAST and Ms. Amber Brooks, Director, Office of Democracy & Governance, USAID Bangladesh were present as Special Guests. Mr. Anisul Islam Hero, Chairperson of Bandhu Social Welfare Society chaired the event.

Dr. Mizanur Rahman thanked Bandhu and USAID Bangladesh for taking up such initiative of awarding lawyers and said that constitution of Bangladesh protects the rights of the every citizen irrespective of religion, caste, sex, gender identity or ethnicity.

“In 2013 government declared hijras as 3rd gender as because the present government is supportive towards the hijras and their rights” Mr. Biman Kumar Saha stated in the program. He echoed the need to take comprehensive program to address the needs and concerns of the sexual minorities.

Barrister Sara Hossain stated that we need to protect individual rights, freedom of expression, and freedom of thoughts and we need to spread the notion in every sphere of the society.

Ms. Amber Brooks mentioned that the US Government is committed to protect the rights of sexual minorities and her govt. feels that the ultimate social & economic development will occur when people of all strata, sex, gender and community are involved in the process.
TRAINING:

HUMAN RIGHTS & CASE DOCUMENTATION

Over the years, Bandhu has witnessed that the unwanted scenario posed by the society, social behavior, culture have adversely affects the dignity as human being of young and adolescent minority people. Considering the increasing frequency and magnitude of the rights violations and the vulnerability of the sexual minority populations to protect themselves against the encroachments, Bandhu as a part of its commitment took steps to form Watchdog committees to work and respond as front line local human rights defenders. They are selected from the active community member’s at all seven divisions of the country and each committee has 6 members.

To develop their capacity as local human rights defenders, Bandhu organized training for them on how to document cases and how to deal with those involving local administration and relevant stakeholders.

Seven basic trainings were organized of the country, i.e. Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Barisal, Khulna, Rangpur and Sylhet and 181 local level rights defenders were trained. The participants were selected from the local rights defenders of each division and members from community based organizations.

IEC/BCC MATERIALS AND MASS AWARENESS

Bandhu is committed to provide sexual and reproductive health services to its target population and to ensure rights but there is a knowledge gaps among the service providers and stakeholders regarding the holistic issues of SRHR.

BCC and IEC materials are an interactive process of any intervention with individuals, communities and/or societies to develop communication strategies to promote positive behaviors which are appropriate to their settings. These in turn provides a supportive environment which will enable people to initiate, sustain and maintain positive and desirable behavior outcomes.

Bandhu therefore develops these materials every year based on the programmatic needs.

In 2015 Bandhu developed different types of BCC/IEC materials e.g sticker, referral card, SRHR brochure, arrest and detention related flyer, SPOTLIGHT etc.

To reduce stigma, harassment and discrimination Bandhu also developed a flyer on arrest and detention for the community so that they are able to know their rights and responsibility if they are arrested by the law enforcement agency.
Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
CONSULTATION MEETING WITH LEGAL AID PROVIDERS AND HUMAN RIGHTS BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) has organized two networking meetings with legal aid providers and Human Rights based organizations on 20 October 2015 and 28 December 2015 respectively under the Multi-Country South Asia Global Fund HIV Programme. These meetings were a part of ongoing ‘Ain-Alap’ activities. ‘Ain-Alap’ (legal Talk) is a legal support unit of Bandhu which primarily provides legal information and counsel to the sexual minority community over phone on legal issues. It also documents the harassment, violation complaints of the community person and refers complaints to the District Level Lawyers Group (DLLG) that work voluntarily in 19 districts to provide legal support to the community, National Human Rights Commission (JAMACON) and other legal aid service proving organizations to ensure justice.

In these meetings the participants were invited from the forum titled ‘Human rights forum of Bangladesh (HRFB)’ and ‘Human Rights Alliance of Bangladesh (HRAB)’ in order to spread the Ain-Alap service information for ensuring better service to the community.

The main objectives of these meetings were to build a strong network among human rights based organizations and to create a supportive environment providing legal support to the sexual minority community. This meeting provides an excellent opportunity to meet and exchange experience among the participants. A total of 40 participants from different organizations namely Bangladesh Minority Watch, Village Development Organization, Bangladesh Center for Human Rights and Development, Light House, Association for Land Reforms and Development, DHRUBA, Boys of Bangladesh, Kapaeeng Foundation, BLAST, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Acid Survivors Foundation, Bangladesh Mohila Parishad, Nari pokkho and Lawyers from supreme court and judge court attended in the meetings.
This networking meeting helped to create a bridge among 30 different human rights based organizations and lawyers. Some specific recommendations also come from expert participants to provide further support to the sexual minority community on human rights issues. This meeting came to an end with the experience shared by the district level lawyer’s group member in their respective field of work. All the participants showed their keen interest to work cohesively with Ain-Alap unit and committed to extend their support within their limit.

CONVENE NATIONAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) MEETING

The First meeting of Technical Working Group (TWG) held at Gender and Sexuality Resource Center, Siddeshwari on 3rd December, 2015 where Selina Hossain, Honorable Member of National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh (JAMAKON) welcomed all the participants of the meeting.

In 2006, based on the recommendation of "The Delhi Declaration," APCOM recommended developing national coalitions of MSM and transgender groups and organizations, involving government representatives, funding support agencies working in the country and technical experts. Finally Bandhu has taken the responsibility to form this coalition naming it as Technical Working Group (TWG). The present forum consists of 17 members representing all sectors including Member of Parliament, LEA, LEB, Faith Leaders, Judicial Magistrate, Civil Society, etc.

Key Objectives of TWG

The key objective of TWG is to bring together the Government, NGO and CBO partners of Bandhu to align policy, review difficulties and challenges, and coordinate action.

Major objectives are:

- To mobilize networks and communities of MSM, TG and their organizations
- To identify the (patterns of) structural discrimination against MSM and transgender people with regards to access to justice and services.
- To enhance the capacities and technical expertise of MSM and TG CBOs in HIV treatment literacy, as well as HIV treatment advocacy.
- To promote and protect human rights of MSM and TG in the development and implementation of all policies and programs.
- To articulate and advocate for the needs and concerns of communities and networks of MSM, transgender and their organizations.

Expectation from TWG

Based on the interactive discussion during the meeting, following expectations are coming out.

- Catalyst group developed to address needs and concerns of MSM/TG in Bangladesh.
Areas identified where needs for modifications necessary to strengthen the existing legal advocacy and capacity-building strategies.

Elements of legal advocacy and capacity-building strategies and tools developed based on best practice of other countries in the region.

Annual Report focusing on MSM/TG's health and HR related issues

Main areas of concern identified (i.e. awareness of human rights and ability to access justice; ways in which rights are implemented and enforced; the impact of protective or punitive laws to promote or achieve universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support; etc.)

Group formed to provide recommendations on how to reformulate or reform existing laws and policies related to provision of legal, health, and social care services to MSM and TG in Bangladesh.

Additional resources generated for future sustainability of the TWG.

MEETING WITH JUDGE, PANEL LAWYERS & DISTRICT LEGAL AID COMMITTEE (DLAC)

Bandhu established district level lawyers group (DLLG) to provide legal support to the sexual minority population. As a part of making this effort more effective, Bandhu now aims to explore possible opportunities to include district level lawyers in the district legal aid committee.

Two meetings were conducted with lawyers and judge. The first meeting was held at Narayanganj district bar with the lawyers with a focus on the importance of inclusion of the lawyers at district legal aid committee. The experience faced by the lawyers at Narayanganj in terms of dealing with the sexual minority populace was also been shared by the lawyers.

In the second meeting with Humayra Tasmin, Senior Assistant Judge, District Legal Aid Officer, Narayanganj to brief her about Bandhu and its Ain-Alap service & DLLG forum. She appreciated Ain-Alap activities. She also mentioned that the panel lawyers list of District Legal Aid Committee will be updated very soon and assured to keep the DLLG members in the updated list who are already enlisted in DLAC. She also advised for better coordination to have effective implementation.
GOAL 3

**ENHANCE DECISION MAKING ABILITY OF THE SEXUAL MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN PROGRAMME AND POLICY ISSUES**

**Development of Policy and guideline for the CBOs under seed funding**

In terms of building the capacity for CBOs, Bandhu has extended support to mobilize and formulate them through taking different initiatives. Earlier the CBOs had no policy and guideline to manage and run their own program and considering the fact Bandhu conducted assessment among the CBOs and accordingly developed policy over the year of 2015. Now almost all CBOs have policy and guidelines and these guidelines are helping them to run their regular activities and managing small grant like seed fund from MSA, social welfare stipend. The capacity building initiatives for the CBOs accentuated the following areas:

- Develop strategic plan for selected CBOs
- Develop organizational structures
- Assist CBO to practice good governance according to the guideline
- Assist CBO to get registration
- Develop different types of guidelines particularly human resource manual, M & E, Good Governance and Policy & Advocacy
- Develop Resource mobilization strategy for selected CBOs
- Assist to conduct local level advocacy work with multiple stakeholders
- Strengthening referral system through developing service mapping and MOU
- Develop network and partnership with likeminded organization at local level
- Proper documentation with reporting mechanism

**Existence of CBO at local level and community mobilization**

With a commitment to enhance and accelerate the CBOs, Bandhu assisted to develop organizational structures with a specific functional committee among the 25 CBOs. These CBOs are the main pillar to mobilize the community people at local level. Now most of the CBO have the formal registration and very few of them are in the process of obtaining the registration with the clearance of name which is prerequisite to work at local level legally. These CBOs are mobilizing the community people through conducting awareness/group education session, distributing the health commodities such as condom, lubricant, BCC/IEC and ensuring the health services through the referral to DICs manage by Bandhu, local health service providing...
organization both govt. and private set-up. Some key result is as follows:

- Successfully formed and established the Key Affective Population (KAP) network in Bangladesh
- Efficiently observed different day (Hijra Pride, world aids day, IDAHOT) involving government and non-government organization
- Organized Cultural program by the community and disseminating awareness message to prevent HIV AIDS and protect human rights.

**Networks and Partnership point of view,**
most of the CBOs had the very limited knowledge as well as scope about to develop network and partnership and the beginning of 2011 they formal MOU with any organization were not established. But at the end of 2015 it is clearly seen that community based organization have formal MOU with different service providing organization and they have been providing health as well as other services to the community people at local level. Further most of the CBOs were not capacitated enough in terms of advocacy work and therefore were unable to carry out any advocacy initiative till 2011. But after extending rigorous assistance/support to develop the capacity from Bandhu, it has been observed and seen from 2015 that most of the CBOs conducting local level advocacy work and these works involved the followings areas:

- Discussion with Relevant stakeholder
- Campaigns and event
- Social Media
- High level government official engagement
- Conference
- TWG
- Advocacy platform
- Other network

- The advocacy works of the CBOs have created positive impact and yielded followings as outcomes:
  - 01 Hijra got job at UNDP
  - Hijras got scope to attend in different international conferences
  - 07 Hijra got job in the local level jute mill
  - Got tool free mobile hawker in central wet market.
  - In Rajsahi city previously Hijra had to give commission to the market authority but now a days they are continuing their business without commission and the bazaar committee protect hijra form harassing.
  - Hijra community received tubule and sanitary latrine from DC office as free of cost
  - Increased access to participate in different meetings of government where as previously they had no scope to entrance in the meeting with government officials.
  - 08 CBO applied for government domain land which is under process.
  - 11 MSM received educational stipend from the ministry of social welfare department under livelihood program
  - 269 community people received winter clothes from different government organization like Bangladesh bank, DC office, police department through 07 CBOs.
  - 09 CBOs received small donation from social welfare department as CBO advocacy in the local level.
  - First time got scope to participate in Upzila election as third gender.

The endeavor of Bandhu in developing the capacity of CBOs has made remarkable changes and the impacts are considered into the area of growing up the leadership quality among them. As reference and this may an example that, two Hijra as third
gender have been participated and competed in Upzila election for the first time with the support and inspiration from mass people at local level. Acceptance and inspiration from general population made this possible which is a result against the effort in making capacitated them to raise the voice and participate in decision making platform at society and state as well. However the following areas are considered in reaching-out the voice and concerns to relevant stakeholders:

- Successfully completed district level co-ordination meeting with different stakeholders and through that meeting community voice were raised gradually in different district across the country.
- One CBO has awarded "Joyeeta" in Jamalpur district by DC for execute their social work and growth associated responsibilities.
- Celebrated the Transgender Day of Remembrance
- Celebration of IDAHOT - country wide celebrated by CBO at their local level through consultation meeting, community gathering , NOH8 campaign, film screening at Dhaka University, Photographs exhibition 'Youth Yearn?
- Community arts work organized by UNAIDS
- Community ARTs works organized by community based organization
- Organized Video Competition titled as "Ami Ke"
- Organized Photographs exhibition in Chittagong and Khulna
- Organized Film screening at Bangladesh University
- Documented the Case study of Chaity - Rajbari and Maruf sylhet
- Documented the Case study on youth leaders - Farid and Saif
- Report on community leadership at roots level based on watch dog members list and achievement

- Celebrated Human rights and World AIDS day by community members
- Actively participated by young Community member in developing national youth SRHR guideline

**NO H8 campaign**

The NO H8 Campaign as a part of the event of IDAHOT 2015 started from 1 May, 2015 to 31st May, 2015. The meaning of NO H8 is "NO Hate". This campaign jointly organized by Bandhu and UNAIDS Bangladesh.

From NO H8 campaign people known and made aware about the sexual minorities population. Vigorous response from Facebook and twitter found from mass people through asking question and showing their enthusiasm. One community member commented on a social media network that "Our community has a long way to go, the fight is not over". The NO H8 campaign accomplished successfully with the hope that many more in future.
ARCHITECTING THE ARCHWAYS

IDAHOT

The International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT), creates opportunities collectively amplify the message that what community members really need to be cosseted from homo/trans/bi-phobia. Community people are explicitly at high risk to homophobic, transphobic or biphobic attitudes and expressions within the family, educational institutions and social/recreational settings. This year Bandhu Social Welfare Society and Bandhu Gender and Sexuality Resource Centre with the support of UNAIDS has organized a series of program to celebrate the IDAHOT 2015 which was started in May 01, 2015 and continued till May 31, 2015. Following significant activities were accomplished in line with IDAHOT:

Film Screening "IDAHOT & Identity"

Organized Film Screening "IDAHOT & Identity" as a part of International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) in collaboration with the department of clinical psychology- Dhaka University. More than 100 Participants who are studying in Dhaka University gathered at the RC Mazumdar Auditorium, Dhaka University including community people. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, Chairman of Dhaka university-department of clinical psychology, counseling and psychology. In his speech he thanked Bandhu to arrange such kind of program. He also opined that since a long time we are working with Bandhu and community people and wishes the best luck of Bandhu. Bandhu took lead to arrange this event and jointly organize the event with UNAIDS. Documentary film 'Will this change' was screened on SOGI population. After the film screening session a shortly question and answer session held based on agenda and concern

Photo Exhibition "Youth Yearn"

Organized Photo Exhibition "Youth Yearn" in collaboration with UNAIDS. More than two hundred and fifty individuals including His Excellency the High Commissioner of Australia - Mr. Greg Wilcock, USAID Mission Director - Ms. Janina Jaruzelski Nahiyani Saha, UNAIDS Country Director, Bangladesh - Mr. Leo Kenny, Honorary Executive Director of BLAST-Barrister Sara Hossain have gathered at the EMK Center, Midas Center Building, Dhaka. The photographs were exhibited in an unique way, displaying ranges of photos that not only articulated about the lives of the young
sexual minorities populace, but inscribed information as stories with evidentiary materials like stick, wig, saree, bag, etc, from their childhood that brings more focus and understanding about their lives.

**IDAHOT celebration by Community Based Organizations at Divisional Level, Bangladesh**

During the month of May community based organization (CBO) working with sexual diversity population celebrated The International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHOT) along with the Bandhu. More than 21 CBOs and their allies gathered at divisional level office. Over 300 people attended and events were marked by the participation of CBO members and community people. Bandhu supported to local community based organization for arranged countrywide event with involving 21 Community Based Organizations of Chittagong, Comilla, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Jossere, Shirajgonj, Pabna, Natore, and Bogra and so on.

**Dialogue session on sexual diversity, Role of creative Medias and community accountability for social change**

Organized the dialogue session among the community members in collaboration with UNAIDS, Bangladesh. In this dialogue session, community activists of different community based organizations were present as a panelist. They were given the answers of the questions of the journalist. This dialogue session was organized in a friendly manner like Adda/conversation so that, participants can erase their confusions.
Architecting the Archways

and get to know more about the present situation and the need of the sexual minority populations. From the open discussion, the facilitator pointed out few recommendations on how we can more involve the media in the cause and the community people can also play their role in the society.

Engaging with University student and teachers to Advancing Rights of Hijra and Transgender People in Bangladesh

On September 2015, the momentum has started to talk with universities, Bandhu Social Welfare Society and Gender and Sexuality Resource Centre organized a Discourse lecture with Architecture faculty, Bangladesh University. Once upon a time it is taboo issue, to talk about transgender issues in university. Finally the discussion has started in Bangladesh University. Bangladesh University has invited Bandhu to talk about the third gender issue in their campus for their better understanding of students and teachers. In this discussion more than 100 persons were present including teacher, student and university staff. Finally the discussion end up with number of recommendations and commitments to further collaboration/cooperation with University around extending support to sexual minority people to ensure their rights and dignity in the society.
Creative Events- Art therapy celebrating Happy New Year 2016 and observe Transgender Day of remembrance 2015 by HIM & Sada Kalo

The Transgender Day of Remembrance was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. The event was held on November to honor Rita Hester, who was killed on November 28th, 1998 kicked off the “Remembering Our Dead” web project and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999. Rita Hester’s murder - like most anti-transgender murder cases - has yet to be solved. The Transgender Day of Remembrance serves several purposes and it raises public awareness of hate crimes against transgender people, an action that current media doesn’t perform. Day of Remembrance publicly mourns and honors the lives of our brothers and sisters who might otherwise be forgotten. Through the vigil, we express love and respect for our people in the face of national indifference and hatred. Day of Remembrance reminds non-transgender people that we are their sons, daughters, parents, friends and lovers. Day of Remembrance gives our allies a chance to step forward with us and stand in vigil, memorializing those of us who’ve died by anti-transgender violence.

Painting through TG Sign-Transgender day of remembrance 2015 was celebrated. Miss Anonnya Hija - President, Sada Kalo welcomed to all warmly and described the TDOR, the importance of observing the TDOR, the importance of observing the TDOR. She invite to all participant to have 1 minutes silence for those who are died for harassment and violence.
COMMUNITY SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING (CSS)

As a part of Community Systems Strengthening (CSS), Bandhu with support from Multi-Country South Asia Global Fund HIV Program (Regional MSA grant), has initiated capacity building support services for in-country community-based Sub-recipient organizations engaged in service provision for HIV prevention, care and support services, policy development and advocacy, partnership building with local governments and health departments. These activities are expected to create a stronger community system to sustain the progress made already in the areas.

In Bangladesh, Bandhu is the SR of UNDP (PR of MSA grant) and the major role of Bandhu is to provide Technical Assistance (TA) and building the capacity of CBOs through Training Need Assessment (TNA). So far a total of 25 CBOs are established with the support of RCC project and Bandhu designed need based training programs to build their capacity over the period. Beside the regular training program, the CBOs are implementing local level advocacy program with the direct support of Bandhu, 11 CBOs directly implemented short term seed fund project for the first time in 2016 and gathered practical experiences of interventions. Beside these, 8 CBOs got their registration from Social Welfare Department after TA, different policies have been formulated i.e. Financial Guidelines, M&E Guidelines, Human Resource Guidelines, Strategic Plan and Resource Mobilization Strategy have been developed by the RCC and Regional Program. Bandhu also works to strengthen the Good Governance systems of each individual CBOs and monitor the Election Process according to plan. Bandhu believes CSS is particularly important for ensuring that programs reach excluded and marginalized populations whose health and Human Rights are comprised.
Launching Seed Fund Grant program in Bangladesh

As a part of capacity development initiatives of MSM and Transgender/hijra Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Bandhu with support from Multi-Country South Asia (MSA) Programme of The Global Fund regional grant, awarded seed grant to 11 CBOs to provide support towards their capacity building so that they can be effectively engaged in local level service provision for sexual and reproductive health and Rights including HIV prevention.

The support is also for assisting them to document and highlight health and rights related key issues including violations of those and take up issues with local governments and health departments through local level advocacy.

Such initiative will result into community empowerment contributing to community system strengthening (CSS) in terms of SRHR service taking arrangement from available sources.

CBOs received seed fund grant are:

- Sonali-Din Manob-Kalyan Sangsth (RSMS) in Rajshahi
- Surjer Alo Hijra Sangothon, Chittagong
- Chattala Jubo Songa (CJS) in Chittagong
- Bachar Asha Sanskritik Sangsth (BASS) in Rajshahi
- Chinnomul Manob Kallyan Society, Khulna
- Setu Bondhon Kallyan Sangha, Mymensingh
- Agragami Shamajik Unnayan Shongho in Sirajganj
- Protiva Manob Kallan Sangsth, Natore
- Arpon Manob Kallyan Sangsth, Jessore
- Pabna Sobuj Sangha (PSS) in Pabna
- Padda Kuri Hijra Sangha (PKHS) in Dhaka

All the CBOs have been selected through systematic procedure and ad hoc committee was formed consists the members of UN agencies, National AIDS/STD Program, PLHIV network and Bandhu.

Steps towards achievement

- Community gathered practical experiences through implementing small scale interventions at local level.
- A total of 480 community people received trainings on different issues like training on leadership, Life Skills and Financial Management. After the training CBO members are now capacitated and learnt how to lead the CBOs along with how to manage different stakeholder and beneficiaries.
- A total of 1250 CBO beneficiaries and their family are more aware about TG and MSM rights, HIV/AIDS, STI. Their family members are now involving them in decision making in family matters, participating in Social Programs, getting invitation from different events.
- 538 Civil society members, Local Elite, service providers and community leaders attended advocacy meetings/dialogue sessions. They are now well informed about the community nature, sexual diversity, providing friendly services towards community and finally they have arranged job for 05 CBO beneficiaries at the local level.
- 05 CBOs have developed Linkage with 20 Service providing organizations and getting health and legal services through developed MOU.
- Getting relief from different stakeholders for the community during natural disaster.
- Service providers are committed to deliver their services to the community people without cost.
BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT TO RECRUIT HIJRAS AS TRAFFIC POLICE: A BETTER LIVELIHOOD OPTION

As a part of Bandhu’s Policy and Advocacy initiatives over the last couple of years, it has been actively working with National Human Rights Commission, Govt of Bangladesh and Other relevant stake holders on the issue around health and human rights and employment opportunities of Hijra population.

As a result of rigorous advocacy efforts of Bandhu and other like minded organizations, the Govt of Bangladesh has decided to recruit Hijra Population as Traffic Police Officials from the next fiscal year - a part of important attempts to rehabilitate them and offer new avenues of employment. A meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Social Safety Net, chaired by Finance Minister, reached this decision on 19 May 2015. (The Dhaka Tribune online dated 20 May 2015).

Such decision will also encourage National level organizations and private sectors to consider creating employment provision for them.

SME LOAN FACILITIES BY BANGLADESH BANK

Bandhu encouraged self employment of Hijra populations since its inception. In this regard, different types of vocational training were provided in earlier years. Simultaneously, different stakeholders/originations including Bandhu have recommended at National level meeting/seminar with influential group to provide SME loan to Hijra population.

However, Bangladesh Bank has issued a notice on 10 June 2016 to provide SME loan to Hijra populations including other ethnic group people. The regulatory authority in its notice asked all the scheduled banks to take steps to bring these underprivileged sections within the SME activities.

The move to push the underprivileged population for SME comes a year after the government recognized Hijra as the third gender. Now, Hijra population will be eligible to take the loans directly or via a Non-Government Organization (NGO) linkage inside the SME loan activities of the apex bank. (The Daily Star online dated 10.6.2015)
Successful utilization of dance skills - a provision with "Essence of Soul"

Sakib was born with a family name, and his family was not a well-off one in terms of wealth. From the very childhood of Sakib, his talking style, big eyes and smiling face created joyful sights.

After his childhood, some symptoms developed in his body language and thought process which made his parents sad and upset.

But Sakib was confident enough to ignore negative observations of the family and neighbors. He watched dance program on TV and started dance practice on his own.

Later at his adolescent stage, he came in touch with Essence of Soul - an initiative of Bandhu for creating a livelihood option for the populations it serves and to increase their social acceptance in the mainstream society. He was admitted as trainee dancer in 2005.

Gradually he completed the basic course of modern dance and kept continuing his practice as dance performer enthusiastically though his family and neighbors insulted him for that.

Sakib tried to make his family to understand that it is his obsession and he also wants to contribute to change the economic condition of his family through dancing.

Sakib is now well-off and earning considerably good amount of money through his dance performances and choreographies. He is continuing his support towards his family and now regarded as respectful performer in his surroundings.
GOAL 5

ENHANCE CAPACITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF BANDHU

GIZ SUPPORT: ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT

With the realization of the fact that apart from result driven program intervention, it is imperative to enhance ‘Organizational Capacity’ from its current level. And therefore to ensure effective contribution to overall development in the area of human rights and sexual and reproductive health care needs of the sexual minority population, GIZ extended support to Bandhu to strengthen organizational capacity in the following areas:
1. Program Management
2. Financial management
3. Monitoring & Evaluation

Bandhu obtained technical support from GIZ on the program management area during March 2015. The areas of Financial management and Monitoring & Evaluation system strengthening were focused during June and July 2015. The activities were carried out through development of required modules focusing good and effective governance such as operational manuals and other procedures for grant management, partner management manual, management plan of managing SSRs and downstream funded partners, standard financial management system, M&E tools & Systems, M&E Action Plan etc.

GIZ supports towards strengthening Bandhu’s institutional capacity have direct significant impacts on the quality and efficiency of projects managed by Bandhu which also have an indirect leveraging effect on the direct investments made by other donors to promote and protect sexual and reproductive health and rights of gender diversified population.
Monitoring & Evaluation activities and enhancing Organizational skills

To improve the organizational skills on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities and to initiate organizational MIS, Bandhu has taken a number of steps and among them is participating in a workshop in Bangkok organized and conducted by APCOM.

The objectives of the workshop were to:
- Increase the participants’ knowledge and understanding on the Global Fund’s Progress Update/Disbursement Request (PUDR) and its supporting processes
- Increase the participants’ understanding of theory of change and monitoring and evaluation planning
- Provide the participants with the competencies to be able to apply concepts of monitoring and evaluation, including frameworks and components of M&E, selecting indicators and collection, how to measure advocacy, communications and social mobilization, and use information for M&E for learning and decision-making.

With this learning from the workshop, Bandhu now has
- Increased knowledge and understanding of the PUDR and its supporting processes.
- Increased understanding of theory of change and monitoring and evaluation planning.
- Obtained skills to apply concepts of organizational monitoring and evaluation, including improved understanding of results-based logical frameworks, generating information linked to the level of M&E system, how to select indicators and collect data, how to monitor and measure advocacy interventions, and use information for M&E for learning and decision-making.

ADDRESSING ISSUES OF GENDER DIVERSITY: organizational presence in regional efforts

Bandhu attended to the sixth ILGA-Asia regional conference, held during October 25 in Taipei. Based on the fact that Gender diversified population are remain criminalized in certain Asian countries and that sexuality, orientation, identity and body cannot be self-determined, fully recognized and freely expressed, a theme has been selected for 2015 ILGA-Asia conference: “Independent Souls and Bodies”.

Workshops covered topics such as political strategy, messaging and awareness raising, comparative legal analysis and other specific strategy formulation in regard to the independence of souls and bodies. The objectives of the conference were to:
- To make an ideas how a regional events organized in terms of financial management.
- To increase/invoke the Asian Gender diversified population network and build up partnership in future development.
- To learn innovation and support Bandhu program for future programming.
In the process of implementing the activities toward achieving the organizational mission and vision since 1996, Bandhu has acquired, generated and disseminated valuable information, data and knowledge through its projects and programs.

As a part of knowledge management Bandhu has documented those information following a structured approach and established a Gender and Sexuality Resource Center in Dhaka with other related resources.

This Resource Centre is enriched with moderate collections of about 700 publications of Bandhu and other organizations on sexual and reproductive health and human rights including life and culture of the sexual minority population which include books, reports, journals, brochures, training modules, newsletters, video documentaries and IEC Materials.

The Resource centre welcomes students including post graduates, academicians, journalists, lawyers, activists and professionals.
EVENTS IN PICTURES
# Financial Statements 2015

Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu)

## Statement of Financial Position

as on 31 December 2015

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<th>Notes</th>
<th>Amount in Taka</th>
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<td>Capital fund</td>
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|     | 2015           | 2015           |
|     | 30,757,920    | 37,054,670    |

The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statement.

S. F. Ahmed & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed.

Dated, Dhaka,
10 April, 2016
Financial Statements 2015
Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu)

Statement of Income and Expenditure
for the year ended 31 December 2015

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<tr>
<td>Project expenses</td>
<td>15 127,821,651 130,370,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salaries &amp; benefits</td>
<td>16  815,924  786,392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program expenses</td>
<td>17     2,302,655 3,137,975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative expenses</td>
<td>18 45,148 35,465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,908,177  3,977,678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>133,893,555 138,307,708</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Excess/(Deficit) of income over expenditure before taxation 1,655,441 4,774,443

|       | 2015                          |
|       | 2014                          |
| **Total**         | 135,548,996 143,082,150 |

The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statement.

Chairperson

Executive Director

Director Finance & Administration

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed.

Dated, Dhaka,
10 April, 2016

S. F. Ahmed & Co.
Chartered Accountants
# Financial Statements 2014
## Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu)

### Statement of Receipts and Payments
For the year ended 31 December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Amount in Taka</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### RECEIPTS

- Opening balances:
  - Cash in hand: 15,238 4,462
  - Cash at bank: 26,144,131 9,289,555

- Foreign donation: 19 120,025,452 139,489,454
- Local Donation: 627,900
- Donation received by project from core: 43,316,920 58,462,618
- Other income: 20 4,664,808 9,075,675
- Bank interest: 21 567,473 859,083
- Security deposit: 16,000 22,200
- Project closing amount: 22 - -
- Advance realized: 23 2,135,859 2,318,309
- Loan received from core: 24 6,282,724 2,506,416
- Receive against expenses: 20 4,664,808 9,075,675
- Transfer from previous project: 25 - -
- Preserve for Exchange: 1,526,763
- Accounts Receivable Realized: 8,567,664
- Accounts Payable adjust: 5230 5,230
- Loan realize: 8,556,221 3,295,528

#### PAYMENTS

- Project expenses: 122,942,788 128,824,050
- Salaries & benefits: 815,924 786,392
- Program expenses: 2,243,554 3,137,975
- Administrative expenses: 45,148 35,465
- Investment in fixed deposit: - -
- Fund refund to the Donor: 110,807 70,571
- Paid to projects by core: 43,316,920 58,462,618
- Capital expenditure: 25 835,359 821,708
- Advances, deposits & prepayments: 26 3,672,400 1,504,174
- Project close amount: - -
- Paid against expenses: 27 11,914,441 592,443
- Loan paid to projects: 28 1,127,847 747,844
- Payment against accounts payable: 27 11,914,441 592,443
- Bank Interest Transfer to The Donor: 801,269
- Others Fund Transfer to The Donor: 55,740
- Accounts receivable Adjusted: 26 2,626 4,351
- Preserve for expenses: 11,695,004
- Accounts Payable Adjusted: 5,881
- Loan repayment to core by project: 29 3,201,113 5,113,517

#### CLOSING BALANCES

- Cash in hand: 8,148 15,238
- Cash at bank: 16,533,792 26,144,131

The annexed notes form an integral part of these financial statement.

Chairperson
Executive Director
Director
Finance & Administration

Signed in terms of our separate report of even date annexed.

Dated, Dhaka,
10 April, 2016
计划：2016 & BEYOND

- 提倡活动与国教部（NCTB）合作，包括在3年级性别教育计划中包括在3年级性别人口的教科书中的介绍。
- 与人权组织、国家人权委员会、国家法律委员会密切合作，继续在法律支持问题上开展活动。
- 补充活动，旨在提高社区健康和能力的增强。
- 提升通过组织政策倡导创造的机遇。

- 创造通过媒体与不同媒体特别是与“守护者”对话来解决法律和人权问题，以解决第三性别教育的多样性问题在孟加拉国。
Bandhu is a National non-governmental and non-profit organization it was registered under the Social Welfare Directorate (registration number DHA 03879) in July 1997. It was also registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau under Foreign Donation Regulation Act vide no 1225 in December 1997, and then renewed on times.