EXCHANGE VISIT

To improve the policy environment with regards TG and HIV related issues in South Asia

ABOUT EXCHANGE VISIT

As per the strategic objectives outlines in the project document on enhancing information sharing and knowledge exchange, Save the Children International- Nepal arranged exchange visit in Bangladesh where the delegates of Bhutan and Sri Lanka will visit Bandhu Social Welfare Society from 7 August to 11 August 2017. Purpose of the visit is to improve the policy environment in South Asia and also to demonstrate successful achievements and good practices highlighting GO-NGO collaboration in Bangladesh.

MEETING WITH UNAIDS, BANGLADESH OFFICIALS

On 08 August 2017, Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) organized a meeting with UNAIDS, Bangladesh officials, Bandhu and delegates from Srilanka and Bhutan at Ankita, Mini Conference Room (14th floor), Amari Dhaka, 47, Road No#41, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh. 12 eminent guests attended the meeting representing Country Director of UNAIDS, Executive Director of Bandhu, MP from Bhutan, State Minister of Srilanka Director of NASP and other foreign deligates. Major Discussions of this meeting were working strategy og Bangladesh and coordinationg policy with civil society.
MEETING WITH BANDHU SOCIAL WELFARE SOCIETY OFFICIALS

Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) organized a meeting with High Govt. official Delegates of Bhutan and Sri Lanka at Conference Room, Head Office, Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu), 99 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on 08 August 2017, Mr. Shale Ahmed welcomed and exhibited a Promo about 20 year’s achievements of Bandhu. Umme Farhana Zarif Kanta, Program Manager, Bandhu briefly shared the overview of Bandhu and significant achievements of MSA Grant in Bangladesh highlighting National and Regional development of Hijra Community. The highlighted parts of this discussion are as follows:

Working strategy of Bandhu despite facing significant level of challenges considering political, social, religious and legal impediments, Bandhu and future plan of sustainability, • Success story behind the ample network of Bandhu with multilevel key stakeholder

MEETING WITH NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (NHRC), BANGLADESH

On 09 August 2017, Bandhu and NHRC organized a meeting with High govt officials of Bhutan and Sri Lanka and Chairman of NHRC at NHRC Office, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215. Chairman, National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) warm welcomed to the guests. He said that this type of exchange visit is beneficial to both countries. Then NHRC shared briefly an overview of NHRC activities and highlights of relevant cases and its success story on third Gender issue as well. The highlighted parts of this discussion are as follows: Question arose about the activities of NHRC where transgender definition is still unclear, NHRC procedure of building bridge with civil society organizations in Bangladesh, Dealing strategy of NHRC about sexual minority issue in the country and • Vital roles of NHRC regarding medical test of Hijra while getting Govt. Job in Bangladesh.

MEETING WITH MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

With the kind presence of our Honorable Health Minister, Md. Nasim, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, a discussion meeting was held at Conference room, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh on 09 August 2016. Warm welcome by Md. Nasim, Honorable Health Minister. In his speech, “it was added that people of Bangladesh respect a lot Sri Lanka and Bhutan as a good neighboring country. Beside, people specially remember Bhutan as they first declared the recognition of Bangladesh as an independent country on 6 December, 1971”

Bandhu exhibited a PowerPoint Presentation about the working strategy & achievement of MSA Grant in Bangladesh.

Guests praised Ministry of Social Welfare and Health Ministry as they jointly collaborated with the transgender issue and also appreciated them for preventing HIV prevalence in Bangladesh.

MEETING WITH NATIONAL CURRICULUM AND TEXTBOOK BOARD (NCTB)

Bandhu organized a meeting with NCTB and High Govt. official Delegates of Bhutan and Sri Lanka at Conference Room, NCTB, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh. NCTB shared a presentation which includes history of NCTB, their activities, mode of operation, success story, learner awareness, transgender issue and path forwards. Moreover they have discussed about transgender issue, interference of government, management system of free book distributions and reflection of free book distribution of national budget.

MEETING WITH AIDS/STD PROGRAM (ASP), BANGLADESH

On 10 August 2017, Bandhu and ASP organized a meeting with High govt officials of Bhutan and Sri Lanka at Spectra Convention Center, Gulshan-1 Dhaka- 1212. ASP exhibited a PowerPoint presentation which includes major achievements of health sector, introduction of the affected key population, integrated approach, key challenges and working strategy of Government and Non-Government Organization to ensure health care service to the huge population.