Reducing the impact of HIV on men who have sex with men and transgender populations in South Asia

Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu)
Bringing Changes. Improving Lives. Keeping Promises
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIDS</td>
<td>Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCC</td>
<td>Behavior Change Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSS</td>
<td>Behavioral Surveillance Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBO</td>
<td>Community Based Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSRC</td>
<td>Gender and Sexuality Resource Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GFATM</td>
<td>Global Fund for AIDS, TB, and Malaria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOB</td>
<td>Government of Bangladesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human Immunodeficiency Virus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HMIS</td>
<td>Health Management Information System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEC</td>
<td>Information, Education and Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KABP</td>
<td>Knowledge, Attitude, Behavior and Practices (Survey)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MESST</td>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation System Strengthening Tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MP</td>
<td>Member of Parliament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSA</td>
<td>Multi-country South Asia Global Fund HIV program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSM</td>
<td>Men who have Sex with Men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSW</td>
<td>Male Sex Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAC</td>
<td>National AIDS Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NASP</td>
<td>National AIDS/STD Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSP</td>
<td>National Strategic Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLHIV</td>
<td>People Living with HIV/AIDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STD</td>
<td>Sexually Transmitted Disease(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STI</td>
<td>Sexually Transmitted Infection(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TG</td>
<td>Transgender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Fund for Population Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNGASS</td>
<td>United Nations General Assembly Special Session (on HIV/AIDS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACRONYMS

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PREFACE

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MSA PROJECT: At a Glance

JANUARY to JUNE 2016

We trained 219 people including

67 External Stakeholders
152 Emergent CBOs and in-country downstream partners

Advocacy Meeting with 457 GO/NGO stakeholders including

51 Legal aid providers and participants of human rights-based organisations
12 Media Journalists
42 Participants of Govt. Hospitals including civil surgeon, residential medical officers, upazilla health officers and family planning officer
80 Local Elected Bodies (LEB) including City Mayor, Ward Counsellors
70 Governmental officials, counselors of City Corporation, civil surgeon representative, social welfare representative, development organization’s representative
38 Emergent CBOs and in-country downstream partners
51 Participants from CBOs, Social Welfare Department and CSOs
121 GO and NGO officials

COMMUNITY SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

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PREFACE

Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) started its journey since 1996 and till date it has been consistently and sincerely serving the sexual and gender diverse population across the country. Over the last 20 years, Bandhu has expanded its work to health & rights and complementing the national response, therefore, emerged as the distinguished leading NGO in the country in its nature which works towards the well-being of sexual and gender diverse person. It also facilitates sexual and reproductive health service, support human rights, dignity, social justice and livelihoods of their choices. Bandhu’s programs are implemented in close coordination with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Welfare, City Corporations, National Human Rights Commission and civil society.

Multi-country South Asia Global fund HIV program (MSA) is one of the significant project of Bandhu which focuses on Community System Strengthening (CSS). A total of 25 Community Based Organizations (CBO) formed in Bangladesh so far where Bandhu provided technical assistance to develop their minimum capacity under MSA project. In order to showcasing its periodic significant achievement, Bandhu regularly produces half yearly report under this project.

However, despite all the challenges, we have achieved all the targets as per plan by changing some strategies.

This time Bandhu is very much pleased to publish its half yearly report of MSA project (January- June 2016). In this period, the country has witnessed severe crisis in respect to terrorist attack which creates a significant level of challenges to implement its activities.

During this reporting period, we have been able to conduct a high level advocacy program with National Curriculum and Text Book (NCTB) and the active role and cooperation of NCTB made us so generous. Another significant level of achievement is adaptation of stigma package by the National AIDS Committee (TC-NAC). Training for Government physicians on Stigma package in collaboration with National Aids/STD Programme (NASP), Seed Fund Grant launching and successfully ending is another remarkable achievement in Bangladesh. Through this grant the 11 CBOs has developed a good network at local level and built leadership skills that helped them to get access in different services. Ain-Alap - the legal helpline corner has meaningfully contributed to the legal needs of the community and successfully settled a number of rights violation cases and referred to National Human Rights Commission and District Level Lawyers Group.

It was all possible with the Team effort and dedication of MSA project staffs along with timely and appropriate guideline, suggestions and feedbacks of Executive Director, Directors (Program and Finance) of Bandhu and UNDP BRH which deserves sincere applaud and Thanks.
**MSA PROJECT: At a Glance**

**JANUARY to JUNE 2016**

CBO’s Capacity Building and Advocacy Program by MSA Project of Bandhu

---

### We trained 219 people including
- 67 External Stakeholders
- 152 Emergent CBOs and in-country downstream partners

### Legal Support
- 303 Calls received and provided legal information, counselling and support
- 29 Cases received on human rights violation
- 4 Referred to lawyers and legal aid providing organization
- 3 Investigation

### Advocacy Meeting
with 457 GO/NGO Stakeholders including
- 51 Legal aid providers and participants of human rights based organizations
- 12 Media Journalists
- 42 Participants of Govt. Hospitals including civil surgeon, residential medical officers, upazilla health officers and family planning officer
- 80 Local Elected Bodies (LEB) including City Mayor, Ward Counsellors
- 70 Governmental officials, counsellors of City Corporation, civil surgeon representative, social welfare representative, development organization’s representative
- 30 Emergent CBOs and in country downstream partners
- 51 Participants from CBOs, Social Welfare Department and CSOs
- 121 GO and NGO officials

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Half Yearly Report of MSA Grant | January-June 2016
TRAINING PROGRAM FOR EMERGENT CBOs AND IN-COUNTRY DOWNSTREAM PARTNERS:

Bandhu conducted six trainings for the emergent CBOs and in-country downstream partners. The trainings are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training on Yogyakarta Principle, UPR &amp; Case Documentation Process</td>
<td>19-21 January 2016</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training on Good Governance &amp; Management</td>
<td>7-10 March 2016</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training on CBO Sustainability and Alternative livelihood</td>
<td>27-30 March 2016</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training on Yogyakarta Principle, UPR &amp; Case Documentation Process</td>
<td>17-19 May 2016</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Training of Trainers (ToT) for emergent CBOs</td>
<td>24-27 May 2016</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training on Basic Counseling</td>
<td>21-24 June 2016</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Training for Emergent CBOs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Axis Title</th>
<th>Pre test score</th>
<th>Post test score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Training on CBO Sustainability and Alternative livelihood</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training on Good Governance &amp; Management</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training on Yogyakarta Principle, UPR &amp; Case Documentation Process</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basic Training of Trainers (ToT) for emergent CBOs</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training on Yogyakarta Principle, UPR &amp; Case Documentation Process</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training on Basic counseling</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING:

- A total of 05 Business Plans were developed for individual CBOs.
- Participants from CBO are able to deliver the learning’s on methods, materials, facilitator’s skill, design of low cost training at local level, report writing, etc.
- Beneficiaries are receiving counselling from the CBO
- Awareness developed on the legal issue and referring their beneficiaries to Ain-Alap - a legal help line corner for legal help.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

TRAINING ON 'TREATMENT AS PREVENTION' FOR MSM AND TG PEOPLE

In Bangladesh, few of organizations are working on Treatment, Care and Support for PLHIV and Bandhu arranged this training for them from 21-24 March 2016 where a total of 19 participants attended.

Objective of Training:
The major objective of the training was to generate knowledge and create awareness on HIV treatment and literacy among community worker, so that they can provide better services to PLHIV people in Bangladesh.

Immediate Outcome of the Training:
After three days training, the participants understood about the impact of HIV on health and immune systems, importance of CD4 count and viral load test results, concept of Highly Active Antiretroviral Therapy (HAART) & how does HAART works, when should HAART be initiated, concept of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and opportunistic infection (OIs), some common STI and OIs, prevention monitoring and treatment of STI and OIs.

At the end of the training, they developed an Action Plan identifying individual roles and responsibilities. The average pre test and post test scores were 69 and 91.
TRAINING ON STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION RELATED TO HIV AND STI SYNDROMIC MANAGEMENT FOR GOVERNMENT HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS

In 2015, Bandhu developed a resource pool with the Govt. Health Providers and conducted ToT from 26-29 January 2016. This is the 2nd batch of training where a total of 26 participants attended from different Govt. Upzila Health Complex.

The training was organized by Bandhu with the support of NASP (National AIDS/STD Program) from 26-28 June 2016 at Conference Hall of National AIDS/STD Program (NASP), Gulshan-1, Dhaka.

Objective of training:
The objectives of the training program were:

- To sensitize the participants on sexuality issues and health needs of MSM/TGs to address stigma and discrimination
- To provide better management of STIs and other common health problems for this group.

A total of 27 participants attended the training that includes medical officers, upazilla health and family planning officers, superintendent, and directors from all over Bangladesh. Overall, the training experience was appreciated by the participants.

This was mixed group of doctors, few of them attended earlier in basic training and some of them are new. Increase of knowledge/skills after the training was reported to be more in the areas of Knowledge about MSM/TG community, epidemiology of STIs/HIV, non STI and genital problems and risk behaviors that exist in society in acquiring HIV/STI. The average pretest and post test scores were 75.85% and 87.67% respectively.

After the training an Action Plan was developed as follows:

- Participants will share their learning with other health service providers to sensitize and reduce stigma and discrimination while dealing with MSM/TG client at local level.
- A district level advocacy workshop may be organized with representatives of Government and NGO sectors to create an enabling environment in favor of MSM/TG community
- Initiatives need to be taken to set up an “MSM/TG friendly corner” in the health complex that will encourage MSM/TG to come out and motivate to receive services from Government Health Service Centre.
The average training pre-test score was 46 and post-test average score was 88.

CENTRAL LEVEL COORDINATION MEETING WITH HTC TEAM OF RCC COUNTRY PROGRAM

Coordination Meeting with HTC team of GF country program was held on 27-28 March 2016 at Bandhu Conference Room, Head Office, 99 Kakrail, Dhaka – 1000. A total of 30 participants attended from different districts of Bangladesh. Bandhu is implementing Service Delivery program and Regional program under GF since 2010. The regional grant supplements the country program through providing capacity building training as per need. Analysing the need of country program, Bandhu arranged two days coordination meeting and the objective of the program was to enhance skills and capacity of HTC counsellors, lab technicians, paramedics and STI counsellors on HIV/AIDS, HTC and treatment care and support and to increase conceptualization of referral and HIV status discloser with others/ agencies/ organizations.

TRAINING ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL LAWS RELATED TO SOGI POPULATION WITH LAWYERS:

Bandhu conducted two days training with District Level Lawyers Group (DLLG) from 27-28 May 2016 at PMO, Siddeswari, Dhaka where 21 participants attended. The major purpose of this training was to increase the knowledge of lawyers on human rights and to share the contemporary development on gender diversified population in national and international arena.

After the training, the participants were well informed about the regional development about this community, international human rights law and also gathered basic knowledge on UPR and gender diversity population.

- No facility to do proctoscope at local level was set up, therefore a referral mechanism is essential with nearby NGO clinics having proctoscope examination facility, so that MSM/TG clients could be referred for proctoscope examination, if required.
- An orientation session on MSM/TG population for field workers needs to be arranged for better referral.
The learning points were Counselor’s values and attitudes, counseling micro-skills, proper use of Behavior Change Communication, preventive methods of STI and HIV transmission, models of behavior change, problem solving methods, clinical risk assessment, techniques of STI screening and treatment, definition of counseling for Treatment Adherence.

**Agreed action items for following up:**
- Community based Treatment, Care and Support program is strongly required
- Refer directly to “Sparsho” (a sister concern of Bandhu for PLHIV MSM and Hijra) and ensure Counseling, Treatment, Care and Support to MSM&TG PLHIV
- Initiatives required building unique referral mechanism with the support from GF country program.
- HIV status disclouser policy of Bandhu is essential as community led organization.
- Home visits are essential by HIV Testing & Counseling (HTC)
- Required new strategies for providing treatment especially STI and general health services to minimize the gaps between HTC and STI clinical services.
- Arrange more training on Care Giver and Discloser issues.

**Minimum Capacity and Monitoring Visit**

Since the inception of MSA project, Bandhu is providing Technical Assistance to the CBOs for achieving minimum capacity and their sustainability in future. For this, Bandhu assessed the capacity of the existing CBOs and selected few potential CBOs for developing their capacity both in Organizational Structure including Good Governance and skill building of Individual members.

For this, MSA team of Bandhu regularly visits different CBOs and so far arranged 09 (Nine) field visits in 08 CBOs as a part of Technical Assistance. As some of the CBOs received seed fund grant, so through this visits Bandhu also monitored regular progress of small grant program.
Community Based Organizations (CBOs) are

- Arpon Manab Kallan Sangtha in Jessore District
- Pabna Saboj Sangha in Pabna District
- Agragami Samajik Unnayan Sangha in Sirajganj District
- Protiva Manob Kallan Sangstha in Natore District
- Setu Bandhan Kallan Sangstha in Mymensingh District
- Siri Somaj Kallyan Sangstha in Jamalpur District
- Sudarban Manob Kallyan Sangstha in Mongla District
- Shopn Chowga in Barisal District

The following technical supports were given throughout the visits:

- Development of Action Plan
- Regular guideline to implement monthly work plan
- Provide on the job training on financial, programmatic and M&E issues
- Assistance to prepare monthly and quarterly report according to prescribed format developed by Bandhu.
- Guideline to develop concept note for local level advocacy events and management
- Monitoring of documentation process
- Assisted to develop strategic plan of Agragami CBO, Sirajganj
- Guidance to practice good governance through conducting regular EC meeting, Annual General Meeting (AGM) and dissemination of reports/meeting notes with EC members.

Achievements:

- Conducting regular EC meeting following the Constitutions of individual CBOs
- Strategic plan of Agragami Samajik Unnyan Shangho, CBO, Sirajganj have been developed
- Service providing organizations are sensitized at local level and providing support according to need of the community
- Arranging local level advocacy event involving influential local stakeholders
- Completing monthly activities according to target
- Strengthening referral mechanism with other health service providing organizations
As a part of minimum capacity, Bandhu provided technical assistance to produce Strategic Plan of Agragami in June 2016. This plan was developed for three years following all systematic procedures and steps.
Amongst 12 Business plans, three business plans are already on board. They have started their business with limited amount that was managed by the EC members and the statuses of the business are as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of CBOs</th>
<th>Total Investment (BDT)</th>
<th>Total profit (BDT)</th>
<th>Grand /Net profit (BDT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dener Alo Hijra Shangho-Rajshahi</td>
<td>43,100</td>
<td>51,000</td>
<td>7,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shapla Hijra / MSM Unnayan Shongthon-Sherpur</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>24,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siri Samaj Kallyan Shangho- Jamalpur</td>
<td>200,000</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Arifa (President, Siri Shomaj Kollayan Shongstha) received award for outstanding contribution as Third Gender to the Development of Society.
As part of Seed Fund Grant (Phase II), Bandhu made an agreement with 06 CBO’s and started implementing their activities in respective areas. This was six months program that will continue from November 2015 to April 2016. Before starting the program, Bandhu organized orientation program with all CBO staffs and conducted midterm review meeting to share project progress, find draw backs/ challenges and a proper guideline was also provided throughout the meeting.

**Seed Funding** was officially launched in November 2014, with the announcement of a call for applicants for projects to be implemented between March to August 2016. As part of the Seed Grant Fund, BSWS made an agreement with 5 CBOs on March 2015 and started its intervention from April 2015. Initially it was 6 months program from March to August 2015 but due to unavoidable circumstances the program was extended for another one month. But primarily 05 CBOs were selected based on criteria and other process and Bandhu goes to second call based on the recommendations of Ad-hoc committee.

As illustrated below, from 2015 to 2016, there were two phases of Seed Funding.
### RESULT OF THE CBOs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL</th>
<th>Name of the CBO</th>
<th>Total Reach</th>
<th>Grant In USD</th>
<th>Grant In BDT</th>
<th>CBO Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bachar Asha Sanscritic Sangoton (BASS)</td>
<td>569</td>
<td>$7,746</td>
<td>595,698</td>
<td>Rajshahi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Chattala Jubo Songa (CJS)</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>$8,569</td>
<td>658,956</td>
<td>Chittagong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Chinnomul Manob Kallayan Society (CMKS)</td>
<td>1744</td>
<td>$8,105</td>
<td>623,279</td>
<td>Khulna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Rajshai Sonali Din Manob Kollan Sangtha (RSDMKS)</td>
<td>889</td>
<td>$6,946</td>
<td>534,114</td>
<td>Rajshahi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Surjer Alo Hijra Sangothon (SAHS)</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>$7,971</td>
<td>612,977</td>
<td>Chittagong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Arpon Manob Kallyan Sangstha (AMKS)</td>
<td>737</td>
<td>$7,307</td>
<td>568,500</td>
<td>Jessore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Agragami Samajik Unnayan Sangha (ASUS)</td>
<td>634</td>
<td>$7,197</td>
<td>559,950</td>
<td>Sirajganj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pabna Sobuj Sanghu (PSS)</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>$7,338</td>
<td>570,950</td>
<td>Pabna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Protiva Manob Kallan Sangtha (PMKS)</td>
<td>644</td>
<td>$6,926</td>
<td>538,900</td>
<td>Natore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Setu Bondhon Kallyan Songho (SBKS)</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>$7,249</td>
<td>564,000</td>
<td>Mymensingh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>PaddaKuri Manab Kallayan Sangha (PMKS)</td>
<td>672</td>
<td>$7,268</td>
<td>565,450</td>
<td>Dhaka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>82,622</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,392,774</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of the CBO</td>
<td>Results &amp; Outcome</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Chinnomul Manob Kallyan Society (CMKS), located in central Khulna | - Built a strong network with reputed organization and receiving need-based support from each other. Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) offered special facility for youth Hijra/MSM in their Tarar Mela—a youth-friendly corner of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) support.  
- Through capacity building training they are aware about MOU procedure and developed 5 MOU with different organizations.  
- Initiated organization website and uploaded recent activities for wider dissemination of their activities.  
- Mass people are aware about the community through radio and street *pot song and direct interaction has been done between community and mass people throughout the program that may reduce the homophobia about the community.*  
- Theme-based media report on community people were produced to create mass awareness.  
- Social Welfare Department and DC office has already listed Chinnomul CBO for land allocation. Besides this, Chinnomul is regularly attending NGO coordination meetings at DC office.  
- Developed business plan for their sustainability and sought necessary support from other local level organizations for implementing the plan.  
- A report on Rights and Social Awareness was broadcasted in Bangladesh Betar-Khulna (Govt. Radio station).  
- Develop a list of PLHIV (total 72 including non-community people) and linked them with other networking organizations at local level for care and support. |
| Agragami Shamajik Unnayan Shongho (ASUS), located in Sirajganj district | - Member of Parliament (MP) recommended on district commissioner’s letter to allocate land for ASUS.  
- President of ASUS is now member of district level HIV/AIDS committee that is facilitated by the National AIDS/STD Program (NASP).  
- 54 hijra received elderly pension and 9 hijra received student stipend from Social Welfare Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare.  
- 50 hijra and MSM received free training on Tailoring and Livestock Breeding by the Social Welfare department and 10 hijra received a total of 100,000 taka (10,000 each) to purchase initial stuffs for better livelihood option.  
- CBO President is now representing the CBO in different programs at local level.  
- Surjer Hashi clinic recommended referring the community people for any kind of treatment.  
- 60% discount is offered by the Marie Stopes Clinic for community for any kind of treatment along with free HIV testing.  
- Civil Surgeon is committed to set up a separate corner for the community in Govt. Hospitals in future. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the CBO</th>
<th>Results &amp; Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Arpon Manob Kallyan Society (AMKS), located in Jessore district | • 25 GO & NGOs are well informed about the activities of AMKS. So far a total of 22 MSM received VCT services from Marie Stopes Clinic and FPAB. Besides 4 MSM received direct health services from Government hospitals.  
• 40 community people has been referred to the government hospitals for STI and general health care services  
• 10 Community person received free HB (hepatitis b) vaccine from local organizations  
• 15 Local level organizations are informed about the patterns of violence and 06 legal services providing organizations made commitment to provide legal help for free of cost.  
• 9 community members are rehabilitated in their family as an effect of continuous counseling session with their family. Presently they are enjoying peaceful life and actively participating in different social events.  
• MOU developed with 4 health service providing organizations.  
• 75 MSM gained knowledge on SRHR and among them 38 members done VCT assessing their associate risk.  
• Youth Development Department provided vocational training to 10 youth community people. In addition, 03 community people received vocational training from other organization without cost.  
• Civil Surgeon is committed to provide best support to the community in coming days at Jessore and for this he already has given necessary instructions to government physicians to ensure services. Beside this, he also arranged orientation program on gender diversity with other district level health service providers at his office. |
| Bachar Asha Sanskritik Sangstha (BASS), located in Rajshahi district | • 60 Trainees are disseminating information on HIV/AIDS to enlisted community people according to their Mother List.  
• Executive Committee (EC) members are practicing Good Governance issues as per CBO constitution and as a result their Election; Annual General Meeting etc is under process to be completed by 2016.  
• 46 parents are sensitized about the concerns of their children and are able to talk willingly with other similar parents to accept their children in the family.  
• Received tube well and other emergency relief materials from DC office.  
• Upzilla Nirbahi Office and Social Welfare Department endorsed Bachar Asha for Govt. grant and so far they received 25000 taka from Social Welfare Department.  
• Developed strong network with GO and other local organizations and attending different events i.e. NGO coordination meeting, DC meeting, District AIDS Committee, social welfare department etc through formal invitation.  
• Nawhata local Bazar Committee appointed 5 hijra in different jobs at local area.  
• Local market committee has allocated space to the CBO with low cost for starting business initially.  
• The local computer training centre committed that Two Hijra in each upcoming batch will be enrolled with NO cost.  
• FPAB is distributing free medical services and VCT to the community and committed to arrange one STI session at Bachar Asha in every month in near future.  
• Local Govt. Health Complex are giving priority to the community with low cost treatment facility. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the CBO</th>
<th>Results &amp; Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Paddakuri Hijra Shangho (PKHS), located in central Dhaka | • Most of the participants have made promises to provide proper health services to Hijra.  
• Hijra guru/s is now more aware about their social roles and responsibility and taking leadership to uphold hijra’s reputation in their territory which is recently under threatens.  
• Hijra gurus are now actively involved to stop the toll collection at traffic signal as recently some non-hijra/non-hijra community population are collecting money from the people forcefully.  
• Most of the training participants are now well informed about the human rights of Hijra and raising their voice against the violation of rights.  
• 75 Hijra received winter clothes from Additional DIG of Police as a part of good network with Law Enforcement Agency (LEA).  
• 17 Community people referred in other organization and receiving counseling session without hesitation.  
• Developed referral directory of health service providing organizations at local level.  
• Increased knowledge on Rights as Citizen and filed General Diary (GD) on different issues at local Thana. |

| Surjer Alo Hijra Sangho (SAHS), located in Chittagong district | • 101 participants gathered knowledge on HIV/AIDS and STI and most of them are willing to practice safer sex. They are collecting condoms and lubricants from depot holder under GF country program according their need.  
• MOU has been signed with 06 service providing organizations at local level and receiving services as per need.  
• 20 Family members are well oriented about the Orientation of Hijra Community and 5 hijra are living within the family.  
• Good rapport with Chittagong City Mayor is developed and City Mayor attended two different events to show his moral support for the community.  
• City Mayor was committed to issue a letter to each school under Chittagong City Corporation to extend support during admission with Hijra identity.  
• They involved Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) with their activities during program implementation. The president of CBO attending in different meetings regularly which is taken by City Corporation.  
• Received name clearance certificate from registration authority which is the direct result of good network with respective authority.  
• Chittagong Metropolitan Police is committed to create a Govt. job opportunity for Hijra and already developed a list of local hijra.  
• Social Welfare Department (SWD) provided vocational training to 20 Hijra for better livelihood. After the training 01 Hijra already set up a beauty parlor in Chittagong and earning 5000 taka in each month.  
• Elderly Hijra who are above 50 years old is listed for elderly pension and some of them already receiving 600 taka per month. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the CBO</th>
<th>Results &amp; Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Setu Bondhon Kallyan Sangha (SBKS), located in Mymensingh district** | - Social Welfare Department committed to provide free computer training and loan for the community.  
- 2 community person already received job offer from the local sewing factory and planning to join.  
- The head of Gyne department of govt. hospitals offered yearly allowance to the poor hijra community members.  
- Applied for the khas land from the government authority for setting up own office.  
- Community people are now receiving services from government hospitals at local level through strong references and active facilitation of different advocacy events under seed fund grant.  
- MOU developed with 4 local level service providers and receiving service with No cost.  
- The beneficiaries are actively involved with different cultural activities and participating at district level cultural programs and events under district Shilpokola academy (Govt. Art and Cultural Centre).  
- At local level, this CBO is now well known to each and every one that is direct result of different advocacy events and effective network. |
| **Rajshai Sonali-Din Manob Kalyan Sangstha (RSDMKS) located in Central City, Rajshahi** | - 100 MSM and TG received training on HIV/AIDS and gathered correct information of using condom and lubricants. They also understand the importance of Correct and consisting condom use and committed to wide spread this information amongst other listed community members through group session.  
- Receiving opportunity from local health service providing organizations to get access on HIV screening and other Non Communicable Diseases.  
- Partnership between RSDMKS and Civil Surgeon office strengthened and signed MOUs with different health service providing organizations for further supports.  
- Civil Surgeon and Medical Authority clearly mentioned to other Govt. Health Service providers to provide equal services to the community.  
- Increased interest among community members to visit public health complexes and availing free treatment and VCT services from Upazilla Health Complex under Civil Surgeon. |
| **Protiva Manob Kallan Sanghstha (PMKS), located in Natore district** | - 50 Trainees are disseminating information on human rights and HIV/AIDS to listed community people for better livelihood options.  
- 30 family members were sensitized and showing positive attitudes on gender diversity issues and their needs.  
- Hijra is entitled for elderly pension and student stipend under Govt. Pilot Project.  
- Executive Director of local NGO has committed to start lobbying with other NGO for recruiting at least 1% MSM/Hijra in different services at local level.  
- One MSM has received a sewing machine from City Mayor for starting initial livelihood options.  
- PMKS has developed a letter for Governmental Land and submitted to the district commissioner office. |
### Name of the CBO

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CBO</th>
<th>Results &amp; Outcome</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| Chattala Jubo Songa (CJS), located in central Chittagong | - BRAC (NGO) is committed to provide different services the community with free of cost.  
- FPAB is planning to set up a satellite clinic for the community in Chittagong.  
- Health service providers in Chittagong are committed to provide condom and lubricant along with necessary health facilities.  
- City Mayor promised to allocate land for the community and a prayer of CBO is under process for submission.  
- 50 community participants received livelihood training from the social welfare department and cash already handed over to the participants to purchase sewing machine for set up income generating activities.  
- 4 MOU was signed with different health service providing organizations at local level. |
| Pabna Sabuj Sangha (PSS), located in Pabna district | - 59 Trainees are disseminating information on HTC, Human rights in relation to HIV/AIDS to community people.  
- Pabna Medical College committed to provide HIV Testing and Counseling (HTC) services with free of cost to the community.  
- 91 local elites and local government institutional personnel are sensitized about MSM/ Hijra community and willing to provide necessary support (i.e. training, legal aid support, health care support) in future.  
- Executive Committee (EC) members are keeping on practicing on good governance issues as per CBO constitution (i.e. Election, EC meeting etc.). The EC election is just completed as a part of Good Governance.  
- Government Officials are willing to participate in different events of this CBO. |
Bandhu arranged first ever orientation program with National Curriculum and Text Book Board (NCTB) under the Ministry of Education on 18th June at Daily Star conference room, Dhaka. A total of 51 guests attended from NCTB and different educational institutes who are directly affiliated with NCTB. Professor Narayan Chondro Saha, Chairman, National Curriculum and Text Board as Chief Guest, Professor Dr. Ratan Siddique, Member, Textbook, NCTB and Ms. Lucky Inam, renowned Celebrity and Activist were there as Special Guest. Mr. Anisul Islam Hero, Chairperson, Bandhu was there to deliver welcome speech in the opening session. The major objective of the program was to disseminate clear and correct information about the Hijra Community and outlining the way forward to include Hijra as 3rd Gender in National Curriculum and Textbook.

The following issues were discussed during open discussion:

- The University of Dhaka has included the Hijra topics in the course of Gender Studies and Open University of Bangladesh can be one of the suitable universities for further inclusion of Hijra topics in academic curriculum. (Robaet Ferdous, Associate Professor, Dept of Mass Communication & Journalism, University of Dhaka). Bandhu can start lobbying from now on.
The teachers of different schools and college should know more than the text book. The teacher’s training is very much important as they portray in the classroom. Considering the situation, right now we can target Teachers Curriculum as Teachers are trained based on that and then Bandhu can gradually proceed for National Text Curriculum (Songita Imam, Teacher of Vikarunnesa Noon School and College).

Government of Bangladesh already introduced Free Online course in the website and also provided certificates among the members who successfully completed the course. So Hijra can participate in the free course with the assistance of Bandhu (Mamunur Rashid, representative of Director General of Health).

Dignity is decreasing; the dignity towards diversity is being challenged. It is necessary to bring dimensions in plan and programs, more campaigns and knowledge development area need to be addressed with high importance to bring changes. She mentioned that the Curriculum or strategy for the policy maker should also need to be reviewed (Mohuya Liya Falia, Sr. Program Manager, Manusher Jonno Foundation).

NCTB representatives said, social security has to be ensured before bringing this issue in the national text. Media is also very important and can play vital role to change the stereotyped thinking process.

So far many works has been done at both individual level and organization level, but needed more development.

Professor Dr. Ratan Siddique, Member, Textbook, NCTB, said that NCTB is consistently working towards improvement and welfare for the country’s education despite many limitations. Though it is always not possible to include everything in the text book but certainly it can be reviewed and modified. Professor Siddique also stated that sometimes only inclusion of topics in the text book may not bring the expected results. He strongly recommended that the issue around Hijra community can be inserted in the supplementary reading materials by which a student can get better information about 3rd gender. He said that it will take time to include directly into the text book but NCTB & Bandhu can produce a manual collaboratively for the teachers thus will help teachers to get sensitized about the community and provide equal support at schools. This will definitely reduce the dropout rate of 3rd gender from the schools.

Professor Narayan Chandro Saha, Chairman, National Curriculum and Text Board, Dhaka, Bangladesh said that “I feel privileged today to have the opportunity to attend this valuable and unique meeting.”
I have an observation today, the word ‘Hijra’ is considered as a taboo in the society. Therefore to change this, can we think about any other name instead of Hijra. It is my personal opinion”. However, it’s not possible to develop any country by leaving behind any of your citizen or community. In order to achieve the National goal by 2041, it is very important of mainstreaming everyone into the growth of the nation. We need to create mass awareness among the society. This can be started by registering every child by their own sex and gender in the birth registration. Education must be ensured for all irrespective of sex or Gender. The family can play a very important role and have the responsibility and duty to address this issue. The constitutional guarantee is very important in this regard. They should be given certainty and assurance so that they can stay with their family. I believe this community can look after their parents more than any of us. From the very beginning, NCTB is always aware about the national welfare and ready to bring changes, review and include any part they deem important and necessary. We are committed that NCTB will be always there with this initiative and welfare of this community.

**CONSULTATION MEETING WITH LEGAL AID PROVIDER AND NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), BLAST, Naripokkho and others, organized a seminar titled: “Confronting Threats to a Culture of Activism for Rights and Justice” on 6th June 2016 at conference room, NHRC. The major objective of the seminar was to express solidarity and framing strategies to protect activists and human rights defenders in Bangladesh.

A total of 32 participants attended from various organizations and platforms, namely Nagorik Uddyog, Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement (B.D.E.R.M), Bangladesh Center for Human Rights and Development (BCHRD), Naripokkho, Association for Land Reforms and Development (ALRD), Shikha Shastha Unnayan Karzakram (SHISUK), Front Line, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, National Alliance of Disable People Organization (NADPO), Bangladesh Protibandi Kallyan Somity (BPKS), Kapaeeng Foundation, Lawyers, Bandhu,
Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) which have focused on securing the right to free expression, human rights and justice, including the Human Rights Forum of Bangladesh (HRFB), and others working with marginalized communities or those facing discrimination.

Professor Dr. Mizanur Rahman, Honorable Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission, stated that I am very much hopeful that the access and working environment with NHRC will be much easier and better in future. He emphasized that BLAST or Bandhu or any other organization is not isolated. With an assembly on the road, we can strongly convey the voice through media to the whole nation that we are united and we are together. If everyone performs his/her duty and responsibility accordingly, we don’t have to face this crisis situation. Now we have to act together to avoid any gaps between us and emerge as a powerful force to protect and promote the human rights in the country.

The following recommendations are extracted from the discussion among the participants:

- Human chain on the road to protest against recent killings by inviting all the human rights activists, civil society organizations, NGOs, CBOs and where NHRC can lead this event.
- Human Rights Forum of Bangladesh (HRFB) can be expanded and can work along with JAMAKON, which may include documents/fact finding of the incidents, litigation & follow up cases, negotiation with state actors and government.
- Create a pathway or mechanism where civil society organizations can interactively work with national human rights commission
- Protect the existing space and expand the services towards protecting the human rights activist and organizations.
- Cultural activists and organizations can be involved with human rights movement
- Educating law enforcement agencies and also increase the capacity of human rights activist on security issues by training and workshop.
- Develop module on security issues including strategies for the protection of human rights activists including emergency support seeking number/contact person.
- Developed a small working group committee for immediate response to any incident
- Initiate a complaint handling cell with priority at NHRC
- Disseminate emergency contact numbers and addresses, developed security protocol-physical, psychosocial and digital to ensure security
- Initiate media mobilization and involving media gatekeepers on human rights issues.
- All civil society organizations should raise voice against any kind of human rights violation irrespective of waiting for own familiar issues.
• Civil Society Organizations should organize exclusive sharing meetings with high ranking News media people including Editors, News Editors of newspaper and TV channels for their attention.

CONSULTATION MEETING WITH LEGAL AID PROVIDERS AND HUMAN RIGHTS BASED ORGANIZATIONS

A consultation meeting with legal aid providers and human rights based organizations was organized on 31st March 2016 at PMO office of Bandhu Social Welfare Society. A total of 19 participants attended from different organizations in the meeting. The main objective of this meeting was to build a strong network among human rights based organizations and create a supportive environment providing legal support to the sexual minority community. An update of Ain-Alap functions and its advancement shared and feedback collected for its improvement. Agreed action items were:

• Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) will arrange an appointment with National Legal Aid Services organization (NLASO) to discuss about the inclusion of third gender under District Legal Aid Committee (DLAC) services.

They will also find out the gaps and concerns on medical test for identifying hijra in Bangladesh.

• Mohila Parishad can arrange learning session on Sexuality and Gender and Bandhu can be proposed to facilitate the session.

• Dialogue session can be arranged with National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on determining the types of complaints and further support by NHRC.

• A referral directory can be developed and circulated with everyone to ensure support.

• Students of different Schools, College and Universities can be involved in Knowledge Generating Sessions to make them aware about the rights

• All landmark judgments on sexual minority community around the Globe can be collected, publicized and disseminated to the lawyers and other legal support providing organizations to equip them for dealing the cases at the court.
ORIENTATION MEETING WITH CHITTAGONG CITY CORPORATION

“Service under City Corporation is a Right, not Privilege” - Md. Azam Nasir Mayor Chittagong City Corporation

As a part of policy advocacy initiative under the project ‘Multi-Country South Asia Global Fund HIV Program’, Chittagong City Corporation and Bandhu Social Welfare Society jointly organized an orientation program with Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) on 15 March 2016 at Conference Room, Chittagong City Corporation. A total of 80 participants including City Mayor, Ward Counselors and Hijra representatives attended the very important meeting. The aim of this program was to orient and sensitize the city corporation authority to attain different services by the community and to increase effectiveness of national response involving City Corporation through sharing knowledge and experiences by community representatives. Bandhu believes City Corporation can play a vital role to protect this stigmatized group from social exclusion.

In the meeting, a brief overview of Bandhu and its achievement since its inception was shared. Honorable City Mayor Md. Azam Nasir, attended the program as Chief Guest and acknowledged the Bandhu’s activities for ensuring Hijra Rights in Bangladesh.

He praised that as Hijra is already recognized as a third gender by the state, so there is no scope to conduct medical screening to identify Hijra biologically. He suggested that to increase collaboration between all city corporations and Bandhu and such programs in future. He was committed to extend all kinds of support within their territory and free education for hijra had been offered by the Mayor. There are some opportunities in the conservancy department if anyone is interested.

DIVISIONAL LEVEL CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL CBOS, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT AND CSOs

Bandhu organized two Divisional Level Consultation Meetings with Multiple Stakeholders in two divisions respectively on 29th February 2016 at Master Sheaf Seminar Hall, Rajshahi and 24 April 2016 at Conference Room, Hotel Ambassador, Khulna. A total of 101 participants from the local level civil society, governmental officials, counselors of city corporation, civil surgeon representative, social welfare representative, politician, religious leader, Students, development organization representatives, Journalists from the dailies, online newspapers, radio, and television attended.
The objectives of the program were

- To introduce the CBOs work with leading stakeholders in each of the divisional cities
- To create an opportunity for accessing support from other organizations at local level and strengthen their capacity utilizing the best offers
- To create a network at divisional level health and legal aid service providers, so that they can help each other in organizing the Most At Risk Population (MARP) of HIV and run the activities of CBO targeting the wellbeing of MARP
- To get information about different service options related to HIV and AIDS intervention and other livelihood issues where CBO can make referral linkage
- To discuss stigma & discrimination and misconception persist in the society against Most at Risk Population (MARP) of HIV and AIDS, with GO and NGO stakeholders of the division and seeking assistance from the people to eliminate
- To unite the community and their network members, multiple stakeholder and organizations who are dealing with Sexual Minority’s needs and concerns at local level.

Agreed action items for following up

1. Need to organize such kind of meetings regularly for increasing government involvement in the Bandhu, as well as CBO programs at local level so that influential stakeholders get opportunity to know more about the community, their work and their needs.
2. Need to ensure health services for Hijra community in government hospitals where no one will be discriminated due to their sexual and gender identity.
3. More research required in order to find out the human rights violation scenario of Hijra community.
4. Need-based program need to be designed by GO and NGO that will really help them to improve their livelihood options.
5. Increase advocacy programs for changing our mentality and perspective on Hijra community.
6. Social Welfare Department (SWD), Khulna will arrange more training to improve the life of Hijra.
7. SWD will continue stipends for elderly Hijra who are 40 years of age and above, based on the registered list of Social Welfare Department. In addition SWD is ready to support the education allowance but the fund is still unutilized as No Hijra claimed this stipend so far.
So Bandhu should disseminate this information to the community for better use of fund.

8. SWD will introduce a registration system to get members of the Hijra community get registered within a short time. Hijra community can collect the registration forms from SWD and duly submit the filled forms to SWD. SWD is also eager to help with the registration process as it is mandatory to work further with SWD.

CONVENE NATIONAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

The Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting was conducted on 20th June, 2016 at Conference Room, MSA office, Dhaka. The major purpose of this meeting was to facilitate an enabling environment for implementing efficient HIV response for sexual minority population, particularly MSM and TG in Bangladesh. The key agenda of this meeting was to identify strategies to confront the current threats and crisis, outlining the Road Map for future directions of TWG and identify specific roles and responsibilities of TWG members. Honorable member of National Human Rights Commission, Selina Hossain, Chairman of TWG, presided the meeting.

The meeting started with reviewing the previous meeting notes along with three months progress. An update of meeting with Education sector, NCTB was discussed as a follow up action of Bandhu. Recent Kalabagan killings (joint murder) and post phobia among the community, activist and organizations was also discussed in the meeting. However the following decisions were taken in the meeting:

It would be better to maintain a low profile and work under the umbrella term of hijra only considering the country wide situation.

- The present Chair, Selina Hossain’s tenure as a member of NHRC is over. Therefore, who will be the next chair, was discussed. It was decided that a short list of interested members will be provided to the TWG members by the next meeting where the Chair can be selected through open voting.

- TWG members are from different sectors and it is difficult to ensure their presence in every meeting, therefore the Co-chair can call the meeting in absence of the Chair. It was decided that in the next meeting, Co-chair can also be selected by open voting.

- The safety and security has become very crucial for the community. It was decided that Bandhu can organize dialogue with law enforcement agency or can write a letter to the CTU (Counter Terrorism Unit) in order to create safe referral space and combat any threat.
The meeting concluded with the suggestion that the members can help in networking and also provide advice as required. It was decided that the community members can come up with some acute problems or any specific issue where the TWG member can extend their support accordingly.

DAY LONG ORIENTATION PROGRAM WITH THE GOVT. PHYSICIANS UNDER CIVIL SURGEON

Two orientation programs with the Govt. Physicians under Civil Surgeon were conducted on 14th March 2016 at Civil Surgeon Office-Rajshahi and on 26th May 2016 at Hotel City Plaza, Jessore. The objective of the programs were to sensitize the Government Health Service Providers about the community and make path way to get services from Upzilla Health and Family Planning Office and other governmental health care set up. A total of 41 participants from Govt. Hospitals including civil surgeon, residential medical officers and Upazilla Health and Family Planning officers attended.

Agreed action items for following up:
• Non Judgmental health care set-up is required for the gender diversity population.

• Arrange series of training for other medical doctors and medical students all over the country for getting more understanding about Most at Risk Population and their vulnerability of HIV/AIDS.

• A training manual can be developed for Govt. Health Service Providers and develop a resource pool using Doctor’s skill and expertise.

MEDIA ADVOCACY FORUM MEETING

Bandhu formed Media Advocacy Forum in 2014 where a total of 20 media personnel from different media enrolled to work and support Bandhu for ensuring sexual and reproductive health and well being of Sexual Minority people in Bangladesh. In every quarter, the forum members regularly meet and share their work updates. As a part of this, the meeting was organized on 12th March 2016 at MSA office. In the meeting, Dr. Sochi Karim, Professor, BRAC University conducted a session for knowledge generation. After that, an Action Plan for next quarter (April-June) was developed and each member was committed to complete the task before next meeting.
Agreed action items for following up

- Organize at least one knowledge generation and sensitization session with media in every meeting, so that the participants of this forum can perceive basic knowledge on Gender Diversity and Sexual Orientation.
- NTV has agreed to arrange one program at NTV TV Channel by April, 2016.
- Both parties (Bandhu and Forum Members) committed to work together and support each other for further development of the targeted population.
- Media fellow and forum members shall submit write up for Bandhu’s newsletter.
- Bandhu can organize panel discussion on sexual minority issues focusing different Day Observations in Bangladesh.
- Bandhu can seek the attention of media during dealing the sensitive complaint that will help to solve the cases promptly through media involvement.

ARRANGE NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON ADOPTING TRAINING PACKAGE FOR GOVERNMENT HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS

A training manual on stigma package for Government Health Service providers has been developed by WHO and UNDP. Each Sub Recipient (SR) of MSA project will submit this package to their respective authorities for adopting as National Curriculum. According to the process of adaption, NASP sent a request to Director General of Health to call a Technical Committee of National AIDS Committee (TC-NAC) meeting to evaluate the manuals. TC-NAC consists of 23 members and each member was invited by the Director General (DG) to attend the meeting on 20th June 2016 at MIS Conference Room, DGHS, Mohakhali.

To introduce the package to the forum, the power point presentation on the training manual was presented by Dr. Lutfa Ashraf, Master Trainer of Stigma Package in Bangladesh.
Before the presentation, Bandhu shared the background of the training package and how these modules would help the service providers to respond efficiently for HIV intervention especially in public facilities. The focusing part of the presentation was training title, purpose, content, primary and secondary user/audience, manual development process, regional updates of the manual adaptation as National Curriculum.

In the meeting, the TC-NAC members appreciated the contents of the manual though there was a query regarding the lengthy process of manual adaptation. The committee also queried about training need assessment process. However, after a long discussion, the meeting approved the training package subject to following observations of the TC-NAC are addressed:

- The examples used in the manual should be country specific.
- Though the title of the manual is catchy but it is not appropriate as a manual title. It is important, therefore to have a country specific context rather than a global perspective.
- A section detailing the training need assessment process should be incorporated in the manual.
- An action plan on how Bandhu will implement this manual in Bangladesh needs to be added.
- Evaluation process to be detailed out in the manual so that the trainer can choose different methods of evaluation as per the training, including pre-test and post-test.
- It was also decided that Bandhu will place the revised manuals to NASP for their final endorsement by July 2016.
DOCUMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION CASES

During this period we received 29 Human Rights Violation cases. These cases came from different districts of the country. Most of the complaints were not enforceable by the court due to the lack of willingness of the complaints and its merit. The table below illustrates the status of documented complaints.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of Complaints</th>
<th>Types of Incident</th>
<th>Action taken by Ain-Alap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Satkhira</td>
<td>Property dispute</td>
<td>Legal Counseling (29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sylhet</td>
<td>Verbal and Sexual abuse</td>
<td>Follow up (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessore</td>
<td>Violation of human rights</td>
<td>Collected supporting documents (19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhaka</td>
<td>Threat and blackmailing</td>
<td>Referred to DLLG members (4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comilla</td>
<td>Discrimination and defamation</td>
<td>Investigation (3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rangpur</td>
<td>Physical torture and attack</td>
<td>Documentation of complaints in prescribed format (29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajshahi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mongla</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
AT A GLANCE LEGAL INFORMATION AND COUNSELING SUPPORT THROUGH AIN ALAP

A total of 303 calls were received by the Ain-Alap number from January-June 2016. The calls were mostly related to information, discrimination, violence, harassment, property issues, etc. Necessary Counseling and information was provided by the Ain Alap based on individual calls.

The below table show the details of phone calls:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Type of Call</th>
<th>Index of Incident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hijra/TG</td>
<td>Hijra/TG</td>
<td>Hijra/TG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial</td>
<td>Initial</td>
<td>Initial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow Up</td>
<td>Follow Up</td>
<td>Follow Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abuse</td>
<td>Abuse</td>
<td>Abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assault/Battery</td>
<td>Assault/Battery</td>
<td>Assault/Battery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discrimination</td>
<td>Discrimination</td>
<td>Discrimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Rights</td>
<td>Property Rights</td>
<td>Property Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence</td>
<td>Domestic Violence</td>
<td>Domestic Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monetary Dispute</td>
<td>Monetary Dispute</td>
<td>Monetary Dispute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>Others</td>
<td>Others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>Information</td>
<td>Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling</td>
<td>Counseling</td>
<td>Counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Referral</td>
<td>Referral</td>
<td>Referral</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ain - Alap Phone Call Status January - June 2016
INCLUDE THE MEMBER OF DISTRICT LEVEL LAWYERS GROUP INTO THE DISTRICT LEGAL AID PANEL THROUGH LOBBYING AND MEETING WITH LAWYERS AND JUDGES IN THE RESPECTIVE JUDGE COURT

Bandhu organized two meetings with Judges and lawyers at Dinajpur and Kishoreganj Judge court on 27th March 2016 and 22nd June 2016 respectively. These meetings were presided by the Senior Assistant Judges Mahboob Ali Mouad, District Legal Aid Committee (DLAC) and Honorable joint district judge, Mr. Zakir Hossain Khan respectively. In this meeting, the panel lawyers from Dinajpur DLAC, and Kishoreganj Judge court and Community representatives were present.

The objective of these meetings was to find out possible opportunities and information to provide legal support to the gender diversified community through District Legal Aid Committee (DLAC) at local level. These meetings helped to sensitize the lawyers and judge about sexual minority community. The community representatives also shared their experience in dealing such cases in the court with the lawyers and judges.

The meeting ended with a great interactive discussion among the participants. As a result of the meeting Court agreed to provide services.

Key discussion points of these meeting are as follows:

- Coordination among District Legal Aid Committee (DLAC) panel lawyers and District Level Lawyers Group (DLLG) members can be very effective to exchange knowledge; Hijra can be separately inserted in the policy under the criteria of who can seek free legal aid support through DLAC in order to avoid any complication.
- Include hijra in social safety net scheme.
- Official number of the hijra population in the country is required.
- Legal aid campaign, education and mass awareness about legal aid service can play a vital role to engage this community for friendly legal support environment where the panel lawyer of DLAC can actively participated.
- A guideline or resource about the hijra culture, lifestyle, and recent development in national & international arena can be provided by Bandhu to help the lawyers as well as judges securing effective legal support to the community.
CASE NO. 1

Sohel Rana is fighting for justice to get back his job for more than two years now. With the support from Bandhu and NHRC he got back his due salary and assurance to get back his job. Unfortunately this case turned into a new dimension. His company refused to return his job due to his identity and they executed medical test in order to prove his gender identity. Therefore, the case has been filed in the civil court through the DLLG member, Advocate Shah Alam and others to get him reinstated with full compensation.

CASE NO. 2

Shah Alam is a community member and his complaint was related to inherited property. Once he claimed his actual share of the inherited property, his own brother became very brutal and threatened him every now and then. Right now, Shah Alam is passing his days under serious pressure as his brother is very strong and has good connection with the local police station. Considering all the matters, the case has been referred to Advocate Sahenaz Sultana, Shuma, Comilla Judge Court in order to file a case before the judicial magistrate court for his safety and a written undertaking from his brother not to harm him.

On 24-25 June, 2016 a field visit was made to Comilla. The purpose of the visit was to indentify the various barriers in order to get legal support and also find out possible solutions to the problems.

Shah Alam filed a case about property dispute against his brother. The complaint has been referred to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for further assistance. The NHRC issued a letter to the local police station for inquiry but no progress was observed.

Support provided by the Ain-Alap:
- Meet the victim at the Bandhu Field office in presence of DIC manager and WATCHDOG
- Interview the victim and also provide legal information regarding the case
- Made a bridge between the DLLG member and the victim and referred the case on spot
- Meet the Additional Police Superintendent and informed him about the issue to follow-up with the respective police station and officer- in-charge
- It is suggested that a case can be filled before the court for receiving the undertaking from his brother as the victim is living under threat now.

CASE NO. 3

Mohsin Riajul Islam Khan, known as Akash is facing problem with his neighbor related to property for a long time. His neighbor was threatening him in many ways due to sexual identity. As a result Akash sought support from Ain-Alap. Ain-Alap team visited his area and collected all the relevant documents on spot and advised him to file a General Diary (GD) to the nearest police station. The Ain Alap team also assisted him to get connected with Ms. Marina Begum, the district level lawyer member.
This case is now under Narayanganj judge court. A mediation process is going on based on discussion with both the parties and the respected lawyers have already taken the responsibility as per need.

On 14th March 2016, an investigation was made by the Ain-Alap team, where two members from Bandhu visited the complainant area and sat with the lawyers to provide best support to the complainant at Narayanganj. The purpose of this meeting was to outline a way forward of the case and also see the insight of the case. After discussion with both the complainant and the lawyer, a General Diary has been filed at Shiddirganj Thana (a local police station, GD ref no. 1319).

Ain Alap team arranged a meeting with complainant and lawyers at Narayanganj court and reviewed the property related documents. Ms. Marina Begum, communicated with the perpetrator and decided that the perpetrator will come up with his lawyers along with the documents and sit with the complainant (Akash) and lawyers (Marina Begum) and will discuss on the disputed property before filling any case to the court. As the lawyer is very much renowned in that area, therefore both parties agreed for mediation. A Guideline was provided to the complainant and commitment and assistance provided to the lawyer by the Ain-Alap team.

**CASE NO. 4**

Diane is a transgender person who stayed in USA for long time. Previously her name was Maksudur Rahman but she changed her name from New York county civil court. Now she is willing to receive her inheritance property from her family members. But unfortunately she is facing lot of troubles by the family members due to her new Gender identity and changing of name. This complaint has been referred to Bangladesh Legal Aid and Service Trust (BLAST). They already arranged discussion with her family members but Diane does not want to continue the legal process with her previous name. Therefore, a counseling session is planned to arrange soon with the experienced counselor of Bandhu and after that the further course of action will be determined.

**CASE NO. 5**

Rasel is a community member who was arrested by the local police wrongfully and deliberately with the accusation of being a member of robbery group. However, after receiving the complaint, Ain Alap unit referred the case to the lawyer, Golam Rabbani (DLLG member) and continuously communicated with the victim’s family but unfortunately the lower court refused the bail and sent the victim to jail. Ain- Alap unit, with the support from DLLG member Advocate Sahenaz Sultana Shuma, raised the case in the Supreme Court and finally 6 month bail was granted to the victim.

**Assistance provided by the Ain-Alap team:**
- Meeting with the DLLG member and analysis of the fact of the case
- Follow up with the WATCHDOG member and document the overall complaints with supporting documents
- Collect a copy of bail grant given by the Supreme Court for documentation.
- Communicate with the victim’s family and provide moral support
CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES FOR MSA/BANDHU STAFFS

The training on Project Management was organized by APCOM from 26-28 January 2016 in Bangkok where Umme Farhana Zarif, PM attended. This training helped to develop capacity on Program Managements overall and implementing the learning skills in day to day MSA program management in Bangladesh. As training outcome, a SOP has been finalized in assistance with APCOM that was endorsed by the Chairperson, Bandhu.

Beside this, Mr. Masbah U Ahmed, Training Officer, MSA project attended a training on Campaign for Sexual and Bodily Rights (CSBR) in January 2016 at Srilanka and another International Dialogue on the “Intersections of culture/tradition with human rights related to gender and sexuality” during 18-23 February 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey.

The common goals of the two programs were to build strategic regional and global alliances to address persecution, criminalization and discrimination globally; however, at the end of the event, the participants of all countries agreed to create opportunity to exchange experiences and strategies along with country updates through Forum.

ATTENDED 8TH CCM MEETING IN BANGKOK

On 31 March to 1 April 2016, the Multi-Country South Asia Global Fund HIV (MSA) Programme held its 8th Country Coordinating Mechanisms (CCM) Regional Steering Committee Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand. This was the third CCM Steering Committee meeting of Phase 2 of the programme, which was launched in July of 2013 and is supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Phase 2 of the programme was scheduled to come to a completion by the end of 2016.

Nearly 60 participants attended the two-day meeting, consisting of representatives from national Country Coordinating Mechanisms as well as participants from each programme sub-recipient, the Global Fund, UNDP and UNAIDS. From Bangladesh, a total of 5 participants attended the meeting. Azam-E-Sadat, Deputy Secretary (WHO), Prof. Dr. Md Sharfuddin Ahmed

Vice Chair –Bangladesh CCM (Civil Society), Dean-Faculty of Public Health, BSMMU, Manaj Kumar Biswas, BCCM Coordinator /GFATM, BCCM Secretariat, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Shale Ahmed, Executive Director, Bandhu and Umme Farhana Zarif Kanta, Program Manager, Bandhu attended.

In the meeting Mr. Shale Ahmed, Executive Director, Bandhu Social Welfare Society (BSWS), Bangladesh presented a power point presentation on ‘Working with broad spectrum of stakeholders in bringing positive change’. On behalf of MSA project, Bangladesh Umme Farhana Zarif Kanta, Programme Manager, BSWS, presented ‘Raising capacity of grass roots organizations in Bangladesh’

Umme Farhana Zarif started her presentation with an overview of the MSA grant in Bangladesh which covers CSS of 25 CBOs in 6 geographical divisions.
She shared progress that CBOs have made since 2011 on components such as development of strategic plans, good governance guidelines, organization registration, resource mobilization strategies, and financial and M&E guidelines.

Some 48 trainings have been conducted, reaching 959 participants. She highlighted key achievements, including increased job opportunities for transgender people and Hijra, advocacy and sensitization with government and municipal representatives, as well as knowledge exchange at international conferences. Results included a small grant being awarded for advocacy at the local level and an educational stipend for men who have sex with men from the Ministry of Social Welfare. She ended her presentation with a description of challenges confronting the CBOs – sustainability will be a major issue.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER TECHNICAL MEETING

A Multi-stakeholder Technical Meeting on “Recognition of Transgender Identities and Expressions in Bangladesh: Legal and Policy Review” was organized by Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) on 18th April 2016 at IDB Bhaban, Dhaka. A multi-country project is looking at legal gender recognition for transgender people in eight countries in Asia Pacific (India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, China, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand). Bandhu is coordinating the Project in Bangladesh. The project will comprehensively review laws, regulations and policies in relation to legal gender recognition.

This will include looking at the implementation and impact of laws and policies in practice, within the broader context of human rights for transgender people.

The purpose of this meeting was to:

- Discuss the project with the participants, its process, conceptual framework and expected outcomes
- Obtain feedback and advice about the project from participants including how it can best contribute to and support existing local initiatives
- Provide an opportunity to progress discussions about legal gender identity recognition and human rights for transgender people in Bangladesh, including by identifying opportunities and challenges and
- Seek commitment from various stakeholders to assist and support the project.

47 participants joined from Government (Department of Social Services, National AIDS/STD Program) UN bodies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, USAID), CBOs, NGOs, academia, individual researchers, lawyers and Bandhu’s relevant staff members. The program was facilitated by Farhana Zarif Kanta, Program Manager, BSWS, Eszter Kismodi, UNDP Bangkok Consultant, and Majeda Haq, Programme Analyst, UNDP-Bangladesh. Mr. Nick Beresford, Deputy Country Director of UNDP-Bangladesh presided over the meeting.
National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh (JAMAKON), has recently published two booklets in Bangla, namely “Bangladesh Hijra Society: Reflection and way forward” and “What is Human Rights?” which are very informative, useful and resourceful for the Gender Diversified population. With a view to increase the knowledge level of the community members and to disseminate the booklets across the country, Bandhu Social Welfare Society with the permission of JAMAKON reprinted these booklets in order to disseminate amongst the community members at local level and community-based organizations. It is expected that these booklets will increase the knowledge level and create better understanding on human rights among the community members.

SPOTLIGHT

Two spotlights are being produced based on the highlighted cases dealt during this period. One is Abser Ali case, who is a community member, having property related disputes with his family members and another is Rasel Mia case who has been wrongfully arrested by the police assuming him as a member of robbery group. In the first case, with the direct involvement of Ain-Alap unit and local commissioner, Abser Ali got the possession of his land and secured his property with a boundary and in the second case, Rasel Mia, after being refused bail from the lower court, obtained bail from the supreme court of Bangladesh with the support from both Watchdog and District Level Lawyers Group (DLLG) member.
Under Gender and Sexuality Resource Center (GSRC), Bandhu has organized following tasks as a part of No Cost Event.

3. Learning Circle Session: As a part of regular activity of resource centre, the GSRC organized two learning sessions:

On January 30, a learning circle session on “Gender and Diversity in Color” was arranged where participants from different organizations including Bandhu employees, HIM members, Journalists, MSM and Hijra Community representatives attended the Session.

The objectives of the session were to:
- Understand gender in social context vs personal views
- Increase knowledge about gender identity
- Increase capacity and skills on diversity groups

The discussion points were gender diversity, gender identity, gender and sexuality, difference among different gender identity along with Art and participatory approach.

The 2nd learning session was held on March 30, 2016.

The objectives of the session were to:
- Increase the participants’ knowledge and understanding and importance on sexual health and education.

1. Film Screening: The objective of the film show was to create an open space for sharing experience and views with each other through an informal interaction. The following films were shown during reporting period where a total of 40 viewers enjoyed the film shows.

2. Hide and Seek: The film shows the secret, yet open lives of Pakistani sexual minorities, raising question about transgender activities, their movements, religion, underground gay life, social acceptance and collective familiar customs of Transgender persons in urban Pakistan.