HALF YEARLY REPORT

JANUARY - JUNE, 2017

BANDHU SOCIAL WELFARE SOCIETY (BANDHU)
Bringing Changes. Improving Lives. Keeping Promises
Multi Country South Asia Global Fund Program (MSA)
Reducing the impact of HIV on men who have sex with men and transgender populations in South Asia

2017
JANUARY-JUNE

Dhaka, Bangladesh
PREPARED BY
UMME FARHANA ZARIF KANTA
Program Manager

IN CONSULTATION WITH
MD. FOSIUL AHSAN
Director – Program

REVIEWED BY
SHALE AHMED
Executive Director

WITH ASSISTANCE FROM
MASBAH U AHMED
Deputy Manager – Training

MD. MUZIB ULLAH
Assistant Manager – Training

MOHAMMAD ZAHID HOSSAIN
Consultant – Ain Alap

MD. MAMUN-UR RASHID
Coordinator-Knowledge Management and M&E

LAYOUT & DESIGN
MD. MUZIB ULLAH
Assistant Manager – Training
PREFACE

ACRONYMS

ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

LEGAL SUPPORT THROUGH AIN ALAP

OTHER THAN WORK PLAN

UNPLANNED ACHIEVEMENTS

COMMUNITY SYSTEM STRENGTHENING (CSS)

MSA PROJECT AT A GLANCE

INSIDE

Half Yearly Report of MSA Grant | January-June, 2017
PREFACE

Multi-country South Asia Global Fund HIV Programme (MSA) is a community systems strengthening initiative targeting prominent community advocates in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The overall goal of the Programme is to reduce the impact of, and vulnerability to, HIV of men who have sex with men (MSM), hijras and transgender people through Community Systems Strengthening (CSS).

The programme is supported through a grant from the Global Fund and is currently in its second phase. UNDP served as a technical assistance provider and Principal Recipient in phase 2 from 2013 until 2016. The Programme, currently in its extension phase, is supported by a grant from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and will run until 2018. Led by Save the Children – Nepal as the Principal Recipient of the Grant it promotes and protects the rights of key populations of MSM and transgender people and is building a foundation to ensure that regional and country-level community networks continue to be an essential partner in the HIV response. MSA focuses on strengthening community systems to improve Good Governance Systems of CBOs including coordination with local governments and health care providers, deliver concentrated and quality capacity development support, and provide technical assistance to ensure high intervention impact and sustainability.

As a Sub-Recipient of the Grant, Bandhu works with 25 Community Based Organizations (CBO) in Bangladesh and provides regular technical assistance to develop their minimum capacity. Bandhu also carries out different national-level policy development and advocacy along with capacity building initiatives. In order to showcase its periodic significant achievement to other partners and multiple stakeholders, Bandhu produced half yearly report featuring significant results of MSA Project (January-June).

It was all possible with the Team effort and dedication of MSA project staffs along with timely and efficient guidance, suggestions and feedbacks of Executive Director, Directors (Program and Finance) of Bandhu and Save the Children Nepal which deserves sincere applaud and thanks.
## ACRONYMS

<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBO</td>
<td>Community Based Organization</td>
</tr>
<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>FGD</td>
<td>Focus Group Discussion</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>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>SRHR</td>
<td>Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights</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>
CBO’s Capacity Building and Advocacy Program by MSA Project of Bandhu

**We trained 142 people including**
- 37 External Stakeholders
- 105 Emergent CBOs and in country downstream partners

**Legal Support**
- 325 Calls received and provided legal information, counseling and support
- 21 Cases received on human rights violation
- 5 Referred to lawyers and legal aid providing organization
- 1 Investigation

**Advocacy Meeting with 180 GO/NGO Stakeholders including**
- 20 Legal aid providers and participants of human rights based organizations
- 9 Journalists of print and electronic media
- 19 Participants of Govt. Hospitals including civil surgeon, residential medical officers, upazilla health officers and family planning officer
- 57 National Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Education, Universities, Law Enforcement Agencies, Electronic and Print Media, NGOs, NASP, DG Health and Hijra community leaders
- 75 GO and NGOs includes different divisional/district administration, Social Welfare Department, Women Affair, Civil Surgeon office and NGOs conducting HIV intervention, members of STI/AIDS Network, local media houses, Faith leaders, Teachers, Lawyers, CBO members and other influential’s of the society.
COMMUNITY SYSTEM STRENGTHENING (CSS)
COMMUNITY SYSTEM STRENGTHENING (CSS)

CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING FOR EMERGENT CBOs

The training program for emergent CBOs and in-country downstream partners is one of the key activities where representatives of 27 CBOs attend the training programs. During the reporting period (January-June 2017), Bandhu arranged 4 trainings for the emergent CBOs and in country downstream partners. The list of training is given on the next page:

IMMEDIATE OUTCOME:

- The CBO presidents identified the areas of work and developed road map for further works.
- Committed to arrange learning sessions on social norms and values with their beneficiaries through group education sessions.
- Capacity to implement social norms and values based on sensitive development activities through acquiring knowledge and skills that is reflected in their daily life and work.
- CBO representatives prepared case study, events report for effective report writing
- Error free reports received by Bandhu after the training.
- Developed organizational security plan on their own.
# COMMUNITY SYSTEM STRENGTHENING (CSS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Name of Training</th>
<th>Total Participant</th>
<th>Pre test</th>
<th>Post Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01.</td>
<td>Training on Effective Leadership for the Community Leaders in Bangladesh.</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02.</td>
<td>Training on Social Norms and Values irrespective of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03.</td>
<td>Training on Report Writing and Documentation</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04.</td>
<td>Safety and Security Training for the protection of human rights activist in Bangladesh.</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COMMUNITY SYSTEM STRENGTHENING (CSS)

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

Pilot training on 'Treatment as Prevention' for MSM and TG people by a regional network of people living with HIV

Treatment as prevention training was designed for the community who are PLHIV and some service providers who were directly involved with PLHIV program as well as services. Bandhu arranged this training from 24-26 April, 2017 where a total of 16 participants attended. The objective of the training was to sensitize the PLHIV community people on comprehensive treatment necessity, opportunistic infections & advocating them regarding HIV treatment and literacy. The contents of the training were: Setting the context-Treatment & Prevention, linking MSM, testing, treatment as prevention, treatment advocacy and treatment literacy, how does HIV impacts on health, HIV and immune systems, what is ART and how does ART Works, intellectual property (IP), PrEP and management, when and what of ART and when should ART be initiated, which ARVs as starting point of treatment, ARVs side effects, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and opportunistic infection (OIs), common STI and OIs Prevention, monitoring and treatment of STI, brief discussion on ‘SPARSHA’ and identify the responsibilities and produce draft plan of participants.
COMMUNITY SYSTEM STRENGTHENING (CSS)

At the end of the training, they developed an Action Plan identifying individual roles and responsibilities. The pre-test average score was 69% and post test average score was 91% that indicated that they have improved their skills and

IMMEDIATE OUTCOME:
- Participants learnt about the necessity of doctor’s consultation and its regular follow up.
- Importance of Family Orientation of PLHIV people for proper care and support.
- Role of 'SPARSHA' and reporting mechanism to get instant support.
- ARV and partner motivation.
Training with the district level lawyers group on Human Rights and National and International Laws related to SOGI population

A training session with the district level lawyers group on Human Rights and National & International laws related to SOGI population was held from 5-6 May, 2017 at MSA Office, Siddeswari, Dhaka. A total of 26 influential lawyers from different districts of Bangladesh attended the training. The objective of this training was to increase knowledge on national and international laws related to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

At the end of the training, participants improved their knowledge on respective areas, therefore average score increased from 43% to 92%.

IMMEDIATE OUTCOME:

- Participants are regularly communicating with Ain-Alap unit if they receive any cases related to third gender community at local level.
- A directory of Bandhu Panel Lawyers was developed and shared.
- Improved knowledge and experience sharing among the Panel Members.
COMMUNITY SYSTEM STRENGTHENING (CSS)

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ACHIEVE MINIMUM CAPACITY THROUGH MONITORING VISIT

MSA project is working on Community System Strengthening (CSS) since its inception of the project. MSA team of Bandhu regularly visits different CBOs and so far arranged 08 (eight) field visits to 06 different CBOs as a part of Technical Assistance. During this visit, Bandhu assisted them to develop and review different Guidelines including Financial, HR and Monitoring, followed up documentation process, developed/reviewed time and action oriented Capacity Development Plan (CDP), provided on-spot technical assistance as per their need, assisted them to foster their business plan and identified the challenges implementing existing business plan. Besides, MSA team also supported their finance-related issues where required.

The following technical supports were given throughout the period

- Assisted to prepare effective and profitable business plan.
- Discussed the way to overcome their obstacle and identify alternative business types and plans.
- Documentation process with practical demonstration for further follow up action.
- Technical support provided to develop organogram, IEC distribution list and referral directory.
- Identified the area for minimum capacity and developed Capacity Development Plan.
- Reviewed the progress of the implemented activities and updated documentation process.
- Provided on the job training on financial, programmatic and M&E issues
- Assisted to develop CBO Action Plan according to work plan
- Assistance provided to prepare monthly and quarterly report according to prescribed format of Bandhu.
- Assistance provided to practice good governance through conducting regular EC meeting and dissemination of reports/meeting notes with EC members.
IMMEDIATE OUTCOME:
- Two individual CBOs (Shathi Hijra Unnayan Shingstha, Dinajpur and Sylhet Hijra Kallyaun Shangstha, Sylhet have developed Capacity Development Plan with specific time frame
- Developed CBO organogram, HR and M&E Guideline
- Updated list of CBOs EC member, Advisory and General Committee and submitted to Bandhu.
- Developed referral directory and following accordingly.
- Participated local level advocacy event with influential local stakeholders regularly.
- Preparing monthly activities according to guidelines and submitting to Bandhu within time frame
- Conducting regular EC meeting following the Constitutions of individual CBOs which reflects good governance.
- Following HR, M&E and Financial guidelines in their day to day activities
- Implementing Business Plan according to the plan.
REGULAR ACTIVITIES OF CBOs

Bandhu started working on CBO Sustainability and Resource Mobilization since 2016. For this, Bandhu has made necessary agreement with 12 potential CBOs in 2017 and is providing all kind of supports including developing and implementing individual business plan. Under this agreement, the selected CBOs also accomplished the following activities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organize regular monthly meeting</td>
<td>74</td>
<td># of meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arrange Bi Weekly group session for community people</td>
<td>151</td>
<td># of Group Education Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct counseling session</td>
<td>319</td>
<td># of Counseling Session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refer client to other organization for stigma free health services</td>
<td>278</td>
<td># of client</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with Non-Government/ local institutes or organization</td>
<td>77</td>
<td># of meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeting with Govt. Organization/ DC Office</td>
<td>36</td>
<td># of meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Plan and Implementation</td>
<td>5</td>
<td># of business plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
However as a part of sustainability and resource mobilization plan, Bandhu assisted 12 CBOs to develop business plan. Among 12 Business Plan, five CBOs have started their small scale business with limited amount that was managed by the EC members of respective CBOs. The business updates from January-June 2017 is given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of CBOs</th>
<th>Starting Year</th>
<th>Type of Business</th>
<th>Total Investment (BDT)</th>
<th>Total profit (During this reporting period) (BDT)</th>
<th>Grand / Net profit (BDT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dener Alo Hijra Shangho-Rajshahi</td>
<td>April, 2016</td>
<td>Handicrafts</td>
<td>1,35,000</td>
<td>1,70,000</td>
<td>35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shapla Hijra/MSM Unnayan Shongothon-Sherpur</td>
<td>April, 2016</td>
<td>Chicken Farm</td>
<td>19,000</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siri Samaj Kallyan Shangho-Jamalpur</td>
<td>April, 2016</td>
<td>Handicrafts and Cottage Industry</td>
<td>1,30,000</td>
<td>48000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachar Asha Shangritik Shangha, Paba</td>
<td>September, 2016</td>
<td>Goat Farm</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>Not yet</td>
<td>Not yet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arpon manab Kallyan Shansgtha, Jossore</td>
<td>March, 2017</td>
<td>Auto Rickshaw</td>
<td>52,000</td>
<td>5200</td>
<td>1600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community System Strengthening (CSS) and Advocacy Seed Grants Program is a small grants mechanism which provides support towards MSM and Hijra/TG led organization/Community Based Organization (CBO) in addressing and advocating their issues related to HIV epidemic in different South Asian countries. For this, Bandhu initiated seed fund grant process in March 2017 and circulated the Request for Proposal (RFP) on 31 March 2017 through National Newspaper and Bandhu Webpage. According to RFP, several ad hoc committee (panel list as below) meetings were arranged by Bandhu to review and select the final 5 proposals. This year a total of 68 proposals (all hard copies) have been received where 11 proposals are from CBOs and rests of the proposals are from other organizations. However, Ad Hoc panel reviewed all 68 proposals and scored 11 CBOs as per criteria. Finally Ad hoc panel selected 5 CBOs as below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL</th>
<th>Name of AD-hoc Panel Member</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Mr. Shoriful Alam</td>
<td>Project Coordinator</td>
<td>Ashar Alo Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Mr. Faruk Al Mahmud</td>
<td>Programme Associate-F&amp;A</td>
<td>UNAIDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Dr. Tarit Kumar Saha</td>
<td>Asst. Director</td>
<td>AIDS/STD Program</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL</th>
<th>Name of CBO</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Siri Shomaj Kollayan Sangstha</td>
<td>Jamalpur</td>
<td>86.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Sathi Hijra Unnayan Sangha</td>
<td>Dinajpur</td>
<td>84.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Bachar Asha Sangskritik Sangothon</td>
<td>Rajshahi</td>
<td>80.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Agragami Shamajik Unnan Sangstha</td>
<td>Shirajganj</td>
<td>79.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Chinnomul Manab Kallayan Society</td>
<td>Khulna</td>
<td>78.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC PLAN UNDER MINIMUM CAPACITY

One Strategic Plan was developed for Shathi Hijra Unnayan Shongstha as a part of minimum capacity and Bandhu provided all kinds of Technical Assistance to make it final. This Strategic Plan was developed for three years (June 2017- June 2019) following all systematic procedures and steps.
DIVISIONAL LEVEL CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL CBOs, SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT, CSOs AT SIRAJGANJ

Bandhu organized a Divisional Level Consultation Meeting in collaboration with local CBOs under Rajshahi Division on 27 March 2017. A total of 65 eminent guests attended the meeting representing GO and NGOs including different divisional/district administration, Social Welfare Department, Women Affair, Civil Surgeon office and NGOs conducting HIV intervention, members of STI/AIDS Network, local media houses, Faith leaders, Teachers, Lawyers, CBO members and other elites of the society. The honorable District Commissioner (In Charge), Additional District Commissioner (ADC), Police Superintendent, Deputy Director of Social Welfare Department, representative of Women Affairs, Deputy Director of Youth Development Academy, Civil Surgeon of Sirajganj attended the event. As this was divisional level activity, so Agragami Ahamajik Unnayayn Songstha from Sirajganj, Sonali Din, Bachar Asha Shangskritik Shongothon, Diner Alo Hijra Shongho from Rajshahi and Shapla Hijra Shongho from Bogra also participated. They shared their key activities, achievements and learning in the forum.

The objective of the program was to introduce CBO activities with local multi level influential stakeholders and create network through developing good rapport to access stigma free support in respective areas.
2

ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

Agreed action items for follow up

- A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) can be filed at the Supreme Court for enjoying Inheritance Property Rights by third gender community.
- More livelihood trainings especially “Computer Course” need to be organized by Youth Development Academy.
- The ratio of Student Stipend, Elderly Pension scheme and other facilities need to be increased by the Social Welfare Department under Ministry of Social Welfare (MSW).
- Regular consultation between Social Welfare Department and Hijra Guru at respective districts may help to design more effective pilot program for Hijra under MSW in future.
- Red Crescent Society, Sirajganj will take initiatives to construct housing for Hijra after allocating space by DC at Sirajganj.
- “Quota” for Hijra in every sector can be introduced to bring Equality.
- A special card can be introduced by the Govt. to claim the rights of Hijra as Third Gender.
- Only vocational training is not sufficient to change their livelihood, also need seed money to start the initial business or Income Generating Activities after the training. For this Bandhu may take lead with the support of all stakeholders to develop linkage with other organization who provides SME at local level.
- Psychological Change is also important besides the vocational training and for this counseling session is essential during designing any program for Hijra community.
- Hijra will be equally penalized if they violate any country law. Sometimes Hijra are aggressive to collect money from the general public and LEA has to be more active to stop public nuisance created by Hijra.
- Ward Counselors of Sirajganj are already cooperative towards Hijra and will continue their support in future. For this, Hijra also need to transform their approach in public places.
- The lawyers of Sirajganj are more committed to provide legal support and to reduce the stigma and discrimination of Hijra at local level.
- More awareness program need to be designed to create awareness among Hijras, so that the community can protect themselves from HIV/AIDS.
- Hijra Guru may take strong leadership to stop mugging from the pedestrian or houses and to restrict offensive attitude.
DAY LONG ORIENTATION PROGRAM
WITH THE GOVT. PHYSICIANS UNDER
CIVIL SURGEON

A day long orientation program on Stigma Package was held on 27th March 2017 under Civil Surgeon Office, Jamalpur where 19 participants including Civil Surgeon, Deputy Civil Surgeon, Medical Officers and Upzila Health and Family Planning Officers (UHFPO) joined the program.

The objectives of the program were to introduce the global health service systems and our reality in regional geographical scenario, to create an opportunity for gender diversity people thereby they can get health care support from UHFPO without any forms of stigma and discrimination and to create common understanding about MSM/Hijra health issues and provide necessary assistance to avail proper health services.
ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

The major contents of the session were:

- Introduction & overview for Context Building
- HIV among MSM and transgender people in Asia
- Understanding the complexities of MSM, transgender people and HIV
- Needs, risks and competing priorities that impact on health-seeking behavior
- HIV treatment, care and support

Agreed action items for follow up

- In UHFPO current set up, there is no specific system for TG population. Participants felt the need of non-judgmental health care set-up for the TG population in UHFPO set up.
- Civil surgeon agreed to discuss these issues in their regular monthly meeting at upzilla level.
- Frequent session needed for more understanding about Sexual Minority population, HIV/AIDS and its implication.
- Civil Surgeon and UHFPO can build good rapport with the community people and create access to get support without any forms of stigma and discrimination.
MEDIA ADVOCACY

The 8th Media Advocacy Forum Meeting was held on Saturday, 11 March 2017 at MSA project office where a total of 9 participants joined the meeting. The overall objective of this meeting was to discuss quarterly progress according to committed actions. The Specific objectives were:

- Share previous meeting notes and follow up actions
- Develop new action plan for upcoming quarters
- Identify roles and responsibility to carry out future action plan
- Sharing new idea of upcoming media fellowships 2017 and collective comments
- Knowledge generation through experience sharing by the representatives of NHRC

Agreed action items for follow up:

- Develop a letter for all fellows to collect the consent to be a member of Bandhu Media Forum that will help to ensure the attendance.
- A revised consent paper and rule & principles/guidelines will be shared with each fellow along with letter.
- Media Fellowship concept note will be developed and shared with Advisor and convener of Forum for their final comments.
CONVENE NATIONAL TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) MEETING

The Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting was held on 10th April 2017 which was presided by Meghna Guha Thakurta, Honorable Chair of TWG and Member of National Human Rights Commission. The key objective of this meeting was to bring together the representatives of Technical Working Group for aligning policy, reviewing difficulties and challenges and coordinating action for MSM and TG community and also share the periodic updates among the forum members. A total of 10 admirable members represented the meeting.

The agenda of this meeting were:
- Strengthening the role of media in programs
- Advocacy plan on inclusion of Hijra issue in NCTB
- Regular orientation and sensitization meeting with key stakeholders
- Security Policy and further thoughts.

Agreed action items for follow up:
- Follow up with the Counter Terrorism Unit for conducting an orientation session with the law enforcement agency
- Submit a letter to the NHRCB Chairman through the chair of the minority committee regarding inclusion of Hijra issue in national text book
- Communication with JATI for organizing sensitization session with judges
ADVOCACY MEETING WITH EDUCATION MINISTRY/EDUCATION BOARD TO INCORPORATE TG IN TEXT CURRICULUM

Bandhu organized advocacy meeting on 25 May, 2017 with National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) titled "Social Concern about Unprivileged Hijra Community in Bangladesh" under Advocacy meeting with Education Ministry/Education Board to incorporate TG in text curriculum. A total of 57 knowledgeable members representing National Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Education, Public and Private Universities, Law Enforcement Agencies, Electronic and Print Media, NGOs, National AIDS/STD Program (NASP), DG Health and Hijra community leaders treasured the session with their valuable comments and suggestions.

The meeting was graced by the presence of distinguished guests Chairman of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), Member of National Curriculum Coordinator Committee (NCCC), Professor of Dhaka University, Chairperson of Bandhu Social Welfare Society.

The objective of the program was to foster the progress about the inclusion of Hijra issue in National curriculum and also to outline a resolution based on the discussion, comments and suggestions as a practical pathway for future direction.
ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

Agreed action items for follow up:

- Include Hijra issues in the secondary level curriculum where 'Saririk Sikkha and Sasto' can be considered as more relevant chapter.
- Bandhu can draft content on Hijra issues and share it with NCTB specialist for their review and guidance to identify and explore the appropriate section and scope for inclusion in the curriculum.
- Submit a letter to the Education Ministry with the need and importance of inclusion of Hijra issues in the National Curriculum and Textbook.
- Place the recommendation to the National Curriculum Coordinator Committee (NCCC) for their approval.
- Develop a module on Hijra issues for including in the teacher's training manual and arrange training for teachers.
- Organize Social Media campaign about Hijra community using social media for mass awareness.
CASE STUDY

Establishment of ‘Manab Polli’ and ‘WLF Leadership Award’

Shathi Hijra Unnayan Shongstha, a CBO in Dinajpur, established in 2009 and registered in the year 2010. After the formation of CBO, Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) took significant steps for developing their skills in different sectors. Bandhu assessed their needs of Training and Technical Assistance (TA) and organized different trainings and provided TA their EC members were actively participated since 2011. Gradually this CBO emerged as a well established CBO at local level and introduced various services & advocacy related works in their locality. They have also developed a good network with the involvement of local government and established “Hijra Manab Polli” with the tremendous support by Mr. Iqbalur Rahim, honorable Member and Whip of the Parliament, People’s Republic of Bangladesh which is about 5 Acres and 6 Cent (220413.60 square feet) land. A total of 80 Hijra are living in ‘Manab Polli’ with dignity and new livelihood options. Now they have their own tailors, livestock and Fisheries projects and land for cultivation. They are operating full free education and coming out from sex trade profession. This is a new optimism for the community and they heartily acknowledged the support of Mr. Iqbalur Rahim, (MP) for his kind support in establishing, ‘Manab Polli’. Recently this remarkable contribution towards the Hijra community got acknowledged by the International Forum as the best model of Hijra Livelihood and Mr. Iqbalur Rahim, (MP) received WLF Leadership Award 2017 in Dubai.
LEGAL SUPPORT THROUGH AIN ALAP
A total of 21 Human Rights Violation cases were received through Ain Alap from January-June, 2017. The geographical area and nature of cases are given below:

<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>Sylhet</td>
<td>Verbal and Sexual abuse</td>
<td>Legal Counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shunamganj</td>
<td>Threat</td>
<td>Follow up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirajganj</td>
<td>Physical torture and attack</td>
<td>Collected supporting documents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajshahi</td>
<td>Domestic violence</td>
<td>Referred to DLLG members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moluvibazar</td>
<td>Monetary dispute</td>
<td>Documentation of complaints in prescribed format</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhaka</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajbari</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The cases were recorded from 7 districts of the country. Most of the complaints came from Sylhet. A range of services were provided to the persons who filed those complaints.

### Districts wise complaints

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Complaints</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sylhet</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shunamganj</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirajganj</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajshahi</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moluvibazar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dhaka</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajbari</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Besides a total of 325 calls were received those were mostly related to information, discrimination, property rights, harassment, etc. However, necessary counseling and information was provided by the Ain-Alap based on needs.

### At a Glance Ain Alap Phone Call Status January - June 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Others/TG/Hijra</th>
<th>Not mentioned</th>
<th>Abuse/Harassment</th>
<th>Assault/Battery</th>
<th>Discrimination</th>
<th>Property Rights</th>
<th>Domestic Violence</th>
<th>Monetary Dispute</th>
<th>Others/info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>115</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SUMMARY OF REFERRED CASES

CASE 1: FAEZ AHMED

Foisl Ahmed Faez was cheated by his cousins Sanara Begum, Shebul Ahmed and Kolpona Begum. They induced him to believe that they will send him overseas for lucrative job. Accordingly Foyaz gave 50000 (fifty thousand) taka as advance along with all necessary documents. But they didn’t take any steps to send him abroad. When he demanded his money back they paid only 20000 (twenty thousand) taka in two installments with the help of Bandhu and made a commitment to pay the rest in short time. However, at present they stopped paying the installment and the case was referred to the local Bandhu panel lawyer, Advocate Saiful Islam to take legal action.
CASE 2: KERANIGANJ CASE

A team of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB-10), raided Chhayanir Community Centre in Keraniganj on Thursday 18.05.2017 midnight and arrested 28 persons, 27 young men along with the community center manager for allegedly possessing drugs (reportedly marijuana and yaba), condoms and lubricants. According to RAB, it was suspected that the men had gathered to have an “exclusive party among homosexuals”. This is not an offence. Further, no evidence was produced to that end and later a case was filed under the Narcotics Control Act 1990. Bandhu Ain-Alap team worked together with other human rights based organizations to deal this case and referred to three DLLG members from Dhaka Judges court- Advocate Shah Alam, Advocate Gynanda Prasad and Advocate Ashikur Rahman.

Steps of Ain Alap, Bandhu:

- Engage three (3) members from DLLG, Dhaka district Judge court and ensure their presence during hearing at the court room
- Monitoring the case closely and carefully
- Maintain regular communication with BLAST and other lawyers who are involved with this case
- Issued a joint statement about its concern to the media house immediately from Human Rights Forum of Bangladesh (HRFB) which is a coalition of 19 human rights based organizations
- Submitted a request letter to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) for taking effective measures in protecting the human dignity, constitutional rights and personal safety of the arrested person. Later NHRC issued a letter to the Home Ministry, Police, RAB and concerned authority for proper investigation of the case.
- Jointly organized a lawyers consultation meeting in collaboration with BLAST with a view to share the present status of the case and finding out possible ways for speeding up the bail process through collaborative approach

Due to wide coverage of the media mentioning ‘homosexuality’ the case was seen differently, such as restriction in withdrawing copies from court office, very limited scope to talk to the arrested person, shifted the arrested person to the high security kashimpur jail etc. Conclusively, as part of collaborative action from Bandhu, everyone receives bail and the case is waiting for police clearance report.
QUALITY ASSURANCE AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT (QAQI) TEAM Visit

Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu) formed Quality Assurance & Quality Improvement (QAQI) team in 2015. With the goal to ensure the programs and other departments functional in line with the mission and vision of the organization. This team visit different CBOs and DICs and to promote compliance and for this QAQI team. The objectives of the visit were –

- To observe the capacity, activity processes and project services
- To monitor the compliances with the organization policies, guidelines, rules and regulations
- To assure and improve the quality of Data and Information in all levels

In addition, QAQI team monitored all HR and Administration related documents, Good Governance practices and Finance related activities, documents and documentations process of the CBO and provided necessary findings and recommendations focusing on Identifying quality issues.
Section 4

OTHER THAN WORK PLAN

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

Due to socio-cultural context, the resource centre limited its activities for the time being. However, during the reporting period January to June 2017, a total of 97 visitors includes GO, NGO representatives, Journalist, community people, students of Public and different Private University visited the Bandhu Resource Center. They browsed different books, articles on Hijra/TG to increase their knowledge, prepare their specific assignment. The students of different universities under "Student Fellowship Program" regularly visited resource center for their needed information. Right now the Resource Centre has almost 1,068 resources including books, journals, IEC materials, etc.
Section 5

UNPLANNED ACHIEVEMENTS
UNPLANNED ACHIEVEMENTS

MSA TEAM MEMBERS IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE/SHORT COURSES

ANNUAL REVIEW MEETING OF BANDHU

As a part of organizational commitment, Bandhu routinely reviews its operational plan (OP) of the current year (2016) and designs annual OP for the following year (2017). There is also a provision for mid-term review and this approach has been found an effective tool in terms timely accomplishment of each activities under Strategic Plan keeping the quality and top priority. In 2017, the annual review and planning workshop was held at Cox’s Bazar from 12-14 January 2017. A total of 50 staff includes Executive Committee members actively participated in the workshop with their highest commitment and significant level of contribution.
UNPLANNED ACHIEVEMENTS

The workshop was designed on three major segments:

- Inauguration and Welcome Speech with sharing the experiences from employees working with Bandhu since long back
- Review Progress of 2016 and develop Operational plan for 2017
- Discussion on Progress, Challenges and Future Direction of Bandhu with Emerging Priorities.

Outcome of the workshop:

- A target oriented action plan for 2017 was developed involving all staffs.
- All members are well informed about new strategic plan and reviewed activities and targets according to pillars.
UNPLANNED ACHIEVEMENTS

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING IN NEPAL

Save The Children International as Principal Recipient of Global Fund arranged 1st Program Planning meeting with all SRs from 7-8 February, 2017 at Hotel Radisson, Kathmandu, Nepal. A day long Financial Training was also organized for us on 9th February 2017 where finance focal and PM of respective SR joined the training. From Bangladesh, a total of 4 people attended the meeting consisting Program, Finance and M&E unit of Bandhu.

PARTICIPATED IN A MEETING ON 3RD CYCLE

Human Rights forum of Bangladesh (HRFB) has organized a consultation meeting on UPR orientation & selecting issues for 3rd cycle UPR reporting which was held at Nagorik Uddyog 2nd March 2017. The focal person of Ain Alap actively participated in this meeting. The objectives of this meeting were to familiarize and update sharing about the UPR process among the members and also identify the key issues for 3rd cycle reporting. This meeting was followed by homework with preparing write up for UPR shadow report under specific theme and a guideline of draft reporting is developed and shared among the respective organizations.
PARTICIPATED IN NHRCB'S THEMATIC COMMITTEE MEETING

National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh (NHRCB) organized a meeting of ‘Dalit, Hijra and other excluded minority committee’ on 23 March 2017 at the conference room of NHRCB. Key objective of this meeting was to co-opt its members from all relevant state and non-state actors to protect and promote human rights for the marginalized people under the umbrella of NHRCB.

The meeting was chaired by the honorable commissioner, Meghna Guha Thakurta. A bunch of issues has been discussed during the meeting. It emphasized on the draft anti discrimination act and developing the strategies to put pressure on the government for enactment of this law without further delay. A small working group has been formed among the participants to work further on this process where the representative of Bandhu is one of the members. A hijra community representative shared her bitter experiences in changing name and gender in legal and academic documents. As there is no specific law or policy regarding this, the forum suggested filing a writ petition on this ground.
PARTICIPATED ON HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH WORKSHOP BY UNDP

Human Rights Programme of UNDP has planned to explore Human Rights works/actions and good practices of the CSOs working at local and national levels of Bangladesh. This also contributes to enhance CSO’s capacity in applications of Human Rights Based Approach in their actions.

Legal consultant of Bandhu has participated in a two-day long event on “Mapping of Human Rights Actions/Good Practices and Applications of HRBA in Human Rights actions of the CSOs” on 29-30th March 2017 at Daily Star Bhaban, 64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Farmgate, Dhaka.

The objectives of this workshop are as follows:

a) Mapping of human rights works/actions and good practices of the CSOs and CSO coalitions at local and national level of Bangladesh;

b) Enhancing knowledge and capacity of the CSOs and CSO coalitions in applications of Human Rights Based Approach;

c) Defining knowledge gaps and future priorities for human rights actions/initiatives of the CSOs and CSO coalitions at different level of Bangladesh.

Approximately 30 Participants attended in the workshop from both central and local level working on different issue and marginalized community. During the workshop, good practices in human rights actions of the CSOs and CSO coalitions at local and national level are discussed and identified the knowledge gaps in Human Rights works/actions of the CSOs/CSO Coalitions. The workshop also helps to improve the understanding on Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) to Development, roles/responsibilities of Duty Bearers and Right Holders and applications of Human Rights Based Approach among the participants.
UNPLANNED ACHIEVEMENTS

CELEBRATED NATIONAL LEGAL AID DAY 2017

Bandhu Social Welfare Society celebrated ‘National Legal Aid Day 2017’ on 28th April 2017 where honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh graced the event. This event was organized by the National Legal Aid Services Organization and Bandhu as a partner organization supported actively along with other supporting organizations to make this event successful. Bandhu participated in this event along with 50 transgender community members from different CBOs to commemorate this day celebration. It is a great honor for the community to be participated in such high level program which certainly a positive progress for this community towards mainstreaming. National Legal aid day promotes the access to justice by the poor and under privilege community through free legal aid services in the district level.

PARTICIPATED IN THE UPR CONSULTATION AND POLICY LEVEL DIALOGUE

National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh organized a two day consultation on policy dialogue and UPR reporting on 26 and 27 May 2017 at Pan pacific Sonargaon and CIRDAP auditorium respectively. The key objectives of this program was to engage the different stakeholder to sketching up the implementation status of second cycle and selecting the topics for 3rd cycle UPR report which is approaching in September of this year. It is experienced that though the stake holder reports mentioned the excluded minority group and their human rights situation in the previous UPR report but National Report often ignore this issue. Therefore Human rights commission stepped up to involve relevant government authority in this process and extended its hand to make a bridge among civil society and government.
Contact Us

Shale Ahmed
Executive Director
shale@bandhu-bd.org

Md. Shahidul Alam
Director - Finance & Admin
shahid@bandhu-bd.org

Md. Fosiul Ahsan
Director - Program
fosiul@bandhu-bd.org

Umme Farhana Zarif Kanta
Program Manager
kanta@bandhu-bd.org

Md. Masbah Uddin Ahmed
Deputy Manager - Training
masbah@bandhu-bd.org

Md. Niaz Morshed Khan
Admin Associate
niaz@bandhu-bd.org

Md. Rubel Khan
Support Staff

Md. Mamun-ur Rashid
Coordinator-Knowledge Management and M&E
mamun@bandhu-bd.org

Md. Muzib Ullah
Assistant Manager - Training
muzib@bandhu-bd.org

Mohammad Zahid Hossain
Consultant - Ain Alap
zahid@bandhu-bd.org

Dulal Chandra Mahatma
Assistant Manager - Finance
dulal@bandhu-bd.org

Bandhu Social Welfare Society (Bandhu)
Project Management Office:
62/A Siddeshwari Road, Level-8, Ramna, Dhaka-1217.
Tel: 88-02-8321757
Web: www.bandhu-bd.org

Head Office:
99 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
Tel: 88-02-9339898, 9356868, 58316041
Web: www.bandhu-bd.org