Consultation Meeting on 5-Year Strategic Plan, 2016-2020

Conceived efforts of all government and non-government organizations concerned could be the effective means of ensuring requisite health services to all juveniles and adolescents for their proper and healthy grooming up. “Besides, providing necessary information relating to reproductive health services to the adolescents is very important for elevating their level of confidence. Issues of health and hygiene need to be discussed elaborately,” said lawmaker Mr. Habibur Rahman. utmost emphasis should be given on transforming the young generation into worthy citizens, he added. He was addressing a consultation meeting on the occasion of unveiling the 3rd Strategic Plan: 2016-2020 of Light House at Hotel Batan Rouge at Banani in the capital on Thursday evening on September 22, 2016 as chief guest. Light House pleased to acknowledge the Community Legal Services (CLS) Programme funded by UKAID through Maxwell Stamp-QLC for sponsoring to develop this strategic plan. More than 55 officials representing development partners like CSL/UKAID, USAID, Save the Children, GIZ, ICDDRBR, NSCG, CARE Bangladesh and Asia Foundation, government entities, NGOs and community based organizations were present at the meeting.

Mr. Biman Kumar Saha, the Additional Secretary of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare & Ms. Naseem Begum, the Additional Secretary of Ministry of Law, Joint Secretary of Ministry of Public Administration Mr. Nazmul Huda, and Justice spoke as special guests. Mr. Md. Harun-Or-Rashid, Chief Executive of Light House present as chair and moderated the stakeholder session. Our present guests, Team Leader of CSL Mr. Jerome Sayde and Deputy Team Leader Ms. Fatema Rana, Mr. Anwar Hossain, Mr. Zamir Tanvir, Country Director, Dr. Shukumar Sarkar from USAID, Mr. Jamil Taraf Country Director; CARE Bangladesh, Mr. Anisur Rahman, Director of International Organization for Children, Ms. Fatema Rana, Program Director; CARE Bangladesh, Mr. Anisur Rahman, Director of International Organization for Children, Ms. Fatema Rana, Program Director; CARE Bangladesh.

During presentation on draft strategic plan, KSM Tarique, Deputy chief executive of Light House, said some vital issues like human rights, justice and governance, health, nutrition and population; poverty reduction and sustainable livelihood and environment development and climate change were incorporated in the five-year strategic plan. In his remarks, Additional Secretary Biman Kumar Saha said, education on physical change, sex and reproductive health for the adolescents could prevent social crimes like militancy and terrorism. “We have more scopes of work in this field intensively,” he mentioned. Side by side with the government institutions concerned, all the development partners should come forward and work together to this end, he added.

Taking part in the discussion Additional Secretary Naseem Begum stated that Light House has been working to ensure access to justice for the marginalized population and stressed the need for expediting the field level works.

Stakeholder Meeting at the Upazila Level for Social Reintegration of Prisoners and Sharing Best Practices of RJ and Diversion

The Light House organized a Stakeholder meeting at the Upazila level for social reintegration of prisoners and sharing best practices of RJ and Diversion with stakeholders of Upzilla levels at 10 am on September 19, 2016 at Karoloo conference room, DC office, Bogra. In the meeting Md. Asrarul Uddin, Deputy Commissioner, Bogra was present as the chief guest. He says that everyone must be honest and transparent for receiving justice. Not only for receiving justice but also for offering or delivering justice, honesty and transparency are must. It is possible when everyone performs his/her duties and responsibilities from his/her position with sincerity and integrity. Md. Shairhaha Akther Jamun, Deputy Commissioner, Bogra Sadar presided over the meeting. She says that Allah does not provide judicial powers to all the people, but RJ Facilitators and CBO members have received the power. Therefore, RJ Facilitators and CBO members do their job very carefully and with honesty. Mr. Alhuz Md. Moniruddin Uddin, President, Bogra Jati Awardees’ League, Md. Abdul Jallal, Additional Police Super including some more respected people were present as the special guests at the meeting.

In the meeting Mr. AVM Shanushrata, Quality Control Officer; IRSOP Project Mr. Bidhan Krishna Roy, CEO; IRSOP Project and its activities by using multimedia. Md. Harun-or- Rashid, the Chief Executive of Light House hosted the whole meeting. Mr. Abdul Jallal-Additional Superintendent of Police- Bogra said that in any cases, people waste their shoes for resolving the case but they do not get their desired solution. Considering this, RJ and diversion is the perfect process to resolve a compoundable conflict. He also advises to communicate with their Community Policing Officers (CPO) for diverting compoundable cases.

Regarding the same topic another meeting was organized by the Light House on 21 September, 2016 at 10 am at Kahalo Upazila conference room, Kahalo, Bogra. In the meeting, Mr. Arifur Rahman, honorable Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Kahalo, Bogra was present as chief guest and Mr. Munirula Jhabba, Upazila Female Vice Chairman of Kahalo presided the meeting. Mr. Arifur Rahman-Officer In-charge (Investigation) of Kahalo Thana and Ms. Layalun Nazma, Upazila Women and Children Affairs Officer, Kahalo, Bogra was present at the meeting as special guest.

The UT members, RJ facilitators, victims and perpetrators had chance to express their expressions in the meeting. Through this meeting the media of effective communication have been created between different kinds of stakeholders. At the same time good relationships have been established with all stakeholders. However the participants were benefited enough and become aware through this program.
Light House Supplier Qualification Programme (SQP), September 2016: In this month, introductory visits to Factories and meetings were held with relevant/concern counterpart personnel of the factories by our Health & GIZ - InS medical team. Program Manager of the Project Mr. Ziauddin Ahmed Khan, Director M&E of Light House also paid visit along with the team and gave a briefing on services to be provided by Medical & Light House team and the mortalities of cooperation required by factory personnel and management. Light House has accomplished procurement process and procured of Medicine, BCC (information on HE) materials, equipment etc. several orientation of team members, team building joint preparation of detailed work plan and schedule of planning for visiting to factories and communicated to them. Light House also supplied a written service activity brief to concern person of the factories. The service providing team has started visiting in September and 7 out of 8 factories were visited and services were provided by the team. There was a long Eid festival Holidays by the Government in the country and usually all the factory workers went their home at distant rural areas. However, the schedule was followed as planned.

Use of Technology for high quality Service Delivery:
Light House Consortium has been implementing a low cost FSW intervention with the expectation of high quality service delivery, for which, the team is always searching new and innovative ideas to improve the project performance where there is no cost involved or may need less cost. Use of technology in building capacity and assuring quality performance is the one of that. The consortium did few trials on effective use of technology which added value in achieving the results. Based on the trial results; Light House consortium introduced Team Viewer Software, Hot Line Service, Conference call, Bi-lateral meeting through Skype, etc. at DIC and Sub-DIC level.

Team Viewer Software helps in reaching the DIC and Sub-DIC computers to see the report and data upload status sitting in consortium project office/partner’s project office. It has installed in the computers of the DICs and Sub-DICs of Light House Consortium. The M&E teams of the consortium are getting benefits of installing the Team Viewer Software. This innovation is making the DIC and Project Team familiar with the use of new technology for improving their performance where no cost involved.

Hot Line Service helps in getting the current scenario of the implementation as well as the voice of community members towards program quality. The Project Management Team members have been using the information/complaints as clue for further investigation what received through hotline. Use of investigation results is really helping to ensure quality programming and establishing governance at DIC and Sub-DIC level.

Conference call, another innovative initiative, the Light House Consortium has initiated as part of distance monitoring and meeting with the DIC and Sub-DIC team members where Skype doesn’t work due to bad network.

Bi-lateral meeting through Skype, an initiative to track monthly/quarterly progress and guiding the DIC and Sub-DIC team for achieving the expected results. Light House Consortium introduced it and started getting its benefit.

Piloting of Community Squad - a Rapid Response to Crisis Management for Addressing GBV: The FSW community always faces stigma, discrimination and violence in different forms from the Community, Law Enforcement Agency, Clients, Pimps, Madams, and even from their family members due to ignorance related to their human rights, available legal aid service facilities and lack of justice seeking behavior. The FSW project scope of work included with the capacity building initiatives for the FSWs through providing orientation on laws and legal support in collaboration with the GO/NGOs who works on human rights and legal supports. But the initiatives what has added in the scope of work that is part of preventing GBV, nothing about what to do while GBV occurs. The consortium team started thinking about how a sustainable structure can be developed through using the FSW community; taking the thought in mind, the consortium team started dialogue with the community leaders about how to address GBV where the community will take the responsibility of taking care of the FSWs while faces. And finally came into the consensus to form a community squad for rapid response to crisis management for addressing GBV as part of community system strengthening.

How the Community Squad Works -
- A community member confronted with violence or some other types of crisis can summon rapid, on the spot support by call the phone number of community squad member. The squad team assesses the nature of and urgency of crisis, takes steps to address any immediate danger and provide counseling, access to medical services and other relevant support. The team also provides access to the lawyers in the cases of arrest.
- Creating networking with the human rights organizations and lawyers who are willing to work for the FSWs. This network is to develop a legal support system.
- Develop alliance with the well-known local activist and media people who are willing to advocate on behalf of FSWs.

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