The Major Current Projects of Light House:

1. **Salient Engagements in: Health, Nutrition & Population Sector**

1.1 Prioritized HIV prevention services among key population in Bangladesh funded by Global Fund: Hijra and MSM are among the most vulnerable groups in our society. Most of the MSM in Bangladesh have multiple female sex partners and group sex is common in their sexual acts. These sexual relationships, as well as their risky sexual behavior made them vulnerable. Hijras are isolated from the mainstream of society that makes them unable to earn money for survive and is exclusively involved in sex trade. Light House has been implementing the project on HIV/AIDS prevention for MSM and Hijra with support from ICDDR, B under the Global Fund project. A total of 13696 Hijra and MSM have been targeted for intervention of which 12632 are MSM and 1064 are Hijra.

1.2 HIV Prevention Program for Female Sex Workers (FSW) and Their Clients.
Bangladesh experiences a low-level HIV epidemic among female sex workers (FSWs) being disproportionately impacted by the epidemic. The HIV prevention program has shown significant success in scaling up coverage, 48% FSWs in 2014 (HIV midline survey). Progress was attained in containing the epidemic, as evidenced by national sentinel surveillance system for FSWs, MSWs, MSM, PWID and hijra, set up since 1998. Condom use by FSWs has improved, but has not attained the 100% national target, as 75,1% of FSWs used a condom at last sex in 2012 (adjusted data from the mid-term survey).

**HIV Prevention Program for Female Sex Workers (FSW) and Their Clients** will be implemented by Light House as PR under the leadership of Principal Recipients (PRs), namely Save the Children International. Light House Consortium i.e. Light House as SR along with three SSRs: Sylhet Jubo Academy (SJA) and Nari Mukti Sangha (NMS) will implement the activities under sub grant agreement for twenty tow (36) months starting from December to 2017. Light House will established 27 DICs in Dinajpur, Khulna, Jessore, Satkhira, Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Tangail, Chittagong, Cox’s Bazar and Sylhet districts. This project also has a strong focus on capacity building and on human and financial resources, with the aim of enabling communities and community actors to play a full and effective role alongside other organizations.

1.5 Enhanced access to comprehensive and sustainable SRH, HIV/AIDS and PMTCT services for Brothel based Sex workers; The project has four strategies, Strategy 1: Create access to Comprehensive services related to SRH, HIV and PMTCT through establishing Health Centre at 11 brothel in Bangladesh; Strategy 2: Create supportive environment within local communities through networking and advocacy; Strategy 3: Enhance Empowerment of brothel residents, Self-help groups/CBOs; Strategy 4: Capacity Building of Project Personnel.

1.6 Ensure SRH services among women & girls from the FDMN and the host community who are at higher risk of STI & HIV: UNHCR has entered a one-year project agreement with Light House commencing from January 1, 2019 to ensure comprehensive SRH services for the
1900 women and girls at Cox’s Bazar (Sader) and Ukhiya (upazila) who are at higher risk of HIV. The goal and the objectives of the project will be achieved based on the following strategies;

- Enhance access to comprehensive SRH services through establishing two new Drop-in Centres (DICs) at Cox’s Bazar and Ukhiya
- Enhance capacity of the targeted community and service providers;
- Create supportive environment through strengthening linkage to protection, livelihood services and other SRH/Clinical issues by other actors

The mental and psychosocial impacts beneficiaries for being the victim of GBVs. This is compounded by reports of traumatic experiences including SGBV and physical violence. Many beneficiaries at Cox’s Bazar district face the daily stressors associated with reliance on humanitarian assistance need. There is therefore a need to increase availability and access to specialized mental health services as well as to increase the capacity of the health care workforce to manage common mental disorders in Drop-In-Centre settings. As with the broader health response, there is also an ongoing need to establish effective forward and back referral mechanisms.

1.7 Urban Primary Health Care Service Delivery Project (UPCSDP): Light House has started implementation of Urban Primary Health Care Service Delivery Project (UPCSDP) at Rangpur City Corporation from August 2019. The project aims to improve access, equity, quality, utilization and institutional sustainability of urban primary health care (PHC) services in Rangpur city corporations, particularly for the poor and women and children. The project is funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB) through the Local Government Division (LGD) of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives.

1.8 Treatment, Research and Rehabilitation Centre (TRRC) for Drug Users is Light House’s initiative to provide detoxification, treatment and rehabilitation. It has received technical support from BARACA to make the initiative sustainable. TRRC aims to provide individualized quality treatment services to assist clients in becoming drug free along with life skills and psychosocial support through counseling, integrated method of therapeutic and 12 steps of Narcotics Anonymous (NA).

At present Light House is the largest Implementing Organization for HIV/AIDS prevention working with all the Most At Risk Population (MARP) or Key Population (KP) affected by HIV/AIDS in the Country.

1.9 Drug Abuse Resistance And Understanding-DARAU (দাড়াও) Project: Light House, partnering with the NGO of DAM, APOSH and NSKS, has been implementing two years project of the Drug Abuse Resistance and Understanding-DARAU (দাড়াও), since November 06, 2019 to address the Drug abuse vulnerability of Rajshahi and Natore. This project is being implemented by Light House and it’s partners under the technical assistance of Counterpart International (CPI) and funded by USAID and UKAID. The consortium is working to achieve of the objective which are i) to create awareness on the adverse effect of the drug abuse at the family and community level in Rajshahi and Natore districts through social mobilization; ii) introduce policy measure and increase the allocation for combating drug abuse through sensitizing and influencing the local government including the politicians of Rajshahi and Natore districts iii) develop the strengthen the CSO engagement
mechanism law policies and protocols available. The Project has been implementing two districts of 9 Upazillas and 8 wards of Rajshahi City Corporation under the Rajshahi District. The Upazilla of Rajshahi are Durgapur, Bagmara, Puthiya, Charghat, Bagha, Gudagari, Poba, Mohonpur and Tanore. The Ward of the Rajshahi City Corporation are 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 19, 24 & 28 and Natore including Natore Sadar, Singra, Lalpur, Bagatipara, Boraigram and Noldanga including its’ municipalities. The major activities of this project are the formation of Community Action Group (CAG) and CSO led network for the demand reduction of drug at Rajshahi and Natore. The CAG and CSO led network will work closely the DNC on the Narcotics Control Act 2018. The Project will develop youth bridges, they will speak out as future generation representatives during advocacy meeting It will organize different awareness program like cultural program Gamvira, sports tournaments, and orientation to the female staff of micro finance, develop and disseminate IEC and BCC materials and observation of the day. Different advocacy meeting such as round table meetings with the local journalists, making an internal early prevention policy for the city corporation, national level advocacy will be conducted for reducing the gaps that is present in the existing drug treatment rules. This project will complement and expand multi-sector advocacy networks on drug abuse as well as establishing increased collaboration between civil society and local government to implement social accountability mechanisms and increase government awareness and engagement on civil society advocacy for combating the abuse of drug in the Rajshahi and Natore district.

1.10 Water and Sanitation Program:
Light House with fund from different donors including GOB has been implementing water and sanitation program in Bogra district. The aim of the water and sanitation project is to ensure low-cost water and sanitation facilities for hardcore poor people. Light House has providing support to thousands of families for digging tube well and maintenance, install safe latrine. It has also executing sanitation program in order to maintain and improve public health and to minimize environmental pollution. With the help of BRAC, Light House has established a sanitation materials production centers. In collaboration with Upazila Parishad, 2,596 sanitary latrines have been installed to all households in Kahaloo and Dupchanchia Upazila. As a result 15,576 people are now living in safe and healthy environments and their children are free from diseases out of unhealthy environment. Light House distributed 855 sets of sanitary latrine in Kahaloo upazila and helps materialize Government decision to cover 100% families under sanitation program.

At the same time Light House projects staffs are oriented and trained on WASH issues which they are now replicating in to their work. After receiving the training for SRHR staffs are demonstrating hygiene issues, how to wash hand etc during their education sessions and courtyard meetings. Light House observe days with government to promote WASH in its respective working areas.

During recent flood Light House take initiatives to serve affected people. It has distributed bottled drinking water, water purification tablets; provide hygiene education to pregnant mothers and children in Bogra and Kurigram districts.

2 Salient Engagements in: Governance & Justice Sector
2.1 Increase Responsiveness of Public Institutions towards Poor and Marginalized people: has been implementing with the support Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) since January 2019 under the thematic component of Strengthening Public Institutions.

The project protects GBVs in collaboration with Human Rights Projects, other NGOs and GOB institutions. Besides establishing referral linkages with the local government institution to increase legal aid services under the government support has planned under this project. While addressing GBV and legal aid support, project fully engages local committee to emphasis women and girls’ issues with priority. Beside the project planned specifically to address widow’s safety net and skill training need for adding value in the gender aspect. For achieving all above; community group formation and building their capacity, conduct dialogues and advocacy to hospital social welfare activities; organize public hearing, activate HCMC at CC/UHFWC/USC/UZHC/ MCHC/UHC etc. has considered as activities also.

2.2 Strengthening Civic Engagement in Elections and Political Processes for Enhanced Transparency & Democratic Accountability is funded by DFID through The Asia Foundation to enhance the transparency of electoral processes and credibility of election processes. Light House has been working as a member of Election Working Group (EWG) a coalition with 27 civil society and development organizations financial assistance of The Asia Foundation. EWG formed in 2006 with the goal of enhancing the transparency and accountability of elections and other democratic processes. Under the umbrella of EWG Light House has observed national and local elections; conducted voter education and advocacy on election-related issues; and issued recommendations for further improving the election process.

The election program is designed to observe Election Day, election-related events, Upazila Election Office Diagnosis and disable diagnosis on a monthly basis in various constituencies across the Rajshahi & Rangpur division.

2.4 Development of youth leaders to engage in SRHR funded by Norec/FK Norway. This program was started since July 2016 with an aim to increase capacity of young volunteer through international exchange program. Light House and one partner from Nepal for this exchange program. Volunteer will exchange their countries experience among other international volunteer through youth camp, meetings, working with NGO’s staff etc. The purpose of the project to create awareness young people on SRHR from school and college of Bogura district, Bangladesh and Kaski District, Nepal on SRHR specially on HIV, STIs, cervical cancer and gender Based Violence to prevent themselves from it.

2.6 Promoting Peace and Justice- Bogura and Tangail district: Community people particularly women, children, elderly citizens and people living in char-land and hard to reach areas with little or no resources and cannot access legal remedies when their rights are violated or they are victimized. The government initiative through NLAC, DLAC, UZLAC and UPLAC to assist eligible community people with legal aid assistance to access justice, especially for the poor income group, elderly citizens, persons with disability, abandoned women with minor
children dowry, rape victim, polygamy, early marriage, domestic violence, land dispute, torture, injury at local rivalry, trafficking, land grabbing etc. The government legal aid package can play an important role to protect the legal and human rights of the illiterate, ignorant and resource-less poor people. From July 2019, Light House has been implementing Promoting peace and Justice” PPJ program at Bogura and Tangail, with financial support from USAID/ Democracy International with the goal activate and support Legal Aid Committees at the District, Upazila, and Union Parishad levels and increase the visibility, public awareness, and community acceptance of government legal aid services and use of the formal justice system to resolve disputes and protect legal rights.

1. Increasing the level of activation and coordination of the District, Upazila, and Union Parishad Legal Aid Committees within the target District.
2. Increasing awareness of legal rights and responsibilities among mass people and acceptance of the use of formal justice system among communities.

Light House will implement the project in 38 unions of 5 Upazilas of Tangail and 38 unions of 5 Upazilas of Bogura up to April 2021.

2.3 Enhancing Community Capacity and Resilience to Promote female Migrant Workers Right in Bangladesh by British High Commission.

The purpose of the project is to enhance community capacity and resilience to promote and protect female migrant workers’ rights in Bangladesh.

The project will engage government, CSOs, private sector and female migrant workers in influencing policy, raising awareness, mitigation benefitting female migrant workers. The project has 3 fold focus: Firstly, Light House will support strengthening national policy initiatives and advancing dialogue to address the needs of migrant women. Through building partnership with key line ministries LH would sensitize the government towards enhanced policy support. Counter Trafficking Committees (CTC) will be capacitated to mobilize grassroots support for conducive policy. Secondly, LH will build capacity of private sector service providers for gender sensitive safe migration. Thirdly, the project will disseminate information and support services for potential and returnee women migrant workers through national public awareness campaign addressing stereotypes, issues and concerns facing women migrants at all stages of migration utilizing print, electronic and social media; Additionally training on soft skills will be provided to potential migrant workers and Information, Education and Communication materials will be developed.

The project activities will increase awareness and gender sensitivity among government agencies, services providers, local leaders, the public on female migrants worker’s rights while contributing to prevention of Trafficking in Persons. Major activities of the project will be implemented in Dhaka and Bogura district.

2.4 Repatriation of traffic victims:
With the Goal of Repatriation of traffic victims so that they may live their home country with dignity as well as avail Human Rights, Light House has been implementing the project since 2014 by establishing strategic partnership with Madras Christian Council of Social Service (MCCSS), Chennai, India. So far, a total of 41 persons both 11 Males and 31 Females have been repatriated. Mostly they were pushed by the cause of sex trafficking as well as sex trade. They were blackmailed by the perpetrators. Due to having need of traffic victims and their family to reunite and want to live together into their family, Light House conduct home enquiry visit and collect victims information and apply to home ministry of Bangladesh for the approval of repartition. On the other hand Madras Christian Council of Social Service (MCCSS), Chennai, India handover the victims to the Light House after completing other paper work. Light House provide, mental health counseling and creates referral linkage if needed other health services for the victims. Light House provides family counseling and shelter for short time for the victims to better integration to the society and their family. Light House is establishing social awareness to prevent the trafficking as well as performing advocacy with the local administration is being continued. It conducts advocacy meeting with law enforcing agency and other stakeholders, follow-up of the victim and refer them to GO/NGO service providers too. Light house is one of the member of district anti trafficking committee and work with the committee on safe migration and prevention of trafficking.

3 Poverty Reduction & Sustainable Livelihood sector

3.2 Empowering Young Widow through Skill Development and IGA Support project funded by Aus-Aid: This project seek to address the economic vulnerability that women, especially young widows in the program area have repeatedly found themselves engulfed in for years. This project views poverty as a major contributor to powerlessness, thus a fertile ground for deprivation, discrimination, lack of access to basic needs and above all, exposure to human rights violations. Therefore the project is designed to address poverty amongst households headed by widows through provision of handicraft training skills and after successfully completion the training distribute them handicraft instruments and raw materials in order to work as asset and start-up capital for their livelihoods and self-dependence.

In course of designing the project, the younger widow headed households have been identified in collaboration with the Union Parishad and Department of women affairs (DWA). Out of the identified respective widow headed households, 260 were given training and tools who are comparatively young and in vulnerable condition in the extended period.

3.3 MFP (Micro Finance Program): Light House has been working on Micro Finance from the viewpoint of social business to assist the small scale entrepreneurs to grow and nursing their own thoughts and initiatives on their own. Light House has started the program in 01st, September-2014 at 04 Unions of Kahaloo Upazila under Bogra district, 06 Unions of Rangpur Sadar & Kawnia Upazila under Rangpur district and 3 Unions of Chilmari Upazila of Kurigram district using the organization’s own source of funding. Light House has been implementing Income Generation Activities (IGA) in order to empower landless and disadvantaged poor villagers, especially women in both urban and rural areas. We provide assistance to the beneficiaries for promoting income generating activities. At present Light House is implementing the program by forming 102 women groups, where the numbers of members
are 2,113. Till now, the loan outstanding of Light House is 30,173,463/-BDT and the loan recipients are 1740. On the other hand, the members of micro finance program deposited their savings of Tk 4,348,233/-. For verification the use of loan in the proper trade/project regularly by Light House, the recovery rate has been 100% and also the group members has been benefited.

4 Environment Disaster & Climate Change
Though Light House didn’t had any donor funded particular project but Light House always address the climate change/natural disaster through its own resources. In 2017, using own resources and mobilizing sporadically the funding support from the private sector, Light House supported the flashflood victims of Bogra. The support includes distribution of child food among the 1,398 children and providing essential medicines to 78 pregnant women along with other health care services of Sariakandi, Sonatola and Chilmari upazilaa of Bogra and Kurigram districts.

Light House School of Learning and Diversity
In early 2016, Light House took initiative to establish “Light House School of Learning and Diversity” with a view to provide modern technology based and scientific education for rural students of west Bogra. “Light House School for Learning and Diversity” is situated 6 km from Bogra town at Muruil of Kahaloo Upazila. The foundation stone of School laid by eminent writer and novelist Selina Hussain and an Ekushe medal laureate Palan Sarkar.

The main purposes of school are to create opportunity for rural and grass-root students and patronize meritorious students, provide quality education and create opportunity for learning and diversity and ensure access of rural student to an inclusive and equitable quality education to become a complete and competent human being. In January 2018, this school has been started with 125 students up to class vii.