

Activity Report

**Project Title:
Access to Justice & Human Rights (Phase-iii)**

**Reporting Period:
July 2014-June 2015**



**Madaripur Legal Aid Association
New Town, Madaripur.**

Contents

1. Introduction:.....	4
2. Executive Summary of main achievement:.....	4
3. Progress of Objective:	5
4. Description of the Project	6
4.1) Output-1: Advocacy to ensure better access to justice for disadvantaged ...	6
4.2) Output-2: Increased capacity of duty bearers to activate local level justice..	7
4.3) Output-3: Access to formal and informal justice system increased	9
4.4) Output-4: Institutional capacity of MLAA strengthened.....	12
5. Problems faced.....	15
6. Suggested action to meet the problems	15
7. Conclusion.....	15
8. Annexure:	16
9. Information of other Projects of MLAA:	22

Project Title:

Access to Justice and Human Rights (Phase –iii)

Goal:

A just society where rule of law and human rights of vulnerable groups are upheld.

Objective:

Increase access to justice to empower disadvantaged people, particularly women.

Activity Area:

Districts : 3 (Madaripur, Gopalganj, Shariatpur)

Upazilas : 15 (all Upazilas of Madaripur, Gopalganj, Shariatpur districts)

Unions : 60

Stakeholders:

Stakeholders include the disadvantaged rural people, the poor, particularly women and children. Secondary stakeholders are UP representatives (chairmen and members), village leaders, panel lawyers and their associates, journalists, government officials and NGO activists.

Donors:

The Embassy of Denmark, Dhaka.

1. Introduction:

While our surroundings are overweighed with profound inhuman incidents, our endeavor is to minimize those plagues from the society and nurture a commitment to stand against those. As a consequence of that Madaripur Legal Aid Association (MLAA), ever since its inception in the year 1978, has traversed a long way in its sincere efforts within its limited scope and means to minimize gross social injustices that have so unkindly gripped the poor and marginalized sections of the society of our country.

The organization has been undertaking broad-based programs which are legal aid to the poor, alternative dispute resolution (ADR) involving community participation to resolve civil and compoundable criminal disputes locally, activating Village Courts & Arbitration Council, human rights education and implement a wide range of awareness and capacity building activity for raising awareness of community people.

Over time, MLAA prepared itself to initiate advocacy for mass awareness and at the same time to legitimize and reform policies in formal and informal judicial system the organization, with the assistance of other right based organizations, strived to stir the sensibility of the policy makers and duty bearers. MLAA has developed its capacity in technical and managerial aspects as well as upgraded and developed different policies, manuals & modules which contribute to strengthen its institutional capacities. Its training cell is well equipped to transfer knowledge and skills to the local community and other stakeholders. MLAA has been working for implementing its access to justice and human rights program in Madaripur, Shariatpur and Gopalganj district and also replicating the same program in another 11 districts through the Partner NGOs.

2. Executive Summary of main achievement:

To ensure justice and better access to justice from the grass roots level to the national level it needs to create opportunity of access to justice for all which is not easy and has to face various problems. The achievements of the project are not merely for reaching the set target. We gave importance both in quantitative and qualitative aspects. To address the problems MLAA has been continuing its advocacy activities to reform law and policy in formal and informal judicial system. MLAA facilitates advocacy by inviting key players in the justice system, such as lawyers, local administration, local government and UP representatives to discuss common problems and develop a common strategy for addressing the issues.

Over the reporting period, MLAA published two issues of *Yugo Chetona* (3000 copies), its bi-monthly newsletter that focuses on laws and human rights with a view to apprise and encourage relevant stakeholders to create a positive change in policies. MLAA observed International Human Rights day and Women's Day with the participation of 310, who were mainly students and teachers of different educational institutions and staffs of other NGOs, with an aim to bring them in a network to disseminate the new trend of human rights.

To enhance the capacity of duty bearers, such as, CBO Members, UP representatives, Social elites and other stakeholders with an aim to activate the local level justice. MLAA conducted different meetings and workshops for CBO members, religious leaders, activists and teachers & students of collage & *madrassa*. It reached around 37,855 people through organization of 1569 courtyard meetings, 1233 ward CBO meetings, 138 central CBO meetings, 22 workshops for CBO members, 06 workshops for college

students, basic training for UP Representatives and Staffs, 1 workshop for marriage register and 1 workshop for UP Chairs in 3 districts.

Through the Free Legal Aid program, MLAA provides free legal assistance for people who could not afford to hire a lawyer to represent them in the formal court, such as, the disadvantaged, marginalized, and the destitute, especially women, children and minority groups. Over the reporting period, a total of 830 cases were conducted including 212 newly filed and 618 pending cases from previous years. Among them 247 cases were disposed; of them 23 cases were rejected and the total number of pending cases are now 583.

Under the local justice program MLAA has developed a modern and professional approach to traditional Shalish and has taken a special initiative for promoting justice at the grass root level through strengthening and activating Village Court (VC) and Arbitration Council (AC) with the Union Parishads.

During the reporting period MLAA facilitated 3461 disputes resolved through mediation. A total of Tk. 20,42,48,400/- was recovered as maintenance and *Denmohor* (dower), recovery of money and compensation for damage of crops, compensation against injuries and land. Additionally, the Village Courts settled 1,037 civil and criminal cases in which our beneficiaries received a total compensation recovery in cash and kind amounting approximately to Tk. 67,14,880/- including compensations, recovery of loans & money transactions and price (approximate) of recovered land. Moreover, 255 cases were amicably settled through mutual agreements. The Arbitration Council resolved 320 disputes and through these resolved disputes applicants received Tk 42,500/- as maintenance. In the above three local dispute resolution systems, 57.47% women were directly benefited.

To create awareness among the staff and stakeholders on local justice system, human rights and gender issues, the organization organized several trainings and workshops. In this period, 01 Gender Development Workshop for project staffs was arranged where 27 participants took part. MLAA arranged coordination meetings at three stages namely, central, district and *thana* coordination meeting; total 66 meetings were organized to coordinate the field level activities.

It is essential to monitor the activities with a view to maintaining the quality of performance. Considering this, the monitoring cell has been improved with induction of a standard monitoring system. MLAA's Monitoring team has specific responsibility to ensure transparency in the on-going activities and for institutional capacity building. In the indicator based assessment it has been seen that, 58.20% disputes CBO has been resolved disputes independently and efficiently by using MMM and 26.2% cases local people also use MMM for resolving their dispute through the assistance of union worker. The study shows, 86.9% mediation decisions of the agreement made by the parties abide by and are getting the remedy. In the findings it has been seen that 24.6% dispute resolution women CBO are playing leading role in the mediation process within the working areas as they preside the mediation session.

3. Progress of Objective:

The project 'Access to Justice and Human Rights' has been complementing to improve quality of life of the disadvantaged people through establishing their human, legal and women rights, for peaceful coexistence. MLAA upholds the philosophy that justice must

be easily and equally accessible to every citizen in a society governed by the rule of law. If access to justice is limited to the rich, the poor and disadvantaged segments of the people, particularly women, would not have any stake in the rule of law. The project strives to extend benefits to the disadvantaged, particularly women in the rural communities to ensure their access to justice and establish human rights.

To contribute to make a just society is the goal of the project where rule of law and human rights of vulnerable groups are upheld and the objective is to increase access to justice to empower disadvantaged people, particularly 'women'. To achieve the objective the project has accommodated different activities to open new avenues of access to justice for the poor and vulnerable group.

Through effective implementation of various activities of the project 'Access to Justice and Human Rights' a positive change has been coming out to make justice easily and equally accessible for its target communities through increase accountability of the duty bearers, accessing justice for the poor marginalized and vulnerable people through well functioned local justice systems, establish legal rights of disadvantaged and empower women to raise voice against the rights violations and to functional effective judicial system for protect the human, legal and women rights of the disadvantaged. The overall result of the above initiatives has been contributing for a just society which has been complementing the objective of the project.

MLAA's main concern goes mostly on ensuring accessibility for the underprivileged within the formal justice system. At the same time, the organization sets its concentration to the non-formal dispute resolving criterions also. It is to mention that the organization's thematic and strategic focus is on to resolve disputes through reformed *shalish* at local level and the other UP judicial systems, like activating Village Court (VC) & Arbitration Council (AC), which is an initiative to promote justice at the grass root level. We know that, the main purpose of the project is to develop and support the major stakeholders to achieve the project objective. MLAA has been working to policy advocacy and lobbying to create access to the formal and informal justice system for the poor and disadvantaged people specially women. MLAA had keen eyes on its target and achievements. The activities organized were not merely for fulfilling the target. MLAA strived to ensure quality to all of those beside quantity. Furthermore, MLAA kept continuing scrutinizing the achievements against the objective.

4. Description of the Project

4.1) Output-1: Advocacy to ensure better access to justice for disadvantaged

To influence policymakers in a planned and organized manner MLAA's advocacy unit have been taking some initiatives and recommendations are gathered from grass root level to convey these up to policy level. To create a positive change in the policy level, the advocacy unit of MLAA performed following activities in the reporting year.

MLAA published its quarterly newsletter 'The *Yugo Chetona*' with a view to convey the organization's initiatives taken in for a specific period of time. In the reported period it published 02 issue and total 3,000 copies of this newsletter. The contents are usually on legal issues and activities of the MLAA, essays and articles on human rights. Success Case studies of resolved disputes are also put out in it.

The Advocacy and Publication cell published 300 copies of books which contain information about law and human rights. It is an effective tool to disseminate information to the mass people as a made easy version so that they can empower themselves more about the basic knowledge in this field.

On 08th March 2015, MLAA observed International Women's Day. On this day the organization arranged a procession which passed through the main road of the town. NGO staffs, students of different school and college, social workers, female leaders were present in the program. A round table discussion was also held where the speakers discussed on the importance of the day and suggested measure which would increase the role of women in the community and decision making. 310 persons attended in the programs.

Detailed information is given in Annex-A

Result achieved output level

- The advocacy strategies has been developed to sensitize and motivate the relevant stakeholders and duty bearers.
- The local judicial systems like Village Courts and Arbitration Council have drawn the attention of the village people for its easier methods of resolving disputes.
- Gaps and limitations in local justice system have been identified from different seminars & workshops. Necessary recommendations are prepared to overcome these gaps.
- Beneficiaries of the working area are now well acquainted with the endeavors the project continuing and are now realizing its effectiveness.
- The achievements of the project are frequently coming in the local newspaper that has created an opportunity to make more people aware about VC, AC and Mediation.
- Publishing articles on law and human rights is an initiative to widely disseminate the issue and create an atmosphere in policy advocacy and lobbying. 'Chetona', MLAA's quarterly Newsletter, also focuses the matter through different articles on laws and human rights that is a continuous process to influence relevant stakeholders.

4.2) Output-2: Increased capacity of duty bearers to activate local level justice

As a part of organizational development MLAA conducts training for its own staffs. Similarly, it organizes trainings and workshops for the advanced community people, CBOs, UP Chairmen and members, UP Secretaries, paralegals, panel lawyers, local lawyers, and local police. The above individuals are brought under various types of trainings so that the community people may enjoy a positive result regarding their rights issues get justice. Other organizations frequently request MLAA to provide them with training.

During the reporting period under this project MLAA conducted courtyard meeting, ward and central CBO meeting to mobilize the stakeholders.

With a view to aware the community people, particularly women about local justice system MLAA organized 1569 courtyard meetings with the participation of 20882 household members. Among them 18,033 (86.36%) were female and 2,849 (13.64%) were male. MLAA formed Community Based Organizations (CBO) at Unions from the

rural civil society members of the community which include UP representatives, teachers, women health workers, religious leaders, social activists, NGO workers, women group leaders and other social leaders from the wards and unions. There are two fold of CBO committee: ward level CBO and central level CBO. As it is a continuous process MLAA staffs regularly update the committees and replace one by another when any member is found inactive or got demise. In the reporting period, Ward CBOs conducted 1,233 meetings, where 13,605 members participated. Among them 6,247 (45.92%) female and 7,358 (54.08%) were male. Of all the ward CBO meetings, 679 meetings were (55.07%) presided by the women CBO members. During the reporting period, MLAA organized 138 central CBO meetings, where 1912 members participated. Of them 809 (42.21%) were female and 1,105 (57.79%) were male. Out of 138 central CBO meetings, 60 meetings (43.48%) presided by the women CBO members.

As a part of capacity building activities and to enhance the skill of the UP Representatives, 10 Basic Training for UP Representative were organized by MLAA on Village Courts & Mediation. The program was designed to capacitate the participants in related field and inflict their acquired knowledge at the community level. Total 227 persons attended the meeting. Among them 66 were female and 161 were male.

The CBO committees are in regular touch with the project activities. They are encouraged and invited to be involved in project related activities. The organization helps them to be sensitized to the local needs where human rights concerned. In this period 22 Workshops were organized. O the total 880 event 382 participants were female and 498 were male.

To convey the basic idea of Human Rights and essential laws, MLAA arranged Human Rights workshops with the participation of college students. In this project period, MLAA facilitated 06 Human rights and Family Law workshops for them. Venue for the workshops was the TARC of MLAA and Shariatpur district office. A total number of 244 students participated in the said workshops; among them 121 (49.59%) were female and 123 (50.41%) were male. The project personnel and skilled staffs of MLAA facilitated the workshops.

As an additional activity MLAA arranged a Workshop for UP Chairman on Village Courts & Mediation. The objective of this workshop was to rejuvenate the UP Chairs on the above topics. In the sessions of the participants refreshed their knowledge, shared acquired experience and further recommendation for executing their jobs in the field. In total 37 participants took part in the workshop; of them 03 were female and 34 were male.

To stop child marriage in the community massive awareness raising programs are inevitable. As a part of that marriage registers are brought under our target group. With a view to making them sensitive to this issue, MLAA has arranged a workshop with the participation of them. Participation from all *thanas* of Madaripur took part in the workshop. Among the 68 participants 04 were female and 64 were male.

Result achieved output level

- CBO members are assisting in settling disputes with enthusiasm. They are now directly participating in mediation session, VC and AC. They are now much more organized and aware about their responsibilities.

- In ward CBO meetings, women CBO members presided over the meetings in 45.63%. At Central CBO meeting, women CBO members presided over the meetings in 45.51%.
- Female CBOs of MLAA are trained on mediation process & gender issues and have been assisting to implement MLAA's activities in rural level. Now in Village Court, parties nominated women as panel judge out of five members.
- CBO members have enriched their knowledge and skill on *Salish* processes and strategies through meetings, workshops and trainings.
- People of various sects willingly and actively take part in awareness rising activities (courtyard meeting, street drama, campaigning, union meeting, Upazilla workshops).
- Due to the increase of awareness rate of the people about local justice system, total number of applicants in the AC, VC and mediation has increased considerably.
- The Local media covers the news of the project events that help dissemination of the objective of the project.
- Villagers have started realizing the complexities in the formal court and have taken Mediation, VC & AC as their first choice rather than going to district court or any other formal court.

4.3) Output-3: Access to formal and informal justice system increased

4.3.1) Free Legal Assistance

To support poor people, particularly women for establishing their legal rights MLAA started its journey providing legal aid service which was the original programme of MLAA.

Case histories of clients are assessed at union level, thana offices and head office; and those disputes that are petty and non-violent in nature are referred to mediation. Some are referred for litigation depending on the nature of intervention that each case would require. With a view to assisting clients in distress, mediation workers may visit their homes and guide them to seek legal remedy. Detailed case history of the clients is carefully documented in different registers in order to help clients as and when necessary.

MLAA arranges lawyers for its clients. It also ensures that the lawyers are well qualified and meets the demand of the clients. They are selected from a group of panel lawyers that MLAA has approved based on their years of experience, court record, knowledge of human rights, sense of the needs of the poor and women, and reputation. A client may choose a lawyer and may also file a petition for a new lawyer. MLAA continually monitors the panel lawyers and claims to render the highest standard of service.

In addition to providing a lawyer, MLAA also engage an advocate's clerk who is responsible for liaising between the client and the lawyer. The clerk also assists the lawyer with basic tasks. In addition, MLAA also provides funding for transportation (for both the client and witnesses), collection of necessary documents, and medical support.

During the reporting period, 830 cases were handled which included 212 newly filed cases and 618 pending cases of the previous year. Among them 247 cases were disposed and 583 remains now as pending.

Among the filed cases, criminal cases were 186 (87.47%), family cases were 22 (10.38%), land cases were 01 (0.47%) and appeal cases were 03 (2.83%). On the other hand, with respect to the the disposed cases, criminal cases were 162 (65.59%), family cases were 64 (25.91%), land cases were 14 (5.67%) and appeal cases were 07 (2.83%).

MLAA provided Tk.11,105/- for medical treatment cost for the 17 poor clients in Madaripur, Shariatpur & Gopalganj Districts. For submitting the evidentiary document in court, especially for land cases, MLAA provided an amount of Tk.7,150/- to 11 clients for collecting the case documents.

Detailed information is given in Annex-B

Result achieved output level

- **Out of disposed 163 Criminal Cases following results are awarded:**
 - a) 14 years of imprisonments of accused 12 persons
 - b) In 01 family case 01 children were rescued and sent them to their mothers.
 - c) In 45 cases, total 49 persons were released from confinement.
 - d) In 28 cases the parties sought divorce and among them 10 disputes were resolved with decree of total Taka 14,50,000/- as maintenance and dower money.
 - e) 45 families wished to continue their family life through mutual settlement.
 - f) Total 65 criminal cases MLAA clients got decree in favor of them.

- **Out of disposed 64 Family Court Cases following results are awarded:**
 - a) 01 Client gave up her claim of maintenance; in other 04 cases BDT. 4,44,000/- was recovered as dower money and maintenance
 - b) In 07 cases (07× 3 months) 21 months imprisonments of 07 accused Persons.
 - c) In 14 family cases husband and wife continued their family life through compromise.
 - d) In 03 Cases both parties mutually compromised their disputes and the parties sought divorce. The conditions were: in 1 case the party got BDT 50,000/- as dower money; in another case the woman client give up the demand for dower money and in the final one the husband agreed to bear the maintenance of his child.

- **In 14 Land Cases following results are notable:**
 - a) In 03 cases MLAA clients got decree of 75 decimal of land approximately pricing BDT. 5,42,000/-
 - b) In Title Execution Cases 45 decimal land was recovered which amounting BDT. 4, 00,000/-.
 - c) In one appealed title suit, 32 decimal of land was acquired which approximately cost BDT. 2,25,000/-

- **In 03 Appeal cases the result comes as follows:**
 - a) In 03 cases clients of MLAA got decree of BDT. 1, 60,000/-.

4.3.2) Activating Village Courts (VC):

With a view to activate Village Court MLAA has taken special initiative. MLAA provides technical assistance to the Union Parishad for activating village court. The project has appointed one union worker to assist in Village Court and Arbitration Council activities in each UP.

During the reporting period the Village Courts received a total of 1,107 applications and including pending 70 total applications stood 1,177. Among them 1,037 were disposed of, 77 cases were rejected and 62 cases remain pending. Out of total disposed cases 27 were civil in nature, the remaining 1,010 were criminal. The parties got a total compensation amounting BDT.67,14,880/-. 38 decimal of land recovered in this period. The amount includes compensations, recovery of loans & money transactions and recovery of land. 255 cases were settled amicably through mutual understanding and compromise.

Detailed information is given in Annex- C

4.3.3) Arbitration Council (AC):

The Arbitration Council was established by the Muslim Family Law Ordinance 1961, and thus is only available to the Muslims. It has jurisdiction over only three issues: polygamy, maintenance, and divorce. The council is chaired by the Union Parishad chairman and each party appoints an additional person to the council (either a CBO member of an elected UP representatives).

During the reporting period the project received 433 disputes; including previous pending 42 disputes total disputes stood 475. The Arbitration Council of UP resolved 320 disputes, 121 disputes was rejected and now 34 disputes remain as pending. Among the total disposed 320 disputes, 254 were related to maintenance, 65 were of divorce and 01 dispute was about polygamy. A total amount of BDT. 42,500/- was recovered as maintenance.

Detailed information is given in Annex- D

Result achieved output level

- UP representatives are involved in resolving VC & AC disputes having adequate knowledge and skill.
- Union Parishad is conducting Village Court session minimum 1 day per week and Chairmen, members and Secretaries are playing their roles as needed.
- Participation of the Chairmen and the secretaries in the UP follow-up meetings has increased. The UP representatives are much more involved in project activities.
- UP representatives are now more aware about their roles and responsibilities they have.
- The duty bearers follow the procedural rules of VC & AC (in 40% case). MLAA staffs are assisting them in making the systems functional.
- UPs help the rural poor for providing quick remedy through VC & AC. In the reporting period UPs recovered an equivalent of BDT. 67,57,380.00 as maintenance, compensation and value of land.

4.3.4) Disputes resolution through Mediation

MLAA developed Madaripur Mediation Model (MMM) which is a modified, modern and professional approach to traditional *shalish*. MMM of MLAA is based on the willful participation of the parties, who desire a mutually agreeable settlement to their dispute.

During the reporting period, the project received 4202 applications. Including 529 pending from previous period applications stood 4,731. In total, 3,461 disputes were resolved through Mediation, 136 disputes were referred to district court for filing case and due to absence of the applicants and lack of documentary or oral evidence 644 applications were rejected. Currently 490 disputes are pending to be resolved.

Among the 3,461 resolved disputes, 876 were related to family matter, 99 were assault, 01 was second marriage, 1,426 were dowry related, 84 were community disputes, 205 were financial disputes, 655 were land disputes and other disputes under miscellaneous category were 115.

Among the resolved disputes, by the help of members of CBOs participated as mediators of *Shalish*, the project recovered BDT. 20,42,48,400/- as cash and price of land. Which also include dower money, maintenance and compensation.

Detailed information is given in Annex- E

Result achieved output level:

- 1620 settled disputes were followed up which revealed that in 1584 disputes, decisions of mediation were effectively implemented. This trend demonstrates the success rate of the resolutions.
- MLAA resolved 4719 disputes related to family matter, second marriage and dowry with the active participation of CBO members. Among the resolved disputes, in 3321 disputes wives and husbands are continuing their family life amicably.
- Female CBO members are playing active roles in mediation. 6596 disputes were settled through mediation where CBO members participated in mediation session. Among them 56.46% were male & 22.59% were female.
- In 6596 settled disputes, 1006 female CBO members presided over the mediation sessions.
- The CBO members of mediation project of MLAA mediated some disputes on guardianship and help applicants to get their children through mediation. The number of rescued children was 52.

Maintenance & Dower Recover	Compensation Recover	Money recover instead of Land in Decimal 319.98	Land Recover; decimal 5029.82	Total BDT
31,294,200.00	7,356,400.00	4,971,000.00	160,626,800.00	204,248,400.00

4.4) Output-4: Institutional capacity of MLAA strengthened

Institutional capacity building is a continuous process, which is achieved through enhancement of organizational skill and expertise to adapt changing needs of time and

circumstances. MLAA has dedicated workforce of 523 staff and also UP representatives and CBO members who are directly involve with MLAA's activities. MLAA has taken special programs and care to develop the institutional capacity of its staff with special focus to gender aspects in its programs. MLAA follows its gender policy to bring gender issue in the mainstream of all the activities. Considering this, the project organized 01 development workshops with 27 staff members which includes 27 female CBO members.

During the reporting period, the project organized 04 meetings with 13 gender task force committee members. The main aim of this meeting is to review the implementing modality of existing gender policy in the activities of the organization and find out the scope for make more sensible the issue with in all level of the organization.

MLAA organize project coordination meeting with all level of staff in every month. The main aim of these meetings is to review previous activities and finalize the forthcoming plan of action with relevant staff. In the reporting period MLAA organized 12 central meetings, 24 coordination meetings at district level with district and upazilla staff. Moreover, 30 meetings were arranged at the Upazilla level where UP staffs, Supervisors and MLAA admin personnel took part.

Detailed information is given in Annex-F

Result achieved output level

- The human resource division has more been organized and as a direct consequence of this, specific rules and procedures are followed in defining strategies, planning and implementing activities.
- The staffs are stimulated to be sensitive to the values, vision and mission of the organization.
- Multifaceted trainings undertaken by the training cell of the organization has increased the skill and expertise of the MLAA staffs. Each member of staff is working with efficiency and confidence in his/her own department.
- The gender workshops has been creating opportunity to disseminate the concept of gender, sensitize the gender aspect and changing the attitude of the different participants of rural level.

4.3.5) Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and Evaluation unit is mandated to carry out monitoring of programme activities independently. The monitoring cell of MLAA has taken significant steps to monitor and assess project progress in relation to the indicators set in the project log frame. It conducts sample survey to assess project progress and identifies issues related to project context and factors. MLAA applies various techniques for survey and analysis. However, it will develop further capacity particularly in sampling technique, statistical analysis and to draw lessons.

The objective of this indicator based report:

MLAA has the intention to assess the effectiveness of programs that organized at the field level. The organization encourages women leadership and wanted to see the role of women CBOs in the mediation session, number of women CBOs in the committees,

assess the knowledge and skill of women, participation in VC and AC and the percentage of them in various mediation session as key person.

1. **Indicator:** By 2016 CBOs use the MMM to resolve conflicts in their areas independently and efficiently.
 - In the findings it has been seen that 58.20% disputes CBO has been resolved disputes independently and efficiently by using MMM and 26.2% cases local people also use MMM for resolving their dispute through the assistance of union worker.
2. **Indicator:** By 2016, 80% of mediation decisions of the agreement made by the parties abide by and are getting the remedy.
 - In the findings it has been seen that 86.9% mediation decisions of the agreement made by the parties abide by and are getting the remedy.
3. **Indicator:** By 2016, 50% Participant women CBO are playing leading role in the mediation process within the working areas and among them 20% will preside the mediation session.
 - In the findings it has been seen that 24.6% dispute resolution women CBO are playing leading role in the mediation process within the working areas as they preside the mediation session.
4. **Indicator:** By 2016, 70% of disputes of VC & AC were resolved in accordance with the law and procedures.

In the assessment M&E Cell interviewed and assessed 35 village court cases in 07 unions, under 6 upazila of three working districts.

In the indicator assessment of 35 cases it has been revealed that 71.4% cases village court formed by following proper rules and procedures fully and 28.6% cases village court formed by following proper rules and procedures partially.

Decree execution situations of village court cases-

- Decree Fully executed and the percentage is 88.6%
 - Decree partially executed and the percentage is 2.9%
 - Decree not executed and the percentage is 8.6%
-
- In the assessment M&E Cell interviewed and checked 19 Arbitration council cases in 04 unions, under 03 upazila of two working districts, and find that 100% cases Arbitration council procedure has been perfectly maintained.
 - It has also been seen in the analysis that 16 maintenance case beneficiary of MLAA is getting maintenance in 15 cases and in one case not carry out the arbitration council order i.e maintenance not provided. On the other hand 03 divorce cases 02 cases divorce has been withdrawn and couple living together as husband and wife and another case divorce executed.

5. Problems faced

- New VC Law was in acted in 2013 and UP representatives are yet to be aware on some procedure, so it created time for resolve disputes.
- Proper and frequent monitoring from Government side to oversee the activities of Village Court.
- Political unrest was one of the crucial factors in the first time of this period.
- Lack of manpower and financial incentives to participate in local justice.
- Due to the lengthy process of the existing laws, Complex legal framework and overall absence of congenial court environment for the poor and women in particular delayed in disposing cases.
- Need a structural systems & procedures for better working relationship between GO & NGOs.
- Lack of awareness about essential laws and human rights in general.
- A long time is needed to see the reflection of local level advocacy at the national level.
- UP representatives are busy with multiple activities which hamper some time to perform their duties in local justice system.

6. Suggested action to meet the problems

- Need to reform VC law in order to make Village Court more activate.
- More initiatives to be taken to reform laws in order to make legal system less costly and easily accessible.
- Govt. should take more initiative to activate VC & AC.
- More discussion and awareness activities in needed to disseminate new VC Law.
- Sensitizing the people and public representatives for ensuring implementation of function of Village Court and Arbitration Council.
- People's awareness on laws and human rights to be increased in rural society. They need more access to information for getting justice.
- Build of networking with civil society members, CBOs and law enforcing agencies.
- Need collective advocacy with civil society members, govt. agencies, human rights bodies and development partners to reform laws.

7. Conclusion

In fine, MLAA is strict in its commitment and dedication to the targeted people. Time has come to show respect to the rights of human being and we expect the society will come under desired stability where everyone will be sensible to others.

MLAA has undertaken multifaceted activities to make a society governed by rule of law and human rights through empowering the disadvantaged people including women folk in making the justice system (formal & informal) easily accessible.

8. Annexure:

Annex- A

Output 1: Advocacy to ensure better access to justice for disadvantaged

a) Quarterly newsletter of MLAA:

Issues	Publishing time	No of copies
October-December 2014	December 2013	1500
April-June 2015	June 2015	1500
Total	02 Issues	3000

b) Publication of law and human rights books:

Issues	Publishing time	No of copies
02 issues	July 2015 and January 2015	3000
Total		3000

c) International day observation

S/L No	Event	Venue	Date	Activity organized	Participants		
					Female	Male	Total
1.	International Women Day	MLAA	8 March 2015	Debating, game show, round table discussion, fair on women empowerment issue, poetry recitation and Prize giving	197	113	310
Total					197	113	310

Annex-B

Output 2: Increased capacity building of duty bearers to activate local level justice

a) Courtyard meeting with household members

Name of District	No. of Meeting		Total	Total Participant		
	AC	VC		Female	Male	Total
Madaripur	609	289	898	10352	1541	11893
Shariatpur	376	184	560	6242	1211	7453
Gopalganj	74	37	111	1439	97	1536
Total	1059	510	1569	18033	2849	20882

b) Monthly ward CBO meeting

Name of District	NOWM	Meeting presided by		Total Participant		
		Female	Male	Female	Male	Total
Madaripur	630	320	310	3153	3861	7014
Shariatpur	531	312	219	2751	3081	5832
Gopalganj	72	47	25	343	416	759
Total	1233	679	554	6247	7358	13605

c) Quarterly coordination meeting with union / central CBO members

Name of District	No. of meeting	Presided by		Total Participant		
		Female	Male	Female	Male	Total
Madaripur	70	24	46	382	542	924
Shariatpur	60	33	27	386	499	885
Gopalganj	8	3	5	39	64	103
Total	138	60	78	807	1105	1912

Nature of Participants of Central CBO Members													Total
Chairman	Female member	Male member	Secretary	Teacher	Businessman	Service Holder	Farmer	House wife	NGOs Workers	Social workers	Student	Religious Leaders	Total
29	91	49	7	68	197	77	119	217	18	49	3	0	924
39	73	36	24	61	183	87	88	168	47	72	4	3	885
3	14	5	1	4	29	5	24	12	0	6	0	0	103
71	178	90	32	133	409	169	231	397	65	127	7	3	1912

e) Workshop on Village Court & Mediation with CBO Members at Union Level:

Sl. No.	Name of District	Upazila	Number of Workshop	Participants		
				F	M	Total
1	Madaripur	03 Upazilla	13	221	299	520
2	Shariatpur	06 Upazilla	09	161	199	360
Total			22	382	498	880

e) Human rights workshops for college students:

District	No of Workshops	Participants				Class of Students			
		Girls	Boys	Teacher	Total	HSC	BA	MA	Total
Madaripur	4	75	70	16	161	131	14	16	161
Shariatpur	2	44	33	6	83	77	0	6	83
Gopalganj	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	6	119	103	22	244	208	14	22	244

f) Workshop with marriage registers:

Sl. No.	Participants from	No of Workshop	Participant		
			Female	Male	Total
1)	Participation from all thanas of Madaripur	1	4	64	68

Output 3: Access to formal and informal justice system increased

Annex-C

Free Legal Assistance

a) Provide Court Support

Districts	Previous Pending	Case Filed	Total Case Handled	Court Verdict		Default /Reject	Compro mised	Total	Present Pending
				Favor	Against				
Madaripur	364	152	516	86	3	7	76	172	344
Shariatpur	159	42	201	11	2	4	25	42	159
Gopalganj	95	18	113	11	2	12	8	33	80
Total	618	212	830	108	7	23	109	247	583

b) Nature-wise disposed cases

Type	Cases filed				Cases disposed			
	Female	Male	Total	%	Female	Male	Total	%
Criminal	116	70	186	87.74	114	48	162	65.59
Family	22	0	22	10.38	64	0	64	25.91
Land	0	1	1	0.47	5	9	14	5.67
Appeals	3	0	3	1.42	5	2	7	2.83
Total	141	71	212	100	188	59	247	100

c) Direct benefit of disposed cases (In brief)

Result of cases	No of Cases	Description of result
Maintenance / Dower	32	Women Clients got decree of Tk. 13,60,000/- as maintenance and dower money from her husband
Clients Free	45	In 45 cases 49 persons become free from charges
Verdicts of Courts	12	As per court decision 12 persons were given 14 years of imprisonment and BDT. 15,000/- was fined to 02 person
Child rescued	1	In one case 01 child was rescued
Court decision in favor of MLAA	65	65 Criminal cases went in favor of us.

Land cases	5	The court gave verdict of 127 decimal land which costs approximately BDT. 11,64,000/- and among them 45 decimal of land was recovered that costs BDT. 4,00,000/-
Marriage Continued	49	In 49 cases marriage continued through compromised
Mutual Compromised	92	In 92 Cases both parties mutually settled their disputes locally by submitting their agreement

Dispute resolution through VC

Annex-D

a) Analysis of VC cases

District	Previous		Case		Total		Case		Reject		Recom		Total		Present		Disposed	
	Pending		Received				Disposed				Case				Pending		Locally	
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Madaripur	12	30	200	330	212	360	191	295	14	39	1	0	206	334	6	26	66	96
Shariatpur	5	11	227	276	232	287	217	261	9	12	0	0	226	273	6	14	41	52
Gopalganj	5	7	28	46	33	53	28	45	2	1	0	0	30	46	3	7	0	0
Total	22	48	455	652	477	700	436	601	25	52	1	0	462	653	15	47	107	148
Grand	70		1107		1177		1037		77		1		1115		62		255	

b) Nature of disposed cases of VC

Districts	Criminal		Civil		Total	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Madaripur	189	284	2	11	191	295
Shariatpur	213	252	4	9	217	261
Gopalganj	27	45	1	0	28	45
Total	429	581	7	20	436	601
Grand	1010		27		1037	

c) Direct benefit through disposed cases of VC

SN	Criminal	No. of Dispute	BDT.	Remarks
1.	Amicable Settlement	513	00	50.79
2.	Compensation	257	2094700.00	25.45
3.	Money Recover	240	3749933.00	23.76
Sub-Total		1010	5844633.00	100
Civil				
1.	Amicable Settlement	5		18.52
2.	Money Recover	15	215247.00	55.56
3.	Land Recover	7	655000.00	25.92
4.	Compensation	0	00	0
Sub-Total		27	870247.00	100
Total		1037	6714880.00	

Annex-E

Dispute Resolution through AC

a) Analysis of application & Dispute Resolution through AC

District	Previous		Application		Total		Dispute		Reject		Recom		Total		Present		Disposed	
	Pending		Received				Resolved				Case				Pending		Locally	
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Madaripur	5	0	128	8	133	8	104	5	19	3	0	0	123	8	10	0	13	3
Shariatpur	23	14	223	62	246	76	176	25	55	44	0	0	231	69	15	7	28	4
Gopalganj	0	0	12	0	12	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	2	0	1	0
Total	28	14	363	70	391	84	290	30	74	47	0	0	364	77	27	7	42	7
Grand	42		433		475		320		121		0		441		34		49	

b) Nature-wise resolved disputes of AC

District	Nature of disputes resolution of AC							
	Maintenance		Divorce		Polygamy		Total	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
Madaripur	96	0	8	5	0	0	104	5
Shariatpur	148	0	28	24	0	1	176	25
Gopalganj	10	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Total	254	0	36	29	0	1	290	30
G. Total	254		65		1		320	

c) Direct benefit through disputes resolved of AC

Result of disputes	No. of disputes	%	Amount in Tk
Marriage Continued	257	80.31	
Maintenance Provided	12	3.75	42500.00
Mutual Settlement	11	3.44	
Divorce Executed	40	12.50	
Total	320	100	

Annex-F

Dispute resolution through Mediation

a) Analysis of applications & settlement through mediation

District	Previous Pending		Application Received		Total		Mediation Done		Reject		Recomm. Case		Total		Present Pending		Disposed Locally	
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Madaripur	148	125	1295	984	1443	1109	1083	778	164	188	41	0	1288	966	155	143	168	113
Shariatpur	113	92	976	660	1089	752	801	579	129	108	70	1	1000	688	89	64	170	107
Gopalganj	40	11	213	74	253	85	159	61	43	12	22	2	224	75	29	10	41	18
Total	301	228	2484	1718	2785	1946	2043	1418	336	308	133	3	2512	1729	273	217	379	238
Grand	529		4202		4731		3461		644		136		4241		490		617	

b) Nature-wise resolved disputes of Mediation

District	Family Matter		Assault		Second Marriage		Dowry		Social Disputes		Financial Matter		Land Disputes		Misc.		Total	
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Madaripur	135	288	22	11	1	0	776	0	12	30	35	95	85	330	17	24	1083	778
Shariatpur	131	241	24	34	0	0	536	0	10	30	21	43	47	190	32	41	801	579
Gopalganj	36	45	5	3	0	0	114	0	0	2	3	8	0	3	1	0	159	61
Total	302	574	51	48	1	0	1426	0	22	62	59	146	132	523	50	65	2043	1418
Grand	876		99		1		1426		84		205		655		115		3461	

c) Direct benefit of resolved disputes through Mediation

Result of Disputes	Disputes resolved	%	Amount in Taka
Marriage Continued	1756	50.74	-
Recovered of Maintenance & Denmohor / Divorce Executed including.	481	13.90	31,193,800.00
Child Rescued (11 Children)	23	0.66	100,400.00
Compensation Recovered	215	6.21	7,356,400.00
Land Recovered (5030.22 Decimal)	531	15.34	160,626,800.00
Money Recover in replace of Land (319.98 Decimal)	26	0.75	4,971,000.00
Mutual Settlement	429	12.40	-
Total	3461	100.00	204,248,400.00

Output 4: Institutional capacity Building

Annex-G

a) Gender development Workshop

Events	No. of Courses	Participants		
		Female	Male	Total
Gender development Workshop	01	27	0	27
Total				

9. Information of other Projects of MLAA:

Project -01:

Project Title: Activating Village Courts in Bangladesh

Donor: UNDP-Bangladesh & European Union

Implementing Agency: GOB, Local Government Division, MoLGRDC

Implanting Partner: Madaripur Legal Aid Association

Reporting period: July 2012 to June 2013

Project Background: Madaripur Legal Aid Association (MLAA) has been working in the field of access to justice and Human Rights with a vision of establishing a just society. Since 2001 MLAA has taken initiatives to activate the UP judicial system to strengthen the local justice system through a collaborative approach with Local Govt. Division of the Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives, UNDP & EU implementing a project 'Activating Village Court in Bangladesh'. Under the project MLAA have been working in Dhaka Division covering 4 districts, 22 Upazillas and 136 UPs.

Objectives: Improved access to justice of the disadvantaged and marginalized people, especially women.

Specific Objectives:

- Increased capacity and developed skill of the duty bearers and stakeholders.
- UP are strengthened for enabling to activate VC according to law and procedure
- Many people are aware and empowered on VC and Mediation
- Mobilized and sensitized relevant stakeholders with regards to advocacy and communication.

Project Area: Total 136 UPs in 22 Upazillas in 4 Districts of Dhaka Division

- Gopalganj : 3 Upazillaz (Moksedpur, Kashianai & Kotalipara) : 30 Unions
- Faridpur: 6 Upazillas (Sadar, Modhukhali, Nagarkanda, Bhanga, Boalmari & Salta) : 41 Unions
- Rajbari: 5 Upazilla (Sadar, Baliakandi, Goalanda, Pangsha & Kalukhali) : 30 Unions
- Koshoreganj: 8 Upazillas (Kishoregonj Sadar, Hossainpur, Pakundia, Katiadi, Bhoirab, Mithamayeen, Itna & Ostogram) : 35 Unions

Project Achievement

The Village Court (amended) Act 2013 that has entrusted the Union Parishad with the power to constitute Village Court (VC) to resolve petty civil and criminal disputes becomes a platform for us to act on. In the reporting period the percentage of received case and resolution through VC has increased than the previous time.

Achievement:

During the reporting period the UP received 6585 VC case application at the UP level and 637 case referred from district court and 581 case was included as previous pending; the total cases stood 7803.

From those, 6669 cases were disposed off through village Courts, among that 4358 (66.35%) case were resolved by forming VC panel, 2276 (34.15%) case were resolved through pre trial, and 35 (0.5%) cases were resolved through rule 33. Moreover 564 cases were default due to necessary document & absence of applicants. Now 562 cases were for VC hearing.

The Village Court of different UPs recovered Tk. 4,83,01,972.00 as compensation during the reporting period through disposed of cases. In average Tk. 7242.00 was recovered as compensation per VC cases.

Previous Pending	Application Received	Total	Case Disposal	Default/Rule 33/ Upper court	Total	Present Pending
581	7222	7803	6669	572	7241	562

b) Community mobilization & Social Awareness:

The project has also implemented field level activities for increasing social awareness and mobilization on village courts. The project also maintain liaison with local administration such as UNO & DDLG. As an attempt of conducting advocacy programs the activities belongs to this part tend us to communicate and build good relationship to the local elites, influential people, Govt. officials and other stakeholders.

Achievement: For rising awareness among the mass people the project organized 12518 awareness events with total 133179 village peoples. Among the participated peoples 37324 persons were male and 195855 were female.

S/N	Title of the Activity	Event	Male	Female	Total
1.	Court yard meetings	11046	30675	188230	218905
2.	Ward CBO meeting (Bi-Monthly)	1336	6009	6937	12946
3.	Central CBO meeting (Quarterly)	136	640	688	1328
	Total	12518	37324	195855	233179

Project-02.

Project title: Access to Justice through Community Legal Service

Donor: Maxwell Stamp Ltd-DFID

Reporting period: July 2014 – June 2015

Objectives:

- To establish CLS in areas that have yet to be exposed to interventions aimed at improving the formal or informal justice system.
- To build the capacity of the target communities to demand and deliver justice.

Working Area: istrict-04 (Barisal, Pirojpur, shariatpur & Madaripur), Upazilla-10 and Union- 70.

Performance:

1. **Formation of Ward CBOs :** During the reporting period a total of 5 Ward CBOs were formed in 1 Union in Barisal, district with a members of 12-15 in each CBO. The Ward CBOs were formed in a democratic process.
2. **Courtyard meeting:** To aware the community, particularly women about local justice system is the main purpose of this meeting. MLAA organised 4095 courtyard meetings in this period with the participation of 62096 household members.
3. **Workshop for CBO members on Village Court (VC), Arbitration Council (AC), Mediation & Law:** During this quarter MLAA conducted 84 Union level workshops, where 3109 members were participated.
4. **Quarterly Ward CBO Meeting:** During this Quarter, Ward CBO conducted 2590 meetings, where 27762 members were participated. Among them 12085 female and 15677 were male.
5. **Half-Yearly meeting with Union (central) CBO members:** In the reporting period, MLAA organized 150 central CBO meetings, where 1630 members participated.
6. **Street Drama:** During the reporting period 76 street dramas were organised at union level to focus the activities of AC, VC & Mediation. Approximately 69133 persons from village community observed the drama shows.
7. **Observation of International Days :** MLAA observed 2 International Days, Human Rights Day on 10 December 2014 and Women's day in 8 March 2015. Various Programs like Rally, Discussion Meeting, and Competition for Students etc. were arranged to observe the day. Total 2105 participants were participated in these programs.
8. **Workshop on Human Rights and Law for Madrasa Students:** During this quarter, MLAA facilitated 35 Human rights and Law workshops for Madrasa students in Barisal, Pirojpur, Madaripur and Shariatpur districts of the working area of the project. A total number of 1388 students participated in the said workshops.
9. **Workshop on HR and Law for Imam, Religious Leaders and Madrasa Teacher:** During this quarter, MLAA facilitated 10 Human rights and Law workshops for Imam, Religious Leaders and Madrasa Teacher. A total number of 277 Leaders were participated in the said workshops.
10. **Workshop on HR and Law for Marriage Registrar:** During this quarter, MLAA facilitated 9 Human rights and Law workshops for Marriage Registrars in Madaripur,

Shariatpur, Barisal and Pirojpur districts. A total number of 116 Marriage Registrars were participated in the said workshops.

11. **Disputes settled through Mediation:** During the reporting period, MLAA received 5411 applications through union workers and Upazilla offices in different districts throughout the year. With 533 previous pending applications, project has dealt in total 5944 application. This period **4731** disputes were resolved through Mediation. At the end of the quarter 567 disputes are pending to be resolved. Among the resolved disputes by the help of members of CBOs through Shalish, the project have recovered **Tk. 12,35,04,876.00/-** in cash as cash and land price which include dower, maintenance, compensation and land.
12. **Case Disposed through Village Courts (VC):** During the reporting period the Village Courts in 70 UPs received a total of 1257 applications and including 228 pending total application stands 1485. Among them **959** were disposed, and 139 cases are pending. In 587 cases out of 959 resolved cases parties got a total compensation and recovery in cash and kind amounting **Tk. 95,67,544.00/-** . The amount includes compensations, recovery of loans & money transactions and recovery of land. 382 cases were settled amicably through mutual understanding and compromise.
13. **Court Case Support :** During the reporting period, MLAA filed 52 cases. With previous pending MLAA have been providing Legal Aid and Support to **66** cases in Barisal, Pirojpur, Madaripur and Shariatpur Districts.
14. **Legal Advice/ Counseling:** During reporting period project has provided legal advices to 182 people those who came for, following is the typology of problems they are facing: Land and Property related problems, Domestic violence, Land related laws and dispute resolution, Divorce related problems, Second Marriage related problems, systems & related laws, Filing Case for illegal issues, Second Marriage, Money recovery related advice, Child Marriage Prohibition Laws, To get support of DLAC for running case, Family matter, Women & Child abuse related problem advised to precede a general diary at local Police Station.
15. **Project Planning Workshop:** MLAA conducted 2 Project Planning Workshop to Design and share the ideas about preparing Implementation Plan and Strategies for the Community Legal Services Project. Total 49 staffs of different segments were participated in the Planning Workshop.
16. **Upazilla Sensitization Workshop:** MLAA has conducted 11 Upazilla Sensitization workshops with government officials, UP Representatives and CBO members at 10 Upazillas in Madaripur, Shariatpur, Barisal and Pirojpur District to increase cooperation and coordination with CLS program activities and to sensitize them on CLS program activities. Total 326 people were participated in the meetings.
17. **Advocacy workshop at District level:** MLAA organized 2 Advocacy workshops at Barisal and Pirojpur district with relevant members of Govt. Legal Aid (DLAC, UZLAC & ULAC) to activate the Govt. Legal Aid service for enhancing the activities of Community Legal Services. Total 78 participants were participated in the said programs.
18. **Workshop on Gender & Local Justice:** During this quarter MLAA conducted 61 workshops on Gender & Local justice issues with 1236 Union level advanced women in order to make them gender conscious and aware about rights.
19. **Meeting with UPLAC member:** MLAA conducted 129 coordination meeting with Union Legal Aid Committee members at Barisal, pirojpur , Madaripur and Shariatpur

District to activate them and increase cooperation to CLS program activities and DLAC. Meetings were conducted at union level and total 1333 Participants were participated in the said Programs.

20. **Meeting with UzLAC member:** MLAA conducted 18 coordination meeting with Upazilla Legal Aid Committee members at Pirojpur and Maadaripur Districts to activate them and increase cooperation to CLS program activities and DLAC. Meetings were conducted at Upazilla level and total 201 Participants were participated in the said Programs.
21. **Monthly Upazilla & District Coordination Meeting :** During the reporting period the project arranged 138 monthly coordination meeting at Madaripur, Barisal and Pirojpur district with participation of Union workers, supervisors, Upazilla Managers and District level staffs of the project. Total 1652 staffs from different areas of the project were participated in these Coordination meeting.
22. **Refreshers Training for Project Staffs:** During the reporting period the project arranged 5 Refreshers Training Courses on 'Necessity & technique of Mediation, Village Court, Arbitration Council, Human Rights and necessary Laws relevant with local justice. A total of 110 (34 female, 76 male) Union workers, Supervisors, Upazilla Managers and district & Project level staffs were participated in those training courses.
23. **Refresher's Training for Union CBO Members on Village Court, Arbitration Council, Mediation and Necessary Laws:**
MLAA also formed CBOs in Union level with the participation of local people from deferent segments and wards of the Union. During the reporting period MLAA conducted 4 Training courses for Union level CBO members, where 99 CBO members (39 female and 60 male) were participated. After attending the above Training the participants become more skilled to conduct and facilitate the mediation session.
24. **Refresher's Training for UP Representatives on Village Court, Arbitration Council, Mediation and Necessary Laws:** It is essential to provide legal and procedural knowledge to the UP representatives for strengthen local justice particularly activate Village Court and Arbitration Council. With this aim MLAA arranged 4 training courses for UP representatives of Barisal and Pirojpur districts about village court, Arbitration Council, laws, mediation techniques etc. in this quarter. In this training 96 representatives were participated. Of them 30 were female and 66 were male.
25. **Quarterly Monitoring Report:** MLAA has conducted 4 monitoring Report during the reporting period on CLS activities. Each periodic Monitoring report contains different issue or indicator based information. The brief findings are as follows:

Project: 03.

Title of the project: Improvement of the Real Situation of Overcrowding in Prisons in Bangladesh (IRSOP)

Donor: GIZ, Bangladesh

Reporting period: July-2014 to June -2015

Introduction: The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Prison Directorate have jointly initiated a project named Improvement of the Real Situation of Overcrowding in Prisons in Bangladesh where. The project supported by the German Government through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH with an aim to reduce the overcrowding in the prisons of Bangladesh as well as speedy disposal of under trial cases within existing legal framework. Madaripur Legal Aid Association is the implementing partner of this project for Madaripur district. Five paralegals are working under this project for Madaripur pilot site and 1 focal person is coordinating all the activities on behalf of MLAA.

Overall objective: To reduce the overcrowding in Prisons in Bangladesh;

Specific objective:

- ❖ Overcrowding reduction in prisons in Dhaka, Bogra, and Madaripur;
- ❖ Speedy disposal of under trial cases within existing legal framework;
- ❖ Introduce paralegals into the criminal justice agency process (Prisons, courts, police station)

Performance:

- 1. Monthly Ward CBO Meeting:** In the Reporting period, the project organized 849 Ward CBO Meeting in Madaripur & Gopalganj District, where in total 9338 were participated. Among them 5099 were male and 4239 were female.
- 2. Quarterly Central CBO Member:** In the Reporting period, the project organized 84 Central CBO Meeting in Madaripur & Gopalganj District, with a total of 1034 participants. Among them were 584 male 450 female.
- 3. Workshop on Criminal Justice System (25 persons):** During the Reporting period, the project organized 17 Criminal Justice System & Gender workshops For UP rep, CBO members & RJ Facilitators at Union level. A total number of 509 were participated. Among them 349 were male and 160 were female.
- 4. Monthly Meeting with Police Staff at Upazila Level:** In the Reporting period, the project has organized 39 Meeting with Police Staff Madaripur & Gopalganj District, where in total 490 were participated. Among them 474 were male and 16 were female.
- 5. Forum Theater:** In the Reporting period, the project has organized 19 Forum theater with approximately 27670 participants. Among them 14775 were and male 12895 were female.

6. **Court Yard Meeting:** During the Reporting period 839 Courtyard Meeting were organized by field organizers and total 10396 members of house hold were present in the said meetings. Among them 1220 were male and 9176 were female.
7. **Facilitate & Coordinate Skill Development Training:** During the Reporting period 347 person were identified for Skill Development Training. Within the reporting period 01 Skill Development Training (Tailoring Training) organized by Jail authority with a participation of 12 persons..
8. **Referral Services to Convicted Prisoners of Drug:** During the Reporting period identified 180 Drug users for providing referral services.
9. **Upazila Coordination Meeting:** During the Reporting period the project arranged 48 Upazila meeting with a total of 378 participants (male 160 Female 218).
10. **Dispute Resolution through Mediation:** During the Reporting period, 1158 disputes were resolved through Mediation. Among the 1158 resolved disputes, 477 were dowry related, 13 were petty theft, 279 were assault, 12 were Crop Damage, 57 were Personal property damage, 224 were fraud, 72 were Harrasment, 18 were threat of Assault 6 were other nature. Additional: (68 Family matter,126 Land dispute)
11. **Dispute Resolution through RJ:** During the Reporting period resolved 213 disputes through RJ mediation. Among them 62 were dowry related, 3 were petty theft, 66 were assault, 7 were Crop Damage, 20were Personal property damage, 50 were fraud, 5 were threat of Assault and 6 were other nature.
12. **Dispute Resolve through AC:** During the Reporting period 27 disputes were resolved through Arbitration Council (maintenance).
13. **Number of Cases Diverted:** During the Reporting period ,the village court disposed 524,(368 Community to village court ,125 police station to village court,31 Court to village court).
14. **TOT for Master trainer (2Days, 25 Person):** During the Reporting period the project arranged one TOT. A total of 25 were participated in the TOT. Among 17 were male and 8 were female.
15. **Recovery Money:**
 - **Mediation and RJ:** In the reporting period Total- Tk. 2,59,66,330/- was recovered.(Compensation and Dower money Tk. 1,53,21,330/-, Land recovery and instead of Land Tk.1,06,45,000/- and through Village Court Tk.38,50,629/-).

Project-04.

Title of the Project: Justice Reform and Corruption Prevent (JRCP) Project

Donor: German Technical Cooperation (GIZ)

Reporting period: July 2014 to June 2015

Introduction: MLAA has been working to build a society where people can live in peace. The keystone of such a vision is access to justice, and our energies, therefore, focus on our beneficiaries' rights to equality before the law and equal protection of the law through establish rule of law.

Ensuring the rule of law is the most important task for any government. And strengthen the judiciary is the key factor for successful transition, economic and social development of the country. But due to corruption in all level including judicial process people are disappointed to get justice and facing problems. So sometimes getting justice is a far cry for the people.

Considering this situation, MLAA has been undertaken a pilot project on 'Justice Reform and Corruption Prevention (JRCP)' .which is a strategy to strengthen of social movement against corruption for promoting good governance in Bangladesh.

Objective: Corruption prevention mechanisms are activated through building awareness among people.

Working Area : District: 01, Madaripur. Upazilla: 02, Madaripur Sadar & Rajoir, Unions: 15, Wards: 30

Performance

1) To raise mass awareness

- 1.1) International child rights day (20 November 2014): International child rights day also arranged Rally and discussion meeting, rally participants are IU school students in Madaripur Sadar in 50 students, IU teacher CPC, CPF and also Mlaa staff participated here. Organized at M M Hafiz Public memorial Library, New Town, Madaripur. Total participants were 125 (Female 50, Male 75).
- 1.2) International day on Violence against women: Madaripur Sadar and Rajoir Upazila a rally, discussion, Jari song and theater were arranged on International day on violence against women's day. Among others two

Upazila UNO, Women's affairs officer, Executive of different NGOs, CPC, CPF members, Integrity unit, Women leaders and MLAA staffs were participated. Total 550 members were present among them 320 were Female and 230 were Male.

- 1.3) Corruption prevention day (9 December 2014): Corruption prevention day 9 December 2014. On that day the project arranged rally and discussion meeting. Corruption prevention art competition prize giving ceremony in Madaripur & Rajoir Upazilla. Participants were IU members of our project area schools in Madaripur Sadar, Rajoir IU teachers, CPC, CPF members and MLAA staff. Total participants 390.
- 1.4) National victory day (16 December 2014): On the celebration of National victory day (16 December) was arranged Madaripur and Rajoir on that day the project arranged Flower Vass giving in Shahid Minar on the presents of CPC president. Rally, student lesson of oath, students paraded & display in the presents of CPC member and Participants were different school and IU members of schools in Madaripur and Rajoir Upazilla, IU teachers, CPC, CPF members and also JRCP staff. (Total participant 241, female were 110, male were 131)
- 1.5) International Mother Language day: District and Upazila level a rally was arranged on 21st February with participation of project area CPC members, CPF members, Integrity Units Teacher-Students, MLAA staffs and GIZ staff. Total participants were tentative 388 (female 203, male 185).
- 1.6) Independent day (26 March 2015): Arranged essay Competition, for the students of 20 High Schools and 1st, 2nd & 3rd awarded were given prize through different ceremonies attended by DC, SP, DD-ACC, CPC, Integrity Unit's Teacher-Students and MLAA staffs. Participant were female 192, male 110 and total 302.
- 1.7) Corruption prevention week (26 March to 1 April 2015): On the celebration of National victory day was arranged Madaripur and Rajoir on that day the project arranged Flower Vass giving in Sshahid Minar on the presents of CPC president. Rally, student lesson of oath, students paraded & display in the presents of CPC member and Participants were different school and IU members of Ten schools in Madaripur and Rajoir Upazilla, IU teachers, CPC, CPF members and also JRCP staff.
- 1.8) Workshop with Trainer group for sharing: Workshop held with Master Trainer (Female 9, Male 8) group for sharing meeting at TARC, Madaripur Legal Aid Association. Participants of Mymensingh training 9-12 May 2014 opinion training experience sharing. They have knowledge idea about 'Sattoa Sanga'. Although in the workshop we shared project Goal, Objective, Activity, project area and also 'Sattoa Sanga'.
- 1.9) Workshop with Govt. staffs: Workshop was arranged Madaripur Sadar Upazilla and Rajoir Upazilla with participation of UNO, AC land, Polly Unnayan officer, Food inspector, Marriages Register, Dist. Muktijodtha

Commander, Education Officer, Sub-Dist, Health Officer, Fisher's Officer, Sub-Dist. Agriculture Officer, NGO's Head, CPC, CPF and Integrity Units Teacher. The main objective was against focusing the message of corruption prevention. Total participants 40 members (female 5, male 35).

2) Coordination and empowerment of CPC, CPF, IUs and Media

- 2.1) Quarterly coordination meeting with CPC: CPC Coordination meeting arrange Training and Resource Center, MLAA. Attend participated Madaripur Sadar, Rajoir, Kalkini and Shibchar Upazila CPC member and other stakeholder. 3 Nos. of meeting, out of total 95 participants 20 are female, 75 male.
- 2.2) Monthly meeting with District and Upazila CPC meeting: The meeting was held at Training & Resource Center of Madaripur Legal Aid Association (MLAA) and Upazila meeting were arrange Rajoir Upazila office with participation of 23 nos. meeting out of total 231 members (female 66, male 165).
- 2.3) Monthly meeting with CPF: 165 Nos of CPF meetings. Out of total 2736 members 777 are female and 1959 male.
- 2.4) Quarterly meeting with media: Electick and printing media members were arrange quarterly meeting at TARC. Total 61 members 6 are female 55 male attend 2 meeting.
- 2.5) Workshop with advisory council Of IU and head teacher: Workshop was arranged on at Madaripur Sadar and Rajoir Upazilla with participation of advisory council members of IU and CPC members. Total 62 participants were female 16, male 46 attend 2 workshop.
- 2.6) Meeting with Integrity Unit members: 121 'satota sanga' meetings were arranged. Tropics were to inform about Project Goal, activities and about role of the members of satota sango. Total participants were 1950 (male teacher 368, female teacher 239 and student 1343).

3) Improvement of service delivery in Hospital and Union Parishad

- 3.1) Advocacy meeting with UP rep. and CPF: Madaripur & Rajoir District & Sub District Union Meeting achievement 12. Union Meeting organized our project field Organizer in her responsible area, Madaripur Legal Aid Association. Participant's nature is Chairman, UP member, CPF, CPC, Local elite person. Total participants 533 (female 139, male 394)
- 3.2) Six monthly meeting with UHC: Meeting arrange rajoir Upazila Health Complex with CPC and UHC staffs. One meeting participants 33 (female 17, male 16).

4) Coordination of project staff and their skill development

- 4.1) Monthly staff coordination meeting: Every month meeting were arranged JRCP Project office. In this meeting Subject was monthly activity, activity achieves, challenged and overcome. Total 6 Nos. of meeting.
- 4.2) Six monthly planning meeting with stakeholders: 2 Nos. day long workshop at TARC, MLAA. 61 Participants (Female 13, male 48) including Deputy Director, ACC, GIZ staffs, District and Sub-District CPC, CPF members, Integrity Unit's Teacher & Student, District and Sub District Education Officer, SI of Police and MLAA staffs.

Project- 05.

Title of the Project: Promoting Access to Justice through Enhanced Responsiveness and Accountability of Communities and Public Institutions.

Donor: Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF)

Reporting period: July 2014-June 2015

Introduction: Given the demand for alternatives to the formal justice system, MLAA has partnered with several NGOs across 42 unions throughout the country to introduce the Madaripur Mediation Model (MMM) and activate the Village Courts (VC). The unions selected are extremely poor, have a weak informal justice systems, and dormant Village Courts.

Objective: Activate and enhance responsiveness of public institutions and communities to deliver effective access to justice and essential social services to the poor, women, children, religious / ethnic minorities and other marginalized groups.

Working Area : 05 districts (Rajbari, Jessor, Sirajgong, Meherpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagar), 42 Unions.

Performance

a) Disputes Resolution through Mediation: The project dealt with a total of 3243 disputes (of which 3053 new applications – 1604 female applicants; 1449 male applicants). The CBOs resolved 2806 disputes (1476 of female applicants; 1330 of male applicants), 175 applications were rejected, 84 were referred to court, and 178 remained pending.

The project reached a total of 6157 direct beneficiaries and 21971 indirect beneficiaries, such as, dependent family members, and recovered a total of Taka 10,73,59,975.00 (Ten core, Seventy Three lac, Fifty nine thousand nin hundred and Seventy five), which included cash payments (total Tk 13465610.00) and recovery of 5104.66 decimal of land (estimated value of Taka 96870600). In addition, 1145 couples resolved their differences and decided to stay married.

b) Disputes Resolution through Village Court: The project dealt with a total of 2682 cases in the VCs (including 2530 new applications). The courts dispose 2400 cases (2065 criminal cases; 390 civil cases), 115 rejected (usually due to non-appearance of parties, and 112 remained pending). There were 7353 direct beneficiaries and 28462 indirect beneficiaries from VC orders. A total of Tk 2,74,49,125.00 (Two core Seventy four lacs, , Forty nine Thousand One hundred and twenty five) was recovered (Tk7213765 in criminal cases; Tk 610060.00 in civil cases, and Tk 19154800.00 as estimated value of recovered 2546.83 decima. of land).

c) Court case support through DLAC: To support poor people, particularly women for establishing their legal rights project referred clients to DLAC for filing case in formal court. During the reporting period, 1232 cases were handled which included 280 newly

filed cases and 952 pending cases from the previous year. Among them 339 cases were disposed and 893 are now pending.

d) Courtyard meeting with household members on AC, VC & Mediation: The aim of the courtyard meeting is to spread awareness and help the grassroots people, especially for rural women on legal issues, as awareness is the prerequisite for making any activities more fruitful and effective. Through the meetings participants are encouraged to know about and use the Mediation, Village Court and Arbitration Council for easy and effective conflict resolution. Project facilitated 1511 courtyard meetings with the participants of 27288 household members

e) Meeting with WMC members on AC, VC & Mediation: MLAA formed Community Based Organizations (CBO) in 90 Unions from the rural civil society members of the community which include UP representatives, teachers, women health workers, religious leaders, social activists, NGO workers, women group leaders and other social leaders from the wards & unions. There are two fold of CBO committees: ward level CBO and central level CBO. During the reporting period MLAA has reformed CBO's were necessary.

In the reporting period, Project organized 1511 ward mediation committee meetings, where 14855 members participated. Among them 5633 were female and 9222 were male.

f) Quarterly meeting with UPLAC members: The main objective of this meeting is to motivate the member of UPLAC committee to active and properly function its works. The project organized meeting with UPLAC members in its working area for sharing the roles and responsibility of members to activate the committee as well as how them help to poor people to filling a case for insuring their rights through support of govt. legal aid fund.

In the reporting period, Project organized 167 meetings, where 2200 members participated. Among them 929 were female and 1271 were male.

g) Workshop on Mediation VC / AC and other necessary law: The main objective of this workshop to increase the awareness of members of ward mediation committee and motivate them for making the local justice systems effective. VC & AC laws, necessity of mediation, family laws, role and duties of CBOs were the main focus in the workshops. WMC members, UP representative and women group members were the participated in this workshop.

In the reporting period Project organize 21 day long workshop with WMC & UP representative on AC, VC & Mediation. A total number of 814 participants attended at 21 workshops, out of them 348 were female & 466 were male.

h) Exchange views meeting with journalist: The main objective of this meeting is to share the achievements of different activities among the journalist. In this meeting project explain how project can contribute to access to justice and promote human rights of marginalized people and how poor people benefited from this project.

In the reporting period, Project organized 05 meetings in 06 districts, where 116 journalists participated. Among them 02 were female and 116 were male.

i) Morjaday Gori Samata campaign

- **Meeting with civil society:** To influence members of the society on “recognize the unseen labor of women” project form a civil society group in Madaripur consisting 25 members. To enhance their knowledge and identify the roles and responsibility of civil society members project organized 2 meetings in the reporting period. 23 civil society members were attended these meetings. Among them 10. were female and 13 were male
- **Competition:** As a part of campaign ‘Morjaday Gori Samata’ project arranged two type of competition among the school students. One of the competition is essay competition on “Contribute by women in family, society and state “and another one is poster drawing competition on “Development and Women”. Total 53 no of school students were participated the competition. Out of them 33 were female and 20 were male.
- **Workshop with school students:** To disseminate the concept of ‘recognize the unseen labor of women’ project arranged 3 workshops among the school students. The aim of the objective is share the idea of equality between man and women in society. During the project period project arranged 3 workshops in different schools. Total 120 school students participated among them 80 were female and 40 were male.

j) Monitoring

Monitoring is a continuous process of measuring progress toward explicit shortcomings, intermediate and long term results. The aim to monitor the resources invested, the activities implemented and services delivered as well as evaluate outcomes achieved and long term impact made.

Monitoring personnel oversee and supervise field level activities of PNGOs and accordingly prepares monitoring report on regular basis. This report also share with related stakeholder’s i.e Union organizer, Project Manager, Executive Director of PNGOS and suggests recommendations. During the reporting period project personnel 29 times monitor the PNGOs activities in field level.
