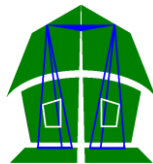


Activity Report

Reporting Period:

July 2017 - June 2018



Madaripur Legal Aid Association
New Town, Madaripur.

Contents

1.	Introduction:	3
2.	About MLAA.....	3
3.	Overview of main achievement:.....	4
4.	Core Program: Access to Justice and Human Rights.....	6
5.	Information of other Projects of MLAA:	15
	a) Project Title: Activating Village Courts Bangladesh (Phase-II)	15
	b) Project Title: Improvement of the Real Situation of Overcrowding in Prisons in Bangladesh	18
	c) Project Title: Justice for All- Munshiganj (JFA)	20
	d) Project Title: Enhance Access to Justice for Urban Dwellers	22
	e) Project Title: Justice Reform and Corruption Prevent (JRCP)-	26
6.	Impact	29
7.	Conclusion.....	30

1. Introduction:

Madaripur Legal Aid Association (MLAA), a voluntary organization in the justice sector, recently stepped in its fortieth anniversary. To uphold humanity and ensure legal rights of the marginalized people, the organization strives to alleviate miseries and social injustices through its categorically organized services. It is trying to bring relief from unjust treatment of malevolent forces that have so unkindly gripped the poor and demoted sections of our country. Hence, the question of establishing legal rights gets justification and the necessity for peace & justice comes forth.

Considering all these, 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.

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. It has developed its capacity in technical and managerial aspects as well as upgraded and developed different policies, manuals & modules that 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 replicating the same program in another 11 districts.

In the reporting period, July 2017 to June 2018, under various projects the organization at different scale accomplished its set plan and facilitated in dispute resolution through formal & informal justice system.

2. About MLAA

Values

MLAA believes in integrity, justice, governance, and accountability in the way it works with oppressed, vulnerable and deprived people. MLAA recognizes respects and upholds equality and equity among women and men.

Vision

A just society where rule of law and human rights is upheld.

Mission

MLAA will strive to ensure access to justice and legal rights for all people irrespective of sex, cast, creed, religion, sexual orientation, race and those affected by HIV/AIDs through the informal justice processes and formal justice system.

Main Objective:

Access to Justice increased empowerment of disadvantaged people, particularly women & Children.

What MLAA do

Since its inception in 1978, Madaripur Legal Aid Association (MLAA) has been continuing its efforts to peruse people's empowerment, gender equity, good governance and human rights in order to make the justice system and legal services easily accessible and affordable for the indigent and, at the same time, working for sustainable programs that address the greatest challenges with formal and informal justice system in Bangladesh.

Throughout the years, the organization has made enormous progress at the grass roots level through enhancing access to justice and human rights for the poor people, especially women, in three districts- Madaripur, Shariatpur and Gopalganj. In the same services, MLAA keeps itself engaged to the indigent in districts also. Starting its activities with Free Legal Aid program, we are flourishing through Mediation, activated Village Court and Arbitration Council that are dispute resolution mechanisms of local justice system. Further, providing legal support to reduce overcrowding in prisons, facilitating to activate govt. legal aid services, justice reform and advocacy to legal reforms are also have been brought in our organization's interventions.

3. Overview of main achievement:

To reach of accomplish the targets is not only the achievement of a project, it need qualitative outcomes also, particularly for the projects ensure justice from the grass roots level to the national level creating opportunity of access to justice for all. In addition, to address the issue MLAA gave importance in both quantitative and qualitative aspects.

The Core Program:

MLAA has been continuing its advocacy initiatives 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.

MLAA observed International Human Rights day, Women's Day with the participation students and teachers of different educational institutions, staffs of other NGOs and govt. officials with an aim to bring them in a network to disseminate the new trend of human rights and motivate them to act for protecting human rights.

Through the Free Legal Aid program, total 457 cases were handled including 37 newly filed and 420 pending cases from previous years. Among them 252 cases were disposed, 11 cases were rejected and the total number of pending cases are now 275.

During the reporting period under the local justice program MLAA facilitated to resolve 835 disputes through mediation. A total of Tk.4,39,51,200/- 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 139 cases (both civil and criminal) in which beneficiaries received an amount of Tk. 41,69,050/- approximately in cash and kind which include compensations, recovery of loans & money transactions and price (approximate) of recovered land. The Arbitration Council resolved 61 disputes. In the above three local dispute resolution systems, 79.81% women were directly benefited.

MLAA arranged coordination meetings at three stages namely, central, district and *thana* coordination meeting to create awareness among the staff and stakeholders on local justice system, human rights and gender issues. A total 48 meetings were organized to coordinate the field level activities.

To ensure transparency in the on-going activities MLAA's Monitoring cell has been working with specific responsibility. It has been seen that, in the decision making process 89% mediation decision made through party's opinion, 8.27 % decision taken by the board which was made by the parties' opinion and 1.75% decision was imposed. It has also seen that Madaripur Mediation Model (MMM) has been adopted and implemented as because in the mediation session 35.65% CBO women has been taken part as president of those sessions. It has also seen that 85% decisions made parties abides by and are getting full remedy, 5% getting partial remedy and 10% decision made parties are not abides by. 90% beneficiaries have been satisfied over the decision taken in the mediation.

Other Projects:

MLAA is currently implementing few other projects to supplement its main thematic approach. The project titled '**Activating Village Courts in Bangladesh**' is implementing in 235 Union of 7 districts of Dhaka (4) & Mymensing (3) division. The goal of the project is to contribute to improving access to justice for disadvantaged and marginalized groups in Bangladesh. In this reporting period, the VCs of the program intervention area received 7247 cases. Including the previous pending cases (332) total 7579 applications were handled. A considerable number of cases were resolved through Rule-31, Pre-trial & formal VC sessions and the number stands 5622. Total 699 cases remained as pending at the last day of June 2018. In regard to case implementation 4963 cases out of 5622 resolved case were enacted and BDT. 4,80,16,653/- (Four Crore Eighty Thousand Sixteen Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Three) was realized as compensation & estimated price of the recovered lands. Besides, the project operated awareness raising events including courtyard meeting, video projection, counseling etc. [See detail in project report]

Improvement of the Real Situation of Overcrowding in Prisons in Bangladesh is another project mainly jail centred. We know the prison Population in Bangladesh is increasing day by day. Therefore, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Prison Directorate have jointly initiated this project. In this project the Paralegals are the main force to gain the project goal. Paralegals go inside of the prison as their day-to-day activities and collect information of poor and helpless prisoners. They give free lawyer to them and also work for the benefit of them. In this year total 276 persons were released in three districts Madaripur, Gopalganj and Sirajganj. [See detail in project report]

'Justice For All- Munshiganj' was implemented in Munshiganj district where the main focus was in creating awareness on Legal Aid Service of the Government. The project area covered 67 Unions under 06 Upazillas of Munshiganj district. Under this project 139 UPLAC bi monthly meeting, 7 UZLAC meeting, 10 DLAC stakeholders meeting, 89 courtyard meeting and others events were conducted. [See detail in project report]

To ensure justice for the urban poor MLAA has been implementing a project '**Enabling Access Justice for Urban Dwellers**' in 14 Pawrashavs of Madaripur, Shariatpur and Gopalganj districts and 5 wards of Khulna City Corporation. The main aim of this project is to activate Conciliation

Board (Municipality) act 2004 in Powrashavas and activation of Arbitration Council both in Powrashava and City Corporation in project areas.

The 'Justice Reform and Corruption Prevention (JRCP)' is designed with collaboration of Ministry of home affairs of Bangladesh Govt. and Anti-Corruption Commission with a strategy to strengthen of social movement against corruption for promoting good governance in Bangladesh. The project works in Madaripur and Gopalganj districts covering 4 Upazillas.

4. Core Program: Access to Justice and Human Rights

a) Project Description:

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.

The major components of the project are: 1) enabling people to access formal courts through free legal aid, 2) empower people to resolve their disputes at the community level through the Madaripur Mediation Model (MMM), and 3) empowering local government to provide local justice through the Village Court (VC) and Arbitration Counsel (AC).

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)

Stakeholders:

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

b) Description of the Performance

i. Advocacy

To influence policymakers in a planned and organized manner MLAA's advocacy unit takes active initiatives and recommendations which are gathered from grass root level and convey to policy makers. To create a positive change in the policy level, the advocacy unit of MLAA collected opinion of different stakeholders about Village Courts and Arbitration Council from ward and union level through various meetings, especially from CBO meetings.

As a part of its advocacy campaign, MLAA observed International Women Day, National Legal Aid Day and International Human Rights Day with govt. officials, like-minded NGOs, children, local elites, students and teachers. In these events MLAA organized rallies, displayed poster, and arranged drama shows.

Result achieved

Local justice systems like Village Courts and Arbitration Council have drawn the attention of relevant service providers through local level advocacy. Gaps and limitations in local justice system have been identified from different seminars & workshops arranged in local level and necessary recommendations are placed to the policy makers to overcome these gaps.

ii. Capacity Building

As a part of capacity building MLAA conducts training for its core 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 MLAA organized 570 courtyard meetings with the participation of 9331 household members. Among them 7707 (82.60%) were female and 1624 (17.40%) 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 usual, the CBO members of the committees assisted in actualization of project goal and objectives assisting in mediation session, dispute resolution through AC & VC. They contribute in Win –Win mediation procedure and disseminate their concepts among community people.

MLAA has taken special programs and care to develop the 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

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 and 36 coordination meetings at district & upazilla level.

Detailed information is given in Annex-A

Result achieved

CBO members are organized and directly participating in Mediation, Village Court and Arbitration Council session. Female CBO members are well trained and around 47% meetings are presided over by the female members. A number of women are nominated by the parties as panel judge of Village Court. People of various sects actively take part in different awareness events, such as, courtyard meeting, campaigning, workshops etc. which is changing the attitude of rural inhabitants.

iii. Access to formal and informal justice system

Free Legal Assistance

MLAA provides legal aid services to the disadvantaged, in particular to the poor women and children, to establish their rights with positive impact of change their socio-economic status.

Case applications by clients are assessed at union level, Upazilla offices and at the district offices. Disputes that are family matter, neighborhood, land, commercial, petty criminal (compoundable) but non-violent in nature are referred for mediation. Some are referred for litigation depending on the nature of intervention that each case would require.

MLAA arranges lawyers for its clients from panel of lawyers based on their years of experience, court records, knowledge of law and human rights, reputation and sensitivity to the needs of the poor specially women. In addition to providing a lawyer, MLAA engages advocate's clerk who is responsible for liaising between the clients and also assists the lawyer with basic tasks. MLAA also provides transportation facilities (for both the client and witnesses) and assist for collection of necessary documents and medical support if necessary.

During the reporting period a total of 457 cases were handled including 37 newly filed and 420 pending cases from previous years. Among them 182 cases were disposed, 11 cases were rejected and the total number of pending cases at the end of reporting period is 275.

Including the pending cases, the total numbers of filed cases are: criminal cases- 378, family court cases- 44, land cases- 29 and appeal cases- 6. This year 37 cases were filed only in criminal nature. The other categories remained the same as they appear above.

Detailed information is given in Annex-B

Result achieved

- Child & Woman related 03 cases:
 - husband divorced his wife and paid total BDT. 2,50,000/- as dower money & maintenance;
 - case dismissed since the applicant failed to prove the the merit through the witnesses;
 - husband withdrew the filed case and accept his wife settling dispute among them;
- Dowry related cases:
 - 4 years imprisonment of 3 persons was ordered in 4 cases; 1 person discharged;
 - in 16 cases the husbands withdrew their case and received their wives;
 - 16 divorces were performed in 16 cases where total BDT. 12,20,000/- was realized;
- Family cases:
 - BDT. 4,50,000/- was realized in 3 family cases;
 - in 3 cases the courts ordered 2 years each imprisonment of 3 persons;
 - husbands & wives mutually settled their dispute in 4 cases the;
 - divorce materialized in 2 cases and BDT. 1,50,000/- was realized;

- Land Cases:
 - 3 acres & 20 decimal land was recovered in 11 cases which approximately cost BDT. 21 lac;
 - 1 case went against our client;
 - In 2 cases the verdict remained unchanged and 30 decimal land recovered which cost approximately BDT. 7 lac.
- Criminal Appeal Case:
 - 2 cases declared in favor of the Association.

Village Courts (VC):

MLAA has taken special initiative for activating Village Court a forum of Union Parishad to resolve particular disputes. The project provides technical assistance to the Union Parishad and 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 137 applications and including pending 18 total applications stood 155. Among them 139 were disposed off, 4 cases were rejected and 12 cases remained pending. All the disposed cases were criminal in nature.

In total 139 cases, the Village Courts recovered BDT. 1,43,500/- on behalf of the clients and the amount of compensation was BDT. 3,24,000/-. These amounts include compensations, recovery of loans & money transactions. 87 cases were settled amicably through mutual understanding and compromise.

Detailed information is given as Annex- C

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.

During the reporting period the project received 80 disputes; including previous pending 17 disputes total disputes stood 97. The Arbitration Council of UP resolved 61 disputes, 22 disputes was rejected and now 03 disputes remain as pending. Among the total disposed 61 disputes, 27 were related to maintenance & 34 were of divorce.

A total of BDT.29,000.00/- was recovered as maintenance.

Detailed information is given in Annex- D

Result of VC & AC

UPs help the rural poor for providing quick remedy through VC & AC. In the reporting period UPs recovered an equivalent of BDT. 49,65,500/- as maintenance, compensation and value of land. UP representatives are more aware about their roles and responsibilities and are involved in resolving disputes having adequate knowledge and skill on VC & AC law. In most of Union Parishad minimum 1 day per week is indicated for conducting Village Courts.

Disputes resolution through Mediation

MLAA modernized the traditional 'Salish' into an unbiased, participatory, and rights sensitive approach to conflict resolution known as the Madaripur Mediation Model (MMM). The MMM enables disputant parties to resolve family conflicts, community disputes, land disputes and minor criminal offences at a nominal cost and with minimal delay. Disputants usually prefer this method for conflict resolution and the success of the MMM is allowing the parties to address and work through the root cause of their problems.

During the reporting period, the project received 939 applications. Including 172 pending from previous period, applications stood 1111. In total, 835 disputes were resolved through Mediation, 21 disputes were referred to district court for filing case and due to absence of the applicants and lack of documentary or oral evidence 143 applications were rejected. Currently 95 disputes are pending to be resolved.

Among the 835 resolved disputes, 218 were related to family matter, 25 were assault, 01 case was on second marriage, 290 were dowry related, 23 were community disputes, 46 were financial disputes, 33 were land disputes and other disputes under miscellaneous category were 66.

Among the resolved disputes, by the help of members of CBOs participated as mediators of *Shalish*, the project recovered BDT. 4,39,59,200/- as cash and price of land, which also include dower money, maintenance and compensation.

Detailed information is given in Annex- E

Result achieved

- MLAA resolved 835 disputes in different categories with the active participation of CBO members. Among the resolved disputes, in 406 disputes married couples continued their family life amicably.
- Female CBO members took active roles in mediation and in mediation session women CBO members have been taken part as president of the session.
- The CBO members of mediation project of MLAA mediated some disputes on guardianship and help applicants to get their children through mediation. In this period, one child was rescued through mediation.

Benefit of resolved disputes through Mediation

Result of Disputes	Disputes resolved	%	Amount in Taka
Marriage Continued	406	48.62	0
Recovered of Maintenance & Denmohor/ Divorce Executed including.	103	12.34	9575000
Maintenance of Child (Rescued 01 Child)	4	0.48	44000
Compensation Recovered	44	5.27	2074200
Land Recovered (1018.25 Decimal)	85	10.18	30283000
Money Recover in replace of Land (107 dec.)	6	0.72	1975000
Mutual Settlement in land disputes	187	22.40	0
Total	835	100.00	4,39,51,200

iv. Institutional capacity of MLAA strengthened

Monitoring and Evaluation

Objectives

The objective of this indicator-based report is to assess the effectiveness of programme interventions.

Sampling

Sample Size: Sample has been drawn from working areas 3 districts 5Upazilla and 7 Unions of the working Union units has been covered and from each Union 5 resolved disputes chose 35 disputes at randomly in last 6 months mediated by those union.

The M&E Cell has been conducted indicator assessment studies and found the following results:

1) Indicator: By 2016, Madaripur Mediation Model (MMM) has been adopted and implemented as an effective alternative dispute resolution system

- After interviewed 35 beneficiaries in 7 unions, under 05 upazila of three working districts it found that, in the decision making process 89% mediation decision made through both party's opinion, 8.25 % decision taken by the board which was made by the parties opinion and 1.75% decision was imposed.
- It has also seen in the assessment that Madaripur Mediation Model (MMM) has been adopted and implemented as because 61% CBO women has been taken part as mediator, 36 % CBO men has been taken part as mediator.

2) Indicator: By 2016, 50% women are playing leading role in the mediation process within the working areas.

- In the assessment M&E Cell interviewed 35 beneficiaries of mediation and find that in those mediation session 35.65% CBO women has been taken part as president of those session.

3) Indicator: By 2016, 80% mediation decisions of the agreement made by the parties abide by and are getting the remedy.

- It has also seen in the assessment that 85% decisions made parties abides by and are getting full remedy, 5% getting partial remedy and 10% decision made parties are not abides by.
- 90% beneficiaries have been satisfied over the decision taken in the mediation and 10% are not satisfied as because of not got full money of the mediation decision, divorce not wanted but she got separation, husbands are absconded, land not got and dispute arises again.

Lesson Learned

- Local political pressure was likely to influence in decision making of VC & mediation decisions of the.

- Due to the lengthy process of the existing laws, Complex legal framework and unfair means justice seekers were denied of due judgments.
- Application of the Amendment of VC 2013 was not up to the mark and UP representatives are yet to be aware on some procedure.
- Frequent & effective monitoring from Government side on VC might be fruitful in functioning those which would, as a result, ensure justice for the local poor people.
- Partisan biasness seemed to be overweighed in decision making of mediation sessions.
- Lack of manpower and financial incentives hamper participation in local justice systems.
- At the national level it takes long time to see the reflections of local level advocacy events.
- UP representatives are busy with multiple activities which hamper some time to perform their duties in local justice system.

Annexure (Core Project)

Annex-A

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

a) Courtyard meeting with household members

Number of Union	No. of Meeting			Total Meeting	Total Participant		
	AC	VC	Mediation		Female	Male	Total
9	119	227	224	570	7707	1624	9331

Output 3: Access to formal and informal justice system increased

Annex-B

Free Legal Assistance

a) Provide Court Support

Districts	Previous Pending	Case Filed	Total Case	Court Verdict		Default /Reject	Compro-mised	Total	Present Pending
				Favor	Against				
Madaripur	271	25	296	33	2	9	19	63	233
Shariatpur	106	0	106	61	1	2	18	82	24
Gopalganj	43	12	55	26	0	0	11	27	18
Total	420	37	497	120	3	11	48	182	275

b) Nature-wise disposed cases

Type	Cases filed				Cases disposed			
	Female	Male	Total	%	Female	Male	Total	%
Criminal	7	30	37	100%	54	96	150	82%
Family	0	0	0	0%	16	0	16	9%
Land	0	0	0	0%	4	10	14	8%
Appeals	0	0	0	0%	1	1	2	1%
Total	7	30	37	100%	75	107	182	100%

Dispute resolution through VC

Annex-C

a) Analysis of VC cases

Number of Union	Previous		Case		Total		Case		Reject		Recom		Total		Present		Disposed Locally	
	Pending		Received				Disposed				Case				Pending			
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
09	8	10	55	82	63	92	56	83	2	2	0	0	58	85	5	7	20	24
Total	8	10	55	82	63	92	56	83	2	2	0	0	58	85	5	7	20	24
Grand	18		137		155		139		4		0		143		12		44	

b) Nature of disposed cases of VC

Number of Unions	Criminal		Civil		Total	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
09	56	83	0	0	56	83
Total	56	83	0	0	56	83
Grand	139		0		139	

c) Direct benefit through disposed cases of VC

SN	Criminal	No. of Dispute	BDT.	Remarks
1	Amicable Settlement	87	0	62.59%
2	Compensation	34	3,24,000.00	24.46%
3	Money Recover	18	1,43,500.00	12.95%
Sub-Total		139	4169050.00	100%
	Civil			
4	Amicable Settlement	0	0	0
5	Money Recover	0	0	0
6	Land Recover	00 Dec.	0	0
7	Compensation	0	0	0
Sub-Total		0	0.00	0
Total		139	4169050.00	

Annex-D

Dispute Resolution through AC

a) Analysis of application & Dispute Resolution through AC

District	Previous		Application		Total		Dispute		Reject		Recom		Total		Present		Disposed Locally	
	Pending		Received				Resolved				Case				Pending			
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
Madaripur, Shariatpur & Gopalganj	13	4	69	11	82	15	58	3	13	9	0	0	71	12	11	3	4	0
Total	13	4	69	11	82	15	58	3	13	9	0	0	71	12	11	3	4	0
Grand	17		80		97		61		22		0		83		14		4	

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, Shariatpur & Gopalganj	27	0	31	03	0	0	58	03
Total	27	0	31	03	0	0	58	03
G. Total	27		34		0		61	

c) Direct benefit through disputes resolved of AC

Result of disputes	No. of disputes	%
Marriage Continued	229	78.97
Maintenance Provided	0	0
Mutual Settlement	6	2.06
Divorce Executed	55	18.97
Total	290	100

Annex-E

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, Shariatpur & Gopalganj	95	77	525	414	620	491	467	368	70	73	31	07	568	448	52	43	72	35
Total	95	77	525	414	620	491	467	368	70	73	31	07	568	448	52	43	72	35
Grand	172		939		1111		835		143		38		1016		95		107	

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, Shariatpur & Gopalganj	92	126	10	15	1	0	290	0	5	18	14	32	33	133	22	44	467	368
Total	92	126	10	15	1	0	290	0	5	18	14	32	33	133	22	44	467	368
Grand	218		25		01		290		23		46		166		66		835	

c) Direct benefit of resolved disputes through Mediation

Result of Disputes	Disputes resolved	%	Amount in Taka
Marriage Continued	406	48.62	0
Recovered of Maintenance & Denmohor / Divorce Executed including.	103	12.34	9575000
Maintenance of Child (Rescued 01 Child)	4	0.48	44000
Compensation Recovered	44	5.27	2074200
Land Recovered (1018.25 Decimal)	85	10.18	30283000
Money Recover in replace of Land (107 dec.)	6	0.72	1975000
Mutual Settlement in land disputes	187	22.40	0
Total	835	100.00	4,39,51,200

5. Information of other Projects of MLAA:

a) Project Title: Activating Village Courts Bangladesh (Phase-II)

Donor: UNDP, EU & GOB

Implementing Agency: Local Government Division, MoLGRD&C

Partner NGO : Madaripur Legal Aid Association

Reporting period: July 2017 to June 2018

Goal :

To contribute to improving access to justice for disadvantaged and marginalized groups in Bangladesh.

Objectives: The overarching objective of the AVCB II project is to contribute to improve the access to justice for disadvantaged and marginalized groups in Bangladesh.

Specific objectives:

- To make local authorities more responsive to local justice needs and offer appropriate legal services in the form of well- functioning village courts.
- To empower local people, especially women, the poor and vulnerable groups to seek remedies for injustices and to resolve their disputes at the local level in an expeditious, transparent and affordable manner.

Project Duration: December 2016 to August 2019

Project Area: Total 235 UPs in 28 Upazillas in 7 Districts in Dhaka & Mymensing Division

Dhaka Division:

- Faridpur District : 6 Upazillas (Fardipur Sadar, Alphadanga, Bhanga, Sadarpur, Boalmari & Char Bhadrason) : 35 Unions
- Gazipur District : 5 Upazillas (Gazipur Sadar, Sreepur, Kaliganj, Kaliakoir & Kapasia) : 26 Unions
- Gopalganj : 3 Upazillas (Gopalganj Sadar, Moksudpur & Kasiani) : 32 Unions
- Madaripur : 4 Upazillas (Faridpur Sadar, Rajoir, Kalkini & Shibchar) : 43 Unions

Mymensingh Division:

- Jamalpur District : 4 Upazillas (Sharishabari, Boxiganj, Melandah & Islampur) : 38 Unions
- Mymensing District : 3 Upazillas (Muktagacha, Ishwarganj & Haluaghat) : 33 Unions
- Netrokona District : 3 Upazillas (Madan, Durgapur & Kendua) : 28 Unions

The key expected outputs of the project are:

1. Capacity of relevant stakeholders at national and local level strengthened to enable VCs in at least 1080 Unions to function effectively by March 2019.
2. Legal and policy framework reviewed and revised to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of VCs.

3. GoB monitoring capacity for evaluating VCs performance is strengthened and systematized.
4. Beneficiaries in project areas understand the roles and functions of the VCs and are able to access their services when required.
5. Evidence-base and knowledge-management on VCs increased.

The target groups/beneficiaries:

Primary: Disadvantaged people especially women

Secondary: Women leaders, Village elites, UP Chairman, Secretary, Female & Male Members of UP, community leaders, Village Police (Choukider & Dafader), Youth group of the community, GOB Official, Judges, Lawyers, Journalist, officials of LGD, Project staff and mass peoples.

Project Budget: BDT. 238,969,424.00 (for 33 months)

Existing Staffs:

Total Staffs : 280 Persons: Male 137 (49%) & Female 143 (51%)
 UP level Staffs : 235 Persons
 Districts & Upazilla Level staffs : 42 Persons
 Central Level : 03 Persons

Brief statistics of the implemented events:

i) Case resolution through Village Courts:

In this reporting period, the VCs of the program intervention area received 7247 cases. Including the previous pending cases (332) total 7579 applications were handled. A considerable number of cases were resolved through Rule-31, Pre-trial & formal VC sessions and the number stands 5622. Total 699 cases remained as pending at the last day of June 2018. In regard to case implementation 4963 cases out of 5622 resolved case were enacted and BDT. 4,80,16,653/- (Four Crore Eighty Thousand Sixteen Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Three) was realized as compensation & estimated price of the recovered lands.

Previous Pending	Application Received	Total Application	Case Resolution(VC, Pre-trial & Rule-31)	Default & file return to the applicant	Case Implementation	Present Pending
332	7247	7579	5622	1258	4963	699

ii) Awareness raising activities:

To raise awareness on Village Court at Union & Upazila level the project launched different events at diverse scale. In the reporting period, the project organized 28233 courtyard meetings were 130345 male & 327306 female participated; total participants: 457651. Further 28642 persons were given counseling on the benefits of VC; of them 16502 were male & 12220 were female.

Including the above numbers, in our outreach events total 10,44,179 persons participated. The statistics is given below:

Sl/No	Awareness raising program	No of Events	Male	Female	Total
1.	District monthly staff coordination	84	545	45	590
2.	Upazilla monthly staff coordination	333	1640	1660	3300
3.	Women development forum (WDF)	54	21	1499	1520
4.	Counseling support to the justice seeker	28642	16502	12220	28772
5.	District & Upazilla VCMC Meeting	128	1447	279	1726
6.	Upazilla level NGO coordination meeting	129	2580	623	3203
7.	District level NGO coordination meeting	92	2189	470	2659
8.	Monthly court Yard meeting	28233	130345	327306	457651
9.	Multimedia Shows on village court	2058	274074	139593	413667
10.	Community meeting at union level	718	27347	8251	35598
11.	Divisional Coordination meeting	2	12	2	14
12.	Monthly coordination meeting at up level	2511	27178	10030	37208
13.	Outreach activities conduction by local NGOs	2270	18927	39408	58335
14.	Upazilla & District level Law and order committee meeting	137	2743	47	3218
15.	Focus group discussion	4	48	51	99
16.	Forms /format distribution at upazilla level	28	1019	286	1305
17.	Half yearly coordination meeting	7	360	34	394
18.	Rally on village courts	468	61732	32873	94605
19.	Go/NGO outreach events at upazilla level	28	975	189	1164
20.	Youth group workshop	234	5209	4182	9391
Total		66160	574893	579048	1154419

b) Project Title: Improvement of the Real Situation of Overcrowding in Prisons in Bangladesh

Reporting period: July-2017 to June -2018

Funded by: German Development Cooperation (GIZ)

Area Coverage: 03 Districts (Madaripur , Gopalganj & Sirajganj)

Introduction: The Prisons in Bangladesh are overcrowded and out of total Prison's population around 70% are under-trial prisoners (currently) which is the main cause of this situation in the prisons. In fact, the prison Population in Bangladesh is increasing day by day. Therefore, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Prison Directorate have jointly initiated this project. In this project the Paralegals are the main force to gain the project goal. Paralegals go inside of the prison as their day-to-day activities and collect information of poor and helpless prisoners. They give free lawyer to them and also work for the benefit of them. Paralegals also work both in Court and Police station not only for case related work but also support the common people who have no idea about laws and most of the time due to ignorance and been cheated.

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

Specific Objective: a) Overcrowding reduction in the project area prisons; b) Speedy disposal of under trial cases within existing legal framework; and c) Introduce paralegals into the criminal justice agency process (Prisons, courts, police station)

1. Release (Prison Achievement)

District	Target	Achievement			
		Male	Female	Juvenile	Total
Madaripur	24	65	20		85
Gopalganj	30	80	3	-	83
Sirajganj	60	108	00	00	108
Total	114	253	23		276

2. Intervention (Prison Achievement)

District	Target	Achievement			
		Male	Female	Juvenile	Total
Madaripur	1570	1140	580	40	1760
Gopalganj	1866	1844	323	-	2167
Sirajganj	3786	3553	324	00	3877
Total	7222	6537	1227	40	7804

3. Court Achievement,

District	Target	Achievement			
		Male	Female	Juvenile	Total
Madaripur	1420	1260	200	8	1468
Gopalganj	1071	724	361	-	1085
Sirajganj	838	755	183	00	938
Total	3329	2739	744	0	3491

4. Police Station Achievement

District	Target	Achievement			
		Male	Female	Juvenile	Total
Madaripur	73	57	16		146
Gopalganj	45	41	9	-	50
Sirajganj	144	110	38	00	148
Total	262	208	63		344

5. Interactive Paralegal Aid Clinic (PLC) :

District	Number of PLC		Total Participant			Seeking Legal Assistance
	Target	Achievement	Male	Female	Total	
Madaripur	80	80	2400	800	3200	920
Gopalganj	84	93	950	493	1443	89
Sirajganj	84	83	1143	1162	2305	187
Total	248	256	4493	2455	6948	1196

6. Meeting concern:-

A) Name of Meeting : Meeting with the Case Coordination Committee (CCC)

District	Target	Achieve	Prison Case attend the CCC Meeting	None- Prison Case attend the CCC Meeting
Madaripur	12	12	12	300
Gopalganj	12	12	3	120
Sirajganj	12	07	14	42
Total	36	31	29	462

B) Monthly Law Discussion Meeting

District Name	Target	Achievement	Remarks
Madaripur	24	24	
Gopalganj	12	12	
Sirajganj	12	12	
Total	48	48	

C) Monthly Paralegals Meeting

District Name	Target	Achievement	Remarks
Madaripur	12	12	
Gopalganj	12	12	
Sirajganj	12	12	
Total	36	36	

D) Attuned the DLAC Meeting

District Name	Target	Achievement	Remarks
Madaripur	12	12	
Gopalganj	12	12	
Sirajganj	12	12	
Total	36	36	

c) Project Title: Justice for All- Munshiganj (JFA)

Reporting Period: July 2017 to June 2018

Background of the project:

One of the basic fundamental rights guaranteed in the Constitution of Bangladesh is that all citizens are equal before law and are entitled to equal protection of law. As a large number of the population live below the poverty line, they can hardly access to justice to protect their legal rights. To address these problems and to make legal aid services accountable, available and accessible for the vulnerable groups government has adopted Legal Aid Service Act, 2000, to improve access to justice, introduced Legal Aid Fund (LAF) to provide the poor with free lawyers and formed different committees from Districts to Union level (DLAC, UZLAC & UPLAC) to make it success. In this context, the 'Justice for All Program-Munshiganj' will bring relief to the justice seeker of the community and make it accessible for the poor, women, children, religious/ethnic minorities and other marginalized groups.

Project Duration	:	January 2016 to March, 2018
Objectives	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Support to DLAC, UZLAC & UPLAC ii. Visibility of Govt. Legal Aid Service and Awareness of Rights iii. Community Sensitization.
Outputs	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Legal Aid Services are available and functional through enhanced capacity of DLAC, UZLAC and UPLAC and well coordination mechanism is developed among DLAC, UZLAC and UPLAC. ii. Level of awareness among target group increased about basic legal rights and remedies within the formal justice system. iii. Target communities are capable to use formal justice sector to resolve disputes.
Outcomes	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Relevant duty bearers are accountable to provide fair and effective services in the justice system and a well coordination mechanism is established among DLAC, UZLAC and UPLAC. ii) Peace and security of residents of the target areas are protected and promoted through increased understanding of their rights and effective access to justice through legal aid services.
Impact	:	Improved access to effective and accountable legal aid services among the poor, women, children, religious/ethnic minorities and other marginalized groups.
Target Groups	:	The primary target groups are the inhabitants of the poverty stricken areas that have yet to receive Legal Aid Services particularly women, children, minorities and the marginalized. They will be benefited by understanding their rights and being able to access justice. The secondary target groups are DLAC, UZLAC & UPLAC members, NGOs, UP representatives, students & youths, community leaders, government officials and panel lawyers. They will be benefited by better meeting the needs of the people they represent, thus increasing confidence in their job performance.
Working Area	:	District: 01, Munshiganj Upazilla: 06, Munshiganj Sadar, Gazaria, Tongibari, Louhajong, Sreenagar & Shirajdikhan. Unions: 67

Proposed budget	:	JFA Program fund : BDT. 79,99,755 Cost Sharing : BDT. 4,03,490 Total Budget : BDT. 84,03,245
Funded by & Supported by	:	USAID's Justice for All Program & National Center for State Courts

Through this project MLAA also works with the communities to ensure that people are aware of the DLAC, UZLAC & UPLAC and their roles and responsibilities.

Achievements in brief (July 2017 to June 2018):

SN	Objectives & Project Activities	Achievement	Male	Female	Total
1)	Objective 1 – Support to DLAC, UZLAC and UPLAC				
1.1	Facilitation & Monitoring of Bi-monthly Meeting of UPLAC	139	750	504	1254
1.2	Facilitation & Monitoring of Bi-monthly Meeting of UPZLAC	7	36	32	68
1.3	Quarterly & Six monthly DLAC Stakeholders Meeting (in 4 cluster 15 meetings)	10	206	139	335
2)	Objective 2 – Visibility of Government Legal Aid and Awareness of Rights				
2.1	Information Card on Govt. Legal Services (printing)	6700	-	-	-
2.2	Campaign / Miking of Govt legal Services at UPz Level	18	-	-	-
2.3	Courtyard meetings with member of household on Basic rights & Legal Aid Services at UP level	89	297	1735	2032
2.4	Monthly Progress Meetings on Govt. Legal Aid activities with project staffs	9	54	0	54
3)	Objective 3 – Community Sensitization				
3.1	Organize Folk song on LAS	9	1380	545	1925
3.2	Street Drama at Upazilla & District on LAS	6	2600	2600	5200
3.3	Public Hearing	9	700	525	1225
3.4	Video Projection	9	1970	470	2440
3.5	Workshop on LAS with Students & Youths	1	14	26	40
3.6	Publication of Legal Aid Magazine (with DLAC)	1	-	-	-
3.7	Observe International Women's Day	1	430	750	1180

d) Project Title: Enhance Access to Justice for Urban Dwellers

Donor: PORTICUS

Reporting period: July 2017 to June 2018

Main Objective:

Increase access to justice of urban dwellers through activation of informal, formal and quasi-judicial systems and empowerment of poor, particularly women, children and other marginalized groups.

Specific Objectives:

- Ensure access to justice for Pourashava dwellers by activating Conciliation Board and Arbitration Council.
- Enhance capacity of elected representatives & civil society members of Pourashava to resolve disputes locally.
- Sensitize and motivate stakeholders to prevent and protect Violence against Women.
- Initiate advocacy to reform relevant laws and rules.
- Ensure justice for the poor through District Legal Aid Committee (DLAC).

Project location: The proposed project has been implementing in 14 Pourashavas (Municipality) of Madaripur, Shariatpur & Gopalgong districts and 5 Wards of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) which are.

Powrashavas are:

Madaripur District: 4 Pourashavas: Madaripur, Shibchar, Kalkini and Rajoir

Shariatpur District: 6 Pourashavas: Shariatpur, Naria, Janjia, Damuddya, Bhedergonj and Goshairhat.

Gopalganj District: 4 Pourashavas: Gopalgonj, Tungipara, Kotalipara and Muksudpur

Khulna City Corporation (KCC).

5 wards are: ward No: 19, 20, 21, 29 & 31. In 5 wards there are 5 slums. The slum 'Nesar Mastererer Bosti' in ward No: 19, 'Tina Bosti' in Ward No: 20, 'Greenland Bosti' in Ward No: 21, 'Natun Bazar Bosti' in Ward No: 29 and 'Buttar Patil Bosti' in Ward No: 31.

Project summary

This project aims at effective legal aid services through i) building the capacity of the Conciliation Board and Arbitration Council to promote and protect the rights of the poor, ii) facilitating mediation and iii) raising awareness on legal rights and protections (especially for VAW) and iii) Advocacy to bring changes in laws and practices for these initiatives and enact a new law for City Corporation to resolve patty disputes.

Beneficiaries:

Disadvantage & poor people, particularly the urban slum dwellers, day laborer, small hawker, rickshaw puller, garment's worker, especially adolescent girl, women domestic help and children are the direct beneficiaries.

Elected representatives, CBO members, youth & women leaders are also indirect beneficiaries of the project who will be motivated and will contribute to implement the project.

Description of Performance

Building Capacity of Duty Bearer

Sl.	Activity	NoE	Participant		
			Female	Male	Total
1.	Orientation Workshop for Mayor, Councilor and Secretary of Municipality	14	57	231	288
2.	Basic Training for councilors of Poursava and members of CBOs	14	157	241	405
3.	Basic Training for Councilors & CBO Members of 5 Ward of KCC	5	44	53	97
4.	Documentation Fill-up of Mediation, Pouro Board & AC for Pouroshava Organizers, KCC & Project Staffs	2	15	18	33
5.	Experience Sharing meeting with Mayor	1	6	37	43
6.	Day long workshop for Marriage Register (Kazi) Poursava level	1	0	34	34
7.	Formation of Pouroshava ward CBO committee	126	1727	3149	4876
8.	Formation of Pouroshava Central CBO committee	14	126	126	252
9.	Formation of KCC Central CBO committee	5	115	138	253
10.	Formation of Adolescent groups	47	1021	866	1887
11.	Formation of youth groups	47	913	864	1777
12.	Monthly Ward CBO Meetings	566	2183	3239	5422
13.	Quarterly central CBO meeting of Poursava and City corporation	80	627	612	1239
14.	Courtyard Meeting of Poursava	525	7409	518	8927
15.	Quarterly Meetings with Adolescent Group	218	1238	1150	2388
16.	Quarterly Meetings with Youth Group	186	1230	1169	2399
17.	Inauguration meeting of the Project at Pourashava	0	0	0	0
18.	Inauguration meeting of the Project at KCC	1	17	58	75
19.	Half-yearly networking meeting with Municipality	31	274	373	647
20.	Half-yearly networking meeting with City Corporation	2	26	37	63
21.	Advocacy Workshop to reform Conciliation of disputes (Municipal area) Board Act 2004	1	13	24	37
22.	Advocacy Workshop to reform Arbitration Council at District Level	2	15	57	72
23.	Advocacy Workshop in KCC on enactment of Conciliation of disputes (City Corporation) Board Act	1	6	35	41
24.	Developed Publicity Materials on Conciliation Board, Arbitration Council & Mediation	-	-	-	-

Developed Publicity Materials on Conciliation Board, Arbitration Council & Mediation (Budget Line Item 19.00)

Sl No.	Description	Budget code	Target	Published	Budget Code
1.	Posters on CB, AC & Mediation	19.01	28500 Copies	26000 Copies	19.00

SI No.	Description	Budget code	Target	Published	Budget Code
2.	Stickers on CB, AC & Mediation	19.02	47500 Copies	80000 Copies	19.00
3.	Leaflets on CB, AC & Mediation	19.03	47500 Copies	100000 Copies	19.00
4.	Booklet of CB, AC & Mediation	19.04	4000 Copies	2000 Copies	19.00
5.	Visiting Card	19.05		38000 Copies	19.00
6.	Flip Chart	19.06	30 Set	30 Set	19.00

Case Disposed by Conciliation Board of Poursava

Previous Pending		Application Received		Total		Resolve		Reject		Total		Remaining		Locally Resolved	
F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
12	04	56	56	68	60	47	52	03	03	50	55	18	05	14	07
16		112		128		99		06		105		23		21	

Disputes Resolve by Arbitration Council of Poursava and City Corporation

Previous Pending		Application Received		Total		Resolve		Reject		Total		Remaining	
F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
165	48	309	70	474	118	227	40	15	2	242	42	232	76
213		379		592		267		17		284		308	

Disputes Resolution through Mediation of Poursava

Previous Pending		Application Received		Total		Resolve		Refereed to Court		Reject		Total		Remaining		Locally Resolved	
1		2		3 (1+2)		4		5		6		7 (4+5+6)		(3-7)		8	
F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
320	132	733	264	1053	396	538	173	00	37	55	46	630	225	423	171	36	16
452		997		1449		711		37		101		855		594		52	

Free legal Aid Services for women & Girls

Previous Pending		Application Received		Total		ADR		Resolve through court		Resolve through outside of court		Total		Remaining	
1		2		3 (1+2)		4		5		6		7 (4+5+6)		8	
F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
28	01	29	01	57	02	01	00	00	00	01	00	02	00	55	02
29		30		59		01		00		01		02		57	

Additional Achievement

Advocacy Initiatives:

Reform of Conciliation of Disputes (Municipality area) Board Act-2004

- Through different meetings, workshops, networking meetings and advocacy meeting some major recommendations came out from advocacy meeting.

- A draft of recommendation is prepared on the basis on identified loopholes of the existing law and the recommendation was sent to Law Commission, Ministry of Law and Parliament Affairs, Ministry of Local Govt., relevant authorities and Mayors of all Paurashavas.
- An exchange sharing meeting MAB, they assured to assist MLAA to reform the law.

Reform of Arbitration Council

- Through the networking meetings & advocacy workshops on Arbitration Council held on 22/02/2018 at KCC and 22/03/2018 at Gopalganj some specific recommendation had come out.
- The workshop with Marriage Registeres of Madaripur, Gopalganj and Shariatpur district's Pourashava area which held on 20/03/2018, MLAA get some recommendations to reform Arbitration Council Law.

Enact new Law for City Corporation

- A draft new Law has been prepared and it is distributed to the Law Commission, Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of local Govt., all 11 City Corporations and all relevant stakeholders.
- Law Commission has answered MLAA's letter expressing their gratitude for taking this initiative and agreed to take further step to enact a new Law.
- Honorable Mayor, Councilors and other participants of Khulna City Corporation put their valuable comments on draft law in a workshop. Their recommendations are well noted and it will take consideration to final draft of the said law.

e) Project Title: Justice Reform and Corruption Prevent (JRCP)-

Reporting Period: July 2017 to June 2018

Project Title: Justice Reform and Corruption Prevention (JRCP)

Funded by: German Development Cooperation (GIZ)

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

Specific objective:

- Strengthened and expanded the corruption prevention mechanisms.
- Enhanced awareness of the people to prevent corruption.

Expected results

- Improved and efficient justice system
- Strong corruption prevention mechanism in society

Stakeholders of the project: ACC, CPC, CPF members, Police, Teachers-Students, UHC and Ups.

Working Area:

Madaripur District: Madaripur Sadar and Rajoir Upazila 2 Powrasabha, 13 Union Parishad, 50 High School and 15 Wards.

Gopalganj District: Gopalganj Sadar & Tungipara Upazilla, 2 Pourashavas and 10 Wards.

Introduction: 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. However, 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.

Performance of JRCP Project:

Madaripur District

Sl.	Activity	Target	Achievement
	Raise mass awareness to make social mobilization against corruption		
1.	Observation of Corruption prevention week	2	2
2.	Observation of Right To Information day for campaigning on RTI Act.	1	1
3.	Celebrate international anti-corruption day at district and upazila level	2	2
	Enhance capacity of CPC, CPF & IUs and build up coordination among them and media.		
4.	Quarterly Coordination meeting of Corruption prevention committee (CPC)	3	3

Sl.	Activity	Target	Achievement
5.	Monthly meeting with district Corruption prevention committee (CPC)	6	6
6.	Monthly meeting with Upazila Corruption prevention committee (CPC)	6	6
7.	Meeting with community policing forum (CPF)	60	60
8.	Meeting with Satota Sangha (IUs)	200	200
9.	Sharing meeting with Advisory Council of IUs and SMC members	3	3
10.	Exchange view meeting on women's role in corruption prevention	1	1
11.	Meeting with Media	1	1
12.	Wall magazine (Dealika) at school level	100	100
Improvement of service delivery in Hospital and Union Parishad			
13.	Union Parishad (UP) to budget projection session to share with community	9	9
14.	Corruption prevention activities will be implemented by UPs according to specific action plan and budget	6	6
15.	Six monthly planning meeting with UHC	2	2
16.	Citizen charter board at UHC to share update information with service receivers	1	1
Enhance Knowledge & skill of staff and Coordination among project staff			
17.	Monthly staff coordination meeting	12	12
18.	Half-yearly Planning meeting with stakeholders	1	1

Gopalganj District

Sl. No.	Activities	Districts	Achievement	Participants		
				Total	Male	Female
1	Bi-monthly Meeting of District and Upazilla CPC	Gopalganj	13	114	87	27
2	Quarterly Meeting with Community Policing Forum (CPF)/Union CPC	Gopalganj	65	634	476	158
3	Quarterly Integrity Unit (IU) Meeting	Gopalganj	217	2817	1370	1447
4	Quarterly CPC Coordination Meeting	Gopalganj	3	85	63	22
5	Meeting with Media	Gopalganj	1	27	26	1
6	Sharing meeting with Advisory Council of IUs other teacher and SMC members at School level	Gopalganj	2	49	40	9
7	Exchange view meeting on women's role in corruption prevention	Gopalganj	1	44	19	25
8	Wall Magazine at School level	Gopalganj	100	-	-	-
9	Coordination meeting with	Gopalganj	1	30	24	6

Sl. No.	Activities	Districts	Achievement	Participants		
				Total	Male	Female
	Union Parishad (UP) to incorporate corruption prevention issue or activity in their budget					
10	Union Parishad (UP) budget projection or preparation session to share with Community	Gopalganj	7	227	177	50
11	Corruption Prevention activities will be implemented by Up's according to specific activity or action plan and budget	Gopalganj	4	425	333	92
12	Six monthly planning meeting with UHC	Gopalganj	2	69	52	17
13	Citizen Charter board at UHC to share update information with service receivers	Gopalganj	1	-	-	-
14	Campaign Programs at District Level on Right to Information (RTI) Act.	Gopalganj	1	255	145	110
15	Celebrate International Anti-corruption day at District and Upazilla level	Gopalganj	2	263	71	192
16	Celebration Corruption Prevention Week at District and Upazilla Level	Gopalganj	2	1463	770	693
17	Six monthly planning meeting with stakeholders	Gopalganj	1	33	28	5
18	Staff Coordination Meeting	Gopalganj	12	60	48	12

Major Challenges:

- Insufficient exercise, cultural, sports activities in the school besides education
- Integrity Units are not properly guided by the respective school teachers
- Some CPF leaders don't perform their responsibilities due to lack of interest
- Police have some political pressures for reforming CPF
- Some CPC are not performing their responsibilities due to being busy with their own job.
- District CPC was reformed with the old members. So the inactive members not performed their responsibilities.

Learning:

- Mobilization of CPC's activities, CPC members are gradually activated to play their role to the respective places exclusively through reform integrity unit, exchange view meeting with ACC, IU, CPF, Government Official, Civil Society, media and local elite.
- As a project partner's media are playing great roll for publishing different articles on

corruption prevention in the Daily National & Local News Paper.

- Regularization quarterly IU coordination meeting with teachers and students in the corruption prevention issues (rally, human chain, essay competition etc.) they are playing a vital role to prevent corruption.
- After reforming and regularization meeting of Community Policing Forum (CPF) now they are identified their local problems, sharing information and mitigating with help of Bangladesh Police, Local Administrator.

Best practice:

- The Rajoir upazila CPC has been selected as best CPC within Dhaka division from 1914.
- In 2017-18 financial year, 2 Poursabha and 14 Union parishad allocated Tk. 375,000/= in their yearly budget and 6 Union parishad has implemented the planned activity their budget.
- All the selected schools of working are formed the “Satota Sangho”.
- 7 Schools opened and continued “Satota store” their respective schools.
- By voluntary donation a one school of IU formed integrity health fund and they purchased a medical first aid box with first aid instrument and medicine.
- Drama group of one IU performed a drama opposing corruption in corruption prevention week. This corruption prevention oriented drama displayed at Shilpakala Academy, Gopalgonj.

6. Impact

It is difficult to assess the multidimensional impact of the activities of a right-based organization on the target group such as in their economic, social, political and cultural rights. The economic impacts on the beneficiaries were discussed earlier. However, discussing the socio- cultural impacts of the project is far more difficult as there are multiple indicators and the experts in the field have not formally used the applications of these indicators.

MLAA has also been advocating for reformation and new enactment identifying limitations and short-fall of laws focused the issues at national level in collaboration with other likeminded organizations. As a result of the relentless MLAA awareness campaign and advocacy initiatives in collaboration with other organizations, there was an expansion of pecuniary jurisdiction of the VC, and the shalish gaining institutional form through the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act 2003, which now mandates an option of settling civil disputes through mediation. In 2006 MLAA organized a national seminar on ‘Village Courts (VC): its viability & limitation’ at Press Club, Dhaka to draw the attention of policy makers towards necessary reforms for overcoming obstacles. As a part of that initiative Bangladesh government revised the Village Courts Ordinance 1976 and enacted Village Court Act in 2006 and the financial jurisdiction of the courts was increased from Tk.5000 to Tk.25000. Afterward financial jurisdiction was increased Tk.75000 according to the amended act in 2013.

Tackling issues of poverty reduction, gender equality and women's empowerment: Through MLAA's work, both women's awareness of their own rights and the attitude towards women during participation in the social activities have changed for the better. Women are better placed to raise their voices in defending their rights and dignity, through increased participation in the local justice systems, strong and consistent participation in CBOs, and in AC/VC related activities.

Domestic violence is the most pervasive violation of rights of women and children. Due to MLAA's intervention, incidents of domestic violence have decreased considerably, as has the number of litigations in court (within MLAA's working areas), in comparison to previous years. Poor people, particular women, feel safer and secure as they are able to access justice at formal courts. Through the courts, they receive their economic and property entitlements without costs, and gain redress in dowry, divorce and polygamy related cases.

Measuring Mediation Successes: Mediation avoids the negative impacts of litigation in cases of minor disputes and utilizes participatory roles to solve problems, which ensures social harmony and enhanced confidence of the parties. Resources and time saved by rural people through mediation are utilized to better their economic conditions.

Use of mediation services has reduced the levels of fatwabaji deterring local religious fundamentals from administering their own brand of justice. In fact, MLAA has succeeded in penetrating the corrupt and imbalanced rural power dynamics through facilitating spontaneous participation of the rural people.

As a result of various trainings and workshops, CBO members and UP representatives are confident in carrying out their duties and obligations efficiently, rural people have increased awareness of local justice systems, and the Upazila and District-level administration are cooperative towards UP judicial service. The rural locals, particularly the poor sections, prefer to appear before UP for getting legal redress on minor disputes with minimum efforts, time and expenses.

Resolving disputes locally on the basis of mutual agreement and understanding helps to maintain social harmony and peaceful coexistence between the parties putting an end to short or long run rivalry, enmity and misunderstanding.

7. Conclusion

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. The demand for justice is still immense. MLAA will continue to persevere through challenges, learn from its experiences, and build on its foundation until its vision of a just society is realized by all.

The work would not be possible without the dedication and commitment of the local government and our beneficiaries, volunteers, sister NGOs, and staff. We are also privileged to have donors who have partnered with us to turn a common vision into a reality.
