

Justice News



COAST Foundation is executing a project called "access to justice in the community" with the technical assistance of GIZ Bangladesh beginning in July 2021. The COAST Foundation is continuing this initiative in Bangladesh's Chattogram and Barisal regions. This project aims to provide legal aid to the underprivileged and poor members of our society. The project's goal is to establish justice rights for persons who are gender diverse and minorities. Restorative justice meetings, mediation, referral, diversion, and a legal aid clinic will all be used to provide them with legal assistance.

Successful mediation

Rehanara Begum is a resident of Ward No. 3 Sadhanpur Union of Banskhali Upazila. Her husband died earlier. She lives with her son, son's wife and grandchildren. She built a house in her husband's ancestral property and was spending her days happily and peacefully. Her neighbor Noor Mohammad was always concerned about the boundary wall. He also quarreled with her. On 04/10/2022 there was a problem between them again about this. Due to repeated problems, she informed UP member about it. UP member Azizul Haque, Restorative Justice Facilitator Md Yasin Ali and local dignitaries sat in the meeting on 8/10/22. When measuring the space of them through the surveyor, it can be seen that Nur Mohammad has more space in his part according to the document. Everyone presents strongly criticized him for causing problems despite having more space. Later he realized his mistake. According to the decision of the present mediator, he buried the pole in the part of them and determined the boundaries. He asked both sides to live together without quarreling. The Restorative Justice facilitator thanked everyone for their cooperation in a beautiful settlement and declared the meeting end.



Mediation, sadhanpur up, 08.10.2022, photo by Jamir Uddin

Service received through referral

Shelli Dash and Kajal Dash are residents of Bilpur village in Anwara Sadar Union. Shelli's family was very influential. Shelli husband used to live outside the country. After some days her husband moved from abroad. He lends 50000/- to his neighbor Kajal das. Now Shelli Das asked to return the money, he refused to return the money. As a result, there was a fight between them. When Shelli Das informed the matter to COAST Foundation Community Paralegal Shelli Chakraborty last 13-10-2022 she helped the applicant to complete

the necessary documents and referred it to DLAC. Later DLAC accepted the application and handed over the responsibility to Advocate Kabir Ahmad to handle the case.



Referral, DLAC Chattogram, 13/10/2022, Photo by Sheli Bhattacharjee

Community Based Legal Aid Clinic in Jehle Para

With the technical support of GIZ Bangladesh, COAST Foundation and Khan Khanabad Union Parishad Legal Aid Committee jointly organized a community-based legal aid clinic on 15/10/2022 at 11 am with the fishing communities in Jehle Para Jehle adjacent to Khan Khanabad Bazar.

District Legal Aid Committee panel lawyer Biswajit Chakraborty Suman, former panel chairman Gazi Sirajul Mostafa, COAST Foundation district project officer Dilder Hossain, restorative justice facilitator and people from the grassroots community were present in the meeting. Out of which 27 were women and 13 were men. A total of 11 people, including 6 women and 5 men, have been referred to various institutions for obtaining legal services. One of them was Pamir Jal dash, a fisherman by profession. 50 percent of his ancestral property is forcibly occupied by one of his neighbors. Despite many efforts, if he wanted to take possession of that land, he accepted threats in various ways and somehow Pamir Jal dash could not succeed in taking possession of that land. Even after informing members and dignitaries, no solution was found. While surveying community-based legal aid clinics, he reported his problem to the community paralegal, and the community paralegal directed him to come to the community-based legal aid clinic. At the Community Based Legal Aid Clinic the lawyer advises him to prepare

the necessary documents and send them to the District Legal Aid Office for free legal aid.



Legal aid clinic, 15/10/2022, Photo by Md. Alamgir

Rina got her husband's family

Rina Akhter is 22 years old. His father's name is Mitul Skidder (52). Mother's name is Parveen Begum (35). Village: Goa Krishna Kathi, Po: Dudhal, Thana: Baker Ganj, District: Barisal. Rina got married to Arif after a love affair. Arif Address Village: Paschim Charade, Po: Ranir hat, Thana: Baker Ganj, District: Barisal. His father's name was Mostafa Akon (55) and his mother was Henara Begum (36). Arif was introduced to Rina through mobile. They love each other deeply. But their family did not accept their relationship. So, they get married without family opinion. Rina comes to her father-in-law's house holding her boyfriend's hand. The mother-in-law did not accept their relationship but the son got married so they were forced to accept. After one year of marriage, a daughter came to Rina's lap. Laughter and joy went on in their lives. Suddenly Rina's mother-in-law told her to separate. Rina did not have any cooking utensils.

After a while Rina began to feel that her husband did not love her as much as before. Rina began to think in her mind that love relationship does not last long. When the fascination is gone, love is gone. Rina discovers that someone else is having an affair with her husband. Husband and wife quarrel over this issue. One day Rina gets angry and goes to her father's house. At that time, she was 6 months pregnant. Rina became the mother of a second child at her father's house. Rina's husband and in-law family was not happy about the birth of the child. Even he didn't contact with Rina. After one year, Rina gave a complaint against her husband in Charade Union Parishad. The Union Parishad sent a notice to her husband. But Arif did not respond. The local UP and RJF contacted Arif to resolve the issue locally. Arif spoke to them and agreed to go for reconciliation. RJF and UP member contacted with Rina. Rina also wants to settle.

The arbitrators requested both parties to come to the Union Parishad and both parties appeared on the appointed date. The Mediator listened to both. The mediator requested to both parties to end their misunderstanding and reconcile as they have two daughters. The children will be fine. They discuss among themselves and decide, with the consent of all, that they will stay together. They need to get rid of misunderstandings by thinking about their children. They want to start a family after realizing their own misunderstandings. The arbitrators arranged for Rina to return to her husband's family.



Mediation, Charade UP, 12/10/2022, Photo by-Kazol Akhter

Monthly work description:

S/L	Activity name	Target	Achieve
01	Monthly staff meeting	02	02
02	Legal aid clinic	04	04
03	Courtyard meeting	04	04
04	RJ Mediation	100	104
05	Mediation	88	94
06	Legal Referral	200	214
07	Diversion	44	32

For more information

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