

Project No. 1

***Prochesta* (A Project for Reducing the Urban Hazards and Improving Social Condition of the Vulnerable Urban Poor)**

Principle

Program participants have improved health, livelihood and social condition.

Main Objectives

- To reduce vulnerability of drug addiction/HIV/AIDS and health hazards of the program participants; and
- To decrease the spread of drugs through collective and collaborative actions of the program participants to create better living conditions.

Background

The first phase of the project started in January 2010 for a period of three years. The second phase of the project started in January 2013 and ended in February 2016. The new and current phase-III for three years has been launched in March 2016.

Staff Strength

Regular: 23 (Man: 15, Woman: 8)
Volunteers: 36 (Man: 26, Woman: 10)

Donor

Caritas Luxembourg

Expenditure

Donor's contribution: Tk. 8,039,598

Program Participants

Direct: 4,262 (Man: 1,317, Woman: 2,945)
Indirect: 21,310 (Man: 6,585, Woman: 14,725)

Area of Operation

The project was implemented in Savar and Ashulia Suburbs under Dhaka district and Mohammadpur under Dhaka City Corporation.

Main Target and Achievement

The statistical information about the main achievement against target is given in the Table below:

| Sl. No. | Activities | Achievement as on 30 June 2015 | Performance in FY 2015- 2016 | | | Cumulative as on 30 June 2016 |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | | Target | Achievement | % of Achievement | |
| 1. | No. of groups formed | 123 | 7 | 7 | 100 | 130 |
| 2. | No. of fortnightly group meeting held | 7,731 | 2,100 | 2,133 | 102 | 9,864 |
| 3. | No. of households identified with drug users | 3,498 | 450 | 470 | 104 | 3,968 |
| 4. | No. of group members attended group management, social analysis, gender and human rights, HIV/AIDS prevention trainings (persons) | 1,051 | 239 | 265 | 111 | 1,316 |
| 5. | No. of members participated in primary health care and education sessions | 19,759 | 5,431 | 6,517 | 120 | 26,276 |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|-----|---------|
| 6. | Educational Campaign for the school/ college students (participants) organized | 48,010 | 14,500 | 16,938 | 117 | 64,948 |
| 7. | Provided medicine and nutrition support (persons) | 11,739 | 3,200 | 3,364 | 105 | 15,103 |
| 8. | Observance of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and HIV/AIDS Prevention Day (participants) | 109,568 | 10,000 | 12,456 | 125 | 122,024 |
| 9. | Voluntarily Counseling and Testing (VCT) services provided to drug addicts, sex workers (persons) | 1,298 | 120 | 125 | 104 | 1,423 |
| 10. | Referral service provided for treatment and rehabilitation to most needy and severely affected patients (persons) | 153 | 150 | 164 | 109 | 317 |
| 11. | Capital support provided to start Alternative Income Generation activities (Off-farm activities van, rickshaw, vendor, etc. for drug users/sex workers) (persons) | 60 | 5 | 5 | 100 | 65 |

The above Table shows that all the planned activities achieved cent percent or more than the target.

Impacts

- The community people have become aware of drug abuse as a result of community based harm and risk reduction activities. The families now realize that drug addiction is a disease and can be treated. They raise their voices against the drug addicts.
- People have taken the ownership of one Drop-in-Centre and implement their own plan of actions focusing prevention of drug addiction and abuse. Besides, Social Groups and the Thana Level Networking Forums are taking collective actions to reduce spread of drugs, abuse of drug in open space and illegal trading of drug.
- The drug users and sex workers have become aware of their vulnerabilities and health risks caused by drug addiction. They want to come out of the hazardous and dark situation of drug addiction and sex trading. They now actively participate in the Voluntarily Counseling and Testing sessions.
- The drug users and sex workers play great role in bringing their friends and clients to the DICs and try to bring friends back to normal life. Attitude of family and community people has changed towards the drug addicts and sex workers.

Conclusion

The project *Prochesta* is greatly contributing to bring the vulnerable drug users and sex workers back in normal life. It has been endeavoring to establish a sustainable community based harm and risk reduction approach by infusing ownership feeling among the community people. It has already been able to hand over one Drop-in-Center to the community. Thus, they are becoming capable of taking up the responsibility for the rehabilitation of drug users and sex workers.