

## **Project Title: Continuum of Care and Support to HIV Infected and Affected (CCS)**

### **Introduction:**

Bangladesh initiated early response to address HIV problem, but during the last decade most of the responses were confined in the area of awareness rising for prevention. HASAB, working with various partner NGOs since 1994, found that there is a burning need to addresses care and support issues for those who are already HIV infected including members of their families; as well there is a need to enhance organizational development and capacity building of others in this area. Realizing this, HASAB evolved in the process of formation and capacity building of self-help groups of PLHAs since 2001. Relating to these initiatives, HASAB also felt the need to establish a comprehensive package on care and support issues- that include VCT, half-way home services and rehabilitation supports for HIV infected and affected. As a part of this, “Continuum of Care & Support to HIV infected and affected” was initiated in 2006 with the support of Terre Des Hommes – Netherlands and other strategic linkages of PLHA’s self-help groups and other NGOs are working in the same area.

The CCS project of HASAB financially supported by Terre-des Hommes Netherlands has started its new journey towards the **2<sup>nd</sup> phase in April 2009** after the successful completion of its 1<sup>st</sup> phase (April 2006-March 2009). The project focused the areas mainly on:

- (i) Increase Awareness of target population and stakeholders towards HIV & AIDS risk, spread and prevention
- (ii) Care and Support services includes-Voluntary Counseling & testing and necessary Services for HIV infected and affected people;
- (iii) Capacity Building of the caregivers, service providers and staffs
- (iv) Rehabilitation of the infected and affected people.

The findings and recommendation from last phase has been the key basis of the activities planned in the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase to provide comprehensive, integrated and need based support to the HIV Infected and Affected people. Without focusing the PLHAs, prevention program will never be successful as this is the bridging point of spreading HIV to the general population. Care and Support activity can be the major linkage area to strengthen HIV prevention activity through effective designing with due emphasis and addressing the needs of Infected and affected people towards reducing cause and consequence of HIV among them.

“The Continuum of Care & Support to HIV infected and affected” has been designed with care & support components to cover the clients from all over Bangladesh, with particular focus at two geographical locations (Dhaka & Sylhet). HIV/AIDS infected and affected people including children are the specific target populations for this project. The project also planned to focus on the populations who belongs to lower socio-economic classes, marginalized, highly discriminated and stigmatized in the family and in the society. According to the project design, most of the targeted populations are engaged in low paid job such as; rickshaw pullers, truck bus drivers & helpers, garments & fish processing workers, commercial sex workers, internal or external migrant workers. To address these communities effectively, the project also designed to work local leaders (social & religious), government officials, elected members of local governments, local elites, teachers etc. as a the secondary target populations, those who can play vital roles to aware the society in ensuring the accessibility of the primary target population to resources, services and enter into the mainstream of development.

### **Primary Participants:**

HIV infected and affected population including children from all over Bangladesh.

**Project Period:**

April 2009-March 2011

**Project Goal:**

Quality of life of the HIV infected & affected target population of the project area improved

**Project Purpose:**

- A. Increased awareness on HIV & AIDS among the HIV infected/ affected and other stakeholders
- B. Comprehensive Care & Support Service for HIV infected & affected established

**Donor/Partner**

Terre Des Hommes-Netherlands

**Implementation Location**

Overall Bangladesh (Direct services available in Dhaka)

**Care and Support Services of the Project:**

- Increase Awareness of target population and stakeholders on HIV & AIDS risk, spread and prevention.
- General counseling Services
- Voluntary Counseling & Testing (VCT) services at Dhaka and two peripheral City (Sylhet and Khulna)
- Intensive Family Focused Outreach services
- Half way Home package services includes- Counseling, Routine physical check up, Management of general ailments, Maternal service support for PLHAs, Balanced diet, Enter-educative session, Referral (specialized treatment & diagnosis, education, vocational training)
- HASAB Health Center and Laboratory providing pathological tests and treatment support for STI and HIV including general treatment.
- Management of STI & Opportunistic infection.
- Support for Anti Retroviral Therapy (ARV) and its side effect management.
- Capacity Building /Training of staff, Service providers and Care givers
- Income generating activities (IGA) & Employment opportunities followed by vocational training.
- Emphasis on Social Reintegration through Advocacy at family, community and national level
- Hotline Counseling Services on Mobile Phone no. 01727-677055

**Current Features**

A. The Establishment of “**HASAB Health Center**” with the facilities mentioned below:

- 1) Voluntary Counseling and Testing support for high risk and vulnerable group
- 2) General health care services for general population
- 3) Continuous counseling support for HIV infected people and their family members
- 4) Sexually Transmitted infection management support for high risk and vulnerable population
- 5) Opportunistic infections management support for People living with HIV/AIDS
- 6) Laboratory support for general population
- 7) Support to catastrophic illness for people living with HIV/AIDS
- 8) Referral support for all necessary cases.

B. Education Support Provided to **10 HIV Infected and Affected** Children.