

## **Project Title: Care and Support for people most affected by HIV and AIDS (R-6, GFATM # 910**

### **Introduction:**

Bangladesh was successful in securing grant from the Global Fund to fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) in its sixth round to implement Prevention of HIV/AIDS programme among Young People in Bangladesh. The principle recipient of the grant, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Government of Bangladesh subsequently selected Save the Children – USA, Bangladesh as the management agency for the grant through a competitive process. Save the Children – USA, Bangladesh subsequently invited for Expression of Interest (EOI) to identify implementing agencies for the different components (known as packages) of the programme through a competitive process. During the period HIV/AIDS and STD Alliance Bangladesh (HASAB), as Associate together with Ashar Alo Society (self help group of HIV positive people), Mukta Akash Bangladesh (self help group of HIV positive people), Confidential Approach to AIDS Prevention (CAAP) and ICDDR, B formed a Consortium and participated in the bidding process for securing grants to implement care and support to HIV infected and affected people and awarded the grant for implementation of care and support activities.

Lack of knowledge of the target community mainly the HIV infected and affected on HIV/AIDS risk, spread and prevention as well as lack of positive prevention measures besides lack of comprehensive of Care and Support to the HIV infected and Affected increases the vulnerability of the general community towards HIV & AIDS. So, with an aim to reduce the vulnerability of General population towards HIV and AIDS The package # 910 with title “Care and Support for People Most affected by HIV and AIDS” under GFATM; Round -6 was designed with care & support components to cover the clients from all over Bangladesh at all unions, Upazilla and Districts under 6 Divisions of the country according to the Size estimation report. 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. To address these communities effectively, the project also designed to work with 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.

The main focus of the project is to:

- 1) Increase coverage, quality and comprehensiveness of care, support and treatment for the PLHAs
- 2) Build capacity and train stakeholders where necessary and
- 3) Move towards universal access for all PLHAs without losing focus on prevention efforts.

The implementation Duration of pilot phase was from February 08 to April'09 (15 month).

HASAB as an associate Member of the Consortium started its 2<sup>nd</sup> from May 09 phase after the successful completion of its pilot phase which aims to Sensitize, capacity building of care givers, and need assessment of people living with HIV and AIDS followed by organizational development.

**Primary Participants:**

Affected by and infected with HIV and AIDS in Bangladesh

**Project Period:**

May 2009-December 2010

**Project Objective:**

To strengthen services for those most affected by HIV through local level advocacy and capacity building activities.

**Donor/Partner:**

Bangladesh Government through Save the Children USA (SC-USA)

**Consortium:**

**AAS Consortium**

**Lead: Ashar Alo Society** (self help group of HIV positive people)

**Partners:**

HIV/AIDS and STD Alliance Bangladesh (HASAB)

Mukta Akash Bangladesh (self help group of HIV positive people)

Confidential Approach to AIDS Prevention (CAAP)

ICDDR, B (International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh)

**Implementation Location:**

Overall Bangladesh

**Current Features:**

A series of trainings (**5 batches**) has been organized which are mentioned below;

- 1) 3 batches of "Sexually Transmitted Infection Management for Care Givers" Training have been given to 59 Care Givers from different organizations working in this field.
- 2) 2 batches of "Counseling Training" have been provided to 40 people from different areas working with the HIV issue.