

# The Leprosy Mission International Bangladesh (TLMI-B)

## Annual Country Learning 2014 - Key Learning

### Theme: Learning towards Sustainability

TLMI-B gives great importance in learning and everything that TLMI-B does can be a learning opportunity. Annual Country Learning is organized to learn, in many different ways, from the experience of stakeholders – staffs, partners, Government, NGOs and communities. And those learnings are used for the sustainability of TLMI-B and its services. Annual Country Learning also supports TLMI-B to look forward five years Country Strategy - its present achievements and future plan. The Leprosy Mission International Bangladesh organized Annual Country Learning workshop 2014 with an aim to find out the key learning towards the sustainability of TLMI-B and its services.

#### **Key Findings of Annual Project Reviews 2014**

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TLMI-B conducted The Annual Project Review for its all projects with the aim to identify lessons learnt that will improve the project, to develop plans for the next twelve months and to disseminate the lessons learnt within country offices. It is a great source of learning. TLMI-B is currently implementing 24 projects under six programs and every project conducted an Annual Project Review in 2014 where TLMI-B staffs, community, GoB representative and representatives from partners NGOs were actively participated. The project wise Annual Project Review was presented (poster presentation) at the Annual Country Learning workshop 2014.

*The key guided points come out from the Annual Project Review 2014 are:*

#### Significance Things:

- The number of new leprosy cases referred by existing SHGs group members is Increased specially in the Rural Health Program (RHP). Because the CP project is offering financial support to the SHGs members for referring new cases. Thus, influencing the SHGs members to play vital role in the leprosy control components through raising awareness, referring, follow-up and new case dictation.
- The leadership capacity of SHGs leaders has developed specially the women's leadership as they are involved with local resource mobilization, accessing the existing local services from GO offices including disability allowance, old age allowance, treatment, warm clothes, etc. and accessing the NGO services. In Chittagong area Leprosy Support Committee has been formed at Upazila where Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer, other UZ staffs, social leaders and person affected by leprosy are as members. The committee will oversee the impact of the leprosy integration.
- Some SHGs/ Federation / Area Management Committees have obtained legal status/ registration from the Cooperative Department and Social Welfare Department of the GoB. Importantly, Chittagong Program has made a five years formal agreement with Disable People Organization (DPO) as a partner to implement the Chittagong People Led Development Project (CPDP).
- TLMI-B is now working at new additional nine districts with the same resources. As a result the number of new cases increased and we got very positive response form GoB official pertaining to integration. Now the assign GoB staffs are registering the new cases and collecting medicine from NLEP, Dhaka.

#### Successes to Celebrate:

- The medical service of the Government is gradually increasing for the people with leprosy especially in the area of GJLCP, Chittagong and Dhaka program (new districts). Now the

Government Health Personnels (UHFPO) are providing patient confirmation, MDT supply, complication management related services.

- Most of the SHGs has own savings and a separate bank account and TLMI-B transferred seed Money (Group Development Fund) to their bank account. Now most of the groups have sufficient capital to fulfill the needs of the member's loan. After taking the loan from own group capital, many of them have started a new business and improved the economic conditions.
- Integrated Leprosy with NGOs/civil society managed development projects. Advocacy for Empowerment project has built partnerships with three new partner NGOs in undercover six districts where NGOs are incorporated leprosy control and rehabilitation component with their existing project activities and partners project staffs are now actively working on community awareness, new case detection and linkage with GoB line departments.
- The referral and self-reporting leprosy cases are increasing as the projects of TLMI-B are regularly providing capacity building support to the GoB and private health professional as well as creating mass awareness on leprosy. Thus, the number of patients with disability reduced as the number of early case detection increased.
- Wellessy Bailey Awards 2014 has been received by a SHGs members named Mr. Motiar Rahman living in Bandabari area of Gazipur district. Mr. Motiar Rahman a leader and RFT of Bandabari SHG has been serving since long for the people with leprosy.

#### **TLMI-B Contribution towards Strategic Objectives**

A group work done to find out TLMI-B contribution towards strategic objectives. Program wise group work done to find out the program wise contribution towards TLMI-B strategic objectives especially the first objective - Position TLMI-Bangladesh as a source of excellence in leprosy and second objective - Strengthen sustainable community based approaches. The purpose of this group work was to look forward five years Country Strategy of TLMI-B - its present achievements, relationship with existing projects/activities. However, the Country Director of TLMI-B shared the progress of TLMI-B Country Strategy.

*Program wise major contributions are-*

Program Name	Country Strategic Objectives of TLMI-B	
	Position TLMI-Bangladesh as a source of excellence in leprosy	Strengthen sustainable community based approaches
RHP (Leprosy Filed Research project)	Different field researches are contributing to position TLMI-Bangladesh as a source of excellence in the leprosy including stop transmission, diagnose & treat sub-clinical nerve damage, regular contact survey.	The patient referred to the community base rehabilitation project.
Chittagong Program, (Leprosy Control and Rehabilitation project)	Capacity building support to GoB health personnel and community. Support GoB for new case detection.	Facilitating on group formation , capacity building, assisting SHGs in access GoB service, building partnership with people organization, strengthen CBOs organizational capacity and legalization
Dhaka Program, (Leprosy Control, Rehabilitation Project and Partnership Advocacy)	Capacity building support to GoB and private medical college students, trained NGO staff and Private practitioner	Formation of ulcer care committee, develop community recourse person for sustainable phase-out

Gaibandha & Jaypurhat Leprosy care project, Jaypurhat	Training provided to NGOs and women's groups, conduction research, integration with the GoB health service	Inter-group visit, Advocacy seminar for peoples rights, awareness building among members on adolescent and Human right issues
Community Program, Nilphamari	Capacity building to MO, Nurses, Admin staff and project staff, Conducted POD training for CBR staff by CBRP, Planning to arrange Market Footwear study for People affected by leprosy with disability by CBRP,	Self-care services integrated in SHG (CBRP & BSCBRP), Established justice using local resources (Hagar), Formation of federation, Group registration by the government of Bangladesh
DBLM Hospital, Nilphamari	Leprosy orientation for private medical student, Trained government TLCA on leprosy, Facilitated leprosy training for government nurses, Conducted 5 day microscopy training on Leprosy smear, Facilitated government doctors training as well as hospital service	Providing Health service to community people throughout patient door (OPD) service
CSO, Dhaka	Arranged training for RMO & MO in Nepal, Meeting with LTCC partners to increase the knowledge of retaining expertise, Facilitated & promoted staff development in Bdjobs.com and Networking with other partners and NGOs.	

### **Steps towards sustainability**

The theme of the Annual Country Learning 2014 was "Learning towards Sustainability". A program wise group work done to find out steps towards sustainability which directly contribute to the thematic area of ACL 2014. The main purpose of the group work is to find out the answer to what has worked well – why did it work?. The steps that TLMI-B is already started pertaining to sustainability are given below-

#### Leprosy Control:

- Integration with government health services – gradually progressing. MDT supply, skill of cases dictation and patient management service of GoB has improved. Besides, Civil Sergoun (CS), UHFPO, PO are now aware about the leprosy program.
- Partnership with NGOs, Churches – incorporate leprosy with their existing task. There are thousands of NGOs are working with a different development agenda. If leprosy could integrate with their development agenda than it will greatly contribute to new case detection, referral system and treatment.
- Research initiatives and findings of TLMI-B especially RHP and GJLCP will contribute to the leprosy control and enrich the GoB and other actors for taking new initiatives.
- Provide training to the government doctors, health staffs for providing better service towards people affected by leprosy.
- Referral and self-reporting is increasing as we are continuing awareness raising and building capacity of SHGs, GoB and private health professional on case detection.

#### Community Based Rehabilitation:

- CBOs formation, capacity building support, Federation formation, assist in GoB registration, partnership in the leprosy project implementation etc. related supports of TLMI-B are directly contributing to the community sustainability
- The accessibility of government services including the Social safety net, government registration, health facility are increasing for the people affected by leprosy. SHGs members and leaders are now enough capable to build linkage with GoB and private services authorities - as we are advocating continuously with GoB and SHGs.
- IGA and livelihood support - assisting SHGs to reach an economically sustainable point.
- Ulcer management support is now provided through ulcer care management committee and community volunteers – as they are capacitated by TLMI-B.

Pragmatic or Others:

- The Nilphamari Training Center of TLMI-B is now financially self-sustain. The Nilphamari Training Center is updated training curriculum and increasing functional relation with TLMI-B projects and other NGOs for continuing the financially self- sustaining.
- The partnership of TLMI-B among GOB, NGOs, ICs, SCs & other stakeholders are increased. The AEP project of TLMI-B focuses on partnership approach which is proving its usefulness.

**APPLYING THE LEARNING – PLAN OF ACTION**

TLMI-B always emphasized on learning and applies the learning for the sustainability of TLMI-B and its services. To implement the above mentioned learning, TLMI-B prioritized some plan of actions as given below-

- To follow and contribute the country strategy
- To prepare a training plan for staff capacity development
- To enhance integration with LTCC
- To develop proposals for new research project
- To provide training the GOB health personnel for developing leprosy expertise
- To develop DBLM strategy & business plan
- To follow and enhance partnership approach
- To advocate for government registration of SHG groups/ federation
- To published research articles or journals on leprosy research findings
- To expand new areas
- To raise mass awareness for increasing referral and self-reporting cases
- To improve capacity of volunteers on physical rehabilitation therapy in the community.
- To upgrade medical technology
- To prepare a comprehensive business plan for raising the income of SHGs and Associations
- To orient the teachers, community leaders, volunteers, health staff on leprosy
- To develop participatory monitoring and evaluation

**SUMMING UP**

TLMI-B organizes the Annual Country Learning with the aim to learn, in many different ways, from the experience of different stakeholders – staffs, partners, Government, NGOs and communities. And the learnings of Annual Country Learning are used for the sustainability of TLMI-B and its services. TLMI-B believes the learnings of Annual Country Learning 2014 will support TLMI-B and its services to think, plan and implement pertaining to the sustainability.