

Humanitarian Initiatives (Beyond the Project Allocation)

- Several awareness activities against SUD were organized in Drop-in-Centers (DIC) and at spots related to selling and using drugs in order to reach poor vulnerable people, who had been imprisoned. Information on IRSOP project services were disseminated.
- Networking and collaboration with DICs were established, thus expanding IRSOP project services.
- Special antiretroviral (ARV) medications were provided to HIV/AIDS infected prisoners through responsible organizations.

Stakeholders

- Prison authority
- Department of Narcotics Control (DNC)
- Department of Social Services (DSS)
- Directorate of Youth Development (DYD)
- BCSIC, ANSAR and VDP
- Department of Agriculture Extension, Livestock, Fisheries
- NGOs working in the field of SUD treatment and skill development training
- Bureau Manpower, Employment and Training
- Civil Surgeon's Office and Government Hospitals
- Private service providers, both in SUD treatment and skill training



Improvement of the Real Situation of Overcrowding in Prisons in Bangladesh (IRSOP)

Dhaka Ahsania Mission

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S U C C E S S S T O R I E S

Self-reliant Razu

Razu (pseudonym) was a youthful, excited, honest and fearless young man. When he was 17 years old, with a teenager's curiosity, he went for the interview of Bangladesh Rifles Battalion for the position of soldier. Fortunately Razu had been selected and then he started his professional life at Sylhet in 2006. He came to Dhaka at BDR Headquarter to join BDR-WEEK as representative from his battalion in 2009. However, after the fateful BDR rebellion, Razu was charged and dismissed with the accusation of being involved with the tragedy of Pilkhana Rebellion. Finally he was sent to jail and sentenced for four years' consecutive imprisonment.

During his imprisonment, Razu was introduced with Rehabilitation Supervisor (RS) of IRSOP project. RS informed him about IRSOP project activities. Razu, being inspired to attend vocational skill development training, received electrical and house wiring training course. After successful completion, he received certificate. During his training period, he impressed the prison authority with his skills and the quality of his work; so they assigned Razu to all electrical works inside prison.

After completing his sentence, Razu got a job in a textile mill and another job in a company as Electrical-in-Charge. He started earning 15000/= taka monthly. Now he has been working in that company and earning 20000/= taka per month. He has also attained a licensed permit on electrical works from the Ministry of Power and Energy. Now Razu is a legal electrician.

Razu has been trying to forget the traumatic memories of his past and he is looking forward with new spirit. He has a plan to establish an electrical equipment shop in his village besides his regular electrical work. He is thankful to the prison authority, Dhaka Ahsania Mission and IRSOP project for helping him to walk the new lightened path of life. ■

Jamila's Struggle

Jamila (pseudonym), 48 years old women, came from a large and poor family. She had struggled throughout her whole life. When she was only seven years old, she came to Dhaka to reduce her family's extreme poverty by providing financial assistance by working as a maid-servant.

She grew up and got married. But her husband was a drug-addict, and he also was involved in drug dealing. He used to brutally torture Jamila. She, at one point, had left her husband's house and gave birth to her daughter. Jamila started to work as Dhaka City Corporation sweeper. But after few days, she went back to live with her husband.

One day, the police had come to Jamila's house and they searched for drugs. They found a huge amount of heroine, and at the absence of Jamila's husband, police arrested her accusing of drug trafficking.

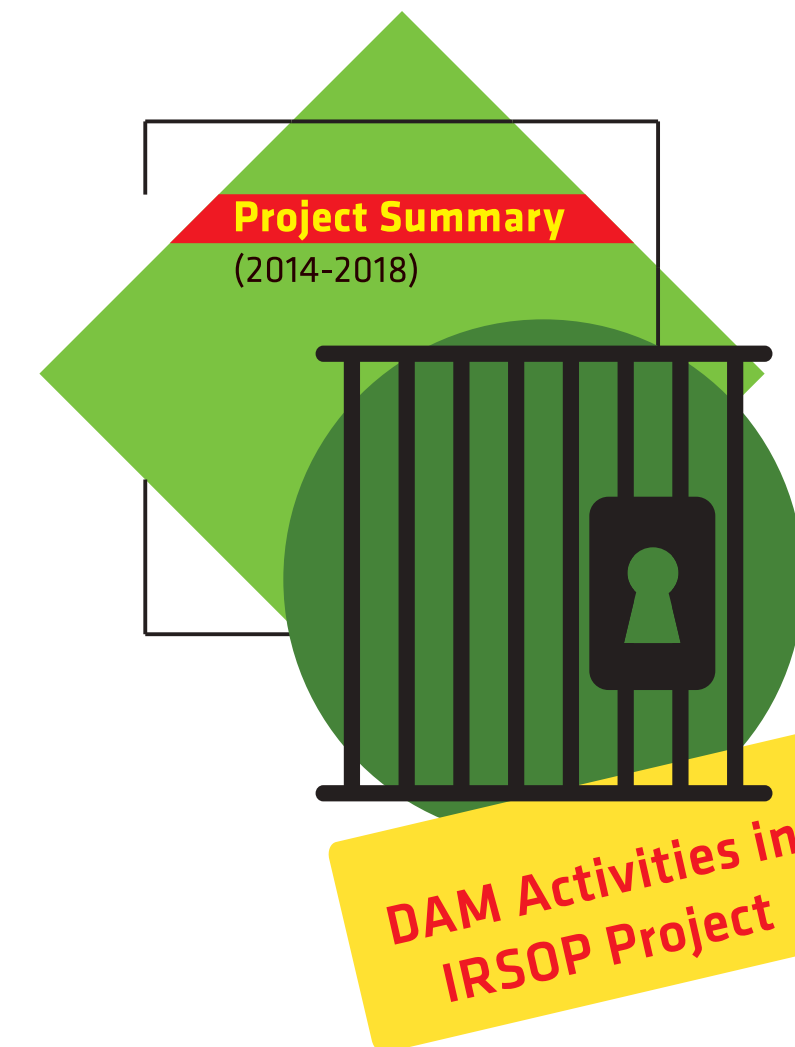
During Jamila's imprisonment, she was introduced with Rehabilitation Supervisor cum Counselor (RSCC) of IRSOP project at Kashimpur Female Central Jail. RSCC informed her about IRSOP project activities, provided peer volunteer training to Jamila and also conducted family counseling with her family. After six years of imprisonment, she got bail from prison.

Jamila found out at her release that she had lost her previous and her daughter had also become a drug addict. But she did not give in to the crisis. She was determined to start her new life, so Jamila contacted with IRSOP project staff. RSCC asked her to contact the Ahsania Mission Female Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Center, and Jamila was offered the job of the center cleaner. She has been earning 6000/= taka per month now. This new job has made Jamila to see a brighter future. She is grateful to the IRSOP project and Dhaka Ahsania Mission. ■



IRSOP

Improvement of the Real Situation of Overcrowding in Prisons in Bangladesh



A joint project of Bangladesh Ministry of Home Affairs and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Implemented Partner
Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM)

DAM Activities in IRSOP Project



Project Funded by

German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
UK Department for International Development (DFID)

IRSOP has four different Out Put (OP)'s-

- OP- 1 Paralegal Advisory Service
- OP- 2 Restorative Justices and Diversion
- OP- 3 Rehabilitation/Reduce Recidivism (DAM Implemented)
- OP-4 Outreach and Empowerment

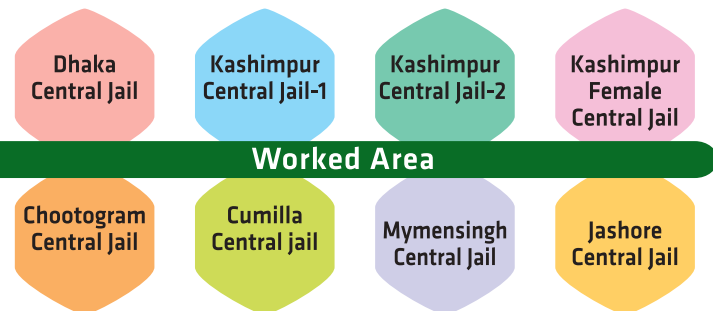
Objective of Out Put- 3

Rehabilitation/Reduce Recidivism

To reducing reoffending or recidivism through providing support to prison authority and other stakeholders towards enhancing capacity especially those, providing drug treatment, skill development training and social reintegration both in and outside prison in the selected prison sites.

DAM in IRSOP Project

| | |
|----------|------------------------------|
| Phase I | April 2014 - September 2017 |
| Phase II | October 2017 - December 2018 |



DAM Key Tasks in IRSOP Project

Drug Referral Services

- Provided group counseling on drug-related issues to **3,968** prisoners
- Provided treatment and rehabilitation services for SUD to **303** prisoners
- Family members of **2,389** prisoners were brought under the treatment program and were provided counseling



Skill Development Related Services

- Provided motivational counseling to **5,177** prisoners
- Vocational training sessions were conducted for **1,723** prisoners in **75** batches on **46** trades
- Family members of **3,729** prisoners were contacted and were provided counseling

Capacity Building Initiatives

As a part of capacity building initiative, several trainings were organized for smooth running of the project. Project staff, prison staff, and private drug treatment professionals attended the trainings –

- TOT on Life skill for project implementing staff
- TOT on Peer Volunteer issues for project implementing staffs
- Training on Drug Counseling for project implementing staffs
- Drug Treatment and Management Training (DTMT) for stakeholders
- Universal Treatment Curriculum – International Centre for Credentialing and Education (ICCE) of addiction Professionals, Colombo Plan.

Material Development

Brochures and modules have been developed as project activity which can be used to raise awareness, to counsel and to use during training sessions on SUD, its prevention and treatment

Modules and Brochures are -

- Life Skill Training;
- Counseling on Drug Addiction;
- Peer Volunteer Training



Networking, Coordination and Collaboration Initiatives

- To reduce stigma and discrimination of the drug user prisoners, **5 consultation meetings** were held in Dhaka, Cumilla, Jashore, Chottogram and Mymensingh.
- For networking and building referral linkage among potential public, privet and corporate bodies, **10 stakeholder workshops** were organized. Issues like providing SUD treatment at low cost, vocational training for the prisoners and social reintegration of poor and under privileged prisoners were discussed there.
- To enhance collaboration in all eight working areas and for smooth running of the project, **14 meetings** were held with prison officials.
- **Two “Memorandum of Understandings (MoU)”** were signed with Police Super of Jashore and with Muslim Aid Institute of Technology (MAIT), Jashore. According to them, the prisoners will receive SUD treatment and rehabilitation services in DAM-Jashore treatment center at low cost. They will also be offered vocational training at low cost.
- **Case Coordination Committee (CCC) Meeting**
In order to resolve long pending cases expeditiously, to find local solutions to local problems related to the prison population, and to prevent case backlog, a high volume, Case Coordination Committee (CCC) has been formed under the project. As a member, DAM regularly attended the meetings to share monthly updates and achievements, and to seek rehabilitation support from all working area.
- **Coordination Meeting with GIZ Partners**
As a part of the collaborative initiative, regular coordination meetings were organized with other PNGOs, especially with Bangladesh Legal Aid and Service Trust (BLAST) for assessing and ensuring prisoners’ needs.



Sustainable Initiatives

- A total of **510** prisoners have been involved in income generating process
- Establishment of “**Dofa**” (production unit of prison trade)

| Prison | Established Dofa |
|----------------------------|---|
| Dhaka Central Jail | • Men’s Parlor |
| Kashimpur Central Jail - 1 | • Furniture Making (Cane) • Jute Handicrafts |
| Kashimpur Central Jail - 2 | • Furniture Making (Cane) • Furniture making (Partext & Plywood) • Jute Handicrafts |
| Kashimpur Central Jail - 2 | • Jute Handicrafts • Block-Batik • Beautician |

Best Practice

Two female and One male prisoners received instruments from the Department of Social Services through joint initiative among the department, DAM, and the prison authorities at Chootogram and Mymensingh.



Awareness Programs

Day Observance

“International Day Against drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking” was observed to create awareness against SUD. The “National Recovery (2nd) Get Together Day” was also celebrated to prevent relapse and to enhance drug free life.

Anti-drug Campaign

To promote the service of IRSOP project through the community, especially in drug-prone areas, anti-drug campaign initiatives were undertaken through the project.