

# Transparency for Human Rights Project

## **Professional Development Workshop: Dhaka**

### **Workshop Orientation:**

The Transparency for Human Rights (THR) programme proposed by Relief International (RI) in partnership with Democracywatch(DW) and supported by European Union builds on the tradition of outspoken sharp reporting in Bangladesh with an action designed to train and organise media professionals and media outlets so that they have the power to defend freedom of expression in Bangladesh and to advocate for widespread respect for human rights at the national level through coalitions with other rights defenders and opinion makers. The results of the proposed action are objective reporting on HR, stronger capacity of media professionals to defend the right to free expression, increased public access to information, increased public awareness of and public pressure for human rights, and an improvement in the human rights record of the Bangladeshi government.

RI will organize professional development workshops on the role and actions of the media for the promotion of human rights in each of the target districts, reaching 30 media professionals per workshop, for a total of 600 attendees. RI will organise a total of twenty day-long professional development workshops on the relationship between the media and human rights, one in each of the target districts.

### **Target Beneficiaries & Project Areas:**

Groups targeted by the proposed action are media professionals and opinion makers, educators and youth, local government and civil society representatives in 20 districts across Bangladesh, reached in two phases (10 pilot districts (Gazipur, Naraynaganj, Comilla, Chandpur, Chittagong, Dhaka, Jessore, Bagerhat, Khulna, Joypurhat) engaged in the first year with 10 more following during the second and last year of the action, locations to be determined pursuant to a six-month assessment period)..

### **Objectives:**

- To strengthen the capacity of the Bangladeshi media as a promoter of human rights through the establishment and capacity building of a national network of journalists;
- To raise awareness of human rights violations among civil society entities and the people through a constructive dialogue about promotion of human rights;
- To introduce modern technologies with a view to efficient reporting of human rights infringement issues both at home and abroad;

### **Benefits:**

- Improved media skills and professional development opportunity for rural reporters;
- Printed materials on Media and Human rights;
- Hands on experience on modern communication technologies to publicize the human rights violation issues more effectively;

### **Workshop at Dhaka:**

Democracywatch with the help of Relief International organized a capacity building workshop for the journalists at Democracywatch Hall Room on July 18, 2010. The inauguration started at about 10 am and the workshop ended up at about 4.30 pm. Total 28 journalists from different print and electronic media participated in the workshop. The workshop was divided into two sessions: Human Rights related issues and capacity building of media professionals. The first session was conducted by Advocate Alena Khan and Mr. Mahfuzullah facilitated the second session. The Executive Director of Democracywatch, Ms. Taleya Rehman inaugurated the workshop. Among other participants Mostafa Sohel, Director; Feroze Nurun Nabi Jugal, Senior Progrm Officer and Sadia Shabnam, Program Officer of Democracywatch and Mr. Rahamatullah Faruque, Program Officer and Mr. Masud Al Mamun, Program Assistant from Relief International were present at the workshop.