

Transparency for Human Rights Project

Professional Development Workshop: Jessore

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 Jessore:

The Jessore workshop was organized at BRAC Center at Jessore on July 26, 2010. The facilitators were journalist Mr. Fakre Alam and Advocate Sabiha Khanam. There are 30 participants present in the workshop. From Democracywatch Mostafa Sohel, Director and Senior Program Officer Feroze Nurun Nabi Jugal and from Relief International Program Officers Mr. Rahaatullah Faruque were present.

The first session of the workshops contains an overview of Human Rights situation in Bangladesh, legal perspective of HR, protection and prosecution under Bangladesh constitution, universal declaration of human rights, human trafficking, kidnapping and ransom, rape and acid throwing, domestic violence, eve teasing, juvenile justice and safe custody. The subjects of the second part are an overview of media and their reporting on Human Rights situation in Bangladesh, basics of journalism, news source, reporter's guideline, ICT skills, interview techniques, newspaper economics etc.