

REPORT ON

HOSPITAL CARE FOR 350 ACID
VICTIMS IN BANGLADESH (45128)

2024

JULY-SEPTEMBER





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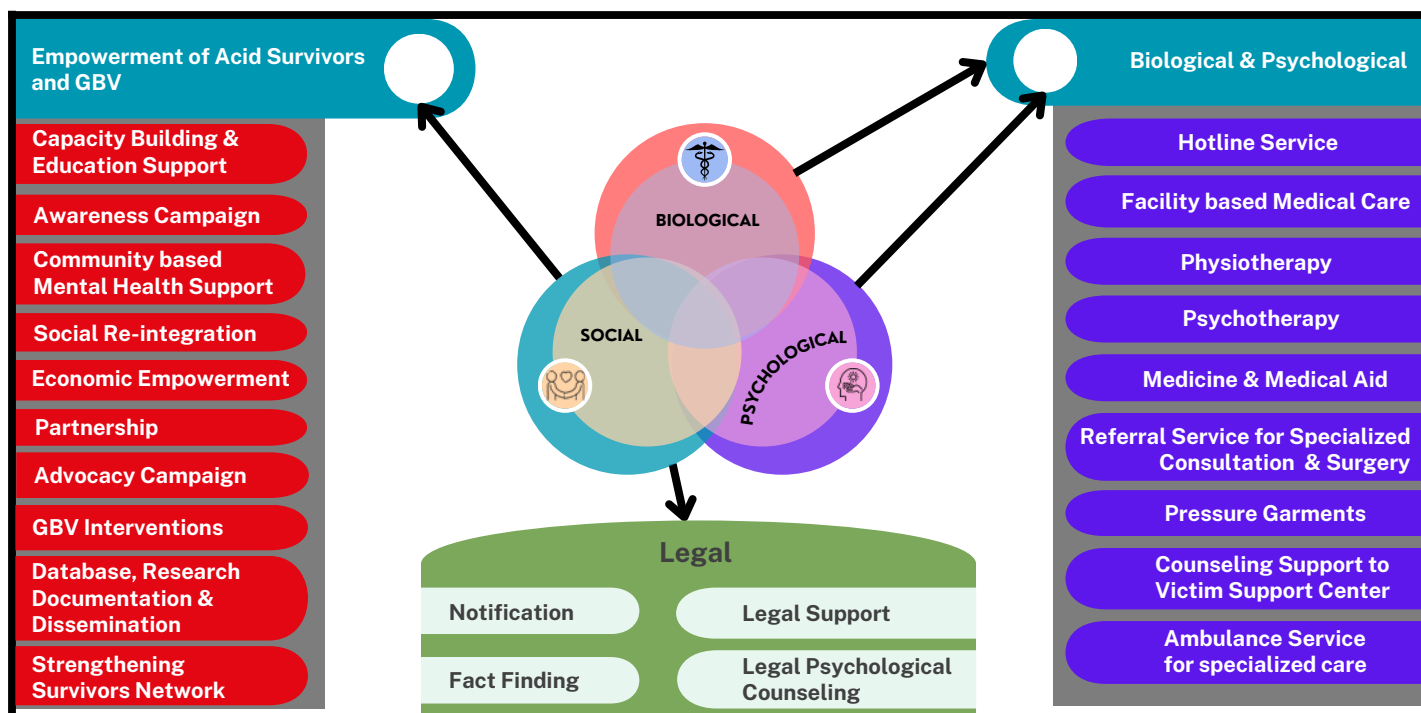
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INTRODUCTION

The Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) is a non-governmental organization dedicated to supporting survivors of acid attacks and preventing acid violence. Founded in 1999, Over the years the organization established itself as a specialized one-stop-service enter dedicated to the needs of the survivors and advocacy for elimination of acid violence. Utilizing a home-grown bio-psycho-social model, ASF offers comprehensive support services in free of cost to acid survivors, including medical treatment, psychological counseling, legal assistance, empowerment initiatives, awareness campaign, advocacy, and research. In this journey it has engaged government, relevant national, international NGOs, media, civil society forces, private sector, donors, and acid survivors.

BIO-PSYCHO-SOCIAL SERVICE MODEL



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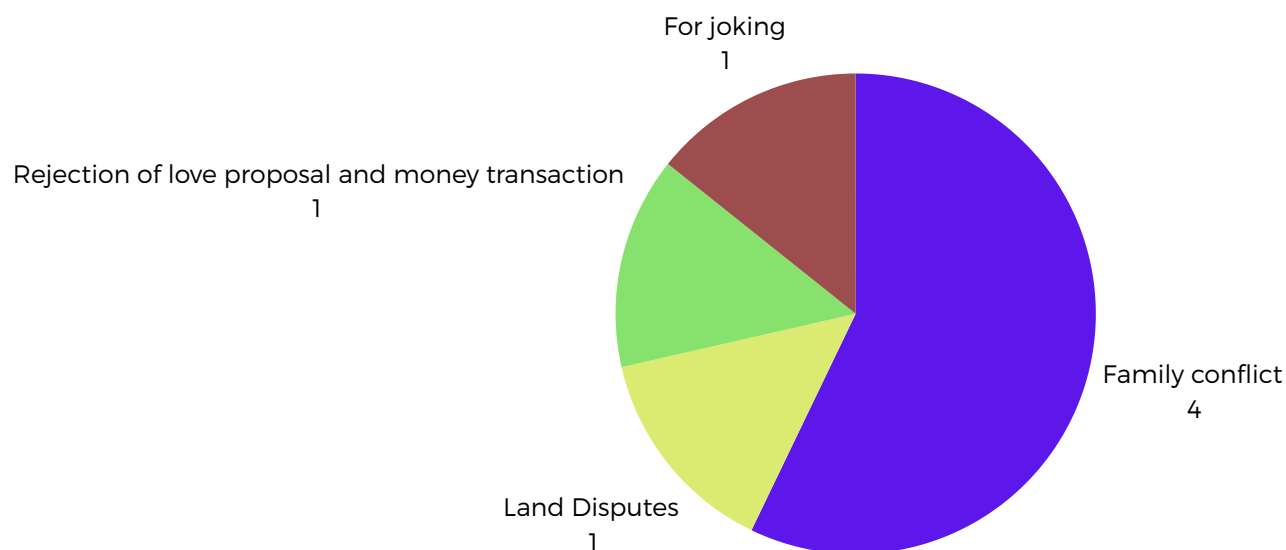
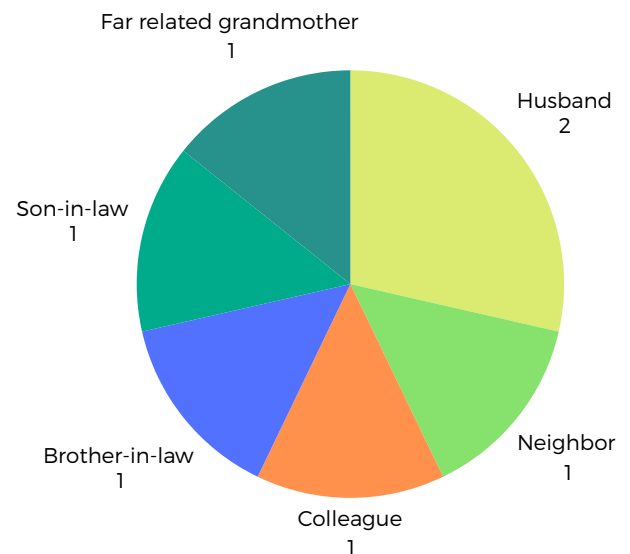
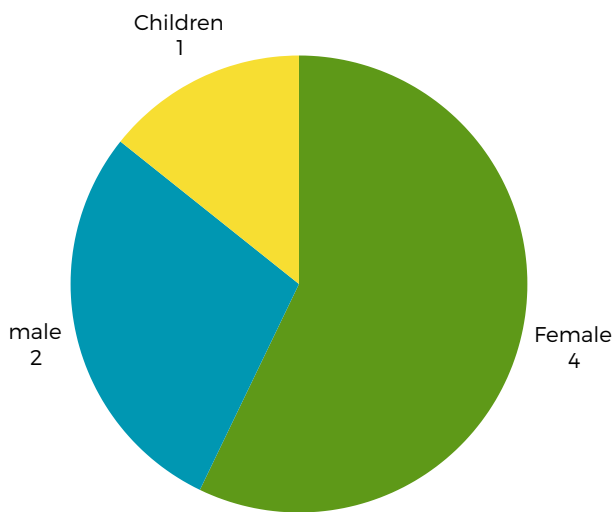
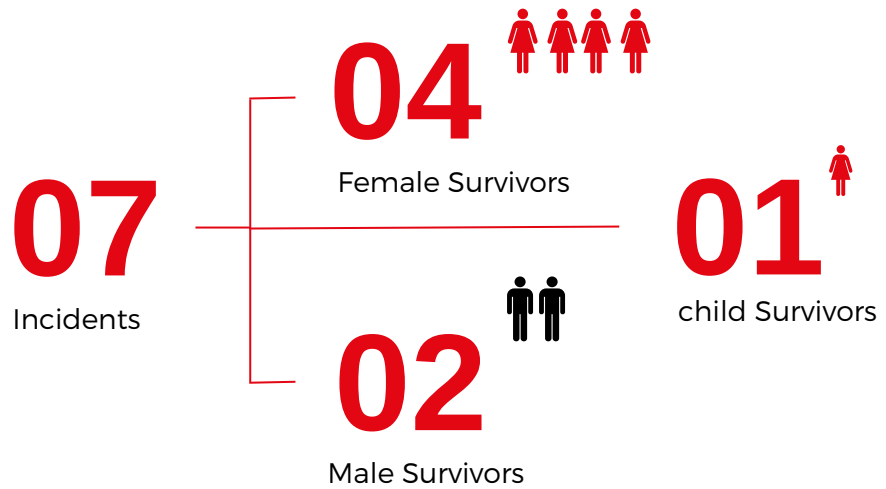
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New Acid Attack Statistics 2024 (July- September)





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Activity	Outcome
Medical Consultation(OPD)	100
Psychotherapy	176 46 in-person 130 E-counseling
Physiotherapy	1
Medicine Couriered	29
Medicine for OPD patients	71
Medical Referral	23
Hotline Service	306
Medical Aid	4
Pressure Garments	75



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Medical Hotline



To prevent recurring complications caused by chemical burns, a total of 306 survivors sought medical advice through our hotline service. The services requested included the management of contractures, issues related to feeding tubes, and problems affecting burned eyes and ears.

Direct Consultation (OPD)



Survivors received health consultations for recurring complications resulting from chemical burns, including contractures, ophthalmological issues, hearing difficulties, and infections. During the reporting period, a total of 100 survivor patients were served.

Medicine and Medical Aids



Medicine was provided to 100 patients. Among them, 71 received their medication in person from the ASF health care Center, along with a one-way transport allowance. The remaining 29 patients had their medication delivered via courier, as they were unable to visit the center due to reasons such as physical condition, distance, cost, or the lack of an attendant. Additionally, eyeglasses were provided to 4 patients, as their eyes had been damaged by acid burns.

Physiotherapy



Physiotherapy plays a crucial role in the recovery process for burn injuries. If not administered timely, it can lead to complications such as contractures, deformities, and subsequent disabilities.

In this period, 01 patients were treated as a referral service in the SP Hospital, utilizing a variety of techniques such as stretching, massage, and exercise to aid in their rehabilitation.

Psychotherapy



Acid violence has a profound and lasting impact on the mental health of survivors, who are at a heightened risk of developing depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Additionally, children exposed to violence and abuse are more likely to exhibit violent behavior as adults.

Psychotherapy services, including counseling, treatment, and rehabilitation for survivors and their families, have been proven to mitigate the negative psychological effects of violence and reduce the likelihood of re-victimization. In total, our psychotherapist served to 176 acid survivors, with 46 conducted in person and 130 through e-counseling.

Referral Care for specialized consultation and surgery



A total of 23 patients were referred to various hospitals for specialized advanced care, including the National Institute of Ophthalmology Hospital, Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital, Ispahani Islamia Eye Hospital, the National Institute of Mental Health & Hospital, Dhaka Medical College & Hospital.

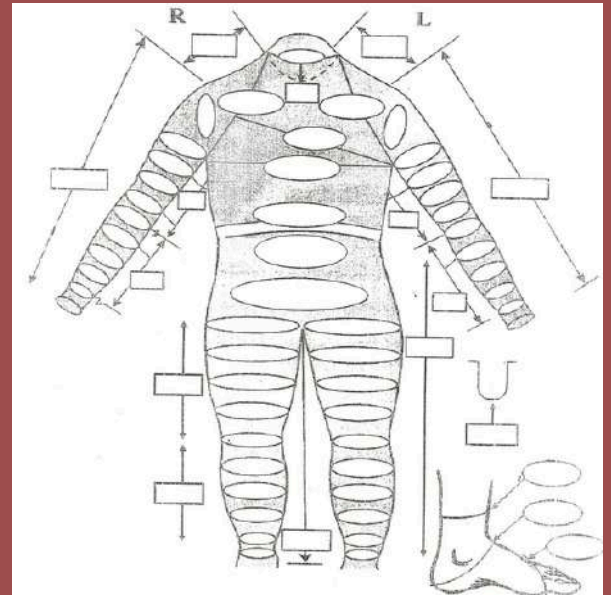
Ambulance service to carry referral cases



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Pressure Garments

Pressure garments (PGs), also known as compression garments, are useful protecting components for burn injury management. These are specialized pieces of clothing made of elasticized fabric called Lycra. PGs are used for keeping the burn area tightly fitting in order to prevent the skin from scar formation and protect the skin from the development of contracture from the maturing scar and ensuing disability conditions.



The tightness of PGs has multiple benefits. It helps stop the itching associated with healing burns, provides support and protection for fragile skin, and reduces swelling, and relief from pain while promoting healing. They also help to reduce discomfort caused by burns. Additionally, they help improve the range of motion in burned areas by providing support during movement.

PGs are tailored to meet each survivor's specific needs based on the physician's advice. ASF operates two survivor-run pressure garment manufacturing unit in Dhaka Medical College & Hospital (DMCH), and another at the ASF Service Center. In the reporting period, ASF provided pressure garments to 75 survivors including 1 acid burn and 74 other burn survivors.

Pressure Garments





New Acid Incidence: Hafsa Akter

KENDUA, NETRAKONA

5 JULY, 2024

Hafsa Akter, a woman, was attacked by acid on 05/07/2024. She was attacked by her husband Humayun Kabir while residing at her father's home, Village: Brahmin Jati, Post: Kendua, Police Station: Kendua, District: Netrakona. She is presently 33 years old.

According to reports, Hafsa was distressed due to her husband's poor romantic relationship and physical weakness. She suggested that he seek treatment, but he refused. As a result, he became increasingly argumentative, confrontational, and verbally and physically abusive towards her. After Eid-ul-Adha in 2024, the abuse escalated, and he began beating her. Unable to bear the situation any longer, Hafsa moved to her father's house and firmly declared that she would not return to her husband's family. In response, her husband began threatening her, warning her not to start a new life with anyone else. This conflict culminated in a horrific incident where the accused threw acid through the window of Hafsa's father's house using a clinical syringe around 7:30 pm.

New Acid Incidence: Hafsa Akter

KENDUA, NETRAKONA

5 JULY, 2024



Her right eye, right ear, mouth, and throat were burnt and her stomach was damaged by acid. After the incident, her relatives quickly poured water on her and then rushed her to Kendua Adampur Health Complex. She was referred to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for advance treatment and was discharged from the hospital, after being admitted for 4 days. Currently, she is staying at her father's house.

A case has been filed in Kendua police station on 05/07/2024. At present, the accused is absconding.

Hafsa Akter said, "She is required medical treatment and the accused should be arrested & punished under the appropriate laws". Hafsa who was contacted by the Acid Survivors Foundation team, was asked to visit ASF for necessary assistance.

New Acid Incidence: Abdur Rahim

ASF provided financial assistance

CHATMOHOR, PABNA

4 JULY, 2024



Abdur Rahim, a 62-year-old resident of Chatmohor Thana in Pabna district, was the victim of an acid attack on July 4, 2024, at around 7:30 AM. The attack was perpetrated by a neighbor with whom Rahim had been in conflict over a land dispute for the past three years. The neighbor had illegally occupied and cultivated Rahim's land, leading Rahim to file a case with the police. The court ruled in Rahim's favor, affirming his ownership of the land, but the neighbor refused to relinquish possession. This prolonged conflict ultimately escalated to the horrific acid attack.

During the attack, acid severely burned Rahim's chest, neck, lower body, genital area, knees, and stomach. His relatives immediately poured water on the affected areas before he was rushed to Chatmohor Health Complex. Later that day, he was transferred to Dhaka and admitted to the Sheikh Hasina Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute. Although one surgery has been completed, Rahim's condition remains critical, and doctors have indicated that he will require additional operations. However, due to his weakened physical condition, he is not yet fit for further surgeries.

Abdur Rahim requires a diet rich in protein and nutrients to aid his recovery. His family reached out to ASF for financial support to ensure he receives the necessary nutritious food. In response, ASF provided 30,000 Taka to assist with his dietary needs and other expenses.

Rahim's daughter, Bonna Khatun, expressed her gratitude, saying, "This support is a tremendous blessing for us. ASF has given more than we expected. We will never forget their kindness and are deeply grateful."

New Acid Incidence: Jahanara

ASF provided financial assistance

SATKHIRA

18 JULY, 2024

Jahanara, a 40-year-old woman from Satkhira, was brutally attacked with acid on July 18, 2024, reportedly due to a past extramarital relationship with the perpetrator and ongoing financial disputes. Despite both being married and Jahanara having her own family, the attack occurred when she refused to continue the relationship.

Jahanara, who works for an organization called Prerna, had the incident reported to the Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) shortly after it occurred. Initially admitted to Sadar Hospital, she was later transferred to the Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery in Dhaka for specialized treatment, as the attack left over 30 percent of her body severely burned. The ASF has committed to supporting Jahanara throughout her recovery.



After her discharge from the hospital, she continues to receive outpatient care from ASF, along with financial assistance to aid in her recovery. Additionally, she has been provided with Taka 10,000 to ensure she can maintain a nutritious diet.

A case has been filed at Satkhira, Kaliganj police station. The accused is not arrested yet.



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