

REPORT ON

HOSPITAL CARE FOR 350 ACID
VICTIMS IN BANGLADESH (45128)

2025

APRIL - JUNE





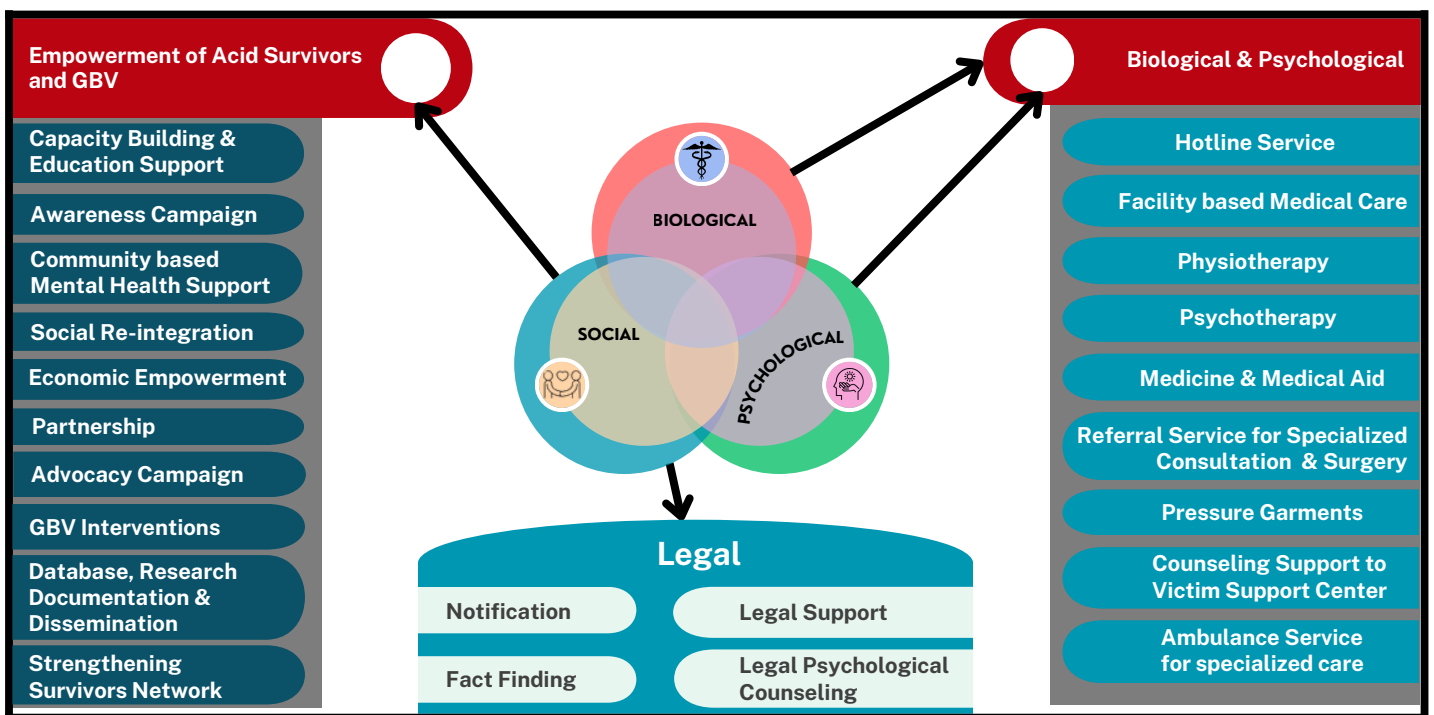
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INTRODUCTION

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





Leading with Vision, Inspiring Success

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to present this Report, showcasing our remarkable journey and accomplishments throughout the months. As the sole NGO in Bangladesh committed to preventing, addressing, and ultimately eradicating acid violence while safeguarding the rights of them, including men, women, and children, who have suffered from this abhorrent form of violence, ASF stands resolute. Our aspiration is to foster a Bangladesh free from acid violence, where victims, particularly women and children, can lead lives of dignity with peace and happiness.

Services designed in bio-psycho-social model to acid and other burn survivors such as medical consultation, psychotherapy, physiotherapy, medicine couriered, medical referral, tele-medicine service, surgery, medical aid, pressure garments and legal counseling from ASF are provided in timely manner and in perceptions of their needs. It is with immense pride that I reflect on the unwavering support of our valued donors and partners, the dedication and resilience of our team, and the positive impact we have made in the industry.

In the face of unprecedented challenges, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to excellence, donors' satisfaction. Our focus on delivering exceptional services, coupled with our agility in adapting to survivors needs, has been instrumental in our continued growth and success.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our talented team members who have consistently gone above and beyond to exceed expectations and drive our organization forward. Their unwavering passion, expertise, and commitment have been the bedrock of our achievements.

Furthermore, I would like to express my appreciation to our esteemed donors and partners for their trust and collaboration. Your valuable insights, feedback, and loyalty have propelled us to new heights, and we are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to your success.

Looking ahead, we remain dedicated to our core values, fostering a culture of innovation, and delivering sustainable value to our stakeholders. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and confident in our ability to navigate the evolving landscape.

On behalf of the entire leadership team, I assure you that we will continue to prioritize transparency, integrity, and responsible growth in everything we do. Together, let us embrace the future with optimism and determination, knowing that our collective efforts will shape a brighter tomorrow.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and I invite you to delve into the following pages of this report to discover the milestones, achievements, and exciting prospects that define our organization.

Sincerely,

Sarder Jahangir Hossain

Executive Director
Acid Survivors Foundation

New Acid Attack Statistics 2025 (April-June)

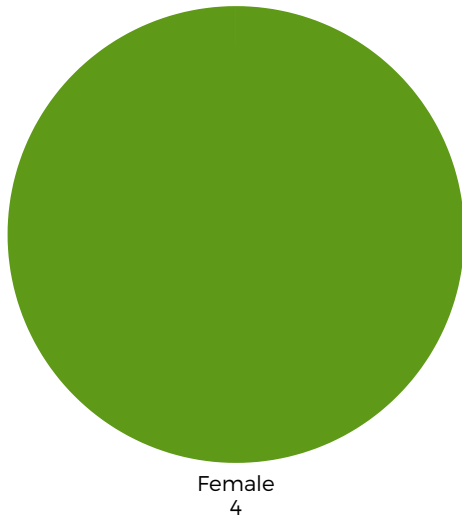
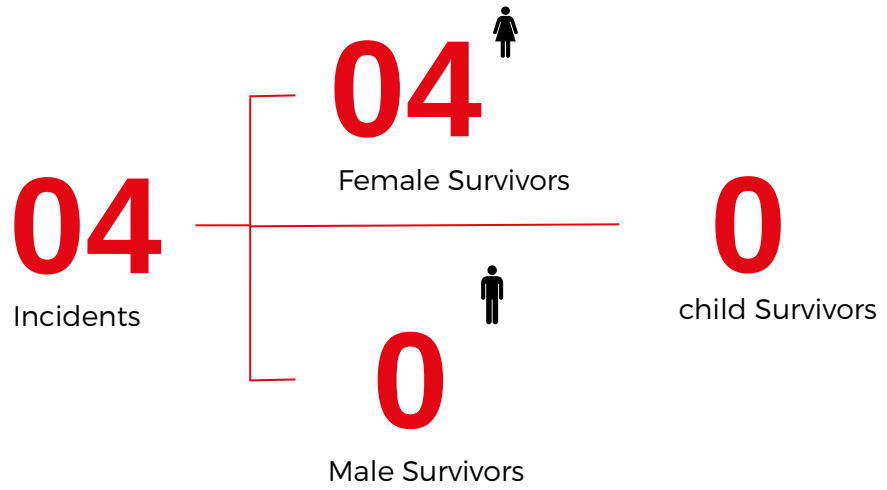


Fig.1: Sex Ratio

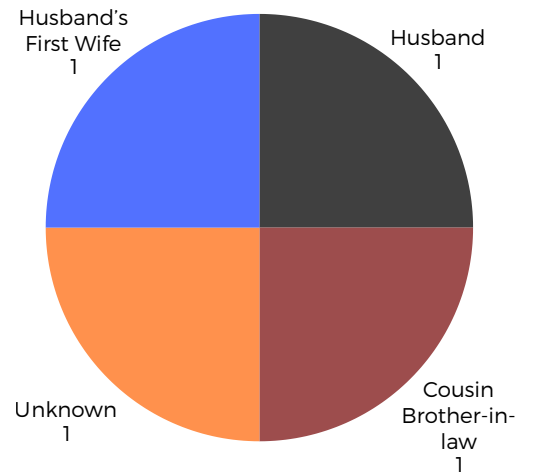


Fig.2: Perpetrators

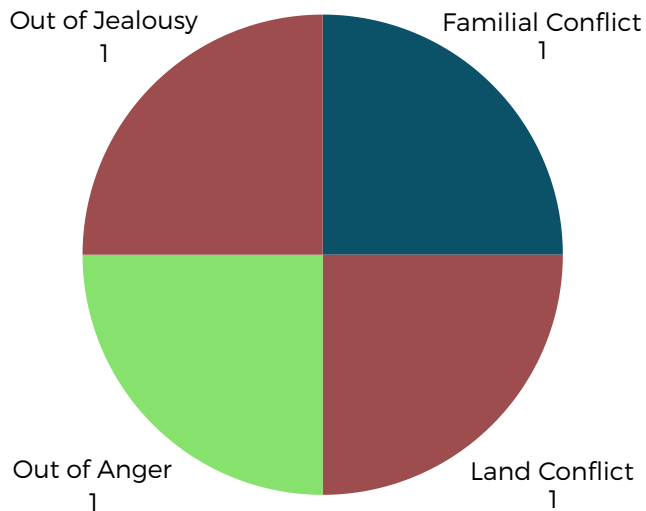


Fig.3: Causes

Completed Activities



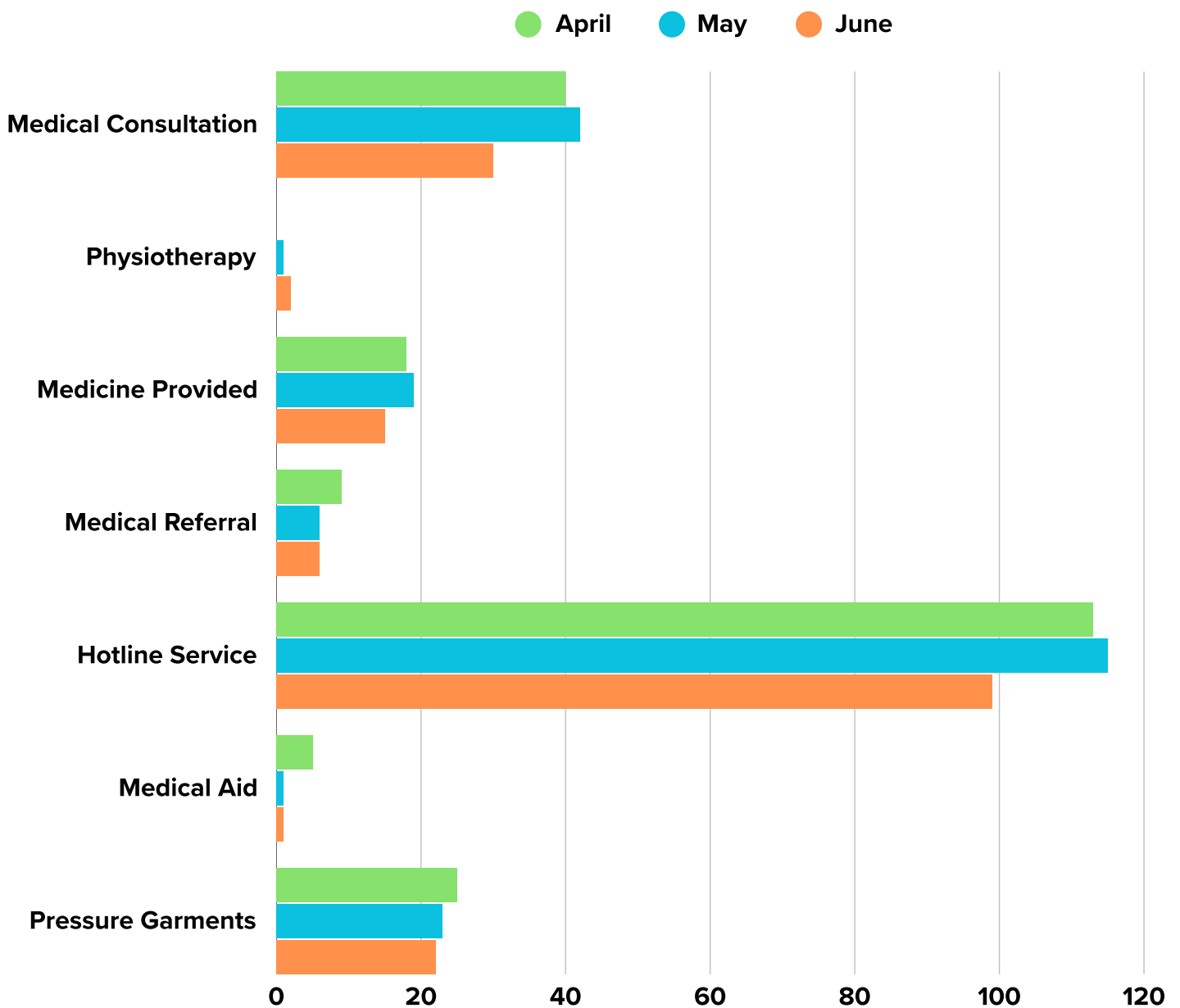
It is a process where the volume of activities grows concurrently with group effort.

Activity	Outcome
Physiotherapy	3
Medical Consultation(OPD)	112
Medicine Couriered	52
Medicine for OPD patients	60
Medical Referral	21
Hotline Service	327
Medical Aid	7
Pressure Garments	70
Ambulance Service	21



Services

Month-Over-Month





Medical Hotline



To prevent recurring complications caused by chemical burns, a total of 327 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 112 survivor patients were served.



Medicine and Medical Aids



Medicine was provided to 112 patients. Among them, 60 received their medication in person from the ASF health care Center, along with a one-way transport allowance. The remaining 52 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 7 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, 03 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.

Referral Care for specialized consultation and surgery



A total of 21 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

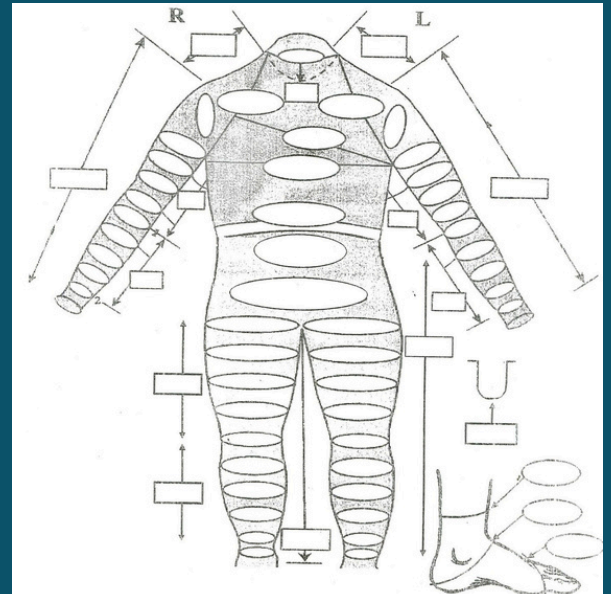


A total of 21 referred patients were provided with ambulance service to transport them to the hospital.



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 70 survivors. They are all the other burn survivors.



Pressure Garments



Picture Gallery





Jui Khatun (7): Found Deceased with Acid Burn Injuries After Abduction

Natore

April 14, 2025

On April 14, 2025, Jui Khatun, a seven-year-old schoolgirl from Natore, went missing while on her way to her grandmother's house. Her body was discovered the next day in a cornfield in Pabna, with her face disfigured by acid. Investigations revealed the child had been raped and murdered, and acid was used to obscure her identity. Five teenage boys (ages 14–16) have confessed to the crime.

ASF strongly condemns this horrific act and calls for stricter regulation of acid distribution. This case highlights a disturbing gap in acid control, particularly in its access to minors.

Survivor Support and Emergency Interventions

Asmani Khatun: Forced to Ingest Corrosive Chemical by Her Husband

On April 6, 2025, Asmani Khatun (28) of Rajshahi became the victim of a brutal domestic attack when her husband, Rashidul, forcibly poured a corrosive liquid ("Damfix") into her mouth during an altercation. Asmani was on Eid vacation at her parents' house when the incident occurred. Severely injured, she was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, where doctors confirmed internal chemical burns to her throat, mouth, and tongue. She remains unable to eat solid food.

ASF expresses concern over the lack of immediate arrest and urges law enforcement to bring the perpetrator to justice. We continue to monitor her condition and offer support for her recovery.



Mariam Begum (70): Elderly Survivor Attacked in Land Dispute

In Kurigram's Ulipur upazila, Mariam Begum was attacked with acid during an altercation rooted in a longstanding land dispute. The accused, a neighbor, poured acid over her face and scalp in a public attack witnessed by family members. Despite initial police reluctance, a case was filed two days later following media coverage.

ASF provided outpatient medical treatment and legal support upon her arrival on April 30. The investigation is ongoing, and ASF continues to advocate for justice on her behalf.



Education Support for Acid Survivors and Their Children

Since its inception, Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) has been dedicated to supporting survivors through medical care, mental health services, and socio-economic reintegration. As part of this commitment, ASF provides annual education support to selected survivors and their children, empowering them to build brighter futures.

This year, a total of 22 individuals—including survivors and their children—received education support. This initiative aims to help them restart their lives with dignity, confidence, and hope. The funding for this year's education support was generously provided by an individual donor. ASF expresses its sincere gratitude for this impactful contribution and encourages more supporters to join in transforming lives through education."



Education Support for Acid Survivors and Their Child

Since its inception, Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) has remained committed to supporting survivors through medical care, mental health services, and socio-economic reintegration. One of its vital annual initiatives is the provision of education support for survivors and their children to help ensure a brighter, more stable future.

In May 2025, ASF extended education support to a total of 22 individuals, including survivors and their children. This initiative empowers them to rebuild their lives with dignity, hope, and confidence.

This year’s education support was generously funded by an individual donor. ASF expresses its heartfelt gratitude for this impactful contribution and encourages others to support education as a tool for lasting transformation.

ACID VIOLENCE NEW CASE – MAY AND JUNE 2025

Name	Age	Gender	Case Type
Maria Akhter	23	Female	Acid Burn Case

Assistance Provided to Old Cases – May and June 2025

Serial	Name of Survivor	Mental Health Support	Frequency	Other Assistance
1	Mariyam Begum	Tele-counselling & face-to-face	2 face-to-face sessions, 9 tele counselling sessions	Legal Advice
2	Khalilur Rahman	Tele-counselling	1 face-to-face, 1 tele counselling session	Legal Advice
3	Khairul Huda	Tele-counselling	1 session	Legal Advice
4	Asmani Khatun	Tele-counselling	4 sessions	Legal Advice
5	Sohana Aktar	Tele-counselling	5–6 sessions	Legal Advice
6	Sabekunnahar	-	-	Legal Advice
7	Rashid Miah	-	-	Legal Advice



Maria Akhter: Brutally Burned and Left for Dead

On June 29, 2025, Maria Akhter, 23, from Bhola, was viciously attacked with acid by her husband's first wife, Fatema Akhter Soma, and her brother. Maria, married to Mashiur Rahman, a food dealer, was three months pregnant at the time.

She was kidnapped, forcibly given medicine to induce miscarriage, and when she resisted, they poured acid on her arms and legs, wrapped her in polythene, and abandoned her by the roadside.

Passers-by found her the next morning and informed the police. Maria was admitted to Sher-E-Bangla Medical College and Hospital, and a case has been filed against six individuals including her husband. ASF is closely monitoring Maria Akhter case.



Parvin Islam: Reclaiming Independence Through Livelihood Support



Parvin Islam, 45, from Khulna, was a survivor of a devastating acid attack in 2017, which left 22% of her body burned. Despite the trauma, Parvin rebuilt her life with support from ASF, including therapy and a sewing machine that sustained her income until mid-2024.

When the old machine stopped working, she applied again, and on June 30, ASF provided her with a new sewing machine. Parvin and her daughter expressed deep gratitude:

“A small portion of your sharing can bring big change to someone’s life. So, you can donate.”

Rima Akter's Journey: From Trauma to Empowerment

Rima Akter, a 30-year-old survivor from Shibpur, Narsingdi, was attacked with acid by her husband at age 17 due to unmet dowry demands. After extensive treatment, starting from local hospitals to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), Rima was referred to ASF through BRAC in 2013.

Between 2013–2019, ASF provided four surgeries and continued medical care. Though a case was filed, it was later withdrawn.

Today, Rima lives with her second husband and two sons. In 2025, she received livelihood training in sewing, funded by the British Asian Trust (BAT), and also attends mental health group counselling provided by ASF. She shared:

“ASF promised to provide me a sewing machine. I want to work and improve my life. I dream of starting my own sewing business.”



Mental Health Project Field Visit – Narsingdi (May 14–15, 2025)



As part of the ongoing Mental Health Project, ASF conducted a field visit to Narsingdi on May 14–15, 2025 to monitor project activities. During the visit, a group therapy session was conducted for field facilitators, and a job culture training session was observed to enhance job linkages for survivors.

The visit was attended by:

- Samia Ahmed, Executive Director, ASF
- Tahmina Islam, Project Coordinator
- Israt Jahan, Psychotherapist



Client Progress Story: Abdul Qadir’s Journey Toward Healing

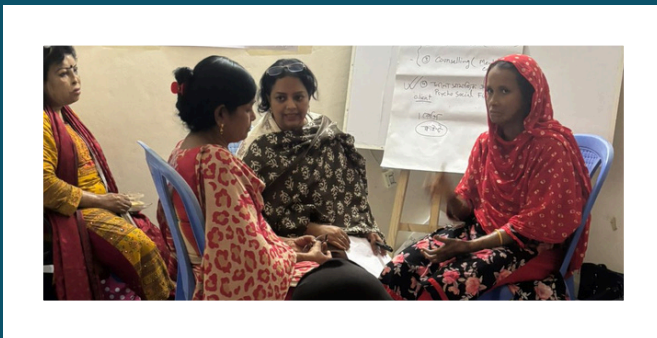
Abdul Qadir, a 32-year-old acid survivor and economics graduate, was attacked in 2002 at age nine due to a land dispute. The trauma haunted him for decades, manifesting as anger, sadness, and restlessness.

Recently, he began psychotherapy at ASF. In four sessions, he progressed from emotional paralysis to greater self-awareness, emotional regulation, and peace of mind.

He shared that he no longer reacts impulsively to negativity and feels more in control of his emotions. His story reflects the power of mental health support and personal resilience in the path to recovery.



Mental Health Refresher Training – June 1–3, 2025



From June 1–3, 2025, ASF organized a refresher training on mental health and trauma management for field-level counsellors under the BAT-funded Mental Health Project. The training aimed to strengthen counsellors’ skills to support survivors effectively. Participants included ASF project officers and junior counsellors. This training program is facilitated by Israt Jahan, Psychotherapist and Shamima Sultana, Junior Counsellor from ASF.



Press Conference Organized by Social Action Committee (SAC)

On May 8, 2025, the Social Action Committee (SAC) organized a press conference at the National Press Club's Tafazzal Hossain Manik Mia Hall to present seven demands, including an end to misogynistic propaganda against women.

Moderated by Fawzia Moslem, President of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, the event featured a written statement read by Shamshun Nahar, Program Manager of the Mass Literacy Campaign. Speakers condemned recent incidents of violence and discrimination against women and demanded swift investigations.

Fawzia Moslem emphasized:

“The movement to protect women’s rights is not just a women’s issue. Everyone must unite to show the world that Bangladesh upholds equal dignity for men and women.”

Shahnaz Sumi, Director of Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha, reinforced that equal opportunity for women is a constitutional mandate, and the state must be governed by civil, not religious, law. The SAC called for inclusive participation to uphold women’s rights.



Survivor Story: Sohana Aktar’s Life Changed in a Moment

On May 24, 2025, 25-year-old housewife Sohana Aktar from Dinajpur was attacked with acid during a property dispute. The attack occurred around 8 PM while she was preparing dinner. Prior to the attack, Sohana had a conflict involving a pond-digging issue and reported stolen goats, which she formally complained about to emergency services and police.

That night, Golam Rabbani and two accomplices threw acid on her outside the kitchen. Sohana suffered burns from her throat to her chest and was taken to Dinajpur Medical College Burn Unit, where doctors reported 9% chemical burns.

Despite her earlier 999 call and written complaint, no preventive action was taken. A case was filed against three individuals, and one perpetrator has been arrested. ASF is actively monitoring the case to ensure justice and proper support.





Advocacy and Movement Building

Protesting Genocide in Gaza: ASF Joins Solidarity Action

On April 13, 2025, ASF representatives participated in a human chain organized by the Social Action Committee (SAC) in front of the National Press Club. The protest condemned ongoing attacks on women and children in Gaza and called for global accountability. ASF stands in solidarity with all civilians facing war crimes and urges the international community to act against impunity.



Field Engagement and Project Monitoring

Site Visit: Mental Health Project in Narsingdi

On April 10, 2025, ASF conducted a field visit to Agragati Seba Sangstha (ASS) in Narsingdi, a partner implementing ASF's British Asian Trust-funded Mental Health Project.

The team observed:

- Ongoing livelihood trainings (tailoring, batik-block)
- A group mental health session with 12 counselors
- A capacity-building orientation on trauma-informed facilitation


Attending Team Members:


- Samia Ahmed (Executive Director, ASF)
- Tahmina Islam (Project Coordinator)
- Israt Jahan (Psychotherapist)
- Shamima Sultana (Junior Peer Counsellor Trainee)





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