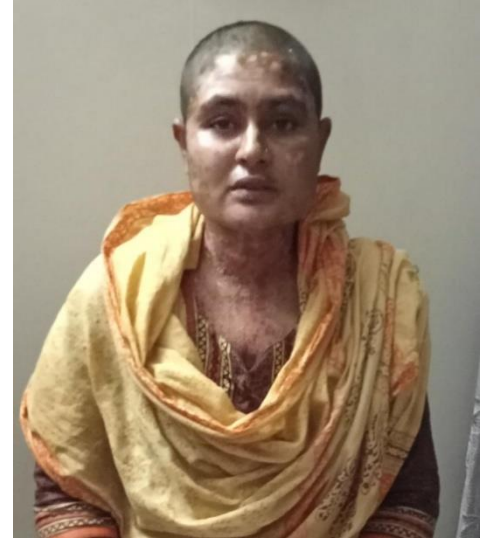


# Acid Survivors Foundation

## Service Report October to December 2022



### Vision

An acid-violence-free Bangladesh where burn victims, especially women and children live with dignity.

### Mission

End acid violence and empower survivors through a holistic bio-psycho-social model, engaging national and international stakeholders backed by research, experience & evidence.

### Values

Ensure survivor satisfaction in all activities while preserving confidentiality and regard for the individual, deliver quality products & services timely with safety and security: and continuously build the team for excellence in service delivery, accountability & transparency.



## ***Medical Services at a glance of ASF***

### **PROGRESS**

#### **NEED ASSESSMENT REPORT**

ASF organized a focused group discussion with 11 adult acid survivors from different districts to assess current and future needs of survivors and understand how ASF and survivors can jointly meet them. Some of survivors' main needs included medical care, medical costs, financial assistance for education support, skill training, grants for income generation, social support, campaigns destigmatizing survivors and inclusion them in safety nets of the government.

## SERVICE REPORT AT A GLANCE

OCTOBER – DECEMBER | 2022

### MEDICAL

187 survivors

- ✓ Survivors were given health consultation regarding recurring complications caused due to chemical burns such as contracture, ophthalmological issues, hearing difficulties, infection, etc. The survivors received intensive check-ups and consultation from the duty doctor, they were referred taken to different Government and Private Hospitals when needed specialized consultation, tests and treatments. They were provided the prescribed medicines along with other necessary things such as spectacles, sun-glasses, food processors and so on. They were also provided nutritious food, prescription counselling, and transportation costs.
- ✓ Over 66% of the 187 survivors are women.

As we know, that the large part of acid victims of our country are women, it also could be seen from the last few statistics that the service seekers were largely from the female survivors. 66% of the total number of survivors came to ASF medical centre in last 6 months were female.

- ✓ Hotline services-  
Approximately 2 to 3 calls come to the ASF medical hotline number each day. Total **121 calls** were attended through phone calls via medical hotline in last 3 months. Largely they were counselled about various things such as medication, prescription, their health complications, recent decrease in health, urgent/emergency doctor or psychotherapy consultation, need for visit to ASF and setting appointments, sharing their locations and learning about ASF's address, sharing their urgent needs, sharing needs for surgeries, discussing about upcoming surgeries and plan of actions, in the context of sending couriers and many other if needed.
- ✓ Reconstructive surgery & plastic surgery  
As most of the survivors need several types of reconstructive surgery & plastic surgery which are not possible to be conducted in the ASF premises, so ASF medical unite maintain a collaboration with other Govt. and Non-govt. locals with the support from

local hospitals. Hospitals where the surgeries take place. ASF provides the financial and medicine costs after the hospital bears. In last 3 months 1 OT took place.

- ✓ **Medicine courier to the remote area**  
In case the survivors cannot come or need emergency medicines or other equipment, the medical unit then send these to their residents via courier service. In last 3 months 6 patients got their medicines through courier services.
- ✓ **Physiotherapy services**  
The survivors may develop contractures, frozen shoulders or other complications soon after or later their scars start to dry. With the help of experienced physiotherapist, here in the ASF medical, the survivors are practiced and given HomeWorks the necessary physiotherapy tasks. These are also part of their recovery. 3 patients have given physiotherapy in last 3 months.
- ✓ **Psychotherapy**  
Supportive and trauma recovery focused psychotherapy is provided to the survivors so that they can manage their negative thoughts, emotions, stress, low mood, lack of concentration, social stigma, social isolation, social anxiety, guilt, suicidal ideation, trauma memories, flashbacks, nightmares, sleeping and eating problems, family and occupational conflicts and other psychological issues. Moreover, they are given psychoeducation and other psychological skill trainings so that they can cope with the new life they have. In last 3 months 17 patients got face to face psychotherapy sessions.
- ✓ **Remote psychotherapy**  
In case of being unable to come for face to face psychotherapy sessions, or in urgent needs the survivors are provided the sessions through tele-phone calls. In these remote psychotherapy process, they are also provided the follow-up and ventilation sessions. In last 3 months 5 patients got remote psychotherapy through phone call.
- ✓ **Quality pressure garments**  
Quality pressure garments are made with quality fabrics by the trained survivors. The sell and maintenance are also done by the survivors. These garments are really essential for contracture prevention and even skin development.

✓ Financial support for other treatment

The medical unit also supports financially when the survivors are in need for complicated physical issues even those are not related to acid burn. In last 6 months ASF medical has supported the following survivors.

1. Survivor

In 2004, teenager was subjected to an acid attack after rejecting a love proposal. After receiving treatment at the Acid Survivors Foundation Hospital, he worked there as a ward attendant for a long time.

In the month of September 2022, she had to face various physical complications while becoming a mother for the second time. As his family struggles to pay for one after another sophisticated treatments, surgeries and repeated ICU stays, old friends ASF (Acid Survivors Foundation) come to his side. From September 2022 to January 2023, his treatment is still ongoing.

There are still some complications, which require more expensive treatment.

2. Survivor

He is our old patient. He is a case of acid burn. Now he is suffering from lung abscess. Immediately he needs investigations and medicine to prevent complications. ASF come to his side to help him.

## LEGAL

✓ A total of 03 cases were reported across the last half of the year out of which ASF undertook and assisted 02.

Survivors get legal advices and legal support from ASF. After getting update about new incident ASF communicate with them/ their family/ Police Station to know about the incident. From October-December, 2022 03 cases has been reported. ASF made communication with them. And assisted two survivors and provided legal advices.

✓ An average of 20 survivors per month were offered hotline communication services totaling up to 79 survivors.

ASF received different calls from different purposes from all over the country in hotline number. Some of them want to know about ASF's services, some of them inform about new incident, advices etc. ASF hotline number received average 20 calls from various person.

- ✓ 14 survivors got education support from ASF

ASF is working against any gender-based violence, especially acid violence and helping survivors from its beginning. As part of this journey, ASF has provided education support to 14 survivors and their child in the month of December, 2022 to empower them and make a better future together.

#### **New Case –**

Our survivor was living in Barguna happily with her husband and 2 children. After a stroke in 2013 her husband lost the ability to work along with developing many more physical complications. From then she had to support her family and husband in a parallel way. She lost her husband in 2020 and remarried with these two kids. She was providing for her family with maintaining a small tea stall in Barguna. Though she is 38 years, still used to work dawn to dusk for providing her family.

She has become a victim of acid violence on the night of 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2022. On the night of incident, while she was closing her stall, approximately 3/4 perpetrators came and threw acid upon her, all of a sudden. There were long term disputes regarding her father's land. They were dealing with cases for long time, even several times they tried to build houses on that land but the perpetrators have evicted them.

From her head to belly, the whole body is affected with the splashes of acid, including her face, chest, neck and hands. At first, she was sent to Barguna Sadar Hospital, then the local OC himself arranged an ambulance so that she could be sent to Dhaka within the shortest possible time.

Her brothers received her as soon as she reached to Dhaka. After receiving her treatments at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery, she came to ASF health center. A team from ASF visited her including the Coordinator of ASF Medical while she was admitted in

Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn And Plastic Surgery. Her family has also been consulted through telephone calls about various issues.

Here at ASF health center she got doctor's intensive consultation, treatment, necessary physiotherapy, prescribed medicines, supportive psychotherapy, legal advice, nutritious food and accommodation cost.

ASF is a center where the Bio-Psycho-Social model is followed for each patient according to their individual needs. Here she was provided with the structure and facilities of the hospital, where she was served proper meal time to time, given all the prescribed medicines and even accommodation costs for travelling. She was also touched with warm and empathetic behaviors of all the staffs they met.

As she had several episodes of traumatic events in her entire life with the most severe one of acid incident, she was very vulnerable. She had many psychological symptoms such as severe level of stress, low mood, frustrations, social anxiety, sleeping problems, flashbacks and many more as the result of Acute Stress caused by the incident of acid attack. So, she needs regular sessions of psychotherapy so that she can overcome her trauma in the least possible time and cope with this new life. Moreover, she is in crying need of each possible ways so that she can have a dignified life once again after her recovery.

**Thank you for your support!**

Stop Acid Violence  
You Can Help

***Stop Acid and other form of gender based violence***

