

ACCELERATING DIGITAL LEGAL AID SERVICES IN BANGLADESH (ADLASB)

WHO WE ARE

The Accelerating Digital Legal Aid Services in Bangladesh project is a three-year initiative (May 2025 – April 2028) funded by the European Union and implemented by the Directorate of Bangladesh Legal Aid (DBLA) under the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (MoLJPA), with technical assistance from UNDP Bangladesh.

WE WORK WITH

Directorate of Bangladesh Legal Aid (DBLA), Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs (MoLJPA), Union Digital Centres (UDCs), District/Upazila/Union Legal Aid Committees, Bar Associations, and CSOs.

STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

Supreme Court of Bangladesh · ICT Division · JATI
Activating Village Courts in Bangladesh (AVCB) · a2i (Aspire to Innovate) · GIZ · JICA



OUTCOMES

Outcome 1: Improved efficiency of gender-sensitive legal aid services.

Outcome 2: Increased access to gender-sensitive legal aid and justice services.

~682,500 Target beneficiaries, with focus on women and vulnerable groups

Across **300** Unions in **8** pilot districts*

4m+

Pending cases in the justice system

7.5%

Conviction rate
(Justice Audit 2016)

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

Bangladesh's legal aid system faces persistent barriers to equitable access to justice. Despite the establishment of DBLA, District Legal Aid Offices, and a national hotline, services remain underutilised due to limited outreach, inadequate beneficiary awareness, and weak functionality of legal aid committees.



WHAT WE DO



Digital System & Infrastructure: A national Legal Aid Dashboard and upgraded portal for DBLA, Supreme Court, District Legal Aid Offices, and Chowki Adalat Legal Aid Committees to record, track, and refer cases. Mobile and SMS-based services ensure inclusion of button phone users.



Capacity Development: Over 1,000 justice actors – including DBLA officials, legal aid officers, judges, panel lawyers, special mediators, and committee members – trained on digitalized legal aid and online dispute resolution (ODR).



Outreach & Awareness: Targeted awareness campaigns for women, ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, and left-behind communities. Legal Aid Day observances, youth and media engagement, and Legal-Tech hackathon to expand overall outreach.



Research & Knowledge: Gender analysis, situational assessments, ICT needs assessments, and perception surveys. Policy reviews of the Legal Aid Services Act 2000, ODR frameworks, knowledge briefs, and lessons-learned reports to guide scale-up.

OUR TARGETS (2025-2028)

1,000+

Justice actors trained on digital legal aid and ODR

4

Digital tools developed
(dashboard, mobile app, SMS, ODR)

USD 3.24m

Total project resources funded by the European Union



Ultimate goal

The Accelerating Digital Legal Aid Services project aims to establish a scalable, gender-responsive, and technology-enabled legal aid system in Bangladesh, with DBLA under the MoLJPA sustaining digital services nationwide beyond the project period, ensuring equitable access to justice for poor and marginalized populations.

For further information, please contact:

Jinbo Choi, Project Manager | Accelerating Digital Legal Aid Services in Bangladesh | jin.choi@undp.org
UNDP Bangladesh | Level 5, IDB Bhaban | Sher-e-Bangla Nagar | Agargaon, Dhaka