

2021 WORLD CONGRESS ON JUSTICE WITH CHILDREN

15-20 November 2021

“Ensuring access to justice for all children: towards non-discriminatory and inclusive child justice systems”

Workshop Programme

Advocacy and Activation of Virtual Courts for Children: Reducing Deprivation of Liberty and Strengthening Justice Delivery During Crises

Date	Thursday, 18th November 2021		
Timing	13:00 - 14:30 Geneva	18:00 - 19:30 Dhaka	21:00 - 22:30 Tokyo
Organiser	UNICEF Bangladesh		
Type of Workshop	Certified Training		
General Topics	Building resilient child justice systems in times of crises and pandemics		
Region	Asia		
Language	English		

Abstract

UNICEF has supported the Supreme Court of Bangladesh to establish virtual children’s courts, thereby expediting the release of children in conflict with the law from detention facilities and ensuring access to justice for children during the COVID-19 pandemic. The country’s first virtual children’s court began operating in May 2020, and more than 5,000 children have been granted bail and reunited with their families as of June 2021. These children received post-release social protection services, and a comprehensive digital dashboard has been developed to track and record data, while also monitoring the application of child-friendly actions undertaken by the police, probation officers, and judges. This training workshop will introduce the steps that were taken to establish the virtual court and will present the practical guidelines and protocols that were developed to ensure proper implementation. It will also present the technicalities of the digital dashboard to showcase a good practice example of an information management system.

Key take-aways of the session

Participants will learn how adaptation to the digital solution and technological innovation improved child sensitive justice delivery systems and also accessibility to justice for children. People will learn the advocacy strategies, online case management, and the operational steps of the digital dashboard and monitoring.

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Tentative agenda

Listed in Bangladesh Standard Time

BD Time	Activity/Session	Guest/Resource Person/Facilitator
6:00pm-6:05pm	Introduction / welcome and objectives	Ms. Shabnaaz Zahereen, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF Bangladesh (Moderator)
Working Session		
6:06pm-6:20pm	Overview and strategies of the formation of the Virtual Courts and its implication in the administration of justice for children during crises	Ms. Natalie McCauley, Chief of Child Protection, UNICEF Bangladesh
6:21pm-6:30pm	Open discussion and Q/A	Ms. Shabnaaz Zahereen
6:31pm-6:45pm	Experience sharing on community based alternative justice delivery system, reunification, case management, and referral	Mr. Jamil Hassan, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF Bangladesh Ms. Muminun Nessa, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF Bangladesh
6:46pm-6:55pm	Open discussion and Q/A	Ms. Shabnaaz Zahereen
6:56pm-7:10pm	Digital Dashboard: A unique solution of online monitoring and reporting on justice for children	Mr. Mohammad Saifur Rahman, Judge and Special Officer, Bangladesh Supreme Court
7:11pm-7:20pm	Open discussion and Q/A	Ms. Shabnaaz Zahereen
7:21pm-7:26pm	Audio visual presentation on Virtual Children Courts in Bangladesh	
7:27pm-7:30pm	Concluding remarks	Ms. Natalie McCauley

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Speakers

- **Moderator: Shabnaaz Zahereen**

Shabnaaz Zahereen has 15 years of experience in the child protection sector, specially focused on the strengthening of the child protection system, policy advocacy and legal reform, institutional capacity-building of key duty-bearers, and the development of child-sensitive infrastructure and community-based service provisions to support justice for children. She engaged directly in formulating the Children Act 2013 and in harmonizing and adopting the CRC standards in other laws affecting children. She works closely with the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, National Parliament, and National Human Rights Commission to seek solutions to address child rights violations and influence policy decisions.

- **Panelists**

1. **Natalie Ann McCauley**

Natalie Ann McCauley is the section Chief for Child Protection at UNICEF Bangladesh. She has over 20 years of experience in international organizations, including UNICEF, Terre des hommes, Child Wise, AusAID, and others. Her extensive experiences include technical support, policy advocacy, and strategic planning in child protection, child safeguarding, and learning and development, among others. She has served as the Global Focal Point on Learning and Development for the Alliance on Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and the Global Focal Point on Child Protection in Emergencies for the Child Protection Working Group. She has also worked in various countries including Ethiopia, the Philippines, Sudan, Myanmar, Viet Nam, and Sri Lanka.

2. **Jamil Hassan**

Jamil Hassan is a Child Protection Officer at UNICEF Bangladesh, based in the Barishal Field Office. He has more than 18 years of professional work experience on child protection issues within UNICEF and other national and international organizations, including justice for children, diversion mechanisms, case management for children at risk and in need of protection, community-based child protection mechanisms, and capacity development of different stakeholders. He also has hands-on experience on family tracing and re-integration of unaccompanied and separated children and on establishing the birth registration system in Bangladesh to promote the usage of birth certificate as a protection tool for children.

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3. **Muminun Nessa**

Muminun Nessa is a Child Protection Officer at UNICEF Bangladesh and has 21+ years of diversified experience in the field of human rights and child protection, focusing on justice for children, child protection system strengthening, case management, law and policy development, prevention, and response to violence against children and gender-based violence in Bangladesh. She has solid experience on prevention and response to institutionalization of victim support services, including the establishment of women support and investigation divisions and referral services for the Bangladesh Police. She has also contributed to repatriating and reintegrating trafficked children and women from India and the UAE.

4. **Mohammad Saifur Rahman**

Mohammad Saifur Rahman is a Judge of the District Court and at present, is working as Special Officer in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. He graduated with an LL.M from the University of Chittagong, Bangladesh in 2001. He also completed his LL.B from the University of London in 2007 and also obtained a PGD in Professional Legal Skills from the City University, UK in 2009. He was called by the Bar of England and Wales and was published as a Barrister by Lincoln’s Inn, UK in 2009. He further graduated with an LL.M in Computer and Communications Law with higher merit from the Queen Mary University, London in 2014. He is a UK Chevening fellow.