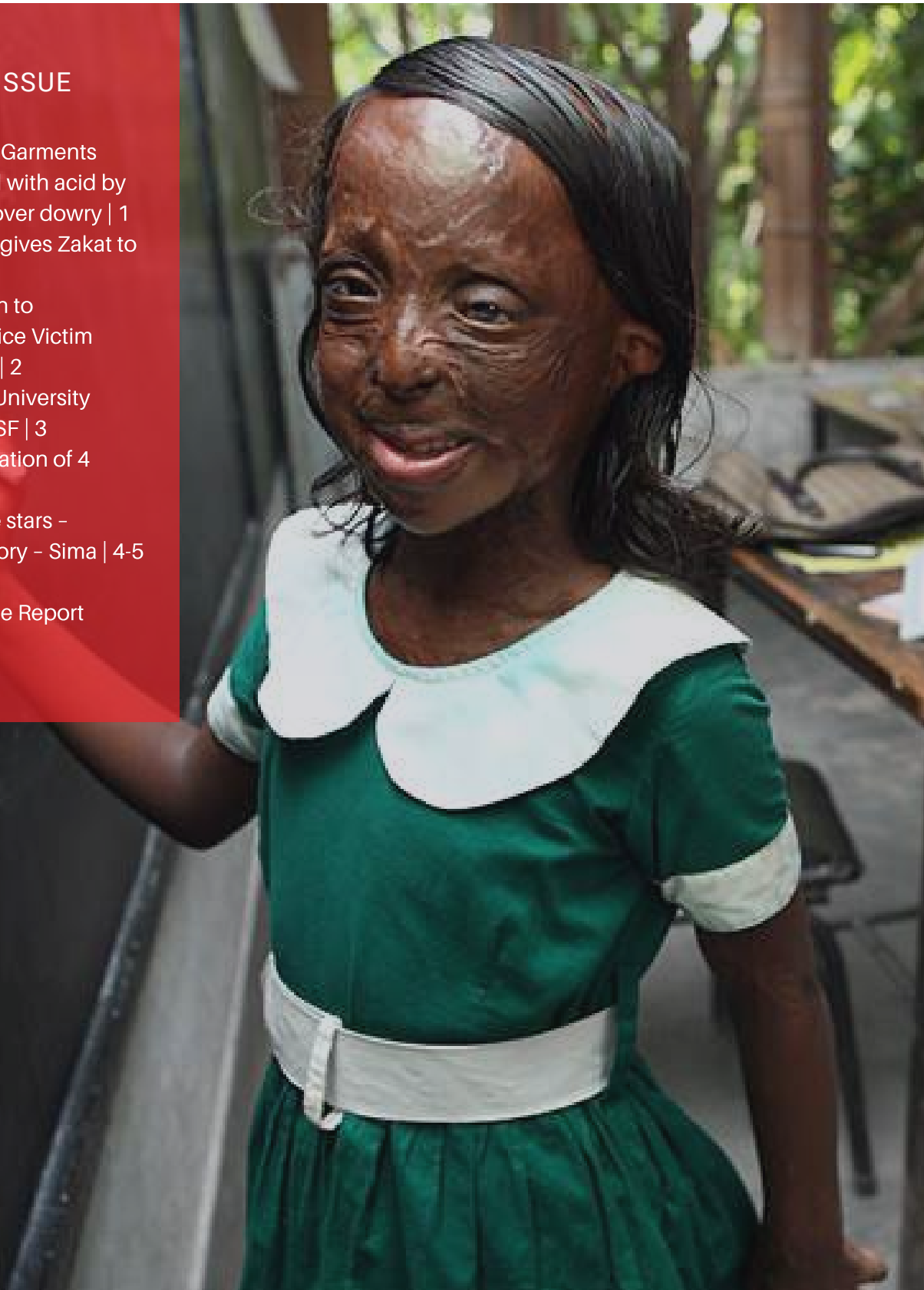


Recap

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GARMENTS WORKER ATTACKED WITH ACID BY DRUG-ADDICT EX OVER DOWRY

| 28 JANUARY 2022

19-year-old Sathi Akter, a garments worker in Dhamrai was attacked with acid on 29th January 2022, in Saturaia, Manikganj at 1 AM by drug-addicted, unemployed ex-husband over dowry.

Sathi was asleep with her mother and younger sister over their place when her ex-husband threw acid over her, seriously burning her face and hands. The spillage also impacted her mother and sister, albeit to a limited extent.

The survivors were first taken to Zila Sadar hospital for preliminary treatment and then referred to Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery (SHNIBPS) for specialized treatment.

Following the incident, Sathi's uncle filed a case at the Saturaia Police Station which led to the perpetrator's arrest.

Divorced around 3 months before the attack over dowry-related domestic abuse from husband's part, Sathi's drug-addicted unemployed ex assaulted her for dowry even after divorce.

Family of 6, Sathi's father, a mason, is speech impaired and her mother is a housewife.

On 30th January 2022, ASF visited Sathi in SHNIBPS hospital to assess her situation to provide the necessary support.



PRIVATE SPONSOR GIVES ZAKAT TO 20 SURVIVORS

On January 9, 2022, a private sponsor (who requested to stay anonymous) offered Zakat to 20 impoverished survivors via mobile banking. Among the survivors were orphans, single mothers, widows, elderly women, and the physically disabled.

We are very happy our survivors received such a generous donation. *“It’s not just zakat, it is social responsibility”*, said ASF Executive Director, Sarder Jahangir Hossain, *“I implore the well-off to extend their support to the helpless”*. Email us to make a donation to specific categories of survivors.

ASF CONTRI- BUTION TO BANGLADESH POLICE VICTIM SUPPORT CENTRE

In 2016, ASF partnered with the Victim Support Center (VSC)—a Dhaka-based Bangladesh Police initiative, to support victims of violence by offering them weekly counseling sessions at the center.

Founded in 2009 with the support of the Police Reform Program, VSC’s vision is to introduce a gender-sensitive policing system in Dhaka. With the help of 10 non-governmental organizations including ASF, VSC protects and provides quality services to victims of violence especially women to ensure their safety and security in the metropolitan city. Services include counseling, medical and legal assistance among others.

6 years and counting, we are proud to be part of an initiative creating a better society for women and welcome similar partnerships where we can employ our expertise to build a safer, more secure society for women. Email us to get in touch.

JAHANGIRNAGAR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS VISIT ASF



On 3rd February 2022, a group of five undergraduate students from the Public Health Department of Jahangirnagar University visited ASF as part of the practical component of their major. Students learned about the state of acid and burn violence in Bangladesh, our work combating acid attacks since inception, and how we support survivors using our highly acclaimed bio-psycho-social model. In the end, we held a Q/A session to allow students to ask questions about acid violence from the perspective of Public Health.



ASF FUNDS EDUCATION OF 4 SURVIVORS

Education empowers people. It equips people with the tools necessary to function as dignified members of society. ASF's holistic bio-psycho-social model accounts for all the services needed to restore survivors into fully functional human beings. Among these services is education funding opportunities under rehabilitation programs for impoverished survivors. In the month of January, ASF funded the education of 4 survivors (3 male/1 female). To know more about our education funding programs visit: acidsurvivors.org/rehabilitation



SHOOTING FOR THE SKY

Case Story - Sima •

Date of incident: 9th March 2004

Sima's parents were happily married and madly in love until Mirash, Sima's mother became pregnant with her. Motaleb, Sima's father, denied paternity and demanded she be destroyed. Angered by the backlash, Mirash filed a case of domestic violence against Motaleb and moved in with her father in Shayestaganj.

On the night of March 9, 2004, Motaleb and his accomplices broke into their home and threw acid over Sima and her mother while they were asleep.

Sima was only nine months old at the time.

The acid severely burnt her left eye, head, face, chin, neck, and ears, and had to undergo multiple surgeries.

A relative opened a case and BRAC provided them overall support to move it forward. 5 people including Motaleb were sentenced to life imprisonment in the lower court but shortly after, the culprits were out of jail on bail. So much was the worth of Sima's life in the eyes of the court.

When Sima turned 6 years old ASF sought through a long list of schools in Dhaka but had no success finding a suitable school willing to take her in until the headmistress of Jigatala Government Primary School showed up.

"Sima will study here. I will answer all the questions and face all the consequences of taking her in as a student", said the headmistress, determined to help Sima get an education.

As anticipated, however, merely getting admitted to a school did not guarantee an uninterrupted quality education for Sima. Society was afraid of her. Parents advised their children against mingling with her. Children did not dare sit next to her let alone play with her. All of this dented Sima's self-esteem and confidence. But in came a few brave kids who went against the tide and accepted Sima for who she was and how she looked like and made friends with her.

Thanks to her newfound social life, Sima was lifted off the rubbles of feeling ashamed and useless and charged for excellence. She, later on, bid farewell to her friends and teachers before moving to a new school in Rajshahi.

Down the line, a businessman and social worker, Mahfuzur Rahman, took charge of Sima's studies and her entire family through his institution 'Achal Trust'. Sima did not have to look back anymore. In a village like Uchail in Habiganj, where families were busy grooming their daughters as early as 9 years old for marriage, Sima stood out as a beacon of hope and inspiration for parents to see their girls through school and complete their education.

Sima and her mother moved back in with Motaleb at the end. He asked for another chance upon realizing and apologizing for his mistakes. Sima and her mother forgave him and started afresh. *"I don't want to resurrect the past"*, said Mirash to ASF, refusing to talk about the bygone days.

Sima, on the other hand, is doing incredibly well. She's like any other kid

at school with dozens of friends and bustling social life. She enjoys studying and is very serious about her education. She's even crushed her S.S.C Exams this year with a perfect CGPA and made her parents and ASF especially proud. She's currently preparing for her H.S.C's and is determined to ace it again. She is an unstoppable firebird reaching for the stars.



*"I can't lose.
I will not lose.
I will live life
to the end."*

Since, March 17, 2004, Sima and her mother received long-term medical care from ASF free of cost. From class one to class six, between 2012 and 2016, we funded her education besides helping her with school admission. In 2011 we bore all the costs of her boarding school in Rajshahi including her uniform, shoes, school bag, books, hostel accommodation, and more.

For 5 years, Mirash worked as a cook in ASF before moving back to Habiganj. In 2007 we gave her a grocery store but all the goods were looted in an unfortunate event. After that, we mortgaged the family a land worth 30,000 BDT to cultivate. To this day the family is able to live off the income generated by selling crops they grow over the land.



MEET HRIDITA

ASF's Physiotherapist helping survivors rehabilitate from burn injuries for over a decade

Hridita Mustafiz is a seasoned physiotherapist specializing in burn rehabilitation and chronic pain. She has over 10 years of experience working in the private and public sector relieving pain and discomfort caused by burn injuries among burn and acid survivors and helping them recover quickly.

At ASF, Hridita supervises and provides physiotherapy to patients and coordinates the overall management of our health care center. She is also involved in networking, partnership development, communication, donor reporting, advocating quality services for survivors, and identifying staff developmental needs in coordination with HR.

Over the years, Hridita took part in many training programs. From 2013 – 2018, she facilitated an international training program funded by Interburns, UK. Since 2019, on behalf of ASF, she took part in multiple international research and training programs funded by Interplast.

Hridita is a person of great patience and resilience. She has helped countless survivors recover over the years and has stayed by ASF's side since 2012 through thick and thin. We, at ASF, are proud to have such a powerful member as part of our team and truly grateful to her for her contribution over the years. Thank you Hridita.



JANUARY | 2022

SERVICE REPORT

AT A GLANCE



MEDICAL

- 64 Females 18 Males 03 Female Children 02 Male Children
- Medical Advice (Physical 21 + Hotline 66): 87
- Physio Advice: 12
- Pressure Garments: 11
- Psychotherapy Counseling (Physical 04 + Remote 15): 19
- Medicine Couriered: 03
- Referral: 06



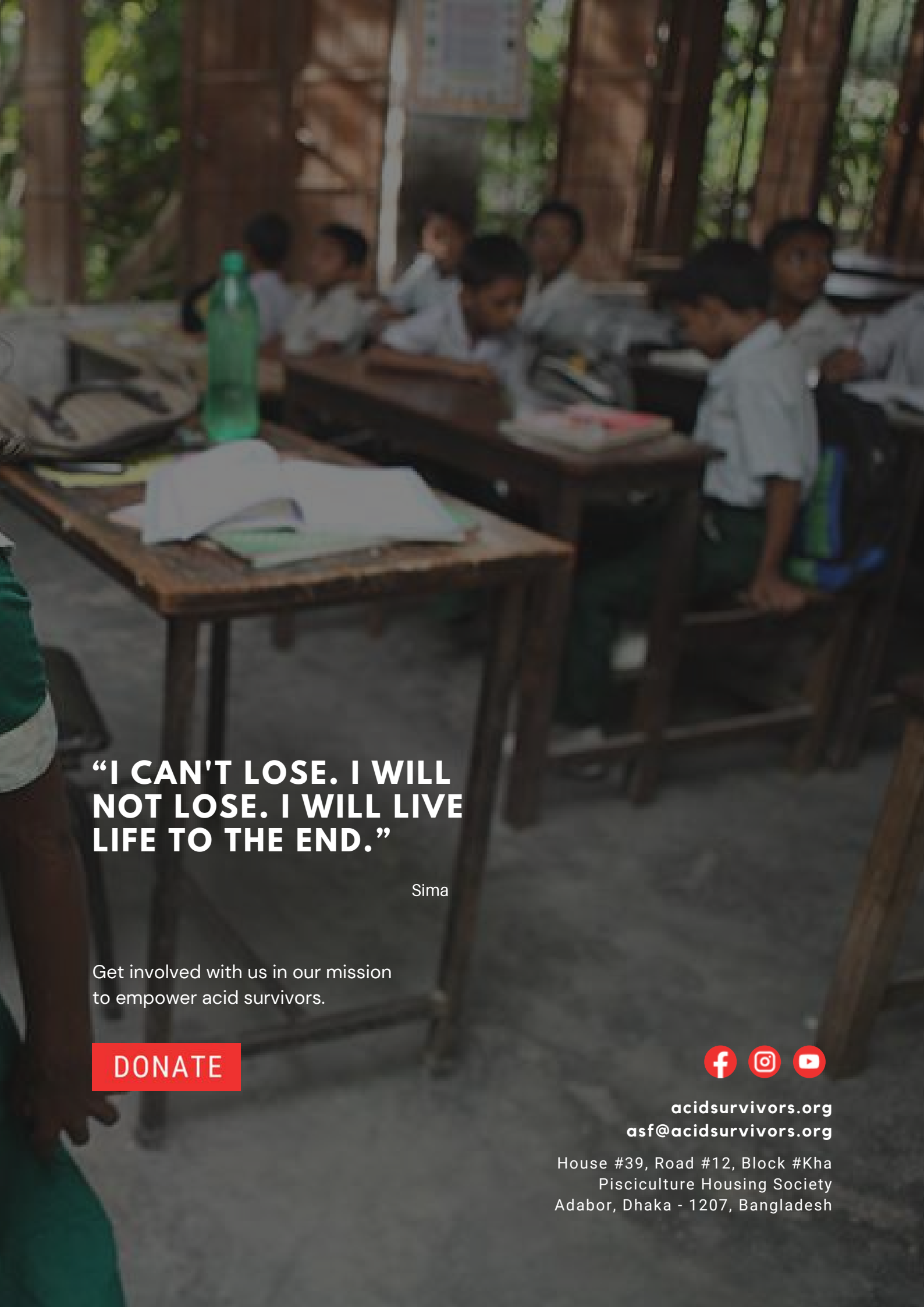
LEGAL

- Legal Counseling (Physical 08 + Hotline 02): 10



OTHER

- Survivor Data Collection to find sponsor-sponsee fit: 50
- Education Funded: 04



**“I CAN'T LOSE. I WILL
NOT LOSE. I WILL LIVE
LIFE TO THE END.”**

Sima

Get involved with us in our mission
to empower acid survivors.

DONATE



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