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PRESS RELEASE

**AMBASSADOR MOZENA VISITS USAID-FUNDED
HIV/AIDS PROJECT, MODHUMITA IN RAJSHAHI**

DHAKA, FEBRUARY 27 – U.S. Ambassador Dan Mozena visited a USAID-funded HIV/AIDS health care center, Modhumita in Rajshahi today. The center he visited works particularly with male and transgender (Hijra) sex workers in order to prevent HIV/AIDS.

Modhumita, USAID’s 4-year \$13 million HIV/AIDS prevention program, works through local partners to avail healthcare services in 18 high risk urban areas across the country to prevent transmission of HIV among the most-at-risk population and mitigate the impact amongst people infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS. The services include HIV testing and counseling, distribution of contraceptives, and behavior change education as well as other health services such as TB services and counseling on family planning. The Modhumita centers provide a safe place for the marginalized populations at risk for HIV where they can receive health services without being discriminated. USAID’s HIV/AIDS prevention program has reached over 1.4 million individuals – in Rajshahi alone Modhumita center is working with 500 male sex workers, 226 transgender sex workers, and 34,000 clients of sex workers.

Ambassador Mozena visited and observed different activities that take place at the Modhumita center including an outreach session on HIV prevention. He interacted with the customers at the center and learnt about different challenges that they face every day.

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