

**QUARTERLY REPORT
TO
USAID/BANGLADESH, DHAKA**

Project Title: Counter-Trafficking Interventions in Prevention, Protection and Prosecution for Victims of Trafficking in Persons in Bangladesh

Executing Agency : International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Dhaka

Project Partner Agencies : • Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) as lead Ministry
• Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)
• Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA)
• Ministry of Information (MoI)
• Local Govt. Division, Ministry of Local Government and Cooperatives
• District civil administration
• District police administration
• NGOs: Seven (7) in 18 Districts

Geographical Coverage : Bangladesh (18 districts)

Project Management Site : IOM Dhaka

Target Group(s) : • Victims/survivors/rescued from harmful situation
• School children, parents and teachers
• Local elites
• Bar association members, public prosecutors and lawyers
• Community people
• Officers-in-charge of police stations

Project Period : 22 September 2005 to 21 September 2008

Reporting Period : 1 October 2007 to 31 December 2007

Total Budget : US\$ 1,778,315.00

Expenditure During Reporting Period : US\$ 46,077.46

SUMMARY:

The quarterly report covers the project period from 1 October 2007 to 31 December 2007. During the reporting period, the following results have been achieved:

- Organized 15 advocacy meetings at 15 districts;
- Organized one stakeholders' meeting for district administration, civil society, NGOs and media people;
- Organized one orientation session for the Trainee Officers of the Foreign Service Academy;
- Organized 7 batches of training session for the bar association members, lawyers' and public prosecutors;
- IOM partner NGOs carried out:
 - 161 meetings with Locally Elected Bodies (LEBs);
 - 70 meetings with Bazar Committee members;

- 84 meetings with Local Leaders;
- 67 meetings with Community Based Organizations (CBOs);
- 51 meetings with school students;
- 50 meetings with the parents of the students;
- 50 meetings with the teachers of the school; and
- 20 awareness raising programme for sustainable social integration of survivors.
- Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment (MoEWOE) has endorsed the additional component of the CTI project “Addressing labour migration abuse” and assigned a focal point.
- Arranged a meeting with BMET on the proposed legal review and establishment of database.
- Recruited one National Programme Officer for the ‘Addressing labour migration abuse’ component.

Through the above mentioned field level activities **10,883 persons from various communities** (LEBs, bazar committee members, religious leaders, students, parents, teachers, community people, etc.) in **18 districts** were sensitized and made aware of the issue of human trafficking. During this period media campaign took place as well.

The next steps of the project will be:

- To organize Project Implementation Committee and Monitoring meeting;
- To conduct a series of training courses for the Bar Association members, Public Prosecutors and Lawyers;
- To provide support to the victims of trafficking;
- To organize roundtable discussion with Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- To organize orientation session for trainee officers of the Foreign Service Academy Officials (FSA);
- To arrange orientation training for the land port immigration officials and inspector level officials;
- To build awareness among the potential migrants about labour trafficking;
- To conduct series of advocacy meetings;
- To conduct school and community campaign; and
- To conduct drama campaign.
- To form a Project Support Committee (PSC) for the implementation of ‘Addressing labour migration abuse’ component.
- To hire Consultant(s) for the study to review existing legal framework concerning overseas employment service providers.
- To hold meetings of the Inter-Ministerial Group.
- To hold a consultation meeting of the labour attaché.
- To develop and adopt an action plan (through strategy development meetings) to prevent labour migration abuse.
- To develop an information collection and monitoring plan concerning migrant labour abuses in recruitment processes.
- To adopt a plan and database integration.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Project objective:

The overall objective of this project is to strengthen counter-trafficking interventions in prevention, protection, rescue, voluntary repatriation, reintegration and prosecution for Bangladeshi victims of trafficking in persons.

Through an additional component, the project also aims to contribute to preventing the abuses of migrants in the recruitment process by enhancing transparency in the overseas recruitment and placement practices.

Project Purpose:

Prevention:

- Raise awareness of trafficking in persons in Bangladesh among the general public as well as specific targeted groups in 18 districts.
- Assist in creating income generation opportunities for 975 trafficking victims/survivors/rescued persons from harmful situation.

Protection:

- Provide direct return and reintegration assistance to victims of trafficking.
- Strengthen the capacity of locally elected bodies, law enforcement agencies and NGOs to better identify and assist victims of trafficking.

Prosecution:

- Strengthen the capacity of police officers including Thana Police in Charge (OIC), prosecutors and lawyers to manage trafficking cases.

To achieve the above objective, the project aims to organize an information campaign to educate more than three million people on the harm caused by trafficking in persons.

To achieve the above objective, the project aims to organize an orientation of Officers-in-Charge of all police stations of Bangladesh to facilitate protection, victim care and support; create an information campaign to educate more than 3 million people on the harm caused by trafficking in persons; and assist 975 victims/survivors/rescued persons. The project will also provide services for victims to get out of harmful situations, facilitate their efforts to generate income and start-up businesses of their own. These persons will also be provided with physical and mental health care, legal counselling, aid and shelter when necessary, through referral services. It will also help the survivors to reintegrate into their families and societies as independent economic entities through comprehensive skills and livelihood development. The project will continue school, drama and community campaigns simultaneously to inform people about the issue in 18 districts of Bangladesh. Similarly, at the thana/union level, meetings with Locally Elected Bodies (LEBs) will be organized to make them aware about the importance of the issue and their role in preventing this crime. The local level NGOs will be involved in organizing bazaar meeting and meeting with CBOs to support the awareness initiatives of the project.

To ensure efficient implementation and ownership of the program and its activities at the district level, several activities will be carried out under this project. These activities include advocacy meetings with district level administration and police officials, as well as with District Commissioners and Superintendent of Police. The aim of these meetings is to discuss the project activities, ensure their involvement and solicit their support in implementing the project activities. The MoHA and IOM will jointly organize such advocacy meetings in the district level. In each selected district, two meetings per year (a total of 108 meetings) will be organized during the project period.

IOM will also organize some special meetings during the project period. These are inception meeting, stakeholders meeting and monitoring meeting. Inception meeting

was jointly arranged by the MoHA and IOM at the beginning of the project in Dhaka. Project partners, District Commissioner (DC), Superintendent of Police (SP) from 18 districts participated in the meeting. The inception meeting focused on the project objectives, activities and their respective roles. Stakeholders meeting will be called by IOM in 6 selected districts in every six months to appraise the members of the civil society, representatives from district administration and police about the progress of the project. Monitoring meeting will be called by MoHA once in every six months and attended by the members of the Project Implementation Committee (PIC).

To prevent labour migration abuses, IOM will initiate a study to review the existing laws, regulations, circulars and practices concerning overseas employment service providers and overseas employment administration as a whole. The proposed study will come up with a mechanism to monitor recruitment activities for overseas employment, and short-term and long-term recommendations to prevent the abuses.

Finally, the project will provide a set of recommendations for future interventions in the field of counter-trafficking by carrying out an evaluation and sharing workshop.

1. RESULTS:

The following results have been achieved during the reporting period:

a) Training:

- Legal Education and Training Institute (LETI) organized training courses for the Bar Association members, Public Prosecutors and Lawyers as per the agreement signed between IOM and Bangladesh Bar Council. During this period a total of seven (7) courses have been organized by LETI. A total of 175 lawyers and public prosecutors have attended these training courses.
- An orientation session for 4 trainee officers of Foreign Service Academy has been organized on the issue of trafficking and migration.

b) Meetings:

- Conducted 15 Advocacy Meetings in 15 districts, where 392 district level Government Officials, media people, representatives from civil society and NGOs were present. The participants appreciated the initiative very much and expressed their commitment to extend cooperation in implementing the project activities to prevent human trafficking and to provide best support to the victims of trafficking. The district level government has also taken some initiatives which they shared during the meeting. These meetings were facilitated by the IOM project staff.
- One stakeholder meeting was organized on 28 November 2007 at Sylhet. A total of 27 persons attended the stakeholders meeting where government officials, representative from NGOs, civil society members, representative from print and electronic media were present. In the meeting, progress of the project, victim care & support services under the CTI project and future activities were shared with the participants. The participants appreciated the activities of the project very much and requested to cover more areas of the country.

c) Victim Support and Care

- A total of 111 (16 male & 95 female) victims of trafficking have received different services (medical, legal, psychosocial counseling, skill training) from four shelter homes run by Association for Community Development (ACD) at Rajshahi, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) at Dhaka, Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) at Jessore and Thengamara Mohila Sabuj Sangha (TMSS) at Bogra.

d) Media Campaign:

- Expressions Limited, a communication agency, was commissioned earlier for telecasting and broadcasting of TV spots, documentary films and radio spots. They arranged the broadcasting of 110 shows of radio spots including promotional for drama serial and two episodes of radio drama serial during this period. It is assumed that a huge number of the population have been covered under this media campaign. A quiz programme has been introduced after each episode of drama serial to attract the people to the radio programme. This has been very successful. A lot of people have become very interested in the drama serial and have been sending lots of letter to IOM.

e) Study:

- A draft ToR has been prepared for the situational analysis on 'internal trafficking'. It has also been shared with USAID/Bangladesh for their comments and feedback. After finalization of the ToR, it will be outsourced to a consultant to do the study.
- The process to hire Consultant(s) to review the existing laws, regulations, circulars and practices concerning overseas employment service providers and overseas employment administration is in progress.

f) Community Campaign:

- A total of 2,066 (1,634 male & 432 female) Union Parishad Chairmen & Members were sensitized about the issue of human trafficking and how they can help to prevent human trafficking.
- A total of 973 (948 male & 25 female) Bazar Committee members were made aware of the issue of human trafficking.
- A total of 1,448 (1,368 male & 80 female) local leaders were made aware about the issue of human trafficking and their role in preventing human trafficking.
- A total of 1,047 (878 male & 169 female) members of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) were informed about the issue and their role to prevent human trafficking.
- A total of 2,837 students (711 male & 2,126 female) students were made aware about the issue of human trafficking.
- A total of 984 (527 male & 457 female) parents were made aware about the issue of trafficking in persons and their vital role to protect their children from being trafficked.
- A total of 761 (583 male & 178 female) teachers, which also includes members of the management committee, were made aware about the different aspects of human trafficking and their role in preventing human trafficking.
- A total of 767 (473 Male & 294 female) community people attended awareness raising programme organized by BNWLA for sustainable reintegration of survivors.

2. ACTIVITIES:

As per approved project proposal and work plan, the following activities were completed during the reporting period:

a) Training:

- IOM signed a MOU with Bangladesh Bar Council on 25 May 2006 in order to coordinate the training programme of the Bar Association members, Public Prosecutors and Lawyers through their Legal Education & Training Institute (LETI). During this period a total of 7 batches have been arranged. A total of 25 participants attended in each batch and the duration of each training course was two-days.
- One orientation session for the Trainee Officers of the Foreign Service Academy was organized at the IOM conference room on 22 November 2007.

b) Meetings:

- Fifteen Advocacy Meetings have been organized in 15 districts (*Magura, Gopalganj, Shariatpur, Rajbari, Habiganj, Moulavibazar, Sylhet, Sunamganj, Tangail, Netrokona, Kishoreganj, Feni, Noakhali, Lakshmipur and Chandpur*). IOM requested the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) to organize these Advocacy Meetings at district level. Subsequently the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) issued a request letter to the district administration to organize these meetings at the Deputy Commissioners' office. IOM project staff facilitated these meetings.
- One stakeholders meeting was organized at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room at Sylhet on 28 November 2007.

c) Victim Support and Care:

- Four shelter homes run by ACD, BNWLA, DAM and TMSS have been providing services to the victims of trafficking under the signed agreement with IOM.

d) Media Campaign:

- Started developing 13 episodes drama serial on the issue of human trafficking for radio. IOM commissioned a communication agency Expressions Limited and they arranged broadcasting of radio spot¹ and radio drama serial with promotional in the radio during this reporting period.

e) Study:

- Started the process to conduct the situational analysis on internal trafficking.

f) Community Campaign:

Field Level Activities by Partner NGOs:

- Carried out 161 meetings with Locally Elected Bodies (LEBs) at the different Union Parishads of 18 districts with the Chairmen and Members to inform them about the issue and to get their cooperation to implement different field activities.

¹ Recently developed under the CTI project

- Carried out 70 meetings with Bazar Committee members to inform them about the issue and the vital role they can play to prevent human trafficking as the Bazar is the place from where recruiters collect their prey.
- Carried out 84 meetings with Local Leaders to alert them to the issue and to involve them in preventing human trafficking.
- Carried out 67 meetings with the members of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to discuss the issue of human trafficking and to request them to take this issue forward.
- Carried out 51 meetings with school students to make them aware about the different aspects of human trafficking.
- Carried out 50 meetings with the parents of the students to alert them to the issue of human trafficking and also to discuss their roles and responsibilities to protect their children.
- Carried out 50 meetings with school teachers to discuss the issue of human trafficking and their vital role to protect the children from being trafficked.
- BNWLA organized 20 awareness raising programme at the community level in 12 districts (*Rajshahi, Chapai Nawabganj, Bagerhat, Khulna, Dhaka, Narayanganj, Chittagong, Sylhet, Netrokona, Gaibandha, Norshingdi and Munshiganj*) for sustainable reintegration of survivors.

g) Addressing labour migration abuse:

- Letter sent to MOEWOE for formation of an Inter-Ministerial Group to address labour migration abuse.
- IOM held a meeting with the Director of BMET, Mr. Nurul Islam on the CTI's labour migration programme on 19 December 2007. He was briefed on linkage between the "Addressing labour migration abuses" component with the on going project: "Counter-Trafficking Interventions in Prevention, Protection and Prosecution for Victims of Trafficking in Persons in Bangladesh." He was informed that the component will initiate a legal review along side to improving database/reporting on labour trafficking cases and related information. The MoEWOE has already sought IOM's expert advice and counseling for updating migration laws and regulations.
- Recruited 1 National Programme Officer. Recruitment of 1 Programme Assistant is under process.

3. CONSTRAINTS AND ACTION TAKEN:

Due to the unavailability of security clearance and radio phone, advocacy meeting at Chittagong Hill Tracts could not be implemented. IOM office is working on procurement of radio phones. Also because of hurricane SIDR the advocacy meetings in three coastal districts had to be rescheduled. Training for land port immigration officials could not be arranged as they did not get the clearance/approval from their authority. IOM officials are regularly following-up with them and hopefully the training will take place in the next quarter.

IOM sent a letter to the MoEWOE to form an Inter-Ministerial Group to address labour abuses. However, any response is yet to be received. The aim of the Group having representatives from ministries and departments concerned is to promote information exchange and dialogue, and to steer collaborative efforts in combating labour abuses and exploitation.

4. CONCLUSIONS:

During the last quarter most of the activities have been undertaken as per work plan. The next steps of the project will be:

- To organize Project Implementation Committee and Monitoring meeting;
- To conduct a series of training courses for the Bar Association members, Public Prosecutors and Lawyers;
- To provide support to the victims of trafficking;
- To organize roundtable discussion with Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- To organize orientation session for trainee officers of the Foreign Service Academy Officials (FSA);
- To arrange orientation training for the land port immigration officials and inspector level officials;
- To build awareness among the potential migrants about labour trafficking;
- To conduct series of advocacy meetings;
- To conduct school and community campaign; and
- To conduct drama campaign.
- To form a Project Support Committee (PSC) for the implementation of 'Addressing labour migration abuse' component.
- To hire Consultant(s) for the study to review existing legal framework concerning overseas employment service providers. The process is ongoing.
- To hold meetings of the Inter-Ministerial Group.
- To hold a consultation meeting of the labour attaché.
- To develop and adopt action plan through strategy development meetings to stop labour migration abuse.
- To develop information collection and monitoring plan concerning migrant labour abuses in recruitment processes.
- To adopt plan and database integration.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) appreciates the support of USAID/Bangladesh in working for the people of Bangladesh who are at risk of trafficking and also appreciates all the organizations who agreed to extend their cooperation to achieve IOM's goal.

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(Will be submitted by the finance section separately).