

**PROJECT COMPLETION (FINAL) REPORT  
TO  
USAID/BANGLADESH, DHAKA**

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

|                                 |  |
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| <b>Executing Agency</b>         | : International Organization for Migration (IOM)   |
| <b>Project Partner Agencies</b> | : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) as lead Ministry</li> <li>• Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)</li> <li>• Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MWCA)</li> <li>• Ministry of Information (Mol)</li> <li>• Ministry of Social Welfare (MSW)</li> <li>• Ministry of Local Government and Cooperatives</li> <li>• District civil administration</li> <li>• District police administration</li> <li>• NGOs: Seven (7) in 18 Districts</li> </ul> |
| <b>Geographical Coverage</b>    | : Bangladesh (18 districts)  |
| <b>Project Management Site</b>  | : IOM Dhaka  |
| <b>Target Group(s)</b>          | : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victims/survivors/rescued from harmful situation</li> <li>• School children, parents and teachers</li> <li>• Local elites</li> <li>• Local Elected Bodies</li> <li>• Bar association members, public prosecutors and lawyers</li> <li>• Bangladesh Police</li> <li>• Community people</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Project Period</b>           | : 22 September 2005 to 21 October 2008   |
| <b>Reporting Period</b>         | : 22 September 2005 to 21 October 2008   |
| <b>Total Budget</b>             | : US\$ 1,878,287.00  |
| <b>Total Expenditure</b>        | : US\$ <i>(Will be provided by Finance Section)</i>  |

**SUMMARY:**

The project started on September 22, 2005 and ended on October 21, 2008 with an additional one month no-cost extension. The overall objective of this project was to strengthen counter-trafficking interventions in prevention, protection, rescue, voluntary repatriation, reintegration and prosecution for victims of trafficking in persons in Bangladesh. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) provided its clearance and approval to implement the project activities in 18 districts of Bangladesh. A Project Implementation Committee (PIC) was formed by MoHA comprising representatives from other concerned Ministries, Police Headquarters (PHQs), Attorney General's Office, USAID/Bangladesh and IOM. A Convenor and a Focal Point were nominated in MoHA for coordinating and monitoring the activities through the PIC. A total of 520 Officers-in-Charge of police stations and 28 land port immigration officials were trained on the issue of human trafficking. Furthermore, 1,352 Public Prosecutors, Lawyers also received training. Discussion meetings and roundtable on irregular migration were organized with participation from the relevant Ministries. A total of 574 victims of trafficking were provided support through NGO run shelter homes. A number of studies were carried out, especially on the situation of internal trafficking in Bangladesh, and on other aspects related to labour migration abuses. Apart from this, different awareness activities were taken up for the community people as well as for the cyclone SIDR affected people in four selected districts.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:*****Project objective:***

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

***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 organized an orientation of Officers-in-Charge of all police stations of Bangladesh to facilitate protection, victim care and support; created an information campaign to educate hundreds of thousands of people on the harm caused by trafficking in persons; and assisted 574 victims/survivors. The project also provided services for victims to get out of harmful situations, facilitated their efforts to generate income and start-up businesses of their own. These persons were also provided with physical and mental health care, legal counseling, aid and shelter when necessary, through referral services. It also helped the survivors to integrate into their families and societies as independent economic entities through comprehensive skills and livelihood development. The project carried out school, drama and community campaigns simultaneously to inform people about the issue in the 18 selected districts of Bangladesh. Similarly, at the thana/union level, meetings with Locally Elected Bodies (LEBs) were organized to make them aware about the importance of the issue and their role in preventing this crime. The local level NGOs were involved in organizing bazaar meetings and meetings with Community Based Organizations (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 were carried out under this project. These activities included advocacy meetings with district level administration and police officials, as well as with Deputy Commissioners and Superintendent of Police. The aim of these meetings was to discuss the project activities, ensure their involvement and solicit their support in implementing the project activities. The MoHA and IOM jointly organized such advocacy meetings in the district level.

IOM also organized some special meetings during the project period, which included: inception meeting, stakeholders meetings and monitoring meetings. The inception meeting jointly arranged by the MoHA and IOM at the beginning of the project in Dhaka. Project partners, Deputy 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. The meeting was inaugurated by the State Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs. Stakeholders meetings were called by IOM in 6 divisional districts to inform the members of the civil society, representatives from district administration, police, print and electronic media about the objective and progress of the project. Monitoring meetings were called by MoHA and attended by the members of the PIC.

Beside this, the project also carried out additional activities like training of land port immigration officials, training for the newly recruited officials of Foreign Service Academy (FSA), roundtable discussions with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the translation of law and also carried out some studies to address labour migration abuses.

Finally, the project came up with a set of recommendations for future interventions in the field of counter-trafficking by carrying out an evaluation.

### ***SIDR Reconstruction Activity:***

Cyclone SIDR (Category IV), hit Bangladesh on the evening of 15 November and left in its wake massive human and collateral damage. About 31 of Bangladesh's 64 districts were affected by the cyclone mainly within the administrative divisions of Barisal and Khulna (West and South-West of Bangladesh).

Official reports estimated that more than 8.7 million people were affected, with a death toll of 3,295 people and a further 871 people missing and 52,810 people injured. Material damage was severe, with over 563,877 houses destroyed and a further 940,438 partially damaged. An estimated 2.2 million acres of crops were damaged and over 1.6 million livestock killed. Collateral damage was equally extensive, apart from roads and public buildings being destroyed, over 2,400 educational institutions were left completely destroyed and close to another 13,000 suffering destruction.

In the aftermath of the cyclone, in addition to humanitarian crisis leading to loss of shelter, land, poultry, etc., it was also recognized that the cyclone affected people, especially women and children, were rendered specially vulnerable to various forms of abuses and faced additional risks of exploitation such as trafficking. In order to raise awareness among the affected people to such risks, USAID/Bangladesh decided to add an additional component to the ongoing project on awareness raising activities in the four most affected districts. Among others awareness raising activities, four Community Information Centres were set-up to disseminate information under this additional component.

## **1. RESULTS:**

The following results achieved during the project period:

### **a) Administrative:**

- IOM obtained clearance and approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs on 10 October 2005 to implement the project activities. Ministry also formed a Project Implementation and Monitoring Committee in the Ministry of Home Affairs and nominated one Convenor and one Focal Point for the project.
- Recruited project staff (1 National Programme Officer, 1 Legal Adviser, 1 Project Coordinator, 1 Finance Officer, 1 Project Assistant, 1 Secretary/Office Assistant (50%) and 1 Support Staff (50%)).
- IOM selected seven NGOs to carry out grassroots level activities and provided a letter of intent to get the clearance from NGO Affairs Bureau. After receiving the NGO

Affairs Bureau's clearance to receive funds, an agreement was signed between IOM and selected seven NGOs to carry out field level activities.

- Organized an “Inception Workshop” in Dhaka. The main objectives of the workshop were to appraise the participants about the project, its objectives, activities, involvement of the Government, stakeholders and others; and share the responsibilities of the Project Implementation Committee (PIC).
- Purchased necessary equipment and furniture for the smooth implementation of the project activities.

#### **b) Training:**

- A total of 32 staff members of the selected 7 NGOs (7 Senior Officials, 18 Programme Staff & 7 Finance Staff) attended five-day long introductory training on the “Counter-Trafficking Initiatives” including financial rules and regulations. The participants could know about the different aspects of human trafficking and the activities of the CTI project.
- A refreshers' training was arranged for the NGO programme and finance staff at the Development, Training and Study Centre (DTSC) of Assistance for Social Organization and Development (ASOD)<sup>1</sup> at Rangpur. A total of thirty staff members from seven partner NGOs attended the training session. Participants attended the training session could understand clearly the issue of human trafficking and migration and also could know about the financial rules and regulations. NGO Service Delivery Program (NSDP)<sup>2</sup> made a presentation on their activities to synergies between two projects supported by USAID/Bangladesh.
- IOM organized 20 batches of two-day long training for the officers-in-charge of all the police stations. A total of 520 officers-in-charge out of 583 participated in these trainings. Most of them assured that they would be very active in preventing human trafficking and to provide the maximum support to the victims of trafficking.
- Developed and printed the training manual for the public prosecutors and lawyers which was approved by the Ministry of Law. After that a launching ceremony was organized before starting the training programme where Adviser of the Caretaker Government was present as chief guest. About 110 people from different Ministries, government officials, donors, INGOs, NGOs, civil society, the media attended the launching ceremony, which was widely covered by the electronic and print media.
- IOM signed a MoU with the Legal Education and Training Institute (LETI)<sup>3</sup> of Bangladesh Bar Council on 25 May 2006 to coordinate training sessions for the public prosecutors and lawyers. As per the signed MoU, LETI organized 54 training courses for the lawyers' and public prosecutors covering 1,352 participants from different districts. It should be noted that Bar Council set up a Legal Clinic to provide support to the victims of trafficking free of cost.
- An orientation session for 4 trainee officers of Foreign Service Academy was organized on the issue of trafficking and migration. The participants appreciated the training program and also the topic. They assured to provide their full support in combating human trafficking.
- Two training sessions for 28 Land Port Immigration officials were organized by IOM at the Special Branch auditorium on “Basics of Human Trafficking and Victim Care & Support”. The participants expressed their satisfaction for inviting them for such training programme and also committed to play positive role in preventing human trafficking.

<sup>1</sup> Assistance for Social Organization and Development (ASOD), Rangpur, a partner NGO of IOM under this project

<sup>2</sup> Another USAID/Bangladesh funded project on health

<sup>3</sup> Training wing of Bangladesh Bar Council

- IOM MRF Dhaka in collaboration with the Diplomatic Correspondent Association of Bangladesh (DCAP) organized a three day media workshop. A total of 20 participants from the leading print & electronic media houses attended the training programme. The objective of the workshop were – a) increasing a common understanding of migration and counter trafficking issues in Bangladesh; b) reinforcing ethical and responsible reporting on migration and counter trafficking, and c) strengthening networking and partnership on addressing migration and counter trafficking issues. The three day event comprised of group working sessions, open discussions, interactions with returned migrants and survivors of trafficking. In addition, IOM resource persons conducted sessions where different project with respect to labor migration and counter trafficking were highlighted to provide the participants a better understanding of IOM's constituents.
- The discussion meeting on migration and human trafficking for government officials were participated by the officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, and Ministry of Establishment. The main objective of the session was to sensitize the government officials on the issue. The participants requested to have more widespread and visible promotional activities. They also urged for building the capacity of the Labour Attachés and stressed about information sharing. They also stressed the need for media expert on the issues related to migration and trafficking.

#### **c) Meetings:**

- Five meetings each of the Project Implementation Committee (PIC) and Monitoring Committee were held in the Ministry of Home Affairs. In these meetings members discussed about the progress made by the project and also decided the future course of action/strategy of the project.
- Conducted 103 Advocacy Meetings in 63 districts, where 2,422 district level Government Officials, stakeholders, civil society members, NGO representatives, press and media people were present. Participants appreciated this initiative very much and requested to organize such meetings at the upazilla level for mass coverage.
- Organized six stakeholders' meetings where government officials, members from partner NGOs, civil society, print and electronic media were present. In the meeting, progress of the 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.
- A total of 14 representatives from 7 partner NGOs attended a discussion and sharing session at IOM. This meeting helped the participants to understand the mechanism of implementation procedure of different activities of the project. Participants expressed their ideas for smooth functioning of the project. Throughout the project period, IOM CTI team provided technical support to partner NGOs for smooth implementation of the project.
- Roundtable on Irregular Migration participated by 45 participants from high and mid level officials of Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The main objective of the roundtable was to raise awareness and understanding on migration related issues of the participants. The participants appreciated the initiative very much and assured their cooperation in preventing irregular migration and to facilitate safe migration. They also discussed how Bangladesh Missions can provide maximum support to the migrant workers who are in need.
- A coordination meeting among the partners held from 10 to 11 June, 2007 at Bogra. The core objective of the meeting was to further enhance the co-ordination among the partners and IOM. Eighteen representatives from nine partners NGOs and Legal

Education and Training Institute (LETI), Bar Council attended the meeting. It helped the partners to find out better collaboration and cooperation among themselves.

#### **d) Victim Support and Care**

- A total of 25 participants from different organizations involved in counter-trafficking activities, including 7 partner NGOs of CTI project, participated the workshop and set-up some criteria based on which victims of trafficking were identified and provided support under the CTI project.
- A total of 574 (169 male & 405 female) victims of trafficking 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. The skill training includes tailoring, livestock, food processing, driving, embroidery, carpentry, fisheries, computer operation, welding, small trade, and veterinary. Out of them 431 victims were provided business support to earn their livelihood by managing that business.
- Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) organized six (6) training sessions on "Shelter Home Operation and Management". The objective of these training was to improve service delivery in one hand and in other to ensure women and child friendly support services in all shelters. A total of 123 participants attended these training sessions from 18 different organizations/agencies including government officials from different agencies and out of them 75 were male and 48 were female. A certificate distribution ceremony also held on June 28, 2008 at the Auditorium of Department of Social Service, Agargaon, Dhaka. Final version of the manual also distributed in the occasion. The Secretary of the Ministry of Social Welfare was the chief guest and Director General, Department of Social Services and Regional Representative for South Asia, International Organization for Migration (IOM) was the special guests in the occasion. Shelter Home Management trainees, Lawyers, NGO activists including INGOs and concern government officials and care givers of GO & NGOs' run shelter homes were present in the occasion.

#### **e) Study Visit:**

- IOM arranged study tour to Nepal and India for the partner organizations. These two visits were very fruitful and the participants appreciated the initiative very much. A team consisting of 9 members from Ministry of Home Affairs, partner NGOs and IOM Dhaka, under the leadership of Joint Secretary (Political), Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), Government of Bangladesh visited Nepal. The team physically visited Nepalese well reputed organization, Maiti Nepal, National Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Home Affairs and SAARC Secretariat at Katmandu, Nepal. Another team went to India for experience sharing; focusing on victim care and support system of India. The 10 member team was led by the Deputy Secretary (Immigration), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Bangladesh. They visited PRAYAS: Institute of Juvenile Justice, UNODC, Institute of Social Science, STOP<sup>4</sup> Shelter Home and Delhi University Café run by the Victims of Trafficking and "Ashray" - The Large Extended Family Home.
- A five (5) member delegation from Bangladesh led by Home Secretary, participated in the Vienna Forum, held from 13 – 15 February, 2008 at Vienna, Austria. The objective of the forum is to raise awareness of the need for adopting a comprehensive criminal justice response strategy to prevent and combat human trafficking in order to yield sustainable results in terms of reducing the numbers of

<sup>4</sup> Stop Trafficking and Oppression of Children and Women (STOP), a New Delhi based NGO

victims of trafficking and increased prosecution of the convicted perpetrators. The Vienna Forum helped the participants to know more about human trafficking situation from global perspective.

**f) Media Campaign:**

- Expressions Limited, a communication agency, was commissioned for telecasting and broadcasting of TV spots, documentary films, radio drama serial and radio spot. During the project period they arranged telecasting of 240 TV programs (TV spots and documentary) and broadcasting of 835 radio programmes (radio drama serial; 13 episodes and radio spot) to aware the community people on the issue of human trafficking. A huge number of community people made aware from this media campaign. A quiz programme was introduced after each episode of radio drama serial<sup>5</sup> to attract people to the radio programme. This was a very successful initiative and people became very interested in the drama series and sent lots of letters to IOM. About 832 letters we received from the listeners. Beside this a docu-drama had been developed which covered various activities including a success story of CTI project.

**g) Drama Campaign:**

- A NGO, named “Rupantar”, was commissioned to carry out the Drama Campaign in different districts of the country. They staged 356 drama campaigns which covered a total of 1,575,877 (1,032,927 male & 542,950 female) community people where counter-trafficking messages were disseminated by Rupantar through pot song, drama and folk song. This type of activity was widely accepted by the community people.

**h) Study:**

- Commissioned one consultant to carry out the situational analysis on internal trafficking. The main objective of the study was to understand and analyze the internal trafficking situation in Bangladesh with special focus on women and children. The specific objectives of the study were – a) To assess the extent of internal trafficking for begging, fishing and prostitution – in general for slavery-like and exploitative outcomes; b) To identify the mode of recruitment for internal trafficking; c) To identify and analyze the causes and consequences, actors and factors of internal trafficking both from supply and demand perspective; d) To review the policies, rules, regulations and legal instruments to identify the inadequacies in addressing the issue of internal trafficking; and e) To draw recommendations for future interventions.

**i) Addressing Labour Migration Abuse:**

- IOM held a meeting with the Secretary and senior officials of the MOEWOE to brief them about the activities of the additional component, ‘Addressing labour migration abuse’ under the CTI project. Accordingly, the Ministry of Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment (MOEWOE) endorsed the additional component. Inter-Ministerial Committee also endorsed the additional component and was given the responsibility to monitor the activities under the additional component.
- Inter-Ministerial Committee held four meetings and recommended certain strategies including four studies.
- Study to review the laws and regulation related to labour migration completed. The study recommended necessary amendment to the Emigration Ordinance, 1982 among others. Final Report submitted to the MOEWOE for follow-up activity.

<sup>5</sup> Radio drama serial was broadcasted 4 times but the quiz programme was introduced only after first 13 episodes

- Consultation meeting come up with a set of recommendations to be incorporated in the study report. A total of 61 participants attended the consultation.
- Study on the Complaint Mechanism completed. The report come up with a set of recommendations including bring the unscrupulous *Dalal* (intermediaries) under a legal framework, and promotion of safe and regular migration. Report submitted to the MOEWOE for follow-up activities. A total of 17 members were present.
- Inputs from the members of the Inter-Ministerial Committee incorporated in the study reports.
- Study completed on the nature and trends of abuses and exploitations in trafficking in persons and in labour migration process from Bangladesh. Report submitted to the MOEWOE.
- Study to review the capacity of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MOEWOE) and Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) with regard to facilitating and managing labour migration completed. Report submitted to the MOEWOE.
- IOM in collaboration with the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment organized a three-day training workshop from 23 to 25 March 2008 for Bangladeshi Labour Attachés in Dhaka with the aim of enhancing government capacity and cooperation efforts to protect migrant workers and optimize the benefits of managed labour migration. A total of 12 Labour Attachés (LA) stationed in 10 destination countries and 5 officials of MOEWOE and BMET participated at the workshop. These Labour Attaches are GoB officials posted abroad who have the role to assist the migrant workers in a wide range of matters as well as to promote employment of Bangladeshi citizens abroad. The outcome of the workshop included - review and update of the Labour Attaché ToR and mission-specific Action Plans to be implemented by Labour Attaches.
- IEC materials distributed for mass awareness on trafficking in persons (TIP) and safe migration through the Probashi Kallyan Desk (Migrants' Welfare Desk) at 64 offices of the Deputy Commissioners, District Employment and Manpower Office (DEMO), BMET, IOM's partner NGOs under CTI project, and other NGOs working in the area of TIP and migration.
- The committee translated (Bengali to English) the "Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000 (Amended in 2003)".

#### **i) Community Campaign:**

- Save the Children – USA was running a very effective school programme (SUCCEED) in their working areas. IOM communicated with them to use their model in our school programme to carry out school campaign effectively. Save the Children – USA conducted a Training of Trainers (two batches) for the 18 program staff of the selected 7 NGOs along with the SCF – USA staff so that they can run the "School Campaign" effectively and efficiently in their working areas.
- **Field level activities by NGOs:**
  - A total of 14,328 (11,305 male & 3,023 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 7,964 (7,850 male & 114 female) Bazar Committee members were made aware of the issue of human trafficking.
  - A total of 9,671 (9,132 male & 539 female) local leaders were aware about the issue of human trafficking and their role in preventing human trafficking.

- A total of 8,144 (6,828 & 1,316 female) members of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) were informed about the issue and their role to prevent human trafficking.
- A total of 32,069 students (11,921 male & 20,148 female) students were aware about the issue of human trafficking and their vulnerability to trafficking.
- A total of 10,744 (5,223 male & 5,521 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 8,930 (6,730 male & 2,200 female) teachers which also includes members of the management committee were aware about the different aspects of human trafficking and their role in preventing human trafficking.
- A total of 4,190 (2,775 male & 1,415 female) community people attended awareness raising programme organized by BNWLA for sustainable reintegration of survivors.

#### **k) Evaluation:**

- One mid-term evaluation of the project was conducted by an Independent Consultant in July 2007. The main objective of the evaluation was to assess the progress of the project. The evaluation was carried out in order to assess the progress made so far towards achieving the project objectives and milestones, and to identify its strengths, constraints, and lessons learned, as well as to assess the efficacy of the strategy, and recommend adjustments to current activities. The consultant assessed the achievements made so far, tried to find out weakness/constraints and also recommended measures/suggestions.
- The end-project evaluation carried out by the same external consultant in August 2008. The evaluation was carried out to assess the project achievements and outcomes as well as its strengths and constraints, and to determine if the lessons learned could point a way forward for designing future counter-trafficking interventions.

#### **l) SIDR Reconstruction Activities:**

##### ***Administrative***

- Selected two partner NGOs to carry out SIDR activities in the four districts;
- An agreement was signed between IOM and partner NGOs after they received clearance from NGO Affairs Bureau;
- Partner NGOs recruited 2 Programme Officers and 1 Community Information Centre (CIC) staff for each district;
- IOM recruited one Intern for SIDR activities; and
- Purchased equipment for NGOs.

##### ***Programmatic***

##### ***↳ Training***

- A tailor made training programme was organized for the local media people to report trafficking cases properly and also aware mass people through their write-ups in different newspapers. A total of 104 journalists/media people (103 male & 1 female) attended the training programme.
- At the end of the initiative, a stocktaking of their activities was done by organizing a meeting in each of the districts. A total of 89 participants (88 male & 1 female) attended the follow-up meeting. They also assured that they would continue the initiative in their areas.

### ↳ **Capacity Building & Material Development**

- Organized an orientation training for the newly recruited NGO staff. The main objective of the training was to orient them about different aspects of trafficking and migration, how to run the field level activities, how to run the CIC, roles and responsibilities of CIC, and what type of information should be provided. A total of 12 staff from four districts attended the training.
- A half day workshop on “Message Development” was organized to brainstorm and develop effective and timely materials and messages which can be used to promote safe migration and prevent human trafficking. These materials were disseminated to the potential or vulnerable migrant workers through the Community Information Centres (CICs). A total of 24 participants from different organizations including IOM attended the workshop. The materials which were selected and approved for printing were – i) Poster (3 types); ii) Post Card (2 types); iii) CIC Information Card (4 districts specific); iv) Class routine; v) Hand Fan; and vi) T-shirt.

### ↳ **Campaign and Advocacy**

- A total of 11,574 (4,834 male & 6,740 female) parents/guardians were sensitized about the issue of safe migration and human trafficking and how they can help to prevent human trafficking.
- A total of 18,669 (15,516 male & 3,153 female) community people were made aware about the issue of safe migration and human trafficking.
- Radio drama serial were broadcasted under the media campaign to aware the community people.
- A total of 2,611 (2,043 male & 568 female) Union Parishad Chairmen and Members were sensitized about the issue of safe migration and human trafficking and their roles and responsibilities in preventing human trafficking.
- A total of 43,002 (31,539 male & 11,463 female) community people were made aware about the issue by arranging video shows.
- A total of 125 (106 male & 19 female) stakeholders attended the stakeholders meeting. They committed to prevent human trafficking.

### ↳ **Community Information Centre**

- Community Information Centre (CIC) established in the four districts. The main objective of the CIC was – to promote safe migration and aware the vulnerable people about the dire consequences of trafficking in persons. The CIC provided information to the potential migrants about the processes and also informed the people about the unscrupulous recruitment agencies, intermediators, fake employment agencies and others who are involved in corruption. It also provided information to the people about the genuine employment opportunities available outside the country and the correct procedure which needs to be followed.
- The project officer of CIC arranged monthly meeting of adolescent to aware people who are interested in migration and also prepared the adolescent so that they were not trapped by the human traffickers. A total of 391 (175 male & 216 female) adolescents attended these meetings.

### ↳ **Livelihood Options**

- Under this initiative 51 vulnerable/potential victims of trafficking received skill/vocational training so that they can earn their livelihood.

## 2. ACTIVITIES:

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

### **a) Administrative:**

- IOM sent a request letter on 27 September 2005 to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) to get the clearance and approval. IOM also requested to form a Project Implementation and Monitoring Committee and to nominate one Convenor and one Focal Point for the Project Implementation Committee.
- The Management of IOM recruited necessary project staff to carry out the project activities.
- IOM selected seven NGOs to carry out field level activities following the pre-assessment procedure. They were also provided with a Letter of Intent for the NGO Affairs Bureau's clearance to receive fund from IOM Dhaka.
- The MoHA and IOM jointly organized an "Inception Workshop" on 15 December 2005. The participants of the workshop were project partners, officials from the District Administration, officials from different Ministries and media.
- Purchased office furniture and equipment for the project.

### **b) Training:**

- Organized a five-day residential introductory training from 22 to 26 January 2006 at Dhaka for the program (18 persons), finance staff (7 persons) and Chief Executive/Senior Officials (7 persons) of the selected NGOs. IOM designed the training in such a manner so that all participants could have same level of understanding about program activities, finance, reporting and referral services.
- Organized a refreshers' training for the NGO programme and finance staff from 19 to 21 December 2006 at the DTSC, ASOD, Rangpur. The main objective of the training was to share the present situation of human trafficking and conceptual clarity on the various aspects of human trafficking.
- The training manual developed earlier for the Law Enforcement Officials was updated to impart training for the officers-in-charge of all the police stations of the country. IOM coordinated with the Police HQs to conduct the training for the Officers-in-Charge of all the police stations of Bangladesh.
- A sharing session was organized on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2006 at IOM conference room to share the manual developed for the public prosecutors and lawyers training. Representatives from the MoHA, Department of Justice – US Embassy, Federal Bureau of Investigation – Department of Justice – USA, Attorney General's Office, Policy Leadership and Advocacy for Gender Equality<sup>6</sup>, UNHCR, UNDP, USAID/Bangladesh, Legal Education and Training Institute of Dhaka Bar Association, Dhaka University and some NGOs. IOM sent the manual to the Ministry of Law through the MoHA for their approval.
- A MoU and Terms of Reference (ToR) was prepared and signed between Legal Education & Training Institute (LETI) of Bangladesh Bar Council and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Dhaka.
- One orientation session for the Trainee Officers of the Foreign Service Academy was organized at the IOM conference room on 22 November 2007.
- Two training sessions were organized (21–22 & 30–31 January 2008) at the Special Branch auditorium for the Land Port Immigration officials.

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<sup>6</sup> A project funded by CIDA

- IOM MRF Dhaka in collaboration with Diplomatic Correspondent Association of Bangladesh (DCAP) organized a three day media workshop from 5 to 7 June, 2008 at CDM, BRAC, Rajendrapur in Gazipur district.
- IOM Dhaka in collaboration with the Foreign Service Academy (FSA) under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a discussion meeting on 'migration and human trafficking' for government officials on 21 August 2008.

#### **c) Meetings:**

- Organized five meetings each for the Project Implementation Committee (PIC) and Monitoring Committee members.
- Organized one hundred and three (103) Advocacy Meetings in 63 districts. Upon request from IOM, MoHA issued a request letter to the district administration to organize these meetings at Deputy Commissioners' office. These meetings were facilitated by the IOM project staff.
- Organized six stakeholders' meetings in six divisions. The meeting was attended by the representatives from govt. officials, members of the partner organizations, civil society, print and electronic media.
- Organized a sharing meeting with the partners on September 27, 2006 at IOM office to discuss and share the implementation process of the project.
- IOM arranged two 'Roundtable on Irregular Migration' taking high and mid level officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- A coordination meeting among the partners under the CTI project was held from 10 to 11 June, 2007 at Bogra. Representative from USAID/Bangladesh, IOM Dhaka and representative from nine partner NGOs and Legal Education and Training Institute participated in the meeting. The duration of the meeting was for one and a half day.

#### **d) Victim Support and Care:**

- Organized a victim identification workshop with the partner NGOs to ensure that the referred person is a genuine victim of trafficking and to have a better understanding of a screening process.
- Four shelter homes run by ACD, BNWLA, DAM and TMSS provided services to the victims of trafficking under the signed agreement with IOM.
- Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) organized a total of six (6) batches of training on "Shelter Home Operation and Management". A training manual on this issue was also developed by them. Each training session was for three days long and it was participated by the staffs of different shelter homes/vagrant homes/development center (GOs & NGOs).

#### **e) Study Visit:**

- IOM arranged study tour to Nepal from 13 to 16 August and to India from 10 to 13 September 2007 for the partners NGOs.
- A five (5) member delegation from Bangladesh led by Home Secretary, participated in the Vienna Forum, held from 13 – 15 February, 2008 at Vienna, Austria. The event was held under the auspices of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), of which the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is a member of the steering committee.

#### **f) Media Campaign:**

- Expressions Limited, a communication agency, was commissioned for the Media Campaign i.e. screening of TV, radio spots, documentary, radio drama serial and development of TV documentary under the media campaign component.

**g) Drama Campaign:**

- Commissioned a specialized organization named 'RUPANTAR' to develop and stage 'Pot Song<sup>7</sup>' in different districts. Signed an 'Agreement' between IOM and Rupantar for carrying out drama campaign in the project areas. Rupantar carried out 356 shows in different districts in collaboration with IOM's partner NGOs.

**h) Study:**

- Commissioned one consultant to conduct the situational analysis on internal trafficking. The situation of internal trafficking in persons is not a widely studied phenomenon – most of the studies have had focused on external (i.e. cross border) trafficking. Moreover, in the last five years almost no significant study on situation of internal trafficking was undertaken.

**i) Addressing labour migration abuse:**

- IOM held a meeting on 31 January 2008 with the Secretary and Senior Officials of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MOEWOE) to apprise them on the new component of the project. MOEWOE formed an Inter-Ministerial Committee having representations from all concerned ministries and departments with an aim to develop effective mechanism to monitor abuses and exploitations in the labour migration process.
- IOM commissioned a study on the laws, circulars and practices concerning overseas employment service and overseas employment administration in Bangladesh.
- IOM organized a consultation meeting with various stake holders on 09 May 2008 to share the draft report of the legal review. It was attended among others by the Secretary to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Secretary to the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, Additional Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Director of Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training. In the consultation comments from various stakeholders were collected on the draft study report on laws, regulations, circulars and practice concerning overseas employment service providers and overseas employment administrations in Bangladesh to enrich the study.
- IOM commissioned a study on the assessment of the process of documentation of complaints of the labour migrants from Bangladesh in recruitment process.
- IOM held a consultation meeting with various stake holders including relevant senior government officials to share the draft study report on complaints mechanism on 09 August 2008.
- IOM commissioned Consultant presented the two draft study reports: on the legal review and complaints mechanism at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee held on 17 July 2008.
- IOM commissioned a study to look into the nature and trends of abuses and exploitations in trafficking in persons and in labour migration process from Bangladesh.
- IOM commissioned a study to review the capacity of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (MOEWOE) and Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) with regard to facilitating and managing labour migration from Bangladesh.
- IOM in collaboration with the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment organized a three-day training workshop from 23 to 25 March 2008 for Bangladeshi Labour Attachés in Dhaka.
- IOM developed IEC materials (i.e. leaflets, postcards, posters).

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<sup>7</sup> Traditional Local Music

- A drafting committee comprised of - Barrister M. Amir-ul Islam, Chairman, LETI, Mr. Ikhtedder Ahmed, Registrar, Bangladesh Supreme Court, Dr. Sk. Abdur Rashid, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Mr. Mainul Kabir, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and Mr. Kazi Reazul Hoque, Director, LETI to translate the “Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000 (Amendment in 2003).

#### **j) Community Campaign:**

- Signed a MoU with the Save the Children – USA’s SUCCEED project on 20 March 2006 to conduct the School Campaign more effectively.

#### **• Field Level Activities by NGOs:**

- Carried out 1,086 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.
- Carried out 544 meetings with Bazar Committee members to inform them about the issue and the vital role they can play to prevent human trafficking as bazar is the place from where recruiters collect their prey.
- Carried out 545 meetings with Local Leaders to aware them about the issue and to involve them in preventing human trafficking.
- Carried out 543 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 543 meetings with school students to aware them about the different aspects of human trafficking and their vulnerability. Students were provided with a colourful ID card with anti-trafficking message.
- Carried out 543 meetings with the parents of the students to aware them about the issue of human trafficking and also to discuss their roles and responsibilities to protect their children.
- Carried out 542 meetings with the teachers of the school to discuss the issue of human trafficking and their vital role to protect the children from being trafficked.
- BNWLA organized 107 awareness raising programme at the community level in 67 districts for sustainable reintegration of survivors.

#### **k) Evaluation:**

- Carried out two evaluations of the project and was conducted by an Independent Consultant. One mid-term evaluation and other one is end-project evaluation.

#### **l) SIDR Reconstruction Activities:**

##### ***Administrative***

- Identified two partner NGOs to carry out SIDR activities;
- Signed sub-agreement with partner NGOs;
- Recruited NGO staff;
- Recruited Intern for IOM; and
- Purchased equipment for NGOs

## **Programmatic**

### **↳ Training**

- Organized four (4) training sessions for the local journalist/media representative.
- Organized four (4) follow-up sessions with local journalist/media representative.

### **↳ Capacity Building & Material Development**

- Organized one (1) orientation training on 24 April 2008 at Khulna for the newly recruited NGO staff.
- Arranged a materials development workshop on 17 April 2008 at IOM Office to develop and print IEC materials to be distributed in the field.

### **↳ Campaign and Advocacy**

- Arranged 400 parents/guardians meetings.
- Arranged 50 bazaar meetings.
- Carried out media campaign (radio programme).
- Carried out 200 meetings with LEBs.
- Arranged 80 video shows.
- Organized 4 stakeholders meetings.

### **↳ Community Information Centre (CIC)**

- Established 4 CICs in the four districts.
- Organized 16 adolescent group meetings.

### **↳ Livelihood Options**

- Provided skill/vocational training to 51 vulnerable/potential victims.

## **3. ACHIEVEMENTS AT A GLANCE:**

### **Prevention:**

- It is assumed that more than ten million people are aware about the issue of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) from 240 TV spots and 835 radio events.
- 103 meetings were organized in the 63 districts with different stakeholders covering 2,422 stakeholders.
- A total of 7,964 bazaar committee members are aware about the issue from 540 meetings held in 18 districts.
- A total of 8,144 members of the Community Based Organization (CBOs) of 18 districts are aware about the issue from 543 meetings.
- About 15, 75,577 general people are aware about the issue from the 356 pot songs and stage dramas in different districts.
- A total of 1,080 meetings were held in 18 districts covering 14,328 local elected bodies (LEBs) to sensitize them on the TIP issue and organize them against traffickers.
- A total of 47,274 students, parents and teachers from 18 districts received awareness programme.
- 540 community meetings were held in 18 districts with religious leaders, local elites, etc. for making 9,671 people aware about the issue.

### **Protection:**

- 574 traffic victims/survivors/rescued persons from harmful situation received physical and mental treatment, psychosocial counseling, shelter, legal aid, entrepreneurial skills development training.

- 431 out of 574 victims received skill development training and support for business set up.
- A total of 30 staff of partner NGOs received training in providing psychosocial counseling, care & legal aid and referral services.

#### **Prosecution:**

- A total of 520 Officers-in-Charge of 588 police stations received training to handle trafficking survivors in a humane manner.
- 28 land port immigration officials received training on basics of human trafficking and victim care and support to handle trafficking cases properly.
- 156 more inspector level officials from Detective Branch (DB), District Intelligence Office (DIO), and Criminal Investigation Department (CID) trained.
- A total of 1,352 Bar Council members, Public Prosecutors and lawyers in 18 districts received training.
- A Legal Aid Clinic has been set up by the Bar Council.

#### **SIDR reconstruction activities**

- 11,574 parents were sensitized about the issue.
- 200 meetings were held to organize 2,611 LEBs against traffickers.
- 50 bazaar meetings were held to raise awareness of 18,669 bazaar community people.
- 80 video shows were organized for sensitizing 43,002 people.
- Adolescent meetings, stakeholder meetings and journalist meetings were held covering 391 adolescents, 125 stakeholders and 89 journalists.
- 51 vulnerable/potential victims received vocational training.
- A Community Information Centre (CIC) has been established to promote safe migration and to provide information to potential migrants.

#### **Studies:**

Five studies carried out under the project:

- Study on review of existing laws and regulations related to migration in Bangladesh.
- Study on complaint mechanisms concerning abuses and exploitation in the labour migration process in Bangladesh.
- Study on the nature and trends of abuses and exploitations in trafficking in persons and in labour migration processes in Bangladesh.
- Study to review the capacity of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment and the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) with regard to facilitating and managing labour migration from Bangladesh.
- Study to understand and analyze the internal trafficking situation in Bangladesh with special focus on children.

#### **Other Publications/Outputs:**

- A training manual 'Enhancing Capacity of the Law Enforcement Agencies (ECLEA) to address Trafficking in Persons in Bangladesh'.
- Shelter Home Operation and Management Manual.
- Information, Education and Communication (IEC) products:
  - DVDs
  - TV spots
  - Talk shows
  - Radio programs
- Media workshop.

- Program for government officials:
  - Foreign Service Academy training program
  - Labour Attaché training workshop
  - Orientation training for land port immigration officials
- National events co-organized:
  - National Action Forum (NAF) Conference
  - Counter-trafficking workshop (with Terre des Hommes Italy and Concern Universal)

#### **4. SYNERGIES WITH OTHER USAID SUPPORTED PROJECTS:**

Under this project IOM works with other USAID/Bangladesh's funded project to bring synergies with other projects.

IOM works with USAID's partner RUPANTAR which has the local expertise on Pot song and drama. This expertise is being used in this project to bring awareness to community people on the issue of human trafficking. IOM also works with another USAID funded project SUCCEED implemented by Save the Children USA. Through this project counter-trafficking messages are disseminated to school students, mothers groups, children groups, teachers and children learning centers. IOM trained all the relevant IOM and Save the Children USA staff on the issues of trafficking in persons. Both SUCCEED and IOM have been closely working in the advocacy and communication aspects of trafficking in persons and jointly developed stories and materials on counter-trafficking. SUCCEED developed a session plan for integrating the issue in their parenting programme. So far, around 90 staff, 360 teachers, 7,000 parents and 7,500 children has been part of the awareness campaign. IOM and SUCCEED jointly monitored school campaign activities in the Jessore area. Regarding health care and support for victims of trafficking, IOM and USAID partner NSDP worked together to support the victims of trafficking with health benefit cards and other medical facilities.

NSDP partner NGOs and IOM – CTI project partner NGOs signed a Letter of Understanding (LOU) on 30 September 2007 which has been effective from the date of signing. NSDP has thirty NGO partners and IOM – CTI project has seven NGO partners. Under this LOU, NSDP partners will provide health care services, including general health check-ups, immunization, treatment of sexually transmitted infection (STIs) and minor sickness, and reproductive health and family planning to the victims of trafficking referred by the USAID sponsored anti trafficking entities. Trafficking victims would also be provided green color health benefit cards for free to get services including medicines, and lab tests available in the clinics. It would help to get the medical facilities through their satellite clinic called “Surjer Hashi<sup>8</sup>” within shortest possible time.

#### **5. CONSTRAINTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN:**

During the project IOM did not face any major obstacles in implementing the project activities. This is attributed to a great extent to the good support from the Ministry of Home Affairs (Nodal Ministry) in every respect. The smaller constraints which the project encountered, and the actions taken to address those are mentioned below:

- Political uncertainty/unrest in the first year led to some delay in completing some activities, such as developing/finalizing lawyers' training manual, organizing drama campaign in different districts, etc., but when the unrest was over we expedite the process and managed to complete all the pending activities within the project period.

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<sup>8</sup> Smiling Sun

- After the cyclone SIDR we had to postpone some activities in the affected districts for a few months. Nevertheless in the later stage we managed to achieve all those remaining activities, with an additional awareness raising component in the four cyclone SIDR affected districts without additional staff.
- Due to security problem in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, we had to postpone advocacy meetings several times. Finally, in the third year of the project we conducted the advocacy meetings in the Hill Tracts area.

## **6. CHALLENGES:**

- Generally, the CTI team and partner NGOs felt there were no significant challenges. Still, one issue remained unresolved to the end.
- Shortage of staff was a challenge from the very inception of CTI. There was only one project coordinator instead of the required two. Also during the project period (mid and last year), some staff left after receiving better offer and scholarship for higher studies, which led to some internal inconvenience.
- Monitoring too was an important challenge due to shortage of staff. There was a monitoring mechanism for feedback from the field, but it could have been much more effective if there was a dedicated staff for monitoring and oversight.
- A new activity in the form of research studies was included in the later half of the project period. This additional activity on top of staff shortage, time constraint and the rush to complete the other activities, proved to be a significant challenge for the team. However, that could be overcome due to the extra and dedicated effort put in by the project staff.
- At field level, the challenge was in monitoring and follow-up. In fact, partner NGOs regret not having the scope to do follow up of LEB meetings to assess outcomes. Here too the main reason was shortage of staff. According to the partner-NGO DISA, it was difficult for one person to organize the meetings, make the necessary logistics arrangements, travel all over the district and do monitoring and reporting. Similar staff constraints were faced by the implementing NGO partners.

## **7. STRENGTHS:**

- In spite of staff constraints and the time pressure resulting the first year of 'slow' progress and addition of new components in the final year, all the major objectives of the project were achieved. This can be attributed to the strong support of the PIC and USAID, the good team spirit as well as good coordination with partner-NGOs.
- The ownership and commitment of the PIC, including MoHA, MoEWOE, MoFA, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, and Ministry of Social Welfare were instrumental in fulfilling the project objectives. The collaboration between MoHA and IOM proved to be stronger than any other experienced before by development partners, including IOM. Since the beginning, MoHA's assistance had made it possible to carry out the community drama campaign in spite of restrictions on public gatherings imposed by the emergency situation in the country. Deputy Commissioners were directed by MoHA to extend cooperation to the project and to ensure cooperation and participation of everyone concerned for the district level advocacy meetings. According to NGO-partners they were able to mitigate negative situations in field level meetings by the mere reference to MoHA's support and involvement in the project.
- USAID's support lay particularly in their flexibility to readjust project terms. Their willingness to reduce the number of victims for support from 975 to 400 was a timely decision and led to a more focused response to victim support and assistance within the project period.

- The interest and involvement of the Bar Council, and by extension LETI, in the lawyers' training program also lent significant support to the project. The success of the training program was largely due to their interest in sustaining the activity.
- The project benefited much from the commitment of the CTI team. Their ability to respond to field requests with immediate solutions allowed timely implementation of activities. The team members each came with their own expertise as well as the dedication to work all hours and often through the week without break. Coordination was also a strong point as there was almost daily interaction with all the partners, who proved their worth at every stage of the project. Close supervision by the RR and active involvement in the project's activities also contributed to the overall achievement of the project's goal.

## 8. LESSONS:

The project has some lessons for future consideration:

- Effective prevention activities lead to more people being protected against trafficking.
- It is easy to implement project activities if there is government cooperation and support. Access to different places is made easy with support from relevant organs of the government.
- Careful and (as much as possible) accurate budgeting is important. Under budgeting is better than over budgeting, not because of lack of cost heads, but because there may not be enough time to spend an ambitious amount.
- It is possible to run and manage a project like CTI with foresight and good planning.
- Local NGOs are the right advocates to reach the community given their acceptability and credibility in the locality
- Meetings with local leaders are effective channels for reaching communities to enlist cooperation and participation in project activities.
- Messages disseminated through songs and drama shows can easily attract audiences.
- Adolescents make good peer educators.

## 9. CONCLUSIONS:

The project succeeded in achieving all major objectives and targets within the project time. It was also a project which succeeded in establishing a high standard of rapport and arrangement with the Government Ministries and departments as well as other major stakeholders. Of particular mention is the robust engagement made with the different branches of the law enforcement agencies. Other groundbreaking achievements of the project were the successful commissioning of studies on sensitive subjects such as: labour migration abuses, situation of internal trafficking and government's capacity to deal with migration management challenges. Another significant achievement was the recognition given to the need for victims support for sustainable livelihood opportunities. The project can take credit for inculcating a rights-based victim centric approach to counter-trafficking interventions in Bangladesh.

It is expected that the implementation of different types of activities in the field of counter-trafficking would provide a positive result in curbing the trafficking in persons in Bangladesh. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) appreciates the support of USAID/Bangladesh to work for the people of Bangladesh who are in risk of trafficking and also appreciates all the organizations that extended their cooperation to achieve IOM's goal.

## 10. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

*(Will be provided by Finance Section)*

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