

**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's 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 April to 30 June 2007

Total Budget : US\$ 1,983,140

Expenditure During Reporting Period : **US\$ (Will be provided by Accounts Section)**

SUMMARY:

To achieve the overall objectives and purpose of the project the following activities were taken up from 1 April to 30 June 2007:

- Training for the lawyers and public prosecutors;
- Seven selected NGOs carried out –
 - 110 meetings with Locally Elected Bodies (LEBs);
 - 55 meetings with Bazaar Committee members;
 - 49 meetings with Local Leaders;
 - 53 meetings with Community Based Organizations (CBOs);
 - 51 meetings with school students;
 - 57 meetings with the parents of the students; and
 - 55 meetings with the teachers of the school.

Through the above mentioned field level activities **9,455 community people** (LEBs, bazar committee members, religious leaders, students, parents, teachers, etc.) from different unions in **18 districts** were sensitized and made aware of the issue of human trafficking. Beside this, **200 lawyers and public prosecutors** were also provided training on the issue

of human trafficking and victim support and care. Additionally, 11 district level Advocacy Meetings (including one stakeholders meeting) were organized beyond the 18 districts to involve government officials, local NGOs, mass media and civil society representatives in the implementation of project activities and to get their cooperation for providing support to the traffic victims. Under the MOU with four shelter home service providers, a total of 63 traffic victims are being provided different services. A monitoring meeting was held at MoHA in the month of May 2007. During this period the 111 drama campaign took place in 18 districts as well.

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.

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 3 million people on the harm caused by trafficking in persons. The project has already started with school, drama and community campaigns occurring simultaneously to inform people about the issue of trafficking in persons in 18 districts of Bangladesh. Similarly, at the thana (union) level, meetings with Locally Elected Bodies (LEB) 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 committee meetings and meetings with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) to support the awareness initiatives of the project.

To ensure efficient implementation and community ownership of the project programmes and activities at the district level, activities carried out under this project incorporate local government leaders. Advocacy meetings with district administration, police officials and district level government officials, NGO representatives, mass media people and civil society members will ensure their involvement and solicit their support in implementing the project activities and for the traffic victims. During the reporting period a total of 11 advocacy meetings (including one stakeholders meeting) were conducted and coordinated by Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) and IOM.

A monitoring meeting was held at MoHA to discuss the progress/achievements of the project from the implementation of the project activities in different districts. The meeting was called by MoHA.

1. RESULTS:

The following results have been achieved during the reporting period:

- A total of 200 lawyers' and public prosecutors have been provided training on the issue of human trafficking and victim support and care.
- Conducted 11 Advocacy Meetings in 11 districts including one stakeholders meeting at Chittagong which was clubbed with advocacy meeting, where 283 district level Government Officials, NGO representatives, people from mass media and civil society members were present. They appreciated the initiative very much and expressed their commitment to extend cooperation in implementing the project activities to prevent human trafficking and to provide support to the victims of trafficking. These meetings were facilitated by the IOM project staff.
- A total of 63 traffic victims have received different services (medical, legal, psychosocial counseling, skill training) from four shelter homes.
- We have received the list of land port immigration officials for the training. The process of training is under process and hopefully it will take place in next quarter.
- Expressions Limited was commissioned for developing one TV spot, one radio programme and a drama for the radio. After producing these audio-visual materials it will be telecasted/broadcasted. It is assumed that a big number of mass people will be made aware from this media campaign.
- A total of 571,950 (387,250 male & 184,700 female) community people attended the drama campaign where counter-trafficking messages were disseminated by Rupantar through pot song, drama and folk song.
- A total of 1,446 (1,141 male & 305 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 845 (843 male & 2 female) Bazaar Committee members were made aware of the issue of human trafficking.
- A total of 859 (828 male & 31 female) local leaders were aware about the issue of human trafficking and their role in preventing human trafficking.
- A total of 768 (610 male & 158 female) members of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) were informed about the issue and their role to prevent human trafficking.
- A total of 3,456 students (1,353 male & 2,103 female) students were made aware about the issue of human trafficking.
- A total of 1,220 (548 male & 672 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 861 (666 male & 195 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.

2. ACTIVITIES:

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

- IOM signed a MOU with Dhaka Bar Council to coordinate the training programme of the lawyers' and public prosecutor through their Legal Education & Training Institute (LETI).

After the launching ceremony of the training manual, held in March 2007, the first batch of the training started on 29 April 2007. Up to reporting period a total of eight (8) batches have been organized by LETI. Total 25 participants attended in each batch. The duration of the each batch training is two-days.

- Eleven (11) Advocacy Meetings (including one stakeholders meeting) have been organized in 11 new districts (*Bogra, Sirajganj, Pabna, Madaripur, Faridpur, Bagerhat, Khulna, Manikganj, Mymensingh, Meherpur and Narail*). 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 Deputy Commissioners' office. IOM project staff facilitated those meetings.
- A monitoring meeting was called by MoHA on 15 May 2007 at the Ministry of Home Affairs. The meeting was presided over by the Joint Secretary (Political) and also the Convenor of the project.
- Several meetings were organized with the communication agency to share with them the ideas for developing new TV spot, radio programme and radio drama. After finalizing these materials they will arrange telecasting and broadcasting.
- Organized 111 drama campaigns by RUPANTAR in 18 districts.

➤ **Field Level Activities by Partner NGOs:**

- Carried out 110 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 55 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 49 meetings with Local Leaders to alert them to the issue and to involve them in preventing human trafficking.
- Carried out 53 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 57 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 55 meetings with school teachers to discuss the issue of human trafficking and their vital role to protect the children from being trafficked.

3. CONSTRAINTS AND ACTION TAKEN:

During this period the project had to shift some awareness raising activities due to the prevailing emergency situation and time constraint of union parishad chairman & members, especially in the field.

4. SYNERGIES WITH OTHER USAID'S SUPPORTED PROJECTS:

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

IOM is communicating with USAID's partner NSDP¹ which has the medical facilities at the local level. IOM has a plan to get these services from NSDP's clinics free of cost for the victims of trafficking. If both the parties agree, then a MOU will be signed between IOM and NSDP for using this support.

5. CONCLUSIONS:

During the reporting period most of the activities have been undertaken as per work plan though some could not be completed. Hopefully all the activities as per milestone – 2 will be achieved within the next quarter of the project.

The next steps of the project will be conducting a series of training courses for the Bar Association members, Public Prosecutors and Lawyers; providing support to the victims of trafficking; arranging orientation training for the land port immigration officials; and developing & telecasting/broadcasting of TV/Radio drama and spots. One Project Implementation Committee (PIC) meeting and one monitoring meeting will be called by MoHA in the next quarter. At the same time, school campaign, community campaign and drama campaign will also continue.

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.

6. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(Will be provided by the finance section separately).

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¹ NGO Service Delivery Program (Smiling Sun Clinic)