

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)
Project Partner Agencies	: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)	: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victims/survivors/rescued from harmful situation • School children, parents and teachers • Local elites • Bar association members, public prosecutors and lawyers • Community people
Project Period	: 22 September 2005 to 21 September 2008
Reporting Period	: 22 September to 21 December 2005
Total Budget	: US\$ 1,983,140
Funds Available for Reporting Period	: US\$ 600,000
Funds Contributed by USAID/Bangladesh	: US\$ 600,000
Expenditure During Reporting Period	: US\$ (<i>Will be provided by Finance Section</i>)

SUMMARY:

The project started from 22 September 2005 and will end on 21 September 2008. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) has provided its clearance and approval to implement the project in 18 districts of Bangladesh. A Project Implementation Committee (PIC) has been formed by MoHA taking representatives from other concerned Ministries, USAID/Bangladesh and IOM. A Convenor and a Focal Point were nominated in MoHA for coordinating the activities of PIC. Necessary staff for the project has also been appointed. IOM has visited different organizations for capacity assessment and selected seven local NGOs to carry out the field level activities. An "Inception Workshop" was jointly organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs and IOM.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

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

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 shelter; 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 start 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 (LEB) 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 project programmes and activities at the district level, several activities will be carried out under this project. The activities including advocacy meetings with district level administration and police officials, District Commissioners and Superintendent of Police to discuss the project activities/ensure their involvement and solicit their support in implementing the project activities. 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 will be jointly arranged by MoHA and IOM at the beginning of the project in Dhaka. Project partners, District Commissioner (DC), Superintendent of Police (SP) from 18 districts will participate in the meeting. The inception meeting will focus 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).

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

1. RESULTS:

The following results have been achieved during the reporting period:

- Obtained clearance and approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Appointed one Convenor and one Focal Point by the Ministry of Home Affairs 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%)).
- Formed a Project Implementation Committee (PIC) in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- Seven NGOs have been selected to carry out grassroots level activities and provided a letter of intent from IOM.
- Organized an “Inception Workshop” in Dhaka.

2. ACTIVITIES:

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

- We sent a request letter on 27 September 2005 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to get its clearance and approval. The Ministry provided its clearance on 10 October 2005 for the implementation of the project. It also formed a Project Implementation Committee (PIC) for the monitoring of the project implementation. The Ministry appointed one Convenor and one Focal Point for the PIC.
- The first meeting of PIC held on 9 November 2005 in the Ministry of Home Affairs. The meeting was chaired by the Additional Secretary of the Ministry who is the Convenor of PIC.
- In the PIC meeting it was decided that the “Inception Meeting” would be held on the 2nd week of December 2005. It was also agreed in the meeting that it would be “Inception Workshop” instead of “Inception Meeting”.
- The meeting also agreed to co-opt an Assistant Inspector General (Training) of Police Headquarters in the PIC.
- IOM project staff selected seven NGOs to carry out field level activities. They were also provided with a Letter of Intent for the NGO Affairs Bureau’s clearance to receive fund from IOM Dhaka.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (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. The main objectives of the workshop were to – appraise the participants about the project, its objectives, activities, involvement of Govt., stakeholders and others; and share the responsibilities of the Project Implementation Committee (PIC). In addition, the overall trafficking problem and appropriate intervention strategies were discussed.
- Developed a draft ‘Agreement’ and ‘Terms of Reference’ for NGOs and sent to USAID/Bangladesh for their comments and approval.
- Updated the training manual developed for the Law Enforcement Officials under the project “Enhancing Capacity of the Law Enforcement Agencies”.
- Coordinated with the Assistant Inspector General (Training) of Police to conduct the training for the Officers-in-Charge of all the police stations of Bangladesh.
- Communicated with a Communication Agency to outsource Media Campaign i.e. screening of TV, Radio spots, documentary, etc.
- Communicated with a specialized organization to develop and stage ‘Pot Song¹’ in 18 selected districts.
- Purchased equipment (3 computers) and office furniture (partial) for the project.

3. CONSTRAINTS AND ACTION TAKEN:

The signing of a sub-agreement with seven selected NGOs could not be completed as they did not receive the clearance from the NGO Affairs Bureau. It is expected that NGOs will receive clearance within the second week of January 2006 and then the sub-agreement will be signed. Accordingly the training for the NGO programme and finance staff will be carried out in the month of January 2006 as the sub-agreement will be

¹ Traditional Local Music

effective from 1 January 2006. So they will recruit necessary project staff from 1 January 2006.

The training module for the Law Enforcement Agencies has been updated and sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs for its approval. After getting their approval we will print the module for the training of Officers-in-Charge (OC). For the training of OC, we have the provision to bring them in Dhaka; but it was decided by PIC that it would be very difficult to bring all the OCs in Dhaka and have then leave the police stations. Now the training would be conducted in the six divisional Headquarters and it is expected that the training would start from February 2006.

A vehicle for the project has not yet been procured because under the USAID funded project there is a provision to buy a US made vehicle. But considering the situation of our country we are planning to procure a Japanese made vehicle. We are communicating with USAID to receive their waiver so that we can get a Japanese made vehicle.

4. CONCLUSIONS:

During the reporting period most of the activities have been undertaken as per work plan though some could not be completed. Most of the activities as per milestone-1, will be achieved within the first year of the project. The next step of the project will be the conduction of a series of training courses for the Officers-in-Charge and Bar Association members, Public Prosecutors and Lawyers. At the same time a media campaign, drama campaign, school and community campaign will also start.

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 who agreed to extend their cooperation to achieve IOM's goal.

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Enclosed (*Will be provided by Finance Section*)
