

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	: <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 December 2005 to 31 March 2006
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\$ 87,254

SUMMARY:

To achieve the overall objectives and purpose of the project the following activities were taken up from 22 December 2005 to 31 March 2006: agreements were signed with seven selected NGOs and a consultancy agreement with specialized NGO for "Drama Campaign"; introductory training was conducted for NGO staff; a MOU was signed with Save the Children – USA for the "School Campaign"; first draft of the training manual for Public Prosecutors and Lawyers was received; 11 "Advocacy Meetings" were conducted; and the seven selected NGOs carried out 40 meetings with LEB, 12 meetings with Bazar Committee members, 12 meetings with Local Leaders, 8 meetings with Community Based Organizations (CBOs), 18 meetings with school students, 10 meetings with the parents of the students, 18 meetings with the teachers of the school. Through the above mentioned

activities, 2,319 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. Also, 11 district level Advocacy Meetings were organized to involve government officials in the implementation of project activities.

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 simultaneously to inform people about the issue 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 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 level administration and police officials, District Commissioners and Superintendent of Police to discuss the project activities will 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. During the reporting period a total of 11 such advocacy meetings were conducted and coordinated by Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) and IOM.

IOM also organized some special meetings and workshops during this quarter. The introductory workshop was jointly arranged by MoHA and IOM at the beginning of the project in Dhaka. Project partners, the Deputy Commissioner (DC), and the Superintendent of Police (SP) from 18 districts participated in the meeting. The introductory meeting focused on the project objectives, activities and the participants' respective roles. A 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 meetings will be called by MoHA once every six months and attended by the members of the Project Implementation Committee (PIC). Once such meeting was arranged by MoHA this quarter.

1. RESULTS:

The following results have been achieved during the reporting period:

- Seven selected NGOs received the NGO Affairs Bureau's clearance to receive funds from IOM Dhaka in order to carry out field level activities under the project.
- Signed agreement between IOM and selected seven NGOs to carry out field level activities.
- A NGO, named "Rupantar" has been commissioned to carry out the 'Drama Campaign' in the 18 selected districts.
- 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.
- Signed a MoU with the Save the Children – USA to conduct the "School Campaign" more effectively.
- Received the first draft of the training manual for imparting training of Public Prosecutors and Lawyers.
- Conducted 11 "Advocacy Meetings" in 11 districts, where 247 district level Government Officials were present.
- A total of 555 (437 male & 118 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 198 (195 male & 3 female) Bazar Committee members were made aware of the issue of human trafficking.
- A total of 243 (203 male & 40 female) local leaders were aware about the issue of human trafficking and their role in preventing human trafficking.
- A total of 128 (70 male & 58 female) members of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) were informed about the issue and their role to prevent human trafficking.
- A total of 712 students (162 male & 550 female) students were aware about the issue of human trafficking.
- A total of 179 (109 male & 70 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 304 (252 male & 52 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.

2. ACTIVITIES:

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

- Draft 'Agreement' and 'Terms of Reference' for NGOs were cleared by USAID/Bangladesh and then it was sent to IOM HQs for their clearance and endorsement to sign the agreement. Accordingly clearance received from HQs and contracts were signed.
- A 'Consultancy Agreement' has been signed between IOM and Rupantar for carrying out a drama campaign in the project areas.

- Organized a five-day residential introductory training for programme (18 persons), finance staff (7 persons) and Chief Executive/Senior Officials (7 persons) of the selected NGOs. As per project document we had planned for two separate trainings for NGO staff. We combined the groups together for the 5 days of training as experience has shown there remains a gap of understanding between the program and finance staff regarding different activities and related expenditure of those activities if trainings are separate. We 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.
- Save the Children – USA is running a very effective school programme in their working areas. So we communicated with them to use their model in our school programme to carry out school campaign effectively. They will conduct a Training of Trainers for the 18 programme staff of the selected 7 NGOs so that they can run the “School Campaign” effectively and efficiently.
- Two Consultants were commissioned to develop the ‘Training Manual’ for imparting training of the Bar Association members, public prosecutors and lawyers. They have submitted the first draft of the training manual to IOM for comments and feedback and after that they will finalize the training manual.
- An agreement and Terms of Reference (ToR) was prepared and shared with the Legal Education & Training Institute (LETI) of Bangladesh Bar Council and they agreed with minor changes. LETI will be involved for coordinating the total training programme of the public prosecutors and lawyers. The draft agreement and ToR were also shared with IOM HQs Legal Department and they have given their endorsement.
- Eleven (11) Advocacy Meetings have been organized in 11 districts. 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. These meetings were facilitated by the IOM project staff. Representatives from concerned NGOs responsible for districts were also introduced with district administration in the meeting.
- **Field Level Activities by NGOs:**
 - Carried out 40 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 12 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 12 meetings with Local Leaders to aware them about the issue and to involve them in preventing human trafficking.
 - Carried out 8 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 18 meetings with school students to aware them about the different aspects of human trafficking.
 - Carried out 10 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 18 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.
- Purchased office furniture (partial) for the project.

3. CONSTRAINTS AND ACTION TAKEN:

No major obstacle faced during this period. But due to the S.S.C. examination, some NGOs had to shift the date for School Campaign and they carried out the events accordingly. Out of 22 they could finish 17 events and other 5 events have been shifted to next quarter.

“Advocacy Meeting” at Jaipurhat was shifted from 9 March 2006 as the Honourable Prime Minister visited the district on 9 March, so the district administration could not organize the meeting on that date and the meeting was shifted to 12 April 2006.

The bazar committee members did not want to provide time for meeting in the morning. So, NGOs were advised to arrange meetings in the afternoon/evening.

4. CONCLUSIONS:

During the reporting period most of the activities have been undertaken as per work plan though some could not 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 conduction of series of training courses for the Officers-in-Charge and Bar Association members, Public Prosecutors and Lawyers. At the same time media campaign and drama 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*)
