

## SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT TO USAID/BANGLADESH, DHAKA

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

<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 (MOI)</li> <li>• Local Govt. Division, 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>• Bar association members, public prosecutors and lawyers</li> <li>• Community people</li> </ul>
<b>Project Period</b>	: 22 September 2005 to 21 September 2008
<b>Reporting Period</b>	: 22 September to 31 March 2006
<b>Total Budget</b>	: US\$ 1,983,140
<b>Funds Available for Reporting Period</b>	: US\$ 600,000
<b>Funds Contributed by USAID/Bangladesh</b>	: US\$ 600,000
<b>Expenditure During Reporting Period</b>	: US\$ 87,254

### SUMMARY:

The project started from 22 September 2005 and will end on 21 September 2008. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) provided its clearance and approval to implement the project in 18 districts of Bangladesh. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) formed a Project Implementation Committee (PIC) 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. IOM recruited necessary staff for the project. IOM visited different organizations for capacity assessment and selected seven local NGOs to carry out the field level activities. Separate agreements were signed with seven selected NGOs and a consultancy agreement with specialized NGO for “Drama Campaign”. An “Inception Workshop” was jointly organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs and IOM. Beside this, some other activities were also taken during this period. These were introductory training for NGO staff; signed a MOU with Save the Children – USA for the “School Campaign”; received the

first draft of the training manual for Public Prosecutors and Lawyers; conducted 11 “Advocacy Meetings” and the seven selected NGOs carried out 40 meetings with LEB, 12 meetings with Bazaar 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, bazaar 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 from 11 district level Advocacy Meetings government officials were involved in the implementation of the 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 and activities at the district level, activities carried out under this project incorporating 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 period. 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. District wise monitoring meeting will also be called by MOHA in every six month.

## 1. RESULTS:

The following results have been achieved during the reporting period:

- Obtained clearance and approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs to implement the project activities in 18 districts.
- 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.
- Organized an "Inception Workshop" in Dhaka.
- Seven NGOs have been selected to carry out grassroots level activities and provided a letter of intent from IOM. After receiving the NGO Affairs Bureau's clearance to receive funds from IOM Dhaka in order to carry out field level activities, agreements were signed between IOM and selected seven NGOs.
- 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) Bazaar 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:

- 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 (ToR)’ for NGOs and sent to USAID/Bangladesh for their comments and approval. Draft ‘Agreement’ and ‘ToR’ 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 IOM HQs and contracts were signed.
- Communicated with a specialized organization to develop and stage ‘Pot Song<sup>1</sup>’ in 18 selected districts. A ‘Consultancy Agreement’ was signed between IOM and Rupantar for carrying out a drama campaign in the project areas.
- 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.
- 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

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<sup>1</sup> Traditional Local Music

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.
- Purchased equipment and office furniture (partial) for the project.
- **Field Level Activities by NGO Partners:**
  - 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 Bazaar Committee members to inform them about the issue and the vital role they can play to prevent human trafficking as bazaar 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.

### 3. CONSTRAINTS AND ACTION TAKEN:

The signing of a sub-agreement with seven selected NGOs was delayed as they did not receive the clearance from the NGO Affairs Bureau. Accordingly the training for the NGO programme and finance staff was delayed as the sub-agreement between IOM and NGOs was effective from 1 January 2006. So they recruited necessary project staff from 1 January 2006 and then the training took place.

The training module for the Law Enforcement Agencies was updated and sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs for their 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.

Due to the S.S.C. examination, some NGOs had to shift the date for School Campaign. 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 bazaar 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. VEHICLE WAIVER:**

Under the Grant agreement with USAID/Bangladesh IOM will procure a vehicle this year. Having consultation with USAID/Bangladesh contracting office IOM is now collecting all required documents and processing the vehicle waiver request letter.

#### **5. CONCLUSION**

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. During the next six-months, the following activities will be conducted along with other ongoing field level activities:

- Training courses for the Officers-in-Charge of all the police stations of Bangladesh.
- Training courses for the Bar Association members, Public Prosecutors and Lawyers.
- Media campaign (Telecasting and broadcasting).

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**

*(Will be provided by Finance Section)*

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