

**SEMI-ANNUAL 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 October 2006 to 31 March 2007

Total Budget : US\$ 1,983,140

Expenditure During Reporting Period : US\$ 178,504

SUMMARY:

To achieve the overall objectives and purpose of the project the following activities were taken up from 1 October 2006 to 31 March 2007:

- A refreshers' training for the NGO programme and finance staff;
- A launching ceremony of the lawyers training programme;
- A stakeholders meeting for district administration, civil society, NGOs and media;
- 7 selected NGOs carried out
 - 196 meetings with Locally Elected Bodies (LEBs);
 - 109 meetings with Bazar Committee members;
 - 111 meetings with Local Leaders;
 - 107 meetings with Community Based Organizations (CBOs);
 - 108 meetings with school students;
 - 100 meetings with the parents of the students; and
 - 99 meetings with the teachers of the school.

Through the above mentioned field level activities **17,675 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. Additionally, 9 district level Advocacy Meetings were organized to involve government officials in the implementation of project activities. We also received the approval of the lawyer's manual from the Ministry of Law and a launching ceremony was organized. A Project Implementation Committee meeting was held at MoHA in the month of December 2006. During this period a media and drama campaign took place 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 will ensure their involvement and solicit their support in implementing the project activities. During the reporting period a total of 9 such advocacy meetings were conducted and coordinated by Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) and IOM.

A meeting of the Project Implementation Committee was held at MoHA to discuss the various issues of the project. The meeting was called by MoHA.

1. RESULTS:

The following results have been achieved during the reporting period:

- Conducted 9 Advocacy Meetings in 9 districts, where 168 district level Government Officials were present. They appreciated the initiative very much and expressed their commitment to extend cooperation in implementing the project activities to prevent human trafficking. At the district level government has also taken some initiatives which they shared during the meeting. These meetings were facilitated by the IOM project staff. Representatives from district and police administration participated in the meeting.
- In the last Project Implementation Committee (PIC) meeting, members provided the approval of the training manual for the lawyers. MoHA was given the responsibility to accord official approval so that the training can start as soon as possible. Accordingly, Ministry of Law provided their endorsement on the training manual. For printing the training manual, a printing company was commissioned earlier and they were provided the work order to print the manual.
- The members of the PIC discussed the training of Immigration Officials at the land ports. It was also discussed that since the CTI project will provide victim care and support, all the districts should know about the services which will be provided by the shelter home service providers. Accordingly, PIC members decided that an advocacy meeting may be arranged beyond the 18 districts to disseminate the information. Further PIC members also proposed that advocacy and stakeholders meetings may be should be combined.
- The training manual for lawyers was finalized and approved by the Ministry of Law. Before starting the training programme, a launching ceremony was organized on 31 March 2007. The Honourable Advisor, Barrister Mainul Hosein, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Govt. of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh was present as Chief Guest and launched the “Training Manual”. Among other high level Government officials, Members from Supreme Court Bar Association and Mr. Richard Danziger, Head of Counter-Trafficking, IOM Geneva, was present in the launching ceremony. Mr. Richard Danziger also presented a keynote paper in the launching ceremony. About 110 people from different Ministries, government officials, donors, INGOs, NGOs, civil society, print & electronic media attended the launching ceremony, which was widely covered by the electronic and print media.
- A refreshers’ training was arranged for the NGO programme and finance staff at the Development, Training and Study Centre (DTSC) of ASOD¹ at Rangpur. A total of 30 staff members from 7 partner NGOs attended the training session. The training was for refreshing their conceptual clarity about human trafficking and migration. Achievements of first year and implementation process of second year activities were also shared/discussed in the training session. A session on “Rights based Approach to Protect and Support Victims of Trafficking in Persons” was very interesting and the approach can be considered in the CTI project. A presentation on NSDP² project activities was made for the participants to find out the synergy between these two projects. Apart from this, monitoring and financial issues were discussed for better management.
- Expressions Limited was commissioned earlier for telecasting and broadcasting of TV spots, documentary and radio spots. They arranged 28 shows of TV spots and documentary in different TV channels with 21 bonus shows. It is assumed that a big number of mass people were covered under this media campaign.
- Organized a stakeholders meeting on 12 March 2007 at Rajshahi. A total of 37 persons attended the stakeholders meeting where government officials, members from partner

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

² NGO Service Delivery Programme (NSDP), USAID/Bangladesh funded another health project

NGOs, civil society, print and electronic media were present. In the meeting, progress of the project and future activities were shared with the participants. Participants appreciated the initiative very much and requested to cover more areas of the country.

- A total of 118,000 (75,500 male & 42,500 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 2,640 (2,082 male & 558 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 1,562 (1,530 male & 32 female) Bazar Committee members were made aware of the issue of human trafficking.
- A total of 1,941 (1,843 male & 98 female) local leaders were aware about the issue of human trafficking and their role in preventing human trafficking.
- A total of 1,594 (1,385 male & 209 female) members of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) were informed about the issue and their role to prevent human trafficking.
- A total of 6,324 students (2,533 male & 3,791 female) students were made aware about the issue of human trafficking.
- A total of 1,955 (871 male & 1,084 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 1,659 (1,262 male & 397 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:

- Nine (9) Advocacy Meetings have been organized in 9 districts (*Chuadanga, Satkhira, Jessore, Jhenaidah, Kushtia, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Kurigram and Joypurhat*). 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.
- The training manual for the lawyers has been finalized and sent to Ministry of Law through MoHA for their endorsement. A printing company was commissioned earlier for printing the training manual.
- A meeting of the Project Implementation Committee was held on 13 December 2006 at the Ministry of Home Affairs. The meeting was presided over by the Deputy Secretary (Immigration) and also the focal point of the project.
- Organized a launching ceremony of the "Training Programme for the Lawyers on Combating Trafficking in Persons" on 31 March 2007.
- Organized a refreshers' training for the NGO programme and finance staff from 19 to 21 December 2006 at the Development, Training and Study Centre (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. Different programmatic and financial issues were also discussed with the NGO staff. The duration of the training was 2½ days.
- Expressions Limited, the communication agency arranged telecasting of TV spots in different TV channels.
- Organized a stakeholders meeting at the Tennis Complex Conference Room, Rajshahi on 12 March 2007.
- Organized 19 drama campaigns by RUPANTAR in 7 districts.

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

- Carried out 196 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 109 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 111 meetings with Local Leaders to alert them to the issue and to involve them in preventing human trafficking.
- Carried out 107 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 108 meetings with school students to make them aware about the different aspects of human trafficking.
- Carried out 100 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 99 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 the first three months of this period the project had to postpone several activities due to the transfer of District Administration officials and prevailing emergency situation, especially in the field. Most of the District Commissioners, Superintendent of police were transferred, Meetings were banned (we had to take special permission from Ministry of Home affairs for our Drama campaign). Despite repeated request IOM could not avail the list of land port immigration officials, as such, training course for this particular group could not be arranged during the reporting period.

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 works with USAID partner RUPANTAR which has the local expertise on Pot³ 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 of Save the Children USA. Through this project counter-trafficking messages are disseminated to school students, mothers group, child to child, teachers and children learning centers. IOM trained all the relevant staff on the issues of trafficking in persons. Both SUCCEED and IOM is closely working in the advocacy and communication aspects of trafficking in persons, jointly developed stories and materials on counter-trafficking. SUCCEED developed 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 a 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 hopes to work with USAID partner NSDP to support the victims of trafficking with health benefit cards and other medical facilities.

³ Local folk song

5. 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 – 2 including the pending activities of milestone – 1, will be achieved within the second year 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 of TV/Radio drama and spots. One monitoring meeting will be called by MoHA in the next quarter. At the same time, the school campaign and the community campaign will also continue. Through a sub-contract with BNWLA IOM will organize a training course to build the capacity of the shelter-home staffs of other shelter home service providers.

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 submitted by the finance section separately).

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