

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)
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 (MWCA) • 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 • Local Elected Bodies • Bar association members, public prosecutors and lawyers • Bangladesh Police • Community people
Project Period	: 22 September 2005 to 21 September 2008
Reporting Period	: 22 September 2005 to 30 September 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\$ 342,432

SUMMARY:

The project started on September 22, 2005, and will end on September 21, 2008. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) provided its clearance and approval to implement the project activities in 18 districts of Bangladesh. A Project Implementation Committee (PIC) was 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. Staff as per requirement of the project was appointed. IOM

visited different non-governmental organizations (NGO) for capacity assessment and selected seven local NGOs to carry out the field level activities in 18 districts. An “Inception Workshop” was jointly organized by MoHA and IOM to appraise and orient the stakeholders about the project. To achieve the overall objectives and purpose of the project, the following activities were taken up from 22 September 2005 to 30 September 2006: agreements were signed with seven selected NGOs and a consultancy agreement with specialized NGO for “Drama Campaign”; conducted an introductory training for NGO staff; carried out 20 batches of two-day training for all the officers-in-charge of all the police stations; signed an MoU with Save the Children – USA for the “School Campaign”; telecasted and broadcasted TV spots (33 shows), documentaries (2 shows) and radio programs (35 shows); received the final draft of the training manual for Public Prosecutors and Lawyers and submitted to the ministry for their approval; signed an MoU with Bangladesh Bar Council for imparting training for the public prosecutors and lawyers; organized 27 “Advocacy Meetings” to involve government officials in the implementation of project activities; organized a stakeholders meeting where government officials, members from partner NGOs, civil society, print and electronic media were present; the seven selected NGOs carried out 220 meetings with Locally Elected Bodies (LEBs), 110 meetings with Bazar Committee members, 111 meetings with Local Leaders, 111 meetings with Community Based Organizations (CBOs), 111 meetings with school students, 110 meetings with the parents of the students, 109 meetings with the teachers of the school. Through the above mentioned activities, 17,890 community people (LEBs, bazar committee members, religious leaders, students, parents, teachers, etc.) from different unions in 18 districts were sensitized and made aware on the issue of human trafficking; carried out 53 shows under the drama campaign in 18 districts. The first year of the project really concentrated on prevention and prosecution issue.

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 support; 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 continue 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 program and its activities at the district level, several activities will be carried out under this project. These activities include advocacy meetings with district level administration and police officials, as well as with District Commissioners and Superintendent of Police. The aim of these meetings is to discuss the project activities, ensure their involvement and solicit their support in implementing the project activities. The MoHA and IOM will jointly organize such advocacy

meetings in the district level. 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 was jointly arranged by the MoHA and IOM at the beginning of the project in Dhaka. Project partners, District Commissioner (DC), Superintendent of Police (SP) from 18 districts participated in the meeting. The inception meeting focused 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 sharing workshop.

1. RESULTS:

The following results have been achieved during the reporting period:

- Obtained clearance and approval from the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Formed a Project Implementation Committee (PIC) in the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Nominated 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%)).
- Organized two meetings of the Project Implementation Committee members.
- Organized two monitoring meetings of the Project Implementation Committee members.
- Selected seven NGOs to carry out grassroots level activities and provided a letter of intent from IOM.
- Organized an “Inception Workshop” in Dhaka.
- Seven selected NGOs received the NGO Affairs Bureau’s clearance to receive funds from IOM Dhaka. After that an agreement was signed between IOM and selected seven NGOs to carry out field level activities.
- 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.
- Updated and printed 750 copies of the training manual for providing training of the Officers-in-Charge of all the police stations of Bangladesh.
- Organized 20 batches of two-day training for the officers-in-charge of all the police stations. A total of 520 officers-in-charge out of 583 participated in these trainings.
- A NGO, named “Rupantar”, has been commissioned to carry out the Drama Campaign in the 18 selected districts.
- Signed an MoU with the Save the Children – USA’s SUCCEED project to conduct the School Campaign more effectively.
- After receiving the final draft, organized a sharing session to finalize the training manual for the public prosecutors and lawyers. Feedback from the sharing session was incorporated in the manual and sent to Ministry of Law through Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) for their approval.

- Signed an MoU with the Legal Education and Training Institute (LETI)¹ of Bangladesh Bar Council to impart training for the public prosecutors and lawyers.
 - Conducted 27 Advocacy Meetings in 18 districts, where 553 district level Government Officials were present.
 - Signed an agreement with a communication agency named “Expressions Limited” for outsourcing media campaign. Under the Media Campaign, telecasted TV spots (33 shows) and documentary (2 shows) and broadcasted 35 radio programmes to aware the community people on the issue of human trafficking.
 - Organized a stakeholders meeting where government officials, members from partner NGOs, civil society, print and electronic media were present. The total number of participants was 51.
 - A total of 219,300 (149,150 male & 70,150 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 14 representatives from 7 partner NGOs attended a discussion and sharing session at IOM. This meeting helped the participants to understand the mechanism of implementation procedure of different activities for the second year. Participants could also express their ideas for smooth functioning of the project.
- **Field level activities by NGOs:**
 - A total of 3,008 (2,368 male & 640 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 1,637 (1,609 male & 28 female) Bazar Committee members were made aware of the issue of human trafficking.
 - A total of 2,020 (1,861 male & 159 female) local leaders were aware about the issue of human trafficking and their role in preventing human trafficking.
 - A total of 1,666 (1,442 & 224 female) members of Community Based Organizations (CBOs) were informed about the issue and their role to prevent human trafficking.
 - A total of 5,509 students (2,037 male & 3,472 female) students were aware about the issue of human trafficking and their vulnerability to trafficking.
 - A total of 2,128 (1,076 male & 1,052 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 1,922 (1,506 male & 416 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.
 - Purchased necessary equipment and furniture for the smooth implementation of the project activities.

2. ACTIVITIES:

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

- IOM sent a request letter on 27 September 2005 to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) to get its clearance and approval. The Ministry provided its clearance on 10

¹ Training wing of Bangladesh Bar Council

October 2005 for the implementation of the project. The MoHA 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 Management of IOM recruited necessary project staff to carry out the project activities.
- The two meetings of the Project Implementation Committee (PIC) held on 9 November 2005 and 7 May 2006 in the Ministry of Home Affairs. The first meeting was chaired by the Additional Secretary and the second meeting was chaired by the Joint Secretary of the Ministry.
- 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 the Police Headquarters in the PIC.
- Project Implementation Committee members decided to have two monitoring meetings yearly. The two meetings held on 7 August and 28 September 2006 at the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- IOM project staff selected seven NGOs to carry out field level activities following the pre-assessment procedure. They were also provided with a Letter of Intent for the NGO Affairs Bureau’s clearance to receive fund from IOM Dhaka.
- The 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 and media. The main objectives of the workshop were to appraise the participants about the project, its objectives, activities, involvement of the Government, 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. Then it was sent to IOM HQs for their endorsement. After getting their approval sub-agreement was signed with selected seven NGOs.
- Organized a five-day residential introductory training for the program (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. However, 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 if trainings are arranged separately. IOM 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.
- Updated the training manual developed for the Law Enforcement Officials under the project “Enhancing Capacity of the Law Enforcement Agencies”. Then it was sent to MoHA for their approval. After getting the clearance from MoHA, it was then sent for printing.
- Coordinated with the Assistant Inspector General (Training) of Police at the Police HQs to conduct the training for the Officers-in-Charge of all the police stations of Bangladesh. He issued a letter to the Superintendent of Police of 64 districts to coordinate with IOM Dhaka for organizing the training. Twenty batches were organized in 20 selected districts.

- Communicated with a specialized organization to develop and stage ‘Pot Song²’ in 18 selected districts. Signed a ‘Consultancy Agreement’ between IOM and Rupantar for carrying out drama campaign in the project areas (18 districts).
- Save the Children – USA is running a very effective school programme (SUCCEED) in their working areas. IOM communicated with them to use their model in our school programme to carry out school campaign effectively. Save the Children – USA conducted a Training of Trainers (two batches) for the 18 program staff of the selected 7 NGOs along with the SCF – USA staff so that they can run the “School Campaign” effectively and efficiently in their working areas.
- A sharing session was organized on 2nd August 2006 at IOM conference room to share the manual developed for the public prosecutors and lawyers training. Representatives from the MoHA, Department of Justice – US Embassy, Federal Bureau of Investigation – Department of Justice – USA, Attorney General’s Office, Policy Leadership and Advocacy for Gender Equality³, UNHCR, UNDP, USAID/Bangladesh, Legal Education and Training Institute of Dhaka Bar Association, Dhaka University and some NGOs. The representatives appreciated the training manual and provided some minor feedback. The Consultants then incorporated important inputs and finalized the manual. Then IOM sent the manual to the Ministry of Law through the MoHA for their approval.
- 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 would 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 provided their endorsement. An MoU was signed on 25 May 2006 with the Bangladesh Bar Council to coordinate the training programme for the public prosecutors and lawyers of 18 districts.
- Organized twenty-seven (27) Advocacy Meetings in 18 districts. IOM requested the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) to organize these Advocacy Meetings at district level. Subsequently the 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.
- Communicated and signed an agreement with a communication agency to outsource the Media Campaign i.e. screening of TV, Radio spots, documentary, etc.
- Organized a stakeholders meeting at the National Press Club on 26 June 2006. The meeting was attended by the members of the partner organizations, civil society, print and electronic media and govt. officials. The total number of the participants was 51 persons.
- Rupantar carried out 53 shows out of scheduled 54 shows under the ‘drama campaigns’ in 18 districts in collaboration with IOM’s partner NGOs.
- Organized a sharing meeting with the partners on September 27, 2006 at IOM office to discuss and share the implementation process of the project for second year.
- **Field Level Activities by NGOs:**
 - Carried out 220 meetings with Locally Elected Bodies (LEBs) at the different Union Parishads of 18 districts with the Chairmen and Members to inform them

² Traditional Local Music

³ A project funded by CIDA

- about the issue and to get their cooperation to implement different field activities.
 - Carried out 110 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 111 meetings with Local Leaders to aware them about the issue and to involve them in preventing human trafficking.
 - Carried out 111 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 111 meetings with school students to aware them about the different aspects of human trafficking and their vulnerability. Students were provided with a colourful ID card with anti-trafficking message.
 - Carried out 110 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 109 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 and equipment for the project.

3. CONSTRAINTS AND ACTIONS TAKEN:

The signing of a sub-agreement with seven selected NGOs got delayed as they did not receive the clearance from the NGO Affairs Bureau in due time. So after getting the clearance from NGO Affairs Bureau, IOM signed the agreement with the selected seven NGOs.

Under the USAID funded project there was a provision to buy a US-made vehicle. But considering the situation of the country, IOM was planning to procure a Japanese-made vehicle. Therefore, IOM made communication with USAID/Bangladesh to receive their waiver so that IOM could get a Japanese-made vehicle. Having consultation with USAID/Bangladesh contracting office IOM collected all required documents to get the vehicle waiver approval letter. Finally IOM received the waiver from USAID/Bangladesh to procure one right hand driven 4 WD Ford Everest SUV.

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.

The lawyers training component could not be accomplished during the first year of the project due to several reasons. Firstly, it took longer than expected to produce the training manual as the meeting to share the draft manual had to be postponed several times due to political unrest and other unavoidable circumstances. However it has now been finalized and IOM is awaiting approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Secondly, the signing of the MoU with Bangladesh Bar Council regarding the implementation of the training program was delayed following some internal complications. Nonetheless we could overcome the crisis and entered into an agreement with the Legal Education and Training Institute, Bangladesh Bar Council in May, 2006. We now expect to start the training program by the end of November 2006 and complete it by June 2008.

Also one drama show in Dhaka could not take place due to political unrest. It was decided that it would be done with the next year schedule. Accordingly, this activity has been scheduled in the second year.

Because of unavailability of the government officials in the district level, nine advocacy meetings (Jessore, Kushtia, Jhenaidah, Satkhira, Chuadanga, Joypurhat, Kurigram, Nilphamari and Rangpur districts) had to be postponed and conducted by the 1st month of the second year.

4. CONCLUSIONS:

During the reporting period, most of the activities have been undertaken as per work plan though training for public prosecutors and lawyers. Only one stakeholders meeting could not take place. All these activities would be implemented within the project period.

The next step of the project will be the conduction of a series of training courses for the Public Prosecutors and Lawyers. In the next year, the project will also support to the victims of trafficking. They will be provided shelter home facilities, medical treatment, legal assistance, skill training and business set-up. IOM will communicate with different shelter homes to get their services for the victims of trafficking. IOM will conduct orientation training for the immigration officials of land ports and will also organize a refreshers training for the NGO staff.

At the same time Media Campaign, Drama Campaign, School Campaign and Community Campaign will also continue. We will also develop new documentary film and radio drama in the next year for the Media Campaign.

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*)
