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Counter Trafficking Newsletter

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**BANGLADESH COUNTER
TRAFFICKING-IN-PERSONS (BC/TIP)**

On 8th March 2016, BC/TIP co-hosted, together with several other USAID implementing partners: Plan International, Solidarity Center, Bondhu Social Welfare Society and two NGOs: Basha and Tarango, both focused on women's development and empowerment, an exhibition of paintings, photos, banners and artisanal crafts to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD) at the Spectra Convention Center in Dhaka. This year, the UN's theme of the International Women's Day is titled "Planet 50 - 50 by 2030" and the exhibition slogan "Step it Up for Gender Equality and Rights" reflects on women's empowerment. A ribbon cutting ceremony – jointly conducted by USAID Resident Legal Advisor Ms. Alexis Taylor and Dr. Hameeda Hossain, a well-known Bangladeshi Human Rights Activist marked the opening of the event, followed by candle lighting remembrance moment. Bondhu Social Welfare Society gave a powerful theatrical performance focused on sexual harassment and gender discrimination. Over 119 participants from different organizations attended the daylong event, supporting the BC/TIP initiative and celebrating International Women's Day.

Celebration of International Women's Day 2016



Divisional Conference on Implementation of NPA and CTC's Roles and Responsibilities

On 2 March 2016, in Jessore, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), with technical support from USAID's BC/TIP program, organized a Divisional Conference on "National Plan of Action (NPA) for Combating Human Trafficking 2015 - 2017" - Counter Trafficking Committees (CTC) Role and Responsibilities. The objectives of this conference were aimed at: i) To Improve the understanding of CTC members about their roles and responsibilities; ii) To create mass awareness on the prevention of human trafficking.

As integral part of the NPA 2015-17 implementation, the CTCs were formed at all levels; district, upazila and unions, under the leading role of the Ministry of Home Affairs. The CTCs have been assigned diverse roles and responsibilities that mainly focus on: the monitoring of cases relating to trafficking of women and children for speedy processing; human trafficking; prevention of coordinate with the police to organize community-based meetings with the participation of enduringly poor women and adolescents to create awareness of people at all levels of the community. (continued)



* A program covering 25 districts in Bangladesh*



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Divisional Conference on Implementation of NPA and CTC's Roles and Responsibilities- continued

The divisional conference intentionally applied a participatory approach to enable an interactive platform for all relevant actors (state and non-state) to work together to realistically assess the progress of implementation against the National Plan of Action 2015-17 and further develop the way forward.

Over 110 participants, CTC members from Jessore, Shatkira, Norail. Jinaidha and

Chuadanga, attended the event and actively contributed to identify the challenges they face and worked to identify ways to address them. Mr. A K M Masud Ali, Executive Director, INCIDIN Bangladesh facilitated the interactive discussions with CTC members. As a result, a number of challenges were identified and ways forward were defined to reinforce the CTCs actions at all levels.

The conference was attended by Mr. Abu Hena Md. Rahmatul Muneem, Additional

Secretary of MoHA as chief guest, Mr. Md. Abdus Samad, Khulna Divisional Commissioner and Ms. Monoara Esrat, Deputy Secretary of MoHA as special guests. Dr. Md Humayun Kabir, Deputy Commissionaire of Jessore acted as Chair. In their speeches, all of the speakers significantly reaffirmed the commitment of the Government of Bangladesh to combat human trafficking and reinforcement of the CTCs at all levels-district, upazilas and unions.



National Conference on "NPA 2015-17 for Combating Human Trafficking: From Adoption to Implementation"

On 30th and 31st March 2016- The Ministry of Home Affairs, with support from USAID's Bangladesh Counter Trafficking-In-Persons (BC/TIP) program and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) organized a two-day national conference on the "National Plan of Action for Combating Human Trafficking, 2015-2017: From Adoption to Implementation" at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center (BICC). The objectives of conference were aimed at assessing the progress of the national plan of action implementation, enhancing coordination by the Ministry of Home Affairs between governmental and non-governmental actors to implement the national plan of action and identifying any implementation challenges and identifying the strategies to address these.

On 30 March, the opening ceremony was attended by Dr. Md. Mozzamel Hoque Khan, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs as Chief Guest, Ms. Amber Brooks, Director, Office of Democracy and Governance, USAID/Bangladesh and Mr. Esoev Abdusattor, Deputy Chief of Mission, International Organization for Migration (IOM) as Special Guests. Around 201 participants (male=130 and female=71) from different governmental agencies, particularly the law enforcement agencies, GoB ministries & departments, INGOs, NGOs, media and embassies were present during the conference and all actively engaged in the consultation sessions.

The closing ceremony of the conference was held on 31 March, 2016 (12:00- 2:00 pm) with the concluding remarks made by Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, Honorable Minister, Ministry

of Home Affairs. He emphasized the importance of implementing the recommendations coming out of the conference. Ms. Marcia Bernicat, US Ambassador to Bangladesh; Begum Shamsun Nahar Secretary in Charge of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment; ASSM Zahirul Haque, Secretary of the Law and Justice Division, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and Dr. Chowdhury Md. Babul Hasan, Secretary of the Ministry of Social Welfare also delivered their remarks as special guests reaffirming the ongoing commitment of both the US Government and the Government of Bangladesh to combat human trafficking.



Cricket Tournament on TIP awareness

BC/TIP peer leaders from Daipukuria and Shahadajpur Union of Chapainawabganj district organized a cricket tournament in March for raising awareness on TIP and safe migration. As the Twenty-Twenty (T20) World cup cricket was ongoing in March most people, especially the youth were very excited about the cricket and matches were played almost every day in most parts of the country from cities to rural play grounds. The peer leaders found it an ideal environment to raise awareness about TIP to a mass audience.

Peer leaders discussed the event idea with the respective Union Counter Trafficking



Committee (CTC) members, social elites, BC/TIP partner NGO PROYAS and sports club. After finalizing date and venue they prepared messages and speeches, organized players from sport clubs and friends, made announcements through loudspeakers and direct interaction in the surrounding area. Finally on 9 March 2016 the tournament took place at Bagbari football field, which is located at the midpoint of both the Union Parishads. Almost 1000 people enjoyed the cricket match and listened to the

opening and closing speeches on the event objective and TIP related issues. At the beginning and end of each over the commentators stated slogans and messages on TIP and safe migration to constantly remind spectators about the event objective and keep them entertained. Finally the match concluded through award of trophy to winning team. Among the participants were the chairman of Daipukuria union, local elites, Union Parishad members, teachers, religious leaders, freedom fighters, and Union CTC members. Spot reaction from the audience reflected an increased awareness on TIP and safe migration. Overall the event increased acceptance of the peer leaders among their community people as promoters of TIP prevention.

Prosecutors Trained on Trafficking in Persons and Protection of Victims' Rights in Bangladesh

With an aim to increase awareness and understanding about trafficking among prosecutors and ensuring the successful prosecution and adjudication of Trafficking cases, BC/TIP organized a Prosecutor Training on Trafficking in Persons and Protection of Victims' Rights. The Training was held at the BIAM Foundation regional Centre, Cox's Bazar on the 22nd & 23rd January 2016. A total of 19 participants from 5 different Chittagong Divisional districts attended the training.



The training was inaugurated by Mr. AKM Salimulla, Solicitor, Law & Justice Division under Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs as chief guest. Mr. Shyamal Kumar Nath, Superintendent of Police of Cox's Bazar district was also present at the inauguration of the training as a special guest. The training sessions were very interactive with vigorous discussions, questions and answers, group study and work, group presentations as well as group demonstrations, which increased the level of knowledge on human trafficking laws and prosecution technicalities. The training was facilitated by Ms. Irinel Cocos, Chief of Party, BC/TIP with technical assistance from Ms. Dipta Rakshit,

Technical team Leader, Mr. Shahanur Islam, Prosecution Manager of BC/TIP and Mr. Tariqul Islam, Area manager, Justice & Care.

BC/TIP signed the MoU with NLASO



In order to facilitate collaboration in areas related to awareness, training and effective legal aid activities to prevent human trafficking and ensure justice, BC/TIP signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Legal Aid Services Organization (NLASO) on 16th February 2016. Mr. Malik Abdullah Al Amin, Director of NLASO signed the MoU on behalf of NLASO. The MoU signing ceremony was held in the conference room of NLASO with the presence of Ms. Irinel Cocos, BC/TIP and other NLASO and BC/TIP officials. The partnership with NLASO, will enhance Winrock International-BC/TIP the training for peer leaders, members of counter trafficking committees (CTCs) at union, upazila and district level, legal aid officers, judges and panel lawyers of district legal aid offices. NLASO will facilitate all the training in legal aid issues including referral mechanisms, eligibility criteria and application processes, in order to improve access to the existing government schemes.

BC/TIP organized trafficking in Persons Training Course for First Responders Police Officers

With an aim to provide front line law enforcement officials with the necessary knowledge, attitude and skills to enable them to provide an effective first response to human trafficking cases, BC/TIP organized a 3-day Trafficking in Persons Training Course for First Responder Police Officers on 14-16 March 2016. The training was held at the In-service Training Centre, CMP, Chittagong. 26 participants from Sub-Inspector and Inspector level from different departments of police from 11 districts under Chittagong division participated in the training.

The training helps the first responder police officers to better understand human trafficking laws and investigation techniques. It also increases the awareness of the trafficking issues, roles and responsibilities of police investigators and promotes effective collaboration with prosecutors. The training was facilitated by Ms. Irinel Cocos, Chief of Party BC/TIP with technical assistance from Ms. Dipta Rakshit, Technical team Leader and Mr. Shahanur Islam, Prosecution Manager, BC/TIP.



The Local Administration of Jessore are looking to provide free space for ANIRBAN in Jessore

Survivors of trafficking continually go through many major hardships in order to rebuild their livelihoods. The external taboos of society regarding their reintegration make their lives more challenging and difficult. Survivors, along with their partners, are continuously trying to find new ideas for overcoming these challenges. Under the leadership of ANIRBAN leader Reshma, Jessore ANIRBAN decided to initiate a group enterprise in order to try to minimize these difficulties. Simultaneously, ANIRBAN wanted to continue their initiative through establishing an information booth for the dissemination of information on trafficking and safe migration. ANIRBAN raised this issue at the meeting of the District Counter Committee in front of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Jessore. The DC acknowledged this proposal from ANIRBAN and recorded it in the



monthly resolution. As per the meetings decision, ANIRBAN members submitted a proposal to the DC, Jessore. The application from ANIRBAN has been warmly received and accepted and an order came from the Assistant land commissioner to find two suitable places in the Jessore Collectorate Market (Surroundings in DC area) for the ANIRBAN livelihood intervention and information corner. ANIRBAN, Jessore is now moving to develop a group enterprise plan and

information corner and is keeping open continuous communication with the local administration to keep this space permanently. ANIRBAN hopes they will succeed in gaining this opportunity and it will provide a good example of the promotional initiatives from ANIRBAN.

Survivors receive Quality Training support from various Govt. Departments in Cox's Bazar

Successful integration of any Survivor is a long term and intensively support-based process. From the beginning of the Bangladesh Counter Trafficking in Person (BCTIP) program the YPSA (Young Power in Social Action) team has tried to develop a good, working and supportive relationship with the different government departments in Cox's Bazar for the survivors livelihood based training and other logistical support.

Survivors are now receiving various trainings and other logistical support from the different government departments in Cox's Bazar through the YPSA referral and linkage mechanism. TIP Survivors who are enrolled by the YPSA - BCTIP project, are now receiving combined modern agriculture training from the Upazilla agriculture department, Poultry, Fishery and Livestock training from DYD (Department of Youth Development) and sewing and

beautician training from the district women and children affairs department. Firstly, YPSA has worked to find the relevant government departments who are supportive to survivors. YPSA shared with them the survivors needs and skills and the objectives required of the support. Through these discussions, YPSA has built up good working relationship with the relevant government departments.

Up to now, in total 5 survivors have completed a 3-month long combined modern agricultural training from the Upazilla Agriculture Department of Naikhonchari upazilla and another 4 survivors will start the same training beginning in April 2016. All of the trained survivors are running their agricultural activities in their own locality. From time to time the Agriculture Officer is visiting to provide technical support in survivors' areas as a part of their monitoring visits. Additionally, 2 Survivors have received a 2-month long training course on Livestock, Poultry and Fisheries including the primary treatment from the DYD (Department of Youth and Development) of Cox's Bazar. Further 2 female Survivors have finished the sewing training from the District Women and Child Affairs Department. The survivors received all types of training free of cost.

Moreover, YPSA involved trainers of DYD, Social Welfare and Agriculture Department at the YPSA training center to conduct the small business training for survivors.



Combined Agricultural Training Program (Practical and Theoretical) in Naikhonchari Upazilla

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