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Vol. 1 | 2016 | Issue No. 3

## Counter Trafficking Newsletter

### Key Achievements of BC/TIP

- 2,340,749 individuals reached through mass media campaign on TIP awareness
- 1,673 at-risk people received information, skill training and livelihood support through referral
- 2,787 migrants trained on safe migration, TIP, migrant rights and redress mechanisms
- 379 youth volunteers and survivor leaders trained
- 80 CTCs established and fully functioning through BC/TIP technical support
- 482 CTC members trained on their roles and responsibilities
- 453 survivors received USG-supported assistance
- 20 counselors, social workers, and other healthcare workers trained to use TIP-specific trauma and care tools
- 10 district-level referral directories of service providers developed
- 337 criminal justice personnel (police 60, prosecutors 111, judges 26, lawyers 140) received anti-TIP training
- 79 TIP victims assisted in filing cases and provided with legal assistance
- 35 public and private sector partners engaged in public mobilization campaigns and employment programs for vulnerable groups and TIP survivors
- \$393,867 in-kind and financial contribution leveraged from the private sector for TIP prevention and protection activities

\* A program covering 25 districts in Bangladesh \*

### National Conference on “National Plan of Action for Combating Human Trafficking 2015-2017: From Adoption to Implementation”



To ensure the involvement and commitment of all agencies responsible for implementation and monitoring of the National Plan of Action, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), with technical support from USAID's Bangladesh Counter Trafficking-In-Persons (BC/TIP) program and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), co-hosted a two-day National Conference on the “National Plan of Action (NPA) for Combating Human Trafficking 2015-2017: From Adoption to Implementation” in Dhaka (March 30-31). At the event, representatives from 11 ministries and 48 NGOs and INGOs assessed the progress of NPA since its 2015 implementation. The conference identified gaps and challenges and developed several strategies and recommendations, including budget allocations for

introducing safety-net programs for trafficking survivors, and Memoranda of Understanding between source, destination and transit countries. The opening day ceremony was attended by Dr. Md. Mozzamel Hoque Khan, Senior Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs as Chief Guest together with the special guests Ms. Amber Brooks, Director, Office of Democracy and Governance, USAID/Bangladesh and Mr. Esoev Abdusattor, Deputy Chief of Mission, IOM.

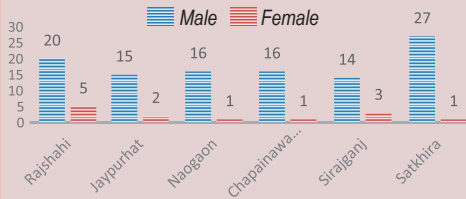
Throughout the workshop the delegates engaged in group exercises and plenary presentations to review the progress and challenges of each of the five goals of the NPA. The key recommendations that came out as a result of the conference included:

Goal - 1 Prevention	Goal - 2 Protection	Goal - 3 Prosecution	Goal - 4 Participation and Partnership	Goal - 5 Monitoring and Evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry-level Focal Points need to be made effective through an “office order”;</li> <li>• CTCs need to be operational and capacitated through local-level budget allocations;</li> <li>• Awareness of legal and safe means of migration needs to be expanded upon.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victim-witness Protection needs to be operationalized;</li> <li>• The safety-net programs need to include the vulnerable and survivors of trafficking.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rules of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012 needs to be finalized as a priority;</li> <li>• Coordination between law enforcement agencies and prosecutors is a priority.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness of NPA and roles of different actors should be strengthened;</li> <li>• Exploring new bi-lateral arrangements or multi-lateral arrangements is a priority.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operational monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems developed based on the NPA via a central database at MoHA as a priority.</li> <li>• The National NPA Monitoring Committee needs to be activated.</li> </ul>

On March 31, in his concluding remarks, the Honorable Minister of the Ministry of Home Affairs Mr. Asaduzzaman Khan, 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 commitment of both the US Government and the Government of Bangladesh to combat human trafficking.

## Divisional conferences

### on CTCs Roles and Responsibility



CTC members trained by region

In 2016, BC/TIP and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) co-hosted two divisional conferences on CTC's Roles and Responsibilities in Khulna and Rajshahi divisions. More than 200 CTC members joined together in the conference and identified the challenges they are facing and ways to address them. Key recommendations highlighted by the participants were:

- District CTCs need to closely supervise and monitor Upazilla and Union CTCs to ensure transparency and accountability;
- CTC members need proper orientation and training on their roles and responsibilities;
- Effective reporting systems should be established to ensure key recommendations reach the central coordination committees for implementation of the NPA.
- Budget allocations for CTC operations should be considered by local government as an urgent priority;
- Good initiatives of CTCs should be properly documented and reported to MOHA to ensure best practices are disseminated among other CTCs for encouragement;
- DEMO offices need to properly analyse migrant databases and discuss the findings in CTC meetings;
- Visa verification should be made available to people through mobile phones;
- Rules of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012 should be finalized as priority;
- CTCs need to conduct more awareness raising in local communities through scouts, LGED, religious leaders, Islamic Foundations, Union Parishads, school management, documentaries and popular sports.

As a result of the conference, in Jessore, Satkhira, and Jamalpur Districts, official

letters have been issued by DC and UNO for immediate formation and activation of Union CTCs. CTCs are lacking the budgetary allocations to allow them to function effectively. The most significant outcome was achieved when 9 Unions of Satkhira, Chapainawabganj and Cox's Bazar allocated about 10,000 - 30,000 Taka for CTC activation and victim support during the preparation of their annual budget.

Over a five-year period, the BC/TIP program will train 2,000 CTC members on their roles and responsibilities.

## National Convention of Peer Leaders and ANIRBAN



USAID's Bangladesh Counter Trafficking-in-Persons (BC/TIP) program convened a national convention of more than 60 young Peer Leaders and members of the trafficking survivors group, ANIRBAN, on July 31 to August 1 at BRAC CDM in Gazipur. The convention was inaugurated by renowned actress and human rights activist, Rokeya Prachy, together with Musa Ibrahim, the first Bangladeshi to conquer Mt. Everest, and USAID Democracy and Governance Acting Director, Kevin Gash.

Over the two days, the young leaders from across twelve districts of Bangladesh and nine BC/TIP partner organizations examined ways to strengthen their volunteer networks and encourage cooperation to prevent trafficking at the community level. Through in-depth group discussions, exercise and expert opinions, the Peer Leaders and survivors group had the opportunity to learn about social entrepreneurship as a way forward for sustainability; keys to developing an

integrated organizational model; and practical steps to migration and overseas recruitment.

Addressing the youth leaders and survivors group on the opening day of the convention, USAID Democracy and Governance Acting Director Kevin Gash said, 'We need to work together to prevent such atrocities and crimes. USAID's BC/TIP program will continue to work with you to support your hard work with communities, locally-elected representatives and the Government of Bangladesh to activate the counter trafficking committees. USAID will also continue to work shoulder-to-shoulder with trafficking survivors and human rights defenders to empower all survivors'.

The Chief Guest and renowned actress and human rights activist, Rokeya Prachy, in her opening remarks appreciated and encouraged the fighting spirit of survivors as she said, 'We don't want to see our citizens suffering and being humiliated in foreign countries. We want to stand beside our survivors who are fighting. Death means the end of the journey. Those who are living and fighting are warriors. Survivors are our fighters and we need to figure out how we can convey their fighting spirit to the general population'.

In the concluding day of the convention, Peer Leaders and ANIRBAN shared their experiences, which made them proud contributors within their community. Significant achievements included: the advocacy for allocations in Union Parishads' annual budget for CTCs functioning and survivor's support; linking at-risk groups with training and livelihood support of the Department of Youth and Sports; integration of victims in community and shelter support; and ensuring vulnerable group support under government safety net programs. Finally, the convention concluded with a working group discussion which guided the participants to develop their joint action plan for the next year.

Over a five-year period, the BC/TIP program will train 600 Peer Leaders and will provide services with US Government assistance to 2,000 trafficking survivors.



## World Day against Trafficking-in-Persons



In commemoration of the day, on 30 July, a joint event was organized by BC/TIP, UNODC, UNHCR, Relief International, BNWLA, Plan International Bangladesh, BRAC, CWCS, Dhaka Ahsania Mission, Justice and Care, Terre des Hommes Netherlands, INCIDIN Bangladesh, Solidarity Center, and OKKAF. The event was inaugurated with a signature campaign promoting the message 'Sign Up to Stop Human Trafficking' and followed with an information booth open for display and dissemination of publications and informative materials. A round table meeting was held to discuss innovative models, issues, and gaps in order to identify priority actions both for the government and the sector stakeholders in order to achieve the deliverables of the National Plan of Action for Combating Human Trafficking 2015-2017. The event was attended by a cross section of stakeholders including NGOs, INGOs, government, academicians, Peer Leaders, civil society, human rights activists, lawyers and journalists. Among the guests of honour were Md. Omar Faruque ndc, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports and Dr. Md. Aminul Islam, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

During the round table meeting, participants highlighted that 'the government should be more responsive to address human trafficking and take concerted efforts across the country; the community should be mobilized through social movement and engaged to play a vigilant role in trafficking prevention; and inter-ministerial coordination should be increased to monitor implementation of the National Plan of Action'. The event concluded with a joint declaration by the organizers.

Over a five-year period, the BC/TIP program will reach 5,000,000 people across Bangladesh through mass media campaigns that provides information about TIP.

## Training on Winrock Survivor Standards and GOB Shelter Standards



BC/TIP has built its collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare (MSW) and the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MoWCA) with the goal of integrating standards of survivor services into government shelter home programs. To implement the National Plan of Action mandate of "Minimum Standards Developed for Trafficked Survivors" (a Protection goal of the NPA 2015-2017), the Ministry of Home Affairs facilitated coordination between MSW, MoWCA and Winrock BC/TIP. As a result, BC/TIP organized two trainings on Comprehensive Survivor Services.

The ultimate goal of the training was to promote integrated, holistic and empowering approaches that place the real needs of survivors at the center of sustainable recovery and integration. Participants from ministries emphasized that the training improved their understanding of how to best apply relevant international and national standards in survivors' services to their work with victims of trafficking. They also noted that the learning encouraged and empowered them to improve the quality of services in shelter homes.

Over a five-year period, the BC/TIP program will train 120 counselors, social workers and other health care workers on using TIP-specific trauma and care tools to track survivors' progress toward recovery.



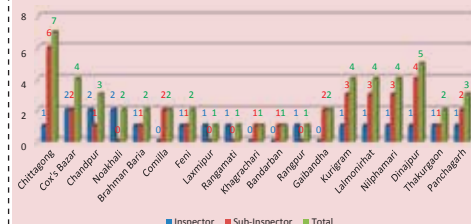
## Trafficking in Persons Training Courses for First Responders-Police Officers

In 2016, BC/TIP conducted two "Trafficking in Persons Training Courses for First Responders-Police Officers" in Chittagong and Dinajpur. The three-day course provided frontline law enforcement officials with the necessary knowledge, attitude and skills to provide an effective first response to human trafficking cases. Over a five-year period, the BC/TIP program will train 950 criminal justice personnel on TIP and will assist 350 TIP victims in filing cases and providing legal assistance. A total of 51 participants of Sub-Inspector and Inspector level from different departments of police located in 19 districts under Chittagong and Rangpur division participated in the training, as per the graphic below:

*"During this training, I learned about the type of evidence and witness statements I need to produce before the court for the trial. I will definitely use this knowledge while dealing with trafficking cases in the future."*

**One Special PP under Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Daman Tribunal on BC/TIP Training**

### Police Training Participants: District and Rank



*"I attended many training programs organized by the police department previously. But this training is totally different. I acquired a lot of knowledge and skills in different investigative issues such as victim interviewing process, conducting search and rescue operations, and interrogating the suspect. I have participated actively in the practical exercises, to better understand victim psychology, which will help me to provide a more victim centered approach during my work, in the future."*

**One Sub-Inspector of Bangladesh Police**

## Peer Leader Initiative

### Reducing unsafe migration



Md. Moniruzzaman (20) is an imam who leads congregational prayer in a local mosque of Shyamnagar Union of Satkhira District. He is very much aware of the social responsibility associated with his position. When he was approached by BC/TIP's Prevention partner, Agrogoti Sangstha, he willingly agreed to volunteer his time and efforts to combat trafficking-in-persons (TIP). After receiving basic training from Agrogoti, he became a Peer Leader. He is very active and discusses human trafficking and unsafe migration with Muslims during his Friday afternoon Jumma sermon. Being a religious leader, he is a trusted and respected member of his community. He visits the homes of those who are considering migration and he is able to build a rapport with the potential migrants and their family members. He reviews their papers and their migration process based on the learning he received from his training. He uses this opportunity to present relevant messages about safe migration and informs them of services available through DEMO, BMET and other institutions. People in his area trust him and ask him for advice on safe migration. By the end of September, he has reviewed papers of more than 100 potential migrants and referred more than 50 people to the Union Digital Center for VISA verification and BMET's online registration. Also, he was able to prevent 10 outgoing migrants from going abroad with no legal papers, based on illegal transaction with "Dalal". Moniruzzaman is proud of his work and takes inspiration from his achievements to continue serving his community.

### Linking at-risk people to Government livelihood training



Kakrapali village of Hakimpur Upazila under Dinajpur district is a very poor and large village. Most of the inhabitants are involved in cow rearing, but they do not know how to make a living from this work. Ayesa Siddika, a dedicated Peer Leader of BC/TIP's local partner NGO Proyas, lives in this village and identified them as people at-risk of TIP. After a needs assessment, Ayesha communicated with the Upazila Youth Development Office and convinced the responsible officer to arrange a week-long cow rearing training at their village for 29 at-risk people. Following the training, Ayesha communicated with the youth development office and helped the trainees to submit applications for loan support. Getting confidence from her first successful attempt, Ayesha identified more than 90 at-risk women and successfully arranged a 10-day training on wall mat and door mat preparation, and 15-day training on tailoring from the youth development office. Impressed by Ayesha's outstanding job, the Youth Development Office requested her to arrange batches of interested at-risk people to enroll in 10 different kinds of training for next year. Peer Leader Ayesa Siddika and her efforts deserve a commendation for her active approach and advocacy. Her support for at-risk people in her community is tremendous and should be recommended and followed as a best practice. BC/TIP trains youth volunteers and equips them

with the technical knowledge and skills to combat human trafficking. As an outcome of the Peer Leader training, about 1,673 at-risk people were identified and referred to livelihood training and the job support services of both Government and private service sectors in order to reduce the risk of being trafficked or of migrating through illegal channels.

Over a five-year period, the BC/TIP program aims to link 7,000 at-risk people and human trafficking survivors with relevant service providers through partnerships and referral services to reduce their vulnerability to human trafficking.



**CALL**  
for Emergency support

National Hotline for Legal Aid Service: **16430** (toll free)  
Rights Jessore: **+88 01715468050 - 52**

National Helpline Center for Violence Against  
Women and Children: **10921** (toll free)

Probash Bondhu Call Center for Bangladeshi  
migrant worker's support: **+88 09654333333**

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