

# Program Report Template

- **Project Title:**

“Enhancing Women’s Capacity to prevent and Respond to Gender Bases Violence”

- **Grant Award Number:**

[S-BG300-18-GR-071]

- **Grantee/Recipient:**

Abdul Momen Khan Memorial Foundation (Khan Foundation)

- **Interim/Project Completion Report**

- a) **Goals and Objectives reached:**

Almost three decades, Khan Foundation (KF) has been working throughout the countries on conflict-related gender-based and sexual violence, harmful traditional practices, early marriage and trafficking. KF’s programs demonstrate that women’s access to legal aid, access to information, livelihoods tools, life skills training and mentoring that empowering them to make changes in their lives and rebuild their identities while promoting community understanding and protection of survivors and those at risk. The project “**Enhancing women’s capacity to prevent and respond to gender bases violence**” is a continuous endeavor of KF and implementing various activities to save and to rehabilitate the helpless women and children.

The project funded by U.S. Embassy, Dhaka contributing to the development goal by focusing on prevention and protection of women and children from gender-based violence (GBV), in particular, on the role played by Community Watch Group (CWG) members and Anti-GBV committee. For getting better outcome project staffs communicated and performed different program with the collaboration of the project stakeholders like Local Administration, Public Representatives, Beneficiaries, Journalist, Lawyers and institutions heads etc. KFs staffs attended the meeting as a member of district Legal Aid committee, DC coordination committee, Upazila coordination committee NGO coordination committee.

Khan Foundations Project Steering Committee (PSC) assisted and provided guidance in implementing the project.

KF has offices in Natore, Cox’s Bazar and Meherpur districts and setup hotlink centers in these district offices mentioned above as well as a secretariat at Dhaka head office from where the project activities has conducted at 5 upazilas in 3 district based on hard to reach areas and areas with poor marginalized groups and those that have high incidence of violence against women.

The program has built confidence, knowledge and capacity any women as well as society by promoting networks of mutual support.

## American Center Program Grants Report

### Detailed Description of Program Progress:

**Introduction:** We have been talking about gender equality for decades, but even in 2018, women are subject to social, political and economic inequalities that reinforce their poverty and exclusion. One of the worst forms of injustice against women and children is Gender-Based Violence (GBV) – including social discrimination, harmful cultural practices and family violence – are committed throughout the working areas of varied cultural and religious traditions, political systems and socio-economic development. Intimate partner violence, Sexual violence by non-partners, Conflict-related gender-based and sexual violence, harmful traditional practices, early marriage and trafficking are of the worst forms of GBV. Moreover violence includes physical, sexual and psychological violence, and harmful practices such as rape, “honor killings”, female genital cutting, and human trafficking.

KF is a rights-based organization and since its inception the organization has been working to promote human rights in its fight against trafficking and violence by prioritizing this issue in all of its projects. KF has a strong Human and Legal Rights Program and has been working to promote and protect human rights and improve access to justice especially for vulnerable groups in particular for about three decades. With the support of U. S. Embassy, Dhaka KF has been implementing the project in 3 districts (Natore, Meherpur and Cox’s Bazar) of Bangladesh. Through partner NGOs, KF has also been conducting activities to combat trafficking and violence in some other districts are Manikganj, Brahmanbaria, Comilla, Chandpur, Chittagong, Naogaon, Kushtia, Faridpur, Hobiganj, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Jessore, Satkhira and Chapainawabganj.

**Goal:** The goal of this project is to combat Gender Based Violence (GBV) through increasing women’s capacity to prevent and respond to GBV.

**Objectives:** Khan Foundation has been followed the objectives for this project:

1. Increase women’s awareness on their legal rights ensuring access to legal aid.
2. Improve women’s knowledge on types and extent of gender based violence and its Consequences.
3. Empower women with information on available services providers for response to gender based violence.

### Main results achieved and implementation performance of the project:

According to the agreement, the forth reporting month is December 2019. As described in the work plan, Adolescent group meeting, Court yard meeting, Day observation, CWG meeting, Local level dialogue, National Seminar others Awareness Program.

**Project Steering Committee (PSC):** During the reporting period PSC meeting has been held and reviewed the program progress.

### 24 hours Mobile Hotlink Service:

KF has been setup ICT base Mobile Hotlink Service in Natore, Meherpur and Cox's bazar districts offices. There are particular hotlink numbers which are maintained by the local offices to take the message and consign to local network. Staffs supported to congregate information of violence

## American Center Program Grants Report

through cell phone, SMS and manual registering of grievances from survivors as well as from people. KF has provided instant support to the victims through the hotlink with the assistance of local Community Watch Group (CWG) members and anti-GBV committees. The registered case/grievances reviewed by CWG and GBV committee members at Upazila level. The committee recommended actions (viz.- inspection) that are needed for redressed of the grievances.

- **Awareness Raising Campaigns (Rally, Human Chain, Day Observation Programs):** To increase awareness of youth group KF observed "International Youth Day". Due to Eid -Ul - Azah vacation on 12 September Khan Foundation observed the International Youth Day on 29th September of 2019. KF organized colorful Rally, Human Chain at 5 Upazila of three working area. KF observed the day with District and Upazila level Government Officials, Non Government **Organization, CWG & GBV members, Teachers, Students Lawyers, Journalist, Local Govt. representatives**, Local Community etc. This rally, Human chain is a part of a awareness campaign. Approximately 850 participants attended those events.

### **Adolescent group meetings:**

KF organized 5 Upz x 3 Months =15 adolescent group meetings to discuss topics of importance and interest to youth: employment prospects, health and relations between genders. KF selected adolescent girls from high schools of each upazila and conducted monthly group meetings with 28-33 participants in each meeting. Total participants were those meetings 522. Objective of those meetings were changing attitudes regarding early marriage, dowry and sexual harassment, especially in schools to access information about livelihoods opportunities, including safe migration options. School teachers and students told us, this type of activities are essential for all students and guardian for a long time. Because this type of activities are new for our school and it is very effective to reduce gender based violence. So it should be continued. In 29 August 2019 the representative of US Embassy Mr. Jonathon Gomes was present South Khoruskul High School at Coxsbazar. The student and teacher were very glad to see him and they requested to him to continue the program.

### **Linkage with shelter homes and community based care:**

Project staffs were regular communicating with local shelter homes and community based care, One stops crisis centre, District Legal Aid committee, DC office, UNO office, Law Enforcement agency, Lawyers, Social well fare department ,Women and Children affairs department Youth development department and other relevant organization to find out the support for victims.

### **Court Yard Meeting:**

KF conducted court yard meetings to aware the citizens on the concerned issues. Total participants were those meetings 887. Important messages have been circulated through Posters and leaflets. The members of the anti-GBV committee from UPZ's have created awareness amongst the local women and adolescent to realize what domestic violence is and familiarized them about hotline, its advantage, how to utilize the system. Respective anti-GBV committee members have carried out courtyard meetings to create and promote awareness on violence against women, the members visited families who belong to the target areas. They explained to them on various issues related to the violence against women and empowered women with information on available service providers for response to gender base violence. The project staff facilitated the events and aware almost 980 people in the target area.

In 29 August 2019 the representative of US Embassy Mr. Jonathon Gomes was present Khoruliya, Charpara, Jhilongza up at Coxsbazar. The participants were very glad to see him and told him to say something.

## American Center Program Grants Report

### **Meeting with Community Watch Group (CWG) members and anti-GBV committee:**

In this quarter KF organized 5 UPz meetings with 5 Community Watch Groups (CWGs) 2 times as a sustainable local mechanism to take action against VAW. Total 300 participants were present in these meetings .GBV committee members and CWG member have been discussed in these meetings on different case of violence against women of their community. They thought that violence is a serious crime that cans sets countries back socially and economically. They all are committed to improve people knowledge especially on types and extent of gender base violence and its consequences.

**Local Level Dialogue:** During this reporting period KF organized 3 District level dialogues and a number of 140 participants attended these meetings. The purpose of these meetings were avoiding sex- and gender-based discrimination starts with language, as the systematic use of gender-based terminology influences attitudes and expectations and could, in the mind of the reader or listener, relegate women to the background or help perpetuate a stereotyped view of women's and men's roles. In these dialogues KF invited elected representatives, public service providers, Woman Lawyers, Journalists, CWG committee members, students, & others activists, and influence them for mandatory practice of gender-sensitive language in the government service sectors (i.e. health and education). The participants attended these meetings emphasized on complementing interventions at the individual and community levels, actions must be taken to implement country laws and policies related to GBV in order to change the enabling environment that allows VAW to take place. They express their commitment to omit gender-sensitive languages that mean discriminatory definitions such as “destitute women” and “vulnerable/divorced/unmarried women”, and to introduce instead terms like “single women” and “single women with children”. They mentioned different strategies that can be used to express gender relationships with accuracy, such as avoiding, to the greatest possible extent, the use of language that refers explicitly or implicitly to only one gender, and ensuring, through inclusionary alternatives and according to each language's characteristics, the use of gender-sensitive and inclusive language.

### **National Seminar:**

As part of the project Khan Foundation and US Embassy in Dhaka jointly organized a National Seminar titled on **“Socio-political Implications of Increasing Gender Based Violence in Bangladesh”** on November 25, 2019 at 1:45 pm at The American Center, U.S. Embassy Dhaka, Progoti Sharoni, Plot 1, J-block, Baridhara, Dhaka 1212.

At first Advocate Rokhsana Khondker Executive Director, Khan Foundation and Mr. Joshua Kamp, Cultural Affairs Officer (Grant Officer) U.S. Embassy delivered welcome speech.

**Ms. Arlissa Reynolds**, Public Affairs Officer, U. S. Embassy was present as Guest of Honor and **Mr Gawher NayeemWahara**, Adjunct Faculty, Director DMCC, University of Dhaka and **Advocate Z. I. Khan Panna**, Member of Bangladesh Bar Council and chairman of Human rights and Legal Aid Committee and Chairperson, Executive Committee, Ain O Salish Kendra were present as Special Guests in the seminar.

## **American Center Program Grants Report**

**Ms. Rafeza Shaheen**, Program Coordinator, Child Protection, Manosher Janno Foundation, **Ms. Parvin Akter**, President, Bangladesh MohilaAwami League, Naogaon, **Ms. Rasheda Akhter**, President, District W Total participants were those meetings omen Development Forum in Cumilla and **Md. Emranul Haq Chowdhury**, Ex Chairperson, Bangladesh Shishu Odhikar Forum (BSAF)were present in the seminar as panel discussants. The seminar was chaired by **Advocate Rokhsana Khondker**, Executive Director, Khan Foundation.

### **Opening remarks:**

**Ms Khondker** in her opening speech highlighted the historic significance of 25 November as International Day for the elimination of violence against women. She urged the human rights activists to uphold the spirit of the day and work relentlessly in order to eliminate gender based violence.

### **Mr. Jashua Kamp, Cultural affairs officer US Embassy**

He welcomed all the participants on behalf of the American Centre. He introduced the activities of the American Centre and promised to collaborate with Khan Foundation in future for human rights related activities.

### **Mr. Md. Morshed Alam, Monitoring and Reporting Manager, Khan Foundation:**

Mr Morshed made a presentation on “Socio-Economic implication of increasing Gender Based Violence in Bangladesh.” He mentioned the recent sensational violence, the statistical analysis of gender based violence of last one year, the specific laws governing to women safety, important awareness activities of Khan Foundation and some recommendations to combat gender based violence.

### **Recent Some Sensational Incidence of Gander Based violence in Bangladesh:**

- Suraiya Akter Risha, a class-VIII student at Willes Little Flower School was stabbed in the capital and lost the battle for her life.
- Tanu died after being tortured and raped in Cumilla.
- Zakia Sultana Rupa was was brutally murdered after being raped in a moving bus on the way from Bogra to Mymensingh.
- A 13 year old girl was trapped and raped on the Bhaluka bus of Mymensingh.
- A young girl suffered serious burn injuries as miscreants allegedly set her on fire at Birpur in Narsingdi district.
- A schoolgirl was indiscriminately hacked by a stalker for refusing his “love proposal” in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar.
- Brutal killing following the rape of two indigenous Tripura girls in Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong.
- The gang rape of two teenage Tripura girls, one incident in Bandarban and another in Khagrachari Hill District.
- A mother of four was raped by a group of men because of voting for the opposition in last 11th Parliamentary Election at Noakhali district.
- The latest Nusrat murder case in Feni, a 19-year-old madrassa student was doused with kerosene and set on fire, on the very roof of the school building.

## **American Center Program Grants Report**

- A young girl Ayesha Siddiqua Minni arrested by police, for her said alleged involvement in the brutal murder of her husband.
- Shirina Begum a Bangladeshi female migrant workers returned after victimizing sexual assault from Saudia Arabia.

### **Open Discussions:**

#### **Taposhi Rabeya , BLAST :**

She raised her concern about the Child marriage restraint act which legitimized the marriage after rape. She shared her experience in combating Gender based violence and emphasized on the impact of social awareness in this issue.

#### **Ms Ferdousi, Ahsania Mission :**

She focused on the lack of law enforcement in the field of gender based violence. She emphasized on the child marriage situation in rural area and called for mass awareness to prevent it.

#### **Mr. Mahbubul Haque, Acting Chairperson, Bangladesh Shishu Odhikar Forum (BSAF):**

He agreed with the views of KF. We need to pressurize the Government to implement the laws. But many offenders do not get punishment due to the loopholes of laws.

#### **Shahina Laizu, KF Natore:**

She talked about restraint on child marriage. It is a good initiative but after that these girls need to be attached under some allowance program of Government. There should be long term program.

### **Delegate from Durbar Network:**

He shared his experience in working for building shelter home. He found dearth of resources while working in this project. He expects more government and NGO funding on this project.

#### **Mr. Mujibur Rahman, Executive Director SDS, Sariatpur**

He said that domestic violence is a very common issue but there is no significant step from the concerned Ministry of Women Affairs or prominent reaction. The concerned department should take responsibilities.

#### **Farzana Rahman: PSTC Gazipur**

She has been working for 22 years in this sector specially in 30 schools of Gazipur. She put emphasize on parental guidance over the children so that they do not get addicted to pornography.

Insights from the panelists:

### **Panel Discussant:**

#### **Ms Rafeza Shaheen, Program coordinator, MJF**

## **American Center Program Grants Report**

She praised the activities of KF in promoting human rights. She has been critical of the view that laws alone can safeguard the human rights. According to her, unequal distribution of wealth creates a vulnerable situation for women. She told that drug abuse is creating havoc in the society. She blamed the patriarchic social system for gender based violence and claimed herself a feminist who is committed to work for women's right. By bringing in a sociological perspective, she emphasized upon the social awareness in combating gender based violence.

### **Ms Parveen Akter, President, Bangladesh Mohila Awami League, Naogaon**

She shared her experience working with Khan Foundation. She acknowledged the positive energy for human rights activism that she got from Advocate Rokhsana and other comrades of Khan Foundation. She highlighted the issue of pre and post-electoral violence which affects mostly to the women.

### **Ms Rasheda Akhter, President, District Women Development forum in Comilla**

She emphasized upon human rights activism in rural areas and the challenges that she faced in combating gender based violence.

### **Md. Emranul Haq Chowdhury, Ex Chairperson, Bangladesh Shishu Odhikar Forum (BSAF)**

He focused on the vulnerability of women in our society and called out for mass activism in supporting the women's right

#### **Address by Special Guest:**

### **Mr. Gawher Nayeem Wahra, Adjunct Faculty, Director DMCC, University of Dhaka**

He emphasized women empowerment with secured work environment for women. He praised the initiative of Khan Foundation in promoting gender-neutral environment.

### **Advocate Z. I. Khan Panna, Member of Bangladesh Bar Council & Chairman of Human Rights and Legal Aid Committee, Ain o Shalish Kendra**

Being the lawyer of a recent sensational Minni Case, he shared his experience with lack of cooperation from different stakeholders of the government. He emphasized the role of NGOs in activating the laws that are already there.

#### **Address by Guest of Honour:**

### **Ms. Arlissa Reynolds, Public Affairs Officer, U. S. Embassy**

She thanked Khan Foundation for their effort in combating Gender based violence in Bangladesh. She expressed her willingness to collaborate with Khan Foundation in future.

#### **Concluding Remarks:**

### **Advocate Rokhsana Khondker, Executive Director, KF**

## American Center Program Grants Report

She thanked all the panelists and the audience to make the event successful. She expressed her gratitude to the US Embassy for their cooperation in each step that Khan Foundation has taken to promote gender sensitive society.

### Day Observation:

KF and US Embassy in Dhaka jointly celebrated the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 25 November 2019

The 2019 theme for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women is **‘Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands Against Rape’**. Day to combat and raise awareness of violence against women.

Like in previous years, this year's International Day marked the launch of 16 days of activism that conclude on 10 December 2019, which is International Human Rights Day.

**Management Field visit:** Khan Foundation Head Office representative visited the Cox's Bazar, Natore, and Meherpur field.

### b) Number of people reached:

*Attachment -1 Demographic list of July - September 2019 Activities*

*Attachment -2 Pictures of Activities*

### Special Achievement :

- To eradicate violence from the society there are no such alternatives rather than increase public awareness.
- National Legal Aid Day observation was a great opportunity to aware a large number of people at a time on violence against women and Govt. Legal Aid Service.
- A huge number of people specially women got knowledge and became aware direct and throughout the representative (Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad and Municipality) Students, Teachers, Journalists, CWG who are involved and participated different activities of this project.
- Khan Foundation organized 3 local level Dialogue with local level service providers and relevant stakeholder to sensitize
- Khan Foundation and US Embassy Jointly organized a **National Seminar** and celebrated **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 25 November 2019**
- Poster and leaflet distribution has made the local people knowledgeable and understanding the feature and impact of violence against women in the society.

### Khan Foundation Activities at a glance:

## American Center Program Grants Report

KF conducted series of activities during the project tenure (October 2018- September 2019). KF carried out daylong training of the field staff and focal persons in order to give a clear understanding of the project, organized awareness activities such as rallies, human chains, courtyard meetings, distribution of IEC materials, operated the 24 Hour Mobile Hotline and Case Handling. KF celebrated different International Day such as Legal Aid Day, International Women Day, International Youth Day and organized local level dialogue with service providers.

Throughout the years KF implemented 187 number of in house and outreach activities and reaches 396819 Beneficiaries of which Direct Beneficiaries 6220 and indirect Beneficiaries 394157.

| Sl. No.      | Program Name                                                  | Number of event conducted | Number of Direct Beneficiaries | Number of Indirect Beneficiaries | Total Beneficiaries |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1            | Adolescent Group Meetings                                     | 40                        | 1305                           | 13055                            | 14360               |
| 2            | Court Yard Meeting                                            | 93                        | 2499                           | 25000                            | 27499               |
| 3            | Meeting with CWG Members and Anti GBV Committee               | 20                        | 614                            | 6145                             | 6759                |
| 4            | Day observation (Rally, Human Chain, discussion meeting etc.) | 20                        | 1343                           | 13420                            | 14763               |
| 5            | Youth Group Orientation                                       | 5                         | 135                            | 1410                             | 1545                |
| 6            | Orientation for GBV committee                                 | 5                         | 106                            | 326987                           | 327093              |
| 7            | Local level Dialogue                                          | 3                         | 140                            | 1140                             | 1280                |
| 8            | National Seminar                                              | 1                         | 78                             | 780                              | 858                 |
| <b>Total</b> |                                                               | <b>187</b>                | <b>6220</b>                    | <b>387937</b>                    | <b>394157</b>       |
|              |                                                               |                           |                                |                                  |                     |

**Table 1: Outreach of Awareness Activities**

|                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Awareness Campaign- Human Chains, Rallies, IEC Material Distribution        |
| Legal Aid Day 2019 Observation                                              |
| International Youth Day 2019 Observation                                    |
| National Youth Day 2019 Observation                                         |
| International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2018 & 2019 |
| International Women's Day 2019 Observation                                  |

**Table 2: Status of Violence and Trafficking Cases**

| Sl. | Types Of Case               | Total Cases in Project Areas | Total Cases in Other Districts | Total of 9 District | Status of Cases |          |
|-----|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|----------|
|     |                             |                              |                                |                     | In Progress     | Resolved |
| 1   | Physical assault            | 03                           | 06                             | 09                  | 09              | 00       |
| 2   | Family dispute              | 56                           | 21                             | 77                  | 50              | 27       |
| 3   | Physical and Mental Torture | 80                           | 0                              | 80                  | 44              | 36       |
| 4   | Dowry                       | 14                           | 23                             | 37                  | 20              | 17       |
| 5   | Divorce                     | 08                           | 12                             | 20                  | 18              | 02       |

## American Center Program Grants Report

|    |                    |     |    |     |     |     |
|----|--------------------|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| 6  | Child Marriage     | 10  | 2  | 12  | 12  | 00  |
| 7  | Polygamy           | 43  | 0  | 43  | 28  | 15  |
| 8  | Mental Torture     | 45  | 0  | 45  | 23  | 22  |
| 9  | Eve Teasing        | 08  | 02 | 10  | 06  | 04  |
| 10 | Criminal Assault   | 17  | 01 | 18  | 14  | 04  |
| 11 | Trafficking/kidnap | 01  | 00 | 01  | 01  | 00  |
| 12 | Rape               | 00  | 01 | 01  | 01  | 00  |
|    | Total              | 285 | 68 | 353 | 226 | 127 |

### Overall Recommendations for overcoming roadblocks

There are many recommendations to prevent gender based violence in regard of social, cultural, economic and legal condition of Bangladesh. Considering the above discussion, recommendations are given below:

- Government must ensure education for women so that they can be aware of their rights and can progress financially;
- Program should be taken to remove poverty;
- Seminar and many other public awareness programs can be taken to change the attitude of society towards women;
- Laws regarding gender based violence must be strengthened and implemented properly;
- Government and non-government organization to prevent violence against women should work more effectively and dynamically;
- Round table conference among students, teachers and guardians of schools, colleges and university should be arranged to take consultation from each other to prevent gender based violence;
- Government must implement and follow the international conventions on eliminating violence against women like: CEDAW, DEVAW etc.;
- Anti-Dowry law should be implemented strictly;
- Proper implementation of traditional law;
- Rape Victim Crisis Center or Temporary Rehabilitation Center should be established to support rape victims in district level;
- Eliminating corruption among the members of law enforcement agencies;
- Those law should be abolished which are not supportive for women;
- Taking proper step to prevent women trafficking;
- Create an extensive local database comprising of information on all kind of migration including internal and external migration statistics and this will be in panel data style so that follow up can be carried out;
- Government should improve the overall data base and crime record system;
- We strongly oppose the section 19 of Child Marriage Restraint Act (2017);
- Training and capacity building of law enforcement officials specifically on identification of trafficking cases;
- The issue of violence on women and children should be introduced on curriculum;
- Activating the Legal Aid Committees in every Upazilla and Union level;
- There should be strong coordination among all the ministries and actors for comprehensible policy for women and child rights;

## American Center Program Grants Report

- NGOs should act more in collaboration and should have more sharing or dialogue on their experiences, documents;
- Research Communities have lot to do in knowledge building;
- Media interventions need to engage on behavioral change efforts and awareness on violence against women and children;
- Government need to add specific clauses to the constitution, implementing existing laws and raise awareness to put an end to human trafficking of Bangladeshi citizens;
- Government should introduce strong labour law and ensure its proper enforcement. And if needed calls for female workers repatriation from Saudi Arabia and the region.
- NGOs should be engaged in awareness programs for women who aspire to go abroad for work.
- This program should be continued at least 5 year to get actual outcome.

Despite women's advancement in education, administration, sports and economic, social and cultural spheres as well as initiatives of different GO-NGO to curb violence against women, they continue to be victims of various forms of violence including rape, sexual harassment, etc. Like in the previous years, in 2019 women were subjected to many forms of violence as well. Ending violence against women and girls is not a short-term endeavor. It requires coordinated and sustained efforts from all of us.

### Challenges (if applicable):

Not Applicable



Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_22 December 2019\_\_\_\_\_

---