



KHAN FOUNDATION

In Special Consultative Status with the Economic & Social Council of the United Nations

FINAL REPORT

on

COMBATING TRAFFICKING & VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN: A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT

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BACKGROUND

We have been talking about gender equality for decades, but even in 2014, 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 violence and trafficking.

Human rights are inalienable and fundamental rights inherent to all human beings without discrimination. Human rights are universal, i.e. applicable everywhere and equal, i.e. the same for everyone. Violence and trafficking against women and children is a major human rights violation. Violence includes physical, sexual and psychological violence, and harmful practices such as rape, “honor killings”, female genital cutting, and human trafficking. According to Amnesty International Report 2013 one-in-three women worldwide will be physically, sexually or otherwise abused during her lifetime, with rates reaching 70 percent in some countries. . In the developing world, nearly one-third of girls are married before the age of 18, and of those, nearly one-third are married before the age of 15. Violence against women threatens countries, impedes economic progress, and prevents women from raising healthy children, contributing to the household and their community, and creating better lives for themselves and their families.

Although Bangladesh has made progress in reducing the proportion of girls marrying in their early teens, the problem is far from over. By the end of 2013, over 65% of all Bangladeshi women between 20 and 24 were married before they were 18. Early marriage not only perpetuates poverty, coupled with early pregnancies, it creates grave health risks for both the mother and the child. Incidents of violence against women include physical violence, sexual harassment, acid attack, dowry related assaults, rape, etc. and rape being the most brutal violence against women, often leading to murder. Bangladesh ranks 142(out of 187 countries) on UNDP's Human Development Index list (2014). Bangladesh does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is placed on Tier 2 Watch List of the U.S. Department of State “Trafficking in Persons Report 2014”. Trafficking of women and children is one the greatest challenges to ensuring basic human rights in Bangladesh. Women and children become victims of trafficking for the purpose of forced labor, debt bondage where they suffer from restrictions on their movements, nonpayment of wages, threats, and physical or sexual abuse. Some Bangladeshi women working abroad are subsequently forced into prostitution. Women and children from Bangladesh are trafficked to neighboring India and Pakistan for commercial sexual exploitation or forced labor. In country trafficking also poses a serious concern, where girls and boys as young as eight years old are subjected to forced prostitution, and it has been found that the steroid drug, forced onto girls and women by brothel owners to make them look attractive, issued by 90 percent of girls and women between the ages of 15 and 35 in Bangladeshi brothels. To combat any sort of violence on women or children both government and non-government organizations including civil society must work together in a coordinated approach. It is essential for governments and NGOs to step in and not just protect victims of trafficking and violence but also prevent these gruesome acts.

Khan Foundation 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. Khan Foundation has a strong Human and Legal Rights Programme and has been working to promote and protect human rights and improve access to justice especially for vulnerable groups in particular for about two decades.

With the support of Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Khan Foundation has been implementing a project entitled “Combating Trafficking and Violence against Women and Children: A

Basic Human Right” in 10 districts of Bangladesh. Through our partner NGOs, Khan Foundation has also been conducting activities to combat trafficking and violence in 7 additional districts. The districts are Manikganj, Brahmanbaria, Comilla, Chandpur, Chittagong, Cox’s Bazar, Natore, Naogaon, Kushtia, Meherpur, Faridpur, Hobiganj, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar, Jessore, Satkhira, Chapainawabganj.

GOAL

Ensure basic human rights by combating trafficking and violence against women and children.

OBJECTIVES

- Prevent or end gross human rights violations, including trafficking and violence against women and children
- Raise awareness among citizens about human rights issues such as trafficking and violence, the various relevant laws and their constitutional rights
- Monitor, seek redress for and/or report on human rights violations, including supporting victims of human rights violations
- Educate and/or train human rights victims, workers or defenders
- Sensitize policy makers for taking necessary actions and promote positive change in policies or actions of government or relevant non-state actors in the area of human rights
- To create coordination, linkage and networking among different stakeholders

SOCIAL CHANGE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Social innovation is an idea or a process for solving existing problems but with new techniques or approaches. In this particular project, there are several issues to solve and these problems have several dimensions. Firstly, with advances in modern technology, the use of mobile phones has increased rapidly in Bangladesh. In extremely rural villages, mobile phones are enabling farmers, local artisans, merchants and small entrepreneurs to improve with their businesses, both through improving the outreach of their produce/products and conducting financial transactions. Incorporating a hotline into the project is innovative as well as effective considering the current technical development at the local level. Tapping into this area allows the project to be much more efficient in reaching a wider direct target group as well as delivering its services.

This project also seeks to challenge existing social norms, which adds to the social innovation aspect of the project. Currently, in most parts of Bangladesh, when a woman is faced with a concern, or a form of harassment, it is taboo to report this incident or crime. The belief is that by reporting, she would bring shame not only to herself but also her family and community in general. Also, reporting to the police directly is often discouraged since there is a fear that she instead of receiving help would be harassed even more. The hotline will function to make reporting both accessible and easy. Local volunteers will receive stress calls and address the concerns and connect them to different resources from the organization’s known networks which make the process more trustworthy and comfortable for the person reporting. By encouraging more people to report, the societal norm will slowly but surely alter. There will also be a component of peer influence. If a young girl/woman sees or hear about her friend or relatives reporting and receiving help through the hotline, she will become confident and more inclined to report crimes against her.

The digital technology employed in this project aims to improve its dissemination quality and geographical scope through the set-up of a 24-Hour Mobile Hotlink Service that receives grievances, stress calls from victims and provides instant support such as legal advice or connecting them to different resources including law enforcement agencies, crisis centers etc. This setup is seen as extremely effective given that mobile use penetration is about 66% in Bangladesh at this point and it is increasing steadily.

LOCAL APPROACH - COMMUNITY/CITIZEN WATCHGROUP (CWG)

Community Watch Group (CWG) is a great tool for developing a sustainable local mechanism to take action against trafficking and violence against women as it is one of the building blocks of the institutional framework that gives the program a community ownership. The CWG can be stated as Watch Dogs which includes social elite, professionals, lawyers, public representatives, teachers, representatives from media etc. By forming CWGs and giving them training, they become important agents of change in their communities who will continue activities after project completion as part of their social commitment. A participatory planning and implementation practice was in place that involves the local community. For instance, CWG continuously interacted and kept up to date with the local concerned authorities, local law enforcement committees, local media and local elected members. While handling cases, CWG consulted with the relevant local agencies and administrations. The CWG also carried out door-to-door visits to create and promote awareness on trafficking and violence against women notifying them about the mobile hotlink services.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Plan and Achievements

According to the agreement, the first reporting month is March 2014. As described in the work plan, the initial activities included Staff Recruitment, Training of the Trainers, Awareness Program.

Staff Recruitment:

Recruiting staff in the field level and head office was the preliminary activity of the project. Program Coordinator, Public Relations Officer and Account Officer were recruited.

Khan Foundation appointed 10 persons in the field level as Field Program Officer and Field Coordinator

Preliminary Actions

- Meeting with Citizen Watch Group Members regarding the project activities. To get information about the current situation of CWG & discussing about reformation of CWGs.
- To get personal information of CWG members.
- Meeting with project staffs about the project activities & refreshers of the members of CWG.
- Finding information about Human Trafficking Prevention Committee (present condition & activities).
- Finding information about Human Trafficking Prevention Committee at the Upazila & Union level.
- Finding information about the cases regarding women & children violence those have been handled by chairman and member of that particular area in the last two months through the village Courts & Salish.
- Report about the information they got earlier.

- Attending the Village Court & Salish and report to the head office. Meeting with Union Parishad members about the activities of Village Court & Salish.
- Finding information about the activities of other organizations which work in the same field of combating trafficking and violence against women & children. Get informed about their activities, services & how they are working in coordination with other organizations.

Preliminary Actions

KF, as an implementing partner facilitated all kinds of integration and provided all kinds of support necessary to the district level CWGs in order to ensure that the activities are successful. They ensured that the CWGs are aware of their job responsibilities, the type of activities to be undertaken and have an understanding of the relationships they need to maintain with the stakeholders, including government officials. Our approach to building cooperation among government officials, CWG members and local NGOs is to set up interactions between the parties and promote one-to-one consultations.

- Discussion meeting with Women's Lawyer Network of Khan Foundation about the project activities.
- Discussion meeting with District Legal Aid Committee's members and finding information about the current condition of the legal aid committees.
- Discussion meeting with Upazila & Union Level Legal Aid Committee's members.
- Meeting with District Judges & Sessions Judges about the clause of providing services. To get their personal information (name & address).
- Discussion meeting with the members of One-stop Crisis Centre (OCC) about service providing procedure.

All these actions stated earlier will help Khan Foundation to build a good relation with other organization working the same field.

Two Day Long Training of the Trainers (ToT):

To train the trainers of ten field offices on the project "Combating Trafficking and Violence against Women and Children: a Basic Human Right", this entry/basic level training was held at Khan Foundation. The duration of the training was 2 days. Total 13 participants 10 from 10 district field offices and 3 from Head Office. Natore, Meherpur, Cox's Bazar, Manikganj, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Chittagong, Comilla, Naogaon and Kushtia participated in this training to ensure their effective participation in project activities & to provide a foundation for future efforts to combat trafficking and violence against women and children. Khan Foundation (KF) facilitated and organized this training.

The main objective of training is to get a clear idea about the project activities and learn the technique to organize refresher for Community Watch Group (CWG), how to aware people and implement the project in field level. By receiving this training, Participants will strengthen their skills in-

- Concept on Trafficking and Violence
- Concept on Trafficking and Violence in Bangladesh Context
- Risk Analysis
- Formation of CWG

- Building social relationship and network with the target people
- CWG selection Process
- About 24 hours Mobile Hotlink Services
- Follow up and Monitoring
- Techniques of community involvement for the development of human rights.

Field Program Officers from ten district field offices participated in this training.



The two days training session was very effective and successful. Participants learnt about new issues concerning the discussed topic and able to conceptualize the ideas and concept of this training. They expressed in their evaluation that they understood and benefited from the training session and they were confident that they would be able to conduct such kinds of training and could train up other participants especially the members of Citizen Watch Group more intensively and effectively.

Participants also mentioned that they mostly enjoyed during the role play and group work as it helps them to internalize the different steps of implementing this project. Participants enthusiastically took part in the role play of describing the issues to people. They use act to make the idea more clearly to audience. At the end of each session, participants shared their feedback with each other and provided their suggestions to be incorporated during revision of the module and manual.

Participants were positive and willingly expressed their opinions. Each participant had the liberty of asking any questions and they expressed that the environment of the training course was friendly. All participants express their individual opinions and facilitators welcomed the participant's experiences, examples and recommendations.

Khan Foundation conducted the training session successfully and trainers were able to get better expression from the participants. The trainer was able to make the participants more active to participate in the open discussion on preparation of the case receiving format.

The major sessions of training were as follows:

- Definition, importance and types of training.
- Different aspects of this project, like the background, justification, objectives, process of implementation and beneficiaries of the project.
- Detail information and formation of CWG and 24 Hour mobile Hotlink.
- Different kind of violence issues like child marriage, marriage registration, divorce, dowry, rape, acid violence, eve teasing, rural system of punishment etc.
- Role of government and non-government organizations in establishing human rights through preventing trafficking and violence against women and children.

- Establish network with local community government representative, locals and organizations to prevent trafficking and violence.
- Formation Union Community Watch Group and Upazila Citizen Watch Group.
- Presentation techniques and related checklist.

Major Achievement and Observation

Participants praised that the facilitation style and the contents they discussed in the training. They also appreciated the overall environment of the training venue including food and lodging. In the reflection session most of the participants expressed that, the training classes were very effective and it enhanced their level of knowledge and skills. The contents of the course were appropriate and time demanding. Major achievements and observations of the ToT as following:

- Articulations of delivering speeches were unique
- Participants got clear ideas on how to organize CWG refreshers. They were confident to conduct workshops.
- Training made them able to use Mobile Hotlink in preventing trafficking and violence in grassroots level.
- Communication and presentation was very much effective
- Professional success depends on the application of training
- Emphasized on the attitude of the local community
- Role-play elucidates the contents.
- Discussion on victim status was very good.
- Feedback session was more effective to remove all ambiguity.
- Training made the participants aware the community for find out the root causes of the Trafficking and Violence.
- Participants were committed to work level best to change and develop the attitude of community people (especially disadvantage people) for upholding the livelihood activities
- Participants received knowledge to be an effective communicator for mobilizing the target people.
- Training made them able to establish network between Government offices and the community people.
- Participants have got clear understanding on the project objectives

General Recommendation:

- Two-way communications should be followed in effective communication.
- Coordination between trainers and participants can make a good facilitation.
- Without successful communication, objectives will not be fulfilled.
- It is necessary to start learning from the local community.
- Rapport building is the pre-requisite to form CWG.
- Situational analysis can help to solve the problems by sharing among the target group members.

Refreshers Workshop of CWG Members

Khan Foundation successfully organized one day “Workshops on Community Watch Group (CWG)” 10 districts that will play a pivotal role to protect trafficking and violence against women and children at grassroots level. About 298 participants were participated in this workshop which was higher than our targets. Government officials, local government representatives and member of law enforcement agencies were participate to show their solidarity in this program. Along with them women lawyers, local NGO’s representative, journalists, teachers, religious leaders, political leaders, cultural activists, local community leaders, members of Youth Club etc were took part in these workshops..

The major objectives of these workshops were as follows:

- Concept of project goal, objectives, component and activities
- Concept on combating trafficking and violence against women and children
- Causes of trafficking and violence
- Risk analysis and overcoming strategies
- Concept of 24 hours Mobile Hotlink Services
- CWG selection Process
- Formation of CWG
- Collect information on the issue; impose necessary action in the dissemination of information among the respective offices to provide quick service in response to any complaint and implementation of awareness raising campaign strategies.
- Roles and responsibilities as CWG committee members.
- Follow up and monitoring process

Major Achievement and Observation

Upazila level administrative officials have given their commitment to give all kinds of support to the sufferers/sufferers on these issues in future. Especially Upazila Nirbahi Officers and Upazila Chairmen have shown their gratitude to Khan Foundation for taking these new initiatives like mobile hotlink services to prevent trafficking and violence.

- Participants have got clear ideas on how to communicate and link with other GO-NGO networks.
- Participants have been confident to protect trafficking and violence at grassroots level.
- Workshops have made them able to use Mobile Hotlink in preventing trafficking and violence at grassroots level.
- Given emphasized on the attitude of the local community on sufferers for providing all kind support to comeback in to their normal life.
- Feedback session has become effective to remove all ambiguity.



- Workshop has made the participants aware as members of the community to find out the root causes of the Trafficking and Violence.
- Participants have become committed to work their level best to change and develop the attitude of community people (especially disadvantaged people) for upholding the livelihood activities.
- They are now capable to establish a network between Government offices and the community people.

Recommendations:

- Coordination among KF and Govt. officials, law enforcement agencies, CWG members, local govt. representatives can play a vital role to protect trafficking and violence.
- Everyone should consider the situations and conditions to disseminate any message to the concerned person/authorities.
- Everyone should respect others opinion at all levels.
- Continuous follow-up and monitoring is essential to know the progress of the project.
- Again Refreshers Course is needed after three or six months.

Concluding Remarks

The Facilitator praised the contribution of the participants for making the course successful. They also acclaimed the inquisitiveness, pro-activeness and team spirit of the participants. They expressed their satisfaction on overall management.

He has also mentioned that the selection of the participants was appropriate and the understanding levels of the participants were more or less similar so that they enjoyed all the contents as these were related to their practical work.

- The participants were very much accommodative.
- Some participants were very new and some had field experienced.
- Participants were supportive to develop openness in the session.
- They did their group work with festive mood.
- Facilitator was happy to get the proactive roles from the seniors.
- Participants expressed their motivation towards their project.

Awareness Campaign

KF has conducted awareness building campaigns in 10 districts. The awareness building campaigns are able to bring together men, women and youth, local administrations, local government, law enforcement agencies, lawyers, teachers, cultural activist and the media highlighted the issues on combating trafficking and violence against women and children using 24 hours mobile hotlink systems on Local level newspapers covered this program.

KF used the method of celebrating different International Day such as Legal Aid Day, International Women Day, International Youth Day; organizing sharing meeting with local government elected representatives and Union Parishad Development Coordination Committee at Union Parishad level, Digital Fair, Democracy Fair Etc.

The objectives of the campaign programs are-

- To aware mass people on women and child trafficking issues
- To Inform people about trafficking and violence issues
- To eradicate trafficking and violence from the society
- To sensitize the issues in every aspect of the society



The program of the campaign session included the following contents:

1. Rally and Human Chain
2. Concept note presentation and discussion In meeting Session
3. Mobile Cultural Program (Issue based Drama and Songs)
4. Behavioral Chance Communication Materials (Poster, Leaflet, Stickers, Banner)

Achievements and observations:

- These campaigns have organized by Community Watch Group (CWG) members.
- These campaigns bring together local government representatives, government officials, Journalist, lawyers and mass people.
- A significant number of government officials were present and shared their valuable comments



- Govt. officials, elected representatives are welcomed the campaigns and willingly taking part in it.
- Participation of local cultural team in these campaigns has added a value to the campaign.
- Poster, leaflet, stickers distribution has made the local people knowledgeable and understanding the feature and impact of trafficking and violence in the society.
- Issue based cultural program was highly appreciated by the audience and helped to go into the depth of the program objectives.
- Participants were positive and willingly express their opinions
- Rally and Human chain were held from diverse communities people stand one and one to express their solidarity
- Oath taking has created a commitment for the mass people to implication 24 hours mobile hotlink service
- Concept paper was easy to understand and open discussion on the issues “Combating Trafficking and violence against women and Children: A Basic Human Rights “for the mass people.



Awareness activities such as rallies, human chains, courtyard meetings, miking service, distribution of IEC materials, were successfully carried out that together men, women and youth, local administrations, local government representatives, law enforcement agencies, lawyers, teachers, cultural activist and the media highlighted the issues on combating trafficking and violence against women and children using 24 hours mobile hotlink system. Local level newspapers covered this program.

KF used the method of celebrating different International Day such as Legal Aid Day, International Women Day, International Youth Day; organizing sharing meeting with local government elected representatives and Union Parishad Development Coordination Committee at Union Parishad level International Women's Day Celebration for Awareness

On March 8, the world observed the International Women's Day. Across the sphere including Bangladesh, the day has been observed with the aims of raising public awareness of women's rights and what people can do to promote it. As before, Khan Foundation (KF) observed the day through various programs this year as well. The program organized at the district level included human chain,

rally, dialogues, cultural program, poster, Leaflet ,Sticker Hotlink Numbers distribution, candle lightening etc. with great enthusiasm. As a part of women's day observation KF has completed awareness campaigns in observance of International Women's Day in ten districts Natore, Meherpur,



Cox's Bazar, Manikganj, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Chittagong, Comilla, Naogaon and Kushtia.

Operating the 24 Hour Mobile Hotline and Case Handling

About 715 cases especially recorded on child trafficking, women and men trafficking, physical torture/assaults, early marriage, dowry, divorce, second marriage, separation, raped, eve teasing, revival of conjugal, maintenance and others trafficking and violence issue through 24 hours mobile hotlink services. Legal Counseling, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), Village Court, Negotiation and others were provided to solve these problems. Successfully most of the cases were solve through this network. Field Staff along with Community Watch Group members played a proactive role to protect trafficking and violence against women and children at grassroots level. Law enforcement authorities, Local Administrations, Local Govt. Representatives, Marriage Register, Press Media and others local community provided quick response to protect and rescued trafficked persons and sufferers/victims. KF coordinating to establish linkage and networking with One stop Crisis Center (OCC) along with Community Watch Group (CWG) at Upazila, District level for providing support jointly to the sufferer/victims when immediate protection or medical assistance is required. 24 Hours Mobile Hotlink Secretariat (KF) ensured a process of information gathering, problem analysis and finding solutions for continuous improvement of the project.

Following impacts are come out through these activities***Demonstrated Impact Combating Trafficking and Violence:***

24 hours mobile hotlink services provide new skills, system and awareness help to establish following impacts in field which are used successfully to reduce trafficking and violence at grass root level:

- Members of CWG: Community Watch Group accountable, supportive and responsive service at the local level.
- Community Involvement : People are encouraged to become involved through existing project
- Raising awareness and introducing 24 hours hotlink Services: Community people become vibrant and proactive to fight against trafficking and violence.
- Capacity to monitor victim/sufferers: Community Watch Group successfully monitored and evaluated the victims and taken corrective actions in a timely manner, and to the satisfaction of local communities.
- Engagement with stakeholders: Different stakeholders can discuss how to use and implications of 24 hours hotlink services and what their objectives will be in any discussion. Positive relationship developed among stakeholders likely Police, lawyers, immigrant officers, judges, civil surgeon, women and social welfare officers and local government representatives.
- Behavior Change of Service Providers as well as the Communities: This implies a change in the community watch group approach to service delivery towards victims / sufferers.
- Linkage and Networking: A linkage and network of community watch group including government officials, Onestop Crisis Center (OCC), local government representatives, non-government organizations, law enforcement agencies, lawyers, and media groups dedicated to reduce trafficking and violence from the society.

Major achievements and observations:

- Providing 24 hours mobile hotlink services to the sufferers/victims
- Providing immediate response to the sufferers/victims
- Built awareness among the local community people about the nature, roles and responsibilities towards 24 hours mobile hotlink services as well as case handling for sufferers/victims.
- The members of Onestop Crisis Center (OCC) and Community Watch Group (CWG) are informed about the use and implication of 24 Hours Mobile Hotlink services.
- Quick response to emergencies.
- Instant legal support on trafficking and violence
- Prompt delivery of information about nearby legal institutions
- Logistic support for the victims
- Advice on taking legal actions
- Information about the Women Lawyers' Network in the respective area
- Shelter-home information
- Emergency hospitalization by calling ambulance or informing nearest local committee to take actions.
- Continuous follow-up and monitoring the progress of Victims

Field Visit and Monitoring

KF has Monitoring and Follow-up Program and Victims.

Objectives of Field Visits were as follows:

- To check victims' profiles which were recorded at field level
- To share the progress of the cases with CWG members
- To follow-up the ongoing project activities
- To aware mass people on the message of 24 hours mobile hotlink services
- To setup a link with One stop Crisis Center (OCC) and Civil Surgeons to provide health support to the sufferers
- To setup a link with district legal aid committee to provide legal support to the sufferers
- To share the cases with women lawyers' network to provide support to sufferers.

Major achievements and observations:

- Using case register regularly
- Using poster, leaflet and sticker for publicity
- Participating local representatives for using 24 hours mobile hotlink numbers
- Delivering information to the sufferers through counseling
- Providing health and legal support to sufferers instantly
- Civil Surgeons and Social Welfare officers have given the commitment to support to the sufferers as per need
- Local administration are very positive towards the project for protecting trafficking and violence
- Women lawyers network providing Legal Advice and support to sufferer.
- Regular Follow-up meeting Organized with the Victims, CWG Members, Lawyers and Local staff.

Recommendations:

- Campaign is needed for increasing awareness
- Coordination meeting with CWG and local Govt. elected representative is needed by quarterly
- Local cable network can play a vital role for making a good publicity on 24 hours hotlink numbers
- Local press media can publish 24 hours hotlink number in respective districts.

Focal Persons have gathered information about violence and trafficking through mobile phones and provided an instant support to the victims with the assistance of local NGOs, Women Lawyer's Network and Community Watch Group members. They have collected information on the issue, taken necessary actions and enabled dissemination among the respective offices in order to provide a quick service and respond to any complaint. They carried out the following:

National Seminar

Khan Foundation organized a national seminar on “Fighting Trafficking & Violence against Women and Children: Overcoming Roadblocks in Khan Foundation’s Journey” on November 24, 2014. Ambassador Gerben Sjoerd de Jong, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bangladesh will be present as Guest of Honor. We tied the theme of the seminar to the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2014.



One of the priority areas of Khan Foundation is promotion and protection of human rights and under this programme, we have been implementing “Combating Trafficking and Violence against Women and Children: A Basic Human Right” in ten districts. This seminar was organized to discuss the findings of our project, present some case studies and debate on the laws and legal provisions in the area.

In the morning of the National Seminar, a Special Morning Session was held. This orientation session was held in the Democracy Auditorium of Khan Foundation. This orientation was for the CWG members and CSO partners so that informal introductions could be made and Khan Foundation could elaborate on the agenda for the day of the seminar and go over the goals and the objectives. KF staffs, civil society representatives, citizen watch group (CWG) members, women lawyers, teachers, local government representatives were present in the seminar and shared their experience.

At the seminar there were several sessions. It started with Introduction to Khan Foundation and the Project: Challenges and New Directions. The next section was Experience Sharing from Grassroots which included representatives from community watchgroups, local NGOs, women lawyers, Union Parishad Chairman, Upazila Vice Chairman and Survivors, Open Discussion, Remarks by Panel

Discussants which included Director of Uddipan, Executive Director of Ahsania Mission, Naogaon Mayor and Director of National Legal Aid Services Organization, Intervention by Experts, which included Professor Ishrat Shamim, Nazmunnesa Mahatab from University of Dhaka and Selina Mohsin, Former Ambassador to Maldives, Address by the Special Guest Leo Kenny, Country Director for UNAIDS Bangladesh, Address by the Guest of Honor H.E Gerben de Jong, Ambassador for the Kingdom of Netherlands in Bangladesh, Concluding Remarks by the Chair, Advocate Rokhsana Khondker, Executive Director of Khan Foundation.

Delivering his greetings, Ambassador de Jong said, "I'd like to thank Khan Foundation. They have found a formula by which they have gathered you here and have given a nice program. The government of Netherlands emphasises on human rights. We work for many things, for example, transgender, women's rights, etc. Special attention should be given to the incidents of RanaPalza or Tazrin Garments. We need to specify these issues and take decisions regarding them. A national action should be created to combat trafficking and violence against women. We are helping Khan Foundation because they have identified different problems of the people.

Detail Report of National Seminar is attached in Annex: A

IMPACT

Table 1: Outreach of Activities- Training, Awareness, Services

Sl. No.	Name of Activities	Number of Participants		
		Male	Female	Total
A.	Two Day long Training Of Trainers (ToT)	6	7	13
B.	Refresher of Citizen Watch Group (CWG) at local level	178	120	298
C.	Awareness Raising Activities :			0
	International Women's Day 2014 Observation	1047	1174	2221
	Legal Aid Day 2014 Observation	1329	781	2110
	International Youth Day 2014 Observation	744	484	1228
	National Youth Day 2014 Observation	446	285	731
	Awareness Meeting with Union Parishad Representatives	1612	445	2057
	Awareness Meeting with Pouroshava Representatives	121	32	153
	Awareness Meeting with Network of Volunteer Activist (NAV)	241	141	382
	Awareness Meeting with Upazila Forum of EWRs	0	199	199
	Awareness Meeting with Union Development Coordination Committee (UDCC)	3496	1474	4970
	Awareness Campaign	13723	7924	21647
	Digital Fair	150	350	500
D.	24 Hours Mobile Hotlink Services			0
	Monthly Follow-up Meeting	253	386	639
	National Seminar	84	62	146
	Case Handling	0	715	715
	Total	23430	14579	38009

Table 2: Status of Activity wise Materials Distributed

Sl. No.	Name of Activities	Banner	Pen	Pad	Folder	Sticker	Leaflet	Folder Plastic	Flyer	Poster	Folder Bag
A.	Two Day long Training Of Trainers (ToT)	1	15	15							
B.	Refresher of Citizen Watch Group (CWG) at local level					500				500	
	Others										
C.	Awareness Raising Activities :										
	International Women's Day 2014 Observation	10				1000	2000			2000	
	Legal Aid Day 2014 Observation	10				1000	2000			2000	
	International Youth Day 2014 Observation					500	1000			1000	
	National Youth Day 2014 Observation					1000	1000			2000	
	Awareness Meeting with Union Parishad Representatives					2057	2057			2057	
	Awareness Meeting with Pouroshova Representatives					153	153			153	
	Awareness Meeting with Network of Volunteer Activist (NAV)					382	382			382	
	Awareness Meeting with Upazila Forum of EWRs					199	199			199	
	Awareness Meeting with Union Development Coordination Committee (UDCC)					2500	2000			4970	
	Awareness Campaign	21	511	511		10000	5000	511	3500	5239	
	Digital Fair					2000					
D.	24 Hours Mobile Hotlink Services										
	Monthly Follow up Meeting	10	320	320				320			
	National Seminar	10	150	150	200	500			300		150
	Case Handling										
		62	996	996	200	21791	15791	831	3800	20500	150

Table 3: Status of Violence and Trafficking Cases

Sl.	Types Of Case	Grand Total 10 District	Status	
			In Progress	Solved
1	Physical assault	185	97	88
2	Family dispute	56	29	27
3	Physical and Mental Torture	80	44	36
4	Dowry	95	54	41
5	Bride Money (Denmohor ETC)	69	38	31
6	Child Marriage	42	8	34
7	Polygamy	43	28	15
8	Mental Torture	45	23	22
9	Divorce	58	26	32
10	Deals	4	4	0
11	Eve Teasing	8	6	2
12	Criminal Assault	17	14	3
13	Trafficking/kidnap	13	3	10
	Total	715	374	341

ROADBLOCKS IDENTIFIED

DOWRY RELATED VIOLENCE

From our experiences, it was found that the rates of violence are second highest in the case of dowry related violence with a total of 164 cases in the span of a year. Many women become victim of violence due to this dowry system and every year many young women commit suicide or face physical torture after marriage. Dowry is more prevalent in the extreme rural parts of the country and they can range from hundreds to thousands of dollars, significantly higher than the average daily wage and costly medical expenses. Hence, it perpetuates poverty. Despite a number of laws and ordinances criminalizing dowry, including the Dowry Prohibition Act of 1980, this type of violence is alarmingly high due to weak implementation of laws and poor monitoring of law enforcement officials.

DRUG/SUBSTANCE ABUSE AS A PRIMARY CAUSE FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In Bangladesh women face various types of domestic violence such as physical, psychological, economic and sexual abuse. Throughout the project period we have received 185 cases of physical assault and 58 cases of family disputes. By analyzing the data, we found that of these domestic violence cases, a significant portion is driven by drug and substance abuse of husbands. A high rate of drug and substance abused has been identified which leads to more aggressive behavior among the husbands.

CHANGES IN TRENDS OF TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Although we are aware of the grave situation of human trafficking in Bangladesh, there is no accurate or comprehensive database or statistics. According to the Bangladesh Country Report, 2013 on Combating Human Trafficking published by the Ministry of Home Affairs, between January to December 2013 the number of trafficked person was 1312 and the number rescued or recovered was 1090. We know that these are very shy estimates and annual trafficking rates range around thousands. Through our hotline, we also did not receive many cases of trafficking and upon investigation; we found that the entire method of trafficking has evolved into more dangerous means. The situation is such that traffickers have devised methods that deceive those who are trafficked as well as their families. These women and children are primarily engaged in businesses by their traffickers. These small businesses may include smuggled goods or drugs across borders. Those who are trafficked also in many cases receive earnings for a few months. Then gradually, once the traffickers can build the trust of these individuals and/or their families, they covertly conduct trafficking of women and children for various purposes including prostitution or bonded labor. It is often the case that the families do not even realize that their children or other members have been trafficked and therefore the process of reporting is also affected.

Problems encountered by the project during the first four months:

The project has lost almost 4 weeks due to the highlighted problems in spite of the mitigation measures. The Netherlands Embassy and KF signed the contract in late November 2013 and consequently the project was scheduled to commence from December 2013. However, due to adverse political conditions, the project experienced activities being interrupted due to frequent hartals and blockades in December, which was the first and most crucial month for the project.

The month of December was the inception period of the project and due to the prevailing lack of security, many planned activities had to be rescheduled. That has caused a small impact on project expenditure. In spite of KF's initiatives to start the project activities on efficiently and on time, the budget amount for this month, Tk. 128,500, has remained unused which is the 2.82% of the total project cost.

For the last three months, the working environment has been very ambivalent in the assigned working areas with a few exceptions in Dhaka city. Since the Netherlands Embassy and KF signed the contract on 24 November 2013, the situation had escalated even further in the past one and half months. December was the inception period of the project and during that time, following are the problems that we faced due to the prevailing lack of security:

1. Regular functioning of the head office staff has been hampered.
2. Planned activities have been interrupted and consequently delayed such as recruitment of field staff and the setting up of field offices.
3. Training of Trainers (ToT) and Refresher course of Citizen Watch Group (CWG) at local level has been rescheduled.

Mitigation measures to deal with these challenges:

KF as an organization has been working on democracy and development since its inception and therefore has a vast knowledge of this kind of situation. The KF Head office has been observing the situation and has already executed the startup activities. KF has already sent out circulars for staff recruitment, interviewed candidates, setup field offices and also updated its work plan in consultation with stakeholders.

According to the agreement of the project "Combating Trafficking and Violence against Women and Children: A basic Human Rights" with EKN started from November 2013 till end of October 2014. But due to unavoidable political circumstances, we started from December 2013. Therefore we requested a one-month extension of the project duration up to the end of November 2014. This was approved and during the remaining tenure of the project, KF planned to arrange a National Seminar on Trafficking and Violence issue. The objective of this seminar is to share the project experience and raise the recommendation of the local level advocacy program (Follow up and planning meetings) to the concern authority policy makers and donors. The seminar will also activate civil society organizations working on the same field and media for combating trafficking and violence against women. CWG members will play an important role in the seminars as they will share their findings. This was successfully organized and the details are in the report.

Other Challenges

From this project we found that poverty and lack of education play a significant role in contributing to trafficking and violence against women. Hence it is important to create awareness about this issue and there is a need to achieve development in these areas. Khan Foundation believes that its partnership with local NGOs and the various networks will allow it to continue providing services to the victims of trafficking and violence. KF will use the expertise gained from the project to pursue activities in other parts of the country. In all its activities, KF gives special attention to women and will continue to act as a pressure group to promote positive change in policies and actions of government or relevant non-state actors in the area of human rights since human rights can only be achieved by ensuring women's rights.

Khan Foundation also found that working in the area of trafficking and violence involved some danger and physical risk since the trafficking groups are sometimes well connected and experienced. However, KF was able to overcome this challenge through the CWG, which consisted of members from law enforcing agencies and other influential people such as lawyers, Elected UP members. Together they acted as a pressure group facing any threats that arose.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OVERCOMING ROADBLOCKS

When working with the CWGs, it is important to have representation by gender, profession and age groups as well as geographic representation. However, it is also important to ensure the dedication and commitment of these people. We need to form a CWG with citizens who are willing to take initiative and put their time into the activities. For instance, when holding CWG meetings, the venue must be on a rotation basis so that the same people do not have to commute long distances every week.

It is recommended that such sensitive activities involving government officials, local administration, Citizen Watch Groups, if implemented in future involve longer duration with enough time to conduct monitoring, follow-up and evaluation. Without follow up and evaluation, it is difficult to assess the feasibility and effectiveness of the program. Longer time duration will also enable the CWGs to get more trained and develop their capacities to become important players in their communities as well as sustainable channels for implementing development activities.

One of our recommendations relates to actions that can be taken by the Government. Government should improve the overall data base and crime record system. One idea is to 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. The Government should organize training and capacity building of law enforcement officials specifically on identification of trafficking cases. At the local levels, it should activate the Legal Aid Committees at the Upazilla and Union Parishad level. At the national level, there should be strong coordination among all the ministries and actors for comprehensible policy and implementation for women and child rights. In terms of policy, implementation and legal implications, the Government should finalize, adopt and disseminate the implementation of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act (2012). The

Government must also revise the decision to lower the child marriage age of girls from 18 to 16 and of boys from 21 to 18 under the Child Marriage Restraint Act (2014). Although the issue of child marriage and sexual and reproductive health of women has been introduced to the secondary school curriculum, there is no implementation. Therefore, the Government should organize training, capacity building and awareness raising of school teachers and school authorities.

In the civil society sector, NGOs should act more in collaboration and should have more sharing or dialogue on their experiences, documents and evidence of violence and trafficking issues. 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

Case Study: Trafficking

Name: Rima Akhter (7.5), Jannatul Ferdous (5.5), Father- Joz Mia Village: BrittiDattadpur, Union- Paharpur, P.S- Bijoypur, District: Brahmanbaria

- 1st Complainant

Farzana Begum (7), Father - Bilram Mia, Village - Oilpur, Union- Paraharpur, P.S- Bijoypur, District: Brahmanbaria

- 2nd Complainant 2nd

Ranu Begum (26), Father - Late Madhu Mia, Village - Birpasha, Union- Budhanti, P.S- BijoyNagar, District: Brahmanbaria

Complaint: 3 kindergarten children (girls) are missing and this news has been delivered through Hotlink mobile number

Date and Time: 28/06/14 8:10am

Place of Occurrence: Awoliya Bazar, Fokursh Ideal Academy

The complaint of Rima, Farzana and JannatulFerdaus has been described as follows:

Rima and JannatulFerduse are sisters. Their father Joz Mia is living abroad and their mother has passed away. They were brought up by their paternal uncle. At 7:30 am when they were going to school, they first met Rima's friend Farzana and then when they reached Aowlia Bazar, they met Ranu Begum as well. Then Ranu Begum talked to Rima and JannatulFerduous that their father had returned from abroad and asked her to take them. Though we just came from home, we did not know that father had come. She said "I am your relative, I was sent to fetch you. When they were in front of Fokursh Ideal Academy, Ranu Begum by offering some chocolates to Rima, Jannatul Ferdus and Farzana took them. EMR of Paharpur Union informed Khan Foundation through Hotlink and requested to take urgent measures. Khan Foundation took the allegation and started investigation. Local People challenged Ranu Begum when she was taking 3 school kids across the village 2-3 km far to Awolia Bazar. When local people asked whether they know Ranu Begum but kids answered 'no' and replied that Ranu Begum told them that their father had come from abroad by saying this they had been taken local people escorted Ranu Begum from Gowal Nagar Village and took her through CNG before Fokursh Ideal Academy and locked her in a room. Police BGB, Journalist, elected chairman women representatives, village, Village police, respected local people and officers from Khan Foundation went there and Ranu Begum was unanimously handed to police. A case was filed to local PS under Nari-o-ShishuNirjaton Damon Ain-2000 for this incident and all the expenditure was promised to be given by Head teacher of Fokursh Ideal Academy.

Follow Up: We met few days later guardian of Rima, Jannath and Farzana and asked them how everything was going on. They replied that children were going to school and remained no problem and Headmaster replied the same as well. The case of Ranu Begum is still pending before court.

Case Study: Violence

Nahar (a pseudonym) is a daughter of Late Md. Shafi of Kayjorbill village of Garjonia UP under RamuUpazila in Cox's bazar district. She got married with Nazir Ahmed son of Late GuraMiah of

Larpara village of Jhlongja union in the same district. They were gifted with a son named Shakib (08) and a daughter named Shaika (11) in their twelve years of conjugal life. Basically, Nazir Ahmed is a greedy and domineering person. He has been tortured Nahar physically and mentally from the very beginning. Even Nahar was pressurized to bring one lac taka from her father to run her husband's business. The torture was increased gradually when Nahar failed to bring money. He threatened Nahar very often for second marriage. Nahar prayed justice from the local respective community against her husband. But the accused Nazir Ahmed had a second marriage violating the decision of the Shalish without taking permission from his first wife. Then, the torture become intolerable and she (Nahar) has been harassed physically and mentally for dowry of one lac taka after being provoked by the second wife. Nahar Begum came back her parents' house for unbearable torture. The accused Nazir Ahmed came in his father in law's house on 13th October, 2014. In that day, he bitted Nahar with an iron rod in front of all during the discussion on dowry at about 3.00 pm. As a result, the right eye of Nahar was wounded seriously and it was suspected that survivor's eye would be damaged. In this situation, Nahar Begum met the advisor of Citizen Watch Group (CWG) with the help of a kind hearted person. The advisor informed the responsible project officer of Khan Foundation (KF) over telephone to hotlink number. The officer of KF brought her to Cox's bazar Sadar Hospital for treatment. Considering the injury of the patient the doctor in charge suggested to get admitted in the hospital. In that day, the officer of KF filed a case in a local police station on behalf of the survivor. At present, the member of lawyer's network of KF Advocate Saki. A. Kawser is conducting the case. The project officer of KF has arranged shelter for Nahar in the department of women affaires after improving her physical condition. Now the case is under trial and the accused is fugitive. She delivered her gratitude to the KF for helping the oppressed women.

Case Study: Violence

Name	: MazedaAkther
Husband	: Yousuf
Village	: Ghosta, Kacharinagar
P.O.	: Char Ghosta
P.S.	: Manikganj
Dis	: Manikganj
Mobile	: 0188589608

Mazeda Akther was leaving happily with her children and husband. But in the absence of MazedaAkther her mother in law always complaint to Mazedas husband against her. Mazedas husband Yousuf Ali without considering anything started to tortured her physically. Sometime she had been sent to Hospital as well as a result of torture.

After severed time arbitration then could able to get solution- but just after few day the same thing happened repeatedly. Last date 09-06-2014 Mazada Akther had been hospitalized against to save her life because of her husband's torture of violence. Compliment was unable to bear the expenditure of the above mentioned case, then she went to Nabagram Union Parishad where she came to known about the Khan Foundation mobile Hotlink and by using the hotlink number NasimaAhter from Manikgong. Nasima Akter asked Mazeda Akter to come office and so

on 'last date 23/08/2014 Mazeda Akter came to office and informed us detailed about her problem. Then we informed her about the Legal Aid service where had not to pay and charge. She told us that for the first time she came to know about free legal aid service through Khan Foundation and also add that if she used to know about this free legal Aid service before then she did not have to face such sorrow and pain. Mazeda Akter requested me to resolve the matter through chairman, member, According to that we fixed the date 11/09/14 to settle the matter with chairman, member and me (office from Khan Foundation). But the complainant could not attend the Shalish because of the fear of her husband. Subsequently without the Chairman the family member and the some respected local people relatives of the complainant and reparative Nasima Akter of Khan Foundation settle the motive unanimously. They got divorced through the KholaTalak by paying as an award of Dower 50,000/- and they started leaving separately. Now Mazeda Akther is happily living with her children and she is trying to become self-reliant through small cottage Industry.

Case Study: Violence

Event Place:

House of Noor Islam at the village of Bangpai, Munsirhat Union, ChouddogramUpazilla, Comilla District

Time: 09 to 10 September 2014

Source of the Event:

Hotlink telephone, Bipu, Latif Master, KhirnashalKazi Zafar Ahmed High School

Related person of the Event:

MdMahfuzAlam, UP Chairman, Nasrin, Hasina Begum UP member, and Hossain Ahmed (field Program officer) prevention of women and child trafficking: A Basic human Right Project.

Detail of the Event:

Khan Foundation states about tortured helpless poor and right deprived people of the society. Khan Foundation is running campaign for raising awareness in terms of women torture prevention and arranging regular meeting and creating public awareness in terms of solving these problems way of solution and implementation plan for the society by the project prevention of women -Child trafficking: A Basic human Right Project. At last 10.09.14 dated, Nadia's early marriage had been stopped in this reduction. Nadia is a student of class eight, KhirnashalKazi Zafar Ahmed High School, role no. is 06, date of birth is 12. 08.2000. Address - Village :Bangpai, father - Noor Islam, Munshihat, Chauddagram, Comilla. Nadia's marriage had been fixed with her cousin Liton, who lived in the same house of Nadia, by her parents at the date of 10.09.2014. CWG member Mosharaf HossainBipu called at Hotlink just before one hour ago of the wedding. After being sure by calling UP member Hasina Begum, Nasrin a UP member and renowned persons of the society pressured Nadia's parents to stopping wedding. Though the girl's mother agreed this Khan Foundations eked help from Upazila executive officer Mr Debmoy Dewan in favor of local office, he ordered UP Chairman MrMahfuzAlam to stop this wedding. The Chairman sent Hasina Begum and CWG member Bipu to Nadia's house and stopped this wedding and advised her to continue study. And in this way the girl has been escaped from this early marriage. She got a chance to continue her study. Science then Nadia's goes to school regularly. In this year she is participating in JSC exam.

Case Study: Violence

Rahima (a pseudonym) is a girl of a lower middle class family of Dhopainagar village of Baktarpur UP in Naogaon district. She is a daughter of a poor father who has passed higher secondary education. A project, "Combating, trafficking and violence against women and children: A basic human right" implemented by Khan Foundation (KF) has brought a positive change in Rahima's life. The story started in February, 2014 when a phone call was received by project officer of KF. He registered all information (name, address, complain etc.) after hearing the happening from the survivor. In the next day he (KF staff) visited and registered all information of conjugal collision and torture in consultation with Rahima's family members and the neighbors. Rahima got married with Robin, son of Abdur Rashid of Bhabanigathi village of No-5, Hapania UP of Sadar Upazila by the decision of both family two years back. Though everything was all right in the beginning but after sometimes conjugal unhappiness was raised. Rahima then qualified in the admission test of the Jahangirnagar University after passing H.S.C examination from Naogaon Govt. College. She requested her husband for completing the admission procedure in the university. This matter has not been accepted by the conservative family of Robin. They started to torture for dowry to make an obstacle against her study. In a stage, Rahima was bound by Robin to bring money from her father for the job of government primary school. To get rid of torture by her greedy husband and family members, Rahima was bound to handover one lakh fifty thousand taka to them step by step. After sometimes, Robin and his family members increased physical and mental torture when she failed to pay. Though a Salish was organized by the local community, the torture was increased day by day. In this situation, Rahima's father cannot protect her daughter from torture though another Salish was organized. Then Rahima's destination was to staying with her father. In that time, the women leader, Dewan Shahina Akter (Piyal) of Baktarpur UP came forward to cooperate with Rahima. She brought Rahima to KF project office and made a complain. Advocate Rabeya Akhter, who is a member of KF women Lawyer's network, was given the responsibilities to take necessary steps regarding Rahima's complained. She discussed with both parties to find out a solution of the problem and after the failure of all efforts, according to her suggestion Rahima failed a case for 'divorce and maintenance' against her husband Robin. Under the project of "Combating, trafficking and violence against women and children: A basic human right" Advocate Rabeya Akhter failed a case and now Rahima after divorcing her husband has been running with the struggle for living a violence free environment. Her aim is to take up the responsibilities of her parents after completing her education. Along with this, she has been receiving computer training. Rahima has established her rights with the cooperation of KF's project and received training as a member of voluntary group of KF. She has been working to prevent violence against women in her area.

When the Executive Director of KF Advocate Rokhsana Khondker heard the heart touching story of Rahima, she has arranged her higher education with free of cost in The Millennium University. This declaration has changed the scenario of Rahima and her family, now she is dreaming a beautiful future. Rahima is determined to cooperate in legal side for the women and children who faced violence.