



KHAN FOUNDATION

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

Project Report

on

Women in Need - Combating Trafficking and Violence Against Women Using Mobile Hotlink

Period: October 2009 - September 2011

Abdul Momen Khan Memorial Foundation

Momenbagh Dhaka 1217 Bangladesh Tel : (880-2) 933 0323 Fax : (880-2) 933 1589
email : khanfoundation@bd.drik.net, khanfoundation@hotmail.com

About Khan Foundation (KF)

Initiated in memory of late Mr. Abdul Momen Khan, a Minister to the Government of Bangladesh from 1977 to 1982, a Cabinet Secretary and philanthropist & prolific social worker - Khan Foundation (KF) first began operations during the flood of 1988, in the area of relief & rehabilitation work. It rapidly built a reputation as one of the few PVDOs linking different levels of the society from the highest level of the government to the grass roots & working in the areas of democracy, human rights and poverty alleviation and development. KF's major focus on advancing the cause of development through the process of sustained democracy aimed at the most disadvantaged groups in the country.

KF Vision

The vision of Khan Foundation for the new millennium is firm in determination yet quite flexible in approach. It would like to see a future Bangladesh where Liberal Democracy flourishes and sustains along with the growth of Economic Development, where basic human rights and dignity are honored, where the millions of downtrodden Bangladeshis no longer suffer under the yoke of poverty, rather adapt to a lifestyle, which is simple, yet not impoverished, which is peaceful, yet not extravagant.

The objectives of the organization are:

- To strengthen and sustain true representative democracy in the country from the grassroots local government through central government level while promoting a democratic culture in the country.
- To improve the living conditions of the country's disadvantaged groups, in particular women, children & the poor, through the launching of effective social and economic development programmes.

Slogan:

"Democracy for Development and Development for Democracy".

Current Programmes of KF

Area	Project Goal	Project Name
Governance	Promote accountability transparency and responsiveness to decrease the level of corruption in society.	Strengthening Civil Society Networks to support and Promote Anti-Corruption Reforms
Governance	Promoting responsive and accountable governance through strengthened election administration and greater public scrutiny of the electoral process.	Union Parishad Election Observations – 2011 under Election Monitoring Program
	Obtaining women's active participation in decision-making at the local level, to strengthen local government, and institutionalize the democratic process in Bangladesh.	Motivational meetings to create awareness amongst the potential women candidates aiming at the socio-political empowerment of women in the country in general
	Ensure the participation of citizen's	Voter and civic Education Program on

	aged 18 or above including the ethnic, women, disabled, and disadvantaged groups in local level elections.	accountability, election violence prevention, women and youth issues, the electoral rights and participation of religious, ethnic minorities and disable persons.
Human and legal rights	Ensure human rights by protecting women and children from trafficking and violence	Combating Trafficking and Violence against women- Using 24 Hours Mobile Hot link
Development	Raise the standard of living of rural families especially women by enabling them to engage in income generating activities.	Rural Credit Program (RCP)
Advocacy & Mobilization	To ensure good- governance at the grass roots and institutionalizing democracy in Bangladesh.	Advocacy and Social Mobilization involving Policy Planners
Research and Studies	To monitor the progress of good governance and the social and economic development of women and children in the country and raise awareness about these issues.	Service Delivery at the Local Level Election Monitoring

About the “Combating Trafficking and Violence Against Women Using 24 Hours Mobile Hotlink” Project

The objective of this project is to raise awareness against trafficking and violence and shield women and children from this said concern through the introduction of the mobile hotlink system. Through this hotlink, KF has created a strong communication and enforcing chain (grassroots to decision making process) in order to eradicate the concerning issue. The hotlink has not only protected victims of trafficking and violence but also prevented trafficking and violence cases in the project areas. Through this hotlink, KF has also strengthened its women and NGO networks.

Project Goal

- To ensure human rights by protecting and preventing trafficking and violence against women and children

Project Objectives

- To raise awareness among citizens about trafficking and violence
- To sensitize policy makers for taking necessary actions
- To protect and prevent trafficking and violence against women and children
- To create coordination, linkage and networking among different stakeholders

Project Activities

- Training
- Awareness Raising and Policy Advocacy/Mobilization
- 24-hour mobile Hotlink Service to Provide Instant Support to Victims,
- Monitoring by KF and Community Watch Groups (CWG).

Target Beneficiaries

Direct

Disadvantaged women and children who are below the poverty line are especially vulnerable and they have directly benefitted from the mobile hotline and the relevant services. CWG members including lawyers, public officials who received training also benefitted as they gained insight and knowledge about this serious problem and how to eliminate it.

Indirect

The families who fall prey to trafficking and violence at the grassroots level indirectly benefitted, as they were able to overcome from it with the help of the services provided by the project. The public in general and society at large benefitted from a trafficking and violence free nation/environment. KF also attempted to motivate the policy-makers to influence legislation towards issues that are of real concern to women in all segments of the society.

Protection and Prevention Activities (October 2009- September 2011)

Activities	Number	Total Participants
Training of Trainers (ToT)	1 batch	12
Community Watch Group (CWG) Formation Workshop	51	1400
Community Watch Group Training	10 batches	318
Awareness Raising Campaign	20	5912
Divisional Congress	6	2280
National Seminar	2	127
One-Stop Crisis Center (OCC) Linkage Sharing Meeting	80	2010
Trafficking and Violence Cases	7703	7703
Poster Distribution	4 Types (50,000)	-
Leaflet Distribution	1 Type (200,000)	-
Sticker Distribution	2 Types (200,000)	-
Electronic Media Coverage	10 Private Channels	-
Print Media Coverage	Nearly 300 Local and National Newspapers	-

CWG Formation Workshop

CWG formation workshop was carried out successfully in 36 districts and respective 51 Upazillas.

Outcome:

- CWG members became aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- CWG members were able to raise awareness among the local public about the use of mobile hot link to prevent trafficking and violence against women
- Instant support and assistance to the victims of trafficking and violence was provided
- Urgent information regarding trafficking and violence cases were forwarded to KF for immediate action

CWG Training

CWG Members

Profession	Number
Local Government Representative	60
Lawyer	25
Journalist	22
NGO Representative	54
Teacher	41
Youth Club Member	43
Cultural Activists	39
Religious Members	34
Total No. of CWG Members:	318

The CWG members strengthened the grassroots level institutions, and monitored as "Watch Dogs", responsible for taking immediate action. 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. The CWG members carried out 15801 door-to-door visits in 50 Upazillas.

Mobile Hotlink Services

The main function of the hotlink is to collect information on the issue, take necessary action and enable dissemination among the respective offices in order to provide a quick service and respond to any complaints. KF setup a Hotlink Secretariat centrally by using modern information technology. This hotlink center gathered information about violence and trafficking through telephone, fax, SMS and email from the project areas. KF also maintained a website with all the necessary information about the 24-hour mobile hotlink, the mobile numbers, resource persons and contact details etc. KF provided an instant support to the victims with the assistance of local NGOs, Women Lawyers' Network and CWG members. The distressed callers benefitted from the following:

- 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.

One-Stop Crisis Center (O.C.C) Linkage Sharing Meeting

One-Stop Crisis Center (OCC) is an initiative of the Government of Bangladesh and is under the control of the Ministry of Women & Children Affairs, Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Social Welfare and Ministry of Home Affairs and it exists in all the Medical College Hospitals. At the OCCs, a victim receives multiple services (medical, legal, counseling, shelter, rehabilitation and referral support). OCC is a unique venture of Government Organization (GO) and NGO collaboration and the NGOs assist in providing various services. KF has organized 64 linkage sharing meeting in the six divisions to bring together the service providers, service receivers, as well as local NGO and community representatives so that the services can be provided and received effectively.

Activity	Number of Divisions	Number of meetings
O.C.C. Linkage Sharing Meeting	6	80

List of Participants in the O.C.C Linkage Sharing Meeting

Participants	Number
Deputy Commissioner/Additional Deputy Commissioner/Civil Surgeon	20
Local Administration (UNO, Assistant Commissioner-Land, Women Affairs Officer, Social Welfare Officer, Youth development Officer, Patient Welfare Committee Secretary, Doctor)	185
Law Enforcement Agency Member	68
Upazila Chairman	-
Pouro Shova mayor	4
Upazila Vice-Chairman	35
Union Parishad Chairman	55
Union Parishad Member	135
Counselor	26
Media Person/Journalist	169
Political Leader	18
Lawyer	106
Teacher	182
NGO Representatives	26
Cultural Activists	78
Religious Leader	32
Youth Club Member	42
Other Professions	824
Total No. of Participants:	2010

Cell phone and e-mail address of One-Stop Crisis Center (OCC)

OCC Dhaka ; Mobile: 01713423490 , e-mail: occdmch@yahoo.com
OCC Rajshahi; Mobile: 01713366637, e-mail: occrmch@yahoo.com
OCC Chittagong; Mobile; 01713366635, e-mail: occ_cmch@yahoo.com
OCC Khulna; Mobile: 01713366639, e-mail: occ_kmch@yahoo.com
OCC Barisal; Mobile: 01713366638, e-mail: occbsl@gmail.com
OCC Sylhet; Mobile: 01713366634, e-mail: occ_somch@yahoo.com

Awareness Raising Campaigns and Policy Advocacy/Mobilization

Campaigns

KF conducted 20 campaigns to aware the mass people on the concerned issues. Important messages were circulated through Posters, Stickers and leaflets. This event as well as the medium used attracted the local community. Awareness raising campaigns brought together men, women and youth, local government, and the media and highlighted local issues related to trafficking and violence against women and the role of citizens in protecting the victims and preventing these incidents. CWG received the opportunity to apply and disseminate the knowledge and information that they received from the trainings.

Divisional Congress

KF arranged six Divisional Congress on Trafficking and Violence in six divisions. The objective of this congress is to raise awareness and introduce the hotlink system among the participants. Through this congress, participants became aware about the process of accessing administrative, legal agencies as well as local NGOs. Through each congress, a strong communication and enforcing chain (grassroots to decision-making process) was created in order to eradicate the concerning issue. The congress brought a new a pathway in gender equity as women and men actively participated in discussing how to prevent and protect against trafficking and violence against women and gained knowledge about the equal access to services. Lastly, the congress allowed KF to use its knowledge, expertise and networks to strengthen the process of democracy in each division hence ensuring the achievement of human rights across the country.

National Seminar

KF conducted policy advocacy programs to promote this particular issue by forming CWG. Through the seminar, KF was able to raise awareness on this critical issue and motivated individuals in taking necessary steps towards its implementation. Two national seminars was organized to activate legislators, policy makers & civil society organizations in formulating policies aimed at combating trafficking and violence against women. Civil Society Organizations, government officials and parliamentarians were encouraged to work in a cohesive manner to push forth important legislation. CWG members played an important role in the seminars, as they shared their findings with the policy makers.

Case Studies : Trafficking

An 11 year old girl named Mim, daughter of Moniruzzaman is a resident of Baroghoria Bazar village in Baroghoria union under Sadar Upazila in Chapainawabganj district. She is a student of grade four and one day on her way to school traffickers picked her up. When her mother went to pick her up, the school notified her that Mim did not attend school on that day. She became very worried and started looking for her and asking around about her whereabouts. She came across Khan Foundation's Mobile Hotlink number and called immediately to report about her daughter. Upon receiving the phone call, Khan Foundation contacted the local focal person at Chapainawabganj who then passed on the information to the Community Watch Group (CWG), to the local police station and the local government representatives for immediate and necessary action. The local officer-in-charge started to investigate and also sent the message to the Shibganj police station. After a four-hour search, Mim was found senseless at the Moharapur roadside. When Mim awoke, she described the entire ordeal; three men showed up on her way to school and took her with force against her will. Khan Foundation's mobile hotlink made it possible to disseminate the information and ensure that immediate action was taken by the respective local individuals and agencies to find the missing person.

Case Studies : Violence

Ms. Bilkis Nahar Bakul, Executive Director of Setu Bandhan Sangstha Jessore, as well as the focal person in her area informed the Khan Foundation Mobile Hotlink Secretariat that an early marriage was arranged on November 26, 2010 at Chandipur Village in Jhapam Union of Monirampur Thana. The bride, Shapla Khatun, daughter of Md. Sahadot Hossain is a student of grade eight and 13 years old. She was to face an early marriage to Shohagh Hossain, son of Md. Abdus Salam who is 17 years old. The focal person became very concerned and contacted Zillur Rahman, the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) informing him about the early marriage situation who then passed on the information to the local police station. Motiur Rahman of Monirampur then sent a team of officers along with a Sub-Inspector to meet with the parents of Shapla and Shohagh. Together they explained the consequences of early marriage offering valid justification for getting involved in early marriage. They were able to convince the parents to stop the wedding immediately and send Shapla back to school. Through the Khan Foundation mobile hotlink, Shapla was able to return to the normal life of a teenager.

Monitoring

KF worked closely with CWG. CWG was coordinated by the local NGOs and consisted of the most effective and accepted groups of the local community. KF was responsible for monitoring the overall project. Activities were monitored through

Field Visit: To monitor program activities, KF monitoring officers visited different districts and observed the impact of these activities among the target groups.

Interview and questionnaire fill - up: The KF monitoring team was involved with field visit, questionnaire fill up, one to one interview and community monitoring.

Evaluation: Evaluation was carried out on the basis of monitoring reports.

Impact

Short-term impacts: Target groups and other local citizens became aware about trafficking and violence against women and more willing to seek for help.

Medium-term impacts: Local NGOs, public officials, networks and the local community became active and engaged in activities to protect victims of trafficking and violence and prevent these occurrences.

Long-term impacts: Trafficking and Violence against women is reduced and will continue to decrease. Communities became aware of the possible threats and became more conscious of ways of protecting themselves. Government has taken positive action and policies in the area of human rights. The Ministry of Home Affairs along with the relevant stakeholders is in the process of formulating the Draft Comprehensive Law on Human Trafficking, which is in the law making process. **The efforts of Khan Foundation in motivating policy-makers are recognized in the Bangladesh Country Report 2010 on Combating Human Trafficking published by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Bangladesh.**

Successes of the Project

- The mass people became aware about trafficking and violence against women.
- An increased understanding of policy makers and other professionals for establishing human rights of women was possible.
- The capacity of KF and other local NGOs was strengthened with regard to conducting activities combating trafficking and violence against women.
- The various networks in operation such as the Women Lawyers' Network became strong, vast and more functional and more knowledgeable about these key issues.
- A Community Watch Group (CWG) to develop a sustainable local mechanism to take action against trafficking and violence against women was formed. CWG is one of the building blocks of the institutional framework that gives the program a community ownership.
- A 24-hour mobile hotlink service was set up that congregated information of violence and trafficking from all over the country and provided instant support to the victims with the assistance of local NGOs. This brought about a decrease in trafficking and violence against women cases in the project areas.
- **The efforts of Khan Foundation in combating trafficking were published in the Bangladesh Country Report 2010 on Combating Human Trafficking by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of Bangladesh. It highlighted Khan Foundation's Initiatives in Combating Trafficking and Case Studies from the Project. The report also mentioned the continuation of support from the Government of Bangladesh to NGOs and the importance of cooperation in preventing and protecting trafficking of women.**

Challenges

Trafficking and violence against women is a pervasive problem in Bangladesh and we still need to go a long way before we can eradicate it. Bangladesh ranks 132 (out of 172 countries) on LTNDP's Human Development Index list (2010). Bangladesh does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and is placed on Tier 2 Watch List for a third consecutive year. 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.

Trafficking Cases

April 2010- September 2011

Trafficking									
Total No. of Trafficking Cases				Rescue				Cases Filed	Cases not Filed
Total	Women	Child	Men	Total	Women	Child	Men		
350	178	121	51	332	174	107	51	315	35

Violence Cases

April 2010- September 2011

Violence									
Total No. of Violence Cases				Type of Violence					Other
Total	Women	Child	Men	Early Marriage	Divorce	Eve-Teasing	Rape	Dowry	
7353	5923	1430	-	826	312	667	633	3280	1635

Trafficking and Violence Cases

Total No. of Cases	Legal Advice Given	Medical Treatment	Food Assistance
7703	3225	1601	2729

24 Hour Mobile Hotlink Project Participants At a Glance

October 2009- September 2011

Participants	Number
City Mayor	2
Deputy Commissioner/Additional Deputy Commissioner/Civil Surgeon	23
Deputy Police Commissioner	1
Local Administration (UNO, Assistant Commissioner-Land, Women Affairs Officer, Social Welfare Officer, Youth development officer, Patient Welfare Committee Secretary, Doctor)	581
Law Enforcement Agency Member	283
Pouro Shova Mayor	19
Upazila Chairman	19

Upazila Vice-Chairman	102
Union Parishad Chairman	214
Union Parishad Member	742
Counselor	117
Media Person/Journalist	720
Political Leader	104
Lawyer	369
Teacher	711
NGO Representatives	1372
Cultural Activists	617
Religious Leader	375
Youth Club Member	511
Other Professions	5105
Total No. of Participants:	11896

**** Local Focal Person, Community Watch Group (CWG) and Khan Foundation maintained constant communication while implementing activities**