

Project No. 5

PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN THROUGH AWARENESS RAISING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Principle:

Protection of women and children from the horrors of trafficking.

Objective:

The main objective of the project is to protect women and children from exploitative conditions of trafficking through capacity building and strengthening local networks.

Background of the Project

The project started in 2002. The present phase of this project started from January 2008 and will end in December 2010.

Staff Strength:

One permanent staff member (woman)

Donor:

Caritas Australia.

Expenditure:

Foreign partners' contribution : Tk.1, 250,446

Beneficiaries :

Direct : 5,295

Indirect : Local community people of the high-risk trafficking zone.

Target and Achievements:

Sl. No	Items/Activities	Achievements as on June 2008	Performances in FY 2008-2009			Cumulative as on June 2009
			Target	Achievements	% of Achievement	
1.	Workshop for POs and Social Leaders/ Producers of Caritas Handicraft project	45	6	4	67	49
2.	Workshop for School Teachers of UCPEP of Caritas	11	3	1	33	12
	Workshop for students and youths	-	3	6	200	6
	TOT on Advocacy focusing Human Trafficking for the staff	-	2	3	150	3
3.	Celebrated International Human Rights Day focusing on Prevention of Human trafficking.	50	50	50	100	100

Sl. No	Items/Activities	Achievements as on June 2008	Performances in FY 2008-2009			Cumulative as on June 2009
			Target	Achievements	% of Achievement	
4.	Session was conducted for Priests, Nuns and Catechists.	4	1	1	100	5
5.	Advocacy Campaign and Network meeting	1	10	10	100	11
6.	Document Collection Video/VCD/IEC materials	21	1	1	100	22
7.	Billboard on Anti-trafficking	40	-	3		43
8.	Publish Booklet on Anti-trafficking	-	2,000 copies	2,000 copies	100	2,000 copies

During the reporting period Caritas organized workshops and discussion sessions for the leaders of the People's Organization (PO), producers of CORR-The Jute Works project, students, youths and catechists of different parishes where a total of 573 participants (women 392, men 181) attended. Caritas celebrated International Human Rights Day focusing on anti-trafficking. A total of 4,632 Partner Group (PG) members, PO leaders, NGO staff, local Government representatives, journalists, college students, teachers and community people participated in the seminars and rallies. Caritas organized a TOT relating to advocacy focusing on human trafficking for 90 staff members of three Regional Offices (Khulna, Dinajpur and Rajshahi).

Results:

- Watch committee of the producers group has sensitized the local community people on trafficking consequences and they now take immediate action if any trafficking case occurs.
- Caritas staff members use Anti-trafficking Booklets and IEC materials in the meeting of PO leaders as well as in the workshops organized by themselves.
- Catechists are sensitized on the consequences of the trafficking and share it with their parishioners.
- Caritas maintains good linkage with the local networks and exchange materials on anti-trafficking issues.
- Under the guidance of Caritas staff POs leaders initiate and design advocacy campaign on anti-trafficking issue. That is why in Caritas working areas trafficking in children and women is decreasing day by day.

Conclusion:

Caritas Bangladesh has long experience in mobilizing grassroots people. Over the years it has been working to restore human dignity through an integral human development approach. Through this project Caritas has put emphasis on building capacity of the leaders of the POs on anti-trafficking skills, techniques and advocacy campaign. As a result the number of trafficked cases is decreasing day by day.

People's Organization Restored Marina 's Dignity

Now Marina (13) goes to school again. She is welcomed by her peers. The neighbors and local community people extended their all out co-operation to the girl so that she can lead a normal life. But when she recollects the memory of that bad day she left home for Dhaka, she criticizes herself for making a wrong decision.

Marina Khatun is an inhabitant of village Gobindopur Monshepara in Khanshama *upazila* (sub-district) under Caritas Dinajpur Region. The village is situated in the North-western border area with India, known as high-risk zone for trafficking. Marina was a student in class VII. Her father Nomir Uddin is a day laborer and mother Nurnahar Begum is a housewife. She is a member of *Mitali Mahila Samity* (Self Help Women Group) of *Sarbik Manab Unnayn Sangatan* of *Alocbari Union* (People's Organization formed under the GDP) under Khanshama *upazila* in Dinajpur district.

Marina's father is the only earning member of the family. It was difficult for him to maintain the family and to pay Marina's school fees. The suffering and struggle of the father disheartened the daughter. This insolvent condition of the family made her look for a job and share the burden of the father.

Mukta Begum, a neighbor who worked in Dhaka came to the village on a vacation. She allured helpless Marina and promised her a job in a garments factory in Dhaka. In 2008 Marina left her house with Mukta and came to Dhaka.



Members of Sarbik Manab Unnayn Sangatan of Khanshama *upazila* discuss an important issue

When dusk fell, Marina's mother searched for her every possible place in the surrounding areas. She got a clue that Mukta took her daughter to Dhaka. She informed Jaheda Begum, the Chairperson of their *samity* of the incident. She intimated it to Ahela Begum, Chairperson of *Sarbik Manab Unnayn Sangatan* of Khanshama *upazila*. They jointly collected the phone number and photograph of Mukta Begum. With the help of a local Journalist named Md. Mozaffer they contacted Mukta begum. He convinced Mukta Begum to send back Marina to her parents immediately.

Marina came back to her village after 10 days. But she did not know what a tragic reception was waiting for her. The local community people put pressure on her parents not to take back their daughter. The villagers were of the opinion that Marina was a spoiled girl. The couple faced a precarious situation regarding the fate of their daughter. During this crisis period, *Sarbik Manab Unnayn Sangatan* of Khanshama *upazila* stood by the family. They sat with the local community people and persuaded them to allow the girl to stay in her family.

"We were very scared and felt helpless when the local community people forced us to abandon our daughter." Marina's parents said, "But now we are happy. We are grateful to *Sarbik Manab Unnayn Sangatan* for restoring the dignity of Marina."