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**BC/TIP**



**WINROCK**  
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**Civil Society and Education**

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# Bangladesh Counter Trafficking-In-Persons Program

Trafficking-in-persons (TIP) is the fastest growing criminal activity worldwide and takes several forms, including exploitation of men, women and children into bonded or abusive labor or the commercial sex trade. TIP is one of the largest sources of illegal income globally. Trafficking violates basic human rights, damages lives, feeds corruption, exerts an economic toll on governments and citizens, and harms society at all levels.

Bangladesh has some of the highest rates of child marriage in the world. Some of the same societal and economic drivers that are at play that result in people becoming the victims of trafficking, in combination with complex power structures, entrenched social norms, and deeply embedded cultural and religious beliefs, are factors that help explain the high prevalence of child marriage in Bangladesh. Problems exist globally with children being trafficked under the guise of marriage and some children fall into the hands of traffickers stemming from problems that arise as consequences of child marriage: marriage breakdowns, abandoned partners, and runaways. Trafficking and child marriage can be inextricably interconnected.

The six-year Bangladesh Counter Trafficking-in-Persons (BC/TIP) Program, funded by USAID and implemented by Winrock International, will work in 20 trafficking and child marriage prone districts to address the problem of trafficking and child marriage. BC/TIP will provide robust interventions in all four of USAID's areas of emphasis: **Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Partnership.**

BC/TIP will connect local and national government representatives, non-governmental organizations, and citizens and community leaders to prevent trafficking-in-persons and child marriage, protect survivors, and reverse damage done to them, prosecute crimes of perpetrators, and engage all levels of society as change agents in curbing trafficking and child marriage.

The USAID's BC/TIP Program works collaboratively to reduce the prevalence of human trafficking and child marriage in Bangladesh by:

- Strengthening the capacity of communities to identify at-risk people and victims of trafficking and child marriage and take action;
- Improving victims of trafficking and child marriage access to assistance;
- Increase the responsiveness of criminal justice actors to trafficking and child marriage victims;
- Facilitating effective and coordinated partnerships among stakeholders to combat trafficking and child marriage.





**Prevention** activities focus on increasing the capacity of targeted communities to identify at-risk of TIP individuals, TIP victims and child marriage victims. BC/TIP works to equip students, migrants, and local leaders with tools, support, and innovative methods to inform and mobilize communities to identify child marriage, TIP incidents/traffickers, promote safe migration, connect survivors to services, and address root causes of TIP and child marriage, especially gender-based violence. Youth education and leadership are the primary mechanisms used to reach at-risk groups and implement public mobilization activities in targeted areas. BC/TIP trains migrants on safe/smart migration; monitors recruitment agencies; activates counter-trafficking committees; and improves the capacity of government officials to perform their duties.

**Protection** activities offer a victim-centered approach to improve the consistency and quality of support offered to survivors of trafficking and child marriage victims. To ensure improved access to assistance, protection activities build comprehensive referral systems, integrated assistance, survivor leadership, and community-based reintegration support. BC/TIP trains local partners in service standards, case management, and psychosocial support to ensure consistent, high-quality services that meet survivors' needs.

**Prosecution** activities focus on increasing the responsiveness of criminal justice actors to trafficking victims. BC/TIP employs multi-disciplinary trainings, networking and capacity-building on rules and laws governing TIP, migration and witness protection. Through successful implementation of these activities, criminal justice actors will demonstrate an increased understanding of their roles and responsibilities in prosecuting traffickers and providing support to TIP survivors. These efforts, coupled with coordinated advocacy to expand government oversight and improved monitoring of labor recruitment agencies will increase arrests and prosecution of the crime.

**Partnership** activities build on established relationships to effectively combat human trafficking through collaboration with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), the Ministry of Woman and Child Affairs (MOWCA), the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MOYS), the Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment (MEWOE), partnerships with the private sector and civil society, and coordination with other international organizations. BC/TIP fosters partnerships at the national, regional, district, and union level to strengthen the policy environment, provide targeted support to government, and connect local government and community efforts with national policies and legal procedures. Partnerships will support community prevention efforts and local authorities' ability to: prevent child marriage and TIP; monitor migration; strengthen protection of and services for survivors; improve criminal justice actors' understanding of how to enforce laws; and contribute to an improved understanding of TIP and child marriage in Bangladesh.

There is a hypothesis that migrant workers and trafficking victims are an at-risk group to exposure to violent extremism and potential radicalization while they are overseas. There is also a supposition that potential migrant workers, those at-risk of being trafficked, and actual returned victims of trafficking might be more susceptible to radicalization and violent extremist recruitment from within their communities in Bangladesh. BC/TIP will work with stakeholders to test the hypotheses, understand and identify drivers of Violent Extremism and look to design interventions and introduce violent extremism prevention and mitigation activities (Counter Violent Extremism - CVE) via our existing prevention and protection mechanisms, within the targeted communities.



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