

# Report on Beneficiary Vulnerability Analysis and Engagement of CSE and CSEC in Bangladesh

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*Sharing work-in progress study findings and analysis at CBSG, Dhaka on January 30, 2019*

## List of Abbreviation and Acronyms

BDT	Bangladesh Taka
CBO	Community Based Organization
CBSG	Capacity Building Support Group
CSE	Commercial Sexual Exploitation
CSEC	Commercial Exploitation of Children
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DGHS	Directorates General of Health Services
DGFP	Directorates General of Family Planning
DLAC	District Legal Aid Committee
EVI	Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI)
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council
GFEMS	Global Fund to End Modern Slavery
GNI	Gross National Income (GNI)
IGA	Income Generating Activities
KII	Key Informant Interview
LDC	Least Development Countries
LEA	Law Enforcement Agency
NGO	Non-government Organizations
NPA	National Plan of Action
RJ	Right Jessore
SDG	Social Development Goal
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UK	United Kingdom
US\$	United State Dollar
USAID	United State Agency for International Development
UzLAC	Upazilla Legal Aid
WHO	World Health Organization

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The study team expresses its sincere thanks to GFEMS, and its Bangladesh country engagement representative for providing strategic and professional guidance, and most importantly for the much needed financial support to implement the study.

The study team gratefully acknowledges respondent survivors who informed the study by sharing their personal stories and experiences with our data collection team, and made their valuable time available in such a short notice.

The study team is thankful to all the Government policy and implementation level officials, professional groups and civil society members who enriched the study by sharing views from their respective societal position. There was also a preliminary findings sharing workshop on February 9, 2019 held in Jashore, attended by many distinguished officials, representatives of development partners, civil society members and NGOs, who contributed immensely to enrich the study findings, however are not mentioned specifically as we might miss one or two names.

The study team believes that the policy makers, development partners and other relevant stakeholders will find this report useful.

## Executive Summary

This report is based on an intensive investigation on the survivors of human trafficking victims, which included interviews with 201 survivors, mostly CSE and CSEC, selected from Rights Jessore survivors' database, and in-depth interview with policy makers, implementers, professional groups and civil society members. It analyses the vulnerability of the survivors from economic, societal, environmental, geographical, and health perspectives.

The Global Fund to End Modern Slavery (GFEMS) commissioned this scoping study on 'Beneficiary vulnerability analysis and engagement of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Commercial Sexual Exploited Children (CSEC)' in Bangladesh. The main purpose of the study was to analyse the extent and factors of vulnerability of the potential beneficiary to design programme interventions to reduce commercial sex exploitation of women and children in Bangladesh.

The study followed a mix-method approach, while qualitative and quantitative data were collected in convergent parallel and triangulated simultaneously. The investigation methods included desk research with secondary information, semi-structured and key informants' interview, and focus group discussions. The study was fielded in late December 2018 and completed in mid-February 2019.

### Major Findings:

The study was conducted on 201 survivors including some At-risk people. Among them, 32% were CSEC and 68% were CSE victims. Most of the CSEC respondents (94%) were trafficked to India mainly for prostitution. Similarly, a majority (65%) of the CSE respondents were trafficked to India while the remaining were trafficked to GCC countries and few for prostitution within Bangladesh. Women were mainly trafficked for Prostitution (99%) followed by domestic work (52%). Children were trafficked mainly for prostitution (82%) and hazardous work (44%), and domestic work (27%). Perception of the CSE and CSEC survivors that male are trafficked for low wage labour, smuggling and drug peddling.

On average, CSE victims were trafficked at the age of 26 ranging between 18 and 40 years of age. On the other hand, CSEC victims, on average, were trafficked at the age of 15 ranging between 9 and 17 years. On average, it took one year to rescue a CSEC while it took twice the time to rescue CSE victims. Some of the CSEC (6%) and CSE (9%) victims had previous trafficking history in their families.

Most of the victims were hailed from seven border districts of Khulna division that include Khulna, Jessore, Satkhira, Narail, Bagerhat, Magura, and Jhenidah. Many of them came from remote and disaster prone areas. Some others were from urban slums. Poverty has been attributed as the principle cause of trafficking followed by false promise of higher wage by the perpetrators and family conflict. Women and fair looking girls of these families often become the easy target of traffickers.

The majority of the CSEC victims were students (60%) at the time of trafficking. After rescue many of them had left school and discontinued studies, though some got married as well. About half of the CSE and CSEC victims were not involved in economic activity at the time of their trafficking. However, they are now gradually being engaged with economic activities like tailoring and other trades. Survivors were appreciative of rehabilitation support provided by Rights Jessore in the form of cash and asset transfer, training and business capital.

Nearly 90% of the traffic victims' belong to poor households, many of them are landless and have very little economic resources to survive. More than half of respondents belonged to households with debts ranging between BDT 40,000 and 102,000 per household. About half of their households' members are economically active yet remain poor. In other words, majority of the household members are involved in very low wage activities. This makes survivors economically dependent or rather burden on the family members. Economic dependence is one of the main challenge of reintegration of the survivors.

Among all the social factors, educational status of the parents came out as the most critical risk factors. Nearly all CSE and CSEC victims have uneducated parents. 78% of the respondents at risk have uneducated parents/guardian. In other words, educated parents seemed to be the key source of information and awareness development within the family that provide the main protection to the vulnerable targets.

At the time of trafficking, majority of the CSE and CSEC victims lacked necessary knowledge and awareness about the laws that protect violence and trafficking. However, their knowledge had significantly improved after rescue. Now, both the CSEC and CSE have good understanding of laws and regulations on human trafficking and abuse.

Perpetrators, many of them were victim's neighbors and relatives, applied various tricks to trap the victims. By and large, false promise of high salary and employment opportunity were offered most to attract the victims. Other tricks including money, travel, and even love affair were used to attract the victims.

After rescue, majority of the victims did not seek any services from any organizations. Only 29% of the victims went to the police for legal protection though majority of them were not satisfied. About 24% of the survivors had tried to access legal aid fund and majority of them (70%) were satisfied. Only 15% survivors went to court for justice. The lack of service seeking remains the challenge for post rescue vulnerability to the survivors.

Most of the survivors stayed at the shelter home both in foreign country and in Bangladesh. Overall, services at the shelter home were better in foreign country than in Bangladesh. Skill training and financial support were the key concern at the shelter home which had a negative effect on survivors' engagement and reintegration. Some of the skills trainings provided were relevant for engagement of survivor while many training were not simply useful. Skill training need to be demand driven and applied form. Most relevant training included tailoring, cattle/poultry rearing, small business and beauty parlor.

Medical services at the shelter home were not great. Many of the survivors were still sick. 29% of CSEC and 39% of CSE victims reported that they had physical sickness when rescued. Current physical status revealed that 60% had been experiencing physical weakness, around 14% had stomach problems, 5% were suffering from Arthritis, and most importantly, 5% had been diagnosed with breast cancer and around 8% were suffering from STI.

Integration and engagement of the survivors remain a daunting task due lack of family as well as external support. Most of the victims, 98% of CSEC and 96% of CSE, intended to work with NGOs. Almost half of the respondents, CSEC (42%) and CSEC (46%), had expressed their intention to engage in community awareness campaigns and other initiatives of NGOs. Indeed, survivors wanted to see themselves as community mobilizers to protect potential victims from trafficking.

## Scoping Recommendations:

### Targeting the right beneficiary

- Poor households in the urban slum and remote areas of border zone
- Student and housewife age between 9 and 17 years for the CSEC and between 18 and 45 years for CSE.
- Families with history of previous trafficking should get priority
- Geographic concentration of the program may include seven border districts in the Khulna division.
- CSE both married and unmarried and CSEC unmarried

### Scope for Rights Jessore/NGO:

- Survivors are gradually being involved with trade and businesses with small capital support from NGOs, therefore increased support package and extent could be useful for future beneficiary engagement. Arranging quick impact economic integration support (training and financial support) to the identified CSE and CSEC victims is strongly recommended
- There is lack of resources to implement national anti-trafficking plan, therefore create partnership with government projects and local NGOs to create employment and engagement for the victims as well as At-risk group. Most importantly, design development intervention around the national plan would have lasting impact.
- Many of the survivors have high-school level of education, and are capable of using technology like smart phone. Therefore, they could potentially be included in mobilization and awareness activities in a peer driven approach integrating innovative technology to reach-out fast.
- Situation of societal vulnerability and exploitation were observed grim in rural and in urban slum areas, and especially in remote pockets. Therefore, implement community based awareness and prevention activities and scale up quickly in hard to reach areas with use of technology. Survivors could be involved for achieving double bottom, empowering survivors within the family and society, and making communication campaign more effective and efficient.
- Establish social protection mechanism at the community level such as gate-keepers and activate anti-trafficking committees, especially Upazila and Union level committees, with specific programme, resources and monitoring systems
- Facilitate linkage between communities and the government forces (police and BGB) to protect trafficking at the community level
- Advocacy with the duty bearers to support the poor to ensure their access to GO and NGO services
- Advocacy at policy level to reform legal systems, rescue and repatriation processes and administrative mechanisms
- There are serious lack of knowledge among the community people about basic laws and rights, therefore educate communities on potential risk factors and remedies including legal matter
- Work with the law enforcing agencies on behalf of the victims and support them with legal and financial means to rescue and repatriate the victims.
- Skill based training (tailoring, beauty parlor, and other skill based training) given in shelter home were proved to be utilized by the survivors, therefore training on tailoring and garments could be considered as important skill areas for engagement of survivors.
- Due to fast globalization, economy of trafficking is changing, therefore a continued and/or longitudinal study could be undertaken to inform anti-trafficking programme.

## Section – A: Introduction, Background and Methodology

### 1.1 Introduction

The Global Fund to End Modern Slavery (GFEMS) commissioned this scoping study on 'Beneficiary vulnerability analysis and engagement of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and Commercial Sexual Exploited Children (CSEC)' in Bangladesh. The study was awarded to Rights Jessore (RJ), a pioneering human rights NGO active in counter-trafficking for last three decades in Bangladesh, while Capacity Building Service Group (CBSG), strategic research partner of RJ, provided the required technical assistance to conduct the study. The main purpose of the study was to analyse the extent and factors of vulnerability of the potential beneficiary to design programme interventions to reduce commercial sex exploitation of women and children in Bangladesh. The study was fielded in late December 2018 and completed in mid-February 2019.

### 1.2 Background

The form and nature of modern-day slavery have changed and are generally hidden in the society. Disproportionate economic gain remains the ultimate motive of modern day slavery that flourishes under the coverage of poor legal framework and the patronage of corrupt officials and agencies. On the other hand, poverty, high level unemployment, a burgeoning youth population, high prevalence of early marriage and gender violence, and so on do help perpetrators to allure people into slavery.

Globally, it is estimated that 20 million people fall victim of trafficking every year. Further, 1.2 million children are trafficked each year, 39% of them are in South Asia and Pacific region, and 75% of them are female. Exploitation of women and children is particularly widespread in Bangladesh, with some girls sold for as little as 65 dollars, though some progresses is reported. Victim of human trafficking has been reduced from 0.85 to 0.58 per 100,000 populations during 2015 to 2017. Trafficking has been a major SDG indicator for the government (data source: Bangladesh SDG achievement report 2017).

Globalization is causing profound social and economic changes that challenge, and often undermine, traditional norms, while simultaneously creating a gateway for vast numbers of children to become victims of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). While Bangladesh has a relatively young population, one third population is younger than 18 years old, meaning a large population of children living in poverty, and vulnerable, amongst others, to commercial sexual exploitation (CSE). On the other hand, Bangladesh shares more than 4,156 kilometres of common border with India. This geographical terrain provides a huge opportunity and scope for the perpetrators to traffic children into India who then end up in the sex industry. Border zones are particularly vulnerable to CSEC. The prevailing socio-economic conditions coupled with a lack of awareness make poor children and in particular, girls susceptible to trafficking.

Traditionally, people in the border areas go to India for informal employment and jobs. Movement of these kinds are generally undocumented and "illegal". It is easier for perpetrators to make false promise of travelling to India those who are unmarried, abandoned, divorced and extremely needy, plus children and young girls, in particular, with the promise of good jobs but ultimately forcing them into exploitative working conditions, such as in prostitution and other form of bonded labour.

In this backdrop, GFEMS with financial support of Department for International Development, UK is intended to precisely identify and consolidate appropriate program strategies for future interventions to design local, national and cross-border advocacy and

communication protective measures under policy guidelines to effectively reduce CSE and CSEC victims from and within Bangladesh.

### 1.3 Study Objectives

The broader objective of the study is to assess the existing situation of the survivor women and children from Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE and CSEC), and their engagement in the socio-economic activities, while the specific objectives are:

- Identify and analyze vulnerability factors among survivors of CSE and CSEC;
- Recommend beneficiary-targeted intervention strategies.

### 1.4 Methodology and Implementation

This scoping study adopted a combination of quantitative and qualitative investigation techniques to collect and analyse data. As such the study followed mixed method approach, specifically the convergent parallel approach. Qualitative and quantitative data were collected and triangulated simultaneously. It essentially generated information on beneficiaries’ basic profile, their socio-economic vulnerability, current and intended engagement in livelihood activities.

Towards that the study adopted desk research with secondary data and available reports;

Table A1. Study methods and extent	
Quantitative	Qualitative
Semi Structured Interview with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 201 survivors and;</li> <li>▪ About 30 ‘At Risk’ population group</li> </ul>	Focus Group Discussions (FGD): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Four sessions with survivors and two sessions with At Risk population group;</li> <li>▪ 20 Key Informants Interview (KII) with the Government Policy and Implementation Officials and Civil society members</li> </ul>

semi-structured interview with the Survivors and Victims of CSE and CSEC, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with Survivors and ‘At Risk’ population group; and Key Informants Interviews (KII) with Government Policy and Implementation officials, Civil Society members and professional groups relevant to the study context.

**Sampling and study respondents:** The study purposively identified survivors of CSE and CSEC as primary respondents. The study team communicated with more than 400 survivors over phone, and managed to reach 201 survivors. Of them, 137 and 64 were CSE and CSEC respectively. The assumption behind choosing the survivors as primary respondents was that the survivors were the best informer to provide their real-life personal stories and painful experiences which would be authentic and useful for designing appropriate intervention program to reduce CSE and CSEC.

The study used both electronic and paper based data collection techniques complying with GFEMS ethical standards and with strong quality control measures installed. It used SPSS software for analysis. While drawing conclusions, the study triangulated data collected from all three difference sources to bring rigor and authenticity of the study findings.

**Implementation period:** The study was implemented in three phases as follows:

- Inception and Methodology Finalization Phase: Dec 21, 2018 to Jan 14, 2019
- Field Preparation and Data Collection Phase: January 15 to 26, 2019
- Analysis, Reporting and Dissemination Phase: January 27 to February 14, 2019

The preliminary findings of the study were shared among the key stakeholders in a workshop held on February 9, 2019 in Jashore. This workshop was attended by high level policy and implementation level officials of Government, Development partners including

USAID and Winrock International, and local level civil society members and representatives of CSOs and NGOs. The workshop put forward a set of recommendations that has been attached in Annex-3.

## 1.5 Limitations and Challenges Faced in Data Collection

Given the extent and sensitivity of reaching out study respondents, the timeframe was really inadequate. We had to rush through in sequencing activities so that the activities like data collection, coding and compilation could be done concurrently. The study respondents were quite scattered and mostly located in remote pockets that took longer travel time to reach them. The research team faced difficulty in setting appointments with the survivors of CSE, especially with the CSEC. It needed repeated attempts over phone to reach them. The interview team also faced difficulties to reach married respondents, as they had to seek permission from their families (in-laws, husbands) for giving interview.



*Interviewing a Survivor*

Apart from these, it was really tough to manage emotions of the respondents while describing their unfortunate stories. Our data collection team was very skilled to motivate them to continue interview after giving breaks. There was an obvious tendency among the respondents to hide or 'remain silent' in some critical questions. In such situations, the field investigators had to overcome this with impromptu shadow and probing questions. Besides, recalling details was not easy for the survivors, as some respondents were found to have rescued over 5 years ago. For the interviews with non-victim respondents, under-age children could not be invited due to cultural sensitivity and taboos relating to the interview agenda.

Another limitation was reaching and managing interviews with 'at-risk' respondents in a short stipulated time. However, we could successfully conducted 23 interviews finally out of targeted 30.

Given all the challenges, the research team completed all the planned interviews for data collection in such a short period – especial thanks to the survivor-respondents for cooperating to conduct such an important study.

## 1.6 Report Structure

Apart from the executive summary, this report consists of five parts:

**Section - A:** encompasses the introductory section covering background, methodology, and implementation of the study.

**Section - B:** provides an analysis of the characteristics of Survivors, in terms of their demographic, occupation, education and other relevant social indicators.

**Section - C:** provides an analysis of survivors' vulnerability in their knowledge about critical Laws, societal, economic and environmental context.

**Section - D:** provides a description of trafficking mechanism including protection and prosecution services, insights from stakeholders' perspectives on counter trafficking.

**Section - E:** contains engagement of survivors' in livelihood and social activities followed by conclusions, scoping areas and recommendations.

In addition to these sections, we have presented a number of reference documents and output tables in the annex. These annexes contributed to a deeper analysis allowing for more accurate evidence based conclusions, scoping areas and recommendations.

## Section – B: Basic Characteristics of the Survivors

This section provides an analysis of the key demographic and socio-economic indicators of the survivors segregated by CSE, CSEC and At Risk population group. Key indicators of analysis included - segregation criteria of survivors including At Risk group, age comparison of the survivors – when trafficked and rescued, marital status, occupation and education, and other relevant socio-economic characteristics.

### 2.1 Survivors' Profile

**Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE)** are those women who were trafficked at the age of 18 years or above.

Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) are those who were trafficked at an age below 18 years.

'At Risk for CSE' were the people aged between 18 and 45 years while **At Risk** for CSEC were children aged between 12 and 17 years. The other main attributes for 'At Risk' were:

- Poor and marginalized
- School going pretty girls
- Orphan and street children
- Aspirants to migrate
- Broken Family member/Victim
- Physically disable (People with disabilities)

### 2.2 Category of Survivors and Trafficked Destination

The primary respondents of the study were Survivors of cross-border trafficking. Among the total survivors, 32% (64) were CSEC and 68% (137) were CSE. These two categories of survivors are considered as major attributes for data analysis and drawing conclusions.

Category of Survivors	Number of Survivors	Destination countries and/or places		
		India	GCC and other countries	Within Bangladesh
CSEC	64 (32%)	60 (94%)	2 (3%)	2 (3%)
CSE	137 (68%)	89 (65%)	43 (31%)	5 (4%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>201 (100%)</b>	<b>149 (74%)</b>	<b>45 (22%)</b>	<b>7 (4%)</b>

<sup>1</sup>Overall, 94% of the CSEC and 65% of the CSE were trafficked into India. The Children trafficked to India were mainly for sexual exploitation. On the other hand, child trafficking in the GCC countries were found relatively less - only 3 % children were found to have trafficked to Oman. Perhaps legal documentation and scrutiny processes were difficult to evade for the perpetrators to traffic children in GCC countries which was not the case for India. The child survivors had reported that they were initially taken to Mumbai, India illegally and then, were put on ships to take them to Oman. However, another 3% children were trafficked within Bangladesh, mainly to Dhaka, for sexual exploitation and/or forced labour.

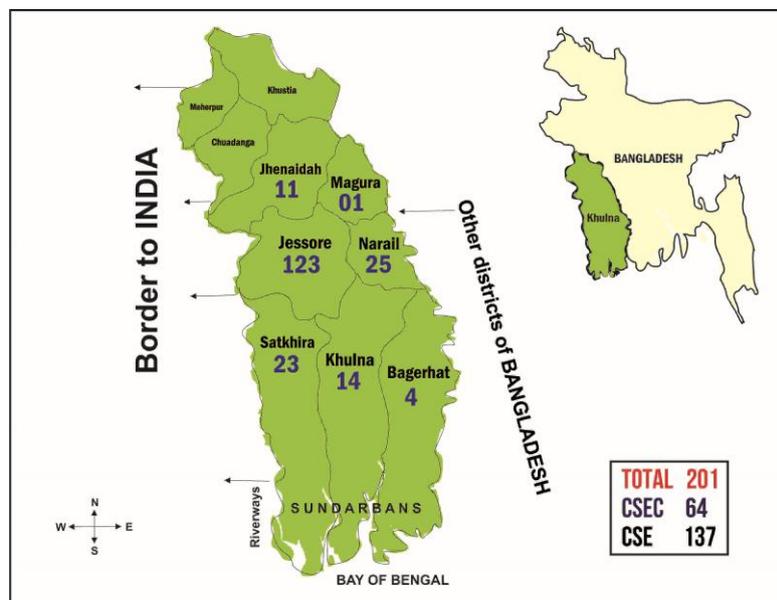
Among the CSE survivors, 31% (43) were trafficked into GCC countries, mainly to Saudi Arabia (26) followed by UAE (5) and Oman (2), while 10 CSE victims were trafficked to

<sup>1</sup> GCC includes: UAE (5), Saudi Arabia (26) and Oman (2)  
Other countries include – Jordan (2) and Lebanon (8)

Lebanon (8) and Jordan (2). Women trafficked for prostitution 4% (5) inside Bangladesh were found relatively higher compared to 3% (2) of children.

### 2.3 Geographic Spread of the Survivors

The study respondents (survivors) were found to be the residents of seven districts of Khulna division. This confirms the national un-official statistics that over Ninety-percent of



women and children were trafficked through the southern border areas of Khulna Division, in particular through Benapole, Bhomra, Moshpur, and Gade border areas. Other transit hubs for trafficking in Khulna division included Satkhira, Chuadanga, Meherpur and Jhenaidah districts. Some of the other transit districts are Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Sylhet, Habiganj, and Brahmanbaria.

This study revealed that an overwhelming majority of the

survivors (62%, 123) were from Jessore district alone, followed by Narail (12%, 25), Satkhira (11%, 23), and a small number, less than 10%, were from Jhenaidah, Bagerhat and Khulna districts. Segregated data showed similar district-wise pattern for both CSE and CSEC.

### 2.4 Survivors' Basic Demographic Profile

**Age of the Survivors:** Overall, average age for women at the time of trafficking was estimated at 26 years, while it was 15 for the Children. The average current age of the CSEC survivors ranges from 21 (India) and 18 (GCC and within Bangladesh), while for CSE the average age ranges from 29 (India) to 34 (GCC and other countries including Bangladesh).

The average age of the CSEC survivors at the time of trafficking was 15 for India and 17 for GCC and other countries

District	Survivors' category (%)		
	CSEC	CSE	Total
Jashore	53.1	65.0	61.2
Norail	17.2	10.2	12.4
Shathkkhira	10.9	11.7	11.4
Khulna	10.9	5.1	7.0
Jhenaidha	3.1	6.6	5.5
Bagerhat	3.1	1.5	2.0
Magura	1.6	0.0	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Category of Survivors		Average Age of the Survivors			At Risk
		Current	When Trafficked	When Rescued	
CSEC	India	21	15	17	15
	GCC and Other destinations	18	17	18	
CSE	India	29	24	25	27
	GCC and Other destinations	34	32	32	

including Bangladesh. The average age at time of trafficking for CSE survivors was 24 for India and 32 for GCC and other countries including within Bangladesh.

The average age of the CSEC survivors at the time of recuse was 17 for India and 18 for GCC and other countries including Bangladesh.

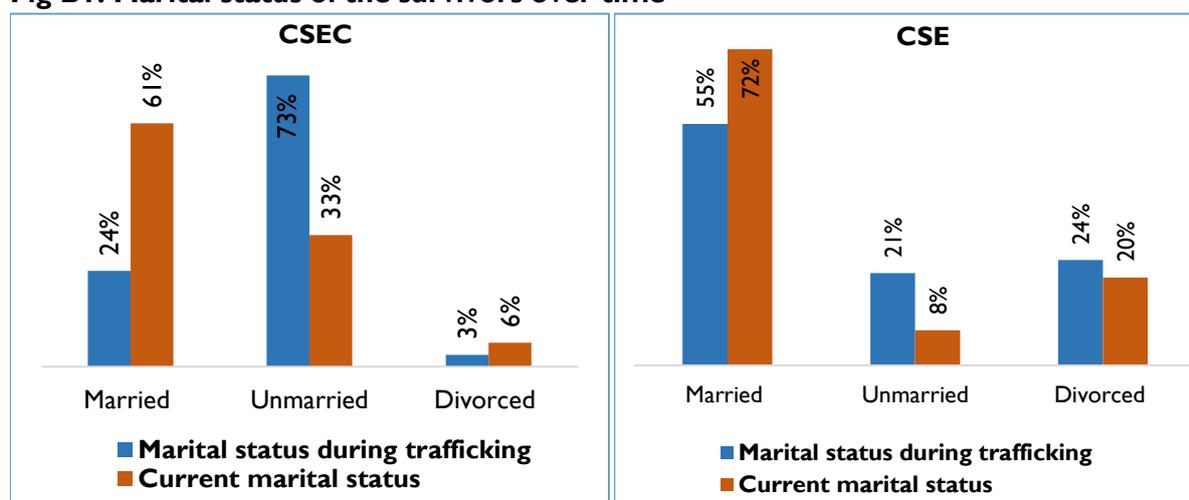
The average age of the CSE survivors at the time of rescue was 24 for India and 32 for GCC and other countries including within Bangladesh.

The age estimates of the survivors at time of trafficking and rescue suggested that on average, CSEC survivors were in forced prostitution for 2 years while CSE survivors were in forced prostitution for 1 year. It was also observed that younger people, for both CSE and CSEC, were trafficked to India far more than other destinations.

## 2.5 Marital Status

Marital status of the survivors, when trafficked, was found that the majority of the CSEC (73%) victims were unmarried, on the contrary, that the majority of the CSE (72%) victims were married. However, during the study period, most CSEC and CSE survivors were found married. The divorce rate for CSEC survivors was found to be doubled (3% to 6%) between when trafficked and now, on the contrary, divorce rate for CSE survivors had decreased by 4%, meaning increasing number of CSE survivors got married after being rescued.

**Fig B I: Marital status of the survivors over time**



## 2.6 Occupation and Education of the Survivors

Majority of CSEC survivors (60%) were student at the time of trafficking. During the study period, only 23% of them were found to continue studying - meaning many may had discontinued their studies after the trafficking event. At present majority of the CSEC survivors are actually housewives. None of the CSEC were found to be involved in any economic activities, however 11% of them were involved in economic activities like tailoring after being rescued.

Similarly for the CSE survivors, an increasing trend was observed in getting into tailoring business.

Therefore, trafficking had made a deep impact on their human potential by taking away educational opportunities and income scope, and thus indulge them into deep vulnerability for the rest of the life.

On the other hand, majority of the CSE survivors were housewife (40%) at the time of trafficking which was 59% during the study period. Therefore, many CSE survivors had been reintegrated into social life through marriage.

*We need to acquire skill to engage with trades. I would be grateful to undergo skill training – on tailoring, so that I might get job in the garments factories.*

-Ferdousi, Survivors  
Keshobpur, Jashoree

Currently about 20% of CSEC and CSE survivors were unemployed when trafficked which

means they were likely to be aspirants to migrate for better future and a good life.

Tailoring as occupation after their trafficking experiences was reported by CSEC and CSE survivors.

Occupation	CSEC %		CSE %		AT Risk %	
	When trafficked	Present	When trafficked	Present	CSEC	CSE
Student	60	23	10	2	29	25
Housewife	20	45	40	59	57	6
Tailoring	-	11	2	5		6
Unemployed	20	8	20	6	-	6
Helper/labour	-	5	8	7	14	19

This study found that 60% of CSEC survivors were student when trafficked and 90% were currently found studying.

Among the CSE survivors, majority were uneducated 35% to 45% over trafficking period and study period. However about 60% had primary level of education during trafficking. For 'At Risk' group majority of CSEC were found to have at least grade VIII level of education while 43% with no schooling experience.

Education	CSEC		CSE		AT Risk	
	When trafficked	Present	When trafficked	Present	CSEC	CSE
No Education		-	35	45	43	
Primary	27	30	31	27		44
Level VIII-secondary	68	60	30	23	57	38

## 2.7 Other Critical Characteristics of the Survivors

The study attempted to investigate if there was any trafficking history within the family of the survivors. They study revealed that 14% of the CSEC and 8% of the CSE survivors reported having a second trafficked victim – trafficked prior to the respondent's trafficking -- within the family. This created a dilemma as to why a member of the victim family fall prey into another trafficking trick even when they had first-hand experience of trafficking. Vulnerability may be among other things may be a reason which needs further exploration in any future programming strategy.

Moreover, in regard to disabilities within family, about 6% of the CSEC respondents and 9% of the CSE respondents reported having family

members with disabilities or adult members unable to work. The housing structure of the majority of the survivor's families were reportedly thatched or Kutcha (clay and bamboo made with thatched/straw on the roof). Irrespective of the CSE or CSEC, almost two third of the survivors were trafficked from rural areas, while about 60% of them were residing in border-belt areas.

Attribute		CSEC	CSE
A family member who was trafficked prior		14%	8%
A family member who is disabled/Unable to work		6%	9%
Having television in the family		52%	41%
Having a Mobile phone in the family (mostly SMART Phone)		94%	93%
Thatched Housing Structure		53%	59%
Trafficking spot	Rural	72% (remote and Border-belt 59%)	68% (remote and border-belt 56%)
	Urban	28%	32%

## 2.8 Beneficiary Targeting from the Findings of Section-B

The analysis of the survivors' basic socio-demographic characteristics provides following targeting options for programmatic interventions.

Attribute	CSEC	CSE
Age Group	Average -15; Range: 9-17	Average: 26; Range: 18-45
Marital Status	Unmarried, Divorced	Married , Divorced and Young Widow
Education	Below Secondary level	Uneducated and below Primary
Occupation	Student, Housewife	Housewife
Geographic Location	Jessore, Norail and Satkhira with bordering Districts	Jessore, Norail and Satkhira with bordering Districts
Vulnerable locations	Rural remote and border-belt Urban: Slum and street children	Rural remote and border-belt Urban area: Slum dwellers
Household	Having trafficking history	
Housing Structure	Thatched	
Access to remote communication (having cell phone in the family – mostly smart phone)	94%	93%
Within the reach of Electronic media (television)	52%	41%

## Section – C: Vulnerability

### 3.1 Introduction

**Vulnerability** may refer to the inability (of a system or a person) to withstand the effects of a hostile environment. It is both contextual as well as time specific. Organized trafficking take advantage of vulnerability as the stepping stone to trap victims in their prey.

This section presents an analysis of vulnerability factors of the survivors from multiple dimensions. They included:

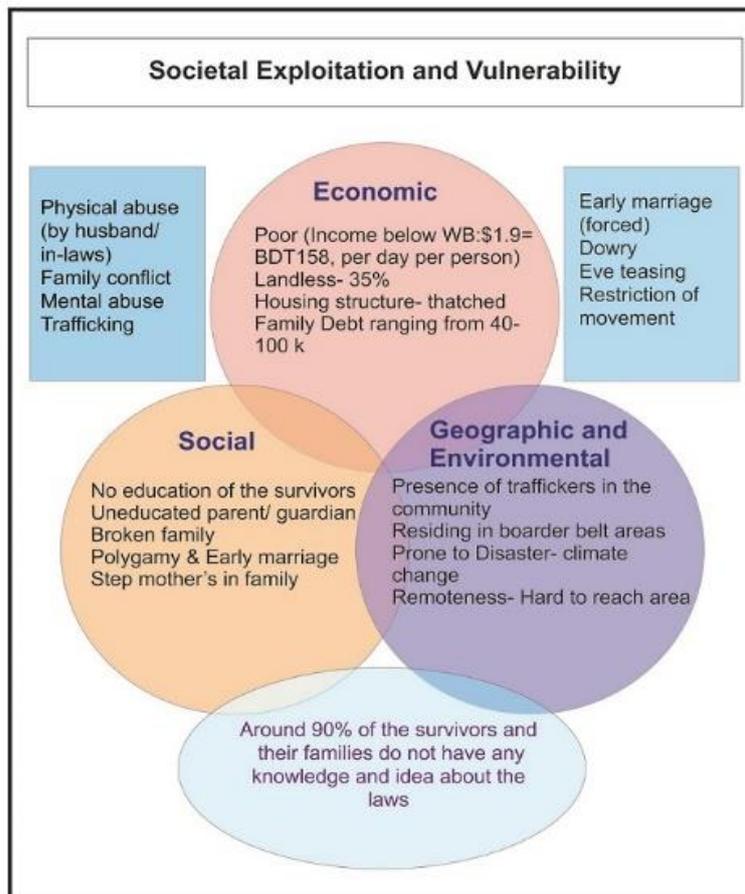
- Societal Vulnerability and Exploitation
- Vulnerability of the survivors for lack of knowledge about relevant Laws
- Economic factors of Vulnerability
- Social factors of Vulnerability
- Geographic and Environmental Vulnerability and
- Post rescue Health Vulnerability

The above mentioned factors potentially cause vulnerability to an individual and/or the community especially from the trafficking perspective. Though the understanding and view towards vulnerability varies across countries and among the development partners, there have been agreements on the above factors as global problems for CSE and CSEC related trafficking.

### 3.2 Societal Vulnerability and Exploitations

Societal vulnerability and exploitation are strikingly predominant in Bangladesh especially to the poor and women. In Bangladesh, poor and women are particularly targets of various forms of violence that ranges from abuse to rape, dowry related killings, acid throwing, sexual harassment, sexual slavery through trafficking and many more. Likewise, among all these odious acts against women, domestic violence is the commonest one (Khatun, 2012). In Bangladesh a large number of children are deprived of their basic human rights for lack of necessary health, nutrition, education, and social condition. In addition, children are exposed to several forms of physical and mental violence at home as well as in the work place, institutions, and public places.

Physical abuses are rampant both at home and outside in the form of slapping, beating, arm-twisting, stabbing,



strangling, burning, choking, kicking, threats with an object or weapon, murder, traditional harmful practices. Sexual abuse such as coerced sex through threats, intimidation or physical force, forcing unwanted sexual acts or forced sex are not uncommon. Psychological abuse comprises the behavior that is intended to intimidate and persecute, and takes the form of threats of abandonment or abuse, confinement to the home, surveillance, threats to take away custody of the children, destruction of objects, isolation, verbal aggression and constant humiliation.

Domestic violence especially beating women/wives and children by husbands/males has been a common culture perhaps in all times. Like many other low-income countries this phenomenon is also common in Bangladesh (Bhuiya, 2003). Respondents/victims of this study were asked about the root causes for the violence/exploitation. The important vulnerability factors as revealed from this survey included:

- Physical Abuse/torture (by husband/in-laws)
- Family Conflict
- Mental Abuse (verbal scolding)
- Early marriage (forced)
- Dowry in the family
- Eve teasing (public harassment)
- Polygamy in the family
- Trafficker in the community
- Restriction of movement of women and girls

Most of the respondents from both CSEC and CSE groups reported violence from intimate relatives -- for example husband and in-laws -- as the prime factor for trafficking. Seventy eight percent respondents of both the groups mentioned it as key factor for trafficking. It was followed by family feud/conflict, while 79% CSE reported it as a factor against 65% by CSEC victims. Early (forced) marriage was found another key vulnerability issue as 50% of the CSE and 61% of the CSEC respondents attributed to it as key factor for human trafficking.

Psychological abuse was mentioned as another vulnerability factor by more than half of the

<b>Attribute (multiple choice)</b>	<b>CSEC (%)</b>	<b>CSE (%)</b>
Physical Abuse/violence (by husband/in-laws)	78	78
Family conflict	65	79
Early marriage (forced)	61	50
Psychological Abuse	57	58
Dowry in the family	47	45
Eve teasing	28	27
Polygamy in the family	26	27
Trafficker in the community	22	26
Restriction of movement of women and girls	16	19

respondents with very little difference between CSEC and CSE victims. Dowry in the family was considered by 47% CSEC against 45% CSE as a factor. On an average, around one-fourth mentioned eve teasing, polygamy and trafficking were causing violence/exploitation in the society. Restriction on the movement on girls and

women was also considered by some 16-19% respondents as a factor causing vulnerability.

### 3.3 Economic Vulnerability

On March 16, 2018, Bangladesh attained all the three criteria to graduate to a developing

Attribute (multiple choice)	CSEC %	CSE %	At Risk %	National
Poor (WB:\$1.9) <sup>2</sup>	87	90	95	14.8
Landholding-below 50 Dec (Landless)	69	57	78	31.7
Absolute Landless	25	39	22	2.3
Housing –Thatched	53	59	30	-
Family Debt (Loan amount BDT)	44 (41,000)	48 (102,000)	52 (68,000)	-
Mortgage given	6	4 <sup>3</sup>	4	N/A
Economically Active members ratio per HH	51	54	63	63.7
Engaged in low wage job	25	21	0	N/A

country. This is a major leap forward for Bangladesh, after upgrading to “Lower Middle Income” category by increasing its Gross National Income (GNI). Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI) has consistently decreased since 2003 (Bangladesh

Graduating from LDC BLOC: The march towards Developing Country Status). The LDC category was introduced by the United Nations in 1971 when there were 25 LDCs. In 2018, the number has increased to 47. So far, only five countries were able to graduate from the LDC group, including Botswana, Cape Verde, Maldives, Samoa and Equatorial Guinea. Bangladesh is the only country that met all three criteria for graduation including GNI per capita, Human Assets Index, and Economic Vulnerability Index. All these suggest that incidence of poverty particularly extreme poverty has been declining overtime. Still the country lags behind in the areas of adult literacy rate, access to safe drinking water, maternal mortality rate. And women are in the rear seat in participation in politics, decision-making and wage employment. Condition of poor women are even more vulnerable. Economic vulnerability put women at the forefront of risk.

Findings in the study confirmed that women from poor families are particularly vulnerable to trafficking. Key findings from the study were:

- Nearly 90% of the traffic victims’ Households are poor;
- 60-75% households are landless or marginally landless; thus have very little economic resources to survive;
- More than half of them/ their household had debt and debt amount ranges from BDT 40,000 to 102,000 per household;
- About half of the household members are economically active yet HH remains poor; in other words, majority of the household members are involved in very low wage activities.

Study findings from the key economic vulnerability factors suggests that the women and children from at risk household are particularly susceptible to trafficking. Landlessness, housing features and indebtedness may be part of the economic vulnerability but these factors might not necessarily directly attributed to trafficking par see rather act as contributing factor to income vulnerability.

<sup>2</sup> World Bank Report –Shared Prosperity 2018. Below USD 1.9 per person per day income is considered as ‘Poor’. This is equivalent to BDT 158 per day per person, average Bangladesh Bank conversion rate against US Dollar in January 2019.

<sup>3</sup> 80% of them have mortgaged their fixed asset like homestead and agricultural land.

### 3.4 Social Vulnerability

In its broadest sense, social vulnerability is one dimension of vulnerability to multiple stressors and shocks, including abuse, social exclusion and natural hazards. Social vulnerability refers to the inability of people, organizations, and societies to withstand adverse impacts from multiple stressors to which they are exposed. These impacts are due in part to characteristics inherent in social interactions, institutions, and systems of cultural values. In Bangladesh as like economic and other vulnerabilities, social vulnerability is widespread too.

In this study, we have attempted to assess social vulnerabilities with reference to a set of (vulnerability focused) indicators on education (of both survivors and their parents/guardians), marriage (early marriage of survivor and polygamy and extra marital relations of family members, family status (existence of step mother, conflict within the family and sexual exploitation in the family), dowry demands, eve teasing and drug addiction.

The table shows relationship of remaining at risk and difference socio economic status. Among all the socioeconomic factors, educational status of the parents came out as the most critical risk factors.

Nearly all CSE and CSEC victims have uneducated parents. Likewise, 78% of the respondents at risk have uneducated parents/guardian. In other words, educated parents seemed to be the key source of information and awareness development within the family that provide safeguard to the children. Conflict and feud within family enhance insecurity to the

Attribute	CSEC (%)	CSE (%)	At Risk (%)
No education of the survivors	65	42	55
Uneducated parent /guardian	94	92	78
Broken family	31	18	20
Polygamy in the family	22	17	17.4
Step mothers in family	28	19	25
Early marriage of the survivors	43	37	13
Extra-marital relation of family members	37	39	61
Sexual Exploitation in the family	29	35	35
Conflict within family	59	62	70
Dowry demands	48	45	40
Drug Addiction	16	20	35
Eve-teasing (public harassment)	28	27	30

vulnerable members of the family and give fuel to fall easy prey to the perpetrators. . Other major social factors those indulge vulnerable into risk were illiteracy, extra marital affair, a sexual exploitation and dowry. Relatively less-prominent factors as mentioned by the respondents were polygamy, broken family, step mother, drug addiction, and eve teasing (public harassment).

### 3.5 Geographic and Environmental Vulnerability

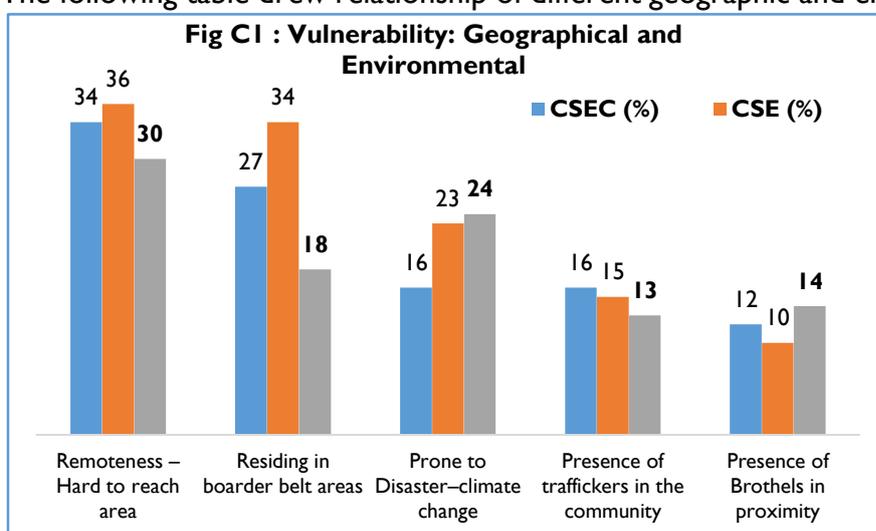
Geographic and Environmental vulnerability refers to the conditions of natural environment that either contribute to or reduce the sufferings of disaster victims from impacts of extreme events.

Due to the geographical location of Bangladesh, its people are exposed to natural hazards such as floods, cyclones, drought, and riverbank erosion (Penning- Rowsell et al. 2012). According to the World Risk Report (2012), Bangladesh was the fifth most natural disaster prone country among 173 countries in the world. The report also summarized that a person living in the region is 4 times riskier than those in Africa and 25 times than in Europe or North America. The study had adopted following indicators to measure

geographic/environmental vulnerabilities that are relevant to the study population and its scope:

- Presence of traffickers in the community
- Proximity to national border
- Prone to disaster climate change
- Remoteness (Hard to reach area/difficult communication / mostly foot-walk)
- Presence of brothels in proximity

The following table drew relationship of different geographic and environmental factors with

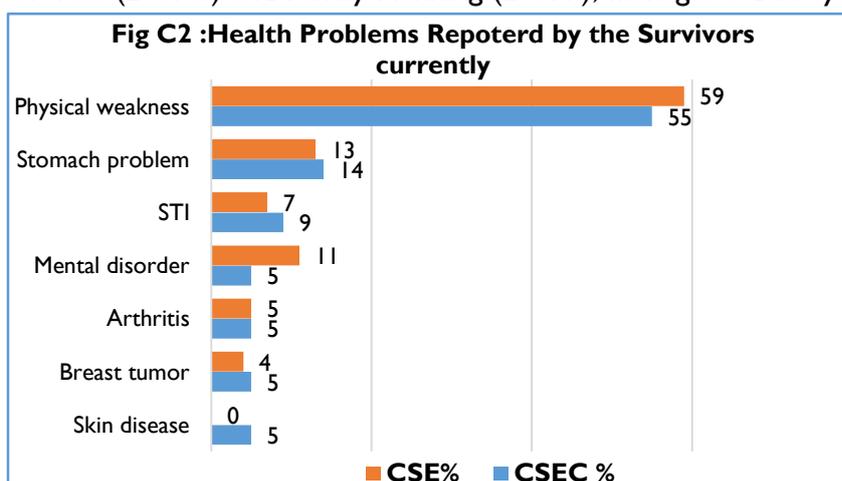


association of risk. It showed that the people from hard to reach area were the most vulnerable (30%), followed by disaster prone areas (24%). Residence living close to national borders, in proximity to a brothel and in a community in which a trafficker operated, were a trafficker found to be other vulnerability

factors those have either same or similar level of influence for putting people on risk of trafficking.

### 3.6 Health Vulnerability

According to Bangladesh Health System Review of World Health Organization 2015, Bangladesh has a pluralistic system with four key actors that define the structure and function of the system: government, private sector, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and donor agencies. The Government or public sector is the first key actor which by constitution is responsible not only for policy and regulation but for provision of comprehensive health services, including financing and employment of health staff. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, through the two Directorates General of Health Services (DGHS) and Family Planning (DGFP), manages a dual system of general health and



family planning services through district hospitals, Upazila Health Complexes (with 10 to 50 beds) at sub-district level, Union Health and Family Welfare Centres at union level, and community clinics at ward level. In addition, the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and

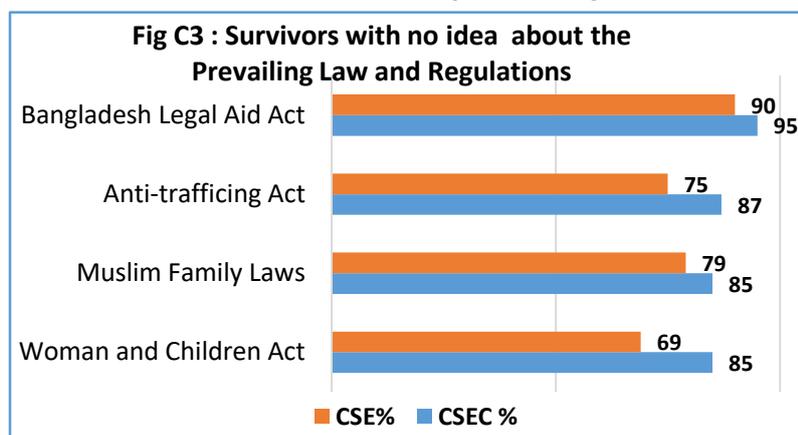
Cooperatives manages the provision of urban primary care services. Quality of services at these facilities, however, is quite low due to insufficient allocation of resources, institutional limitations and absenteeism or negligence of providers. According to the latest Bangladesh National Health Accounts, Bangladesh spends US\$ 2.3 billion on health or US\$ 16.20 per person per year, of which 64% comes through out-of-pocket payments. While, according to WHO estimates, Bangladesh currently spends US\$ 26.60 per person on health per year.

The study revealed that 29% of CSEC and 39% of CSE victims reported that they had physical sickness when rescued. The study also investigated their current physical status which revealed that close to 60% respondents had been experiencing physical weakness, but currently around 14% had stomach problems, 5% were suffering from Arthritis, and most importantly, 5% had been diagnosed with breast cancer and around 8% were suffering from STI. Their access to the existing health systems were rather limited and irregular. Many had issues with bearing out of pocket medical expenses which prevented them for accessing health services. In other economic vulnerability had a bearing on their health vulnerability. On the other hand, their inadequate access to government health services had a bearing on their social vulnerability. Therefore, vulnerability are in effect are intertwined and often have multiple facet.

### 3.7 Knowledge Vulnerability

Knowledge is a source of empowerment and it protects people from vulnerability. Legal knowledge in particular works as safeguard and protects from abuses.

With regard to the respondents' knowledge at the time of their being trafficked, both CSE and CSEC victims lacked necessary knowledge and awareness about the prevailing law and



regulations of the country, specifically the four laws that are in effect in the country to protect violence and trafficking.

About 75-87% of the survivors had no knowledge about Anti-trafficking Act.

The survivors reported that they had very little (5-10%) or no knowledge about the

Bangladesh Legal Aid Act. In general more than 70% of the vulnerable group people were unaware about Muslim Family Law, Woman and Children Act. Findings of Community Legal service programmes perception survey revealed similar results that 60-90% people do not have any knowledge about most common laws.

### 3.8 Beneficiary Targeting from the Findings of Section-C

Attribute	CSEC	CSE
Societal – Communication interventions to reduce	Early/Child marriage Dowry Eve Teasing	Polygamy Violence in the Family Dowry
Protection – strengthen in border-belt and remote traffic prone areas.	xx	xx
Economic Empowerment activities	x	xx
Stipend to continue education	xx	None sought such support
Provision of Medical Support	x	x

## Section – D: Trafficking Mechanism towards CSEC and CSE

There have been push as well as pull factors that affect human trafficking. Internal vulnerability, external promise and temptation, perpetrators motives and tricks – all end up with trafficking towards CSEC and CSE. The study tried to understand the dynamics and find ways to alleviate exploration of trafficking towards CSEC and CSE.

### 4.1 Factors Leading to Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking is a complex phenomenon that is often driven or influenced by social, economic, cultural and other factors.

The scoping study attempted to know the reasons of trafficking. Poverty was identified as the most prominent and common cause (CSE 100% and CSEC 96%) of trafficking followed by false promise of better life (CSE 56% and CSEC 61%) by the perpetrators and family conflict (CSE 62% and CSEC 59%). Other important reasons for both CSE and CSEC related trafficking included limited work opportunities (53% for CSEC vs 42% for CSE) and low literacy (49% and 41%) while early marriage was reported for CSEC (43%) and CSE (37%). Opinions of the 'At Risk' group were found similar to the CSE and CSEC victims. Many of the survivors came from landless families. Both CSE and CSEC mentioned that landless and uprooted people used to take shelter in different slums and streets. Women and fair looking girls of these families often become the easy target of traffickers.

Attribute (multiple)	CSEC (%)	CSE (%)	At Risk
Poverty	96	100	100
Family Conflict	59	62	70
False hope for better life	61	56	48
Limited work opportunities	53	42	35
Low literacy	49	41	9
Early Marriage of survivor	43	37	13
Emotional negligence of Husband	37	39	52
Lack of awareness	33	33	17
Polygamy of family member	22	17	17
Extra marital relation of family member	22	11	81

### 4.2 Purpose of Human Trafficking

The main purpose of recruiting young women and girls from the villages and towns in the border areas was to supply sex workers for the sex industry in India and the Middle East.

Women from vulnerable sections of society in least developed countries are lured by promises of decent employment and a good living which tempts them to leave home. They are often provided with false hope of job and

**Women:** Mainly for Prostitution 99% followed by domestic work (52%)  
**Children:** Mainly for prostitution (82%) followed by hazardous work (44%), organ sale (30%), domestic work (27%) and others  
**Men:** Mainly for low wage labour (73%) followed by smuggling and drug peddling

Attribute (multiple)	CSEC (%)	CSE (%)
Prostitution	82	99
Domestic Work	41	52
Organ Sale	10	30
Begging	42	
Hazardous work	44	
Sale to childless family	21	
Low wage labor		13
Smuggling		2

an organized network was used to transport them to the destination country, where they find themselves forced into sexual slavery and held in inhumane conditions with constant fear. (Battle against the Plague of Women and Child Trafficking-Independent Bangladesh, July 2004).

Findings of the study exactly substantiate the statements mentions above. The study found that an overwhelming majority of victims (CSEC 82% and CSE 99%) were trafficked for prostitution. The second most important purpose was hazardous works (44%) for CSEC and domestic work (52%) for CSE. r. A large number of CSEC survivors (42%) were trafficked for begging. In case of CSE, 30% was victimized for organ sale, and all of them went to India.

### 4.3 Tricks Used in Trafficking

Traffickers adopt different strategies and tricks to attract and engage children and women (and their families) into the trafficking process. The traffickers look for aspirant migrants who come from the rural areas for jobs or young people abandoned by family and tempt them with false promises for better life.

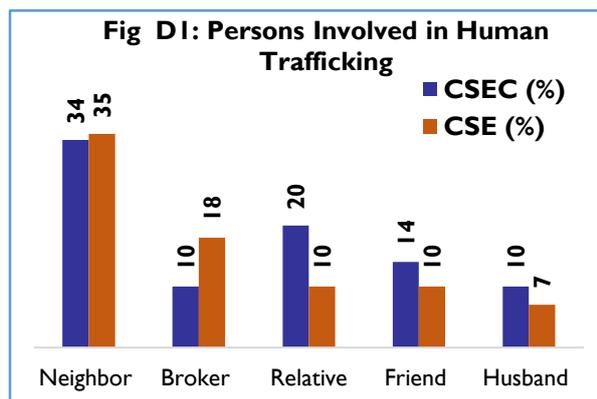
Majority of the victims, CSEC (65%) and CSE (75%) mentioned that the main trick applied to them by the traffickers was false hope for higher wage. Tourism to travel together especially foreign countries was found another major trick used by the traffickers and a significant number of CSEC (33%) were trapped by such false hope.

Attribute	CSEC (%)	CSE (%)
Hope of higher wage	65	75
False hope for money and property	29	53
Tourism to travel together	33	10
Romantic affairs	29	18
False hope of marriage	4	4

In case of CSE, trick of offering higher wage (75%) jobs was followed by false hope of money and property (53%), and other reasons were romantic affairs (18%) and instigate of travel together (10%). However, as stated by the victims, children were mainly attracted by offering chocolates and toys, to roaming around, money, and romantic relation. Some victims were trafficked while visiting doctors or relatives.

### 4.4 Persons Involved in Human Trafficking

Traffickers usually identify vulnerable families as potential targets with the help of local



people and neighbors. Traffickers maintain an organized network and have their agents such as neighbors, brokers, relatives and friends to make contacts with the parents or husbands of the victims. CSEC (34%) and CSE (35%) reported that neighbors were primarily involved in their trafficking process.

In case of CSEC, 20% of the survivors were trafficked directly by the relatives such as, aunts, cousins, brother-in-laws, husbands and sister's husbands. Across the border,

brokers were mainly involved in trafficking process and 18% of the CSE reported that they were tricked by the brokers.

## 4.5 Access to Protection and Prosecution Services

Most victims came from poor family background. They remained scared of prosecution and often were uncertain about fair justice. They survey revealed that the majority of the victims did not seek any services from any organizations or institutions.

About 29% of the victims

went to the police for legal protection, 82% of them were provided with necessary police services. However, only 13% expressed satisfaction with the police services. About 24% of the survivors had access to legal aid fund from NGOs/others for prosecution services and majority of them (70%) were satisfied with the services received. Only 15% survivors ever went to court for justice and most (82%) of them had accessed service, however only 27% survivors were satisfied with court services.

However, only a few survivors accessed services from DLAC and UzLAC and a good number of them found DLAC/UzLAC office were relatively responsive and 53% expressed their satisfaction. Therefore, service access had been quite limited the survivors and the actual remedy were even less. These remains a big challenge for post rescue vulnerability to the survivors.

Sources of Services	Sought services %	Service availed (%)	Satisfied with services (%)
Police/ Thana	29	82	13
Legal Aid Fund (DLAC/ UzLAC)	11	65	53
Legal Aid Fund	24	100	70
Court	15	82	27

## 4.6 Stakeholders Role

Survivors wanted to see themselves as community mobilizers to protect potential victims from trafficking, mainly through local level mobilization and communication campaign. They expected that the Law Enforcement Agency (LEA) should respond promptly to their needs while awareness building, legal aid and financial support should be provided by the NGOs/CBOs. They also expected that the community people should act as gate keeper to identify the criminals.

*I want to meet closely with all mothers and daughters in my community to tell them my painful stories so that they could be alert from the pimps.*

Anonymous survivors

Besides, the survivors expected that the family members and neighbors should be alert and friendly to the children. The media could contribute to greater societal awareness building through evidence based reporting.

## 4.7 Shelter Home Services

Survivors, in the process, had experienced living in shelter homes within and also outside the country. Services provided by the shelter homes were rated poor, moderate and good

Services	Inside Country	Outside Country
Security	Good	Moderate
Medical	Moderate	Good
Psychological counselling	Moderate	Moderate
IGA training	Poor	Good
Long Term Training	Poor	Poor
Financial support	Poor	Poor
Occupancy	Poor	Moderate
Providers Behaviour	Moderate	Moderate

by the survivors. Irrespective of shelter home locations, long-term trade training and extent of financial support were rated poor while services like security, medical and counselling services were rated moderate to good. . They also pointed out the poor quality of IGA including long term training, Occupancy and

financial support of the shelter homes. Moreover, they were not satisfied with the behaviors of the staff inside the shelter homes.

#### 4.8 Prosecution Services

Victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation expressed their personal experiences, while other concerned stakeholders including police, prosecutors, NGO representatives and civil society members shared their experiences and insights on the functioning of prosecution systems. Both qualitative and quantitative findings revealed that when criminal cases were filed with police or court, it takes significantly long period. Inefficient legal systems are mainly responsible for such delays which are further aggravated by poor quality of lawyers. There are various costs/ expenses associated with the prosecution processes, not all are transparent, that also

##### Insights from KII: Policy and Implementation level Government officials

- Lack of empirical and authentic data for effective intervention planning against trafficking.
- Judicial system is lengthy and complex, conviction process is delayed
- Government initiative is not enough – NGO and Corporate sector must come forward in the form of PPP to counter trafficking
- Economic empowerment through proper engagement in income earning and livelihood activities
- Lack of resources to implement National Anti-trafficking plan
- We have Laws updated in 2012 and national plan of action for counter trafficking – but it lacks adequate resources to implement
- Counter-trafficking committee at UP level are not functional
- Fast and responsive counter trafficking monitoring cell of Law Enforcing Agencies – should remain vigilant in trafficking prone areas.

impede justice to the poor victims. Sometimes, exorbitant amount of money is required in dealing with the prosecution stages. All these discourage victims to seek redress from the legal system. A large numbers of victims -- 70% of CSEC and 82% of CSE -- did not make any attempt to sue the perpetrators involved in trafficking.

While asked about the reasons why victims did not try to seek justice, they identified a number of reasons. In case of CSEC, financial insolvency (14%), lack of information about traffickers (20%) and traffickers are relatives (17%) were the main reason for not seeking



justice. In case of CSE, financial insolvency (27%) and lack of information about traffickers (23%) were stated as major reasons for not seeking prosecution. Both CSE and CSEC mentioned few other reasons as well such as threat of traffickers, traffickers are influential for not seeking the services.

Among the CSEC who tried to sue the perpetrators, mostly went to police station (67%) with their cases,

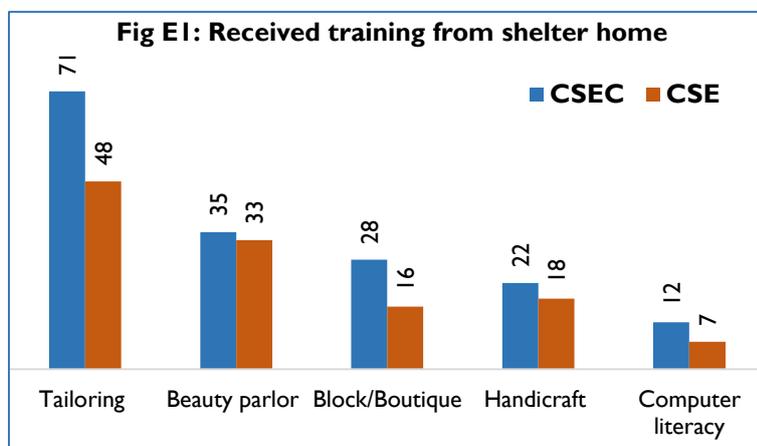
and then to court (33%) and in case of CSE the percentage of police station and court was similar.

## Section - E: Engagement of CSEC and CSE Survivors

It is imperative to ensure a meaningful engagement of the survivors in their re-integration process. This process is usually initiated during their stay at shelter homes, and overtime is grounded through their socialization and livelihood activities. This section describes to what extent the survivors received skills during their stay at shelter homes and what they aspired for, and their current engagement and the challenges of re-integrations.

### 5.1 Survivors Skill Development and Involvement in IGA

Besides security and social services, shelter homes focus on the livelihood aspects and



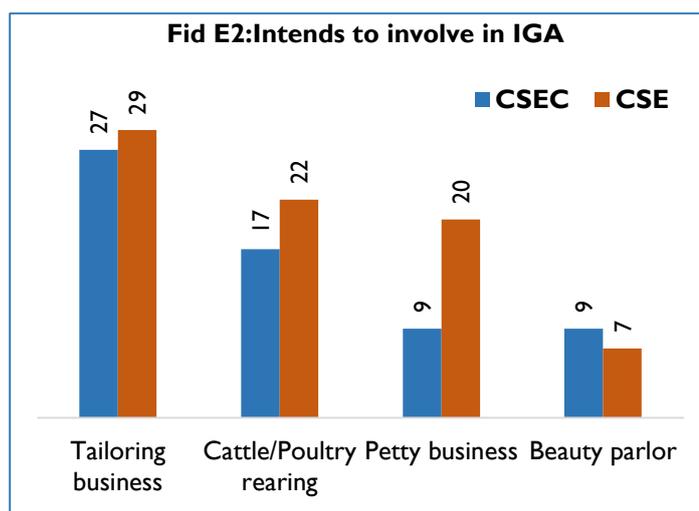
future engagements of the victims. The studied survivors during their stay in the overseas and in-country shelter homes received short training courses on different economic trade activities. Tailoring was the main training provided to both CSEC and CSE followed by Beauty Parlor, Block/Boutique (printing on cloth), Handicraft Making and Computer Literacy. The study also attempted to know the

survivors' desires for income generating activities (IGAs) for their livelihood. Survivors leading choice was tailoring (27-29%) which was quite consistent with the training they received the most.

Interestingly, cattle/Poultry rearing had come as the second most priority activity engagement of the survivors, which were found quite relevant to the survivors from rural areas who form majority of the victims. Petty business, about 20% opted by the survivors of urban areas.

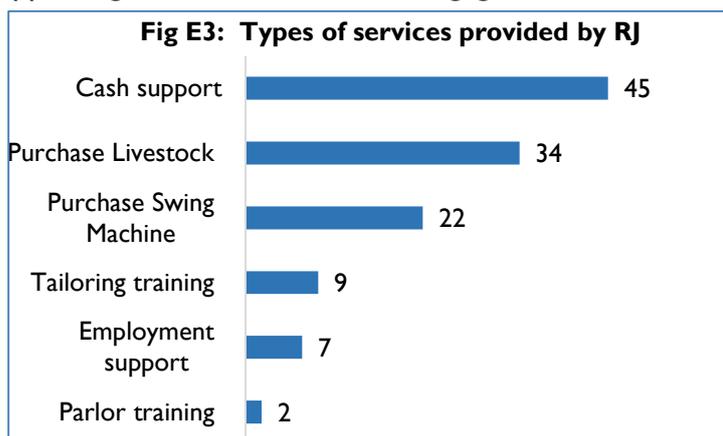
Though minimal, about 10% survivors received training on Beauty Parlor, and they opted to be involved with beauty parlour business, if there is any opportunity. About 7-12% survivors received training on computer operation during their stay in shelter homes, however, none of them

showed any interest to be involved with computer related activities.



## 5.2 Rights Jessore Endavours towards Beneficiary Engagement

Rights Jessore has the mandate of supporting victims towards their engagement in livelihood activities. Over the years, it has supported over 400 survivors. Out of the 201 responded survivors, RJ supported 147 survivors with various employment and/or economic activities. Cash support was the main assistance followed by livestock purchase and purchase of sewing machine. Cash transfer support was received by 45% survivors for livelihood activities



of survivors own choice, followed by donation of livestock (34%), donation of Sewing machine (22%), Tailoring training (9%), employment support (7%) and professional beautician (parlor) training (2%).

*I am ready to work to the call of Rights Jessore in awareness raising activities.*

**Rina Parvin, Survivor,**  
Bashgram, Narail

The study also assessed the satisfaction level of the survivors on RJ's support towards their livelihood engagement. Almost all (nearly 100%) expressed their high satisfaction to the RJ support

mentioning that no matter how big or small was the support, it was useful for their livelihood.

## 5.3 Challenges of Integration

Gender stereotyping, role modeling of girls and women, and perceived family respect relating to status of women and girls are a few of the socio-cultural norms in typical Bangladeshi community, especially among poor sections of the people in the society. When women and girls disappear or elope, and remain absent for some time, families remain aggrieved on the one hand, and face stigma from the immediate neighbors and broader society on the other. Family members feel embarrassed again when girls and women after rescue are brought for reintegration.

Due to physical and psychological oppressions and traumas, the victims often demonstrate uneasiness inside and outside family. According to the study, both CSEC (32%) and CSE (44%) commonly faced misbehavior within the family as well as in the community. Their movement was often restricted by the family members, and they often experienced negligence in the family. Apart from misbehavior, slandering, verbal abuse and bad proposal were common at the community level. These often led them to isolation from the

Table E1: Challenges of Re-integration		
At Family	CSEC (%)	CSE (%)
Misbehavior	32	44
Restricted movement	27	19
Neglecting attitude of family members	14	7
At community	CSEC (%)	CSE (%)
Misbehavior	52	50
Slandering	42	30
Isolation	38	26
Verbal abuse	26	30
Bad proposal	10	8

proposal were common at the community level. These often led them to isolation from the

community. The study, however, shows relatively positive family response and outlook to the rescue victims than the community.

## 5.4 Engagement

Economic empowerment may be seen as the main instrument to raise the victims out of the vicious circle of negligence and disgrace. Currently 87% of CSEC, 90% CSE and 95% at risk people were involved in economic activities. Stakeholders involved in the process, also underscored the importance of economic empowerment through involvement in long term employment opportunities for CSEC and CSE victims.

Among the victims, current occupation of majority of the CSE (59%) and CSEC (45%) was of CSEC and CSE house wife and while 23% of the CSEC reported that their current primary occupation was student. Tailoring as occupation was as reported by CSEC and CSE survivors (ref. Table. B4). Among the victims 98% of CSEC and 96% of CSE intended to work with NGOs. Almost half of the respondents, CSEC (42%) and CSEC (46%), had expressed their intention to engage in community awareness campaigns and other initiatives if undertaken by NGOs.

Recommended Engagement		CSEC (%)	CSE (%)
Desire to contact/work with NGOs		98	96
Intend to participate in future project activities	Community awareness campaign	42	46
	Involve in NGO initiatives	9	9

### Key words from the Survivors toward engagement

- Include us in awareness campaign and sensitization of legal issues – we can play role of volunteer cum mobilizer
- We can form counter-trafficking group in our locality
- We would like to see more school-based program and in remote pockets for awareness activities
- We can form a network/platform – at Upazila, District and at National level
- We want to have life skill and trade based training for greater self-protection and for income generating activities
- We (CSEC) seek support for continued education
- We need Legal Aid Support from NGO/CSOs
- We strongly seek capital assistance (Government/NGO/CSO) for livelihood

## 5.5 Conclusions and Scoping Areas

The study has provided with the empirical data and relevant perspectives to design and implement well targeted and effective program strategies. Following matrix provide a detail scoping analysis based on challenges faced by the At-risk people as well and victims of trafficking. Potential program intervention strategies have been identified based on this research findings, as well as on Rights Jessore’s expertise and past experiences. Future interventions should underpin four key principles which include:

**Prevention strategy:** Create conditions within the family and the society to prevent trafficking for CSEC and CSE. Therefore, addressing key vulnerabilities needs to be addressed especially for the At-risk people. So, prevent before things go wrong!!

**Protection strategy:** Work for the CSEC and CSE victims to rescue, repatriate and reintegrate them in the society through social and economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods.

**Prosecution strategy:** Seeking legal remedy for the victims and punish the perpetrators towards a sustainable justice delivery systems for the vulnerable people.

**Partnership strategy:** Prospective program should be built on partnership of various actors to address multi-faceted nature as well as actors and factors of trafficking where no single agency can provide effective solutions. RJ will not only play the role of service providers but also work as an effective interlocutor to bring other relevant government agencies, justice systems and NGOs towards comprehensive and sustainable solutions.

Targeting the program beneficiary is a real challenge as there is no single social, economic or demographic characteristic would be sufficient to determine the trafficking vulnerable or At-risk people. However, there is already around 400 CSEC and CSE victims who can directly participant in the program. In addition, following features can be drawn from the study findings to determine At-risk program beneficiaries which include:

- Poor households in the urban slum and remote areas of border zone
- Student and housewife age between 9 and 17 years for the CSEC and between 18 and 45 years for CSE.
- Families with history of previous trafficking should get priority
- Geographic concentration of the program may include seven border districts in the Khulna division.

These are broad targeting criteria that may be used mainly for the prevention strategy. However, protection and prosecution issues will be dealt with specific cases. The following matrix provides a detailed scoping strategy for future programming:

Key issues and Challenges	Responsible organizations, programmes and issues	Challenges for the target people
Economic vulnerability of the poor and landless family leading to trafficking	Several government projects and programmes under social service department and women affairs department are working to create employment opportunity for the vulnerable section of the society. Local and national level NGOs and CSOs are providing training and credit to poor mainly for poverty alleviation purpose. Only a few NGOs are working with the most vulnerable	Available services are either inappropriate or inadequate to the CSE and CSEC victims; Many At-risk can't access services from GoB and NGO programs
Social Vulnerability: Individual capacity and Social protection mechanisms are so inadequate and non-functioning that the vulnerable families fall prey of trafficking perpetrators	Only a handful of CSOs and NGOs are working with the At-Risk people in the urban and rural areas; Community level prevention work is inadequate and only implemented in limited areas	Most of the prospective target beneficiaries have either limited or no access to the prevention services; Lack of awareness and critical thinking ability at the family level;

Key issues and Challenges	Responsible organizations, programmes and issues	Challenges for the target people
		Social protection systems do function properly to protect at Risk people
Geographic vulnerability specifically those living in boarder zone are at risk of trafficking	Boarder guard and police are responsible to secure the vulnerable yet many of the victims are slipping through the protection systems	Poor and vulnerable people lack linkages with the board guard and police
Existing justice systems are lengthy, expensive and cumbersome and thus fails to provide remedy to the victims	Police and judiciary systems have establish special services for the poor and vulnerable like one stop services, legal aid and so on; Many NGOs are also providing legal services to the victims and poor vulnerable	Existing systems are inadequate and in-sensitive to the poor and vulnerable; Duty bearers are often lack motivation to support the poor and impede accessibility to the poor
Rescue and repatriation of CSEC and CSE victims are cumbersome and lengthy due to lack of legal framework and administrative weaknesses	Ministry of Home Affairs and police are key nodal agencies for rescue and repatriation; Few NGOs/CSOs support Bangladesh and foreign government nodal agencies in the repatriation process. However, the systems are inefficient and cause delay for rescue and repatriation; many trafficked victims are never rescued	Victim's family lack legal knowledge and resources to pursue legal processes for rescue and repatriation; Victims had to stay in exile for long
Rehabilitation and engagement remain the key challenge for the rescued and repatriated victims for lack of social support, inadequate support services and effective engagement strategies	Social service department, women affairs department and NGOs have program on rehabilitation and reintegration of victims but those remains inadequate and generally unsustainable; Shelter home, economic engagement support services (skill training, financial and psychosocial support) and social reintegration inadequate	Training and financial support are helpful but not adequate for sustainable engagement Support services often do not match with the victims needs Inadequate family and social support to victims in engagement processes

## 5.6 Scoping Recommendations

Targeting the right beneficiaries:

- Poor households in the urban slum and remote areas of border zone
- Student and housewife age between 9 and 17 years for the CSEC and between 18 and 45 years for CSE.
- Families with history of previous trafficking should get priority
- Geographic concentration of the program may include seven border districts in the Khulna division.

## 5.7 Recommendations for GFEMS

- Survivors are gradually being involved with trade and businesses with small capital support from NGOs, therefore increased support package and extent could be useful for future beneficiary engagement. Arranging quick impact economic integration support (training and financial support) to the identified CSE and CSEC victims is strongly recommended
- There is lack of resources to implement national anti-trafficking plan, therefore create partnership with government projects and local NGOs to create employment and engagement for the victims as well as At-risk group. Most importantly, design development intervention around the national plan would have lasting impact.
- Many of the survivors have high-school level of education, and are capable of using technology like smart phone. Therefore, they could potentially be included in mobilization and awareness activities in a peer driven approach integrating innovative technology to reach-out fast.
- Situation of societal vulnerability and exploitation were observed grim in rural and in urban slum areas, and especially in remote pockets. Therefore, implement community based awareness and prevention activities and scale up quickly in hard to reach areas with use of technology. Survivors could be involved for achieving double bottom, empowering survivors within the family and society, and making communication campaign more effective and efficient.
- Establish social protection mechanism at the community level such as gate-keepers and activate anti-trafficking committees, especially Upazila and Union level committees, with specific programme, resources and monitoring systems
- Facilitate linkage between communities and the government forces (police and BGB) to protect trafficking at the community level
- Advocacy with the duty bearers to support the poor to ensure their access to GO and NGO services
- Advocacy at policy level to reform legal systems, rescue and repatriation processes and administrative mechanisms
- There are serious lack of knowledge among the community people about basic laws and rights, therefore educate communities on potential risk factors and remedies including legal matter
- Work with the law enforcing agencies on behalf of the victims and support them with legal and financial means to rescue and repatriate the victims.
- Skill based training (tailoring, beauty parlor, and other skill based training) given in shelter home were proved to be utilized by the survivors, therefore training on tailoring and garments could be considered as important skill areas for engagement of survivors.
- Due to fast globalization economy of trafficking is changing, therefore a continued and/or longitudinal study could be undertaken to inform anti-trafficking programme.

## Annexes

### Annex-I: List of References

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## Annex-2: List of Key Informants

No.	Name	Designation	Organization	Date of Interview
1.	Ms. Syeda Masuma Begum	Advocate	Jashore District Judge Court	12 January 2019
2.	Ms. Shahnaj Parvin	Shelter Home Manager	Dhaka Ashsania Mission (DAM)	
3.	Md. Modasser Ali	Chairman	14 No. Narandrapur Union Parishad	
4.	Mr. Mosharrof Hossain	Marriage Registrar	Marriage registration office	
5.	Mr. Tauhidur Rahman	Secretary	Jashore Press Club	
6.	M. Idris Ali	President	District Bar Council, Jashore	
7.	Md. Ansar Uddin	Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP)	Bangladesh Police	13 January 2019
8.	Ms. Mahamuda Khatun	District Judge	Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, Jashore	
9.	Md. Shafiqul Islam	Additional District Magistrate	District Administration, Jashore	
10.	Ms. Tabitha Willard	Manager	BASA Enterprise	
11.	Lieutenant Cornel Arif	Commanding Officer	49 BGB, Jashore	
12.	Dr. S.M Shameen Ahsan	Professor	Jashore City College	
13.	Ms. Reshma Sharmin	Superintendent of Police (SP)	CID, Bangladesh Police	14 January 2019
14.	Mr. Mohasin Milon	President	Benapole Press Club	
15.	Mr. Abdul Wahab	ICP Camp Commander	BGB, Benapole	
16.	Sk. Masud Karim	Operation In-charge	Bangladesh Police	
17.	Md. Abdul Rahman	Chief Executive Officer	Rural Development Center (RDC)	
18.	Md. Abdul Awal	Deputy Commissioner	District Administration, Jashore	
19.	Md. Shah Alam	DIG, Special Investigation and intelligence	CID, Bangladesh Police	15 January 2019
20.	Ms. Ferdousi Akhter	Joint Secretary	Public Security Division, Ministry of Home Affairs, GoB	21 January 2019
				22 January 2019

### Annex-3: Participants and Recommendation from Preliminary Finding Sharing Workshop



Closing Photo-session with key stakeholders during Preliminary findings sharing workshop – on February 9, 2019

#### **Md. Shah Alam, DIG, Crime Investigation Department (CID) - Bangladesh Police**

- Conducting mapping exercise on human trafficking and its monetary connections is important to develop victim's flow chart and money flow chart relating to the trafficking crime.
- Deployment of efficient and dedicated govt. officials at human trafficking prone areas will significantly contribute to counter trafficking initiatives
- Fostering a perfect integration process for the victim's conduction of long term life skill development training is highly important
- There should be overseas police liaison office, which needs to be connected to the security systems of the concerned countries.
- Fast and responsive counter trafficking monitoring cell should be formed for law enforcing agencies.
- Economic empowerment through engaging in income generating activities of the trafficked victims will contribute to successful re-integration process.
- Country law is sufficient to deal with human trafficking. But prosecution still remains a major challenge as most of the victims have no idea about the legal proceedings

### **Jinat Ara, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, GoB**

- The studied areas are more vulnerable to human trafficking therefore, to support the trafficking victims Govt. has plan to build new shelter home in Jashore besides Dhaka and Cox's Bazar district.
- Beside govt. counter trafficking initiative NGOs and corporate firms must come forward in order to form PPP to counter trafficking.
- Taking initiatives to conduct mass awareness campaign from the both GO and NGO end is an urgent need.
- Forming national level database for human trafficking is essential to develop effective counter trafficking plan
- Coordination and cooperation among the GO, NGOs, Civil Society and Private Corporation is highly important to counter trafficking activities.
- Special tribunal for ant-human trafficking need to form for ensuring faster conviction for human trafficking cases.
- More rehabilitation initiatives for the trafficked victims from the local government and the social service departments should be taken.



*Audience view at Preliminary Findings Sharing Workshop on February 9, 2019 at Jashore*

## Annex-4: Scoping Areas for Stakeholders

Problem	Potential Areas of Interventions	GoB Policy level	GoB agencies (LEA, Court)	Survivors	Right Jessor/ NGO	Grass root CBO/ CSO
<b>Economic</b> Widespread poverty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ poor income,</li> <li>▪ landless,</li> <li>▪ poor housing</li> <li>▪ Family debt</li> </ul>	<b>Economic Empowerment :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Involvement of more Women in IGA</li> <li>▪ Trade and Skill training</li> <li>▪ Distribution khas land to the poor</li> <li>▪ Provide free education for children</li> <li>▪ Organize vocational training on different small trade</li> </ul>	√		√	√	√
<b>Social –</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No education</li> <li>▪ Uneducated parent</li> <li>▪ Broken family</li> <li>▪ Polygamy</li> <li>▪ Early marriage</li> <li>▪ Extra marital relation</li> <li>▪ Sexual exploitation</li> <li>▪ Conflict</li> <li>▪ Dowry</li> <li>▪ Drug addiction</li> <li>▪ Eve-teasing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Effective law and policy amendment</li> <li>▪ Immediate exemplary punishment of the perpetrators</li> <li>▪ Communication Campaign</li> <li>▪ Awareness raising through meeting, counseling and role playing in street drama and conflict resolution</li> <li>▪ Functional literacy</li> </ul>	√	√	√	√	√
<b>Geographic-</b> Presence of traffickers in the community Residing in the border area Presence of brothels in proximity	Act as a gate keeper or watch dog to avoid the trafficker Vigilant team -LEA			√		
<b>Health</b> Physical Sickness STI	Provide treatment through making liaison with government and non-Government Institution	√			√	√
Lack of knowledge on different act	Provide an orientation on different laws and act√				√	√
Lack of satisfaction services received from police and court	Police and Court should provide effective services		√			
Lack of adequate framework for repatriation – cross-border bilateral agreement	Policy frame and bilateral agreement					

<b>Problem</b>	<b>Potential Areas of Interventions</b>	<b>GoB Policy level</b>	<b>GoB agencies (LEA, Court)</b>	<b>Survivors</b>	<b>Right Jessore/ NGO</b>	<b>Grass root CBO/ CSO</b>
<b>Shelter home:</b> Treatment, psychological counseling and staff behaviors are not up to the mark	More shelter homes developed with adequate and quality services –IGA, Medical treatment and financial assistance. Separate shelter homes for CSE and correction homes for CSEC should be established motivation and counseling	√		√	√	√
<b>Lack of skill Training</b>	IGA Training : CSE and CSEC preferred training on tailoring, cattle/poultry rearing, petty business and beauty parlor	√			√	√
<b>Challenges of integration:</b> Family members negligence and verbal abuse to the survivors victims often feel discomfort and uneasiness	Gender awareness training essential for all More motivational and counseling training for the survivors				√	√
<b>Engagement</b> Lack of economic empowerment  Non engagement in community awareness campaigns and other initiatives if undertaken by NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Survivors act as community mobilizers to mobilize the people through providing training and orientation to the school children and community people</li> <li>▪ Survivors should act as a member of ATC (Anti Trafficking Committee)</li> <li>▪ Publish evidence based report by mass media</li> <li>▪ Legal Aid Support from NGO/CSOs</li> <li>▪ Cash / Asset Transfer Program with strong monitoring mechanism installed</li> </ul>			√	√	