

# 8<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Report (January-March 2024)

## 1. PROJECT SUMMARY (table)

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Project Title</b>      | A Comprehensive Counter Trafficking Program to Address Human Trafficking in Bangladesh.  |
| <b>Organization</b>       | Rights Jessore<br>Mahima Mahal, 119/2, Ghope, Jail Road, Jashore<br>Phone: +88-024777-66120<br>Email: <a href="mailto:rightsjessore@yahoo.com">rightsjessore@yahoo.com</a> |
| <b>Date of Submission</b> | April 20, 2024   |
| <b>Project Location</b>   | Jashore and Satkhira district (Six Upazilas and 18 Unions)   |
| <b>Reporting Period</b>   | 1 <sup>st</sup> January to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2024 (8 <sup>th</sup> Quarter)   |

## 2. Performance Review

### 2.1 Monitoring and Evaluation Activities

During the 8th Quarter of the project, the monitoring officer assumed a pivotal role in disbursing economic reintegration support to vulnerable beneficiaries, alongside other project personnel. In addition to this, they facilitated courtyard sessions with community leaders and organized life skills training for the beneficiaries. The monitoring officer diligently scrutinized screening forms, profiling documents, case management records, and associated paperwork, compiling individual beneficiary files across both districts. Moreover, they contributed to generating comprehensive database reports, including event MIS, hotline data, and monthly/quarterly quantitative reports. Working closely with colleagues such as the Program Officer, Desk Officer, and Counsellor, the monitoring officer ensured data accuracy, subject to review by RJ management before submission to the donor.

At the same time, the Director of Program and Deputy Director Program conducted regular field visits to oversee project implementation. Monthly discussions and coordination meetings with project staff enabled them to address local-level challenges and risks, fostering collaboration with government stakeholders for seamless implementation. Additionally, donor representatives played a crucial role in monitoring project activities through field visits and offering guidance for optimal results. Weekly meetings facilitated ongoing dialogue between donor representatives and project staff, addressing challenges, streamlining procedures, and providing essential guidance to ensure program success aligned with donor expectations. This active involvement enhanced the synchronization of project operations with intended objectives and donor requirements.

## 2.2 Project Result (table)

| SL | Activity details   | Total no. of target activity | 8 <sup>th</sup> Q Target | 8 <sup>th</sup> Q Achievement | Accumulated Target | Accumulated achievement | Remarks  |
|----|--|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1  | Organize 1 (one) district level workshop in participation of key district representatives, agencies, and stakeholders in each project district | 2                            |                          |                               | -                  | 2                       |  |
| 2  | Establish and operate 1 (one) desk for Referral services for Victims of Trafficking (VoTs) at the special tribunal in each project district    | 2                            |                          |                               | -                  | 2                       |  |
| 3  | Identify 150 to 250 VoTs in each district as per the IOM's victim identification guidance and eligibility criteria                             | 400                          | -                        | 11                            | 0                  | 443                     | Additional survivors will be replaced by dropout |
| 4  | Identify 50 most vulnerable VoTs among 150 to 250 VoTs in each district as per the IOM's vulnerability criteria                                | 100                          | 24                       | 24                            | -                  | 100                     |  |
| 5  | Assess individual needs of identified VoTs as per IOM's guideline and plan a tailored reintegration plan                                       | 400                          | 63                       | 50                            | 36                 | 364                     |  |
| 6  | Provide reintegration support to 150 to 250 VoTs in each district based on the results of the needs assessment                                 | 400                          | 126                      | 68                            | 56                 | 344                     | Including life skills training.                  |
| 7  | Provide business start-up reintegration support for 50 vulnerable VoTs in each district based on the IOM's reintegration guideline             | 100                          | 40                       | 18                            | 80                 | 20                      |  |
| 8  | Organize 972 courtyard meeting at the community level in two districts   | 972                          | 96                       | 150                           | 142                | 830                     |  |
| 9  | Submit monthly activity update (narrative) covering two project districts  | 30                           | 3                        | 3                             | 6                  | 24                      |  |
| 10 | Submit a quarterly report (Narrative + financial) covering two project districts   | 10                           | 1                        | 1                             | 2                  | 8                       |  |

## 2.3 Performance during the target period (1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023)

### 2.3.1. Key Achievements (by activity and district level)

#### **Jashore District:**

**Activity Name: Organize courtyard meeting at the community level-awareness raising activity in Jashore district**

During the 8th quarter of the project, the community awareness program persisted by organized courtyard gatherings with community leaders. At the ward level, the project facilitated community awareness meetings, totaling six meetings per ward, thus equating to 54 meetings per union, and ultimately 162 meetings in each upazila. Across six upazilas spanning two districts, a grand total of 972 meetings will be held.

In Q8, the Jashore team conducted a sum of 75 courtyard meetings aimed at enlightening community leaders on anti-human trafficking measures and safe migration practices. Despite hurdles, the effort witnessed the active involvement of 1,310 community members, encompassing both genders. The project aims to fulfill the courtyard meeting targets in both districts in the coming quarter (9<sup>th</sup> quarter), with the Jashore team having conducted 398 meetings up to this quarter.

This concentrated effort significantly bolstered awareness and comprehension within the community, fostering a heightened sense of engagement and knowledge exchange. Engaged community leaders exhibited strong motivation to disseminate crucial information combating human trafficking and promoting safe migration. To amplify the impact of awareness sessions, the organization consistently sought the participation of local representatives, including UP chairpersons and members. Subsequent to each meeting, participants provided valuable feedback through completion of validation tools. Here are some illustrative examples of the feedback garnered provided by meeting participants.

- Md. Akidul Islam, Bhojgati, Manirampur said that community awareness is crucial in reducing human trafficking within the country, as it impacts not only individuals but also the societal and national fabric.
- Sushanta Mondal, Jamjami, Bhojgati, Manirampur said that collaborative efforts are essential to eradicate human trafficking, requiring joint initiatives from various stakeholders across different sectors.
- Shib das, Chaulia, Narendrapur, Sadar said that the government must take decisive action against brokers and recruitment agents involved in human trafficking to effectively combat this issue, implementing stringent measures and enforcing existing laws to disrupt trafficking networks and protect vulnerable individuals.

A sample validation tools is attached with this report as Annex-1 and along with an event report of courtyard meeting as Annex-2.

**Activity Name: Establish and operate one desk for Referral services for Victims of Trafficking (VoTs) at the special tribunal under Jashore district.**

To address an ongoing challenge faced by the project, the organization arranged a temporary space for the Desk Officer within the stenographer room at the Jashore Judge court. This arrangement was necessary to ensure continuity from the previous quarter. The Desk Officer diligently conducted regular visits to both the Judge court and Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) court, fostering active engagement with tribunal judges and court officials to deliver crucial services. These services included gathering victims' information from the court and referring them to the Program Officer for screening. Additionally, the Desk Officer offered important legal support and guidance to individuals seeking resolution to their legal issues.

Beyond these duties, the Desk Officer maintained meticulous records, including a hotline register, and prepared monthly reports detailing the referral services provided, adhering to the project's prescribed format. Moreover, the Desk Officer supported colleagues in conducting project activities and completing screening, profiling, and case management forms for identified victims. Furthermore, the Desk Officer played a vital role in providing reintegration assistance to project beneficiaries, contributing significantly to the project's success.

Furthermore, in the preceding quarter, the RAISE project-initiated communication with our organization, referring victims for providing necessary support according to our capacity. The Desk Officer actively facilitated this service on behalf of the project and the organization, demonstrating dedication to supporting victims and ensuring seamless collaboration between projects.

A hotline report is attached to this submission as Annex-3 for reference and further insights.

**Activity Name: Identify 150 to 250 VoTs in each district as per the IOM's victim identification guidance and eligibility criteria.**

By the 7th quarter of the project, the Jashore team achieved the target for identifying victims in the district, strictly following IOM guidelines. As of now, a total of 209 victims have been identified in Jashore, comprising 156 males and 53 females. Despite surpassing the target for project beneficiaries, some identified survivors have dropped out due to various reasons such as relocation for job searching, familial barriers to participating in life skills training or other project activities, illness, or an inability to engage in productive work, among other factors. In response, the organization has devised a strategy to expand the list of victims, and the project team is actively continuing their search to refine the target.

Building on this strategy, during the 8th quarter, the Jashore team identified 11 female victims, bringing the total identified victims for the project in Jashore to 220. Utilizing a diverse approach, the project staff employed various methods including courtyard meetings, hotline information, CTWF, peer leaders, local elected representatives, community leaders, and collaboration with district administration to identify potential beneficiaries. Presently, the project staff is conducting thorough assessments of the beneficiaries' needs, utilizing case management forms to guide the provision of reintegration support. Additionally, out of the identified beneficiaries, 50 individuals have been identified as the most vulnerable victims and are set to receive essential business support in accordance with the project's targets.

**Activity Name: Organize and conduct Life Skills Training for project beneficiaries under reintegration support component.**

During the 8th quarter of the project, the Jashore team didn't organize any life skills training sessions for project beneficiaries. As per the project's targets, each district is tasked with providing eight batches of training, with each batch accommodating 25 and in total 200 project beneficiaries. However, up to the end of the previous quarter (7th quarter), the Jashore team had successfully conducted seven batches of training, benefiting a total of 175 project beneficiaries. Following the completion of the training sessions, project staff conducted comprehensive follow-up activities to assess the current status of beneficiaries and the effectiveness of the training received. A detailed report summarizing the findings of these

follow-up efforts. The remaining group will undergo training during the first month of the next quarter, and the Jashore team is currently making the necessary arrangements for this. A sample life skills training report is attached with this report as Annex-4.

**Activity Name: Provide reintegration support (in-kind assistance) to VoTs in each district based on the results of the needs assessment.**

Alongside life skills training, the project has implemented a range of reintegration support measures tailored to the unique needs of selected beneficiaries, in line with the project's objectives. This comprehensive support encompasses medical assistance, legal aid, and diverse skills training programs such as driving and computer skills, all aimed at bolstering their capacities and facilitating their involvement in productive activities.

During the 8th quarter of the project, 22 beneficiaries from Jashore district received medical support, with 12 males and 10 females benefiting from this assistance. Among them, 12 received medical support for the first time, while the remaining 10 received it for the second time. Victims seeking medical aid initially visit government hospitals, and if specialized tests are needed, they receive support from external sources. Additionally, one beneficiary was enrolled in a 30-day driving training program under the Bangladesh Road and Transport Association (BRTA). Concurrently, these beneficiaries are actively exploring employment opportunities as drivers, leveraging the skills acquired during the training.

During this reporting period, 37 project beneficiaries received counseling services from the project counselor, with 18 males and 19 females benefiting from this support. Furthermore, 17 selected vulnerable project beneficiaries completed their business plans following the prescribed format. Ten survivors received shelter support during this quarter upon repatriation from India, with four being male and the rest female survivors. Additionally, the project provided referral support to 22 individuals to secure legal assistance from the legal aid office, and simultaneously referred eight individuals to the DEMO office to obtain information and file complaints against their perpetrators. In total, 117 people, including project beneficiaries, received various services from the project during the last quarter.

**Activity Name: Provide Economic Reintegration Support to Selected Vulnerable Beneficiaries**

Up to this quarters, the Jashore team has diligently provided economic reintegration assistance to 12 carefully selected vulnerable survivors. The initiation of economic reintegration support to beneficiaries occurred in recent times, necessitated by several factors such as the meticulous selection process of vulnerable beneficiaries, obtaining permissions from donors, and determining the appropriate procedures for directly assisting vulnerable project beneficiaries. Nonetheless, despite these challenges, the project embarked on providing economic reintegration support since the previous quarter, having already completed the selection of vulnerable survivors from the overall pool of selected candidates.

In the 8th quarter of the project, seven vulnerable beneficiaries were the recipients of economic reintegration support across various categories. Following their selection, a comprehensive process unfolded. The program officer, in conjunction with the Project Manager and Monitoring Officer, conducted home visits to validate their business plans, evaluate their readiness to embark on entrepreneurial endeavors, and gauge their future

prospects stemming from this support. Upon the team's satisfaction with the beneficiaries' preparations, the project progressed to furnish them with business support.

Subsequently, the organization constituted a purchase committee comprised of five individuals, including the selected beneficiary and a witness, alongside three representatives from the organization encompassing program, finance, and administrative roles. A meticulous procedure for purchasing was established, involving pre-purchase meetings to ensure adherence to protocols, solicitation of quotations from vendors, thorough analysis of quotations, and the subsequent selection of suitable vendors. This procedural framework was adopted following deliberations at an IOM-partner meeting, prompting the organization to initiate and execute this endeavor, extending economic support to vulnerable project beneficiaries.

Post-support provision, the project undertook follow-ups with the beneficiaries to ensure prudent savings management, thereby enabling sustainable business operations. Additionally, plans were underway to furnish each supported beneficiary with a signboard, with a preliminary design already in place for imminent distribution. Given the unique circumstances of each beneficiary, meticulous documentation was deemed imperative to assess the efficacy of these efforts, leading the project to plan the compilation of case studies for all recipients of economic reintegration support.

To ascertain the efficacy of economic reintegration support, an extended evaluation period of 6 to 12 months post-support provision was deemed necessary. Furthermore, deliberations were anticipated with the IOM to strategize on highlighting these successes within the project timeline. The table below defines the recipients of economic reintegration support from the Jashore district, underscoring the tangible outcomes of the project's endeavors.

| Sl | Beneficiary ID | Name of Beneficiary | Business Name                          |
|----|----------------|---------------------|--|
| 1  | JAS-JHI-002    | Momtaz Khatun       | Goat Rearing                           |
| 2  | JAS-SHA-011    | Hazira Khatun       | Cow Rearing                            |
| 3  | JAS-JHI-022    | Mst. Rupa Begum     | Mobile Food Card Business              |
| 4  | JAS-JHI-023    | Salma Khatun        | Grocery and Tea Stall                  |
| 5  | JAS-JHI-024    | Md. Hasan Iqbal     | Auto Van                               |
| 6  | JAS-MAN-008    | Md. Jashim Uddin    | Rickshaw pulling                       |
| 7  | JAS-JHI-154    | Poly Khatun         | Auto Van                               |
| 8  | JAS-BAG-020    | Jahangir            | Auto Van for waste collection business |
| 9  | JAS-BAG-063    | Md. Nasir Haider    | Auto Van                               |
| 10 | JAS-SHA-026    | Md. Osman Ali       | Cow Rearing                            |
| 11 | JAS-MAN-009    | Md. Selim Dhali     | Cow Rearing                            |
| 12 | JAS-MAN-169    | Md. Sawkot Ali      | Cow Rearing                            |

## **Satkhira District:**

### **Activity Name: Organize courtyard meeting at the community level-awareness raising activity in Satkhira district.**

In the 8th quarter of our project, the Satkhira team arranged 75 courtyard meetings in community level with the help of local leaders. Just like in Jashore, they started awareness sessions with community leaders in the last quarter of the project. These meetings described a big crowd, with 1204 people attending, including men, women.

It's worth noting that the attendance and interest of community leaders in these meetings were comparatively lower than those of the courtyard meetings with female members. As per the targets set for courtyard meetings, the Satkhira team has conducted a total of 414 meetings up to this quarter and is on track, the project will complete targeted courtyard meetings within the next quarter of the project (9<sup>th</sup> quarter).

These gatherings were a key way for people to learn about human trafficking and safe migration. Attendees not only learned but also pledged to spread the word in their communities. After each meeting, people gave valuable feedback using special tools. Here are some examples of what they said:

- Pran Krishna Sarkar, Assasuni sadar, Satkhira Sadar said that after completing skill training and obtaining BMET clearance, I plan to pursue opportunities abroad, ensuring compliance and reducing trafficking risks.
- Md. Masud Hassan, Kathanda, Boikari, Satkhira Sadar said that we aim to raise awareness about safe migration to prevent human trafficking, striving for a trafficking-free union through community cooperation.
- Md. Azgar Kathanda, Boikari, Satkhira Sadar said that establishing anti-trafficking committees in villages and implementing referral desks at legal aid offices are crucial steps in preventing trafficking, punish the perpetrators and enhancing community vigilance and support.

### **Activity Name: Establish and operate one desk for Referral services for Victims of Trafficking (VoTs) at the special tribunal under Satkhira district.**

Rights Jessore has established a strong and mutually beneficial partnership with the Judiciary in Satkhira district, particularly with the Satkhira legal aid office, through our dedicated referral desk services. Throughout the 8th quarter of the project, the referral desk at CJM Court of Satkhira consistently proved its effectiveness. The desk officer collaborated closely with the Satkhira district legal aid office, offering valuable referral services to those in need. The legal aid office experiences a significant daily influx of visitors seeking assistance on various issues, such as dowry problems, early marriages, filing cases against traffickers, medical emergencies, criminal theft cases, and victim reintegration support. The desk officer meticulously maintains a detailed register, documenting the services provided each day. Similar to our practices in Jashore district, the desk officer compiles a comprehensive monthly report on the referral desk's services.

Furthermore, the desk officer maintains regular communication and fosters positive working relationships with various officials of the human trafficking tribunal in Satkhira, including Court Inspectors, General Record Officers, Bench Assistants, and Provision Officers. This ongoing communication allows us to gather crucial information about trafficking survivors from these government officials, enabling efficient referral services for trafficking victims.

The organization and the project have had the opportunity to participate in monthly legal aid meetings and have also applied for membership on the legal aid committee in Satkhira district, thanks to the collaborative efforts made by the referral desk at Satkhira legal aid office. Additionally, the desk officer assists other project staff in organizing and implementing project activities, including providing reintegration support to project beneficiaries.

**Activity Name: Identify 150 to 250 VoTs in each district as per the IOM's victim identification guidance and eligibility criteria.**

By the 7th quarter of the project, Satkhira district had identified a total of 223 project beneficiaries, consisting of 132 males and 91 females. However, during the 8th quarter, no new victims were identified as the target had already been met. Throughout the identification process, RJ management emphasized the significance of meeting the target for project beneficiaries and provided active support to the Satkhira team through frequent field visits and meetings with stakeholders to detect trafficking victims. The identification process strictly followed established guidelines and eligibility criteria set by the IOM. Project staff utilized various channels such as courtyard meetings, hotline information, CTWF, peer leaders, local elected representatives, community leaders, and engagement with district administration to identify potential beneficiaries.

As of the 8th quarter, the Satkhira team has finalized the selection of the most vulnerable victims deserving of economic support assistance. Additionally, efforts continue to be made to identify project beneficiaries, addressing the dropouts of a few beneficiaries due to various reasons.

**Activity Name: Life Skills Training for project beneficiaries under reintegration support.**

In the 8<sup>th</sup> quarter of the project, the team in Satkhira district accomplished two batches of life skills training for project beneficiaries, with the goal of enhancing their abilities to thrive in both work and personal endeavors. A total of 51 beneficiaries from the Satkhira district, comprising 25 females and 26 males, actively took part in this training conducted over a span of two days. The sessions were led by project personnel, including the Project Manager, in collaboration with IOM. Encouragingly, nearly all attendees showed enthusiasm and articulated intentions to kickstart productive ventures following the training.

The comprehensive training covered a diverse array of topics, including the introduction and significance of life skills training, effective communication strategies, emotional and stress management techniques, self-confidence building, improving decision-making skills, problem identification and resolution mechanisms, financial literacy (including expense management, savings, and investments in productive sectors), strategies to combat social stigma, and a comprehensive understanding of human rights issues. The overwhelmingly



positive response from almost all participants was evident, showcasing their enthusiasm and formulated plans to embark on productive ventures. Subsequent follow-ups conducted by project staff revealed that a number of participants had already commenced their productive work, underscoring the effectiveness and impact of the training initiative.

A follow-up list of Life skills training is attached with this report as annex-5

**Activity Name: Provide reintegration support (in-kind assistance) to VoTs in each district based on the results of the needs assessment**

In addition to life skills training, the project has implemented a range of reintegration support measures tailored to the unique needs of selected beneficiaries, in line with the project's objectives. This comprehensive support encompasses medical assistance, legal aid, and diverse skills training programs such as driving and computer skills, tailoring all aimed at bolstering their capacities and facilitating their involvement in productive activities. During the 8th quarter of the project, 14 beneficiaries from Satkhira district received medical support, with 4 males and 10 females benefiting from this assistance. Additionally, two survivors were enrolled Uttaran Simanto Technical training center, Debhata, Satkhira. Besides this, three beneficiaries (male) received legal assistance and 13 beneficiaries (13 female) received tailoring & fashion garments training for skills developments training.

During this reporting period, 37 project beneficiaries received counseling services from the project counselor, with 19 males and 18 females benefiting from this support. Furthermore, 13 selected vulnerable project beneficiaries completed their business plans following the prescribed format. Additionally, the project provided referral support to 20 individuals to secure legal assistance from the legal aid office, and simultaneously referred 11 individuals to the DEMO office to obtain information and file complaints against their perpetrators. In total, 113 people, including project beneficiaries, received various services from the project during the last quarter.

**Activity Name: Provide Economic Reintegration Support to Selected Vulnerable Beneficiaries**

Up to this quarters, the Satkhira team has diligently provided economic reintegration assistance to 8 selected vulnerable survivors. The initiation of economic reintegration support to beneficiaries occurred in recent times, necessitated by several factors such as the meticulous selection process of vulnerable beneficiaries, obtaining permissions from donors, and determining the appropriate procedures for directly assisting vulnerable project beneficiaries. Nonetheless, despite these challenges, the project embarked on providing economic reintegration support since the previous quarter, having already completed the selection of vulnerable survivors from the overall pool of selected candidates.

A comprehensive process was followed before providing the economic reintegration support. The program officer along with the Project Manager and Monitoring Officer, conducted home visits to validate their business plans, evaluate their readiness to embark on entrepreneurial endeavors, and gauge their future prospects stemming from this support. Upon the team's satisfaction with the beneficiaries' preparations, the project progressed to furnish them with business support. Subsequently, the organization constituted a purchase committee comprised of five individuals where both organizational level and beneficiary

level were represented. A meticulous procedure for purchasing was established adopted by IOM through a partners meeting.

The project undertook follow-ups with the beneficiaries to ensure prudent savings management, thereby enabling sustainable business operations. Additionally, plans were underway to furnish each supported beneficiary with a signboard, with a preliminary design already in place for imminent distribution. Given the unique circumstances of each beneficiary, meticulous documentation was deemed imperative to assess the efficacy of these efforts, leading the project to plan the compilation of case studies for all recipients of economic reintegration support. The table below defines the recipients of economic reintegration support from the Satkhira district.

| <b>Sl</b> | <b>Beneficiary ID</b> | <b>Name of beneficiary</b> | <b>Business Type</b>    |
|-----------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1         | SAT-TAL-004           | Taslima Khatun             | Poultry business        |
| 2         | SAT-ASS-015           | Feroja Khatun              | Cow rearing             |
| 3         | SAT-KAL-024           | Faruk Hossan, Pochim       | Tailoring & Cloth       |
| 4         | SAT-DEB-065           | Mst. Parul Khatun          | Cow rearing             |
| 5         | SAT-SAD-027           | Halima Khatun              | Plastic business        |
| 6         | SAT-KAI-050           | Md. Abdus Salam            | Wood furniture business |
| 7         | SAT-KAI-117           | Shirazul Islam             | Cow rearing             |
| 8         | SAT-KAI-098           | Mst. Shanara Begum         | Cow rearing             |

### 2.3.2. Challenges and Counterplans (by activity)

During the 8th quarter of the project, Rights Jessore encountered no significant obstacles in carrying out project activities within the designated area. Nonetheless, the project team faced several minor challenges during this period. One notable issue was the economic reintegration of vulnerable victims, requiring meticulous documentation. It's worth noting that the project staff were not hesitant in maintaining proper records. However, they encountered difficulties as some local vendors did not adhere to proper documentation procedures for selling their products, such as VAT and tax records. While some vendors possessed these documents, irregular tax payments rendered them invalid. Furthermore, sourcing quotations from various vendors posed a challenge. Consequently, when the project staff-initiated support provision and began the process of collecting authentic papers, involving purchase committees and analyzing suitable vendors, it necessitated time to ensure a unified purchase process. Nevertheless, the project team is diligently working to expedite these procedures while ensuring the maintenance of all necessary documentation. Additionally, it was observed that at times, the project staff diverted their focus towards purchasing agricultural products like cows and goats to circumvent procurement processes, which were perceived as easier compared to other product acquisitions. However, the organization has instructed the project staff to strictly adhere to needs assessments and procure items based on survivor requirements and business plans.

Another challenge arose from survivors dropping out for diverse reasons, such as relocating for job searches, lack of interest in participating in life skills training or other project initiatives due to familial barriers, illness, or an inability to engage in productive work. To

address this, the organization implemented a strategy to expand the list of victims and project staff actively continued their search to refine the target group.

Despite these challenges, the organization continues to make steady progress, efficiently executing all planned activities. The collaborative support extended by stakeholders at every level, along with the assistance from IOM, remains a significant source of encouragement, playing a pivotal role in the overall success of the project.

## 2.4 Achievement(s) in Cross-Cutting Issues

Our efforts on the ground have led to a heightened awareness among people, prompting them to seek assistance for a range of issues. These include the rescue of labor trafficking victims from countries such as Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Libya, and India, as well as seeking support for cases related to dowry disputes, gender-based violence, and other criminal offenses. The perception among the general populace is that our office serves as a central hub for resolving various problems they encounter.

In our interactions with individuals visiting our office, we've delved into why they opt not to seek help from government agencies such as legal aid offices, BMET, local police station

s, and other service providers. Their responses shed light on significant barriers they face elsewhere: at local police stations, for instance, they express disappointment with officers' lack of interest in registering cases and sometimes encountering demands for bribes. Meanwhile, though legal aid offices may accept their cases, the outcomes are often unsatisfactory, despite the services being apparently free of charge. Moreover, there have been instances where individuals report being asked for money even in these supposedly cost-free services.

In light of these challenges, individuals turn to us, expressing hope that our intervention can yield tangible results. They request our assistance in pursuing their cases with local law enforcement and other relevant government authorities, believing that our involvement could lead to more favorable outcomes. Consequently, it's gratifying to note that a growing number of people are turning to us for solutions, a testament to the effective dissemination of information by our project staff, facilitated through community-level courtyard meetings conducted under the auspices of the IOM project.

## 2.5 Communication and Partnership

Rights Jessore is well-known in the area for its strong dedication to standing up for human rights, fighting against human trafficking, and dealing with problems linked to unsafe migration. The organization has built good connections with different groups, like government and non-government agencies, different professionals groups including community-based organizations and community leaders. By working together with these partners, Rights Jessore has made sure that its projects run smoothly and effectively. Rights Jessore knows how important it is to communicate well and work together. That's why it makes sure to involve government and non-government stakeholders, local elected representatives, local community leaders, CBOs, professional groups representative in events happening in the community. Project staff also join meetings every month with district and

upazila level coordination meeting to share learning and achievements. This proactive approach has really helped build strong relationships with district and upazila authorities and others involved, which is crucial for the project's success.

## 2.6 Visibility

During the 8<sup>th</sup> quarter of the project, Rights Jessore precisely followed to IOM visibility guidelines, ensuring a transparent and appreciative acknowledgment of key supporters. Throughout the implementation of different project activities, the organization made it a point to prominently showcase the logos of IOM, KOIKA, the Bangladesh government, and its own, demonstrating a strong spirit of collaboration and cooperation. At the grassroots level, the project achieved effective implementation, thanks to the combined support from IOM, KOIKA, and the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Bangladesh government. This collaborative synergy significantly contributed to the successful execution of activities directly impacting local communities. To keep all relevant stakeholders well-informed about this collective support, project staff diligently communicated and acquainted stakeholders with the backing received from IOM, KOIKA, and the government before initiating any activity at the local level. This approach not only fostered transparency and trust but also underscored the collective endeavor and joint commitment that underlie the project's execution.

## 2.7 Risk Management

During this quarter, Rights Jessore has successfully conducted its activities without facing any substantial risks that could hinder the project's implementation at the grassroots level. Though the project has faced staff drop out challenges during this quarter which was a concern for the organization specially at this pivotal juncture of the project. However, the organization has taken swift measure to expedite the recruitment process and recruited one experienced staff within very short time. This proactive strategy aims to sustain operational momentum and efficiently mitigate any adverse effects stemming from staff changes.

## 2.8 Capacity Building

During Q8 of the project, Rights Jessore's project staff including management staff attended a lesson learned and strategic planning workshop which was organized by the IOM for capacity building and effectively implement the project in the rest of project period. Besides this IOM consistently provided technical support and conducted weekly meeting with project staff to facilitate open discussions between IOM and RJ staff, addressing various challenges and developing collaborative strategies to ensure an effective project implementation process.

| <b>Name of Training and Workshop</b>                 | <b>Name of Participants</b>   | <b>Duration</b>                                    | <b>Place</b>                            |
|--|---|--|---|
| Lessons Learned and Strategic Planning Workshop with | Motaharul Islam & Pronab Das, Program Officer, Shamim Reja and Sheuly Parvin, | 6 <sup>th</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 (02 | Ocean Paradise Hotel, 28-29 Hotel Motel |

|  |   |                               |   |
|--|---|-------------------------------|---|
| Implementing Partners (IPs)  | Psychosocial Counsellor. Marufa Akther & Aser Ali, Desk Officer, Debbroto Dhali, Monitoring Officer and Prodip Dutta, Director Program, Azharul Islam, Program Manager. | days)                         | Zone, Kolatoli Road, Cox's Bazar.   |
| Lessons Learned and Strategic Planning Workshop with Implementing Partners (IPs) | Ayesha Akther Narmin, Accounts Officer  | 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 | Ocean Paradise Hotel, 28-29 Hotel Motel Zone, Kolatoli Road, Cox's Bazar. |

## Annexure

Annex-1 Sample Validation tools of courtyard meeting of Jashore district

Annex-2 Sample Event Report of Courtyard Meeting of Jashore district

Annex-3 RJ Hotline data base-as on March 2024

Annex-4 Sample event report of Life Skills Training

Annex-5 Follow-up list of Life skills training

Annex-6 Case Study of project beneficiaries (Received economic reintegration support)



Prodip Dutta  
Director Program  
Rights Jessore  
April 20, 2024



Binoy Krishna Mallick  
Executive Director  
Rights Jessore  
April 20, 2024