

# 5<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Report (April-June 2023)

## 1. PROJECT SUMMARY (table)

<b>Project Title</b>	A Comprehensive Counter Trafficking Program to Address Human Trafficking in Bangladesh.
<b>Organization</b>	Rights Jessore Mahima Mahal,119/2, Ghope, Jail Road, Jashore Phone: +88-024777-66120 Email: <a href="mailto:rightsjessore@yahoo.com">rightsjessore@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Date of Submission</b>	July 20, 2023
<b>Project Location</b>	Jashore and Satkhira district (Six Upazilas and 18 Unions)
<b>Reporting Period</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023 to 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2023 (5 <sup>th</sup> Quarter)

## 2. Performance Review

### 2.1 Monitoring and Evaluation Activities

During the fifth quarter of the project, monitoring activities of project has increased significantly as project activities going on in full scale. The monitoring officer provided support in verifying screening forms, profiling forms, case management forms, and all related documents. This assistance facilitated further assessment by RJ management and helped in submitting the information to the donor for final approval of project beneficiaries.

At the same time, monitoring officer oversee the on-going activities like courtyard meeting, facilitation of life skills training in collaboration with Program Manager and ensured to prepare its related documents to conduct the training session successfully. Besides, monitoring officer provided support to prepare event data base, beneficiaries database, individual business plan and assisted to prepare monthly and quarterly report by providing numerical data of the report.

In this situation, it is evident that the project requires a full-time salaried monitoring officer to enhance the implementation of the project with greater efficiency and effectiveness. Having a dedicated monitoring officer will ensure regular oversight of activities, timely data collection, and comprehensive reporting, leading to better project outcomes and impact.

In addition, the Executive Director and Director Program of Rights Jessore conducted field visits to oversee the overall implementation status of the project. They engaged in monthly discussions/coordination meeting with the project staff, addressing challenges and risks faced during local-level implementation. The management team also liaised with government stakeholders to mitigate risks and challenges for effective program implementation.

Furthermore, donor representatives conducted field visits to monitor project activities and provided guidance to achieve optimal results. The donor representatives conducted weekly

meetings with the project staff to discuss challenges, overcome procedures, and provided guidance to facilitate the smooth implementation of the program.

## 2.2 Project Result (table)

SL	Activity details	Total no. of target activity	Achievement till 4 <sup>th</sup> Q	5 <sup>th</sup> Q Target	5 <sup>th</sup> Q Achievement	Accumulated Target	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	118	78	81	201	
4	Identify 50 most vulnerable VoTs among 150 to 250 VoTs in each district as per the IOM's vulnerability criteria	100	10	24	30	60	
5	Assess individual needs of identified VoTs as per IOM's guideline and plan a tailored reintegration plan;	400	121	62	44	236	
6	Provide reintegration support to 150 to 250 VoTs in each district based on the results of the needs assessment	400	10	62	84	306	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	-	19	-	100	
8	Organize 972 courtyard meeting at the community level in two districts	972	271	96	120	581	
9	Submit monthly activity update (narrative) covering two project districts	30	12	3	3	15	
10	Submit a quarterly report (Narrative + financial) covering two project districts	10	4	1	1	5	

## 2.3 Performance during the target period (1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> June 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**

In the fifth quarter of the project, the Jashore district team successfully conducted 60 courtyard meetings at the union level. These meetings were attended by approximately 1624 female participants, and some male participants also took part. Community leaders and local elected representatives played a significant role in organizing and selecting the meeting locations, which greatly supported the attendance of participants.

The courtyard meetings attended diverse participants, including potential migrants, returnee migrants, trafficking survivors, migrants' family members, housewives, and students. Meeting participants are determined to disseminate this information to combat human trafficking and promote safe migration. Aiming to spread awareness extensively it will be better if we expand these meetings beyond the current project area to cover the entire district. Additionally, this outreach effort will enable the identification of project beneficiaries who may be unaware of the project's existence and services. After each meeting, the participants provided feedback by filling out validation tools. Here are a few examples of the feedback collected by the project staff from these tools:

- Ms. Tanjila Dafadarpara, Kachua, Sadar, expressed that if she had known this information earlier, her brother would have avoided the dangers of going abroad.
- Hamida Dafadarpara, Kachua, Sadar, mentioned that learning about safe migration steps was valuable as her husband plans to go abroad in a few months. She intends to contact RJ before his departure.
- Ms. Rubina Begum Daulatpur, Putkhali, Sharsha, expressed her gratitude for discovering the need for a work contract for overseas employment and being unaware of the services provided by the DEMO Office.

An event report of courtyard meeting is attached (Annex-1) with this report along with sample participants list (Annex-2) and sample validation tools (Annex-3).

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

According to the ministry approval, the organization established referral desk at both districts and provided support to the victims of trafficking and others who are seeking support from the desk. During the middle of the last quarter, a problem arose in Jashore CJM court concerning sitting arrangements, and the new district magistrate refused to set up the desk at the legal aid office.

Despite this challenge, the desk officer made regular visits to the Judge court and CJM court. The desk officer interacted with tribunal judges and court officials, providing limited-scale services. The desk officer referred beneficiaries to the project Program Officer for enrollment and offered legal information to those seeking solutions to their issues. Additionally, the desk officer prepared monthly reports on provided referral services, following the project's prescribed format. At the same time desk officer maintained hot line register and a report is

attached with this report as Annex-6.

Besides this, the organization has taken proactive steps to address the sitting arrangement issue. The organization has maintained consistent communication with district Judge and other relevant stakeholders to resolve this issue. As a part of this effort, Public Prosecutor (PP) has shown interest in helping and has given assurance that sitting arrangement can be managed in his room. The delay in resolving this issue is attributed to the relocation of the court building from one premises to another.

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

During the fifth quarter of the project, the Jashore district team identified 47 potential beneficiaries. The team members prepared screening forms and submitted it to RJ management. These forms were then sent to the donor for feedback to select the final project beneficiaries. The project staff used various sources, including courtyard meetings, hotline information, CTWF, peer leaders, local elected representatives, community leaders, and district administration, to identify these potential beneficiaries. However, they feel that the identification process could be made easier, particularly concerning the bar of returning date (within 2018) of victims.

By the 5th quarter of the project, around 200 beneficiaries were identified in Jashore and Satkhira districts. Of these, 115 beneficiaries were from Jashore. The project staff is currently assessing their needs through case management forms to provide reintegration support. Moreover, 40 of the identified beneficiaries has been considered the most vulnerable victims to provide business support. The list of these beneficiaries is attached to this report as Annex-4.

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

In the 5<sup>th</sup> quarter of the project, Rights Jessore collaborated with the IOM for conducting Life Skills Training and after that Rights Jessore conducted three batches life skills training for project beneficiaries where in total 75 beneficiaries were attended among these 43 were male and 32 were female participants. In Jashore district, two batches of life skills training were held with project beneficiaries to strengthen their inner capacity for involving productive work and to lead their life successfully. In Jashore district, 50 beneficiaries received life skills training during this quarter among these 36% were female and rest of participants were male. The duration of the training was two days and training facilitated by project staff in coordination with IOM representatives.

During the training, different topics were discussed with the participants among these introduction & importance of life skills training, effective communications, emotion and stress management, self-confidence, decision making skills, problem identify and its solution mechanism, financial literacy & expenses management, savings & investment in productive sector, social stigma and overcome strategy and overall human rights issues.

The IOM representatives were present in the first batch of the training to guide project staff for successfully completion of the program. Almost all participants provided positive expression and plan for starting productive work. The project staff conducted follow-up with beneficiaries and informed us that some of them are already started productive work. Followings are few

examples;

1. Hazira Khatun, Sharsha, Jashore planted fruit trees from her training remuneration and prepared a space for vegetable gardening.
2. Alomgir Hossain, Putkhai, Sharsha, Jashore purchased a goat from his savings and training remuneration.
3. Momtaz Khatun, Panisara, Jhikorgacha purchased a goat from her savings and training remuneration. She also prepared a shed for her goat in collaboration with her brother.
4. Shahidul Islam, Panisara, Jhikorgacha purchased five goats from his savings and training remuneration.
5. Salma Khatun, Bamonali, Jhiorgacha repaired her father's tiny shop from training remuneration and purchased six ducks.

### **Satkhira District:**

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

During this reporting period, the Satkhira district team successfully conducted 60 courtyard meetings, collaborating with local elected representatives and community leaders. Up to the fifth quarter, both Jashore and Satkhira district teams organized and conducted a total of 391 courtyard meetings in 18 unions under six Upazilas of the mentioned districts. These meetings witnessed the direct participation of around 10,180 individuals, and the information conveyed indirectly reached approximately 30,000 people. The participants gained awareness about human trafficking and safe migration and expressed their commitment to disseminate this information to their neighbors to combat human trafficking. After each meeting, the participants provided feedback by filling out validation tools. Here are a few examples of the feedback collected by the project staff from these tools:

- Bilkis Nadira Basantapur, Sadar, Debhata, expressed her new awareness that the NGO works with individuals who have experienced trafficking abroad and returned to the country.
- Masuda Khatun Mirgidanga, Baikari, Satkhira Sadar, was pleased to learn about Pravasi Kollyan Bank's provision of loans for those planning to go abroad.
- Ms. Sadia Khaun, Assasuni Uttarpara, Assasuni, greatly benefited from discovering that the District Legal Aid Office offers free legal services to the poor and vulnerable.

A news coverage has been attached with this report as Annex-5.

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

In the fifth quarter of the project, the referral desk at Satkhira CJM court has been operating effectively. The desk officer collaborates smoothly with Satkhira district legal aid office and provides referral services to support seekers. Many people visit the legal aid office daily seeking various services, and the desk officer maintains a register to record information about them. At the end of each month, like Jashore district, the desk officer prepares a report on the referral desk's activities and sends it to the management of RJ. During this quarter, Satkhira Legal Aid Officer has transferred, and a new officer joined in Satkhira, RJ warmly welcomed the new legal aid officer and requested to help in ensuring the smooth functioning of the referral desk.

In addition to this, the desk officer visited various officials of the human trafficking tribunal at

Satkhira, including Court Inspector, General Record Officer, Bench Assistant, and Provision Officer. These visits help us to discuss project support and establish a rapport with the concerned government officials to facilitate referral services for trafficking victims. As a result of these efforts, Satkhira legal aid office invited the project team to attend their monthly legal aid meeting. During the meeting, the desk officer shared project information and sought support from the legal aid office.

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

In the fifth quarter of the project, the Satkhira district team identified 34 potential beneficiaries. The team members prepared screening forms and submitted it to RJ management. These forms were then sent to the donor for feedback to select the final project beneficiaries. The project staff used various sources, including courtyard meetings, hotline information, CTWF, peer leaders, local elected representatives, community leaders, and district administration, to identify these potential beneficiaries. However, they feel that the identification process could be made easier, particularly concerning the bar of returning date of victims.

Up to fifth quarter of the project, out of the 200 identified beneficiaries in Jashore and Satkhira districts, 40 were recognized as the most vulnerable victims. In the meantime, the project staff have received training on micro-enterprise development to provide support to these selected beneficiaries. Currently, the team is working on preparing individual business plans based on the choices of these beneficiaries.

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

In the 5<sup>th</sup> quarter of the project, Satkhira district has conducted one batch life skills training for project beneficiaries to strengthen their capacity for involving productive work and to lead their life successfully. In Satkhira district, 25 beneficiaries received life skills training during this quarter among these 56% were female and rest of participants were male. The duration of the training was two days and training facilitated by project staff. The IOM representatives were present in the first batch of the training to guide project staff for successfully conducted the training program. Almost all participants provided positive expression and plan for starting productive work.

Following major issues has been highlighted which has discussed in the training, like importance of life skills training, effective communications, emotion and stress management, self-confidence, decision making skills, problem identify and its solution mechanism, financial literacy & expenses management, savings & investment in productive sector, social stigma and overcome strategy and overall human rights issues.

The project staff conducted follow-up with beneficiaries and informed us that some of them are already started productive work. Followings are few examples;

1. Taslima Khtaun, Municipality, Satkhira purchased two ducks (China) from her training remuneration.
2. Tofura Khatun, Baikary, Satkhira Sadar purchased two ducks and two chickens from her training remuneration.
3. Rashida Khatun, Jhawdanga, Satkhira Sadar purchased three ducks from her training remuneration.
4. Firoja Akhter, Budhata, Asasuni, opened a bank account in Grameen bank and started to savings per month BDT 1000.

5. Morium Khatun, Nalta, Kaliganj, Satkhira purchased four ducks and four chicken from her training remuneration and prepared a tiny shed for rearing them.
6. Farque Hossain, Kolawara, Satkhira purchased a goat from his training remuneration.

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

In the fifth quarter of the project, Rights Jessore encountered no major challenges in implementing project activities at the ground level, except for the ongoing issue of arranging sitting space for the referral desk in Jashore district court. This challenge persisted from the middle of the previous quarter and has continued into the current quarter.

In the situation, the organization has taken proactive steps to address this concern. The organization has maintained consistent communication with district Judge and other relevant stakeholders to resolve this issue. As a part of this effort, Public Prosecutor (PP) has shown interest in helping and has given assurance that sitting arrangement can be managed in his room. The delay in resolving this issue is attributed to the court building relocating from one building to another.

Despite the challenge of arranging sitting arrangements in court space, our desk officer consistently visited the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) court and met with tribunal judges and court officials to provide limited-scale services to individuals who are coming to the court for trafficking and other cases. Additionally, desk officer collected information from support seekers for providing referral support.

Apart from the sitting arrangement challenge mentioned earlier, the organization is smoothly working and effectively implementing all targeted activities. It is encouraging to see that all levels of stakeholders are providing their support to ensure assistance for the victims of human trafficking. This collaboration and support are contributory in making the project successful in its mission.

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

As discussed in the last quarter due to spreading the news all over working area, people are coming to us for rescuing labor trafficking victim for different countries like Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Libya etc. This has led to increased collaboration between RJ and the District-level DEMO, where survivors are receiving support and help through their complaints for compensation.

The organization is thinking to address the emerging issue of rescuing labor trafficking victims from abroad, which requires support from the IOM. Many people are suffering due to the lack of knowledge about where to seek help and rescue their family members in such situations.

## 2.5 Communication and Partnership

Rights Jessore demonstrated a strong commitment to achieving the intended results of the project by maintaining effective communication and partnerships with all relevant stakeholders. Both government and non-governmental stakeholders were actively involved in the implementation of the program at the ground level. The organization was invited by

government institutions to attend various meetings at the district and upazila levels. During these meetings, representatives from Rights Jessore delivered speeches to provide comprehensive project information, fostering understanding and collaboration with government agencies.

To ensure smooth coordination and liaison with district administration, project staff regularly participated in monthly coordination meetings at the district level. This proactive engagement helped build a good working relationship with the district authorities and other stakeholders, contributing to the project's success. Rights Jessore also recognized the significance of engaging with the local community to achieve sustainability beyond the project period. To foster ownership of the project within the community, community leaders and local elected representatives actively participated in community-level meetings, such as courtyard meetings.

In addition, Rights Jessore maintains communication with relevant organizations in India to strengthen collaboration on repatriation issues between source and destination countries. This effort contributes to increasing repatriation and reintegration, a key focus area of the project.

## 2.6 Visibility

During this quarter, Rights Jessore made sure to prioritize visibility as per the guidelines set by the donors. In every activity carried out as part of the project, organization ensured that the logos of IOM and KOIKA were displayed, along with the logos of the Bangladesh government and organization's logo. The project received joint support from IOM, KOIKA, and the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Bangladesh government, which enabled the successful implementation of activities at the grassroots level. The project staff were diligent in informing all relevant stakeholders about this support before commencing any activity at the local level. This approach helps build transparency and trust among stakeholders and demonstrates the collaboration and collective effort involved in the project's implementation.

## 2.7 Risk Management

During this reporting period, Rights Jessore has not encountered any significant risks that could hamper the implementation of project except sitting arrangement in referral desk at Jashore. However, the organization has taken proactive steps to address this issue. The organization has maintained consistent communication with district Judge and other relevant stakeholders to resolve this issue. As a part of this effort, Public Prosecutor (PP) has shown interest in helping and has giving assurance that sitting arrangement can be managed in his room. The delay in resolving this issue is attributed for the court building relocating from one building to another.

## 2.8 Capacity Building

In the fifth quarter of the project, Rights Jessore staff has received following trainings from IOM for capacity building and strengthening the procedure of implementation of targeted activities for victims' protection and successful reintegration. Below table showing details of capacity building initiative by IOM during fifth quarter.

<b>Name of Training and Workshop</b>	<b>Name of Participants</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Place</b>
Life Skills ToT for project Staff	Emrul Shahed, Motaharul Islam, Program Officer	8 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> April 2023 (05	RRF Training Center,



	Shamim Raja and Sheuly Parvin, Psychosocial Counsellor. Marufa Akther, Desk Officer and Azharul Islam, Program Manager	days)	Ramnagar, Jashore.
Micro Enterprise Development Training for Project Staff	Emrul Shahed, Motaharul Islam, Program Officer Shamim Raja and Sheuly Parvin, Psychosocial Counsellor, Debbroto Dhali, Monitoring Officer and Prodip Dutta, Director Program	18 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2023 (03 days)	YWCA Guest House, Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka

## Annexure

Annex-1 Sample Event Report of Courtyard Meeting at Sharsha, Jashore

Annex-2 Sample Participants list of Courtyard Meeting in Satkhira

Annex-3 Sample Validation tools of courtyard meeting at Monirampur, Jashore

Annex-4 List of Most Vulnerable Beneficiaries\_RJ\_June 2023

Annex-5 News Coverage

Annex-6 RJ Hotline data base-June 2023