

Country Profile Bangladesh



STOP CHILD EXPLOITATION!

Children in Bangladesh are extremely vulnerable to and affected by sexual exploitation in child marriage, child trafficking and in online environments.

Bangladesh, a rapidly growing economy, is one of the most densely populated countries in Asia. The nation is home to 39.96 million children among whom 4.4% are engaged in child labour.¹ Children are also extremely vulnerable to and affected by sexual exploitation in child marriage, child trafficking and in online environments. 51.4% of girls aged between 20-24 were married before the age of 18,² and children face sexual exploitation in conflict prone areas and other vulnerable contexts. Around 59% of the children who use the internet in rural areas of Bangladesh have suffered at least one form of abuse on online spaces.³

¹ Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 2022, National Child Labour Survey

² 2019 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and UNICEF

³ Cyber child abuse in Bangladesh: A rural population-based study, 2022, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University

⁴ Down to Zero (DtZ) alliance is a global initiative of a group of INGOs (Terre des Hommes Netherlands, Plan International Netherlands, Defence for Children- ECPAT, Free a Girl, CRC Asia and Conexión) to address sexual exploitation of children.

Stakeholder Reach
2023

CHILDREN
2204

FAMILIES AND
COMMUNITIES
850

CIVIL SOCIETY
REPRESENTATIVES
24

LAW
ENFORCEMENT
AGENTS
3

GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS
397

PRIVATE
SECTOR STAFF
252

Our Projects

Community Based Child Protection Mechanisms for children of garment workers (CBCPM)

Project locations : Gazipur and Mirpur under Dhaka City Corporation

Bangladesh's readymade garment industry has incidences of child exploitation. The project promotes the rights of children of readymade garment (RMG) workers through a community child protection mechanism where children at risk are equipped to advocate for their rights through Child Protection Forums (CPFs). Families and community members are formed into Community Based Child Protection Monitoring Committees (CPMCs), where influenced to actively report abuse and exploitation, and respond to the concerns of children. Out-of-school children are enrolled in early childhood development centres and formal schools.

Step Up the Fight Against Sexual Ex- ploitation of Children (SUFASEC)

Project locations : Sathkira and Gazipur districts

Stigma, taboo and a fear surrounding sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the country increases children's risk to exploitation. As part of the Down to Zero alliance⁴, the project empowers children to prevent and report sexual exploitation, while creating an enabling ecosystem for children to access SRHR.



Achievements 2023

A one-stop digital service center to address trafficking during COVID-19 in Bangladesh

Project location : Keraniganj, Dhaka

Keraniganj Upazila in Dhaka accounts for 7.79%⁵ of the total international labour migration from Bangladesh and is a hotspot for trafficking. To address trafficking in persons, the project set up a one-stop-digital service centre for those exploited and those vulnerable to trafficking in accessing reliable information, safe reporting, and referral services. The project also trained Counter Trafficking Committees (CTCs) in using digital tools to monitor and address trafficking. Awareness campaigns were also led by school children who shared information about the one-stop service centre in their communities.

• **“I am overjoyed to have avoided an early marriage. I can now resume my college journey alongside my classmates and experience the freedom to move about!”**

Jarin

15-year-old Jarin hails from a community of garment factory workers and was being forced to get married. Our project brought about positive behaviour change in her parents to stop her marriage and enrol her in higher studies. The children in the Child Protection Forum continue to monitor Jarin’s case.

⁵ Sharing meeting on digital referrals for human trafficking, Terre des Hommes Netherlands and INCIDIN Bangladesh

⁶ A tool for victim identification and referral by the government of Bangladesh and International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations

⁷ The Children’s Act 2013 has been enacted for the purpose of implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in Bangladesh

1. The online reporting mechanism for trafficking cases along with its innovative tools has been integrated with the National Referral Mechanism (NRM)⁶ currently being developed by the government of Bangladesh. The reporting mechanism was also linked to national helplines and hotlines which significantly increased reporting on trafficking, highlighting increased awareness of reporting mechanisms and increased participation of communities in reporting concerns.
2. 30 Children actively participated in policy advocacy at the national level for better implementation of the Children Act 2013⁷ at the local level.
3. Local governance structures were effectively institutionalised through the establishment of functional Community-Based Child Protection Committees at the ward level.

We fight against Child Labour, Sexual Exploitation of Children and Humanitarian Crises.

Join Our Fight!

Write to us at asia@tdh.nl

About

Terre des Hommes Netherlands

Terre des Hommes Netherlands is a global child protection organisation working in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and parts of Europe. We protect children and prevent child exploitation, empowering children to make their voices count. We tackle issues at the roots by enabling systemic change with the support of grassroots level implementing partners. We ensure that children are at the centre of our initiatives.

www.terredeshommes.nl

✉ asia@tdh.nl

Bangladesh Country Office | House # 20, Road # 11 (New) Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka – 1209, Bangladesh

Key Figures

322

Counter Trafficking Committees (CTCs) trained

46

Children and youth remain active in monitoring and reporting cases of child exploitation

261

Garment factory workers and employers trained on child safeguarding

500

young people learn about SRHR

519

vulnerable children from 3 to 6 years of age access early childhood learning.