Article

Non-State Initiatives on Enhancing Counter Trafficking of Rohingya Influx in Cox's Bazar of Bangladesh

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Abstract

Human trafficking is the third most lucrative form of trafficking in the world (just behind drugs and counterfeit goods). Multiple outbreaks of unrest between October 2016 and August 2017 in the Rakhine State of Myanmar triggered around 745,000 influxes of Rohingyas crossing into Bangladesh through the border boundaries at Teknaf and Ukhiya sub-districts of Cox's Bazar. In this regard the media confirmed that over a thousand Rohingya people particularly women and girls were victims of human traffickers. This research aims to explore the underlying cause of human trafficking (HT) during emergency response and seeks how the knowledge and capacity of the refugee, local administration and law enforcement agencies in Bangladesh can be improved in promoting counter trafficking (CT) and safe migration processes. In order to achieve the objectives, this research starts with reviewing acts, rules, policies and action plans of the Government of Bangladesh on the HT, CT and safe migration processes. Then, a case study method has been applied to present ongoing the CT and safe migration programs of a NGO called Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) that received funding and technical support from the International Organization of Migration (IOM) for this purpose, the research in this paper will later evaluate the effectiveness of the program through conducting key informant interviews (KII) and focus group discussion (FGDs) with beneficiary and non-beneficiary participants from refugees, law-enforcing agencies (LEA) and non-governmental organizations' (NGOs) in Teknaf, and Ukhyia sub-districts in Bangladesh. Thus, this research identified program level strengths and weaknesses in relation to the CT, and safe migration process and provide key directions how they can be improved.

Key words: human trafficking, counter trafficking, refugees, Rohingya, emergency response

1. Introduction

The Rohingya people have been experiencing massive state driven discrimination, torture and sense of statelessness due to deprivation of their basic needs and human rights in Rakhine State, Myanmar since 1978 (Ahsan Ullah, 2016; Mahmood et al., 2017). Due to such systematic persecution domestically, the Rohingya people fled into Bangladesh for

five decades with massive spikes following violent attacks in 1978, 1991-1992, 2016 and 2017   (UNRC, UNHCR and IOM, 2019). Beginning in August 2017, around 745,000 Rohingya refugees fled across the Bangladesh border from Rakhine state in Myanmar, almost tripling the population of the Ukhiya and Teknaf sub-districts. As of June 21 2018, an estimated 745,000 Rohingyas have crossed into Bangladesh since 25 August 2017, joining nearly 212, 500 others who had arrived in earlier waves, in one of the largest population movement in the shortest span, the vast majority living in 34 congested camps the Ukhiya and Teknaf sub-districts in (UNRC et al., 2019). The largest camp, the Kutupalong-Balukhali Expansion Site, hosts approximately 626,500 refugees (UNRC et al., 2019). Bangladesh's humane response in sheltering the refugees has been widely acknowledged, but there were reports of communal violence, torture, abuse and human trafficking (HT) of Rohingyas (IOM, 2018; McCaffrie, 2019).

The forcibly displaced Rohingya Muslim population who crossed the borders of Myanmar to Bangladesh, travelled a laborious path by foot or boat to safety were forced to leave everything behind. In fact, many of their houses were burnt down to ashes in the Rakhine state. Due to geographical location and the scarcity of economic activities where they took refuge – Ukhiya and Teknaf of Cox's Bazar district – there was evidence of human trafficking for years (IOM, 2018). A number of national and international media reports documented human trafficking of Rohingya community both within and beyond Bangladesh. Rohingya girls and women suffer a higher risk of trafficking, as they are the most vulnerable group, for example, the Aljazeera on 3rd December 2017, stated that Rohingya girls and women in Cox's Bazar are being sold as sex slaves. It is noted that 36,000 Rohingya orphan children whose parents were killed in the violence in Myanmar are potential victims of trafficking (VoT) (Kolstad, 2018).   The International Organization of Migration (IOM) situation report noted 99 cases of human trafficking including 35 girls, 31 women, 8 boys and 25 men (IOM, 2018).

According to Article 3, paragraph (a) of the protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons recognized by United Nations, 'human trafficking' is defined as

  "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or the use of force or other forms of coercion; of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation".

Exploitation shall include, basically the exploitation for prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced work or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal, manipulation or implantation of organs" (UN, 2004, p. 42).

In order to create a holistic safeguard for the potential victims of trafficking, a comprehensive counter trafficking (CT) intervention including creating community awareness and mobilization, capacity-building with the community, its leaders and law enforcement agencies, legal enforcement, facilitating linkage and networking between VoTs and service providing entities are required (Bryant and Landman, 2020; Konrad, 2019). Over the last four decades, the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) has been working with IOM and the humanitarian community to meet the basic needs of the Rohingyas including safe guard and protection that reinforced from August 2017. The Inter Sector Coordination Group (ISCG), led by IOM coordinated the Rohingya refugee crisis during the August 2017 influx and provided regular situation reports, updated settlement maps and ensured effective response by humanitarian agencies.

Since the Rohingya crisis started in August 2017, donor agencies have been operating in the camps to provide protection, education, health, nutrition, food security, water, shelter, sanitation and hygiene as well as coordinating logistics for the sites, managing developments like emergency telecom. Certain national and international NGOs have been working on human-trafficking in Rohingya camp areas, among them, is YPSA a leading, voluntary not for profit and non-political organization for sustainable development since 1985 and working on human trafficking in Cox's Bazar since 1990. Donors contributed USD 2.59 billion between 25 August 2017 to 25 August 2021 for Rohingyas (Palma, 2021). Notwithstanding, the deficit of funding what was required for Rohingyas since beginning of 2017 against an appeal of USD 434 million, the global community contributed USD 317 million as part of a six-month response plan; in 2018, and in 2021, only USD 340 million has been pledged against a request of USD 1,000 million (Palma, 2021).

If the planned activities are implemented, human-trafficking can be reduced to a great extent. YPSA in support with IOM and other agencies is working to prevent (stop) human trafficking, promote counter-trafficking and safe migration process for the Rohingya and host communities. Specifically out of these initiatives, a project entitled – 'initiatives to prevent human-trafficking in emergency response' has been launched aiming to increase the knowledge

of refugee and host communities on CT and safe migration and capacity-building with the community leaders through Key leader engagements (KLE's) liaising with NGO's and LEA to combat human-trafficking.

This research aims to evaluate the effectiveness of the program through conducting interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs) with beneficiary and non-beneficiary participants from school teachers, journalists, Rohingya community, local administration and law-enforcing agencies (LEA) to combat human-trafficking in one of the world's largest refugee camps and its adjacent areas.

2. Methods and Approaches

Study Area and Location

The study was conducted on multi-stakeholders at two administrative sub-districts, Teknaf and Ukhia. Ukhia sub-district comprises Camp - 8E, 8W, 9, 10, 11, 12 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 & 20 and Teknaf sub-district involves *Leda* (the name of geographical unit) MS, Leda A, Leda-B, Leda C, and Leda D (Figure 1).
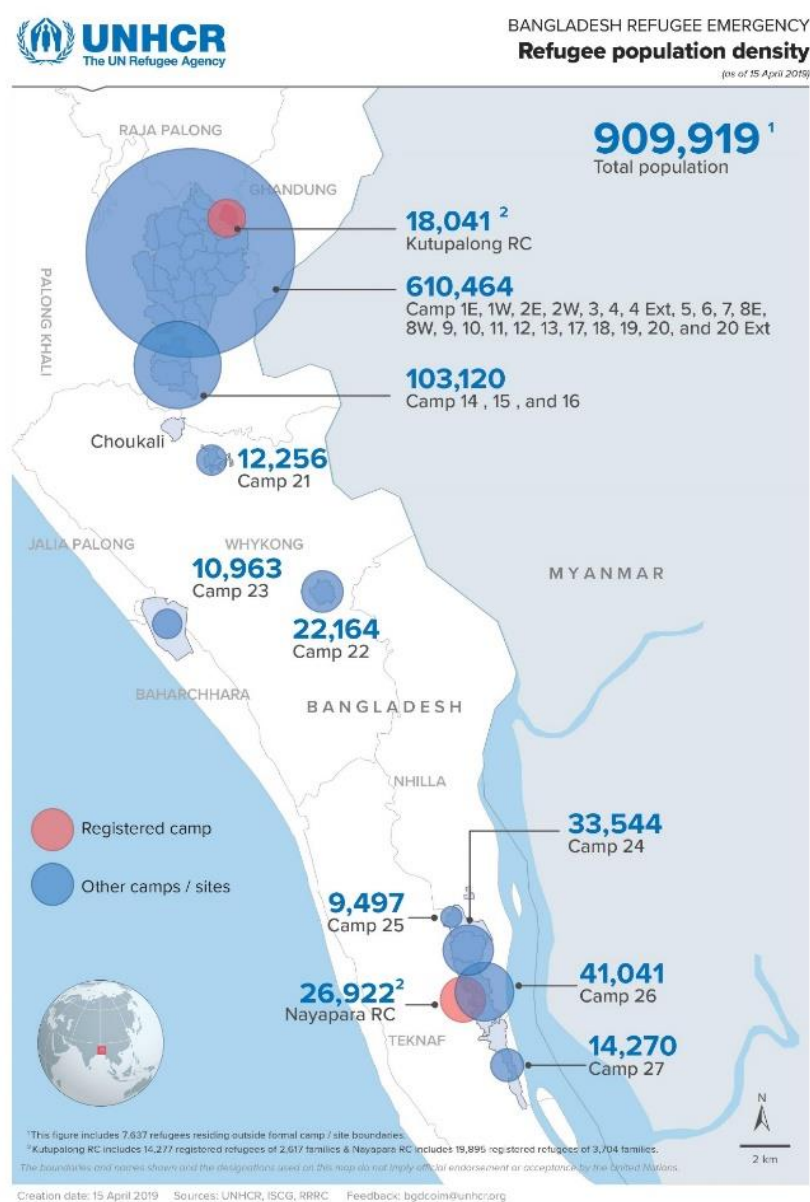
Figure 1: Refugee population distribution and camp locations (Source: (UNHCR, 2019))

Research design

The study followed a mixed method approach of using both qualitative and quantitative methods that exacerbate benefits when they are applied separately (Creswell, 2009). A number of authors such as Islam and Walkerden (2015), and Islam and Hasan (2016) have used a mixed method approach for similar studies. For convenience and effective conduction? of this research, it has been categorized into two major phases: (1) evaluation of the project activities; and (2) evaluating the effectiveness of the program through conducting key informant interviews (KII) and focus group discussion (FGDs) with beneficiary and non-beneficiary participants.

In the first phase, this study conducted documentary review of the project activities, relevance and effectiveness of the project strategy, project management arrangement and intervention reports, training manuals, and quarterly progress reports on HT, CT and safe migration process implemented by a NGO called YPSA that received funding and technical supports from the International Organization of Migration (IOM) for this purpose.

In addition, the evaluation team conducted dedicated meetings and conversations with project staff on different aspects of project management and interventions. At the Latter end of this research an evaluation of the effectiveness of the program is provided which was a result of conducting key informant interviews (KII) and focus group discussion (FGDs) with both beneficiary and non-beneficiary participants from teachers, journalists, Rohingya refugees, local administration and law-enforcing agencies in Teknaf, and Ukhyia sub-districts in Bangladesh.

Participant selection, questionnaire, data collection and analysis

In the second phase, the research conducted a cross-sectional study interviewing both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries with a pre-tested questionnaire that consists of both qualitative and quantitative questions. The questionnaire was pre-tested on ten beneficiaries comprising five members from each group. The respondent's comments were considered whilst developing the main evaluation questionnaire. Targeted sampling was used to collect data from Rohingya and non-Rohingya communities between September and October 2019. Prior to conducting interviews, the participants were briefed on ethical protocols, the research purpose and possible outcomes. Next, after being informed of the above they can decide to either proceed onto participating in the interviews or turn down the invitation.

For this study, ethical clearance was sought and approved by the University of Chittagong's Ethics Committee for the Department of Geography (Protocol number: CUNI-13/0022). No personal identifiers were collected. The participants were coded by beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries with their professional identity remaining anonymous, thus the study maintained ethical standards, specifically in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki – ethical principles for research involving human subjects.

In this study experimental research was designed in order to understand the knowledge gap post anti between beneficiary and non-beneficiary groups. The data were collected using information from the questionnaire which assessed the knowledge and awareness differences about HT, CT, rules and regulations, and safe migration process.

The participants included school teachers, journalists, people from the Rohingya Community and *Majhi*s (*Majhis* are community leaders of the Rohingyas).

Before conducting interviews, a checklist was prepared from the beneficiary participants who would be invited for interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs). A total number of 48 interviews were conducted with beneficiary and non-beneficiary groups to understand knowledge difference between the groups whilst mid-term evaluation of the project. The interviews were conducted with school teachers and journalists where 12 were selected from each of the beneficiary and non-beneficiary groups. The remaining 24 interviews were conducted with the Rohingya community and Majhis taking equal number from beneficiary and non-beneficiary participants.

Four focus group discussions (FGDs) were conducted with beneficiary and non-beneficiary Majhis considering their roles in Rohingya community. Of the four FGDs conducted, two each were conducted with beneficiary Majhi and non-beneficiary Majhi respectively. The time and location of FGDs was pre-arranged in consultation with the participating Majhis. Eight Majhis who were cooperative and enthusiastic attended each FGD session. All Majhis who participated in the FGDs are males which are assessed as representing muscular dominancy in the group.   Finally**,** observation (overt and covert) has been used to observe as eye witnesses and visually understood the ongoing project interventions by project staffs also to understand the camp entry and exit gates, connectivity to adjacent roads and host communities and overall environment (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Inside Rohingya camp at Kutu Palong**:** a. adolescence boys gathering in a lower valley area for football match, b. adolescence girls in front of a temporary school, c. settlement in camp, and d. focus group discussion (FGD) for this research (Source: Edris Alam).

Data was collected through interviews and FGDs were carefully written and checked immediately after returning from the field with the data collectors transcribing verbatim the recorded speech of their respondents. After that, relevant data was then analyzed with narrative analysis, where researchers interpret stories that are told within the context of HT, CT and migration process. A triangulation data analysis technique was used to examine qualitative and quantitative data based on a thematic approach. This integrated and triangulated analysis ensured the study could find interactions and influence of variables from different dimensions.

Quantitative data on the Likert scale was entered into SPSS-25 IBM. We assessed the level of understanding in both beneficiary and non-beneficiary participants about HT, CT and safe migration process on a 5-point Likert scales, ranging from (5) very confident to (1) very low confident (Vagias, 2006). The test has been able to explore the strong significant relationship among the variables (*p < 0.01*).   The weightage analysis method was used for exploring the quantitative finding of the study'. Cronbach's alpha statistics to check reliability of authentic weightage analysis was performed. Cronbach's alpha reliability coefficient normally ranges between 0 and 1. The closer the coefficient is to 1.0, the greater is the internal consistency of the items (variables) in the scale. Cronbach's alpha co-efficient increases either as the number of items (variables) increases, or as the average inter-item correlations increase (i.e., when the number

of items is held constant After the completed Cronbach's alpha statistic to test reliability, the test found excellent condition (0.9) out of the five levels (George and Mallery, 2005).

3. Results

The results of the study can be divided into two distinct parts. First, it presents the results of a review from the evaluation of the humanitarian initiatives led by the NGO, YPSA. Especially the current project activities such as intervention reports, quarterly progress reports, and training manuals. Second, the paper presents the research findings from the evaluation with different beneficiary and non-beneficiary stakeholders comprising teachers, journalists, the Rohingya community, and Majhi in the Ukhiya and Teknaf sub-district of Cox's Bazar.

3.1 Project interventions

The project has been implemented on three different categories in twenty-one (21) areas comprising fourteen (14) camps, five (5) *Leda* and two (2) locations in two administrative areas, particularly Ukhia and Teknaf Upazila under Cox's Bazar District. Over 463,515 individuals live across the twenty-one areas. The project staffs have attempted to implement different trafficking prevention activities for targeted beneficiaries at camp. These programs directly addressed four different activities namely; courtyard meetings, drama/cultural events on CT, meetings with Majhi and CT messages on Radio Naf (YPSA, 2019).

3.1.1 Program on CT Issues and Referral Mechanism with Majhi

The project staffs have arranged the orientation program about CT issues and referral mechanism with *Majhi* at the camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf. During these orientation programs, the project staff clearly discussed project objectives and activities. First, the implementation team have emphasized on the concept, causes, consequence and prevention of human trafficking. Second, they highlighted the situation of human- trafficking, potential victims, traffickers, prevention measures and related unlawful incidences like drug-trafficking, gender-based violence (GBV) such as early marriage and polygamy which are considered as the pull factors to human trafficking. Finally, they explained how to deliver referral pathways and how services were made available for victims. The trainers who have expertise on human-trafficking have facilitated these programs at camp areas in the presence of YPSA's executive members.

3.1.2 The capacity building of teachers, camp focal person and host community

Prior to the current project, YPSA was partnered with the IOM on a project entitled 'Initiatives to Prevent Human Trafficking in Emergency Response (hereafter PHTER)' is to increase the knowledge of refugee and host-community on trafficking and safe migration, and capacity building of community leaders, NGOs and LEA to combat human trafficking. The participants in the capacity building program receive training on the causes and consequences of human trafficking, how to work together for the prevention of human trafficking, the identification of the victims and the referral mechanism to learn about the key laws, 'The Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012' (YPSA, 2019). In this program, positioning paper, power-point presentation, concept note, video clips and video documentary have been displayed.

3.1.3 The awareness related modules for Rohingya and host community

The project team has prepared the module on developing awareness and capacity building of Rohingya, Majhi, camp focal point person and host community in selected camps areas. First, the module emphasized on concept, causes and consequences and prevention of human trafficking. It also highlights the safe migration process. Then, it referred to different awareness and prevention related initiatives, particularly courtyard meeting, introducing District Manpower Officer (DEMO), human trafficking related reference mechanisms and provision of laws and policies, especially the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012. *Finally*, it developed and implemented referral modules to prevent HT and promoting CT and safe migration.

3.1.4 The quarterly progress reports

The quarterly reports are prepared to monitor and evaluate project activities and deliverables. Each activity was completed on time with exception to the activity on orientation of the Human Trafficking Act and referral services with law enforcement agencies. It was noted that due to the rainy season, the monsoon and a flash flood, late approval from the office of the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC), Camp in Charge (CiC) government holiday and staff dropouts interrupted the program's activities.

The quarterly progress report has evidenced that the project staffs have successfully developed awareness on HT and CT related module and arranged 216 courtyards meeting out of total 770 meetings with Rohingya and host community. Some of the courtyard meetings were interrupted due to bad weather conditions. A session titled

'Orientation on Safe Migration Related issues for potential and out-going migrants' was facilitated at District Employment and Man Power Office (DEMO) Office, Cox's Bazar for host community. The project organized five meetings with Majhis and host community on CT issues and referral mechanism. They organized a 'Workshop for Media Professional/Journalist on Human Trafficking Act & Preventing TIP' at the Mushroom Centre, Bus Terminal, and Cox's Bazar Sadr. Moreover, the project staff has observed 'World Day against Trafficking-in-Persons' and organized four street dramas to create awareness about anti-human trafficking in the Rohingya and host-community. Furthermore, the project launched an awareness program on human trafficking through community Radio Naf 99.2 FM which is a popular media in the project intervention area. Therefore, after the first quarter, project staff developed and maintained effective communication channels with relevant stakeholders.

3.2 Findings from face-to-face interviews

3.2.1 Findings from the school teachers and journalists

The findings suggest that school teachers and journalists who received orientation has higher level of awareness and knowledge about human trafficking act and other acts and referral services and safe migration than that of a non-beneficiary/non-benefeceries. They have gained knowledge or idea about the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012. Contrarily, the non-beneficiary participants were very unaware of the Act. All participants in KIIs have understanding of the first chapter from the six chapters of the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012. The beneficiary group could clearly mention ways to provide referral services for human trafficking. The majority participants were confident explaining about the human trafficking act and referral services in both camp areas and host communities. On contrary, non-beneficiary participants were less confident in explaining about the human trafficking act and referral services in both camp areas and host communities. The beneficiary participants could identify nine types of acts, rules related to human trafficking: (1) Bangladesh Constitution (Articles, 34, 38, etc.); (2) Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012; (3) Women and child prevention and suppression SAARC convention 2012; (4) Child Act 1974; (5) Bangladesh Labour Act 2006; (6) Women policy 2011; (7) Child right policy 2011; (8) Immigration rules 1982; and (9) Bangladesh Passport Act 1973.

All beneficiary participants knew about the Bangladesh Constitution Articles, 34 and 38 on trafficking issue, Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act 2012, Child Act 1974, Women policy 2011 and Child right policy 2011. The majority non-beneficiary participants personally knew about Bangladesh Constitution (Articles, 34,

38, etc.), Child Act 1974 and Women policy 2011. Beneficiary participants suggested that they benefited and received different training activities (i.e., orientation session) organized by YPSA on the human trafficking act and referral services. By attending orientation session and training, the participants have clear idea about trafficking process and trafficker, knowledge about anti-human trafficking tribunals and the trial of offenses, human trafficking Act and rules and how and where victims get security and legal support.

The KIIs interviews have identified two major weaknesses: (1) training session on HT and CT is short; (2) there were not adequate local district and sub-district levels civil administrators, law enforcement agencies (i.e., Bangladesh police, Boarder Guard of Bangladesh (BGB) and lawyers in the process.

3.2.2 Findings from the Rohingya Community

In response to causes of human trafficking, the most of the beneficiary participants identified nine reasons that include (1) financial insolvency, (2) expectation of a good job, (3) greed for money, (4) unemployment, (5) lack of awareness, (6) uncertain future, (7) violence, (8) lack of job and (9) lack of appropriate housing. There are two types of factors such as push and pull are responsible for human trafficking. During opinion survey, beneficiary participants mentioned that ten types of push factors are responsible for the irregular migration: (1) improved life expectation, (2) unemployment, (3) family feud, (4) high number of forced marriage, (5) more earning offer, (6) border crossing opportunity, (7) early marriage, (8) physical, mental and sexual harassment, (9) helpless and dowry, (10) experiencing conflict situation, (11) uncertain life and violence. Of these factors, unemployment, more earning offer, improved life expectation and border crossing opportunity were the most prevalent push factors for human trafficking among Rohingya communities.

Beneficiary participants identified that six types of traffickers are involved in their regular migration process. This includes relatives, neighbors, friends, influencing local leaders, employer/person help to get employment and unknown person. The non-beneficiary participants said that five types of traffickers are responsible for illegal migration such as relatives, neighbors, friends, employer/person help to get employment and unknown person respectively. However, both beneficiary and non-beneficiary group opined that most people are trafficked by strangers. In response to knowledge about victims of trafficking, both beneficiary and non-beneficiary Rohingya

communities have clear ideas who are the potential victims of human trafficking. The potential victims include children, adolescence, male, female, widow, isolated person, homeless person, unemployed person and the orphans.

By attending counter trafficking and safe migration related orientations such as courtyard meeting, day observation, radio Naf, and street drama, beneficiary participants have better understanding of counter trafficking and safe migration than non-beneficiary participants do.   The beneficiary Rohingya communities confirm that they are aware of seven types of incidences involved with human trafficking such as threat, force, kidnapping, exploitation, taking disadvantage situation and offering money. The participants heard about the incidence of threat, force and kidnapping in the areas. They also reported that the victims were psychologically stigmatized and experienced different types of consequences such as personal (i.e., an item to be sold out for commercial purpose), health (i.e., physical injury and mental depression), bad reputation, isolation or compel to leave overseas, social and economic loss.

The beneficiary host community participants could identify a series of steps for safe migration that were introduced in trainings and courtyard meetings. These include having a passport, Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) registration, registered recruitment agency, paying money with receipt, legal job agreement, visa and its verification processes, BMET release letter and smartcard and opening a bank account respectively. On the other hand, non-beneficiary participants opined that having passport, visa and its verification processes and BMET registration are the main steps for safe migration. Beneficiary participants suggested that courtyard meeting, street drama, day observation, and awareness on human trafficking through Radio Naf are the effective ways for reducing human trafficking and promoting CT in these areas. In response to query relating to referral services for victims in the camp, the beneficiary participants mentioned three types of referral services: (1) referring to the relevant organization/entities for counseling and basic support; (2) refer to the relevant organization and entities for legal help and; (3) proper maintenance for the referral system.

The evaluation has attempted to identify weakness of CT and safe migration related project items and delivery mechanism. The participants identified six major weaknesses that include: (1) the number of meetings is less; (2) the duration of meeting was short; (3) the presence of women is less; (4) long time gap between two meetings; (5) instead

of using *Chitttagonian* (local language) language, the Rohingya communities suggest to use their own Rohingya language in Radio NA; (6) excessive people in each meeting.

3.2.3 Findings from Majhi

Majhis from both beneficiary and non-beneficiary suggested that eight types of victim are trafficked, due to irregular migration in these areas. These victims are children, adolescence, male, female, widow, isolated, homeless person, unemployed person and the orphan. More recently both children and women have been trafficked by strangers or unknown persons and friends in these areas. By attending CT and safe migration related awareness training, meetings, street drama and listening radio Naf program, the beneficiary Majhis could more confidently explain legal procedure on CT and referral services for victims of trafficking. They also could confidently explain more about push and full factors of trafficking, potential type of traffickers, the most vulnerable victims and safe migration procedures.

3.2.4 Quantitative evaluation of beneficiaries understanding of counter trafficking

Beneficiaries from both Rohingya and host communities became aware of human trafficking and counter trafficking because they enhanced their understanding from different types of awareness programs such as courtyard meeting, street drama, day observation and program on human trafficking through Radio Naf. Quantitative analysis suggests that the beneficiary participants from school teachers and journalist had better understanding of HT, CT and safe migration than the remaining three groups (Table 1). This may be due to their prior knowledge gained through education and professional experience. Contrarily the participants from the Majhi showed comparatively less understanding of the HT, CT and safe migration because of their limited education and level of prior knowledge.

Table 1: Understanding and interpreting of beneficiary participants about counter trafficking and safe migration (N = 12)

List of item	5	4	3	2	1	Total Calculated weight	Mean score	Average score	St. Deviation
Journalist and school teachers	5	5	2	0	0	51	4.2	3.6	0.36
Rohingya community	4	3	1	2	2	41	3.4		
Host community	4	3	2	1	2	42	3.5		
Majhi	3	4	3	2	0	42	3.5		

N.B: Very low confident =1, Low confident =2, Neutral = 3, Confident = 4 and Very confident =5

The weighted analysis explored that the mean score of school teacher and journalists is high (4.2) among the four group of participants. The average score is 3.6. The score represented the strongly agreement among beneficiary stakeholders' understanding about counter trafficking and safe migration related issues in the area. The standard deviation is 0.36 implying that most of the numbers are very close to the average. This means that the project interventions have successfully helped to understand and interpret about counter trafficking and safe migration related issues on different stakeholders.

3.2.6 Quantitative evaluation of non-beneficiaries understanding of counter trafficking

The weighted analysis suggests that the mean score is low (2.0) of Majhi among the four non-beneficiary groups (Table 2). The average score of non-beneficiary group is 2.5 that are lower than beneficiary groups. The standard deviation is 0.41 that is higher than the beneficiary group thus, qualitative and quantitative data are consistent about the effectiveness of the project intervention activities and the necessity to expand such activities among the wider communities.

Table 2: Understanding and interpreting of non-beneficiary participants about counter trafficking (N = 12)

List of item	5	4	3	2	1	Total Calculated weight	Mean score	Average score	St. Deviation
Journalist and school teachers	2	1	3	3	3	32	2.6	2.5	0.41
Rohingya displaced people	1	3	2	3	3	32	2.6		
Host community	0	4	4	4	0	36	3.00		
Majhi	0	1	3	4	4	25	2.00		

N.B: Very low confident =1, Low confident =2, Neutral = 3, Confident = 4 and Very confident =5

3.2.6 Quantitative evaluation of HT and CT interventions and the scope for improvement

The quantitative evaluation of the HT and CT intervention activities undertaken by the YPSA suggest four types of activities which are; orientations on safe migration with potential migrants, day observation, street dramas on CT and awareness on human trafficking through Radio Naf are found useful, whereas the other four type of activities are courtyard meetings, orientation sessions with Majhis, orientations on human trafficking act and referral services and capacity-building workshops for media professional/journalist are useful. The participants are affirmative to attend the activities in the future and also provide specific suggestions for each type of activity (Table 3).

Table 3: Summary findings on the assessment of the project intervention activities of HT and CT

Activities on CT	Evaluation by the participants	Participation in future	Suggestions for improvement
Court-yard Meetings	Useful	68%	Direct stories from victims from Rohingya communities. More frequent meetings
Orientations on safe migration with potential migrants	Very useful	65%	Triangular partnership among IOM, YPSA and DEMO on CT and safe migration. Direct participations of DEMO senior officials
Day observation	Very useful	74%	Current efforts are satisfactory
Street Dramas on CT	Very useful	82%	Frequent street dramas
Awareness on human trafficking through Radio Naf	Very useful	84%	The beneficiary participants wanted to disseminate awareness activities through Radio Naf via Rohingya language. Stories directly from Rohingya victim of human trafficking should be disseminated
Orientation sessions with Majhis	Useful	63%	Frequent sessions incorporating more Majhis
Orientations on human trafficking act and referral services	Useful	59%	More teachers and journalists should be covered under this program. LEA was not included in the previous sessions and they should be involved at early stage.
Capacity-building workshops for media professional/journalist	Useful	61%	Current activities should be continued with extending to more media professionals.

4. Discussion

 By conducting a narrative review of literature, Lugova et al., (2020) reported that humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has exacerbated sexual and gender-based violence, including human trafficking experienced by women and young girls at refugee settings. On occasions, national and trans-national traffickers target economic and political migrants because of their disadvantage circumstances in Tunisia (Sabri, 2020). Bangladesh since 2017 human trafficking from Rohingya community in post conflict setting reported an increasing trend due to lack of basic needs and rights.

CT interventions gained phenomenal since the adoption of the 2000 UN Trafficking Protocol, by undertaking a variety of efforts from the UN agencies, country governments, International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs), and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) (Bryant and Landman, 2020). The activities to combat include the incidence of human trafficking and strengthening legal-institutional means, community led counter trafficking in field level, and providing supports for those exploited. Our efforts are mostly related to identifying full factors of trafficking at the community level and how to promote CT and safe migration thus, evaluation of the project level activities identified few crucial loopholes of humanitarian interventions and performance of non-state actors in Rohingya camps and adjacent host community areas (Table 4). The research demonstrates the requirement for implementing field level interventions by documenting knowledge differences between beneficiary and non-beneficiary groups.

The key project intervention activities, court-yard meetings, Orientations on safe migration with potential migrants, Day observation and Street Dramas on CT were attended by the beneficiary participants. This research identifies several key loopholes that need to be treated and improved. Also, interventions are required for future project deliveries. First, with regard to awareness generation activities the beneficiary participants support ongoing courtyard meetings, orientation sessions and street dramas that need to occur more frequently in a better place with appropriate facilities. Although women participated in each event, their equal participations should be ensured by the implementing organizations.   Education and training activities launched by the other organizations at camp may include HT awareness and CT process. Awareness activities should

be delivered in local dialect especially when targeted participants are Rohingya communities. Furthermore, since local administration and law enforcement authority play crucial role in CT process, their inclusion should be one that will enhance the community's confidence in such type of interventions. Also, local community leader and *Majhi* are to be empowered considering their influence and trust in the communities. In conclusion, increasing the surveillance of law enforcing agencies with modern equipment at each entry and exit gates, ensuring sufficient food for Rohingya people because food insecurity is main push factor to fall victim of traffickers. Also, enhancing partnership with community, CBOs, NGOs and local administration specially police for CT process will be of great help.

Table 4: Ways to improve interventions to stop HT and enhance CT

Details of recommended activity	Suggestions from	Implementing stakeholders
Frequent meetings to encourage and build awareness to stop falling into the grip of the broker	Rohingya refugee and host community	Partnership with community, CBOs, and NGOs
More street dramas since they are very effective for awareness generation and community engagement	Rohingya refugees and host community	Partnership with community and NGOs
Engaging more women participants for each event	Rohingya refugees, Majhis, teachers, journalists and host community	Partnership with community and NGOs
Education and other training activities launched by the other stakeholders at camp may include HT awareness and CT process	School teachers and journalists	All NGOs and international donor agencies
HT and CT initiatives should be facilitated on Rohingya language	Rohingya refugee	*Radio Naf by NGO*
Better meeting space providing perfect sound system to reach all participants	Rohingya refugees	NGOs
The duration of court-yard meeting should be longer allowing the moderator to complete all awareness related activities	Rohingya refugees	NGOs
Local community leader is to be considered as an actor or factor for every initiative.	Rohingya refugees and host community	Partnership with community, NGOs and local administration
Law enforcement authority and their inclusion are helpful for awareness generation and peace	Rohingya refugees, Majhis,	NGOs and local administration

keeping	teachers, journalists and host community	
Surveillance of law enforcing agencies with modern equipment at entry and exit gates at camp to identify victims of trafficking.	Rohingya refugees, Majhis, teachers, journalists and host community	Central government and local administration
Considering feedback from participants about the program and expectation from future events.	School teachers and journalists	NGOs
Enhancing partnership with community, CBOs, NGOs and local administration specially police for CT process	School teachers and journalists	Partnership with community, CBOs, NGOs and local administration
The execution of exemplary punishment for traffickers and disseminating prosecution through media	School teachers and journalists	Local civil administration and Police
Awareness building for safe migration process	School teachers and journalists	Partnership with community, NGOs and local administration
Engaging local influential persons, political and social leaders in CT and safe migration activities	School teachers and journalists	CBOs, NGOs and local administration
Ensuring sufficient food for Rohingya people	Majhi	NGOs and local administration
Not allowing unknown people in camp without holding appropriate identity	Majhi	Local administration particularly law enforcing agencies

4. Conclusions

The Government of Bangladesh and Bangladeshi communities showed great humanity hosting over 900,000 stateless Rohingya displaced communities that is appreciated by international communities. It was a significant challenge given the limited time to organize for all the required food, clothing, shelter and arrange for health opportunities for the large influx of Rohingyas. Due to there being limited basic needs and options available; there was evidence of human-trafficking of Rohingya refugees. Several international agencies particularly specialized IOM in partnerships with NGOs were active since August 2017 providing support to the local government and Rohingya community to promote counter-trafficking activities. The activities implemented by the YPSA in the camp and adjacent host

community demonstrated their effectiveness in creating awareness about human trafficking, promoting CT and safe migration in the area. Findings of this research and recommendations may be useful to enhance CT and safe migration in the refugee and non-refugee setting in Bangladesh and beyond. The research mainly evaluates human trafficking related activities implemented in the field level and effectiveness of their deliveries; thus, comments cannot be made on the actual outcome of the project activities. Therefore, more studies need to be conducted to evaluate the impact of the CT programmes that were implemented following a rapid and large influx of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

Author Contributions

All authors made a significant contribution to the work reported, whether that is in the conception, study design, execution, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation, or in all these areas; took part in drafting, revising or critically reviewing the article; gave final approval of the version to be published; have agreed on the journal to which the article has been submitted; and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

Institutional Review Board Statement: The study was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki, and approved by the Institutional Review Board (or Ethics Committee) of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Chittagong, Bangladesh (protocol code: *CUNI-19/005* and date of approval: 01 September 2019)." for studies involving humans.

Informed Consent Statement: Informed consent was obtained from all subjects involved in the study.

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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