

IMPULSE NGO NETWORK (INGON) ANNUAL REPORT 2019 – 2020



Our Vision

“A World without Human Trafficking and Exploitation ”

Our Mission

As professionals we will work passionately and relentlessly to reduce human trafficking for exploitation by empowering, engaging, and expanding our network of partners using the 6Ps and 6Rs of the globally acknowledged Impulse Model.

About Us

The Impulse NGO Network (INGON) is a non-profit human rights organization based in Shillong, Meghalaya in the Northeast of India. Founded in 1993 by Ms. Hasina Kharbhih, Impulse NGO Network is one of the first and foremost organizations to have started work to counter the rampant human trafficking in the region.

Impulse NGO Network's anti-human trafficking work expands across the eight states of Northeast India and Myanmar, where the internationally recognized Impulse Model (formerly known as the Meghalaya Model) has been replicated. Moreover, the organization has several networking partners around the globe, especially in the South and South East Asia.

The "Impulse Model" is an internationally acknowledged, holistic method to address human trafficking by engaging the necessary public and private sector stakeholders to work in collaboration to strengthen each others' work. Each of the stakeholders (including government departments and law enforcement agencies, civil society organizations and media) has their own mandate under the Impulse Model and are connected to each other through Impulse Case Management Centre. The stakeholders working in close coordination with each other ensures that there will not be overlapping of efforts and resources, making the stakeholders' work more effective.

The Impulse Social Enterprise (ISE) is a social business venture connected to INGON which focuses on creating livelihoods for women in the North East. ISE is linked to Prevention of human trafficking, as where avenues for sustainable livelihoods are created unsafe migration and trafficking reduces.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF BOARD

Dear Friends,

The year 2019-2020 has been difficult for us at Impulse NGO Network (INGON) as it has been for the rest of the country and the world. Following the passage of the Citizenship Amendment Act in 2019, protests, violence and ethnic clashes in the North East led to curfews and shutting down of the internet. The National Registry of Citizens exercise conducted in Assam, which requires documents to be produced in order to prove Indian citizenship, has led to concern and tension about deepening of divides between communities. INGON supported the Barak Human Rights Protection Committee Cachar Silchar to extend legal and para legal help to those affected by NRC in six districts of Assam (Cachar, Karimganj, Hailakandi, Nogaon, Barpeta and Kokrajhar). With INGON's support, greater awareness has been created in the above mentioned six districts on the NRC process, what documents to show in order to establish citizenship and how to file an appeal. Our partner organization has not only conducted door to door awareness generation, but also provided trainings to lawyers and para legal on important judgments regarding citizenship in India and procedural aspects to follow in courts. We have supported over 30 community meetings where information about the law, how to file an appeal and what documents are required to be included in the NRC is disseminated.

This year, we will be strengthening Impulse Model in the Garo Hills Region (an underdeveloped region prone to unsafe migration in Meghalay) on conducting advocacy and creating mass scale awareness of the problem of human trafficking. The campaign will focus on creating livelihood opportunities in order to prevent distress migration. The Impulse NGO Network is at the forefront of prevention of human trafficking in the Garo Hills by working on developing

livelihood opportunities and creating awareness. We have collaborated with Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute (MATI) and CASA to create a plan of action for the Garo Hills region and have also conducted a training for civil society members in Taro, West Garo Hills.

The Covid 19 virus exploded in all our lives in March 2020 and a national lock-down was announced. In order to address the emergency that we faced, INGON revised its plan of action in the East and North Garo Hills. The revised interventions include using innovative strategies to deal with Covid 19, such as, identification of leaders in these areas and providing them with online IEC materials, promoting work from home for those engaged with our skill building activities under the Impulse Social Enterprise, and buying radio air time in order to disseminate information about human trafficking and Covid 19. I am sure that notwithstanding the challenges our world is facing today of displacement, growing violence against women and poverty, efforts by NGOs and networks will help mitigate human suffering to some extent. Our partner CASA has worked with us in developing an appropriate response to Covid 19 in the Garo Hills region. Our state partners have also altered their action plans in order to provide appropriate relief during the period of Covid 19.

Despite the challenge of internal conflict and Covid 19, INGON stayed committed to its core values and Vision statement. We continue to provide support in case management through the Impulse Case Management Centre (ICMC). This year, we decided to change the name of the ICMC (which was earlier known as the “Impulse Case Information Centre”) as our work goes beyond providing information in a case. The ICMC not only provides information, but it also provides comprehensive case management from the beginning of a case, including coordinating the rescue to the reintegration and restitution of the survivor. This year we also changed the term “re-compensation” in the 6 R’s (which refers to compensation for the loss suffered) to “restitution” (which is a broader term covering gains for the survivor). With these changes in terminology, we aim to reflect our work as extensive and far-reaching, covering all aspects of a survivor’s life so as to completely stop human trafficking from taking place.

We responded to 126 cases this year, and focused our energies on reintegration and reeducation of the victims. We reintegrated 23 victims of human trafficking and reeducation has been

provided in 11 cases. INGON is coordinating legal support for those who are at risk of losing their citizenship through the NRC by strengthening Legal Aid and providing training on how to file an appeal in such cases.

In 2017-2018, INGON launched the Impulse Model Press Lab in order to ensure better quality coverage of news on human trafficking and to suppress the influx of fake news. In 2018-2019, we launched the Impulse Model Press Lab Cross-Border Human Trafficking Journalism Fellowship, which conducted training of selected Fellows from Nepal, India, and Myanmar. This year, the Impulse Model Press Lab has grown in strength and articles by our fellows in Myanmar and India on women prisoners, skill building for women and the Impulse Model have been submitted for publication.

I hope you enjoy reading this report.

HASINA KHARBHIIH
Chair of Board, Impulse NGO Network

SURVIVOR STORIES

Rita

The following case study highlights the process the Impulse Case Management Centre (ICMC) follows in ensuring rescue, repatriation, rehabilitation and re-education of victims of human trafficking. In this case, a minor child was able to successfully provide clear details about the accused leading to his arrest:

This case involves a minor girl child from Jalpaiguri (West Bengal), who was trafficked to Chennai via a placement agency.

Reporting the Case:

Rita (Name changed) a 15 year old child, went missing from Jalpaiguri on 23rd July 2019. The ICMC received a call from the Kotwali Police Station in July asking for help in tracing the child. The police were aware that the suspect ran a placement agency and the child was most likely in Chennai. The ICMC immediately alerted its ICMC Networking Partner in Chennai and briefed them with the information provided by the Police.

Our Networking Partner in Chennai informed the AHTU in Chennai and shared the details of the phone number of the suspect. The ICMC gathered information from the police to share with our Chennai Partner.

Rescuing the child:

With support from the local police, our Networking Partner in Chennai was able to rescue Rita. They spoke to the accused and managed to convince him to meet at a particular location in Chennai along with the accused. On the scheduled day of the meeting, the police along with our Partner were able to rescue Rita (although the accused ran away).

After rescuing the child, ICMC ensured Rita was produced before the CWC. As Rita was able to provide details about identifying the accused, the police were able to locate and arrest him.

Repatriation and Rehabilitation:

Rita was kept in a shelter home while ICMC informed Jalpaiguri police, and thereafter, the concerned official from the Jalpaiguri police left for Chennai. ICMC coordinated with the Jalpaiguri police authorities to ensure the safe repatriation of Rita back.

Reintegration and Restitution:

After Rita returned home, the ICMC provided her with counseling. She was not handed back to her family immediately as a family investigation was first done. Once it was deemed safe to hand her back to her family, Rita was sent back to her family. The ICMC is following up on this case, and Rita has resumed her education in school.

Sonu

Sonu (name changed), a minor 16 year old girl from Sikkim, was lured by a boy on Social Media to leave Gangtok and run away without informing anyone. She had been communicating with the accused for a period of three months before she ran away.

Reporting

The ICMC received a call from the Sardar Patel Police Station in Sikkim requesting for help in tracing Sonu. The police suspected she had gone to Tamil Nadu to meet the boy she befriended on social media. The ICMC immediately shared details of the case, including where Sonu may be located, with their Networking Partner in Tamil Nadu.

The Sikkim Police had informed the ICMC that the location where Sonu may be is an institute supposedly offering computer classes.

Rescue

Our Networking Partner with their support team went to the location shared and found it to be a factory where religious idols were being made. Neither Sonu nor the accused were found at this place. Our Networking Partner continued to visit this place along with the local police and they were finally able to find Sonu and the accused.

Sonu was taken to the CWC by our Partner where she clarified that she had been lured by the promise of marriage and with promise of a job as well. Sonu is an orphan who lives with her Aunt, and feeling lonely, she agreed to run away.

Repatriation and Rehabilitation

Thereafter, Sonu was taken to a Shelter Home. The Sikkim Police reached Tamil Nadu and repatriated Sonu back to Sikkim.

She was sent to the CWC in Sikkim for Counseling and is now living with her family again.

- *Importantly, in both cases, the police supported in the repatriation of the minor girls. Earlier, NGOs were burdened with the task of repatriation but due to lobbying efforts by INGON, this work is being done by State Agencies through a stream lined procedure.*

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION RECEIVED

This year, Impulse NGO Network and its founder and Chair of Board were awarded with numerous awards and recognition for the work done over the course of over thirty years.

The **Sat Paul Mittal National Award Committee of Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust** awarded to Impulse NGO Network in 2019 under Institutional Category was for rendering outstanding service to humanity. Impulse NGO Network was conferred this prestigious award for the organization's "*untiring efforts in the field of unsafe migration, exploitation and human trafficking in North- East India*". The award, which is shared by another awardee, carries an amount of INR Five Lakhs, a memento and a citation. Hasina Kharbhih received the award on behalf of the organization in 11 th November, 2019 at Pandey Auditorium in Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust in Ludhiana.

"The Sat Paul Mittal National Award Committee of Nehru Sidhant Kender Trust has chosen Impulse NGO Network for the 'Sat Paul Mittal National Award' for the year 2019 in Institutional Category for rendering outstanding service to humanity."

Morung Express, 12th November 2019

Hasina Kharbhih received the **Prag Prerona Award, 2020**, from Prag News. This award is specific to women of distinction. The award was handed by Padma Bhushan Sharmila Tagore, His Excellency Governor of Assam Professor Jagdish Mukhi, and Dr Sanjiv Narayan CMD of Prag News. She also received the **Honourable Mother Teresa Award for Social Justice** in November 2019 and was honored with the **Yamin Hazarika Woman of Substance Award 2019**. She was also awarded the **Balipara Foundation Social Recognition Award for Social Entrepreneurship** for helping women in the Eastern Himalayas develop their skills and earn a sustainable livelihood. The award was presented by A. M. Singh, Principal Chief Conservator and Head of Forest Force, Government of Assam. She received an award for 'Achievement and

Excellence in Human Rights’ (**Guardians of Humanity Award, 2019**) from the **Brahma Kumari World Headquarters in 2019.**

“The fifth Yamin Hazarika Women of Substance Award 2019 will be conferred on social activist Hasina Kharbhih at a function to be held at NEF Law College, Guwahati on July 6.

Meghalaya-based Kharbhih has been working to provide sustainable livelihood in a safe environment for women and children for over 30 years. She is an Ashoka Fellow and Aspen ILI Fellow, Founder and Managing Director of Impulse Social Enterprises and Founder Chair of Board of Impulse NGO Network.”

Thumb Print, 4th July, 2019

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 6 P's AND THE 6 R's IN OUR WORK

INGON recognizes that the fight against Human Trafficking is not a one-man job, and that our Partnerships with various stakeholders under the Impulse Model, have to be organised and coordinated, for us to be effective. The Impulse Model complements the best local practices, and brings together different stakeholders in the fight against trafficking-in-persons under one roof, to create a systematic and collective anti-human trafficking effort.

At the heart of the Impulse Model, is the *Impulse Case Management Centre (ICMC)* which records, compiles, and keeps track of all relevant information on human trafficking cases, adhering to the 6 P's and the 6 R's of the Impulse Model. Previously, the Impulse Case Management Centre (ICMC) was known as the “Impulse Case Information Centre”; however, since our work goes beyond providing information and connecting various stakeholders, the Centre has now been termed as a “Case Management Centre”. In our work on case management, we have connected different stakeholders together, facilitated rescue operations, and our staff has directly helped in ensuring repatriation of survivors. For example, in a case involving rescue of 179 victims from Nepal who were located in Moreh, Manipur last year, INGON negotiated with the Embassy of Nepal for their safe repatriation. Additionally, we have provided re-education of survivors and follow up in each case so as to ensure that re-trafficking does not take place.

In 2019 – 2020, the ICMC responded to a total of **126** cases (covering human trafficking and other forms of violence against women/children). This year, the ICMC was able to rescue **106** victims of human trafficking. **41** victims were repatriated, while in **11** cases we were able to provide for re-education of the victims.

The 6 P's of the Impulse Model are as follows: Partnership, Prevention, Protection, Policing, Press and Prosecution.

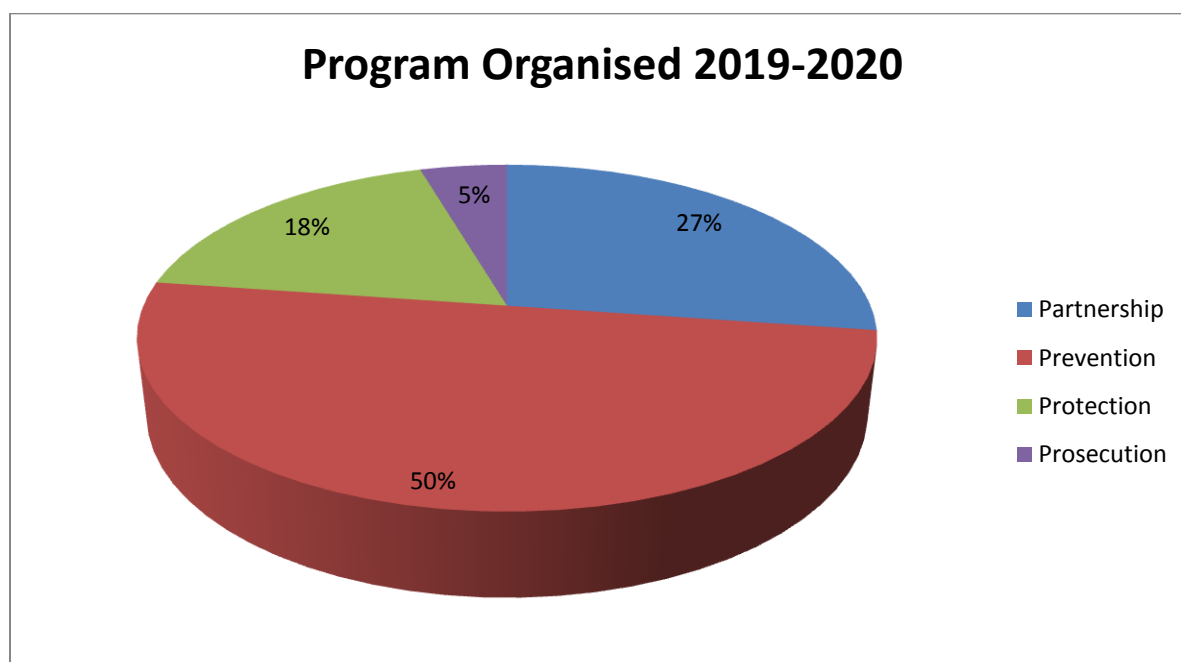
The 6 R's of the Impulse Model are as follows: Reporting, Rescue, Rehabilitation, Repatriation, Reintegration, and Restitution.

Importantly, INGON will now be using the term “**restitution**” in place of “re-compensation”. Restitution is broader than compensation and it covers not only the loss that the victim has suffered but also the gains made by the trafficker by using his / her labour unlawfully.

Our activities and programmes are based around the 6 P and 6 R of Impulse Model. Although there is overlap in between the P’s and the R’s, the classification of our work is done based around which P and which R the activity fits into most.

Programmes Organized in 2019-2020

INGON organized 22 programmes in 2018-2019. Most of the programmes we organized were on **Prevention** and involved training and awareness workshops, along with developing livelihood skills.



Partnership

We organized 6 programmes on developing and strengthening our Partnerships. INGON partnered with the Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute to conduct a training on human trafficking and the law in West Garo Hills on 26 – 27th February 2020. The participants included NGOs, village heads, AHTUs, youth leaders and women. Lawyers and law enforcement officials conducted the training where information about various forms of trafficking, basic aspects of criminal law and special laws for women and children, government schemes available to prevent human trafficking and for rehabilitation were discussed. Mr. Sonam Tenzing Bhutia, IPS, Sikkim Police, Ms. Rosanna Lyngdoh, INGON, Ms. Ivyreen Warjri, MATI and Adv. Sauradeep Dey, HRLN were some of the resource persons. One day prior to the training (on 25th February), INGON in collaboration with MATI organized a district level consultation in Tura, West Garo Hills on coordinating efforts to address human trafficking. An Action Plan for the region was drawn up after this meeting where roles and responsibilities for stakeholders (Self Help Groups, the Nokma Council, district legal service authority, village head and youth leaders amongst others).

We organized a programme for the youth in Department of Social Work, Mizoram University orienting them to the ICMC and how it operates. A similar programme was held for students in NEHU in April 2019 and for students in Arunachal Pradesh in Rajiv Gandhi University in February 2020.

Prevention

INGON organized 11 programmes designed to prevent human trafficking from taking place. These include sensitization programmes on extending psycho-social care in disaster management in Pine Mount School and field work training in NEHU. Our prevention activities aim to prevent distress migration by increasing capacity of women to make their own livelihood. From 8-12th August 2019, with support from the US Consulate, INGON organized a training on business communication for entrepreneurs in Meghalaya with special focus on women entrepreneurs. The business communication training was conducted by Mr. Dieter Bruhn, Director and CEO of One World Training. The participants were trained on how to network, negotiate, make a presentation, elevator pitches (that is, getting a person's attention within 20 to 30 seconds) and

how to deliver a well polished business pitch in front of a live audience. A session on leadership was also covered at this training.



Dieter Bruhn gave feedback to all the participants on their pitches, which they practiced at the session.

We held a round table with women entrepreneurs in Don Bosco, Assam in November 2019.

As part of One Billion Rising, INGON made a speech on human trafficking in Uttar Banga Marwari Bhawan, Siliguri, in February 2020 in order to create awareness on the issue.

On 11th September, 2019, INGON organized an evening with Ms. Dawn Manske (Founder and CEO of “Made for Freedom”) at Aerodine Cottage, Shillong. The programme focused on providing information to women entrepreneurs on business strategies. 72 participants (mostly women entrepreneurs) attended the programme.

Products made by women entrepreneurs were showcased at the evening programme.



Protection

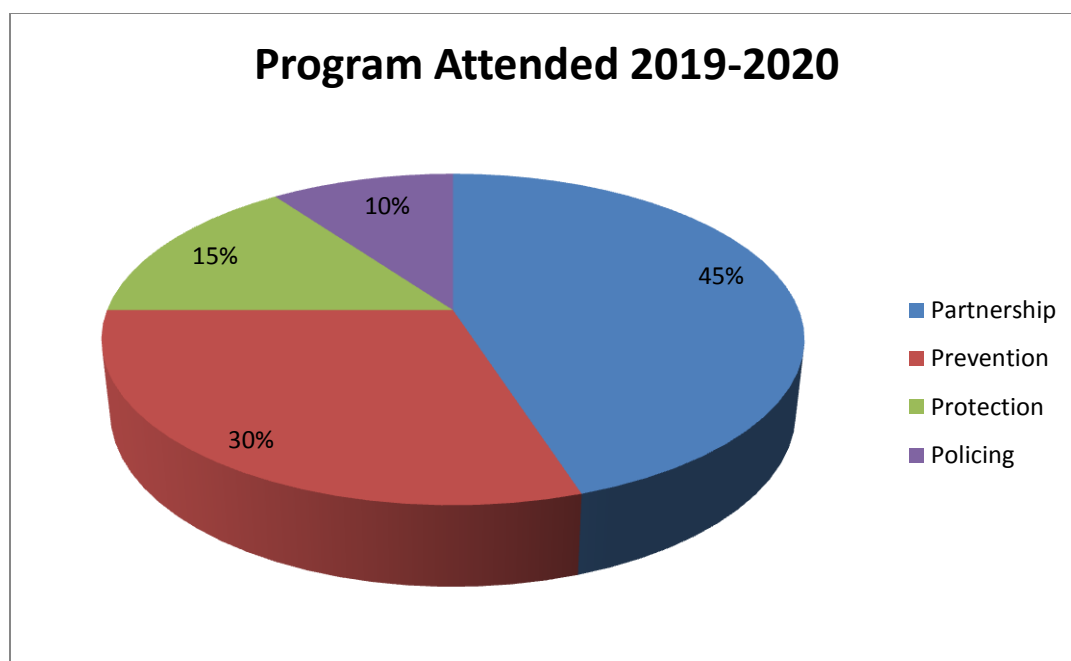
As part of our activities on protection, INGON donated clothes to three Shelter Homes in Shillong. We conducted a programme on Arts and Crafts in the Fernando Shelter Home (in Shillong) on 14th March 2020.

Prosecution

In November 2019, Impulse NGO Network collaborated to hold a Judicial Colloquium on the role of the law in combating human trafficking in Yojana Bhawan, Shillong. Over a hundred participants took part in this programme where the Impulse model was explained and discussed in detail.

Programmes Attended by INGON in 2019-2020

Impulse NGO Network is invited to attend various programmes and events throughout the year. We take opportunity of such events to strengthen our partnerships, develop in-house capacity of the Management Team and also to spread awareness about the Impulse Model. We take the opportunity to send our Interns and Volunteers to such programmes (where possible) in order to develop their capacity and knowledge on issues under discussion. This year, INGON attended 20 programmes.



Partnership

We attended 9 programmes this year with the objective of strengthening our partnerships. In July 2019, Hasina Kharbhih and Rosanna Lyngdoh met with the Ambassador of the United States of America at a programme organized by the International Visitor Leadership Programme (IVLP) as both are IVLP Alumni. In September 2019, two of our Management Team members travelled to Guwahati in order to attend a conclave by the Voluntary Health Association of Assam. The focus of the conclave was to strengthen partnership between NGOs, the government and the corporate sector in addressing social issues, including human trafficking. In January 2020, our Management Staff attended a round table discussion organized by Shakti Vahini and the U.S Consulate in Kolkata to discuss ways to include youth in efforts against human trafficking.

Prevention

We attended 6 programmes on Prevention. This included a 5 day programme on enhancing skills of women workers in the informal economy organized by the V.V Giri Institute in New Delhi. In September 2019, Emarine Kharbhih, Program Manager, and Rosanna Lyngdoh, Board Director, attended a conference on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace Act, 2013, organized by the Meghalaya Administration Training Institute. In

December 2019, two of our interns took part in a discussion on women artisans organized by North East Network.

Protection

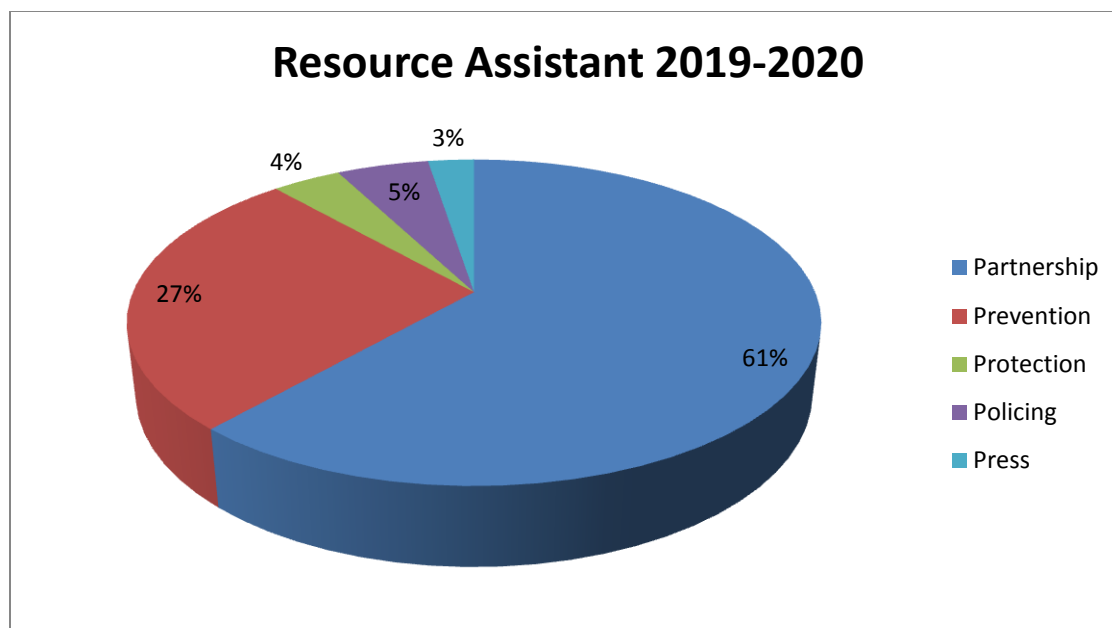
Sritapa Dam, Administration Manager, took part in a training on Gender Aspects of Disaster Management organized by the Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute in July 2019. A training on the same issue was also organized by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Science which she and Bariphylla Lyttan, from the Case Manager Management team attended.

Policing

Four members of the Management Staff (including two Interns) attended a 6 day training on Juvenile Justice organized by the North East Police in Meghalaya. In December 2019, Rosanna Lyngdoh, Board Director, took part in a convocation ceremony by the North East Police Academy in Meghalaya.

Resource Assistance provided by INGON in 2019-2020

The Impulse NGO Network team is often contacted by other NGOs, the Law Enforcement AHTUs, Institution and government bodies to provide Resource Assistance in their programmes and activities. We are usually contacted based on our expertise in handling cases of human trafficking. We provided Resource Assistance in **78 programmes** this year, which includes Resource Assistance provided by our Case Manager Country Partner organization in Myanmar.



Partnership

The World Bank invited Hasina Kharbhih to speak at a round table conference on human trafficking in New Delhi in July 2019. The UNODC invited INGON to speak at a Stakeholders Consultation in Guwahati, Assam in May 2019. Rosanna Lyngdoh spoke at a Two Day Consultation organized by VANI on amplifying the Role of the Voluntary Sector in policy making. INGON was also a panelist on the issue of “Cyber Enabled Trafficking” organized by UNODC and Ministry of Home Affairs in New Delhi, and we also participated at an event organized by Facebook in New Delhi on creating safety for women (both online and offline). Three of our team members participated in a discussion organized by CASA office in Meghalaya on scaling up the Impulse Model in the Garo Hills District of Meghalaya. INGON took part in a discussion organized at the Brahma Kumari Headquarters in Rajasthan on Unity, Peace and Prosperity.

In addition to these events, we were invited by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Guwahati and Mumbai to speak on leadership, urbanization and growth in the North East. INGON was invited to speak on the safety of women and girls from the North East who come to Delhi at a conference “Safety for She: Building Equitable Urban Spaces” at a conference organized by the Centre for Social Research in November in New Delhi. INGON was also part of the Global Development Network in Bonn, Germany, to speak on Sustainable Development in October

2019. Hasina Kharbhih went to Japan in December 2019 where she spoke about her work to the Japan Institute of Technology, Japan Foundation.

Prevention

Emarine Kharbhih, Rosanna Lyngdoh provided resource assistance to the Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute on a series of trainings on the issue of legal awareness on rights of women and girls in May, June and April 2019. We provided resource assistance to the Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute for 10 sessions, including women's rights, safety for women, sexual abuse of children and the law. Rosanna Lyngdoh spoke at a two day event on the Christian response to prevailing social issues in Meghalaya at the Martin Luther Christian University, Shillong.

Protection

Rosanna Lyngdoh provided a basic training on counseling in Shillong to participants at the FMA Nurses, Shillong Province, Lumshyiap in February 2020.

Press

INGON was invited by the Thompson Reuters Foundation in April 2019 to participate in a panel discussion in Kolkata on fair reporting in cases of human trafficking. We also participated in a discussion on the impact of social media on the lives of women at the Women's College in Shillong.

Policing

Hasina Kharbhih, Rosanna Lyngdoh and Bari Phylla Lyttan provided resource assistance to the North East Police Academy and Meghalaya Police on gender sensitization and the safety of women in 4 sessions spread over the year. INGON was invited to train police officials in Gangtok, Sikkim on using the Impulse Model in November 2019.

The growth of the Impulse Model in Myanmar has been strong. In **Myanmar**, the Case Manager (Nyein Nyein Myat) provided resource assistance on Pre Departure information for Safe Migration (organised by the Immanuel Union Church, Yangon), and sought the mobilization of all citizens against human trafficking in a programme organised by the Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons. YMCA Country Partner along with Impulse Case Management Centre Myanmar organised a discussion on the law and human trafficking at Hlaing Township where the Case Manager spoke. The Case Manager also provided basic training in counselling to participants at the Counselling Centre in Yangon in August 2019. Information about human trafficking was provided at an IDP camp in Myintkyina in October 2019 by the Case Manager.

SYSTEM LEVEL OUTCOME OF THE 6 P'S (2019-2020)

Strengthened Partnerships and Collaboration of Efforts	Increased Community Awareness through Quality Media and Prevention Programmes	Enhanced AHT System Capacity in NE India, Nepal and Myanmar	Increased Quality and Coordination of Services	Increased Number of Victims Saved
<i>Partnership</i>	<i>Press</i>	<i>Prosecution and Policing</i>	<i>Prevention</i>	<i>Protection</i>
We partnered with Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram University and with NEHU students on explaining the ICMC .	Comprehensive coverage of INGON's work on Rat Hole Mining in Meghalaya by the both print and electronic media. 21 articles were by the Impulse Model Press Lab, 9 articles were published in the print media on the Impulse Model, and 4 articles were published by international press agencies.	100 persons participated at a Judicial Colloquium organised by INGON on Role of law in human trafficking cases, and explaining the Impulse Model.	Extending Legal and Para-Legal Assistance to six district of Assam Marginalised Persons excluded from the NRC. In the first quarter, 4 lawyer and para legal trainings were organised. 4 para-legals were appointed by us and 28 community meetings were organised. In the second quarter, 7 community meetings, and 1 door to door meeting was organised. Showcased products made by women entrepreneurs in Shillong and conducted capacity building for 72 participants using Ms. Dawn Menske as the resource person.	106 victims of human trafficking were rescued this year. 75 cases were closed this year out of 126 total cases reported. We have extended protection in the form of rehabilitation to 20 victims, and also assisted 11 victims in going back to education (re-education).
Attended over 9 programmes to	Follow up with Impulse Press	Provided trainings to Meghalaya	INGON supported by CASA in order to	Livelihood initiatives in order to prevent unsafe

strengthen partnerships including with the US Consulate and the Ambassador of the United States of America.	Lab Fellows in India, Myanmar, and Nepal.	Police and North East Police Academy on handling human trafficking cases throughout the year.	support livelihood initiatives in the Garo Hills District, Meghalaya, to prevent unsafe migration and thereby stop human trafficking in this part by strengthening Impulse Model. We held one district level consultation on coordination of efforts followed by a 2 days training workshop in February 2020 in Taro. Following the lock-down imposed due to Covid 19, INGON with CASA has used social media (with 4430 followers on Facebook and 206 followers on Instagram) to create awareness. 1 - 2 posts are shared daily. A whatsapp group of participants who attended the February training in West Garo Hills has been created and information is shared on the group.	migration.
Partnered with Universities in Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh to create awareness on human trafficking amongst the youth.		Impulse NGO Network organized a Judicial Colloquium on the Role of the lawenforcement in combating human trafficking for over 100 participants.	Provided Resource assistance to the Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute for 10 sessions	Donated clothes to Shelter Homes in Meghalaya who are ICMC networking partners.
INGON has entered			Conducted a training	In November 2019, the

into a partnership with CASA and MATI for scaling up our work in the Garo Hills.			for women business entrepreneurs in Meghalaya on communication from 8-13 th August 2019 in Shillong. 15 participants were trained at the 5 day workshop which covered how to make a pitch, negotiation skills, leadership and team building.	Union Cabinet of India approved the India-Myanmar Agreement on Human Trafficking. INGON had worked on developing this Agreement and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) since the inception of the ING project in 2016. INGON developed a draft of the Agreement with technical support from the Thomson Reuters Foundation in 2016 and advocated with the MoWCD in New Delhi and Myanmar and the MoWCSC in Nepal for its signing.
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PREVENTION

Extending Legal and Para-Legal Assistance to Marginalised Persons excluded from the NRC

The process of forming a National Register of Citizens was specifically made for the state of Assam in the context of a high number of migrants from Bangladesh who settled in the State. The NRC is a register containing names of Indian citizens residing in Assam. The final list was published in August 2019, which was followed by protests as over 19 lakh residents were left out of the final list. This situation can fuel rise in distress unsafe migration and exploitation of those who are excluded from the list through human trafficking.

The process of drafting the NRC and exclusion on persons from the National Register has caused acute tension amongst persons scared of losing their citizenship and right to reside in India. Almost 70 cases of suicide have been reported in Assam due to distress over the NRC. Panic amongst those residing in Assam is natural, as documents expected as proof of citizenship are old documents that many people do not have. The proof of citizenship is dependent upon

proving the citizenship of ones parents, which is a difficult task due to the high rates of illiteracy that existed in Assam decades ago coupled with inadequate documentation maintained at that time.

INGON commenced a new project in 2019-2020 on extending legal and para legal assistance to marginalized persons who are excluded from the National Registration of Citizens (NRC) in the state of Assam. The aim of the project is to ensure capacity building of lawyers / para-legals who represent the marginalized excluded from the NRC, and speedy disposal of cases with quality assistance provided by lawyers and para-legal volunteers.

The project aims to provide legal and para legal help in six districts of Assam, namely, Cachar, Karimganj, Hailakandi, Nogaon, Barpeta, Cachar and Kokrjhar. INGON supported District Partner Barak Human Rights Protection Committee Cachar Silchar in order to implement the activities under this project.

In the course of this work, over 100 cases have been supported in the 6 districts and a majority of the support extended has been to single women (deserted women and / or unmarried women). Women who are born out of rape, or whose mothers were deserted by their partner following a promise to marry, and or women born in red light areas are vulnerable as they do not know who their father is and cannot provide his name. In some cases, the father (even if he is identified and produced before the courts) has turned hostile and refused to accept he is the father of the appellant. More women than men do not have access to any documents (such as proving land entitlement or bank account) and the NRC process is more difficult for women than men.

Impulse NGO Network has also approached the Supreme Court in a few cases of appeal. Due to Covid 19, the cases remain pending. Strategizing for filing a public interest litigation with other organizations is on the cards, however, this will be a long term process.

A draft training module has been developed under this project, and our objective is to gather feedback from trainers and trainees to finalize a training module. Secondly, our objective is to develop a strong working relationship between lawyers and para leagal volunteers in order to ensure both sufficient and qualitative legal support for those marginalized seeking legal redress. So far, Impulse NGO Network in collaboration with its state partner has implemented the following activities:

- **Community meetings** have been held in Cachar, Hailakandi, Barpeta, Nogaon and Kokrajhar where participants were informed about what is the NRC, the process of filing an appeal, documents required and counselling for dealing with anxiety relating to NRC (basic mental health counselling). **Four** para legal volunteers have been appointed and engaged for community engagement work by INGON. **28** community meetings have been organised so far, while 22 remain to be organised. Identification of families in need of legal aid along with distribution of awareness material. In this process, door to door visits were also organised.
- **A Draft Training Module** for lawyers has been prepared so as to ensure lawyers are aware of recent judgments, constitutional provisions, who the burden of proof lies on, documents required for appeal and other necessary tips for filing an appeal.
- **Four Training programme for lawyers and para legal volunteers** were held from 14th – 20th October in the selected districts and in total **76** lawyers and para legal volunteers took part in the workshop organised by us. The objective of (i) getting feedback for improving the training module; and (ii) for facilitating a working relationship between lawyers and the para legal volunteers was met.
- The Barak Human Rights Protection Committee has **identified two cases to be supported in the Supreme Court of India** by our Legal Consultant.

Immediate Emergency Response to Covid 19

Following the Covid 19 pandemic, INGON revised some of its activities in order to deal with the immediate aftermath of the impact of the pandemic. As meeting community members was not possible during the lockdown period, the use of Whatsapp, Facebook and Instagram was used to spread awareness on Covid 19, welfare schemes available and social distancing. INGON will be addressing the spread of Covid 19 by social media, and buying of radio air time in order to spread awareness.

An announcement has been made by the Government of India to extend the NRC to all States of India through the National Population Register (NPR). Hence the legal process involved in NRC in Assam (and gradually in other States of India) will continue. INGON's state partner

continues to extend legal support in NRC cases in the manner prescribed by courts during the Covid 19 outbreak.

Livelihood Initiatives in order to Prevent Unsafe Migration

Impulse NGO Network supported CASA in order to support livelihood initiatives in the Garo Hills District, Meghalaya, to prevent unsafe migration and thereby stop human trafficking in this part and strengthen Impulse Model. In 2019, INGON conducted an initial needs assessment survey of the the Garo Hills District (North and East Garo Hills), and as per our study, this area is prone to militancy, violence, shortage of health facilities and lack / improper implementation of government schemes.

The initial activities involved in this project have commenced. Identification of stakeholders in the Garo Hills District (such as youth groups, women's groups, NGOs and government officials) who can take the lead have been identified along with potential partners with whom to implement our activities. One training workshop was held in February in Taro, West Garo Hills. On 25th February, 2020, a District Level Consultation was organised in the West Garo Hills by INGON in collaboration with Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute MATI, Government of Meghalaya. Following this, a District Level Training Workshop was organised on 26th and 27th February 2020, to facilitate technical training and knowledge and provide assistance to cases under the mandate of various stakeholders participating in this workshop from the Government, Law Enforcement Agencies especially Anti Human Trafficking Unit, Civil Society Organisations, Village heads (Nokma), Women and Youth Leaders.



At the 25th February consultation, Ms. Hasina Kharbhih explained the roles of different stakeholders, Ms. Ivyreen Warjri, Assistant Director, Good Governance Cell, Meghalaya Administrative Training Institute, Government Meghalaya, highlighted the benefits of such discussions and new trends in human trafficking, while Advocate Saradeep Dey, Lawyer, Human Rights Law Network, Guwahati, spoke on the POCSO Act 2012, The Juvenile Justice Act 2015, The Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act, 1956 and salient provisions of the Cr.PC.

More such training workshops for two days each are planned under the project for the Nokma / Villagae heads, AHTU and law enforcement officials, government departments (covering 5 districts) and NGOs / CSOs (covering 5 districts).

100 copies of IEC material will be printed in the local language and disseminated. A three day capacity building training on livelihood and market access is also scheduled. Advocacy will form an integral part of this project, and INGON will spearhead a campaign on livelihood rights. Towards this, we have held meetings with the District Social Welfare Officer, District Medical Officer, Police, Principals of Government colleges, village heads and women's rights NGOs.

With the outbreak of Covid 19, the plan of action has been changed to take into account the need to work from home and inability to hold workshops and meetings during the time restrictions are in place. As part of prevention and livelihood activities, we plan to integrate women entrepreneurs with the "SheMeansBusiness" programme of Facebook and train them to sell products online. The workshop with Nokmas will be held both online and offline, and importantly, we plan to make a knowledge based documentary on the ICMC which can be screened in order to create awareness on the Impulse model.

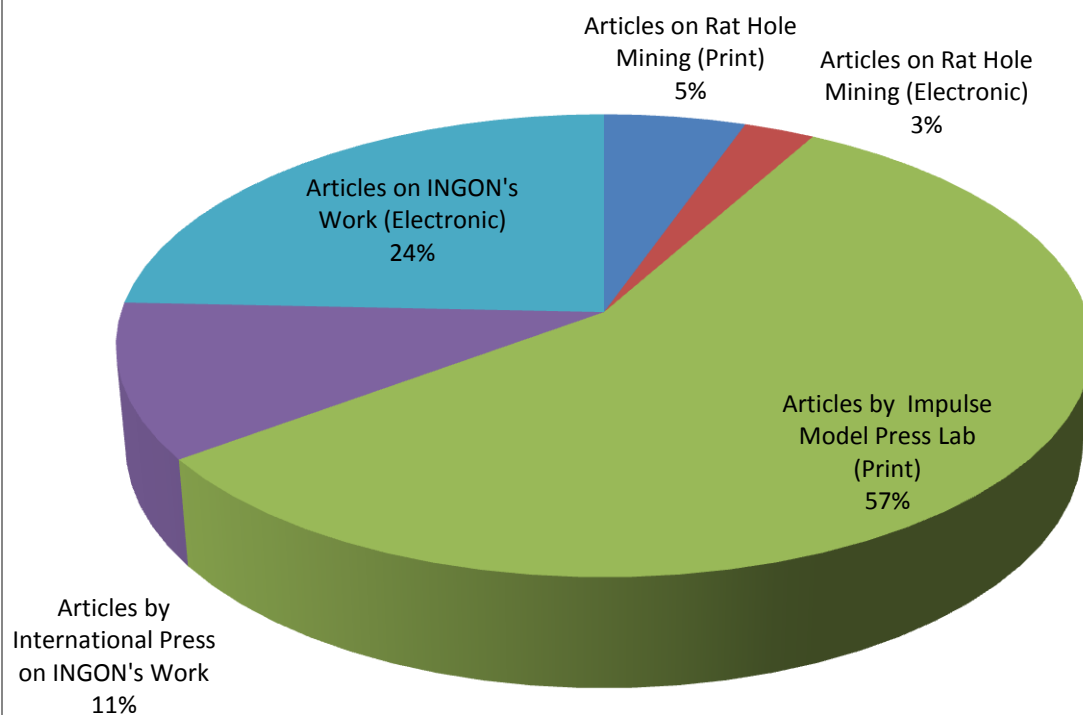
PRESS

Press Coverage of our Work

In 2017-2018, INGON launched the Impulse Model Press Lab. As part of this, we conducted trainings of selected Fellows from Nepal, India, Myanmar in December 2018. Impulse Model Press relation continue to grow over the years and the impact can be seen in coverage of our work and campaign against Rat Hole Mining in Meghalaya.

Reports on our work and campaign against rat hole mining for this year were covered by the following news agencies / online platforms:

Press Coverage of Work done by INGON: 2019-2020



Press Coverage of the Campaign against Rat Hole Mining in Meghalaya

Rat Hole Mining is a labor-intensive form of mining which involves digging narrow “rat-hole” sized tunnels, usually three to four-feet high, that workers enter to extract coal. In 2007, while investigating sex trafficking in the coal rich areas, Hasina Kharbhih discovered that children, due to their small size, are trafficked into Meghalaya for the purpose of Rat Hole Mining. In 2014,

Impulse Network, along with the All Dimasa Students Union, a civil-society organization in Assam, filed a petition in the NGT requesting a ban on rat-hole mining in Meghalaya, which resulted in an NGT order banning this practice. Despite the ban, illegal mining has carried on in Meghalaya.

In 2019-2020, the Impulse Model Press Lab worked on sensitizing the public on this issue and several reports have been published on rat hole mining in Meghalaya in various newspapers and other platforms (both national and international).

Some of the salient comments and observations made in the media reports include the following:

Rat Hole Mining

“Mining has impacted the air, water and forests in the East Jaintia Hills region. A report published in 1997 by the Meghalaya State Pollution Control Board on the environmental damage caused by coal mining in Jaintia Hills found the pH level in some rivers and streams to be as low as 2.4. The pH level is a measure of how acidic or basic water is. A lower pH value denotes higher acidity in the water. The report noted that acidic run offs from the coal-storage areas have affected the groundwater table.

Moreover, water has become a scarce commodity in the East Jaintia Hills. On the condition of anonymity, a local official told me that those who can afford it make a daily trip to Jowai—at least two–three hours away from the main mining towns—for clean water. Since there is barely any drinking water available in the coal mining areas, porters supply water from springs in the non-mining areas and sell it in villages and camps for migrant labor. According to a 2010 report by Impulse NGO Network and Aide ET Action, French non-profit that works on education, a 20 liter bucket of water costs Rs 10 and a drum of water Rs 500 in the region. Some of the water-merchants also run public baths, where they charge Rs 5 for having a bath—a significant amount for both locals as well as migrant laborers. Sometimes, people have to travel 10–15 kilometers to take a bath.”

Makepeace Sitlhou “A Journey inside Meghalaya’s Coal Mining Towns” 31st October 2019, The Caravan

On a judgment of the Supreme Court reviewing the ban on mining in the Jaintia Hills following the death of 16 persons due to illegal mining

“In its judgment, the Supreme Court remarked on the tragedy, noting that it had come despite the order banning illegal mining in the state. It also argued that Meghalaya had around \$60 million in unused funds for environmental protection and restoration related to mining. The court hoped that by reopening mining

officially this time under the laws of the central government rather than state edicts tragedy and waste could be avoided”.

“Return to the Rat Hole”, December 24th 2019, Foreign Policy

Interview with Ms. Hasina Kharbhih on her work

Q. When you decided to expose the atrocities of human trafficking, what were challenges you faced?

Breaking the nexus of a crime such as human trafficking which revolves around Mafias and networks of Mafias, I faced many challenges. Way back in 2009, I was threatened. My office was ransacked and I was even physically assaulted. In fact, my driver died on the spot.

I realized that when you break the nexus of the crime and when you break a business of crime which is feeding a 30-million-dollar business; it's a thing nobody in the business would be happy about. However, I think that being able to stand by and being able to say, no, I'll continue, was because of my determination.

At the same time, I will also say that, being a woman and doing what I was doing, it's a field where you have more men be it the crime-specific, engaging law enforcement or engaging border forces, this whole space is very men-oriented, it has fewer women so that itself was a gender struggle I had to face but I think I coped with it to prove a point. My actions spoke louder than my words but it took some time.

Hasina Kharbhih in conversation with Talks by the Fireflight, 4th August 2019

Cabinet approves India, Myanmar Agreement on Human Trafficking

An important press report was of the Cabinet approving the India-Myanmar Agreement on Human Trafficking. INGON has worked on developing this Agreement and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP):

“The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Myanmar on enhancing bilateral cooperation between each other for prevention of trafficking in persons.

The agreement will also strengthen the friendship between the two Asian countries and to increase bilateral cooperation on the issues of prevention, rescue, recovery and repatriation related to human trafficking.”

Big News Network, 27th November, 2019

Impulse Press Lab Fellows: India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Myanmar

The Impulse Press Lab is monitoring the work of its fellows from India, Nepal, and Myanmar who received a two day training programme in Yangon, Myanmar in December 2018. Karma Paljor, Team Leader, Impulse Press Lab, is mentoring the fellows, and stories that they will be publishing. Our Fellows are:

- Chandan Kumar Mandal, Sub-Editor/ Reporter The Kathmandu Post (Nepal)
- Pari Saikia, Principal Correspondent, Tehelka Magazine (India)
- Min Htet San (Myanmar)

Information and details about our Fellows are available on our website:

<https://www.impulsengonetwork.org/>

SERVICE LEVEL OUTCOMES OF THE 6 R'S

Over the past twenty seven years, the Impulse NGO Network has responded to over **72,795** cases of women and children trafficked in India and South Asia.

It is important to note that 2020 has been a turbulent and difficult year. The North East of India erupted with protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2020 and the National Registration of Citizens. The Covid 19 virus took the entire country by storm and Impulse NGO Network also went into a lock-down. For these reasons, the ICMC was not able to record and manage as many cases as we managed in 2018-2019.

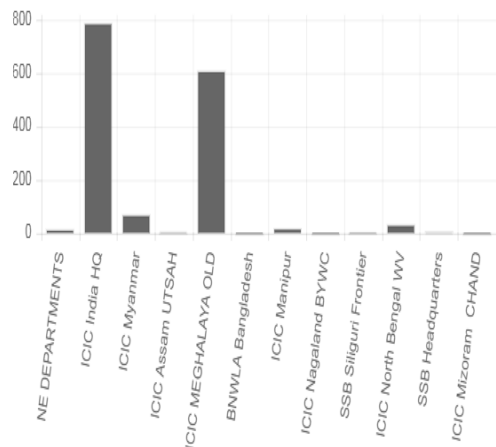
The numbers of cases we dealt with this year and support provided is as follows:

Impulse Case Info Centre Cases 2018-2019	Impulse Case Management Centre Cases 2019-2020
Cases Reported – 169 Victims- 122	Cases Reported – 126 Victims- 106
Cases Closed- 99	Cases Closed- 75
Victim Rescued- 261	Victim Rescued- 106
Victim Repatriation- 60	Victim Repatriation- 41
Victim Rehabilitation- 86	Victim Rehabilitation- 20
Victim Reintegration- 54	Victim Reintegration- 23
Re-Compensation- 2	Restitution
Re-Education-11	Re-Education-11

INGON has decided to change the term “re-compensation” to “restitution” as compensation denotes a limited transfer of resources lost by the victims due to the crime that took place; whereas restitution is broader and covers gains made by the trafficker to be awarded to the victims.

The Impulse Model has emerged from a process of using collective leadership. It is a shared process which is dependent on capacity development of stakeholders in both the transit destination and source areas of the region. The following table highlights the numbers of cases registered by other organizations:

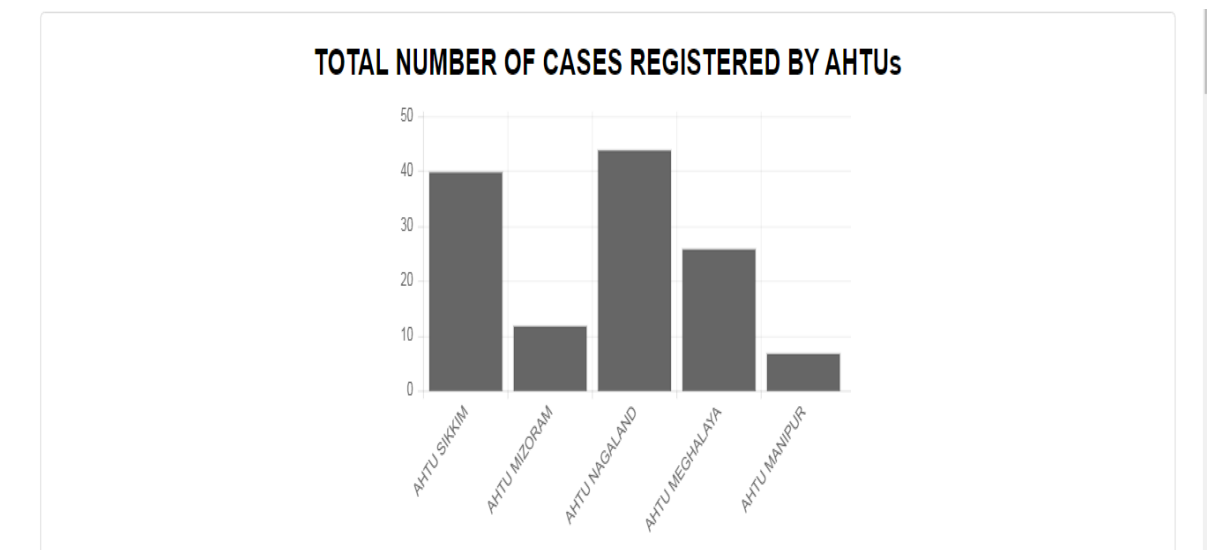
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES REGISTERED BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS



ICIC India – 788
 ICIC Myanmar -69
 ICIC Assam- 5
 ICIC Meghalaya Old- 609
 BNWLA Bangladesh -2
 ICIC Nagaland BYWC-2
 SSB Siliguri-4
 ICIC North Bengal-32
 SSB HQ-0
 ICIC Mizoram CHAN-0

The ICIC in Myanmar and BNWLA in Bangladesh have expanded their scope and are scaling up efforts in case management.

The number of cases registered by AHTU's is well over 100 cases, indicating strong systemic linkages between the ICIC and the government departments:



AHTU Sikkim: 40
AHTU Mizoram: 12
AHTU Nagaland: 44
AHTU Meghalaya: 26
AHTU Manipur: 7

Repatriation of 6 survivors of trafficking from India to Bangladesh

In 2018, our state partner in Chennai referred a case of 6 survivors of human trafficking from Bangladesh who were languishing in a shelter home in Tamil Nadu. The ICMC contacted BRAC in Bangladesh who conducted a home study and finalised the report, and also designed a counseling, rehabilitation and reintegration programme for the survivors.

On 16th June 2019, at Phulbari border, with cooperation from the Border Security Force of India and Border Guard at Bangladesh, the 6 survivors were repatriated, adhering to the Indo-Bangladesh SOP on repatriation. The team from Impulse NGO Network along with its local partners were present for the repatriation.

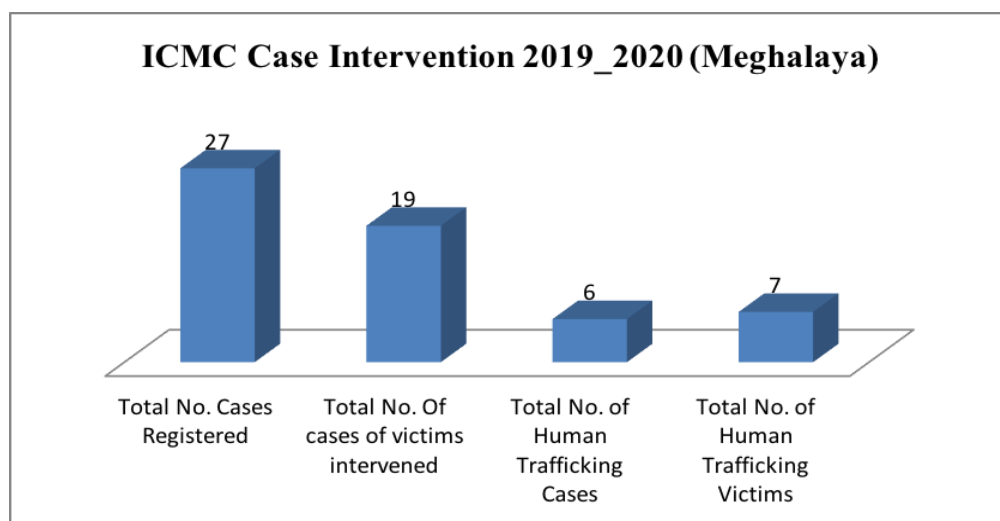
Continuous advocacy conducted by Impulse NGO Network in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Myanmar has led to the adoption of, and adherence to, SOPs on repatriation of survivors of human trafficking. Such SOPs minimise the burden placed on NGOs to facilitate repatriation and increase state accountability.



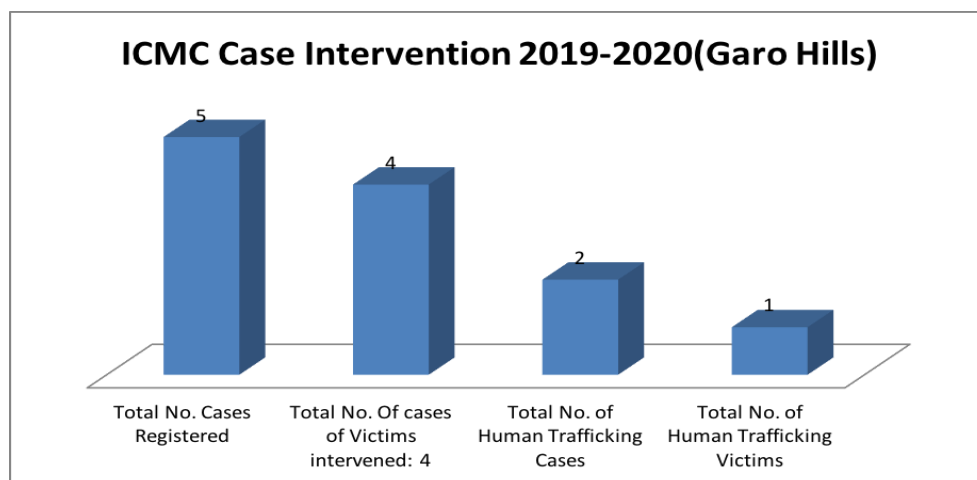
Border security forces of both India and Bangladesh along with members of Impulse NGO Network during the repatriation process of the six trafficked survivors

Case Management in Meghalaya

The Police Department in Meghalaya has collaborated closely with Impulse NGO Network for rescuing girls from the clutches of traffickers. From 1st April 2019 - 31 March 2020, ICMC in Meghalaya received 27 cases (inout of which we directly intervened in 19 cases. 4 cases of human trafficking were reported from the Garo Hills.



The ICMC has collaborated with the local police in the Garo Hills district and registered **five** cases from 1st July 2019 to 31st December 2019 in this area. Out of these, **two cases** related to human trafficking.



Phila

Phila (name changed), a young minor girl from the Garo Hills was trafficked to a notorious Red Light Area in Siliguri. She was rescued after three months by the ICMC in collaboration with our networking partner and is now in a shelter home.

As soon as the ICMC was informed that Phila is missing, we contacted the Superintendent of Police in Tura to ask if a case has been registered. The ICMC was informed that a case has been registered. We contacted our networking partner in Siliguri and prepared them to rescue the girl.

Our networking partner was able to locate and rescue Phila from the red light area. However, she said she was unwilling to return to Garo Hills. She realised it would be difficult for her to go back home and adjust again after her rescue. The legal formalities for her repatriation also had to be completed. The ICMC assisted Phila in communicating that she does not want to go back to the DSP Tura who asked for a formal letter. After discussing with our networking partner and the police, we requested our partner to help Phila reintegrate in the Garo Hills.

Phila is currently in a shelter home where she is receiving counseling. Her reintegration back to the Garo Hills will be monitored carefully.

UNSUCCESSFUL CASES

It is as important to document and highlight unsuccessful cases along with successful cases. The difficult cases draw attention to lacunae in duplication of action, by CSO law, implementation of policies and inadequate protection for victims of human trafficking.

Case 1

In this case, we were unable to repatriate a victim of human trafficking from Myanmar who came to Manipur. As she is mentally challenged, providing assistance to her has been very difficult.

Reporting of the case:

In August 2019, the ICMC received a call from our state partner in Manipur, New Life Foundation, requesting for assistance in repatriating a girl from Myanmar who has been rescued and is presently in a shelter home in Manipur.

Rescue:

ICMC followed up with the Embassy of Myanmar and with our Country Partner (YMCA) in Myanmar for her rescue. As the rescued girl is unable to provide any details about her family or where she comes from, YMCA was unable to do a background check. One of our Impulse Press Lab Fellows also tried speaking to her, however, she was unable to respond and provide answers. The child is mentally challenged and cannot provide clear details.

Repatriation was unsuccessful as we could not get sufficient details from the victim:

The Embassy of Myanmar has informed that form has to be filled up and submitted (in the local language) for her repatriation. While the form has been filled up, there is inadequate information we have been able to receive from the rescued child regarding her home, as well as no documents have been found on her. The child remains in the shelter home.

Case 2

In this case, family members are hesitating to file a missing persons complaint, thereby making police intervention difficult.

Reporting of the cases not done by close family members:

The ICMC has come to know that Jorhat in Assam is a destination district, and there are many cases of women who migrated for work but are now missing.

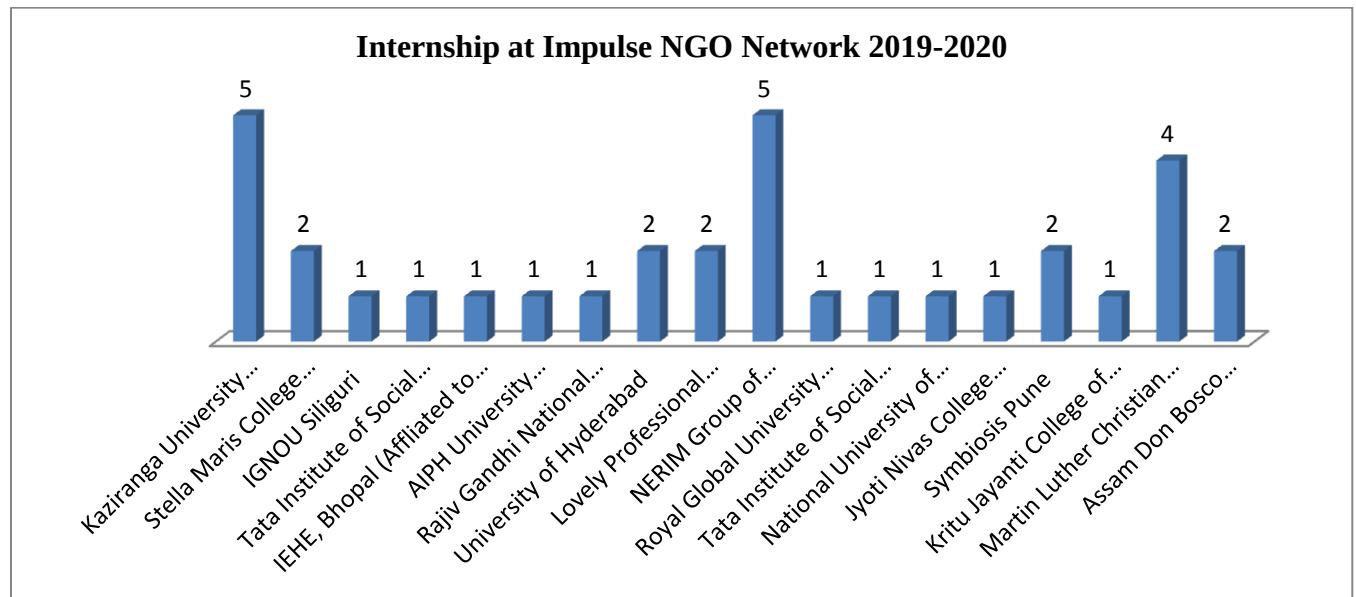
The ICMC contacted PRAYAS in New Delhi (our networking partner) for assistance in locating the missing women.

Unfortunately, the immediate relatives and family members of the missing women are hesitating to file a missing persons complaint as they are being told not to by their larger network of relatives. Fear of traffickers (who may be the distant relatives of the women) is probably a reason for non reporting of the cases. The immediate family members are also not providing information about where the woman may be.

TESTIMONIALS FROM OUR INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS

This year, INGON accommodated **34** interns and volunteers at our office.

The college / Universities where student interns and volunteers came from in 2019-2020 are as follows:



Our student interns come from all over India, including Chennai, Bangalore and Delhi. Student interns from TISS, Symbiosis as well as from law colleges have applied and worked at Impulse NGO Network as interns. This year, the maximum number of student interns and volunteers came from Kaziranga University (Jorhat, Assam), followed by NERIM Group Institution (Guwahati, Assam).

In order to apply for an internship at Impulse NGO Network, the applicant has to fill up an online form available on our website, <https://www.impulsengonetwork.org/volunteer/>. The management team thereafter selects students based on their qualification and level of interest in social issues.

In their feedback, almost all the interns mentioned that they learnt a lot about human trafficking and the vulnerable position of women and girls in particular to trafficking. Aran A Murry, Mhasezo Tetseo, Sunupienla, Kumusutoli Y Shohe, Noami Chisshi (Kaziranga University), Rini Elizabeth Babu, Srijana Rai (IGNOU), Saurabh Bharne (IEHE, Bhopal) all mentioned how much they got to learn about the issues of human trafficking as a result of the internship:

“The Internship at Impulse NGO Network exposed me to the grim realities of how human beings are subjected to violations of their rights. The platform taught me how demanding social service is.”

Rini Elizabeth Babu, Majoring in International Studies, Stella Maris College, Chennai

Our interns help in case management, including follow up of cases. They help in visiting shelter homes, slums, assist in ongoing programmes and also attend events on behalf of the organization.

Racheal Hujon, Abhimanyu Vardharajan (TISS, Mumbai), Firststar Syiemlieh (AIPH University), Lakum C Chang (Raji Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Tamil Nadu), Vaishall Das (University of Hyderabad), Ibahunlang Syiemlieh, Wanridahun Nongsiej (Lovely Professional University, Punjab) mentioned the practical skills developed as a result of the internship:

“I gained an opportunity to master new skills and learn from different experiences. I was constantly faced with challenging situation where I was made to critically assess the situation before engaging with them. This process pushed me out of my comfort zone and coerced me into learning new things at every juncture.”

Harvey Diengdoh, Hyderabad University

Several of the interns also praised the INGON team and in particular, working with Hasina Kharbhih was mentioned as a good learning experience. Lakhya Jeet Saikiya, Sumon Phukan, Jublina Medhi, Karuna Singh, Mercy Purty (NERIM Group), Veno Rudupra (Royal Global University, Guwahati), Kathy Z Gangmei (TISS, Hyderabad), Sukanya Kanikhar, Sharon Daisy Suchiang and Daphisha Suting (Master of Social Work) thanked the team at INGON and the Chair of Board . Hasina Kharbhih

“It has been a great opportunity for me to work with the organization’s team and the Chair of Board, Hasina Kharbhih Ma’am is an inspirational guide for me. Her passion and dedication towards work inspires me and gives me the confidence to work.”

Mercy Purty, North East Regional Institute of Management Group, Guwahati, Assam

We also hosted two law school interns this year who appreciated that legal knowledge is required in order to combat human trafficking:

“This Internship also awakened me to many issues regarding the status of women and children in our country, the legal framework in place to ensure their empowerment and sadly, its shoddy implementation.”

Akshay Narayanan, National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi

“I personally gained a lot of knowledge about the laws and even about the difficulties and the problems faced by the rescued people and the process of rescuing them.”

Rafiya Khan, Kritu Jayanti College of Law, Bangalore

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