

Congratulations!

The Frost & Sullivan Institute is proud to honor Hasina Kharbhih with this prestigious recognition for her exceptional foresight and innovative solutions to global Human Rights challenges. Her visionary leadership continues to inspire transformative change and advance a more sustainable future for all.

David Frigstad

Chairman, Frost & Sullivan
Executive Director, Frost & Sullivan Institute

Why Us?

Frost & Sullivan Institute recognizes leaders who not only achieve commercial success but also drive meaningful change across environmental, social, and technological domains. Our evaluation is backed by decades of industry expertise, global research, and a commitment to fostering leadership that creates inclusive and sustainable futures.

Why Now?

Human trafficking remains one of the most pervasive and complex forms of transnational crime, with the International Labour Organization estimating that nearly 50 million people globally are trapped in modern slavery, a significant proportion of whom are concentrated in the Asia-Pacific region. South Asia, Southeast Asia, and borderland regions such as the India–Bangladesh–Myanmar corridor are particularly vulnerable due to poverty, gender inequality, migration pressures, weak enforcement systems, and informal labor markets. Women and children are disproportionately affected, often trafficked for forced labor, domestic servitude, and sexual exploitation. Despite growing policy attention, anti-trafficking responses across South Asia remain fragmented, often focusing narrowly on rescue operations while neglecting prevention, survivor rehabilitation, and long-term reintegration. This creates systemic gaps where survivors remain vulnerable to re-trafficking, and justice systems fail to deliver accountability. In this context, the work of Hasina Kharbhih is especially critical. Her approach moves beyond reactive interventions to a comprehensive, systems-based framework that integrates prevention, protection, and economic empowerment. As governments and institutions increasingly recognize trafficking as both a development and security challenge, her model provides a scalable and cross-border solution aligned with the urgent needs of the APAC region.

About Frost & Sullivan Institute

The Frost & Sullivan Institute is a non-profit organization dedicated to leveraging business practices to address global priorities. Our mission "Innovating to Zero" focuses on driving innovations that eliminate critical challenges such as carbon emissions, food and water scarcity, poor healthcare access, and digital exclusion.

Visionary Leadership

Hasina Kharbhih has demonstrated transformative leadership in combating human trafficking across South and Southeast Asia, particularly in high-risk regions such as Northeast India. As founder of the Impulse NGO Network, she has pioneered a holistic, multi-stakeholder model that addresses trafficking not only as a criminal issue but as a systemic socio-economic challenge. Her leadership is especially significant in the APAC context, where trafficking networks operate across porous borders and exploit structural vulnerabilities such as unemployment, displacement, and gender-based discrimination. By designing and implementing the Impulse Model, she has created an integrated framework that bridges law enforcement, civil society, and community-level actors to deliver coordinated responses. Through partnerships with governments, international agencies, and grassroots organizations, she has demonstrated how localized interventions can be scaled regionally. Her model's adaptability across Northeast India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar highlights its relevance for other trafficking-prone regions. This leadership aligns strongly with the Frost & Sullivan Institute's emphasis on systemic, collaborative solutions that enhance human security and institutional resilience.

Recognition Criteria

- Innovation:** Hasina Kharbhih has pioneered the Impulse Model, a comprehensive anti-trafficking framework structured around the 6Ps, which includes partnerships, prevention, protection, policing, press, and prosecution. This model is distinctive in its systems-oriented design, ensuring coordination across multiple stakeholders to address trafficking at every stage. She further operationalizes this framework through the 6Rs, including reporting, rescue, rehabilitation, repatriation, reintegration, and restitution, which creates a full lifecycle approach to survivor support. Unlike conventional models that emphasize short-term rescue, her approach ensures long-term recovery, economic independence, and social reintegration. This innovation addresses critical gaps in South Asia's anti-trafficking ecosystem, where fragmented interventions often fail to deliver sustainable outcomes.
- Implementation:** Kharbhih has effectively institutionalized her model through the Impulse NGO Network, working closely with law enforcement agencies, government bodies, civil society organizations, and international partners. Her initiatives have been implemented across multiple states in Northeast India and extended to neighboring countries, demonstrating both scalability and cross-border applicability. Her implementation strategy emphasizes coordination between prevention, rescue, and rehabilitation systems, ensuring that interventions are not isolated but interconnected. By embedding partnerships at every level, she has created a sustainable operational ecosystem capable of responding to complex trafficking dynamics in real time.
- Impact:** Her work has supported more than 72,000 trafficking victims, providing rescue, rehabilitation, and pathways to reintegration. Beyond direct intervention, she has strengthened institutional systems that improve victim protection, access to justice, and long-term recovery. Importantly, her integration of livelihood generation into anti-trafficking efforts addresses one of the root causes of trafficking in APAC, which is economic vulnerability. By enabling survivors and at-risk populations to access sustainable income opportunities, her model reduces the likelihood of re-trafficking and contributes to broader socio-economic resilience.

Key Accomplishments

Development of the Impulse Model:

Designed a comprehensive anti-trafficking framework integrating prevention, protection, and prosecution through a coordinated multi-stakeholder approach.

Introduction of the 6Ps and 6Rs Frameworks:

Established structured methodologies that guide both systemic intervention and survivor rehabilitation across the trafficking lifecycle.

Large-Scale Victim Support:

Supported over 72,000 trafficking victims through rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration programs.

Cross-Border Implementation:

Extended anti-trafficking initiatives to Bangladesh and Myanmar, addressing the transnational nature of trafficking in APAC.

Institutional Partnerships:

Collaborated with governments, law enforcement agencies, and international organizations to strengthen anti-trafficking ecosystems.

Livelihood-Based Prevention Strategies:

Integrated economic empowerment programs to address root causes and reduce vulnerability to trafficking.

System Strengthening and Policy Influence:

Contributed to improving victim protection mechanisms, access to justice, and coordinated law enforcement responses.

Scalable and Replicable Model:

Demonstrated adaptability of her framework across diverse geographic and socio-economic contexts.

Conclusion

Research by the Frost & Sullivan Institute underscores that human security, inclusive growth, and institutional resilience are deeply interconnected, particularly in regions facing complex transnational threats such as human trafficking. The Institute's analysis highlights that effective responses must move beyond enforcement to incorporate prevention, economic inclusion, and survivor-centered systems. Hasina Kharbhih's work exemplifies this integrated approach. By developing a scalable, multi-stakeholder model that addresses the full lifecycle, she has transformed fragmented interventions into a cohesive system capable of delivering sustainable impact. Her emphasis on cross-border collaboration, livelihood generation, and institutional strengthening aligns directly with the Institute's focus on building resilient systems that protect vulnerable populations and promote inclusive development. In recognizing Kharbhih, we affirm her leadership in advancing a replicable framework that not only combats trafficking but also strengthens human dignity, economic security, and regional stability.

Innovation Focus

- Building Integrated Anti-Trafficking Systems:** Kharbhih's work bridges prevention, rescue, and rehabilitation into a unified 6Ps and 6Rs Frameworks which established structured methodologies that help in addressing systemic fragmentation in anti-trafficking responses. Frost & Sullivan Institute recognizes this as a critical advancement in strengthening coordinated security systems across vulnerable regions.
- Advancing Survivor-Centered and Economic Approaches:** By embedding livelihood generation into anti-trafficking strategies, she addresses economic vulnerability as a root cause. This aligns with the Institute's focus on inclusive growth as a pathway to long-term human security.
- Enabling Cross-Border Collaboration:** Her model operationalizes partnerships across national boundaries, tackling the transnational nature of trafficking networks. This contributes to regional stability and reflects the Institute's emphasis on collaborative, scalable solutions to complex global challenges.



"Hasina Kharbhih's work demonstrates that combating human trafficking requires integrated systems that address vulnerability, protect survivors, and enable long-term resilience. Her model offers a blueprint for sustainable, cross-border solutions in one of the world's most affected regions."

- Shreya Ghimire, Research Analyst, Frost & Sullivan Institute