



IOM Conducts Trainings on Migration, Human Trafficking, and the Smuggling of Migrants in Morocco

IOM concluded a series of training workshops on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants for civil society actors and representatives of the judicial system in Morocco. In total, close to 100 participants benefited from the training workshops.

The workshop held in Marrakech on 16 and 17 December 2013 is the last in a series of four which aimed to strengthen the capacity of different stakeholders to better address the problems associated with smuggling and trafficking in persons and to promote dialogue and cooperation on the issue of migration in the country. Specific trainings were conducted for civil society as well as representatives of the judicial system in order to sensitize civil society actors, prosecutors and judges to the issue and empower them to proactively identify cases of victims of trafficking, in addition to helping to ensure an adequate treatment of trafficking cases by the Moroccan justice system.

While Morocco's becoming signatory to the Palermo Protocol in April 2011 has constituted considerable progress in countering human trafficking, a study implemented by IOM Morocco and the Moroccan Ministry of Justice in 2009 highlighted the fact that Victims of Trafficking still lack substantive protection in Morocco. A comprehensive reform of migration policy has been announced in September 2013 but no national anti-trafficking legislation and protocols to proactively identify and refer victims among at-risk populations exist to date. Undocumented, foreign, trafficked migrants are particularly vulnerable as their precarious legal status leaves them few avenues to report crimes or to seek assistance.

Two seminars were organized on 22nd and 23rd November



Training participants © IOM 2013

2013 for civil society in two cities located in Northern Morocco (Nador and Oujda) with a large irregular migrant population, including victims of trafficking. During the trainings, participants were provided with an introduction to the concept of trafficking and its relationship to other phenomena, such as irregular migration and the smuggling of migrants. Aspects linked to the identification and protections of victims were also discussed. Participants included representatives of different local associations working with the irregular migrant population in Northern Morocco. Their participation contributed greatly to enrich the debate on the issue as well as the challenges of civil society while working on irregular migration and other migration-related issues more broadly.

The final two workshops were organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Liberties in the cities of Fez

(25 and 26 November 2013) and Marrakech (16 and 17 December 2013) mainly for the benefit of judges and prosecutors representing different regions of Morocco, as well as health professionals and members of the Gendarmerie and the Police. In addition to the topics discussed with civil society actors, the workshops provided an opportunity to discuss opportunities on how to proceed with regards to the prosecution of perpetrators under the current Moroccan legal framework. The workshops also covered lessons learnt and good practices on how to improve the protection of victims of trafficking in accordance with the law and consistent with international standards.

The seminars were conducted by local and international experts specialized in the field of trafficking and financed by funds received from the Governments of Germany and Italy.

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