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International Organization for Migration

the migration agency

NEWSLETTER

IOM COUNTER-TRAFFICKING PROGRAM IN CENTRAL ASIA

IOM Organizes Regional NGO Forum on Protection of Victims of Trafficking



In November 2010, IOM launched the regional component of the USAID-funded, three-year counter-trafficking project with a two-day NGO forum, "Protection of Victims of Trafficking: Best Practices and Lessons Learned." This forum was the second large-scale regional event on counter-trafficking organized by IOM in Central Asia: the first forum was held in Almaty in November 2009 dedicated to the prevention work of IOM's partner NGOs. Held in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan, this year's complementary forum focused on protection and brought together representatives of government, international organizations, mass media, and IOM's partner NGOs throughout Central Asia specialized in providing direct protection assistance to victims of trafficking (VOT).

The forum was opened by Minister Aigul Ryskulova of the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Migration of the Kyrgyz Republic. Minister Ryskulova underscored the importance of fighting human trafficking in the region and thanked IOM, USAID and NGO partners for their continued effort in this sphere. Other prominent speakers, including Ms. Inna Biryukova of USAID, and Mr. Zlatko Zigic and Ms. Agueda Marin of IOM, talked about the challenge of human trafficking in the region and the need for collaboration with important civil society partners. Mr. Zigic stated, "We will continue to work by way of mobilizing the governments, communities, private sector and individuals in what could be described as an anti-trafficking movement. This programme will be another step in expanding the scope and magnitude of our combined anti-trafficking efforts."

Throughout the two-day forum, the emphasis was on the active participation of the NGO partners to ensure that the event provided a means for them to exchange ideas, knowledge and experiences with each other. NGO representatives made presentations on best practices and lessons learned in shelter operations, and in rehabilitation and reintegration. They also worked in small group discussions to come up with recommendations and models for VOT rehabilitation and reintegration on the provision of legal advice, medical assistance, psychosocial assistance, vocational training and employment, and social acceptance of VOT by their communities. Key recommendations included: creating a cadre of professional psychologists to develop standards for providing psychological assistance to VOT; training medical workers on human trafficking issues; building capacity of partner organizations for conducting vocational and skills training for VOT; partnering with businesses and state structures; expanding counter-trafficking work with youth organizations; and continuing training programs for law enforcement agencies, judges, public prosecutor's office, lawyers and NGOs.

The NGO forum was a success, resulting in the achievement of many concrete recommendations on key aspects of VOT protection and demonstrating the strength of IOM's counter-trafficking system that is based on close collaboration with its NGO partners. Human trafficking is a complex problem that requires the participation of not only government and international organizations, but also civil society actors that are at the forefront of the fight. The IOM Central Asia Coordination Office thanks its NGO partners in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan for their active participation in the event and in their continued collaboration in the difficult fight against human trafficking in the region.

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LOCAL PROSECUTORS AND JUDGES LEARN TO IDENTIFY VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

In September 2010, IOM completed the implementation of the national project, "Trafficking in Persons in Kazakhstan: Capacity Building of Prosecutors and Judges to Combat Trafficking in Persons," funded by the INL and the US Embassy. The project was focused on building the capacity of prosecutors, judges and NGO partners as well as facilitating dialogue between law enforcement and NGOs in providing direct assistance to victims of trafficking.



The project partner agencies were the Supreme Court, the General Prosecutor's Office, the Institute of the General Prosecutor's Office as well as twelve NGO partners.

During twelve training events, 167 prosecutors and 205 judges—representing 10 oblasts as well as Astana and Almaty—received general information about the human trafficking situation in Kazakhstan and Central Asia, reviewed international and national legislations, improved their skills on how to identify victims of trafficking, and learned about state and international assistance programmes for victims.

By the end of the project, the training participants gave the following recommendations for improving national legislations, such as the imposition of criminal liability of legal entities involved in human trafficking, non-criminalization of victims of trafficking as well as provision of the right to legal employment for victims of trafficking during their participation in criminal proceedings. The recommendations were referred to the Supreme Court, General Prosecutor's Office and the Ministry of Interior for further actions.

Hotline in Kazakhstan

8000 8000 15 (landline)

11616 (mobile phones)



The human trafficking problem is increasingly becoming the center of attention not only of governments and international organizations, but also of civil society.

In the last few years many projects and research directed at combating human trafficking have been implemented in the Kyrgyz Republic. IOM's partner NGOs from all the regions of the republic that comprise IOM's extensive counter-trafficking NGO network were involved in the implementation of these activities.

Recently, a website for the NGO network was created in order to strengthen counter-trafficking efforts. This site allows users to learn more about the activities carried out by the NGOs. The site is interactive, enabling interested users to leave their comments or ask questions via the platform. This interactive feature of the website gives NGO partners the possibility to work in closer contact with each other, stay informed about the latest developments in the counter-trafficking area, and monitor the project implementation process.

The website features the following sections:

1. News
2. Hotlines providing detailed information about the

hotlines, including types of information available to callers..

3. Shelters: giving general information about shelters.
4. Information campaigns: detailing counter-trafficking information campaigns carried out in the Kyrgyz Republic.
5. Documents: summarizing most important legislative documents on combating human trafficking.
6. Videos: containing counter-trafficking video materials produced.
7. Success stories: detailing true stories of victims of trafficking, who received reintegration assistance from the IOM program.
8. NGO Network: listing the members of the NGO network and their contact details.

The creation of the website is also designed to make the information on NGO activities more accessible to state and law enforcement agencies as well as social services agencies, so that these agencies can be more actively involved in the prevention measures through information activities, and ultimately, contribute to the decision making process in the fight against human trafficking.

www.traffikunet.kg

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE TAJIK GOVERNMENT IN COMBATTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Dushanbe, Tajikistan, November 10, 2010 – IOM, with the financial assistance from the U.S. Government, supported the expansion of the activities of the National Anti-Trafficking Training Center under the Criminal Law Department of the Faculty of Law at the Tajik State University. U.S. Ambassador Ken Gross was at the opening ceremony of the expanded center, together with the First Deputy General Prosecutor of the Government of Tajikistan, Abduqodir Muhammadiev, and IOM Chief of Mission Zeynal Hajiyev.



Working with Tajikistan's Inter-Ministerial Commission on Combating Trafficking in Persons, the Project addresses human trafficking through training for law enforcement officers and university students on how to investigate, prosecute, convict and punish traffickers. At the ceremony, Ambassador Gross voiced the U.S. Government's strong commitment to fighting forced labor, sexual exploitation and modern-day slavery worldwide.

He stated that "solving this crime is not easy. It requires close cooperation of law enforcement and government officials. This center is designed to improve these efforts." He commended the Government of Tajikistan for its achievements in fighting this crime. "As we look ahead, this training center will be a place for active inquiry, for discussion and research, for lectures and seminars, and for collaborative programs with educational institutions and state structures," said Mr. Hajiyev of IOM Tajikistan.

**Hotline in
Tajikistan**

+ 918 85 34 34

TRAINING THE NGO NETWORK IN TURKMENISTAN ON IDENTIFICATION OF AND PROVISION OF DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

On October 2-3, 2010 in Turkmenbashi city, IOM conducted another training for the representatives of NGOs and public organizations in Turkmenistan. The training was aimed to increase the capacity of NGOs and public organizations in establishing effective cooperation within the counter-trafficking NGO network, preventing and combating human trafficking, and in particular, identifying and providing direct assistance to victims of trafficking.



During the training, special attention was paid to the role of NGOs and public organizations in identifying and providing direct assistance to victims of trafficking, the main principles in providing medical and psy-

chological assistance to victims of trafficking, the provision of legal redress and consultations, and opportunities for labor reintegration of victims of trafficking. The discussions enabled the participants to share information and discuss specific areas of cooperation within the framework of the NGO network, including implementing information campaigns and assisting victims of human trafficking. One of the main results of the training was the development of the network membership criteria, including basic principles and indicators for measuring success of network activities. Today, the NGO network consists of 15 NGOs and public organizations from five *velayats* of the country.

According to participant feedback, the training provided them with an opportunity to increase their knowledge and skills on the best practices and experiences for effective cooperation with the members of the NGO network in reintegrating victims of trafficking. In general, participants emphasized that the knowledge they gained at the training could be applied in practice to help victims of human trafficking and organize information activities on preventing the phenomenon.

**Hotline in
Turkmenistan**

+ 99 312 463514

UZBEKISTAN: TOT TRAINING “YOUTH AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING”

On November 12-14, 2010, a training of trainers (TOT) entitled “Youth against Human Trafficking” was conducted in Tashkent. The TOT was aimed at acquainting young volunteers from nine regions of Uzbekistan with the problem of human trafficking and preparing a team of volunteer trainers for conducting future seminars on this topic. This was also a chance for young trainers’ participation, who passed a similar TOT two years ago .

The young participants learned about the information campaigns, conducted in the framework of the USAID regional counter-trafficking project. They also received information about the joint activities with the mass media and watched counter-trafficking video materials from the archives of the NGO “Istiqbolli Avlod” in Tashkent.

Through a range of interactive methods the young participants learned about various aspects of the human trafficking problem, including national and international legislations on this

issue, the problem of identifying victims, challenges of conducting investigations on trafficking cases, and the problem of stigma and stereotyp-



ing of trafficking victims. The participants learned about these issues through role plays , group work, presentations, and contests. The methodology for conducting various types of training was thoroughly studied by the participants. The event resulted in the preparation of a new team of trainers who will conduct future seminars entitled “Youth against Human Trafficking”.



**Hotline
in Uzbekistan**

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DIRECTORY OF CENTRAL ASIAN NGOS IN COUNTER-TRAFFICKING



In an effort to compile and catalogue information about the members of IOM's Central Asia Counter-Trafficking NGO network, a directory of NGOs working in counter-trafficking in the region was recently developed.

The directory contains basic information about the member NGOs, including their contact details, mandate, organizational history and implemented projects.

It is hoped that the development and distribution of the directory among the NGO network will lead to better cooperation and exchange of information among the NGOs, and strengthen the VOT regional referral mechanism.

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**or
189**

(within the country)

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Lending a Hand, We Create Good

Oksana is a lonely single mother, bringing up her daughter all alone. She only completed middle school and could not move on to high school because she did not have the financial means to do so. For a long time, she tried to earn a living and work as a cleaner, dishwasher, seller in the market, but it was not enough to support her family.

One day, one of her acquaintances suggested her to go to Turkey, promising her a very good job without any expenses from Oksana's side. The acquaintance even bought her tickets.

There was another girl who left for Turkey together with Oksana. At the airport the two were met by a man who brought them to a big private residence. As soon as they arrived the man explained to the girls that he had bought them and that they should work off the money he had spent on them by rendering sexual services to clients. The man ordered them to work in «full contact», serve unlimited quantity of clients, and fulfill all their desires.

Of course, Oksana refused. The consequences of her refusal were cruel: her passport was taken away, and she was beaten and locked in a room without food for several days. Periodically, unknown men came into the room to beat and rape her. Her despair forced her to obey and work for the exploiter.

For 3 months Oksana was forced to provide sexual services to clients. She constantly thought about how to return home. By pure accident, one of her clients decided to help her: he helped her escape and gave her money, allowing Oksana to return home.

As soon as she returned home, Oksana called IOM's hotline to ask for help. Within the framework of IOM's reintegration program, she received psychosocial, medical and educational assistance. After psychotherapy she felt much better: her mood and outlook on life improved and she started to plan for her future. After a medical check-up, she also received necessary medical treatments.

Oksana expressed interest in learning how to sew. Upon completion of short-term sewing classes, she received a certificate. A sewing machine was bought for her. Currently, she is working for one of the sewing factories in her city and earns enough for a living. She also makes extra money on the side sewing on order.

Today, Oksana is trying not to remember the difficult days of her past. She is working, viewing the future with confidence. She has a daughter who is growing by the day and Oksana plans to give her a good education.

Oksana maintains contact with the staff of the organization, which she turned to for help, and she keeps thanking them for all the great things they did for her.

IOM's counter-trafficking program in Central Asia is generously supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. State Department International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Bureau (INL).

