

GLOBAL EYE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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The Causes and Consequences of Re-Trafficking

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A woman was assisted by an international NGO after her first trafficking experience. She recalls being assisted to find employment in her country of origin, but was not able to find any. She enrolled in a computer course but was unable to finish as she had no money to continue paying the course fees. She later made the decision to migrate again. Faced with a lack of safe and legal migration channels, she contacted local smugglers to assist her in her journey. She was later re-trafficked into the sex industry by these individuals.

Although there is a consensus among international organizations, governments and academics regarding the seriousness and significance of the re-trafficking of persons as a problem, there has been very little research conducted into its incidence, cause(s) or consequence(s). Most discussions and information relating to re-trafficking are anecdotal and research findings, where they exist, are few in number.

Where re-trafficking is discussed within the literature, it is often in relation to concern over links between re-trafficking and deportations and/or reintegration projects, although much empirical research regarding the exact nature of the relationship between these remains elusive. It is apparent, from those studies that have analysed rates of re-trafficking, that it is a substantive issue and one which has implications for policy makers and those who work with victims of trafficking (VoTs).

Existing research has found a wide range of factors contributing to the re-trafficking of persons. The following commentary provides a summary of key findings taken from the paper "The Causes and Consequences of Re-Trafficking: Evidence from the IOM's Global Human Trafficking Database"¹ to be published as part of the IOM Counter-Trafficking Management Thematic Research Series². The paper explores the issue of re-trafficking through a qualitative analysis of 71 identified re-trafficking cases

within the IOM's Global Human Trafficking database³ based on data collected by IOM field missions where screening and assistance interviews were conducted with VoTs. Surveys have also been carried out through IOM field missions on the causes and consequences of re-trafficking.

According to this research, it is often difficult to separate the causes of re-trafficking from the wider causal factors of trafficking, in which a well documented and broad range of socio-economic factors intersect and interact. The return of VoTs to similar socio-economic circumstances as those that contribute to their being trafficked in the first instance has been found to substantially factor in the re-trafficking of persons.

In addition, IOM research shows the effects of trafficking experiences to be far reaching, and to often continue after exit and/or upon return to the country of origin; thus, trafficking survivors are frequently left more vulnerable to subsequent trafficking. This is especially the case when debts are "owed" to traffickers or others, when there is difficulty integrating back into communities due to the stigma associated with being trafficked, or when traffickers continue to threaten VoTs or their families. Re-trafficking may also occur when VoTs again desire/attempt to re-migrate from their countries of origin and when there exists a lack of safe and legal migration channels.

According to the sample analysed, groups appearing most vulnerable to re-trafficking are women, children and young adults; VoTs under the age of 18 are highly vulnerable to being re-trafficked as adults. VoTs are especially at-risk immediately after having exited a trafficking situation and en route to receiving assistance; they are frequently re-trafficked within two years, or less of exiting their previous trafficking situation. (Continued on p.4)

1 Authored by Alison Jobe

2 Drawing upon non-personal data held within the Global Human Trafficking Database, the IOM Thematic Research Series will specifically address contemporary issues in the area of human trafficking. The reports will be published in 2008 and will be available via www.iom.int.

3 The IOM database constitutes the only global database on human trafficking containing primary data about trafficked persons. It must be noted that the IOM database contains only identified and assisted cases, with an unknown number of victims unidentified and unassisted. It, therefore, does not represent the full scope of trafficking in a country. In spite of these issues, the IOM database is a rich source of information on human trafficking.

The Strategic Role of Religious Personnel

by Stefano Volpicelli

Human trafficking is a complex phenomenon that is related to several issues such as human rights, economic policies, ethnic and social conflicts and gender relationships. In order to better prevent trafficking and assist its victims, various professional figures need to be involved. Alongside physicians, psychologists, sociologists, media experts, educators and social workers, religious men and women have steadfastly supported projects to deal with the scourge of trafficking in human beings from the very outset of counter-trafficking actions. These religious persons - often silently - have been playing an important role in the implementation of a pluralistic strategy, either individually or in partnership with Governmental and Non-Governmental agencies.

Religious women have been key players in assisting and sheltering victims of trafficking in countries of origin, transit and destination. They have helped them to recover through trainings and family tracing. Religious men have not only been involved in awareness raising activities but also have served as advisors for religious believers, giving guidance on adhering to religious precepts in making everyday life decisions.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Rome has been entrusted with the design and presentation of a training programme¹ to provide religious personnel with the opportunity to hone their practical skills in preventing and raising awareness on trafficking and in assisting its victims.

This programme's focus on religious personnel has been an innovative opportunity not only because it professionalizes the contribution of religious personnel, but also because it illustrates partnership between religious congregations and local and international representatives of civil society.

Catholic women were first targeted because many of them were already active in the field of trafficking and only needed to improve their skills by adopting a method of work that would help them in networking with other religious personnel and agency professionals.

In the past four years, IOM has trained more than 350 sisters in Italy, Albania, Romania, Nigeria, Thailand (and Cambodia), the Dominican Republic, Brazil, Portugal (involving participants from the Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa), the Philippines (involving Australian and Southeast Asian participants) and South Africa (involving Southern African participants)². Each training session has been coupled by follow-up initiatives aimed at setting up a network of sisters to collaborate with local IOM missions; so far, three networks have been formally established (in Brazil, Dominican Republic and the Philippines) and are currently operating in the field.

After having successfully carried out training for religious women, the programme is now shifting towards religious males. A set of proposals have been drafted and are in the process of being introduced to and discuss with selected representatives of

Christian, Muslim, Hebraic and Buddhist faiths. IOM collaboration with the (Catholic) Union of Superior Generals and the Islamic Education Scientific and Cultural Organisation is already underway.

In many countries, religious males already hold these responsibilities. They are consulted on the plans of aspiring migrants and by migrants already in the country of destination. They help migrants to understand their host countries, facilitating their inclusion and integration processes. Since trafficking can be defined as a pathogenic form of migration, it seems natural to involve religious males and take advantage of their abilities to educate and counsel. The programme will be tested in 2008 through various seminars in Morocco, Libya and Italy.

The programme is based on the spiritual and educational commitment of the religious personnel involved. It can be developed on three levels:

- At the **individual level**, the religious worker advises people who plan to migrate abroad and helps trafficked victims to recover from their experience. Faith is a powerful media to foster new hope and regain human dignity.
- At the **community level**, the religious worker can act as a guide and gather migrants who are moved by the same religious faith. Supporting them spiritually, (s)he helps them achieve successful social integration abroad, or back in their place of origin.
- At the **social level**, the religious worker's role is to educate the community at large on how to take on the problem and go beyond individual cases. In this regard, it is helpful for the religious worker to undergo an introspective process, in order to be able to assist others with emotional detachment.

Within the framework of the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking Vienna Forum, which took place on 13-15 February 2008, an IOM special event gathered religious leaders from four different religions to discuss their role in the fight against human trafficking.



Rabbi Levi D. Lauer, Executive Director of ATZUM-Justice Works in Israel; Ms. Mariah Ulfah Ansor, Member of Parliament and chairperson of Fatayat NU, part of one of the largest Muslim faith based organizations in Indonesia; Fr. Vasile Ciobanu, manager of a project to prevent trafficking in persons and rehabilitate victims in Moldova.

¹ The project "Counter-Trafficking training programme for the religious personnel" is carried out by IOM Rome in partnership with the International Union of Superiors General.

² Another training session has already been scheduled in 2008 in Senegal for the Francophone sisters of West Africa.

Interview with Indonesian Police Officer on the Situation of Human Trafficking in her Country

Mulyawati Syam, Adjunct Commissioner of Indonesian National Police Unit 3, Counter Trafficking Unit.
Interview by Fitriana Nur, International Organization for Migration in Jakarta

How did you first get involved in counter-trafficking efforts?

I was initially attached to the Police Drug Unit and during my service there I met with many child victims. I was directly assigned [to the Counter-Trafficking Unit] even though I didn't have any basic knowledge on trafficking. After undergoing three rounds of training, I was already able to handle a case.



Mulyawati Syam,
Adjunct Commissioner

What was your motivation to get involved in counter-trafficking?

I would say that the motivation that drove me was the fact that the police tend to approach a case by focusing their efforts on finding the perpetrator - finding and punishing the criminals. But rarely do they think of the need to avoid re-victimizing the victims. I realized that women and children cannot be examined using conventional investigative methods.

A more comprehensive approach must be employed as victims should be interviewed, not interrogated - victims should have time to rest and recover before these interviews.

Based on your experience handling trafficking cases, what is the situation of human trafficking in Indonesia? Could you share a bit about your cases throughout 2007?

Throughout 2007, there has been a rise in terms of the number [of cases of trafficking]. But I think it is more important to talk about how seriously we can respond to the issue; about how investigators involved in such crimes can enhance their investigative skills.

Speaking as a trainer, I would say that the training programs given to police officers and prosecutors have significantly contributed to improvements in the case investigations. For example, in the past when investigating a rape case in Kalimantan, investigators would try to charge the perpetrator for rape. But today, with all the new knowledge that [the investigators] have acquired, criminals can be charged with multiple crimes, such as kidnapping, removing a victim by force, and using threat of force.

So, there has been quite an improvement shown by investigators in 2007 as a result of trainings given in the previous years.

Secondly, and more importantly, is the enhancement of coordination between the police and prosecutors - because what good will strong police work be if prosecutors are not aware of the issues? Many cases would fail to be tried before the court.

What do you think about Indonesia's new Anti Trafficking law?

I think the spirit of the law is very good. It is also important to think of ways to give teeth to the law, how to make it practical. Training and dissemination of the law must be priority.

You have met with many victims, women and children, each with their own traumas and injuries. How important is the Recovery Center and its facilities for victims?

Its importance can never be overstated. It is not sufficient for trafficking victims to be given physical treatment only or counseling only. Both must be administered together.

In my opinion, the Recovery Center's function has undergone a development: it does not only provide medical or psychological rehabilitation anymore. It now functions as some sort of home for trafficking victims, where they will not be harassed, where they can decide when to go out and with whom they will meet.

Based on the many victims you have met, are there many who have experienced serious medical or psychological conditions?

Their medical and physical ailments are apparent. The most severe physical conditions that I have seen recently are the sexually transmitted diseases that the victims have. Some trafficked migrant workers also suffer severe physical abuse. But the victims who stick most in my mind are those who are psychologically traumatized.

I have investigated trafficking cases from across Indonesia and in several Southeast Asian countries and this is the only guideline that I take with me everywhere: Don't force a person. In a trafficking case you are dealing with a suffering person. And the victims are the ones who have the full details of the crime, from beginning to end.

POP-ICON AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

INITIATIVES

In December 2007, IOM Moscow, in cooperation with documentary and advertising design studio Rotox, completed a counter-trafficking Public Service Announcement (PSA)¹ featuring famous Russian pop-singer and artist, Valeria.

As Valeria was physically abused by her former husband/producer, her experience led her to become a vocal opponent of all forms of violence against women.

This awareness raising PSA about the existence of human trafficking in Russia demonstrates her willingness to share IOM's commitment to help hundreds of victims of human trafficking.

The TV spot particularly targets young people, including potential victims of trafficking and socially vulnerable persons. It is available in several versions, free of charge, at www.no2slavery.ru/files/rolik.mpg.

Valeria is the first Russian celebrity to have participated in counter-trafficking information dissemination activities of this kind.



SPORTING EVENTS AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In Switzerland, 25 women's and men's organizations, human rights organizations, gender equality offices, counseling centers, faith organizations and trade unions have together launched the Euro 08 campaign against Trafficking in Women. The campaign focuses on raising awareness on the trafficking of women in Switzerland and on mobilizing the public in preventing its occurrence during the European football championships of June 2008. This will be carried out through a TV spot, internet website and distributed information material and through the gathering of (at least 25,000) signatures to a petition calling for enhanced protection of victims of trafficking and the strengthening of their rights.

Previous investigation on whether there is evidence to suggest that trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation increases during major events was undertaken by IOM on the 2006 World Cup in Germany.

Findings¹ with regard to an actual increase in trafficking were inconclusive. It quickly became evident that the previously anticipated estimate of 40,000 foreign or forced prostitutes allegedly to be brought to Germany to meet the demand for sexual services during the event was unrealistic and unfounded hype.

Recommendations are provided in the 2006 World Cup report to help combat trafficking in persons during similar major events and to provide a tool for future event organizers, policymakers and relevant authorities and NGOs: An early and reliable situation assessment in cooperation with local experts from the police, international organizations and NGOs is extremely important. A coordinated media approach to disseminate the facts from the hype is essential. Organizations should avoid using valuable resources for counter-trafficking measures solely within the context of major events. All campaigns and projects should be launched with a view to their sustainability. And one large, comprehensive and professionally organized campaign

covering different target groups, and with an overall consistent message, is more effective than the combination of several separate campaigns.

The report further states that practical assistance to victims of trafficking, effective transnational investigation and prosecution, as well as dealing with the causes of human trafficking in countries of origin should not be neglected and that information campaigns are important, but can never in themselves constitute the sole and effective solution to modern slavery.

The 2006 World Cup's focus on trafficking for sexual exploitation contributed to a narrow perception of the issue by many commentators and observers. The report further recommends that future event organizers and host cities widen the scope of counter-trafficking activities linked to major events to include forced labour, criminal activities and begging, and advocate more strongly for adequate reporting by the media as to the true nature and scope of trafficking.

Regardless of the limited existing evidence on the link between such large-scale sporting events and increased incidences of human trafficking, it seems countries hosting recent and upcoming international sporting events are taking this issue seriously. In preparation for the 2012 Olympics in London, for instance, a new Assistant Commissioner has been selected by the Metropolitan Police as head of security of the Games to deal with terrorism threats, human trafficking, illegal construction workers and counterfeit operations. In regard to the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver, the Future Group has published the report, "Faster, Higher, Stronger: Preventing Human Trafficking at the 2010 Olympics" which examines the human trafficking experience of countries that have recently hosted international sporting events, and makes recommendations in preparation for the upcoming event.²

1 Published in *Trafficking in Human Beings and the 2006 World Cup in Germany*, a report which can be found on IOM's website:

www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/offonce/pid/1674;jsessionid=5C5034CDD54EB238B3A23D49F73210D.worker02?entryId=13994

2 *Faster, Higher, Stronger: Preventing Human Trafficking at the 2010 Olympics*, available for download at www.thefuturegroup.org

When Victims of Trafficking are Re-Trafficked (Cont. from p.1)

FEATURE

Where re-trafficking occurs it may be to a different destination or for a different purpose of exploitation on each occasion. Research revealed a cross-over between international and internal trafficking, with survivors appearing to be potentially more vulnerable to internal trafficking on return to their countries of origin from a trafficking situation.

Addressing the wider economic and social problems that impact upon trafficking in countries of origin may be, in some cases, beyond that which current reintegration or monitoring programmes can deliver. Reintegration is frequently unsustainable where there is poverty, a severe shortage of viable employment and education opportunities and where it is consequently considered necessary (despite knowledge and /or experiences of the risks of trafficking) for people to migrate through unsafe and/ or irregular channels.

Where reintegration programmes are short-term, offer insufficient funds to complete educational or vocational courses, or are unable to assist in finding sustainable employment for survi-

vors, meaningful reintegration is significantly less likely to be successful. There is therefore a need to address the wider socio-economic circumstances within which trafficking and re-trafficking take place, as well as to further develop existing reintegration and assistance programmes.

Recommendations

- A **wider debate** on the exact meaning of the term "re-trafficking" is needed to establish consistency when identifying re-trafficking victims and to assist in making accurate quantitative estimates of the problem.
- There is a need for **more considered and longer-term assistance** than what currently exists, especially where a VoT has returned to their country of origin.
- It is necessary, when developing anti-trafficking strategies, to: **address both gender and ethnic inequalities** underpinning trafficking and re-trafficking situations **and the local and global contexts in which those inequalities exist**; to facilitate safe migration practices; and also to **extend assistance, reintegration and monitoring programmes to VOTs**.

Entry into Force of Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings: 1st February 2008

On 24 October 2007, the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings received its tenth ratification, thereby triggering the process by which it entered into force on 1 February 2008 for the first ten countries to ratify it: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Georgia, Moldova, Romania and Slovakia. It enters into force with regard to Bosnia and Herzegovina, France, Malta and Norway on 1 May 2008.

The Convention has also been signed, but not yet ratified by 24 other member states and further ratifications are expected in the coming months. The Convention is not restricted to Council of Europe member states; non-member states and the European Community also have the possibility of becoming Party to the Convention.

Scope of the Convention

The Council of Europe Convention is the first international legally binding instrument which affirms that trafficking in human beings constitutes a violation of human rights. It is also the first European treaty in this field. The Convention is a comprehensive treaty focusing mainly on the protection of victims of trafficking and the safeguard of their rights. It also aims to prevent trafficking and to prosecute traffickers. In addition, the Convention provides for the setting up of an effective and independent monitoring mechanism capable of controlling the implementation of the obligations contained in the Convention.

The Convention applies to all victims of trafficking: women, men and children; it addresses all forms of exploitation: sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, etc; and it covers all forms of trafficking: national and transnational, related or not to organised crime.

Measures provided by the Convention

- Awareness-raising for persons vulnerable to trafficking and actions aimed at discouraging “consumers” are among the main measures to prevent trafficking in human beings.
- Victims of trafficking must be recognised as such in order to avoid police and public authorities treating them as illegal migrants or criminals.
- Victims of trafficking will be granted physical and psychological assistance and support for their reintegration into society. Medical treatment, counselling and information as well as appropriate accommodation are all among the measures provided. Victims are also entitled to receive compensation.
- Victims are entitled to a minimum of 30 days to recover and escape from the influence of the traffickers and to take a decision regarding their possible cooperation with the authorities. A renewable residence permit may be granted if

their personal situation so requires or if they need to stay in order to cooperate in a criminal investigation.

- Trafficking will be considered as a criminal offence: traffickers and their accomplices will therefore be prosecuted.
- The private life and the safety of victims of trafficking will be protected throughout the course of judicial proceedings.
- Possibility to criminalise those who use the services of a victim if they are aware that the person is a victim of trafficking in human beings.
- Possibility of not imposing penalties on victims for their involvement in unlawful activities, if they were compelled to do so by their situation. The setting up of an independent monitoring body capable of controlling the obligations contained in it. To this end, within one year of the entry into force, the Council of Europe will set up the Group of Experts on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), formed by ten to fifteen experts.



The entry into force of the Convention also marks the end of the Council of Europe Campaign to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, launched in 2006 under the slogan “Human beings – not for sale”. A total of 41 member states participated in one or more of the eleven regional information and awareness raising seminars which were organised to highlight the measures which can be taken to prevent this new form of slavery; to protect the human rights of victims and; to prosecute the traffickers and their accomplices. The seminars were attended on average by 100 to 150 participants, representatives from governments, national parliaments and non-governmental organisations.

Source: Council of Europe, www.coe.int/trafficking

Human Trafficking and the Legal System in Thailand

In August 2007, the Human Rights and Development Foundation (HRDF) initiated a working group of Thai lawyers who have pursued cases of severe labour exploitation and trafficking. These lawyers have made remarkable advances in prosecuting human trafficking through various means with the existing Thai criminal and civil laws, which do not yet include anti-trafficking legislation in compliance with the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons.

In the absence of comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation, active pursuit of labour trafficking has required the hard work of resourceful and inspired lawyers finding innovative solutions through alternative Thai laws.

A prime example of such innovation is the first successful prosecution using the fifty-year-old anti-slavery legislation in Thailand in April 2007, led by lawyer Sirivan Vongkietpaisan.

This case brought to justice a family who trafficked and brutally abused their Thai domestic servant. While some authorities originally interpreted the legislation to require the victim to have been literally chained to her work, this landmark case brought the court to judge that slavery does not require a victim to be kept in shackles.

In response to requests made by the United Nations and other international organizations for greater support in the fight against trafficking in persons, Thailand drafted an anti-trafficking bill which will take effect on 5 June 2008 as the country's first comprehensive anti-trafficking law.

International groups have claimed that the existing Thai laws in place for the penalization of sex trafficking, such as the 1997 Prevention and Suppression of Trafficking in Women and Children Act, are insufficient; the legislation does not cover trafficking for labour exploitation nor does it

grant protection to trafficked males (who are mostly trafficked into forced labour).

In Thailand today, trafficked children and women who are rescued by national authorities are sent to one of the seven existing government-run shelters for victims of trafficking in the country. Most male victims, however, are seen as illegal migrants and are thus deported.

The new law is expected to improve the environment for prosecuting trafficking offenses, as it will make punishable all forms of human trafficking, not only for sexual exploitation, and will also provide greater protection and compensation to both female and male victims of trafficking.

The above article is based on text taken from the Strategic Information Response Network's Jan. 2008 Report and "New law on Trafficking," The Nation, 1 Oct. 2007.

Man Trafficked into Conditions of Forced Labour in Ireland Awarded €116,000 Migrant Rights Centre Ireland Calling for Real Protections for Trafficked Persons

A Dublin restaurant has been ordered by a Rights Commissioner to pay compensation totaling €116,000 to a former employee, for gross breaches in employment law.

Following a Rights Commissioner hearing last December where he was represented by the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI), the man, a migrant worker from Pakistan, described his appalling ordeal over a five year period beginning in May 2001 working in the Dublin-based restaurant. He worked extreme hours with virtually no days off and was paid €150 per week, of which €100 was deducted by the employer for his accommodation. He claimed that the employer held his passport and threatened him with revoking his work permit, loss of his accommodation and deportation if he complained. When he eventually took the risk of making a complaint, the employer dismissed him.

"It took a lot of courage for him to break free from the threats and control that the employer apparently exerted over him," says MRCI's director, Siobhan

O'Donoghue. "Even after he made an official complaint the employer apparently coerced him into signing a document retracting his complaint."

"This case contains all the elements of human trafficking for forced labour. This man was brought to Ireland and made to work under extremely exploitative conditions. He was controlled by the employer and threatened to the extent that he had no option but to tolerate the exploitation."

Ms. O'Donoghue continued, "He is very fortunate that when he came to the MRCI he was still documented. This made it possible for us to help him seek justice. Unfortunately many other victims of trafficking that we come across are undocumented and that presents a major barrier. Most people are too afraid to take the risk to come forward, especially when they are undocumented. Currently there is no legal framework protecting the victims of trafficking in Ireland and the ones now proposed in the new Immigration Bill are not nearly strong or clear enough."

The minister has decided to deal with the area of protections for trafficking victims in the Immigration, Residence and Protection Bill. However, according to Ms O'Donoghue, the 45 days reflection period he proposes is "totally inadequate to enable a person to exit their situation, access supports and feel secure enough to participate in criminal proceedings against their traffickers."

"We are at the very early stages in this country of understanding trafficking for forced labour. MRCI's experience shows that it is happening in Ireland but is not being identified. Apart from the need to ensure better protections in the Immigration Bill, the Trafficking Bill being discussed ... does not include a definition of this growing and complex phenomenon, which will make it extremely difficult to prosecute in this area of trafficking. It is vital that the internationally accepted definition of forced labour developed by the International Labour Organisation be used in this Bill."

Migrant Rights Centre Ireland press release 06/02/08

Information gathered on Uganda¹ indicates that individuals are mainly trafficked in and out of the country for sexual exploitation (prostitution, erotic dances, karaoke, pornography and early marriage) and labour exploitation (domestic work, child soldiering, and work in hotels, lodges, markets, restaurants, fishing/landing sites and agricultural plantations) and that the frequency of trafficking cases appears to be increasing.



Boys in Uganda are generally trafficked between 10 and 14 years of age. Girls and women are trafficked between 15 and 19 years of age and make up the majority of those trafficked. Individual factors such as unemployment, lack of schooling, low self esteem, culture, and orphanhood make these individuals more vulnerable to being trafficked. Other factors, such as increased conflict in the area, migration, displacements, poverty and disintegration of families have been partially to blame for the levels of trafficking in the country. In terms of numbers, Uganda experiences more internal than cross-border trafficking; it is a sending, transit,

as well as a destination country and is placed under the Tier II watch list by the United States TIP report 2007.

There is also rural to rural trafficking movement for fishing at landing sites and agricultural farms. The majority of women and girls are promised employment and marriage opportunities, a better life in the city, and accommodation at their destination. These exciting assurances partly explain the high number of trafficked adolescent girls and desperate young women.

Trafficked victims from Uganda are usually taken to Sudan, Kenya, Rwanda, and DRC, and sometimes also to the Middle East, Europe and the US. Health issues of women and children involved in trafficking are often neglected; they are very often subjected to situations under sex-work which allow for HIV/AIDS transmission.

Efforts have been largely concentrated on prosecution, especially of cross-border trafficking in Uganda. There are few sporadic NGO interventions to combat trafficking in northern Uganda, and these mainly target abducted children and women; in central and eastern Uganda, areas affected by trafficking in persons have not been adequately addressed and thus continue on, unabated.

Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL) is an NGO which has undertaken awareness-

raising of key stakeholders, including NGOs and probation officers; it also chairs an NGO thematic group on child trafficking. In addition to printing educational materials, UYDEL has raised awareness of trafficking through radio and television discussion; it has also sensitised some city slum communities in urban centres.

The Victim support services include a centre for withdrawn victims in Kampala City. Here, victims are equipped with livelihood and vocational training skills such as hair-dressing, tailoring, electronic understanding, plumbing, motorbike repair, and are given kits and loans to jump-start mini entrepreneurial ventures. In addition, the centre provides counselling, and mental and general health support. The centre also uses music, drama, recreation and former victim peer educators to help in the rehabilitation process; victims are later re-integrated with their families in Kampala City and other distant countries.

UYDEL works with other likeminded stakeholders to raise awareness on the issue of trafficking, through advocacy activities and the lobbying of government. Uganda is moving towards enacting an urgently needed anti-trafficking law focused on training and building capacity of key stakeholders to address prevention and prosecution of human trafficking and the delivery of support services to victims of trafficking.

By Rogers Kasirye, Executive Director of UYDEL

¹ See US TIP 2007 report; ILO Study on Child Trafficking in Uganda 2007; Ministry of Gender's Gender Dimension of Trafficking 2007 report; Save the Children Fund Study on Child Trafficking 2006.

Self-Health/ Support Groups in Vietnam

INITIATIVES

Data on trafficking in Vietnam remains very limited, but thousands of Vietnamese women are estimated to have been trafficked to China, Cambodia, and other parts of the world. When these women are able to return to Vietnam, they often have to deal with a considerable degree of stigmatization and discrimination.

To avoid this, many women do not go back to their homes and family, nor do they disclose their experience to anyone.

They many times do not seek medical care, despite having experienced considerable trauma and risk because of their fear of receiving judgemental services without guaranteed confidentiality.

Recognising that these women have no support system, or even basic psychoso-

cial support from family and friends, IOM, with local NGO partner CSAGA¹, established a network of self-health, self-support groups for trafficked women.

The project, which ended in late 2007, achieved three main results:

- An effective, confidential, and non-judgmental mechanism to identify trafficked women was established
- Psychosocial, mental health, and physical health needs were assessed, and appropriate, confidential services provided
- Risk behaviour was changed through risk assessments and the provision of life skills training, health care education, and psycho-social counselling.

The self-health groups were established entirely by women who had been traf-

ficked and by their recruitment of other trafficked women. This peer-driven recruitment and intervention used a process of referral within existing social networks of trafficked persons, so that trust and common experience were established from the beginning.

With the voluntary participation of an initial seven trafficked women, the project staff met, trained and developed their skills to become peer facilitators for further groups. From these seven facilitators, five separate, self-contained self-help groups formed, reaching 32 other women who had been trafficked. These recruited women were able, for the first time, to meet and discuss their experience with a group of others with similar experiences, and thus begin the healing process for themselves.

¹ The Center for Studies and Applied Sciences in Gender, Family, Women and Adolescents

Restavek, the term for internal trafficking for domestic servitude, represents the major form of human trafficking in Haiti and affects the lives of 173,000 children in the country.

Through the Restavek system, children, whose parents are unable to take care of them, are sent to relatives or strangers living in urban areas to receive care and education in exchange for housework. But the reality is a life of hardship and abuse; enslaved by their "hosts", the children seldom attend school.

Some of these children manage to escape and are picked up by the authorities, referred to the Haitian Social Welfare Institute, and then taken to centers where they are cared for until their biological families can be located.

When Restaveks get older and are deemed by their "hosts" as no longer manageable, they run the risk of ending up on the streets where girls often work as servants or are forced into prostitution and boys join the ranks of petty criminals.

Many Restavek children and those taken from their homes to be placed in orphanages come from Jeremie, Grande Anse, an isolated and impoverished region in Southwest Haiti.

Most families in the region have between seven and nine children and are unable to meet the most basic needs of food, healthcare and education.

Deceptive practices are used in order to lead these destitute parents in Haiti to place their children in orphanages in the capital. Geslet Bordes, Manager of the International Organization for Migration's Counter-Trafficking in Children Program in Haiti, explains:

"The trafficker says to the parent, 'you have a lot of children, you have to give one or two because you are going to receive money to have a small business, you are going to visit the U.S., and you have to give a chance to your child.' So, if you are a parent, you are going to think, you're going to look at your situation, and you're going to make the decision to give your children."

Since 2005, IOM has assisted more than 300 Restavek children in reuniting with their families; 50 others have been identified and 30 are currently receiving rehabilitation assistance in local shelters until enough information is obtained to identify their hometowns and families. IOM's program also includes vocational training and funding to set up small businesses.

Last August, at the request of Haitian authorities, IOM and the Pan American Development Foundation returned 48 small children from Jeremie who had been taken to an orphanage in Port-au-Prince where they were found in a state of neglect. Parents were told that their children would be provided with food and education at the orphanage, and would soon be returned to them. However, many were already being involved in international adoption procedures.

The Haitian government, with IOM's technical support, has responded to the problem by taking steps to draft legislation addressing Haiti's specific concerns with human trafficking.



A video news release and accompanying script are available to the public and can be downloaded via IOM's Video Vault on www.iom.int

Publications

Children Speak Out - Trafficking Risk and Resilience in Southeast Europe

On September 18, 2007, Save the Children launched a new research publication presenting children's perceptions of risk and resilience in regard to trafficking. The research project (which started in March 2005 and ended in June 2006) is a qualitative, child-centered and participatory field based research conducted in seven countries/entities in Southeast Europe, namely Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and the Republic of Kosovo.

www.savethechildren.net/alliance/where_work/europegrp_pubs.html#ex

Publication of the study Leaving the Past Behind? When victims of trafficking decline assistance

The study considers the reasons that some trafficking victims decline assistance and

examines the circumstances under which they do so. Understanding the reasons, experiences and perceptions of persons who do not participate in assistance programmes can play an important role in developing and tailoring anti-trafficking services to meet the needs and desires of as many trafficking victims as possible.

www.fafo.no/pub/rapp/20040/20040.pdf

A handbook on planning projects to prevent child trafficking

Terre des Hommes has published a handbook on preventing child trafficking. It looks in particular at activities organised as projects or programmes, but also comments more generally on what actions are likely to be effective in preventing children from being



trafficked. It is presented as a handbook so that project designers can follow it as they go through the process of developing activities to prevent children from being trafficked.

www.lastradainternational.org/Isidocs/327%20Prevent_child_tra_0607.pdf

NEW RELEASES

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