Established in 1951, IOM is the leading *inter-governmental organization* in the field of migration. IOM fights against exploitation of migrants in all forms, especially the severe human rights violations suffered by victims of trafficking. IOM seeks to provide protection and empower trafficked women, men, girls and boys; raise awareness and understanding of the issue; and bring justice to survivors of human trafficking.

**Migrant Assistance and Protection in Cambodia**

Since 1992, IOM’s well-established Mission in Cambodia cooperates closely with Development Partners, Civil Society and UN agencies to assist the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) in contributing to the protection and well-being of vulnerable Cambodian migrants. Combating human trafficking is one of the top priorities in this field of migrant protection. In line with national strategies, IOM is currently focused on preventing irregular migration, prosecuting offenders engaged in the crimes of human trafficking and smuggling, and protecting victims. IOM also conducts research and policy development activities. The overall goal of IOM’s Migrant Assistance and Protection Program is to strengthen the national capacity to protect highly vulnerable migrants, including victims of trafficking, unaccompanied minors, stranded migrants, and asylum seekers.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has acknowledged that human trafficking in Cambodia is a multi-faceted challenge that must be addressed in an integrated manner. Counter trafficking activities are gathering momentum. A National to Combat Trafficking (NCCT) was established in 1999. In addition, a comprehensive *Anti-Trafficking Law* was issued in 2008. This Law not only criminalizes the offence of trafficking, but also provides for the appropriate protective measures for victims. Currently, the RGC and partners are working on the development of renewed *National Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking for 2014-2018*. This renewed Plan of Action is a comprehensive plan aimed at combating trafficking as well as all forms of sexual and labour exploitation through partnership and joint collaborations.

**PREVENTION - PROVIDING**

**SAFE MIGRATION INFORMATION**

In order to prevent exploitation at the outset IOM promotes awareness of safe migration and risks associated with irregular migration in Cambodia. Messaging on safe migration along with Awareness Raising Campaigns regarding new migration polices and regulations are regularly conducted in migrant communities and to the victims of trafficking in Cambodia.

IOM trains NGOs and Community Volunteers who reach out to the vulnerable communities in Cambodia. NGOs and Volunteers distribute information brochures in the high risk and vulnerable communities. They provide essential information on services that the victims of trafficking are entitled to, for example comprehensive assistance, including health care services, legal aid and economic support.

Finally, given the increasingly case load of Cambodian men who have fallen victim to human trafficking in recent years, IOM recently produced a short film, “Trafficked to Sea: IOM’s Repatriation Program”. The short film highlights the plight of thousands of Cambodian men who have been held against their will, forced to work, beaten, starved and not paid their promised salary. Through the protection program, IOM works to help find them, rescue them and reunite them with their families. The video is used in trainings and taken to the community as a way to raise awareness of this modern day form of slavery.
PROSECUTION - TRAINING POLICE

One of the IOM key objectives is to support governmental capacity to respond to human trafficking within the national law enforcement framework at the same time strengthening and upholding the human rights of migrants. Since 2002 IOM has organized series of capacity building trainings for law enforcement agencies to combat human trafficking and prosecute traffickers. Trainings improve the law enforcement capacities to investigate and prosecute trafficking cases and protect both victims of trafficking (VoTs) and witnesses. In order to improve victim protection and promote better access to legal advice and counseling, IOM aims strengthens links between law enforcement and victim assistance agencies.

PROTECTION - SERVICES FOR VULNERABLE MIGRANTS

Victims of trafficking are best assisted and protected by setting in place an efficient victim identification and referral mechanism. This was accomplished in 2012 by establishing a framework for the identification and referral of victims of trafficking here in Cambodia.

Direct assistance is offered to vulnerable migrants, either offered directly or in close collaboration with the IOM partners. Support includes victim identification, case management, health and psychosocial support, assisted voluntary return and community based reintegration services.

IOM is also helping to build the capacity of the RGC to provide sustainable protection for Cambodian migrants, including direct assistance to vulnerable migrants stranded in third countries, such as Thailand and Malaysia. IOM also works to promote bilateral and multi lateral dialogue on join migration issues with a specific focus on promoting enhanced protection for the most vulnerable migrants.

RESEARCH AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Through research IOM collects and analyzes data on emerging migration trends that have a serious impact on migrants vulnerabilities. IOM analyzes testimonials from migrants, produces reports on trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants and on changing migration patterns in Cambodia with focus on vulnerable migrants and human trafficking in, through and out of Cambodia.

Information is shared with the RGC to build up the capacity to respond to current migration and security challenges, such as transnational organized crime. As a result of IOM’s continuous cooperation with the key government actors, such as Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs and Ministry of Justice, and civil society partners, platforms are established for national information-sharing, dialogue, and cooperation.

IOM DONORS

IOM Mission in Cambodia operates solely on project basis and is dependent on project funding. Since 2000 to the present, IOM Cambodia’s Migrant Assistance Program has carried out several projects that focus on prevention, protection and prosecution, producing knowledge, and on enhancing cooperation and dialogue. These projects are funded by the Governments of the United States, Italy, Finland, Australia, and Canada.

For more information about IOM’s programs in the field of migrant assistance and protection, please contact Mr, Brett Dickson—bdickson@iom.int

IOM has developed two training manuals: “Caring for Trafficked Persons” & “Assisting Victims of Trafficking”