



WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS 2014: Action to Protect and Assist Vulnerable and Exploited Migrant Workers in the Middle East and North Africa (PAVE Project)



PAVE Project Manager Fitriana Nur addresses an information session on action to combat trafficking at Lebanon's General Security Department.

Under the PAVE project, IOM has so far directly assisted 89 victims of trafficking or exploitation and trained over 140 individuals since July 2013.

In the Middle East and North African (MENA) region, identification of trafficked migrants remains a huge challenge. To prevent re-victimization and ensure the provision of comprehensive, individual care and treatment, governmental authorities and civil society actors must first be equipped to properly identify victims of trafficking. To contribute to the fight against human trafficking and exploitation of migrant workers in the region, the European Union is supporting the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to implement a two-year project on Action to Protect and Assist Vulnerable and Exploited Migrant Workers (PAVE) targeting Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Lebanon.

The project aims to contribute to the protection of migrant workers through a multi-faceted approach to build the capacity of a variety of stakeholders in assisting and protecting migrants against exploitation and trafficking. In addition, the project provides the most vulnerable migrant workers with direct assistance and seeks to shape policymaking on the application of international human rights standards in the protection of migrant workers. Overall, the project also aims to reduce the incidence of xenophobia towards, exclusion of and discrimination against migrant workers, largely through awareness raising activities. The project, which is managed by IOM in Lebanon and has a total budget of EUR 1.7 million, with 80 percent funding by the European Union.

ACTIVITIES TO DATE:

REGIONAL DIALOGUE: CREATING A PROTECTION FRAMEWORK TO ASSIST TRAFFICKED VICTIMS AND EXPLOITED MIGRANTS

On 10-12 June 2014, IOM and the Jordanian government held a three-day regional policy dialogue, bringing together 19 senior government counter-trafficking officials from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Lebanon to share their experiences of combating the crime of trafficking through prosecuting offenders and protecting victims. The objective of the dialogue – the first of two such events to be held under the PAVE project – was to initiate discussion on the development of a regional framework for protecting victims in the region. It took stock of best practices, challenges and lesson learned. Participants stressed the need for enhanced protection measures for victims of trafficking and exploited migrant workers, as well as for more collaborative and better coordinated efforts across the region. Governments recognized that a regional approach would be critical in ensuring effective, victim-centered responses to trafficking, as well as improved prevention efforts.



Participants at the conclusion of the first PAVE regional policy dialogue in Jordan.

TRAINING ON VICTIM IDENTIFICATION AND PROTECTION FRONT-LINE OFFICERS IN LEBANON

IOM and the Lebanese Directorate General of General Security (GSD) conducted three, two-day training sessions on victim identification and protection for 36 officers from October to January 2014. The majority of participants in these training sessions work at Lebanon's migrant detention centre, at which IOM had conducted an assessment in September 2013. The participants were front-line officers, working on investigation, case management at the detention center and database management. The training aimed to improve the existing capacity of these officers to enforce Lebanon's Law No. 164/2011 on Counter-Trafficking in Human Beings. The sessions focused on building capacity to identify victims, conduct investigations and prosecute offenders, while facilitating victims' access to comprehensive assistance, which may include voluntary return, recovery, and reintegration.



Front-line officers from Lebanon's GSD receive certificates after participating in IOM training on the identification and protection of victims of trafficking.

In June 2014, following the completion of the three training workshops, IOM and GSD hosted an information session on action to combat trafficking by the General Security Department. The session was attended by senior representatives from GSD, IOM and the European Union as well as members of the diplomatic community. IOM presented the findings of assessment of the migrant detention center, stressing the importance of conducting active screening interviews among detainees who may have been trafficked.

TRAINING ON VICTIM IDENTIFICATION AND PROTECTION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS IN EGYPT, IRAQ, JORDAN AND LEBANON

From February 2013 to April 2014, a total of five, two-day training workshops on victim identification and protection have been organized for civil society organizations in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon. The training sought to equip civil society actors with specialized skills to: identify and assist vulnerable, exploited and trafficked migrant workers, and specifically domestic workers; monitor human rights violations against migrants; and better apply international human rights standards in their working environment.

The training helped build toward a strategy for improved collaboration among different actors in this field, including government front-line officers and civil society. One important focus here was the provision of continued care for victims. Training in this area was organized for staff working directly with migrant workers in various capacities (i.e. lawyers, counsellors, outreach workers, and protection officers) whether through NGOs, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, syndicates of employment agencies or legal aid foundations. A total of 89 participants attended the sessions.



Representatives from the Embassy of the Philippines conduct a presentation on victim identification and protection during a training workshop in Cairo.

TRAINING ON VICTIM IDENTIFICATION FOR LABOR ATTACHES AND EMBASSY COUNSELLORS IN LEBANON

In February 2014, IOM and Lebanese law enforcement officers hosted a training workshop on victim identification for labor attachés and consular staff in Lebanon. The training aimed to raise awareness on the Lebanese legal framework for counter trafficking and to improve participants' capacity to identify and assist victims of trafficking. The workshop also allowed for useful information sharing among labor attachés from different countries on challenges, good practices and updates on migrant protection.

ASSISTANCE IN NUMBERS, since July 2013

89	Exploited, trafficked or vulnerable migrants received direct assistance
19	Delegates from six countries participate in first PAVE Regional Policy Dialogue
36	Government front line officers trained
89	Civil society actors trained in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon
8	Embassy staff members trained
15	Journalists trained
80	Individuals attend awareness-raising sessions

DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO VULNERABLE AND EXPLOITED MIGRANT WORKERS

Overall, the PAVE project will provide direct assistance to a total of 150 exploited migrant workers identified as highly vulnerable, with the aim of offering durable solutions. This comprehensive assistance may include assisted voluntary return, recovery and reintegration. To date, IOM has assisted 89 victims of trafficking and exploited migrant workers with assisted voluntary return, recovery (through psychosocial assistance and legal aid) and reintegration assistance. Out of 89 victims supported, 85 were women and 3 men, and one a minor.

WORKSHOP FOR JOURNALISTS ON VICTIM-CENTRED APPROACH IN REPORTING CASES OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

In June 2014, and in collaboration with the United Nations Information Center (UNIC), IOM organized a one-day workshop on “Victim-centred Approaches in Reporting Cases of Trafficking in Persons” in Lebanon. The workshop targeted journalists from multiple media agencies. It was part of IOM’s efforts to raise awareness on the crime of trafficking in persons and to encourage responsible reporting on the issue, incorporating a victim-centred approach. Lebanese counter-trafficking expert, Lieutenant Colonel Elie Al-Asmar and Lebanese American University’s media professor Dr. Yasmine Dabbous were among IOM’s key trainers.



15 journalists took part in a PAVE training session on victim-centred approaches to reporting cases of trafficking in persons in Lebanon.

As part of the PAVE project, IOM regularly consults and collaborates with a range of key stakeholders, including government officials, civil society actors, migrant communities, academics, UN agencies and international organizations in Egypt, Iraq, KSA, Jordan and Lebanon. Through these meetings, project staff are able to understand gaps and challenges in the field of migrant protection, and ensure that all interventions are well-targeted, bring added value and do not duplicate efforts.

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“The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders”.