

International Dialogue on Migration 2018

Session 4: Joining forces to assist and protect migrants in vulnerable situations

Heartland Alliance International:

Key lessons on partnerships to protect the most marginalized migrants



About Heartland Alliance:

- **Heartland Alliance International (HAI) is the global arm of Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights, a family of organizations that has been leading anti-poverty and social justice work in Chicago for more than 125 years.**
- **We implement programs on a range of global human rights issues globally, and in Chicago at Heartland Alliance Marjorie Kovler Center for Survivors of Torture.**
- **Our mission is to secure the rights and well-being of marginalized people and communities- this means we work extensively with vulnerable migrants around the world, and here in the U.S.**
- **HAI is the NGO co-lead, with IOM and UNHCR, of the **Global Protection Cluster Task Team on Anti-Trafficking in Humanitarian Action.****

Reaching the most vulnerable migrants:

HAI is working through multifaceted partnerships around the world with a deliberate focus on the most vulnerable:

- **Refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons**
- **Victims of trafficking**
- **Torture survivors**
- **Survivors of gender-based violence**
- **LGBT individuals**
- **Children in conflict with the law**

As a service based human rights organization, we seek to address the immediate needs of vulnerable individuals, and look to restore their rights and agency.

We adopt a strengths-based, survivor centered approach.

Partnerships on counter-trafficking:

- **From Haiti to Iraq to the DRC, with a particular focus on crisis and conflict, HAI's programs protect and empower survivors of trafficking and ensure that they receive the care and resources required to restore well-being, achieve self-sufficiency, and reduce their vulnerability to re-trafficking.**
- **HAI also supports local stakeholders in their advocacy efforts to strengthen national legislation and social services to prevent trafficking, protect survivors, and prosecute traffickers.**
- **HAI builds the capacity of government actors to fulfil their obligations, while also building the capacity of civil society to hold government accountable and to raise awareness of trafficking risks among local communities.**

GPC Task Team on Anti-Trafficking in Humanitarian Action:

- **Started in 2017**
- **Tripartite structure: HAI is the NGO co-lead, with IOM and UNHCR**
- **The Task Team's objective is to develop a collective position on anti-trafficking interventions in humanitarian responses and to provide recommendations on how to best to integrate them systematically in the existing humanitarian response architecture**
- **The Task Team is continuing consultations, and developing guidance documents and training materials for rollout in different field sites**

Working with Torture Survivors- Key Lessons from Chicago's Kovler Center

- The Kovler center, established in 1987 in Chicago, helps 350 torture survivors annually representing over 50 countries globally — 84 countries since inception — overcome trauma and begin a life without fear. Services are culturally adapted, community-based and volunteer-based, with 200 professionals and paraprofessionals engaged in pro bono service.
- Kovler's approach, adapted in other countries, starts with ensuring the client drives their own treatment process.
- Some survivors are participating in a new program to hone their storytelling, the Survivor Voices Project. Others choose to engage in community based activities, such as cooking classes while not developing a public profile.



In Iraq:

- **In 1994, drawing on the expertise and experience of participants and clinicians at the Kovler Center, Heartland began developing programs in Iraq to serve torture survivors and helped launch an independent Iraqi torture treatment center**
- **Launched advocacy and training on implementing the Convention Against Torture**
- **Developed partnerships with civil society and government toward building a culture of human rights**
- **Now, taking those lessons to help address complex needs of the many populations on the move in Iraq: IDPs, returning refugees, and other migrants in Iraq, particularly women and children, and ethnic and religious minorities: providing legal services to children in conflict with the law, including family tracing and reunification**
- **Emergency case management & relocation, particularly for sensitive GBV cases, MHPSS, training of gov't**

New (and future) partnerships:

- **Greater integration of our U.S. based and global programming- e.g. lessons learned from Heartland's Chicago gun violence reduction initiatives and programming in Central America including with returning migrant youth at risk of violence;**
- **More policy advocacy to increase global/national impact;**
- **Public-private partnerships: leveraging pro-bono support from Chicago-based law firms and other service providers to strengthen services for asylum-seekers in the U.S. and globally including across the Mediterranean;**
- **Utilizing technology more effectively, e.g. revamping the Rainbow Welcome Initiative and better understanding how LGBT migrants seek and access information to address their protection needs**
(www.rainbowwelcome.org)



From Mexico to Chicago- New Partnerships on Youth Violence

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