



IOM builds the capacity of civil society organizations in Egypt to protect migrants

15 May 2014 Egypt - IOM, in cooperation with the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, conducted a training on “Victim Identification and Protection” for six civil society organizations and UNHCR representatives based in Egypt. The three-day training covered an introduction to human trafficking; the Egyptian legal perspective on trafficking and its national legislation; and introduced IOM’s sphere of protection, a model for assisting victims of trafficking (VoTs). Information on available referral mechanisms and the eligibility criteria for direct assistance for VoTs were also distributed to the participants.

The aim of the training was to build on the existing capacities of civil society organizations to identify VoTs in Egypt and to enhance their capabilities to protect and facilitate the appropriate assistance to VoTs, once they have been identified. A roundtable discussion with several embassies from relevant migration countries of origin directly preceded the training and allowed IOM to identify key areas where the capacity of the civil society actors could be further developed.

This recent training in Cairo is one of several trainings that have been carried out across the Middle East as part of the IOM project to ‘Protect and Assist Vulnerable and Exploited Migrant Workers in the Middle East and North Africa (PAVE) funded by the European Union. Earlier this year similar trainings were conducted in Lebanon and Jordan. IOM also intends to carry out additional trainings in Iraq under PAVE during the next couple of weeks.



In her opening speech, Dr. Azza El-Ashmawy Secretary General of the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, highlighted the fact that domestic labour does not have organizational representation in Egypt and does not fall within the purview of Egyptian Labour Law No. 12/2003, despite domestic work being one of the oldest and most important professions. IOM seeks to ensure the protection of exploited and trafficked domestic workers, including migrant domestic workers, who are particularly vulnerable.

Mr. Amr Taha, Country Programme Coordinator for IOM Egypt, stressed the need for ongoing and progressive discussions concerning the protection and promotion of the rights of migrants. He also underlined the positive contribution migrants make to countries of origin and destination. At the completion of the training the 24 participants, most of whom were psychosocial workers from the various civil society organizations, developed the necessary knowledge and skills to

apply international human rights standards as part of their daily work in the provision of direct assistance for VoTs in Egypt. The improved skills and knowledge acquired by the participants through the IOM training will be reflected through their enhanced abilities to (i) accurately identify exploited and trafficked migrants; (ii) provide referral to support services; and, (iii) better document human rights violations.

The European Union contributes 80% of the total 1.7 million euro project budget. It is being implemented in the five target counties of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Lebanon. The project aims to contribute to the protection of migrant workers against exploitation and trafficking through trainings, regional dialogues, study visits, direct assistance for victims, and raising awareness of the trafficking and exploitation of migrants. Project activities are implemented through engaging with civil society actors, government officials, migrants and general public.

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