

## Regional Thematic Training/Workshop

# “Combating Trafficking in Persons – Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking”

4-6 April, 2016, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

### Concept Note

#### **Purpose and Theme of the Regional Thematic Training/Workshop**

The purpose of the event is to provide relevant government officers with the knowledge and skills necessary to identify and refer victims of human trafficking in line with national legislation and international instruments.

Capacity building of government and non-government stakeholders has been an essential part of IOM counter-trafficking programming since 2000. IOM also has a supporting role in promoting dialogue between the states on combating trafficking in persons in Central Asia. IOM capacity building policy has mainly focused on law enforcement and justice system agencies in the region; a proposed regional thematic workshop will encourage more state institutions to identify and assist victims of trafficking as part of national referral mechanism in Central Asian countries.

Leading civil society organizations will be involved in general and group discussions on social partnership and services provided by IOM and its partner NGOs in the region. Also some successful stories on protection of victims of trafficking will be presented from all countries of the CA regions.

**Expected outcome:** a regional network of involved agencies will be established for coordination of government actions and cooperation with NGOs to ensure referral of victims across borders while

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identifying ways to contribute to the strengthening of the national systems for the gathering of data and information.

The event is organized within the framework of the IOM program “Addressing Mixed Migration flows in Central Asia through capacity building” Phase II (2015-2016) funded by the Government of the United States (BPRM-PIM).

The Regional Thematic Training/Workshop will be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (4-6 April, 2016) and it is organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Sub-regional Coordination Office for Central Asia, Astana, Kazakhstan in cooperation with the IOM Mission in Kyrgyzstan. The regional thematic workshop is a capacity building activity in support to the Regional Consultative Process “Almaty Process”. The regional training will bring together Government officials, community and religious leaders, diaspora associations and civil society from the five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). Cross fertilization of good practices is envisaged by presenting and educating participants on practices and processes and procedures followed in another region of the world i.e Latin America, under the Puebla Process <http://www.iom.int/puebla-process>

The overall objective of the meeting is to provide participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to identify and refer victims of human trafficking in line with national legislation and international instruments.

This will be achieved by:

- Increasing understanding of TIP definition.
- Introducing the provisions of national and international legislation.
- Providing an understanding of the national referral mechanism.
- Introducing of methods on VoTs identification and interview.
- Providing an overview on role of States and NGOs in CT.
- Providing an overview on IOM CT intervention.

In addition, presentation on good international practice from the Regional Consultative Process “Puebla Process” will be shared on the following areas:

- Regional Guidelines for the Repatriation of Children Victims of Trafficking

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- Regional Guidelines for the Identification and Referral mechanism for Migrant Population in Vulnerable Situations- chapter on VoT.
- Regional Manual on Protection of Children
- Regional format for information exchange of Trafficking Cases
- Manual on Consular protection of Victims of Trafficking-Spanish only but has been quite relevant to RCM.
- Compliance Indicators – Government asked IOM to draft some indicators so they could monitor themselves and share progress with each other.

During the training, IOM will also present good regional practice from Kazakhstan on ensuring equal access to state-funded social services for victims of trafficking and establishing criteria to access the services, relevant subordinate acts will be shared with the participants for review and possible use for developing similar legislative framework in other Central Asian countries.

The proposed training is in line with 4 out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nation's 193 Member States during the Post-2015 Summit in September 2015. Specifically, along with the practical purpose the training will contribute to eradicating forced labour, human trafficking and child labour; empowering of migrants and promoting access to services for migrants in Central Asian countries. In addition, the participants will be familiarized with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and discuss how well-managed migration's integral role in sustainable development in their countries.

### **Participants**

The Regional Thematic Workshop is designed for approximately 45 participants from Central Asian republics. They will include long-standing partners and new stakeholders involved in combating human trafficking. These key stakeholders should be drawn from the following participant groups and organizations:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Consular department's officers
- General Prosecution Office - Prosecutors
- Ministry of Labour/Health/Social protection/development - Labour Inspectors
- Ministry of health/ Social protection/development – Social/health workers
- Local administrations/local governments representatives (mainly from the Capitals of CA)
- Community and Religious leaders and diaspora associations
- NGOs

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## Background on the Theme

The Central Asian countries are mainly origin and transit points for trafficking in persons. The primary destination countries for women, men and children trafficked from Central Asia are Kazakhstan, Russia, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Turkey. Many VOTs are trafficked to Iran, Israel, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Korea, Syria and Thailand. The Central Asian countries are also transit countries for trafficked persons on their way from South and South-East Asia to Europe, including countries such as Cyprus, Greece, Italy and Germany.

Human trafficking is a serious challenge for Central Asia in terms of both, scale and violation of human rights. It is estimated that over one million people annually are either at risk or are victims of trafficking and exploitation inside the countries of Central Asia and among their citizens abroad. Likewise, it is estimated that almost 91% of cases of human trafficking involve labour exploitation, and roughly 69% of victims of human trafficking are men<sup>1</sup>.

The exploitation of migrant rights is commonplace, and victims can be deprived of basic rights such as the right to earn a wage and the right to free movement. All Central Asian governments have signed the UN Convention on Trafficking, the states make efforts to cooperate with each other to address trafficking issues and welcome any assistance from the international community.

In 2010 the Regional Center for Migration and Refugee Issues (RCMRI) and IOM presented a research on scales of human trafficking in Central Asia. Findings of the research demonstrate that human trafficking in the region remains one of the major problems of human rights violation. According to this research, citizens of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan are mostly prone to risks of external trafficking while Kazakhstan is the only country in Central Asia where there are more risks of internal trafficking than external. Furthermore, Kazakhstan became a destination country for some Central Asian populations, especially from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

The total estimated number of victims of human trafficking among the citizens of Central Asian countries, both trafficked within the countries and abroad, came to 1,132,486 people per year, with the confidence range of the lower limit of 928,769 people and the upper limit of 1,591,338 people. It can be

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<sup>1</sup> IOM, RCMRI, 2010, The Scale of Human Trafficking in Central Asia





argued with a high degree of confidence that between 900,000 and one million Central Asian citizens become targets of human trafficking for the purposes of labor and sexual exploitation every year.

The five countries of Central Asia – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan – are closely linked in terms of history and culture. Issues of migration management in these countries are therefore also linked and share strong commonalities. The prevailing trend is that of human trafficking for the purpose of labor exploitation, linked to a large degree, to irregular migration<sup>2</sup>. This fact calls for the counter trafficking system in Central Asia to be aimed at the prevention of labor exploitation and eradication of forced labor.

Trainings for officials from Central Asia are needed to enable them to identify migrants most vulnerable to being trafficked, abused and exploited (or the victims themselves). In most of the CA countries law enforcement actions have only been carried out for the purpose of immigration control, or the sanctioning of employers for the use of irregular migrant labour, without any enquiry aimed at identifying victims of trafficking and protecting their rights. Considering that cases of trafficking can be hidden behind any kind of exploitation, especially for migrants procedures should be put in place aimed at detecting any indicators of trafficking at an early stage.

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<sup>2</sup> A Research on The Scale of Human Trafficking in Central Asia, IOM/RCMRI, 2010



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