Expert Group Initiative
Health and
Human Trafficking

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Migration in and of itself is not a health risk-factor.
The circumstances surrounding the migration process can pose risks to health.
Exploitation and abuse

Trafficked persons and other exploited migrants are *particularly* vulnerable to health risks:

- Initially disempowered background
- Coercive and stressful nature of their mobility (violence, deception, coercion, abuse, etc.)
- Nature of the activities for which they are exploited (e.g. forced labour, sexual exploitation)
- Stigma and isolation upon return
Exploitation and abuse

- Physical, psychological and sexual violence
- Abusive living / working conditions
- Limited / no access to health services
- Exposure to diseases
- Extreme cases similar to victims of torture and inter-personal violence
Caring for Trafficked Persons

Guidance for health providers

- Who work with trafficked persons
- Who work with populations that might include trafficked persons

Health providers are

- An essential part of comprehensive service package
- Partners in identification and referral
Health providers may come into contact with trafficked persons:

- At any point in the trafficking process
- At any point in the recovery process

- Need to know what to DO
- Face complex situations in providing safe, appropriate care
Challenges to assistance

Complex health needs (multiple health risks over the whole period of exploitation)
Safety concerns (for provider and patient)
Comprehensive needs (shelter, legal, protection)

Criminalization of the victim due to:
• Migration status
• Type of exploitation
The United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT)

The Vienna Forum - Feb 2008
IOM-led panel on health

**Expert group initiative** led by IOM and London School

Field experience, Research, Guidance in related areas
Caring for Trafficked Persons

Handbook

• Practical, non-clinical
• Chapters (guiding principles)
• Action Sheets
• Additional resources
• Inclusive:
  – Men, women, boys, girls
  – All forms of exploitation
  – Guidance applies to other exploited migrants
Handbook

- Launched TODAY!
- Free download online
- Hardcopies available upon request (see flier)

Please share widely!

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