

Press Release

UNFPA in cooperation with UNODC with EU funding conduct a series of workshops to improve social services for victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants in Central Asia

ASHGABAT, 23 July 2013 – Improving the quality and accessibility of social services for victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants is the goal of a workshop, which started in Ashgabat today. The two-day workshop “International standards to ensure the availability and quality of services to protect and support victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants” is organized by UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), with financial support of the European Union.

“The workshop will enable national authorities, civil society activists and shelter staff to better apply the relevant international standards in their work with victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants,” said Nikolai Botev, Director of UNFPA’s Sub-regional Office for Central Asia.

The lack of well-functioning identification systems and referral mechanisms is one of the reasons why victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants are often not adequately assisted and protected in the region, according to an assessment conducted by UNFPA in Turkmenistan and other countries of Central Asia.

The workshop is specifically designed to strengthen the capacity and increase the knowledge of social workers and other professionals working with victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants. The participants of the workshop will get acquainted with existing international standards and practical tools on psychosocial consultation and effective referral mechanisms for social services, including sexual and reproductive health services.

The series of workshops are organized in the framework of the regional project "Strengthening the capacity of the Central Asian Republics to protect and assist victims of human trafficking and smuggled migrants, especially women and children, in partnership with NGO and civil society actors" and implemented jointly with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Office for Central Asia. The first two workshops were already launched in May 2013 in Tajikistan and in July 2013 in Kazakhstan. The project is funded by the European Union and the United States of America.

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More information about the project can be found at <http://www.unodc.org/centralasia/en/xacx44.html>

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