



GloACT

Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants



This project is funded by the European Union

Newsletter

January 2019

HAVE A HEART. HEAR THEIR VOICES. ACT TO PROTECT.

SPECIAL EDITION ISSUE

To do GLO.ACT justice our team has decided to dedicate a newsletter to each region of the world that the project is currently being implemented in. This special edition newsletter, by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), is designed to primarily highlight GLO.ACT's work in Africa. We are delighted to be able to use this special edition issue to introduce and update you on one of the EU's key initiatives with UNODC - GLO.ACT.

GLO.ACT...

GLO.ACT stands for **G**lobal **A**ction and is a €11 million joint initiative between the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([UNODC](#)) aimed at addressing the trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. GLO.ACT is a project being delivered by UNODC together with the International Organisation for Migration ([IOM](#)) and the United Nations Children's Fund ([UNICEF](#)).

Countries...

Launched officially by the European Commission in Brussels (Belgium) in January 2016, the GLO.ACT initiative builds on more than 10 years of EU-UNODC partnership and represents the largest project to date within the UNODC Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section. GLO.ACT will run through until July 2019 and will reach thirteen countries across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America, namely Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, South Africa and Ukraine.

The challenges...

Trafficking in Persons (TIP) is a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights. Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers, in their own countries and abroad. Almost every country in the world is affected by trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination for victims. UNODC's [2016 Global Report](#) on TIP has shown that traffickers continue to benefit from

weaknesses in our collective criminal justice response.

Smuggling of Migrants (SOM) virtually affects every country in the world, whether as an origin, transit or destination country for smuggled migrants by profit-seeking criminals. Smuggled migrants are vulnerable to life-threatening risks and exploitation; thousands of people have suffocated in containers, perished in deserts or dehydrated at sea. Taking into account trends and patterns of SOM there is a need for responses to be coordinated across and between regions, and adaptable to new methods.

Our response...

Combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling is of the highest importance for the EU, UNODC and the United Nations as a whole. GLO.ACT was therefore designed to work closely with government authorities, civil society organizations and victims in order to really make a positive difference to people who are trafficked or are migrants who are smuggled and exploited.

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Our focus: prevention, protection, prosecution, partnerships

GLO.ACT works with the 13 countries to plan and implement strategic national counter-trafficking and counter smuggling efforts through a prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnerships approach. We believe such an approach is best suited when addressing not only weaknesses in any criminal justice system but also when ensuring that adequate assistance and support programmes are put in place for victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants.

How does it work?

GLO.ACT addresses TIP and SOM through six pillars:

-  **Strategy and policy development:** Here we work with countries to develop strategies and policies tailored to their national context.
-  **Legislative assistance:** Is all about ensuring that domestic legislative frameworks meet international standards for criminalizing TIP and SOM.
-  **Capacity building:** Here we work with governmental authorities to enhance the capacity and knowledge of criminal justice practitioners to combat TIP and SOM but also to protect victims and vulnerable migrants.
-  **Regional and trans-regional cooperation:** Is all about promoting cooperation and information exchange with law enforcement officials on the identification, investigation and prosecution of offences related to TIP and SOM.
-  **Protection and assistance to victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants:** Here IOM works with civil society as well as government authorities to develop assistance and support programmes for victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants.
-  **Assistance and support to children among victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants:** Here UNICEF and IOM work with victim support services and relevant government authorities to develop frameworks for protection and assistance of children.

Outcomes...

Apart from preventing and addressing TIP and SOM in each country, we also expect GLO.ACT to enhance the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children and the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. Both protocols supplement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC). We also anticipate that the project will have some bearing on the ability of the 13 selected countries to further develop their post-2015 UN Development Agenda. In fact, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda calls for an end to trafficking and violence against children, as well as the need for measures against human trafficking. This means that we now have an underpinning for the action needed under the provisions of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols on trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling.

Know their stories...

According to the UNODC [2018 Global Report](#) on TIP, in West Africa, most of the detected victims of human trafficking are children. Protective laws must be in place and consistently enforced to end human trafficking.

Below is a story from [Niger](#) that represents the kind of person that GLO.ACT hopes to be reaching.

Niger

I do not know how I got to be a wahaya (slave) in Niger. I know I became one when I was only 10 years old and lived as one for 15 years. A man called Amola owned me and we lived in his family village. I was his only slave and my clothes set me apart from his four legal wives. They dressed decently, while my clothes barely covered me. He used to come to me at night in secret for sex. My workload was heavy. I had to fetch water for all the family. I had to fetch water for over 100 cattle. I had to hull and pound millet and sorghum for food. I had to provide firewood for the family. I often had to prepare everything for and during large community gatherings for up to 40 people that took place in the fields during the rainy season. I had to wash up, keep the courtyard clean, prepare all the beds and look after the children. These were my tasks until Amola died.

More testimonies can be accessed at the link below:
https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/GLO-ACT/GLOACT_Victim-Testimonies_October_2017.pdf



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Prosecutors from Africa and Europe agree closer cooperation against human trafficking and migrant smuggling



المؤتمر الأفريقي الأجنبي - الأوروبي للنواب العموم بشأن التعاون القضائي الدولي في تحقيق وملاحقة جرائم الاتجار بالبشر و تهريب المهاجرين مدينة شرم الشيخ - جمهورية مصر العربية من 18 إلى 20 سبتمبر 2018

Dismantling smuggling networks in countries along the Mediterranean routes and protecting migrants requires close collaboration between countries of origin, transit and destination. To strengthen dialogue and foster judicial cooperation was the aim of the first "[Africa-Europe Conference on International Judicial Cooperation in Investigation and Prosecution of Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling](#)" held from 18 to 20 September 2018 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

"Together, countries in Africa and Europe can and must do more to facilitate the exchange of information, ensure confiscation of the proceeds of the crime, enable the extradition of the criminals involved, and ensure the safe return and the restitution of rights of trafficked victims and smuggled migrants in accordance with international frameworks", said Ms. Cristina Albertin, UNODC Regional Representative for the Middle East and North Africa. The



Conference was organized by UNODC, under the framework of GLO.ACT, and its Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa, in cooperation with the Prosecutor General's Office in Egypt and

the National Coordinating Committee for combating and preventing illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons (NCCPIM & TIP).

It convened prosecutors from North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe. Delegations from Angola, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Guinea, Italy, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Niger, Rwanda, South Africa, Spain Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia participated in the event.

Additionally, international and regional organizations working on Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants contributed to the deliberations, such as the African Prosecutors' Association, the African Union, the European Union, the International Organization for Migration and UNICEF.

Delegations presented developments in regional and international cooperation regarding the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, including challenges and best practices.

Participants discussed international cooperation mechanisms, including requests for confiscation of proceeds of crimes, extradition, mutual legal assistance and the possibility to realize joint investigations to dismantle transnational organized crime networks.

The analysis of the financial transactions with payments originating in multiple countries, including some located in Europe and North America, underlined the need to engage with the Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) and Anti-Money Laundering Units in the concerned countries to track these transactions and effectively respond to these crimes.

The event was held under the framework of GLO.ACT and with support of the European Union and the Government of Italy. UNODC presented the Office's work in this field, such as the findings of the recently published "[Global Study on Smuggling of](#)

[Migrants](#)" and judicial cooperation networks supported by UNODC, such as WACAP.

The conference produced a set of [recommendations](#), through which participating countries hope to enhance efforts for international cooperation in transnational organized crimes, in particular Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants, but also related crimes such as money-laundering. To read the entire conference report click [here](#).

What some of the team had to say about our first Africa-Europe conference...



I am very proud of the success of this conference. The Egyptian authorities are very appreciative of their strategic partnership with UNODC. Faisal, Egypt

I want to say that it was a great opportunity for me to attend this conference in Egypt. Because all the topics that were presented and discussed over the past three days were relevant to my daily work as a National Project Officer for GLO.ACT. Moulaye, Mali

Niger hosts sub-regional workshop

UNODC organized a sub-regional workshop from 16-18 April 2018, bringing together 32 representatives of the national authorities of Mali, Morocco and Niger responsible for combating the Smuggling of Migrants (SOM).

As far as transnational organized crimes go, SOM significantly affects the Sahel and North Africa region. Mali, Morocco and Niger are three countries particularly impacted by this crime. In recent years, this has not only increased but has also become

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more complex. In terms of locations, Niger represents a crossroads for irregular migration and Trafficking in Persons (TIP). Niger's position as a key transit country is unquestioned. In 2016, an estimated 330,000 people passed through the country. Mali is also a country of origin and transit for migrants, characterized by significant population movements within its borders and beyond its borders. Morocco - a country of origin, transit and destination - is part of the migration route to Europe because of its borders to the east with Algeria and to the south/southeast with Mauritania. Only 15 kilometers separate the shores of Morocco with those of Spain. It is estimated that 25,000 to 40,000 sub-Saharan migrants currently find themselves in an irregular migratory situation in Morocco.



There can be no doubt that smuggling networks play a central role in continuously fuelling this phenomenon. Actively engaged against these threats, regional institutions and governments in West and North Africa have initiated policies and actions to combat SOM. Mali, Morocco and Niger are parties to the United Nations Convention against Organized Crime and its additional Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.

It is in this context and with a view to strengthen the work of the respective governments that UNODC, under the framework of GLO.ACT, organized the sub-regional workshop. The opening ceremony was attended by the Director of the Cabinet of the Minister of Justice of Niger, as well as representatives of the Malian and Moroccan delegations, the European Union

in Niger and UNODC. Addressing the participants, Mr. M. Chaibou Mamane, Chief of Staff of the Minister of Justice of Niger, stressed the importance of increased coordination and cooperation between the three countries in order to provide a coherent, effective and sustainable response to these destabilizing elements.



During the meeting, each delegation presented the major advances and challenges encountered in the establishment and strengthening of national structures to combat SOM. This exchange of experiences and best practices was complemented by a practical exercise based on the Glauco case, relating to the 2013 shipwreck that killed 366 migrants off the coast of Lampedusa. Conducted on a pilot basis for the first time in French, this exercise allowed participants to work on techniques for identifying and dismantling a criminal network of smugglers.

Working in small groups, representatives of the Ministries of Justice, Interior, Human Rights, Employment, Social Development, Health, Foreign Affairs, Women's Promotion, Child Protection, as well as members of civil society in each country looked through numerous transcripts of telephone recordings of smugglers and interviews records of migrants who survived in order to identify elements that would allow progress in the investigation. This practical exercise and the use of an actual case available on UNODC's Trafficking in Persons Case Law [Database](#) also provided UNODC representatives with the opportunity to introduce its [Sherloc](#) portal to the audience. [Sherloc](#) is a portal for sharing electronic resources and laws on

crime. Participants confirmed that working on an actual case reinforced the importance of transnational cooperation and the need for an approach that takes into account security, justice and human rights of migrants.

Upon conclusion of sub-regional meeting a set of [recommendations](#) were finalized. These recommendations will serve as a basis for the next sub-regional meeting scheduled to take place in 2019.

Strengthening regional and trans-regional cooperation in the fight against human trafficking

UNODC, under the framework of the GLO.ACT, and in collaboration with the South African Judicial Education Institute (SAJEI), convened a Regional Colloquium on Trafficking in Persons for Magistrates and Judges from 22 to 24 August 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The Regional



Colloquium provided a platform for the magistrates and judges to deliberate on current global debates on key concepts in trafficking in persons and also how they can assist judges and magistrates. Some of the issues addressed were on the key issue of victims consent; evidentiary issues in trafficking in persons; issues of non-criminalization of victims of trafficking in persons and also on difficult issues arising in trafficking in persons cases throughout the region.

During the opening ceremony of the workshop, Mr. Iglesias Roa Manuel, Head of Section for Social and Governance, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of South Africa said that: "Many

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countries have legislation that criminalize most forms of trafficking as set out in the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. 13 of the 15 SADC Member States have stand-alone legislation criminalizing trafficking in persons. The challenge remains to ensure successful prosecution and conviction of the criminal elements within this hideous crime." He further said, "There is an urgent need to improve effectiveness of investigations, intensify the development of a consolidated response model, nationally and internationally, as the crime knows no borders."

Speaking about the litigation surgery, Ms. Fikile Nhlabatsi, Principal Magistrate, Kingdom of eSwatini said, "The information received has helped to de-clutter some uncertainties on what to consider of evidential value in TIP cases. I do believe that certain prejudices and biasness emanating from criminal law and evidence have been dampened." She went on to say that: "As judiciary representing the Kingdom of eSwatini, we wish to have training for judges and magistrates. To date, there has only been one training and considering the content we reviewed during this workshop, I do observe that further training is necessary."

Key outputs of the workshop were the adoption of an action plan on the integration of TIP training into judicial curricula in SADC region and the establishment of an interim steering committee to lead the integration of TIP training into judicial curricula in the SADC region.

Workshop participants included judges and magistrates from South Africa, the Kingdom of eSwatini, Botswana, Lesotho, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Uganda and Namibia. Also taking part were the European Union and project-implementing partner IOM.

It takes a network to defeat a network...

Following the first training session in Tangier in July 2018, and the establishment of a [network of prosecutors](#) representing each court of appeal in Morocco, GLO.ACT organized a second training for the prosecutor network against Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in Casablanca from 24 to 26 September 2018.



As under Law 27-14, human trafficking offenses constitute a serious crime directly handled by the courts of appeal, the Moroccan public prosecution decided to establish a network of prosecutors representing each court of appeal. The aim of this network is to have prosecutors that have developed in-depth knowledge on the complexities related to TIP cases. Thus, to build a common understanding, practice and network of professionals working on the same topic, two prosecutors per court are being trained by UNODC under the framework of GLO.ACT.

During her opening session, Ms. Eurídice Márquez, UNODC Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer opened her session by asking: "Why we are here? She answered saying: "Because we care; because we care about the life and the suffering trafficking victims have endured." Through an approach of combining theory with practical exercises, 21 prosecutors were able to gain relevant knowledge on how to approach, investigate and potentially prosecute complex human trafficking cases.

Speaking during the workshop, Ms. Oufroukhi, the Head of the Judicial Cooperation Department at the Specialized Public Prosecution Office, responsible for women's and children's issues, vulnerable populations, and Trafficking in Persons and the Department of Justice representative

for GLO.ACT said, "TIP has a very serious impact on human beings and their rights. It takes away their humanity, especially that of women and children."

Evidential issues and victim protection principles were the focus of the third day. Rights and protection of victims and witnesses are at the core of any judicial investigation under the [UNTOC](#) and the protocols thereto, as well as an integral part of GLO.ACT's mandate.

During the workshop, prosecutors were very engaged in debates on how to correctly apply the law to practical cases, thus confirming the momentum created by Law 27-14 in Morocco. UNODC experts, Dr. Mohanad Dweikat and Mr. Ahmed Abu El Einen, expertly facilitated these debates. In addition, Mr. Mohamed Chabib, a national expert, worked with the participants on real TIP cases to build a better understanding of the role of the prosecution in the identification of victims, prosecution techniques and on victim protection principles.



During the workshop there was a focus on better and more efficient international cooperation based on the exchange of information and law-enforcement cooperation drawing from best practices across GLO.ACT's 13 target countries. From the European Union Delegation to Morocco, Mrs. Caroline Frieh-Chevalier and Ms. Anne Simone also attended the workshop.

Strengthening the capacity of prosecutors & magistrates in Mali

A training workshop for judges was organized from 30 October to 2 November 2018 in Sikasso, Mali. The training brought

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together a total of 25 magistrates and prosecutors from all regions of the country. The workshop aimed to strengthen the capacity of prosecutors and magistrates and provide them with further tools needed to develop strong law enforcement expertise on human trafficking and smuggling of migrants.

Participants had the opportunity to improve their knowledge of national and international legal frameworks related to the Smuggling of Migrants, as well as techniques for investigating and prosecuting cases related to smuggling. The workshop also allowed participants to identify challenges and solutions related to the protection of children exploited as part of this trafficking and to develop a road map for a better prosecution of the perpetrators of these crimes in Mali.

Mali, due to its geographical position and to the crisis the country has been facing since 2012, has become one of the main routes of irregular migration; the migratory flows gaining in importance each year. In 2016, it was estimated that between 30,000 and 40,000 migrants passed through Mali. Trafficking and smuggling networks play a central role in this phenomenon and participate in exposing migrants to abuses, ill treatment, abduction and even death.

Mali is addressing the threats posed by trafficking, in particular by strengthening its legislative framework. For example, Mali is a State Party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime on Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants and its Additional Protocols, which set international standards regarding criminalization, the protection of human rights and the use of necessary tools for international cooperation to combat this crime. Its National Assembly also adopted the N.2012-023 law in 2012 to combat Trafficking in Persons and its related practices, including the Smuggling of Migrants.

These efforts are essential and must be supported in order to create an effective legal distinction between Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants. This will result in updating Mali's legal tools to effectively combat the Smuggling of

Migrants as a separate offense from Trafficking in Persons.

Tools to address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration



During migration week in Marrakesh and in the lead up to the [intergovernmental conference](#) to adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), under GLO.ACT, launched on 8 December 2018, an advance version of its Handbook on the Protection and Assistance of Migrants Vulnerable to Violence, Exploitation and Abuse.



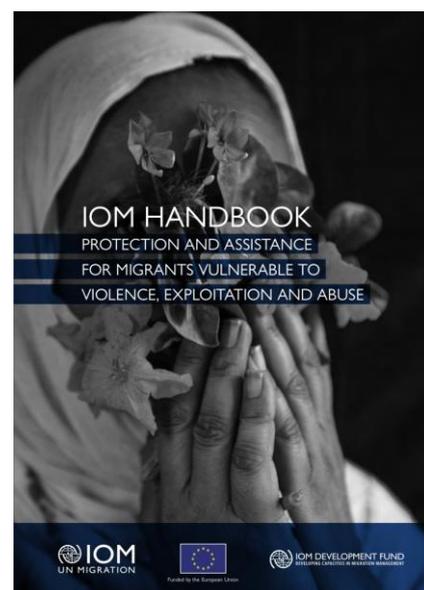
The Handbook provides practical guidance for States, the private sector, international organizations and civil society on how to identify, refer, protect and assist migrants vulnerable to violence, exploitation, and abuse and on what actions to take to mitigate and reduce their vulnerability. The guidance is applicable in countries of origin, transit, and destination.

The event brought together representatives from all three GLO.ACT implementing agencies, the European Union, as well as the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons (TIP), Dr. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, and a member of the Brazilian Public Defenders Office (DPU) to discuss operational tools to address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration.

Speaking during the event, Mr. Ilias Chatzis, Chief of UNODC Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, stressed important protection provisions contained within the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol and highlighted correlating State obligations. He also pointed out that UNODC considers GLO.ACT a flagship project because of the buy-in of the countries and he cited the work undertaken with the DPU in Brazil as a key example. GLO.ACT primarily supports the DPU's mobile assistance Itinerant DPU programme. The Itinerant DPU aims to reach those living in risky and remote areas that do not have access to legal assistance. The DPU is responsible for providing full legal representation, free of charge, to those who cannot afford legal services, especially the vulnerable.

Ms. Heather Komenda from IOM explained during her intervention why the Handbook was developed. She said, "Firstly, it was developed to address gaps in the operational protection of migrants vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse. Secondly, to improve sustainability of intervention by addressing migrant vulnerability at all relevant levels: individual, household/family, community and structural."

The final version of the Handbook is expected to be finalized in 2019 and will be made available on the [Resource](#) section of the GLO.ACT website



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Guide for labour inspectors on the identification & referral of victims of human trafficking

Under the framework of GLO.ACT, an advanced version of a guide for labour inspectors on the identification and referral of victims of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) was launched in Rabat on 03 December 2018. The purpose of this guide is to provide labour inspectors with a legal and technical tool to identify TIP cases and to strengthen their capacity to identify TIP for the purpose of labour exploitation.



This guide will enable government and civil society actors to have access to appropriate technical guidance to support the development of coordination mechanisms that strengthen the identification, referral and protection of TIP victims, smuggled migrants and other vulnerable migrants. Furthermore, the guide provides a set of recommendations for the development of national referral mechanisms to link vulnerable migrants to appropriate assistance and protection services.

The workshop was attended by the Ministry of Labor and Professional Insertion and over twenty labour inspectors, including four women, representing five regions of the Kingdom, namely Rabat-Salé-Kenitra, Casablanca-Settat, Marrakech-Safi, Souss-Massa and Fes-Meknes. Mr. Boucharrou, the consultant and author of the guide and representatives from IOM also attended the launch.

The final version of the guide is expected to be available in early 2019 and will be obtainable on the [Resource](#) section of the GLO.ACT website.

Shining the spotlight on...



Ms. Margaret Akullo is a Ugandan born British citizen, a Criminologist and [former GLO.ACT Project Coordinator](#). Margaret is the daughter of a retired United Nations diplomat and in this edition she shares her personal reflections on her career, her thoughts as the former GLO.ACT Project Coordinator and her passion, commitment and belief in the ideals of the United Nations. Margaret currently still works with UNODC as a Programme Officer with the Implementation Support Section of UNODC's Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch.

When and Where it all started...My memory takes me back to 1975 when I lived in my country of birth Uganda. It was towards the end of July 1975 when Uganda hosted the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Heads of State summit conference in Kampala. Although it has been over four decades since the OAU summit took place, I vividly recall standing on the streets of Entebbe with other school children cheerfully waving the Ugandan flag as the OAU delegates were driven past in a convoy of official vehicles heading towards Kampala. It was then that a clear vision formed in my mind - that one day I would also like to be an international delegate. In 1976, a year after that historical meeting of the OAU summit in Uganda, our family moved to Ghana to join my late father who had started work as a diplomat with the United Nations.

What shaped my passion for the work I do...In many respects, the foundations of

my values, my passion and commitment were solidly formed in Africa and subsequently took shape in the UK where I concluded my education and begun my professional career. My early childhood was spent growing up in two beautiful African countries, which at times were unfortunately clouded by the effects of conflict and the aftermath of conflict. By the age of 10 years, I could easily recognize the sound of gunfire and bombs. At that young age, I held deeply entrenched memories of hiding in darkness at home accompanied by the feeling of fear of being harmed during conflict situations. Many years later, I was also regularly caught up in the chaos and aftermath of similar terror threats in London, which automatically took me back to my childhood memories of conflict.

It has been nearly 30 years since I started my professional career, 10 years of which have been with [UNODC](#), working with countries in tackling transnational organized crimes including on crimes against children. Given my childhood experience, it should therefore come as no surprise what path my career took.

Reflections on GLO.ACT...After many years working in the UK, I spent five years with UNODC in Southeast Asia, and then I moved to UNODC headquarters in Vienna in October 2015 to lead UNODC's flagship project on human trafficking and migrant smuggling called [GLO.ACT](#). I was in that position till June 2018. GLO.ACT was a new project with the right ingredients for success. It was a project that had a solid foundation built in from experience of previous projects and it had a group of dedicated staff from three UN agencies - UNODC, [IOM](#) and [UNICEF](#), and the [European Union](#) as the donor. During my 2.5 year tenure, I particularly worked closely with all UNODC divisions and field offices and together with IOM and UNICEF, I was able to provide the impetus for delivery of over [150 activities](#) across the globe.

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In many respects, setting up the project implementation structure and then managing its implementation in 12 countries signalled the pinnacle of my career at a global level. Ultimately, my role was on project management - ensuring that key functional areas of GLO.ACT were being delivered within scope, time, budget and that the right people were involved in its implementation. In parallel, I worked closely with our EU focal point and maintained cordial relations, which was developed over time as confidence for managing the project and delivering key activities grew. Apart from communicating with IOM and UNICEF through quarterly project coordination meetings, communication with the EU was crucial and done in an ad hoc manner or formally through bi-annual project steering committee meetings

GLO.ACT in Africa...GLO.ACT activities in Africa are being delivered in Egypt, Morocco, Mali, Niger and South Africa alongside UNODC's country and regional programmes. GLO.ACT participating countries in Africa have successfully delivered a broad range of activities in line with overall project objectives, some of which are highlighted in this newsletter. Without a doubt, the work of the GLO.ACT National Project Officers at country level has created national and regional successes. For example, the regional cooperation [workshop](#) held between officials from Mali, Niger and Morocco and the Africa-Europe [Conference](#) workshop held in Egypt with prosecutors from North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe.

The second African UN Secretary General, the late Kofi Annan once said '...*sometimes the collective interest – the international interest – is also the national interest*'. The global success of GLO.ACT activities have become national successes because elements of good practice have been shared across countries and with different networks, for example with [WACAP](#), the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors against

Organised Crime and the expected establishment of a regular cooperation platform for prosecutors as a result of the Africa-Europe conference.

GLO.High and GLO.Low lights....As GLO.ACT implementation begun to peak, my personal highlights also begun to emerge. I represented UNODC at a series of international events - for example alongside the [UNODC Executive Director and EU Ambassador](#) at the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in 2016 and 2017; at a [live TV](#) youth audience explaining how UNODC delivers against SDG10 and 16; highlighting victims voices at both the [UN day](#) and [EU Anti Trafficking Day in 2017](#); representing UNODC at the [1st International Summit on Child Protection](#) in June 2018. On a personal level, leading the [UNODC/GLO.ACT delegation](#) of 18 UNODC staff members (made up of 17 nationalities) for a series of meetings hosted by the Government of Colombia continues to remain my personal and professional highlight. Notwithstanding the many highlights, there have also been a few lowlights. Funding for the GLO.ACT project runs out in 2019 and whilst that is discouraging in itself, it also creates a great opportunity for other donors to contribute to the ongoing work. Leaving the management of GLO.ACT was also a personal lowlight though I had the confidence that I had put in place a robust project management structure and strategically redesigned the project implementation strategy to include 12 nationals to lead the delivery of GLO.ACT at country level.

What next...I have been exposed to the work of the UN from an early age and so I still believe that there is that hope that collectively, no one will be left behind. Although my role has changed, my goal remains the same – to make a positive difference to the most vulnerable. I hope my work continues to be meaningful and it will contribute to investing in the most vulnerable people, ending poverty,

protecting the planet and ensuring that people live in peace and prosperity.

It was really an honour and great privilege to work with a [team](#) of inspirational, dedicated and committed individuals, who shared '**a global commitment defined by local ownership**'. There was such a strong team spirit and bond created by nationals from across four continents, and aptly referred to as the '*mini UN*' at the meeting in Colombia. My new role is a career development opportunity and allows me to expand my knowledge and expertise on global debates and inter-governmental processes on [transnational organized crime](#). I now work as a Programme Officer within the Implementation Support Section of UNODC's Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch and the areas of work I cover have a wider thematic reach covering global programmes that deal with [firearms trafficking](#), [drugs trafficking criminal justice cooperation](#) and international cooperation.



Inadvertently, the September 2018 meeting in Egypt did create a question in my mind about my career-is it time to focus on Africa?

As I ponder on that thought, I will conclude by saying that: *A society will be judged based on how it treats its most vulnerable. Everyone should live in a healthy environment, where there is peace and prosperity, where they feel safe and have equal access to everything from education to jobs and to healthcare and a fair justice system.*

End

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Good practice examples...

All 13 countries have made real progress implementing GLO.ACT. All countries have held and continue to hold regular coordination meetings with national institutions and implementing partners, ensuring that strategic points for project delivery have been discussed with government officials from the participating countries, the EU Delegations, UNODC, IOM, UNICEF, and civil society. The global nature of the project does indeed mean that we are building a 'community of practice' that can learn from each other. Below is a small snapshot of some good practices identified through GLO.ACT.

Supporting victims, strengthening states

Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants are global concerns, with the former affecting virtually every country in the world as a place of origin, transit or destination, and the latter being perpetrated by migrant smugglers who generally face a low risk of detection and punishment. Due to the transnational nature of these crimes, governments are challenged by the involvement of many different jurisdictions, legislations, legal issues and sometimes different approaches in tackling those crimes.

UNODC supports governments to cooperate between different jurisdictions and helps them develop combined responses to combat the global challenges posed by transnational organized crime in accordance with its mandates and international standards.

GLO.ACT supports regional networks of prosecutors

At GLO.ACT we believe that achieving regional cooperation is critical in obtaining information and evidence, which are necessary to investigate and prosecute cross-border crimes. We have thus made supporting prosecutorial networks a key priority in all the 13 target countries we cover. Based on our successful support of the [Ibero-American network](#) of specialized prosecutors against Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and the Smuggling of Migrants (SOM), recently named [REDTRAM](#), we proceeded to host a workshop for members of the West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors against Organised Crime (WACAP) in Vienna, Austria. This event brought together over 20 participants from eight West African countries, including Mali and Niger.

The workshop focused on several issues, including core concepts in addressing human trafficking cases; international cooperation instruments such as UNODC's Mutual Legal Assistance Request Writer Tool; and regional cooperation in West Africa.

In the discussions, many participants emphasized the need to overcome challenges such as language and legal system differences, as well as complex evidence collection in transnational organized crime cases.

Karen Kramer, Coordinator of UNODC's Serious and Organized Crime Programme, noted that cooperation was critical in obtaining information and evidence, which are necessary to investigate and prosecute cross-border crimes. She highlighted that the WACAP network facilitates coordinated action and the resolution of obstacles. Find out more about the WACAP meeting [here](#)

GLO.ACT supports international conference

The success of REDTRAM and the WACAP meeting sparked the idea for the first "[Africa-Europe Conference on International Judicial Cooperation in Investigation and Prosecution of Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling](#)". The conference was an important first step to strengthen international cooperation in criminal matters to fight Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants, two serious forms of organized crime that are rampant along migration routes. In an attempt to concretely go beyond information-sharing and sporadic networking, the conference promoted the establishment of a regular cooperation platform for prosecutors as a means to overcome existing difficulties and find pragmatic solutions to obstacles that hamper the investigation and prosecution of cases of human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

GLO.ACT supports national networks of prosecutors

During 2018, the Moroccan authorities decided to establish a network of prosecutors representing each court of appeal. As GLO.ACT has identified supporting the creation of networks of prosecutors as a good practice in the fight against human trafficking and migrant smuggling, we supported this initiative. The aim of this network is to have prosecutors that have developed in-depth knowledge on the complexities related to Trafficking in Persons cases. Thus, to build a common understanding, practice and network of professionals working on the same topic, two prosecutors per court are being trained by UNODC under the framework of GLO.ACT. Find out more about the network [here](#)

Supporting the establishment and development of regional, prosecutorial networks is a firm step in the right direction in **enhancing justice** for victims and **reducing impunity** for traffickers.

DISCLAIMER: This publication has been produced by the GLO.ACT team and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

Days of Action...

30th July 2018: World Day against Trafficking in Persons. In 2018 the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) focused on child trafficking. GLO.ACT target countries in Africa also commemorated the day. In **Niger**, GLO.ACT marked the day by organizing a [conference](#) for law enforcement officers on new recruitment methods used by traffickers.



In **South Africa**, GLO.ACT in collaboration with the Department of Justice and

Constitutional Development, marked the day by shining a spotlight on how we can respond to trafficking of children and youth. The organizations convened a one-day [workshop](#) for community leaders and other relevant stakeholders in Cape Town. The workshop also provided an exhibition space for many of the NGOs participating in the event and it enabled them to showcase their achievements in the fights against human trafficking, and the specific areas of work that they are involved in.

GLO.ACT team news...

We were sad to say goodbye to several GLO.Star team members but were also very excited to welcome some new team members. To find out more about the entire GLO.ACT team please visit:

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/humantrafficking/glo-act/meet-the-gloact-team.html>

Forthcoming...

In the next edition of the Newsletter, we shine the spotlight on our work in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

Did you know...?

That you can keep up-to date with what is happening by following us on Twitter @glo_act ! Alternatively, please visit our website:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/humantrafficking/glo-act/index.html>

Shout out...

At the start of 2019, we would like to say once again a big thank you to everyone that is involved with and supports GLO.ACT. This project, so generously funded by the European Union, could not be delivered without the amazing team and implementing partners currently delivering the project in the 13 participating countries.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our webpage:

https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/glo_act.html

Follow us on Twitter at: @glo_act

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