



Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and
the Smuggling of Migrants

GLO.ACT COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE WORKSHOP

“PEER TO PEER EXCHANGE” CONCLUSIONS

BACKGROUND

GLO.ACT convened a "Community of Practice" [workshop](#) from 20 to 21 May 2019 on the side-lines of the 28th Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in Vienna, Austria. The Community of Practice (CoP) workshop was held to ensure that the project continues to assist its partners in delivering targeted, innovative, demand-driven and sustainable interventions. It started with the formal opening and introduction to GLO.ACT and its second phase in GLO.ACT Asia and the Middle East and was followed by five sessions corresponding to the GLO.ACT objectives/outcomes (The 5th session combined two objectives focusing on protection and assistance).

The Workshop was very successful thanks to the level of participation, the overall level of expertise, participants' engagement, as well as by the insights, challenges and experiences shared along the Workshop. The CoP responded to its main objectives and participants' expectations. It was well received, gaining high average ratings across the board. The overall evaluation of the Workshop was relatively high, with an average of 4,4/5.

The CoP focused on promoting joined-up thinking, facilitated a dialogue and information exchange between the countries and pooled valuable learning, creating new knowledge that can support practitioners transform their practice to accommodate changes in the design, planning and implementation of counter trafficking and smuggling interventions.

The Community of Practice Workshop was attended by national experts from both the original GLO.ACT countries as well as from the upcoming GLO.ACT Asia and the Middle East project so that they could share their experiences and lessons learned after four years of implementation. GLO.ACT's own National Project Officers, as well as HQ staff, implementing partners from IOM, UNICEF, and counterparts from ICMPD also shared their expertise.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Community of Practice workshop were to:

- Formally introduce the next phase of the GLO.ACT project: GLO.ACT Asia and the Middle East;
- Acknowledge the efforts of GLO.ACT partner governments in addressing TIP and SOM in a sustainable manner across all six project objectives;
- Facilitate a dialogue and information exchange between the countries – pooling valuable learning, creating new knowledge which participants can take back out again into their own contexts;
- Promote joined-up thinking, around particular patterns of movement and exploitation and the most effective responses;
- Explore synergies between the first and second phase countries of GLO.ACT and GLO.ACT Asia and the Middle East;
- Identify concrete inputs for the development of workplans in GLO.ACT Asia and Middle East Countries.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants suggested the following lessons learned and good practices towards achieving transformational change to prevent and combat TIP and SOM. The conclusions, based on the six project outcomes, have been grouped under the following themes:

Context

- The importance of gaps and needs assessments to determine priorities in any intervention
- Prioritizing most important outcomes

Strong Partnerships and Ownerships

- Successful implementation is also dependent on strong partnerships among national, regional or international partners and proactive engagement with civil society
- Local buy-in needs to be secured in order to ensure sustainability

Design and Planning

- Make sure the project is flexible and adaptable but that everything can be measured
- Interventions needs to be tailored to national contexts
- Having a whole-of-society approach, brining all stakeholders together, including NGOs and civil society organizations to effectively deal with TIP and SOM. This can be done within the framework of the [Global Compact on Migration](#).

Approach

- Interventions need to be human rights-based and adopt a gender and age sensitive approach.
- Interventions, where appropriate, need to consider being multi-disciplinary in nature and should adopt an inclusive approach
- Different 'voices' need to be heard
- Importance of innovation such as the GLO.ACT hackathons in Brazil and Colombia; the Virtual Reality tool against TIP for organ removal in Nepal; the 100 Days against TIP awareness raising campaign in the Kyrgyz Republic.

Feedback

- Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning to allow for changes or improvements

Impact

- Different levels of impact. Impact can be at personal level (changing mentality and behaviour), priority level (tailoring responses based on needs), the institutional level and at the level of final beneficiaries.
- Focus interventions on early identification of victims of human trafficking as that leads to early results.
- Importance to stay connected after capacity building activities, e.g. through WhatsApp groups.
- Ensure lasting impact of capacity building interventions ensure counterparts are committed for at least 2 years and, where available, consider engaging with existing training centres like is the case in Belarus.

For more information about the CoP, access the full agenda [here](#) and read the concept note [here](#).