



Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants

Special Event:
GLO.ACT Community of Practice Workshop
Peer to peer exchange

20-21 May 2019
14:30-16:30 & 9:00-16:30
Room C06, Vienna International Centre
Vienna-Austria

Background

The Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants ([GLO.ACT](#)) is a multi-year joint initiative by the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) which was launched in 2015 and is currently entering its second phase until 2022. GLO.ACT has been implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). In its first phase, GLO.ACT was delivered in 13 strategically selected countries across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America, namely Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, the Kyrgyz Republic, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, South Africa and Ukraine.

GLO.ACT is considered a flagship project by the EU and UNODC alike and has sought to make a lasting contribution for future UNODC-EU cooperation against Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and the Smuggling of Migrants (SOM). Through delivering targeted, innovative, demand-driven and sustainable interventions and the identification of good practices, the project has managed to achieve 'transition to impact' across most of its target countries. Highlights include the passing of the 2018 Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants Acts in Pakistan after extensive advocacy work by UNODC undertaken under the framework of GLO.ACT; the establishment of a network of prosecutors specializing in TIP and representing every court of appeal in Morocco and the passing of National Action Plans against Trafficking in Persons and/or the Smuggling of Migrants, tailored to national contexts in Brazil, Colombia, Mali and South Africa, further solidifying these countries responses to trafficking and smuggling. The project also partnered with private enterprise (IBM) and civil society, leveraging youth engagement to develop cutting-edge and innovative mobile applications to combat human trafficking. UNODC also developed a virtual reality tool to investigate TIP for the purpose of organ removal as part of a larger objective to shine a light on this much less reported on form of human trafficking, while IOM achieved much broader buy-in using an extensive stakeholder consultation process to develop the Handbook on "Protection and Assistance for Migrants Vulnerable to Violence, Exploitation and Abuse."

The Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants – Asia and the Middle East (GLO.ACT Asia and the Middle East) is an extension the original GLO.ACT project and is another multi year (2018-2022) joint initiative by the EU and UNODC, which is planned to be delivered in partnership with IOM in up to five countries including: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (Afghanistan), People's Republic of Bangladesh (Bangladesh), Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran), Republic of Iraq (Iraq) and Islamic Republic of Pakistan (Pakistan). This second phase of the project builds on a "**global community of practice**" set in motion during the first phase of GLO.ACT (2015-2019). The project will assist governmental authorities and civil society organizations in targeted, innovative and demand-driven interventions: sustaining effective strategy and policy development, legislative review and harmonization, capability development, and regional and trans-regional cooperation. The project will also provide direct assistance to victims of human trafficking and vulnerable migrants through the strengthening of identification, referral, and protection mechanisms.



Why A Community of Practice (CoP)?

To ensure that GLO.ACT is able to assist its partners in delivering targeted, innovative, demand-driven and, above all, sustainable interventions, it proactively engages in the continuous development of a “**global community of practice**”. A CoP is a trusted group of practitioners that shares knowledge based on real life experiences. Members of a CoP operate in a space where they can share what works, does not work, contemplate ideas and solve problems together. CoPs are repositories of knowledge and good practices which members then apply and share through their own networks or workplaces.

For GLO.ACT, this is also a community that is committed to achieving lasting change at the level of institutions, legislation and policies. To achieve this, GLO.ACT engages relevant target groups in project design as well as project implementation. This approach allows GLO.ACT to secure local ownership and ensures that, upon project completion, achievements of project objectives are not jeopardized and that progress towards the objectives will continue beyond the project end date.

Throughout the implementation of GLO.ACT there has been abundant evidence of the links between the target countries. As the project evolved, it became clear that some of the good practices identified in one GLO.ACT country can be replicated with similar results in another. National Project Officers from across the globe speak with one another, both formally and informally, and learn from each other’s experiences. This resulted in numerous good practices across all 6-project objectives being implemented around the world.

Continuously developing this global CoP therefore is an opportunity to share these good practices and lessons learnt, not only with GLO.ACT team but also with government counterparts, implementing partners and the project donor while at the same time learning more about national contexts, challenges and solutions. Exchanging information with those involved in the delivery and implementation of GLO.ACT Asia and the Middle East as well as those expected to benefit from this second phase of the project is now a **priority**. CoPs can ease up the adaptation stage of anyone involved with the project since the CoP can also serve as a mentor. Through the implementation of GLO.ACT, we have seen that peer exchanges are most beneficial among peers who are part of the same CoP and are therefore committed to continue to facilitate this process.

Objective

It is in this context, that GLO.ACT will convene a “**community of practice**” workshop in Vienna, Austria on the sidelines of the 2019 Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), where it is expected that UNODC’s Executive Director along with several national experts will address GLO.ACT government focal points from both the original project as well as those from GLO.ACT Asia and the Middle East, along with their representatives from Vienna and Geneva based Permanent Missions.

The objectives of the CoP workshop are 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.