



Tool 2.2 Assessment of the national situation

Overview

This tool provides examples of the assessment process and the methodologies and survey instruments used.

Promising practice

Assessment of the situation in Benin, Nigeria and Togo

As part of a UNODC project, several instruments were developed to assist in undertaking a comprehensive assessment of the situation in respect of human trafficking in Benin, Nigeria and Togo and of the response capacity of existing organizations and mechanisms. These instruments included questionnaires designed to obtain information from persons in the following agencies and groups:

- (a) Law enforcement
- (b) Immigration
- (c) Prosecution service
- (d) International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
- (e) Magistrates and judges
- (f) Embassies/consulates
- (g) Non-governmental organizations
- (h) Government departments and ministries
- (i) Adult victims
- (j) Child victims

They also included an exercise to gather data on prevention projects and services for victims of trafficking, as well as data on instances of trafficking known to Government agencies.

To facilitate comparisons between States, an attempt was made to introduce standard research tools for the purpose of conducting interviews with Government and non-governmental organization experts and with victims. A total of 13 instruments were designed, 10 of which were questionnaires while the remaining three were guidelines for the collection of data and statistics. There was a large degree of overlap in the content of the instruments, in particular for the police, immigration and prosecution services, judicial experts and INTERPOL. The content of the survey instruments is described in more detail below.

Survey instruments for law enforcement, immigration, prosecution service and INTERPOL personnel and members of the judiciary (magistrates and judges)

The survey instruments consisted of open-ended questions, varying in number from 33 to 48. They addressed the following issues: agency involvement and operations; awareness;

definitions and criteria; processing of human trafficking cases and cooperation with other agencies; international cooperation; and challenges and recommendations for best practice.

Survey instrument for embassy personnel

Research teams were asked to target embassies of States of origin, transit and destination to measure the degree of cooperation with their own Government. This 24-item, open-ended questionnaire examined embassies' operations; processing of trafficking cases and cooperation with other agencies and countries; and challenges and recommendations for best practices.

Survey instrument for Government departments and ministries

This 38-item questionnaire was designed to determine which ministries were involved in providing which services to victims (prevention and repatriation assistance); the degree of coordination between Government departments and non-governmental organizations; and challenges and recommendations for best practices.

Survey instrument for non-governmental organizations

This 44-item instrument posed questions to non-governmental organizations concerning their services, their prevention initiatives, the assistance they provided to repatriated victims, the extent to which their services were coordinated with Government agencies, the challenges they encountered and their suggestions in terms of best practices.

Victim survey (adult and child)

This closed-ended questionnaire contained 78 questions and sought information on demographic variables relating to the victim, recruitment practices, deception, exploitation, experience with the various Government and non-governmental agencies and reporting patterns. The child victim questionnaire contained a guideline on topics for researchers to follow. The research teams were instructed to allow children to tell their stories, but also to seek, as much as possible, the kind of information outlined in the guideline.

Statistics from Government agencies

Researchers were asked to obtain statistics from Government agencies on victims, offenders, criminal justice system responses and budget issues.

Topics for the analysis of case files

Researchers were asked to analyse case files and provide, where available, information on victims (their experiences with recruitment and exploitation), offenders (demographic variables and their role within the organization), criminal organizations (nature, practice and modus operandi), contacts with the licit and illicit environment, routes taken, costs and proceeds of the criminal activity and case data.

Survey relating to prevention projects and services to victims of trafficking

Research teams were asked to gather information on projects being implemented in the country, focusing on the following: (a) organizations subsidizing projects; (b) geographical

coverage, i.e. villages, cities and areas of the country in which these projects are offered or have been implemented; (c) type of project, strategy and major activities (prevention through the media, schools, educational or job training projects, shelters, victim services such as counselling, repatriation and reintegration services, training for the police and the judiciary, etc.); (d) beneficiaries of the project, such as potential victims, repatriated victims, parents, the community at large, etc.; (e) length of time the project was offered and whether or not follow-up activities have been implemented; (f) whether the change achieved was sustainable; and (g) known results.



This assessment is available at:

www.unodc.org/pdf/human_trafficking/ht_research_report_nigeria.pdf

Unchartered Migration: Rapid Assessment Report of Trafficking in Persons from the Dominican Republic into Puerto Rico (Organization of American States)

In April 2006, the Organization of American States (OAS) conducted a rapid assessment of trafficking of persons into Puerto Rico from the Dominican Republic. The rapid assessment was based on the fieldwork of an OAS researcher, interviews with Government officials and representatives of civil society, and a review of the existing literature and limited statistical information. The aim of the report was to ascertain the likelihood that men, women and children are trafficked into Puerto Rico both as a destination and as a transit point for entry into the United States of America.

Based on the findings of this report, OAS recommended that officials should improve their data collection with a view to obtaining more detailed information about the situation, that governmental and police officials in both Puerto Rico and the United States should receive training on victim identification, and that the Government of Puerto Rico should work with non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations to raise awareness among the Puerto Rican population concerning the issue of trafficking.



This and other OAS rapid assessment reports are available at:

www.oas.org/atip/atip_Reports.asp

Trafficking in Persons: an Analysis of Afghanistan (International Organization for Migration)

In the trying climate of transitional Afghanistan, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) undertook an analysis of trends in trafficking in persons and responses to them in

Afghanistan which it published in January 2004. The methodology for gathering data had to be fully cognizant of special security considerations. It involved a review of relevant existing literature, distribution of surveys throughout and beyond Afghanistan, interviews with stakeholders, case studies and analysis.



This analysis by IOM of the trafficking situation in Afghanistan is available at:

www.old.iom.int/documents/publication/en/afghan_trafficking.pdf

Study on Trafficking in Women, Children and Adolescents for Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Brazil

(Reference Centre for Studies and Actions in Favour of Children and Adolescents (CECRIA), Brazil, and Save the Children, Sweden)

This landmark study, published in July 2003, highlighted the magnitude of the trafficking problem in Brazil and documented 241 internal and international routes used for the trafficking of Brazilian women and children. As a result of the findings of this study, the Intergovernmental Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry was instituted in 2003, bringing national attention to the issue through public hearings. Legislative changes—including amendments to the Penal Code and the Statute for the Protection of Children and Adolescents—resulted, as did the ratification of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol by Brazil the following year. Also in 2004, the Ministry of Justice, in collaboration with UNODC, increased efforts to ascertain the situation with regard to trafficking in Brazil through a pilot project conducted in four states and an increase of funds for the training of professionals in relation to victim assistance.



This study is available in English, Spanish and Portuguese at:

www.scslat.org/search/publieng.php?_cod_39_lang_e

Report on People Smuggling, Human Trafficking and Illegal Migration (Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference)

This report of the Pacific Immigration Directors' Conference on people smuggling, human trafficking and illegal migration is based on survey responses from the 23 member States of the Conference. It presents a clear picture of issues concerning the movement of people in the Pacific Islands region, including movement due to the trafficking of people. The report also addresses the response to trafficking and highlights the fact that only around half of the Conference's members have appropriate human trafficking legislation in place.



The report is available to Conference members only at:
www.pidcsec.org

Lessons learned

Assessment of the situation in the Philippines: importance of inter-agency cooperation

A rapid assessment project conducted in 1999 in the Philippines by UNODC and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) revealed a situation that is typical in many States. At the time of the rapid assessment, a large number of Government agencies and departments were already addressing various aspects of human smuggling and trafficking in their respective areas of competence. Although they were working towards the same goals, they often tended to operate independently, unaware of the efforts being undertaken by other departments or agencies. The result was duplication of effort and inefficiency.

The assessment noted the need for cooperation between Government agencies and the criminal justice system to be strengthened. In particular, the assessment described a weak level of coordination between the police and prosecutors, a factor that led to the dismissal of cases. Within the criminal justice system, special focus must be placed on the relationship between the police and the prosecution. Experience shows that successful prosecutions against traffickers depend on strong ties and excellent liaison between the police and the prosecutors and investigating magistrates.



The report on the rapid assessment can be consulted at:
www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/trafficking/RA_UNICRI.pdf

A more thorough assessment of the situation in the Philippines was reported in *Coalitions against Trafficking in Human Beings in the Philippines: Research and Action*, published by UNODC in 2003 and available at:

www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/human_trafficking/coalitions_trafficking.pdf