



Tool 8.7 Material assistance

Overview

This tool introduces considerations to be taken into account in providing victims with material and financial assistance.

Article 6, paragraph 3 (c) of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol calls on States parties to consider implementing measures for the provision of material assistance to victims of trafficking. Victims of trafficking are likely to need food, accommodation, clothing, medical care, psychological support, legal advice, local transportation, language and other courses, and other things which assist their rehabilitation.

Two main models for providing assistance to victims of trafficking

- Direct financial assistance to victims from Government sources
 - This would, for example, allow them to access social welfare benefits on a monthly basis
 - There are many advantages to providing direct financial support to victims; however, victims of trafficking are generally not eligible for such funding
 - The provision of financial assistance should be considered on a case-by-case basis, depending on the individual circumstances of the individual victim
- Direct material assistance from organizations and institutions involved in the support and protection of victims of trafficking
 - For example, where victims of trafficking receive material support in the form of food, accommodation and clothing etc.
 - Such support is generally provided by non-governmental organizations and other service-providing organizations

Advantages of direct financial assistance

For a victim, having access to a certain amount of money can have a positive effect on their psychological stabilization and their overall rehabilitation. Through being provided with limited finances:

- The trafficked person is given the opportunity to regain control over daily decision-making
- The trafficked person is given the opportunity to learn to manage financial resources

Potential donors of financial assistance

- National Governments through, for example:
 - Government programmes
- Social welfare programmes
- Asylum or refugee funding
- Crime-victim compensation or criminal procedure funds
- Programmes relating to the prevention of violence against women
- Programmes relating to youth
 - Anti-trafficking projects
- Foreign Governments through:
 - Consular services
 - Foreign aid
- International organizations through anti-trafficking projects
- Non-governmental organizations, faith-based organizations, charities and humanitarian programmes.



Source: This topic is discussed in greater detail in *National Referral Mechanisms: Joining Efforts to Protect the Rights of Trafficked Persons; a Practical Handbook* (Warsaw, OSCE, 2004), available at: www.osce.org/publications/odihr/2004/05/12351_131_en.pdf