



Tool 9.14 Proactive prevention strategies: targeting traffickers

Overview

This tool showcases efforts which have been undertaken to profile and deter potential and actual traffickers from exploiting other people.

Most strategies that target traffickers begin at the point where criminal justice becomes relevant: traffickers come into focus when there is a suspicion of trafficking. However, consideration is rarely given to who traffickers were before they became traffickers and the factors that led them there.

For instance, the fact that some traffickers were former victims themselves may be indicative that the factors that make people vulnerable to being trafficked (see Tool 9.2 and Tool 9.3) may also make people vulnerable to becoming traffickers. This, in turn, points to the need for reintegration programmes to take into account that breaking the cycle of trafficking requires not only preventing victims from being retrafficked but also preventing victims from becoming traffickers themselves (for more on reintegration generally, see Chapter 7).

These lacunae in both knowledge about trafficking and responses to it highlight the need to prioritize research and data collection. Currently, information about traffickers—who they are and how they operate—is inadequate to target tailored responses effectively to prevent them from committing their crimes. Detailed data must therefore be collected to strengthen and tailor interventions targeted at traffickers and potential traffickers. For some promising examples of efforts to profile traffickers and collect relevant data, please see Tool 9.15.

Identifying and profiling traffickers

Crime Reduction Toolkit on trafficking of people (United Kingdom)

When available, multi-agency-agreed profiles of traffickers are useful. Immigration and police officers can benefit from access to such profiles for the purpose of entry and exit point detection. In addition to profiles of victims and potential victims, it is useful for there to be profiles of:

- The modus operandi of traffickers
- Traffickers and their accomplices

In achieving such profiles, local intelligence should be recorded and shared with other agencies and, where appropriate, communicated to national agencies.

At the point of interception, many potential victims have only been subjected to deception rather than any form of coercion, and may therefore be unaware that they are at risk of being exploited at the point of entering another country. However, the fact that they are travelling with a known trafficker may mean that they are able to provide useful intelligence.

There may be opportunities for the police to intercept traffickers and victims exiting the country, as well as upon their entry. Profiles and databases for identifying traffickers and victims are equally applicable.



Source: The United Kingdom Home Office Crime Reduction Toolkit on trafficking of people, available at:
www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/toolkits/tp0601.htm

Federal Criminal Police Office (Germany)

The Federal Criminal Police Office of Germany released the *Bundeslagebild Menschenhandel 2006* report in August 2007. This report provides details on the gender and nationality of traffickers to facilitate the formulation of prevention strategies targeting traffickers. The Office registered 664 suspects, 77 per cent of whom were male. About 43 per cent of the traffickers were German nationals; 52 per cent had different nationalities at birth (including Romanian, Polish and Bulgarian—countries which are also countries of origin).

Knowing the nationality of traffickers and having information about their nationality at birth could assist in the development of prevention measures targeting potential traffickers.



The report is available (in German only) at:
www.bka.de/lageberichte/mh/2006/mh2006.pdf
 Information in English is available at: www.bka.de

Deterring traffickers

National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters (Nigeria)

On the website of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters of Nigeria, there is the slogan “Children are not farm produce—don’t trade them for money”, a message clearly directed at traffickers or potential traffickers. The Public Enlightenment Department of the Agency, with the support of IOM and USAID, has produced posters which display this message (and another directed at traffickers and exploiters of children which reads “Children are not created to be slaves—don’t treat them like slaves”). The Agency has established a network of women’s associations, security agents, non-governmental organizations and other concerned entities in states and local government areas of Nigeria. The network meets regularly to support the grassroots education and intelligence-gathering efforts of the Agency.



More information about the work of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters is available at:
www.naptip.gov.ng



Indian Community Welfare Organisation

The Indian Community Welfare Organisation was established in 1994, primarily to assist marginalized and exploited women in difficult circumstances in India. The main focus of the Organisation has been to work with sex workers and their clients, to prevent the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV) among high-risk populations and to prevent the sexual exploitation of children.

In 2007, on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26 June), the Indian Community Welfare Organisation held an event to encourage pimps and brokers to cease their involvement in trafficking in persons. On this occasion, 10 female pimps and brokers symbolically burned their records of clients, sex workers and people vulnerable to being exploited, as a testament of their commitment to stop trafficking. The pimps and brokers participating in the programme took an oath to affirm this commitment.



More information about the work of the Indian Community Welfare Organisation is available at:

<http://icwoindia.org>