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We
combat

human
trafficking

R76

Project

Core Training Group: A profile of the group

The UNODC R76 Project helps to strengthen investigation and prosecution of traffickers, and assistance to victims through awareness-raising and capacity building on human trafficking to legal and law enforcement officials in Lao PDR



Participants and trainers at the Awareness-raising Workshop in Vang Vieng in June 2009. Photo: UNODC R76

A key component of the R76 Project has been the establishment of a Core Training Group (CTG). The CTG members come from the national criminal justice and law enforcement agencies including: the People's Supreme Court, the Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Lao Bar Association, as well as the Faculty of Law and Political Science.

The CTG trainers have participated in an extensive training programme that have covered: the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, particularly Women and Children (TIPP); investigating and prosecuting cases of human trafficking; protecting and supporting victims of human trafficking, and; international cooperation. This training programme ran between 2007 and 2008.

Through two week-long Training of Trainers workshops in early 2009 the CTG trainers improved their lesson plan development skills and practical teaching methodologies.

To date, the CTG has carried out four workshops at provincial level in Champasack, Vientiane Province, Xieng Khouang and Houaphan. These workshops have brought together approximately 30 participants in each location and helped:

- To raise awareness and build capacity amongst legal and law enforcement officials on how to respond to human trafficking;
- To strengthen the teaching skills of the CTG trainers and provide them with more teaching experience.

The workshop topics have been:

- Lao Laws on Human Trafficking;
- The TOC and TIPP;
- The Importance of Victim Identification and Victim Assistance in Combating Human Trafficking;
- Special Measures for Child Victims of Human Trafficking;
- International Cooperation; Issues Relating to Human Trafficking – Money Laundering, Corruption, Legal Persons.

Using a participatory approach, case studies, group work and activi-

ties, Q&A are actively used to engage the participants to stimulate reflection and participation. The active participation, questions raised and positive feedback indicate that there is a need for further and more in-depth training.

The current 11 Core Training Group trainers have the skills and experience to continue providing awareness-raising and training on human trafficking issues. Collectively they represent a unique pool of expertise at national level – a cross-cutting group from the entire Lao criminal justice system consisting of police, prosecutors, lawyers, judges and teachers.

In the coming months the CTG will carry out capacity-building workshops in other provinces, as well as to defined target groups at central level. In the future the Core Training Group trainers may be involved in further capacity-building on human trafficking, as well as other forms of illicit trafficking. Building national capacity to respond to trafficking of drugs and precursors, environmental crimes and smuggling of migrants is much needed.