The Phenomenon of Labor Exploitation

United Nations Crime Prevention Webinar

Vienna International Center

Presenter: Philip L. Reichel, Ph.D.

University of Northern Colorado, USA

11 December 2012

Topics to be covered

❖How is labor exploitation distributed around the world?

❖What does the research tell us about the victims and the crime itself?

❖What lessons for crime prevention and victim protection can be learned from the research?
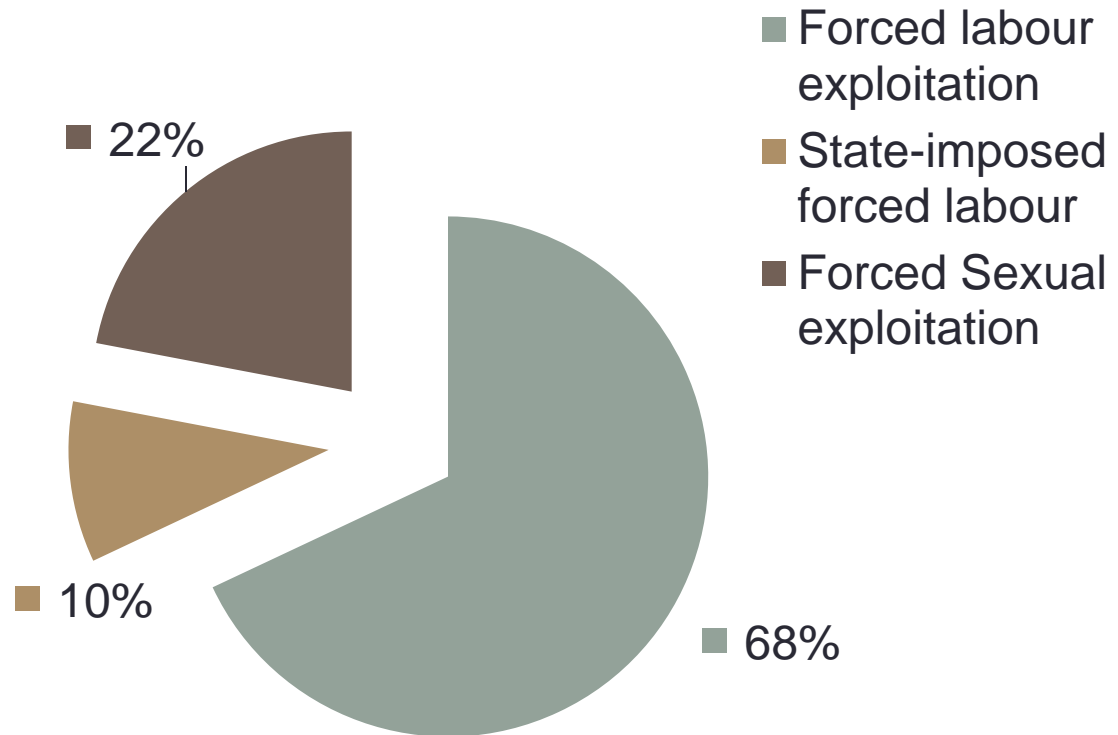
How is labor exploitation distributed around the world?

Key statistics covered on the following slides:

- The number of people who are victims of forced labor today
- The distribution of those victims around the globe
- The profits resulting from the crime

21 million victims of forced labor

- **14.2 million** (68%) victims of forced labor exploitation
- **4.5 million** (22%) victims of forced sexual exploitation
- **2.2 million** (10%) victims of state- imposed forced labor

Legend:
- Forced labour exploitation
- State-imposed forced labour
- Forced Sexual exploitation

22%

10%

68%

1,600,000

1,500,000

600,000   11,700,000

3,700,000

1,800,000

Forced Labor is a global problem

Prevalence of Forced Labor

Absolute Numbers*

1. Asia Pacific (56% of the total)
2. Africa (18%)
3. Latin America & Caribbean (9%)
4. Central/South-Eastern Europe & CIS (7%)
5. Developed Economies & EU (7%)
6. Middle East (3%)

*Percentages are rounded

Rate per 1000 population

1. Central/South-Eastern Europe & CIS (4.2/1000)
2. Africa (4)
3. Middle East (3.4)
4. Asia Pacific (3.3)
5. Latin America & Caribbean (3.1)
6. Developed Economies & EU (1.5)

Annual profits & lost wages

What does the research tell us about the offenders, victims, and the crime itself?

Key points covered on the following slides:

- The importance of trafficking research
- Problems in conducting the research
- General findings from the research

Key issues for human trafficking research

The importance of research

- Challenge assumptions and biases
- Raise awareness and mobilize action
- Design evidence-based policies
- Target limited resources

Problems conducting research

- Clandestine activity
- Lack of standardized definitions
- Misidentification of victims as offenders
- Ethical issues

Research findings regarding victims

- Trafficking victims in general are:
  - Young
  - Reasonably healthy
  - From poor, but not necessarily the poorest, backgrounds
- Victim demographics vary by region and type of trafficking. For example:
  - Forced labor victims generally are more likely to be women and girls (55%) than men and boys (45%)
  - However, U.S. data found forced labor victims more likely to be male, older (25 or older), and foreign than confirmed sex trafficking victims

Research findings regarding the crime itself

- Effective recruitment:
  - Use earlier victims to recruit new victims
  - Involve potential victim's family members
- From migration to trafficking
  - Likelihood of a forced labor outcome increased when vulnerable would-be migrant is deceived or required to pay a fee that could incur a debt relationship
- Economics of trafficking
  - Production changes make regulation and monitoring of employment practices more difficult
  - Insufficient number of labor inspectors worldwide

The State of Counter-Trafficking Research

Anti-Trafficking Research Gaps

- The economic/business models of trafficking, including the perpetrators; supply chains; industry profiling; exploitative brokering and recruitment; and corruption

- Trafficking for labor and combined trafficking outcomes, for example marriage/sex/labor trafficking

- Comparing trafficked vs. non-trafficked populations to understand vulnerability

- Trafficking of men and boys; minors (including differences by age and developmental stage), the elderly; and those with disabilities

Anti-Trafficking Research Priorities

- More funding for better quality research to provide sounder recommendations for programs and policy

- Stronger partnerships between service providers, donors, and researchers

- Reducing the research burden for service providers and NGOs by having donors fund professional

- More funding for researchers to train NGOs, when NGOs do assume the role of getting the word out on trafficking trends and issues they see

- More vigilance from donors funding research, for quality assurance (methods, ethics)

See http://www.no-trafficking.org/

IOM • OIM

UNIAP
United Nations Inter-Agency
Project on Human Trafficking
CAMBODIA | កម្ពុជា

NEXUS Institute

What lessons for crime prevention and victim protection can be learned from the research?

Key points covered on the following slides:

- Identifying victims—indicators for practitioners
- Need for multiple approaches

Research identifies indicators that may help law enforcement and victim advocates identify possible victims

Indicators useful to practitioners

- Unregistered workers
- Living at the workplace
- Persons reporting that they feel unsafe where they live

The 3P Approach and Stakeholder Collaboration

- Effective counter-measures require attention to Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution
- Implementing the 3P approach benefits from collaboration among various stakeholders
- Consumer behavior and power of the market place
  - Demand reduction via product labeling, fair trade initiatives, etc.
- Involve the media
  - CNN Freedom Project
- Encourage corporate social responsibility
  - Multi-stakeholders collaborate to prevent abusive labor practices in specific industries

International Cocoa Initiative and Better Cotton Initiative are examples of multi-stakeholder enterprises seeking to prevent abusive labor practices

Working Towards Responsible Labour Standards For Cocoa Growing

The prevalence of dangerous or exploitative labor practices in cocoa growing, amongst both adults and children, is recognized as a major problem. ICI was established to support the prevention and elimination of these practices.

www.cocoainitiative.org/

BCI works with a diverse range of stakeholders to promote measurable and continuing improvements that make global cotton production better for the people who produce it, better for the environment it grows in, and better for the sector's future.

bettercotton.org/

In Summary

Borrowing from, and (adding to), comments by the former Chief of the U.S. NIJ International Center:

"**The solution to the problem of human trafficking** lies in a dedicated effort to gather information systematically over time (sound research), using a combination of approaches in order to accurately focus on the risk factors associated with it (evidence based research), putting pressure (by multiple stakeholders) on those factors that influence recruitment, transit, and destination activities of traffickers, and using known cases to inform both the prevention and prosecution (and protection) of human trafficking"

--Jay Albanese

Sources used in this presentation

Albanese, J. S. (2011). *Transnational crime and the 21st century: Criminal enterprise, corruption, and opportunity*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Bales, K., & Lize, S. (2005). Trafficking in persons in the United States, final report. Retrieved from National Criminal Justice Reference Service Publications website: http://www.ncjrs.gov/app/publications/abstract.aspx?ID=233446

Banks, D., & Kyckelhahn, T. (2011). Characteristics of suspected human trafficking incidents, 2008-2010 (NCJ 233732),   Retrieved from http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cshti0810.pdf

International Labour Organization. (2008). Fighting human trafficking: The forced labour dimensions (background paper). *The Vienna Forum to fight Human Trafficking,* (13-15 February). Retrieved from http://www.ungift.org/docs/ungift/pdf/vf/aidmemoirs/supply%20chain%20management.pdf

International Labour Organization. (2012a). ILO global estimate of forced labour 2012: Results and methodology. Retrieved from ILO Washington website: http://www.ilo.org/washington/WCMS_182004/lang--en/index.htm

International Labour Organization. (2012b). Summary of the ILO 2012 global estimate of forced labour. Retrieved from http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---declaration/documents/publication/wcms_181953.pdf

Sources (continued)

International Labour Organization. (2012, June 1a). 21 million people are now victims of forced labour, ILO says Retrieved October 3, 2012, from http://www.ilo.org/washington/WCMS_181961/lang--en/index.htm

International Labour Organization. (2012, June 1b). ILO 2012 global estimate of forced labour (fact sheet) Retrieved October 5, 2012, from http://www.ilo.org/sapfl/Informationresources/Factsheetsandbrochures/WCMS_181921/lang--en/index.htm

International Labour Organization. (2012, June 1c). Questions and answers on forced labour. Retrieved October 3, 2012, from http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/comment-analysis/WCMS_181922/lang--en/index.htm

Labour Rights Promotion Network. (2011). Estimating labor trafficking: A study of Burmese migrant workers in Samut Sakhon, Thailand. *SIREN Trafficking Estimates.*   Retrieved from http://www.no-trafficking.org/reports_docs/estimates/uniap_estimating_labor_trafficking_report.pdf

Strategic Information Response Network. (2011). The state of counter-trafficking research: Researcher, programmer, and donor perspectives. *SIREN event report,* (June 20). Retrieved from http://www.no-trafficking.org/reports_docs/siren/gms-09_en.pdf