



UNITED NATIONS  
*Office on Drugs and Crime*

**UN.GIFT**

United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking



 **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**  **A CRIME THAT SHAMES US ALL**

# Human Trafficking: An Overview



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME  
Vienna

# UN.GIFT

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UNITED NATIONS  
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 **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**  **A CRIME THAT SHAMES US ALL**

*“The United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) mobilizes State and non-State actors to eradicate human trafficking by: (a) reducing both the vulnerability of potential victims and the demand for exploitation in all its forms; (b) ensuring adequate protection and support to those who do fall victim; and (c) supporting the efficient prosecution of the criminals involved, while respecting the fundamental human rights of all persons.*

*“In carrying out its mission, UN.GIFT will increase knowledge and awareness on human trafficking; promote effective rights-based responses; build capacity of State and non-State actors; and foster partnerships for joint action against human trafficking.”*

UN.GIFT mission statement



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The quotations were provided by the UNODC Regional Office of Brazil, the UNODC Country Office of Colombia and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development.

# PREFACE

Slowly and painfully a picture is emerging of a global crime that shames us all. Billions of dollars are being made at the expense of millions of victims of human trafficking. Boys and girls who should be at school are coerced into becoming soldiers, doing hard labour or sold for sex. Women and girls are being trafficked for exploitation: forced into domestic labour, prostitution or marriage. Men, trapped by debt, slave away in mines, plantations, or sweatshops.

How can such a trade in human beings occur in the 21st century? Because it is a low risk/ high reward crime. In many countries, either the necessary laws are not in place, or they are not properly enforced—too often traffickers are let off with a slap on the wrist, and victims are treated as criminals.

Unscrupulous traffickers exploit the poverty, hope and innocence of the vulnerable. Victims become dehumanized and enslaved—forced to produce cheap goods or provide services over and over again. They live in fear, many become victims of violence. Their blood, sweat and tears are on the hands of consumers in the developed world.

The world has a strong legal weapon to fight this crime: the United Nations Anti-Human Trafficking Protocol that entered into force in December 2005. Yet ratification is not universal, implementation is patchy, and information incomplete. Therefore, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, together with five other international organizations, has launched a Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (also known by its acronym UN.GIFT).

This report provides background on human trafficking, explains what has been achieved in the first year of UN.GIFT, and identifies challenges that lie ahead.

With a better understanding of why people are vulnerable to trafficking and how traffickers operate, and by providing the necessary legal and technical assistance to ensure that effective counter-measures are in place, this crime can be stopped.

We all have a role to play, either in raising awareness, building partnerships, providing information, protecting victims, or bringing the criminals to justice. Take action now to empower our sisters and brothers whose lives are for sale.

**Antonio Maria Costa**

Executive Director  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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# SUMMARY

Despite increasing global attention and significant, if fractured, national responses, human trafficking is, today, a very tragic reality. While the majority of Member States have ratified the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and other international instruments, human trafficking still remains a crime with low risks and high profit. The United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) provides a much-needed boost to enhance global efforts of all stakeholders: to tackle the crime; to examine the countermeasures taken; and to identify shortcomings.

In order to take the right steps to combat human trafficking, we need to improve our knowledge of its nature, the underlying conditions, as well as the profiles of traffickers and victims. Lack of data on the nature and severity of the problem remains a problem. Available information is often based on estimates with little explanation on how figures were calculated.

Some basic patterns and trends are apparent. Human trafficking is a process, with people being abducted or recruited in the country of origin, transferred through transit regions and then exploited in the country of destination. In the case of internal trafficking, all three stages would occur within the borders of a single country. Coercive or deceptive recruitment methods vary, as do transport modes. Further, the forms of exploitation differ, although for several years the focus has been on sexual exploitation rather than on forced labour and other forms of exploitation.

Inadequate knowledge of this crime is often a consequence of failure to identify victims as such. Among those who are identified, adult women are most frequently reported to be trafficked, followed by children. The factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation are complex and determined, in part, by the stage of the trafficking process the victim is in. There are vulnerabilities related to the conditions in the country of origin.. Also the transport itself makes people vulnerable, as they may not have proper documents or financial means and, therefore, depend on traffickers. The exploitation phase produces some additional vulnerabilities, as, for example, when victims have illegal status in the country or are physically isolated. Far less information on offenders is available than on their victims. Traffickers can be involved in various functions—as, for example, recruiters, transporters or exploiters—and various activities during different stages of the trafficking process, including forging documents, corruption and the withholding of their victims' documents. Organized criminal groups can be heavily involved in human trafficking, at different operational levels.

One clear conclusion is that traffickers still face little risk. Even where trafficking is criminalized in a State, investigations most often do not result in convictions or, where they do, in appropriate punishment of the offenders.

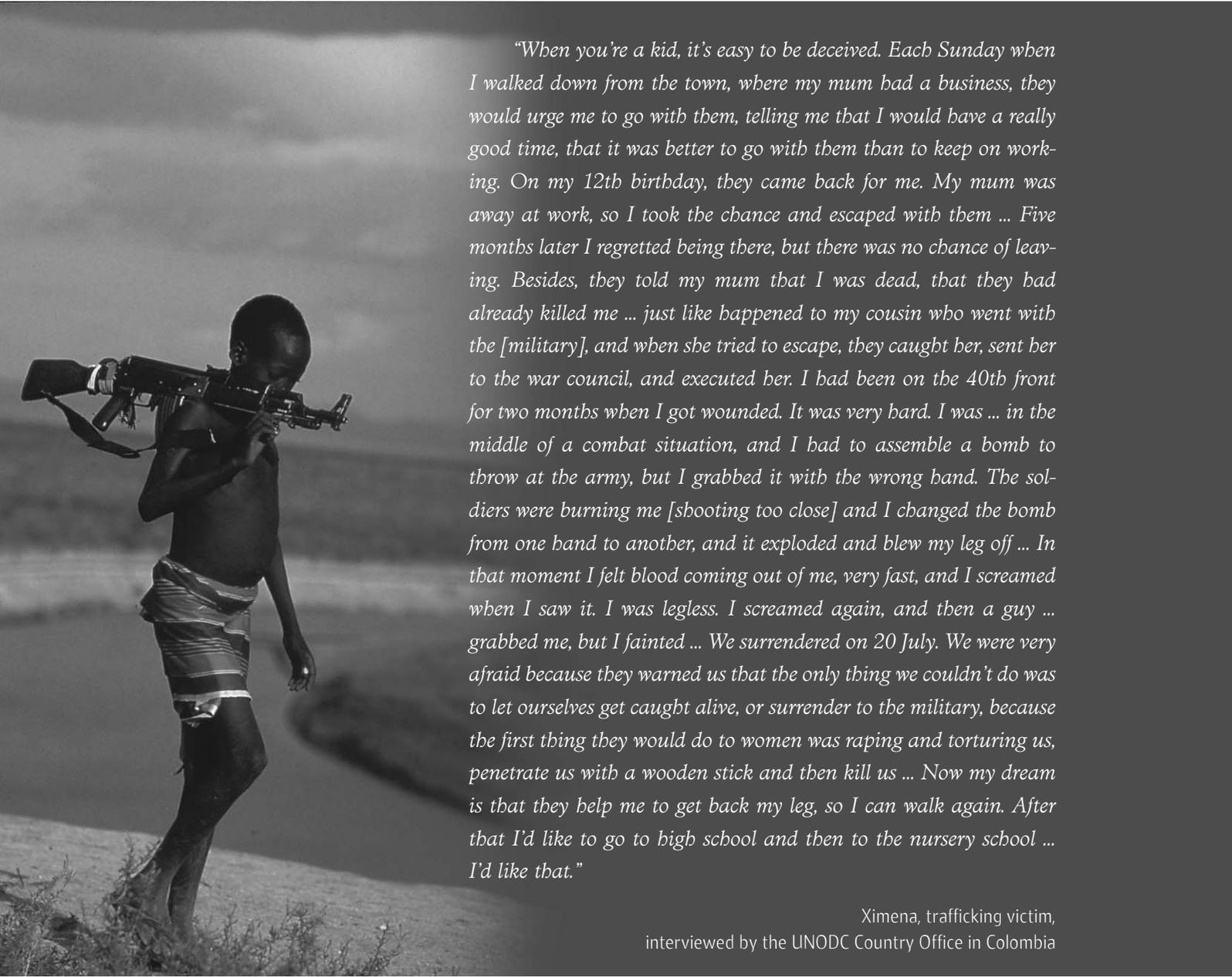
It is imperative that Governments ratify and implement the Trafficking Protocol, the first international instrument to address this crime.

The challenges to eradicate human trafficking are significant, but are known and can be addressed. They include:

- Lack of knowledge
- Lack of a national legal framework
- Lack of policy and capacity to respond
- Limited protection of and assistance to victims
- Limited international cooperation

UN.GIFT assists stakeholders in responding to these challenges through practical actions such as research, the development of tools, awareness-raising, building partnerships and mobilizing resources.

The Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking (13-15 February 2008) will bring all stakeholders together.



*“When you’re a kid, it’s easy to be deceived. Each Sunday when I walked down from the town, where my mum had a business, they would urge me to go with them, telling me that I would have a really good time, that it was better to go with them than to keep on working. On my 12th birthday, they came back for me. My mum was away at work, so I took the chance and escaped with them ... Five months later I regretted being there, but there was no chance of leaving. Besides, they told my mum that I was dead, that they had already killed me ... just like happened to my cousin who went with the [military], and when she tried to escape, they caught her, sent her to the war council, and executed her. I had been on the 40th front for two months when I got wounded. It was very hard. I was ... in the middle of a combat situation, and I had to assemble a bomb to throw at the army, but I grabbed it with the wrong hand. The soldiers were burning me [shooting too close] and I changed the bomb from one hand to another, and it exploded and blew my leg off ... In that moment I felt blood coming out of me, very fast, and I screamed when I saw it. I was legless. I screamed again, and then a guy ... grabbed me, but I fainted ... We surrendered on 20 July. We were very afraid because they warned us that the only thing we couldn’t do was to let ourselves get caught alive, or surrender to the military, because the first thing they would do to women was raping and torturing us, penetrate us with a wooden stick and then kill us ... Now my dream is that they help me to get back my leg, so I can walk again. After that I’d like to go to high school and then to the nursery school ... I’d like that.”*

Ximena, trafficking victim,  
interviewed by the UNODC Country Office in Colombia



## I. Why UN.GIFT

*“In 1810, Saartjie Baartman, a 21-year-old South African Griqua woman employed as a servant on a farm near Cape Town, was lured by Dr. William Dunlop, who promised her fame and fortune, to England. Baartman readily accepted his offer, and travelled with him to London by ship. Shortly after arriving in London, Dunlop chose to exhibit her in the nude in front of large crowds of Londoners, who paid one shilling each to view the ‘Hottentot Venus’ from Africa. Baartman was made to parade naked along a stage, two feet high, along which she was led by her keeper and exhibited like a wild beast, being obliged to walk, stand or sit as he ordered . . . She was depicted as a wild animal in a cage, dancing for her keeper.*

*“Eventually, in order to feed herself and survive, Baartman turned to prostitution. When she died, abandoned and alone in France, only six years after leaving Cape Town, her body was dissected, her skeleton was removed, and her brain and genitals were pickled and displayed as curiosities in the Musée de l’Homme in Paris for the next 160 years.*

*“In 1994 then President Nelson Mandela made an official request to have her remains returned to South Africa. Her story is, as one commentator notes, ‘the most notorious case of African trafficking never to have been named as such’. But her experience of recruitment by deception and cross-border transportation for sexual exploitation is one common to millions of women, children and men worldwide.”<sup>1</sup>*

Trafficking in persons was a violation against humanity 200 years ago, as it still is today. It has also continued to be an international issue. Virtually every country in the world is affected by trafficking for sexual exploitation or forced labour. Reliable global data are limited, but the number of victims is believed to be reaching epidemic proportions. Data taken from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report on trafficking in persons<sup>2</sup> document the trafficking of human beings from 127 countries to be exploited in 137 countries.

While there is clearly support to eradicate trafficking in persons, the challenges are immense. While the majority of United Nations Member States have ratified the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>3</sup> lack of action to implement it remains a problem. Many trafficking victims still go through the tribulation without anyone identifying them. Confusion between trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants prevents victims from receiving protection and support as their fundamental right. The conviction rate of traffickers remains very low and punishments do not reflect the seriousness of

<sup>1</sup> Opening address by E. G. Pahad, Minister in the Presidency, at the Interfaith Dialogue: What Religious Communities Can Do to Combat Human Trafficking, Cape Town, South Africa, 3-5 October 2007.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns (Vienna, 2006) (<http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/HT-globalpatterns-en.pdf>).

<sup>3</sup> The Protocol was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000 and entered into force on 25 December 2003. The Protocol's ratification status can be consulted at <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/CTOC-COP.html>.

the crime. Human trafficking remains a crime with low risks and high profits and it violates the basic human rights of victims.

Against this background of both progress and challenges, UNODC, in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), launched the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) in March 2007.

UN.GIFT has 10 objectives:

- 1 **Awareness**—demonstrate to the world that human trafficking exists and mobilize people to stop it.
- 2 **Strengthen prevention**—to inform vulnerable groups and alleviate the factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking.
- 3 **Demand**—to attack the problem at its source by lowering incentives to trade and lowering demand for the products and services of exploited people.
- 4 **Support and protection of victims**—to ensure medical, psychological and material assistance, keeping in mind the special needs of women and children and people at risk, such as those in refugee camps and conflict zones.
- 5 **Law enforcement**—to improve information exchange on trafficking routes, trafficker profiles and victim identification in order to dismantle criminal groups, convict more traffickers and ensure that the punishment fits the crime.
- 6 **International commitments**—to ensure that international commitments are turned into national laws targeting technical and legal assistance to countries in greatest need and to monitor implementation.
- 7 **Data**—to deepen global understanding of the scope and nature of trafficking in persons by more data collection and analysis, better data-sharing, joint research initiatives and evidence-based reports on global trafficking trends.
- 8 **Partnership**—to build up regional and thematic networks involving civil society, intergovernmental organizations and the private sector.
- 9 **Resources**—to attract and leverage resources for the sustainable funding of projects around the world committed to ending human trafficking.
- 10 **Member States' participation**—to give Member States a strong sense of ownership in the process and create long-term momentum.

**Luana:** *“A friend of mine told me that a Spanish group was hiring Brazilian girls to work as dancers on the island of Lanzarote. My friend Marcela and I thought it was a good opportunity to earn money. We didn’t want to continue working as maids. For a short while we only danced. But later they told us there had been too many expenses. And we would have to make some extra money.”*

**Marcela:** *“We were trapped by criminals and forced into prostitution in order to pay debts for the trip. We had up to 15 clients per night. The use of condoms was the client’s decision, not ours. The criminals kept our passports and had an armed man in front of the ‘disco’ to make sure we never escaped. But a woman helped us. We went to the police and told everything.”*



Luana and Marcela, trafficking victims,  
interviewed by the Brazilian NGO  
Projeto Trama



## II. The severity and nature of a crime that shames us all

During recent years, there has been a “boom” in information on trafficking in persons. However, lack of data on the nature and severity of the problem of trafficking in persons, as well as regarding the reliability of available data, remains a problem with most data sources. If figures on trafficking are given, they are often based on estimates of the level of trafficking and usually no explanation is given on how the figures were calculated. In many cases, they are used primarily for advocacy or fund-raising purposes.

Trafficking in persons is dynamic, adaptable, opportunistic and, like many other forms of criminal activity, it takes advantage of conflicts, humanitarian disasters and the vulnerability of people in situations of crisis. It is multidisciplinary and involves a wide range of actors. To combat the crime, it is essential to understand the nature of human trafficking and its underlying conditions, as well as the profiles of traffickers and victims.

### A. Severity

Several estimates on the size of the problem have been released recently. Also, different sources have provided estimates on the revenue that organized criminal groups raise from trafficking. To date, however, there is no broad agreement regarding the methodology that should be used to calculate such numbers—as a result, figures quoted often contradict each other.<sup>4</sup> At the global level, four organizations have databases on trafficking in persons: the United States Government, ILO, IOM and UNODC. Only the United States Government and ILO estimate the global number of victims, while IOM collects data on assisted victims and UNODC traces the major international trafficking routes of the victims (see table below).<sup>5</sup>

ILO has estimated that the minimum number of persons in forced labour, including sexual exploitation, as a result of trafficking at any given time is 2.5 million. Of these, 1.4 million are in Asia and the Pacific, 270,000 in industrialized countries, 250,000 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 230,000 in the Middle East and Northern Africa, 200,000 in countries with economies in transition and 130,000 in sub-Saharan countries.<sup>6</sup>

According to United States Government-sponsored research completed in 2006, approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across national borders annually, which does not include the millions trafficked within their own countries.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>4</sup> A recent expert panel convened by the Government Accountability Office of the United States of America stated that the severity of trafficking in persons should be measured by using qualitative and quantitative indicators (*Human Trafficking: Monitoring and Evaluation of International Projects Are Limited, but Experts Suggest Improvements*, GAO report GAO-07-1034 (Washington, D.C., July 2007)).

<sup>5</sup> United States of America, Government Accountability Office, *Human Trafficking: Better Data, Strategy, and Reporting Needed to Enhance U.S. Anti-trafficking Efforts Abroad*, GAO report GAO-06-825 (Washington, D.C., July 2006).

<sup>6</sup> International Labour Organization, *A Global Alliance against Forced Labour* (Geneva, International Labour Office, 2005).

<sup>7</sup> United States of America, Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report 2007* (<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/>).

A non-governmental organization (NGO), Free the Slaves, estimates that there are 27 million slaves in the world today. According to their estimates, more than 1.3 million people are enslaved in Latin America and the Caribbean, nearly 1 million in Africa and the Middle East and 24 million in Asia.<sup>8</sup> A joint study published in 2002 by ILO and the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture found that an estimated 284,000 children on cocoa farms in Western Africa were either involved in hazardous work, were unprotected or enslaved, or had been trafficked.<sup>9</sup>

According to ILO,<sup>10</sup> the annual profits made from the exploitation of all trafficked forced labour are as follows:

	Millions of United States dollars
At the global level	31.7
Industrialized economies	15.5
Countries with economies in transition	3.4
Asia and the Pacific	9.7
Latin America and the Caribbean	1.3
Sub-Saharan Africa	1.6
Middle East and North America	1.5

## 1. Latin America<sup>11</sup>

Even though the countries in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean are primarily source countries for trafficking victims,<sup>12</sup> there has been an intensification of inter- and intraregional movement, causing growing needs for integrated public policies that focus on these places as transit and destination countries.

According to a 2005 IOM report, trafficking in women and girls for purposes of sexual exploitation has become a \$16-billion-a-year business in Latin America. Some estimates have suggested that this figure represents almost half of what is generated worldwide as trafficking profits. The United States State Department estimates that tens of thousands of Latin American women and children are trafficked for sexual exploitation each year. And although it tends to be underreported, trafficking for forced labour is generally perceived to be a major and growing problem, as workers are being exploited for slave labour within the region and, increasingly, are also ending up in situations of forced labour after migrating to European countries and the United States.

<sup>8</sup> Free the Slaves, Map of Slavery Worldwide ([www.freetheslaves.net](http://www.freetheslaves.net)).

<sup>9</sup> United States of America, Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report 2006* (<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/66086.pdf>).

<sup>10</sup> Patrick Belser, *Forced Labour and Human Trafficking: Estimating the Profits*, working paper (Geneva, International Labour Office, 2005), p. 17.

<sup>11</sup> *Challenges to the Implementation of the National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, Brasilia, 2-4 October 2007*, report of the UN.GIFT regional event for Latin America and the Caribbean.

<sup>12</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Trafficking in Persons ...*

## 2. Western and Central Africa<sup>13</sup>

Traffickers pocket substantial criminal proceeds from various forms of exploitation of victims. In Western and Central Africa, these victims are predominantly women and children who live in the harshest conditions of vulnerability. Armed conflict, socio-political instability, bad governance, environmental stress and disaster drastically increase the vulnerability of children to trafficking for a variety of exploitative purposes, including their recruitment and abuse in situations of armed conflict and war.

When looking at the entire region, three major trafficking trends, two of which are transnational, can be identified:

- Children who are trafficked within the region for the purpose of labour exploitation
- Women and girls who are trafficked both within and out of the region for sexual exploitation
- Large-scale internal trafficking, which takes place within the borders of a State

Several countries in the region are both origin and destination countries for women and girls who are trafficked for sexual exploitation. The main destinations outside the region are in Western Europe, Southern Africa and the Middle East.

Patterns of internal trafficking within the region often remain hidden behind the issues of transnational trafficking. Conflict, poverty, and HIV/AIDS leave adults and especially children vulnerable to trafficking within their own national borders. General trends within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) include trafficking from rural to urban and industrial areas for employment and sexual exploitation. Larger farming and fishing communities in fertile lands and along coastal areas also receive large numbers of internally trafficked persons for labour.

## 3. South Asia<sup>14</sup>

In South Asia, there are many countries used as origin, transit and destination countries for trafficking. Victims are sent to other countries in the region and to other parts of the world. Even more prevalent is the movement of persons within the countries for exploitation in various forms. Even though there are no definite numbers of victims, it is estimated that 150,000 victims are trafficked from the region annually.<sup>15</sup> Many studies have revealed that trafficking in women and children is on the rise in Asia.

Trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation is the most virulent form of trafficking in the region. The movement of young girls from South Asian countries to brothels is common, taking place either between countries or within countries. There is further movement to the Middle East as well as other destinations. Internal displacement due to conflict in some countries, poverty and lack of employment opportunities increase the vulnerability to being trafficked.

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<sup>13</sup> "Trafficking in children for their use in armed conflict", report of the UN.GIFT regional event for West and Central Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, 26-28 November 2007.

<sup>14</sup> *Responding to Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation in South Asia, New Delhi, 10-11 October 2007*, report of the UN.GIFT regional event for South Asia (Vienna, 2008).

<sup>15</sup> Congressional Research Service, *Trafficking in Women and Children: the U.S. and International Response* (Washington, D.C., United States Library of Congress, 2001).

South Asia is also home to one of the largest concentrations of people living with HIV/AIDS. Women involved in the sex business—as a group—are an important driver of the epidemic. Recent research involving repatriated women who worked at commercial sex markets in Nepal show that many of those who have been trafficked are at significantly higher risk of contracting HIV than are non-trafficked women.

#### 4. East Asia and the Pacific

The UNODC publication on trafficking patterns shows that trafficking in Asian victims to other countries within Asia is frequently reported. In particular, South-East Asia is often reported to be an origin region for trafficking into Asian countries.<sup>16</sup>

Though trafficking in persons is not considered to be as imminent a threat to border integrity as migrant smuggling, several countries in the Pacific have acknowledged that people have been trafficked across their borders. There are also indications that the number of people trafficked from, to and through the region will increase and that the primary purpose will be for the purpose of sexual exploitation.<sup>17</sup>

#### 5. Eastern Africa<sup>18</sup>

Trafficking in persons is an ongoing phenomenon within the region of Eastern Africa. The phenomenon is present not only in transnational trafficking; internal trafficking is endemic. Children, women and, to a lesser extent, men are victims of trafficking in, from and to the region.

Girls are trafficked for exploitation in domestic labour, forced prostitution and forced marriage. Trafficked boys are also exploited in areas such as farming, livestock, plantation work and fishing. Women are trafficked for domestic labour, forced prostitution and the hospitality industry, and men are trafficked mainly for manual and agriculture labour, construction work and criminal activities.

Internal trafficking in children and women from rural and urban areas is mainly for exploitative domestic work and commercial sex work. However, transnational trafficking of women to other African countries, Europe and the Middle East is mainly for sexual exploitation and domestic work.

Statistics from a study on child trafficking in Eastern African countries show that the majority of the trafficked children are those who have either completed primary or secondary education and have nothing to do. Moreover, most of the children are trafficked by people they know (in some cases, by relatives). The most vulnerable age is 13-18 years. HIV/AIDS has also contributed to the trafficking phenomenon; the majority of trafficked children are orphans. African society is a changing society; traditional fostering practices have led to the abuse of fostered children, who are often sold for profit.

<sup>16</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Trafficking in Persons ...*, p. 88.

<sup>17</sup> Marika McAdam, "Transnational organized crime in the Pacific: acting regionally for human security", *Eastern Horizons* (Bangkok), autumn/winter 2006, p. 7.

<sup>18</sup> "Vulnerabilities of conflict and post-conflict countries", report of the UN.GIFT regional event for Eastern Africa, Uganda, 19-22 June 2007.

It is estimated that 25,000-30,000 girls and boys have been abducted and recruited into armed ranks by rebel forces. In the last 20 years, some of the children abducted have ended up in other African countries while others have been taken to the Middle East, Europe and America.

According to a study conducted by UNICEF, child sex tourism and sexual exploitation of children in Eastern Africa have reached alarmingly high levels. About 15,000 children, or 30 per cent of girls aged 12-18, in tourist districts along the Eastern African coast engage in the practice of exchanging casual sex for cash. A related study by the Federation of Kenya Employers indicates that the majority of these children are victims of internal trafficking from other provinces. According to the media reports children are also trafficked for domestic work—this is internal trafficking that entails the movement of the victims from rural areas to urban and peri-urban areas to work in homes.

*“I begged him to let me work down in the restaurant. I begged him to be good to me, like I was good to him. He promised, but on one condition—that I don’t try to escape or to tell anybody. He warned me that it would be useless, because the police are with him. He said that all would be bad for me, because I couldn’t prove anything.”*

Trafficking victim in South-Eastern Europe<sup>19</sup>



<sup>19</sup> International Centre for Migration Policy Development, *Listening to Victims: Experiences of Identification, Return and Assistance in South-Eastern Europe* (2007).

## B. Nature

Even though all human trafficking cases have their individual characteristics, most follow the same pattern: people are abducted or recruited in the country of origin, transferred through transit regions and then exploited in the country of destination. If, at some stage, the exploitation of the victims is interrupted or ended, they can be rescued as victims of trafficking and they may receive support in the country of destination. Victims may be repatriated to their country of origin; in some cases, relocated in a third country; or, as unfortunately still happens all too often, deported from countries of destination or transit as illegal migrants.

### 1. Trends

Based on the UNODC report on human trafficking,<sup>20</sup> the regions of the Commonwealth of Independent States, Central and South-Eastern Europe, Western Africa and South-East Asia are most commonly reported as being regions of origin for human trafficking. Countries in Western Europe, North America and Asia, in particular in West Asia, are reported more frequently as countries of destination. Countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe and Western Europe are highly reported as transit regions. Outside of Europe, South-East Asia, Central America and Western Africa are also frequently reported as transit subregions.

### 2. Process

For trafficking to work, the traffickers have either to force or to convince their victims to leave their familiar surroundings and to travel with them. This can be achieved in a number of ways.



The most common recruitment methods include:

- Individual recruiters looking for interested males and females in bars, cafes, clubs, discos and other public places
- Recruitment via informal networks of families and/or friends
- Advertisements offering work or study abroad
- Agencies offering work, study, marriage or travel abroad
- False marriages
- Purchase of children from their guardians

<sup>20</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Trafficking in Persons ...*



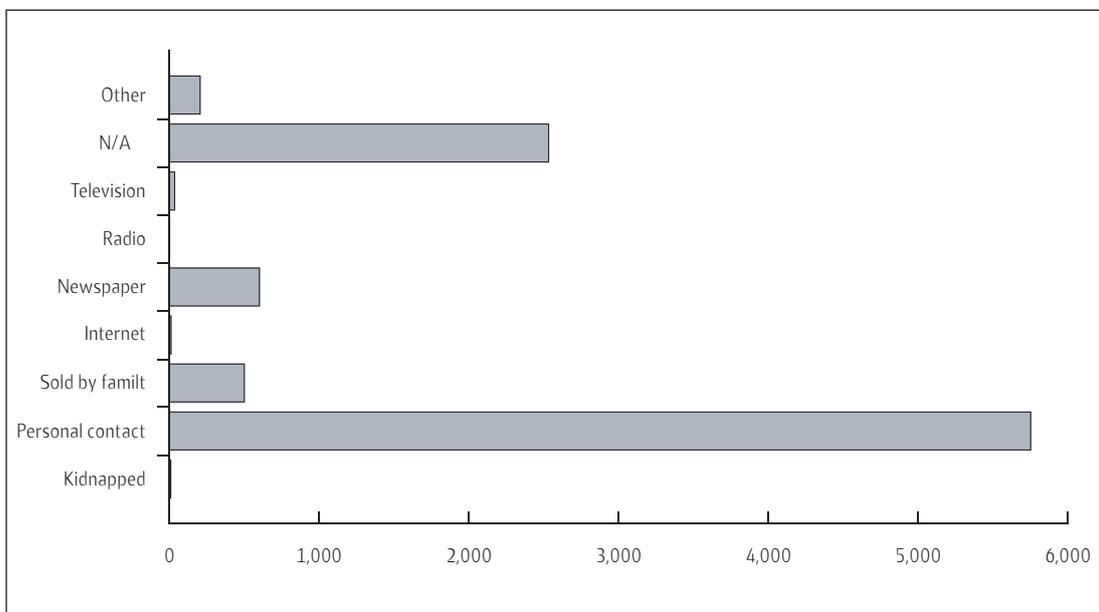
Basic means of recruitment are:

- Complete coercion through abduction or kidnapping
- Selling a person, typically a child
- Deception by promises of legitimate employment and/or entry
- Deception through half-truths
- Deception about working conditions
- Abuse of vulnerability

Based on the IOM Counter-Trafficking Database,<sup>21</sup> which includes information on victims who have been assisted by IOM projects in 78 countries, most recruitment occurs through personal contacts (see figure I). According to the database, 46 per cent of victims knew their recruiter and 54 per cent were recruited by strangers. In addition, 52 per cent of recruiters were men and 42 per cent women, and in 6 per cent of recruitments both men and women were involved as recruiters.

Figure I

Number of victims by recruitment method



Source: IOM Counter-Trafficking Database.

<sup>21</sup> International Organization for Migration, Counter-Trafficking Database, 78 Countries, 1999-2006 (1999).

Transportation routes and methods depend upon geographical conditions. Victims are trafficked by aircraft, boat, rail, ferry and road or simply on foot in order to reach the country of destination. The route may include a transit country or it may be direct between the origin and destination locations. The crossing of borders may be done overtly or covertly, legally or illegally. Related criminal offences include abuses of immigration and border control laws, corruption of officials, forgery of documents, acts of coercion against the victim, unlawful confinement and the withholding of identity papers and other documents.<sup>22</sup>



Basic methods of entry to the transit/destination country:

- Covert. Smuggled entry in vehicles, containers, trains, ferries or on foot
- Overt. By presentation of stolen or forged documents that provide a right of entry
- Overt. By presentation of bona fide documents that provide false visa entitlements to enter or are fully legitimate

In the Trafficking Protocol, the purpose of exploitation, includes, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.<sup>23</sup> Based on several studies (see table 1), the purpose of human trafficking is reported to be mainly sexual exploitation.

For several years, human trafficking for sexual exploitation has dominated discussions on the issue, while trafficking in persons for forced labour has not been viewed as a major problem in many countries. The identification of trafficking victims who are exploited through forced labour has in addition been even less successful than in the case of sexual exploitation.<sup>14</sup>



Different forms of exploitation include:

- Forced labour
- Sexual exploitation
- Removal of organs and of body parts
- Criminal activities
- Begging
- Forced marriage
- Illicit adoption
- Exploitation in the army
- Armed conflicts

<sup>22</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Trafficking in Persons...*

<sup>23</sup> The full text of the Trafficking Protocol is included as annex II to General Assembly resolution 55/25 ([http://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/a\\_res\\_55/res5525e.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/a_res_55/res5525e.pdf)).

Victims of trafficking very often suffer threats and violence when they are exploited. In the case of both labour and sexual exploitation, traffickers use threats and actual violence to maintain control over their victims and to prevent them from escaping.



Different forms of control include:

- Debt bondage
- Isolation: removal of identification and/or travel documents
- Isolation—linguistic and social
- Violence and fear
- Reprisals against the victim's family
- Psychological—imprisonment and torture
- Magical beliefs and practices

*"I started living on the streets when I was 11 years old—my father threw my brother and me out of the house. He never worried about us—he was always taking alcohol combined with drugs. On the streets, I met prostitution and crime. One always dreams about being somebody, and that having material things makes you somebody. I never imagined that, wanting to improve my living conditions, I was going to end up losing my dignity."*

Maria Fernanda,  
trafficking victim, interviewed by the  
UNODC Country Office in Colombia



Table 1

## Victim profiles in United States Government, ILO, UNODC and IOM databases

	United States Government	International Labour Organization <sup>a</sup>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime <sup>b</sup>	International Organization for Migration <sup>c</sup>
Main focus	Global estimate of victims	Global estimate of victims	Country and regional patterns of international trafficking	Actual victims assisted by IOM in 78 countries
Number of victims	Some 600,000-800,000 people trafficked across borders in 2003 (estimate) <sup>d</sup>	At least 2.45 million people trafficked internationally and internally between 1995 and 2004 (estimate)	N/A	7,711 victims assisted from 1999 to 2005
Type of exploitation (percentage)				
Commercial sex	55	43	87	81
Economic or forced labour	34	32	28	14
Mixed and other		25		5
Gender and age of victims (percentage)	80 female <sup>e</sup> 50 minors	80 female <sup>f</sup> 40 minors	71 female <sup>g</sup> 2 male 44 children	83 female 15 male 2 not identified 13 minors
Definition of trafficking used	TVPA 2000 <sup>h</sup>	Trafficking Protocol	Trafficking Protocol	Trafficking Protocol
Criteria for data collection	Transnational trafficking	Internal and transnational trafficking	Transnational trafficking	Internal and transnational trafficking

Source: United States of America, Government Accountability Office, *Human Trafficking: Better Data, Strategy, and Reporting Needed to Enhance U.S. Anti-trafficking Efforts Abroad*, GAO report GAO-06-825 (July 2006).

<sup>a</sup> For a detailed discussion, see Patrick Belser, Michaëlle de Cock and Ferhad Mehran, *ILO Minimum Estimate of Forced Labour in the World* (International Labour Office, April 2005).

<sup>b</sup> For a detailed discussion, see United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns* (Vienna, 2006).

<sup>c</sup> For a detailed discussion, see International Organization for Migration, *Data and Research on Human Trafficking: a Global Survey* (2005).

<sup>d</sup> The estimate was repeated in the 2005 and 2006 reports of UNODC entitled *Trafficking in Persons*.

<sup>e</sup> Women and girls.

<sup>f</sup> Women and girls, where the gender/age information is available.

<sup>g</sup> Women and girls, where the gender/age information is available. This information is derived from the UNODC Human Trafficking Database and provides different detail than that reported in the 2006 report of UNODC entitled *Trafficking in Persons* and subsequently reprinted in United States of America, Government Accountability Office, *Human Trafficking: Better Data, Strategy, and Reporting Needed to Enhance U.S. Anti-trafficking Efforts Abroad*, GAO report GAO-06-825 (July 2006).

<sup>h</sup> Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

### 3. Victims

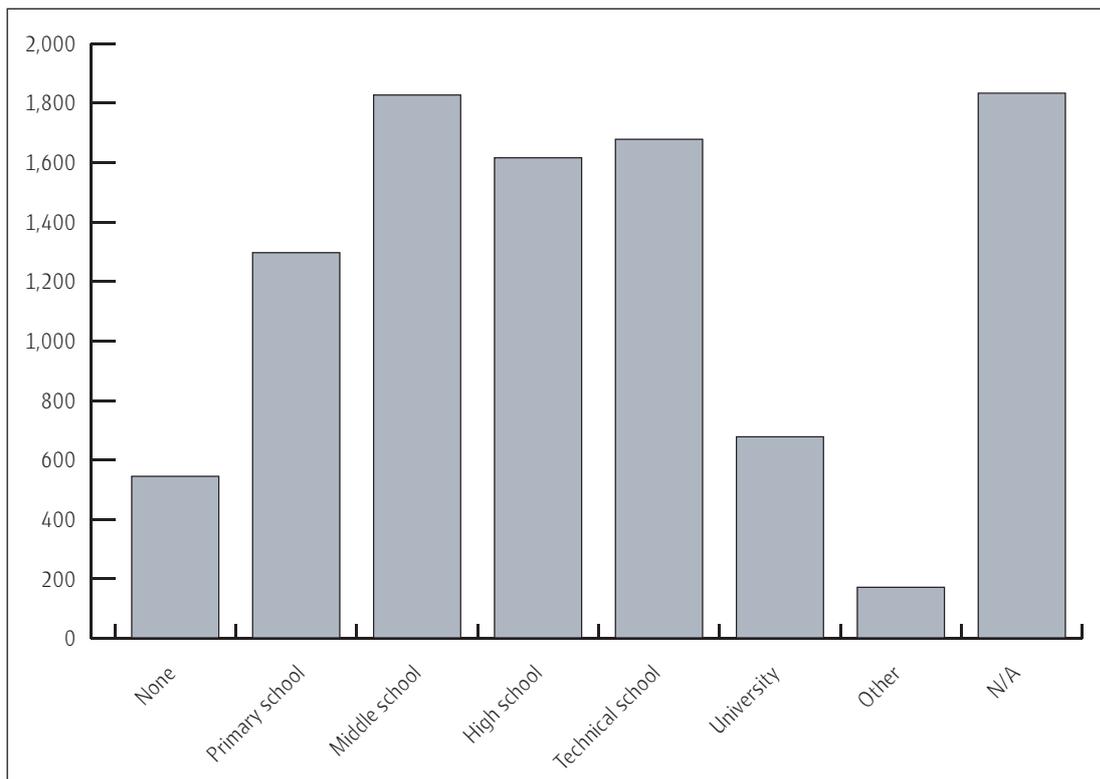
Identification and rescue of victims may take place during different phases of the trafficking in persons process: potential victims may be identified, for example, when crossing borders or at any other point of the transportation stage. Identification is probably most common when victims are exploited in the country of destination. In some cases, a particular effort is made to identify victims returning to their home countries.

Adult women are most frequently reported to be victims of trafficking, followed by children who have been trafficked (see table 1).

According to the IOM database, the biggest age group receiving assistance is that from 18 to 24. Many trafficking victims have at least middle-level education (see figure II).

Figure II

Education of assisted victims



Source: IOM Counter-Trafficking Database.

There are several factors that make potential victims vulnerable to trafficking. It is a complex issue and there is no single categorization of vulnerability to human trafficking. A review of trafficking reports, however, reveals some of the contributing factors, while also showing how little we actually know about the issue of vulnerability to human trafficking. Potential and actual victims can be vulnerable to victimization throughout the trafficking process.



At the UN.GIFT regional event for Eastern Africa, the UNODC Regional Office in West and Central Africa highlighted the following profiles of people vulnerable to trafficking:

- Poor young women with drastically worsened economic status due to war
- Internally displaced people who are more vulnerable than refugees as the former do not benefit from any international protection
- Refugees in camps who are recruited for sexual exploitation or children recruited for use as soldiers
- Orphans

Factors affecting vulnerability in the countries of origin include age, gender and poverty. Children are vulnerable to the demands and expectations of those in authority, including their parents, extended family and teachers. Women are vulnerable to trafficking because they are often excluded from employment, higher education and legal as well as political parity. Many forms of gender-based violations, such as rape, domestic violence and harmful traditional practices, are linked to social and cultural situations that contribute to the vulnerability of women to being trafficked.<sup>24</sup>

In a study on physical and mental health consequences of human trafficking in Europe it was found that 60 per cent of victims had experienced physical or sexual violence before they were trafficked.<sup>25</sup>

Vulnerabilities may contribute to the victimization of a person at the beginning of the trafficking process. However, they are not identical to root causes, which are determined by domestic policy decisions and social, cultural and religious practices.<sup>16</sup>

The link between poverty and human trafficking is complex. Poor people are vulnerable to trafficking by virtue of exerting little social power and having few income options. They often do not challenge social superiors in relation to migrant contracts and working conditions. However, it is not necessarily the poorest of the poor who become victims of trafficking, although in many cases victims are poor, especially victims in developing countries.

When the countries reported most frequently as countries of origin and destination<sup>26</sup> are compared against the United Nations Human Development Index,<sup>27</sup> it can be seen that, while the top countries of destination are rated highly in terms of human development, most of the top countries of origin are at the middle human development level. Thus, it can be concluded that those targeted as victims of trafficking are not the poorest of the poor, but rather people with at least some resources.

<sup>24</sup> Michèle A. Clark, "Vulnerability, prevention and human trafficking: the need for a new paradigm", background paper, Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, 2007.

<sup>25</sup> Cathy Zimmermann and others, *Stolen Smiles: a Summary Report on the Physical and Psychological Health Consequences of Women and Adolescents Trafficked in Europe* (London, London School of Medicine and Tropical Medicine, 2006). (<http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/hpu/docs/StolenSmiles.pdf>).

<sup>26</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Trafficking in Persons ...*

<sup>27</sup> See the website of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (<http://www.undp.org>).



#### Root causes

- Gender-based violence
- Discriminatory labour practices
- Patriarchal social structures
- Breakdown of family networks
- Ethnic, racial and religious marginalization
- Failed and corrupt Governments
- Lack of status
- Women's role in the family
- Power, hierarchy and social order
- Children's roles and responsibilities
- Historical precedents of bonded labour
- Early and forced marriage
- High rates of divorce and social stigma
- Disruption of personal development
- Limited educational achievement
- Limited economic opportunity

Often moving from one country to another or even moving within a country makes people vulnerable. Travellers may not have proper travel documents so they may be in a country illegally. They may not know the local language, they may not have any social network to assist them or they may be totally dependent on members of their own ethnic group receiving them in the destination country. Often foreigners do not have access to any national health care or social support system.

Once they are in the country of destination, traffickers may confiscate the victim's documents, creating a situation where victims are made to believe that they are in the country illegally. Traffickers can then use this vulnerability of non-documented victims as a control mechanism. Unfortunately, sometimes authorities reinforce the vulnerability by failing to identify victims, which then results in their immediate deportation.

Sometimes service providers may also increase the vulnerability to re-trafficking. In some countries, shelters for victims of domestic violence are also used to protect and support victims of human trafficking. This may lead to a situation where foreign victims are discriminated against. In addition, receiving support may be dependent on a number of conditions, which may lead victims to decide not to use the services.

The return process should ensure the safe and dignified return of each individual victim. It should involve a risk assessment of the country to which the victim is going to return, coordination between countries of origin and destination, a supported transportation and travel process, reception and referral upon arrival and transportation within the home country. Unfortunately, many return processes are not carried out in an ideal way and may themselves pose risks to victims, making them vulnerable to re-trafficking.<sup>28</sup>



### The impact of trafficking on victims

Trafficking in persons has various impacts on its victims:

- *Physical health:*
  - Malnutrition
  - Exposure to sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS
  - Possible unwanted pregnancies and forced abortions
  - Infections and infectious diseases due to unhygienic conditions, overcrowding, lack of access to clean water
  - Occupational health risks; injuries, skin infections, respiratory illnesses
  - Hazardous working conditions may affect the growth of a child
- *Mental and psychological health:*
  - Physical reaction to trauma in the form of psychosomatic pain, change in sleep patterns, weakened immune system and increased use of alcohol
  - Psychological reaction to trauma in the form of shock and fear, disorientation, nightmares and flashbacks, difficulty in trusting, feelings of betrayal, a tendency to isolate oneself, suicidal thoughts and attempts at suicide, among others

In addition to these impacts, victims of trafficking often suffer from stigmatization and non-acceptance by their communities after their experiences.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>28</sup> International Centre for Migration Policy Development, *Listening to Victims ...*

<sup>29</sup> "Vulnerabilities of conflict and post-conflict countries, Uganda, 19-22 June 2007", report of the UN.GIFT regional event for Eastern Africa, pp. 46-47.

*“First I was a sex worker, and I know working in prostitution is hard, more for a man, but in any case it was a business that didn’t fill my money expectations ... so I got involved with the Yakuza. To avoid losing money ... you must learn how to identify the victims. For example, looking at the moles in their ears, you know if they’re good for the money or not, and from their lips you know if they’re good in bed or not. You go to a disco or a restaurant, looking for the girls who fill the profile: medium height, white skin, slim ... you convince them, and send them as soon as possible. It’s a high-profit business.”*



Jorge,  
trafficker, interviewed by the  
UNODC Country Office in Colombia

#### 4. Offenders

Traffickers can operate as recruiters, transporters or exploiters or they can be involved in trafficking through forgery of documents, corruption, money-laundering or other criminal activity. Several crimes can be connected to human trafficking.



Crimes related to trafficking in persons include:

- Slavery
- Involuntary servitude
- Debt bondage
- Forced marriage
- Forced abortion
- Forced pregnancy
- Torture
- Inhumane or degrading treatment
- Rape
- Sexual assault
- Bodily injury
- Murder
- Kidnapping
- Unlawful confinement
- Labour exploitation
- Forgery of documents
- Corruption

In several countries, the majority of offenders are nationals of the same country in which the trafficking case is investigated.<sup>30</sup> Traffickers can be men or women, and in some criminal groups women indeed play a significant role in the trafficking process. For example, trafficking in women from Nigeria to Italy is managed mainly by women, with men relegated to largely secondary functions.<sup>31</sup> According to the German Criminal Police (BKA), more than 20 per cent of suspects in German human trafficking cases are women.<sup>32</sup>

Relatively few offenders in human trafficking cases are prosecuted successfully, resulting in a very small number of convictions of traffickers. In recent years, many countries have revised their legislation in order to comply with the requirements of the Trafficking Protocol. However, the implementation of this legislation is still pending in many countries.

<sup>30</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Trafficking in Persons ...*

<sup>31</sup> United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, *Trafficking of Nigerian Girls to Italy* (2004), p. 222.

<sup>32</sup> Germany, *Bundeslagebild Menschenhandel 2005* (Bundeskriminalamt, 2006).

Organized criminal groups can be heavily involved in human trafficking. According to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, an organized criminal group:<sup>33</sup>

- Is a structured group of three or more persons existing for a period of time
- Acts in concert with the aim of committing one or more serious crimes or offences
- Obtains, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit

In Europe, groups operating in the field of human trafficking are mainly loose networks rather than mafia-type, hierarchical organizations. They include different nationals operating in their area of competence and, while they specialize in human trafficking, they also operate in related crimes such as pimping, forgery of documents, smuggling of migrants and money-laundering.

Table 2  
Number of convictions in Europea

Country	Number of convictions
Belgium	170
Germany	145
Italy	100
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	98
Netherlands	83
Greece	69
Portugal <sup>b</sup>	40
Hungary	39
Austria	27
Latvia	21
Sweden	16
Lithuania	14
Slovakia	14
Czech Republic	12
Estonia	9
Malta	9
Denmark	8
Poland	7
Luxembourg	5
Slovenia	1
Cyprus	-
Finland	-

Source: Boudewijn de Jonge, Eurojust and Human Trafficking: the State of Affairs (Eurojust and University of Amsterdam, 2005).

<sup>a</sup> Figures published in 2005.

<sup>b</sup> Both smuggling and trafficking.

<sup>33</sup> Article 2, subparagraph (a). The Convention was adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000 and entered into force on 29 September 2003. The Convention's ratification status can be consulted at <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/signatures.html>.



## Categorization of trafficking groups as different business types or criminal enterprises

1. *Natural resource model (prevailing in Eastern Europe and Central Asia)*
  - The focus is on short-term profits.
  - Women are sold as if they were a readily available natural resource such as timber or furs.
  - The focus is on the recruitment of women and their sale to intermediaries who deliver them to the markets; most often the women are sold off to the nearest criminal group.
  - Profits are disposed of through conspicuous consumption or are some times used to purchase another commodity with a rapid sales turnover, such as rubber boots or cars.
  - Significant violations of human rights occur because the traffickers have no long-term interest in wresting long-term profits from the women and have no connections to their families.
2. *Trade and development model (prevailing in East Asia)*
  - This model operates as a business that is integrated from start to finish.
  - The control from recruitment to exploitation allows for long-term profits, which are very high and result in significant investment capital.
  - Assets are returned through a system of underground banking such as through gold shops and other similar techniques.
  - Less significant violations of human rights occur because the smugglers and traffickers have a long-term interest in wresting long-term profits from the victims, who often have connections to their families.
3. *Supermarket model: low-cost and high-volume (prevailing in Central and North America)*
  - This model is based on maximizing profits by moving large numbers of people and not charging significant sums for each individual.
  - Traffickers may exploit vulnerable individuals such as a group of deaf persons who are forced to peddle drugs or young girls who are forced into brothels.
  - Most of the “people movers” specialize in this type of trade, which is based on large-scale supply and existing demand.
  - The model requires significant profit-sharing with local border officials.
  - Millions of dollars in profits are returned and invested in land and farms.
  - Detection is difficult because trafficking is hidden within large-scale smuggling operations.

- Significant violations of human rights and even fatalities occur because there is little profit to be gained from each individual.
4. *Violent entrepreneur model (prevailing in the Balkans)*
- Large numbers of women are sold off by criminal groups.
  - Victims are controlled from recruitment to exploitation.
  - Opportunistic use is made of the instability and civil conflict in the countries of origin.
  - Groups take over existing markets by use of force against already established organized criminal groups.
  - There is significant use of corruption.
  - Very high levels of profits are used to finance other illicit activities or to invest in property and trade businesses.
  - Extreme violations of human rights and brutal violence against victims occur.
5. *Traditional slavery with modern technology (prevailing in Western Africa)*
- Here there are multifaceted criminal groups, with trafficking in persons being one part of their criminal profile.
  - Psychological as well as physical pressure are used.
  - Modern transport links are combined with traditional practices.
  - Significant human rights violations involve victims who are exploited in the most physically dangerous conditions.
  - Significant financial resources are involved.
  - Small amounts of the profits are returned to the local operations of the criminal groups and occasionally to family members of the victims.
  - Most of the profits are believed to flow into other illicit activities and are laundered.

Source: Louise I. Shelley, "Trafficking in women: the business model approach", *Brown Journal of International Affairs*, vol. X, No. 1 (2003).

*“At that moment, my nightmare began. I was terrified when they showed me what I was expected to do—I felt I just couldn’t do it. I’ve been through many things, but never something like that, so I told them that I wasn’t going to and that I was going back home. I was shocked when they told me that wasn’t possible—they said they had invested a lot of money in me, and I had to work to pay them back, because I now belonged to the network. I thought about escaping, but I was afraid of being physically hurt or killed. I worked hard for six months, but they have no mercy on you ... they’re just demeaning. During this time, I was sold many times, and this happened every 10 days—sometimes I just didn’t know where I was. You’re like a commodity to them.”*



Maria Fernanda,  
trafficking victim, interviewed by the  
UNODC Country Office in Colombia



### III. Emerging issues in UN.GIFT regional contexts

#### A. Protection of vulnerable groups in national plans of action

Constructing a national plan to combat trafficking is a long and complex process, involving various actors. It requires the Government to facilitate participation of civil society in the drafting process so that the product merges concerns of various social movements. It requires coordination momentum to ensure that political commitment at the state and municipal levels can give meaning to the plan, with integrated networks of various agencies (health, justice, security, women's policies and others) working cooperatively with civil society groups, international organizations and the private sector.

One of the challenges posed by this process is the need for widespread understanding of the definition of trafficking and for that definition to be aligned with the Trafficking Protocol. This must then be reflected in national laws, which criminalize both internal and transnational trafficking, address trafficking in men and children, as well as women, and acknowledge the various forms of exploitation. To give meaning to such law, law enforcement and judicial authorities must adequately understand it and be empowered to implement it while non-governmental organizations and civil society must be equipped to cooperate in preventing trafficking and assisting victims. Throughout the entire process of designing and implementing a national plan of action, public awareness must be raised with strong campaigns capable of reaching even the most vulnerable people.

Vulnerable groups are often the most difficult to access due to their remote location, their marginalized position in society or their illiteracy. Campaigns to inform and empower them must be specifically targeted so as to overcome such barriers, and national action plans must be cognizant of factors that make particular social groups vulnerable to trafficking in the context of the country concerned. At the UN.GIFT event in Brazil for example, sex workers and "trans" (transsexuals, transvestites and transgender individuals) participated in discussions; that was a step towards bringing otherwise marginalized social groups into a holistic and far-reaching response to trafficking.

Underlying vulnerabilities or "push" factors can be issues such as poor employment opportunities and social and economic disadvantage (particularly of women and children), as well as urbanization and migration. While not to undermine the need for the international community to address the "demand" side of trafficking, these vulnerabilities hail the need for more opportunities for education, health, jobs and safe social mobility to be made available to people who may otherwise fall prey to the "supply" side of trafficking.



- What? UN.GIFT regional event for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Where? Brazil
- When? 3-4 October 2007
- Who? High-level representatives from countries in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Why? For technical discussions about the challenges of implementing a national plan of action against trafficking, with focus on the sub-theme of protecting vulnerable groups

## B. Trafficking in children for their use in armed conflict

It has been estimated that child soldiers have been used in more than 30 ongoing or recent armed conflicts in almost every region of the world. Some children join fighting forces due to poverty or abuse, while others are abducted and forced to join them. Children are particularly vulnerable to recruitment if they are poor, separated from their families, displaced from their homes, living in a combat zone or orphaned or if they have limited access to education.

The phenomenon of child soldiers has been common to almost all recent African conflicts. Child soldiers are used by a variety of armed groups, including pro-government paramilitary groups, militias and self-defence units, as well as insurgent groups in challenging central government rule, or in conflict with Governments over political power, natural resources and/or territorial control. According to estimates by United Nations agencies and major non-governmental organizations active in the combat against the phenomenon, in West and Central Africa, over 70,000 former child soldiers have been involved in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes since 1998, while thousands remain associated with armed forces and groups in Western and Central Africa. Often (though not always) negotiated peace agreements and ongoing peace processes do not bring any real peace to the lives of trafficked children: after they are deprived of their childhood, they may continue to be exploited by being moved to other exploitative situations or deprived the opportunities offered by DDR programmes.

Despite various multifaceted responses being implemented by Governments, development partners and non-governmental organizations, the phenomenon has reached an alarming magnitude in Western and Central Africa, calling for coherent, decisive and effective action. Recent discussions held by high-level representatives of countries in these subregions determined that legal frameworks must be harmonized against child trafficking for their use in armed conflict, with the ultimate goals of:

- Better coordinated and more effective subregional response policies, anchored on the enhancement of existing early-warning mechanisms
- Coherent networks to identify and assist victims
- Preventing impunity for traffickers

- More effective monitoring and reporting mechanisms
- Enhanced, more sustainable disarmament
- Demobilization and rehabilitation, and reintegration programmes with specialized programmes for girls



What? UN.GIFT regional event for Western and Central Africa  
 Where? Côte d'Ivoire  
 When? 26-28 November 2007  
 Who? High-level representatives from countries in Western and Central Africa  
 Why? To formulate measures for the establishment of a harmonized legal framework against the phenomenon of child trafficking for their use in armed conflict

### C. What the religious community can do to combat human trafficking

Religious communities can add significant value to the fight against human trafficking. Congregations comprise members from all segments of societies, ranging from illiterate members of rural grass-roots communities to high-powered executives in the private sector and high-level decision makers in governments. This diverse religious community transcends class, education, race, sex and nationality; every society in the world entails religious communities. This enormous potential for the role that religious leaders and faith-based organizations can play at the local, national, regional and global levels must be harnessed as a matter of priority.

Religious leaders and faith-based organizations have a role to play in the prevention of trafficking. By educating and raising the awareness of both potential victims and potential traffickers, they can strengthen understanding of the factors that contribute to vulnerability and embrace people and issues that are often marginalized. They can appeal to their audience on a moral front to reduce patriarchal dominance, which can oppress women and render them vulnerable to exploitative situations, and to assist anti-trafficking partners in the identification of persons at risk in their community. They can use their pulpit to mobilize members of their community against trafficking and can act as a voice to influence government policy with respect to trafficking.

The effects of trafficking on victims, whether Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, traditional or atheist are devastating. Religious leaders can assist in the recovery and rehabilitation of trafficking victims by speaking out against stigmatization and promoting compassion and humanity towards repatriated victims.

There is an imminent need for increased collaboration between faith-based communities and religious leaders throughout the world. The trafficking process involves victims and traffickers from all religions, calling for strong interfaith dialogue and cooperation to adequately formulate strategies and deliver responses.

Giving expression to this cooperation, an Interfaith Declaration against Human Trafficking was unanimously adopted in South Africa on 5 October 2007. The declaration acknowledges “the uniqueness and power of the pulpit” with its:

- Captured, multi-skilled and professional resourceful audience
- Unparalleled infrastructure and related supportive resources
- Principled and trusted moral leaders of society, who are capable of speaking truth to any power anytime, anywhere

In the light of these facts, the signatories of the declaration commit themselves to strategic areas of:

- Rational, holistic, integrative, rights-based plan of action
- Supplemented with practice, cost-effective strategies
- Needs-based programmes and projects to combat human trafficking and support victims of human trafficking



What? UN.GIFT Global Interfaith Forum

Where? South Africa

When? 3-5 October 2007

Who? High-level representatives from faith-based organizations

Why? To explore what the religious community can do to combat human trafficking

## D. Responding to trafficking for sexual exploitation in South Asia

Effectively responding to trafficking for sexual exploitation requires the participation of every sector of society. Some of these sectors and the roles that they can play in responding to trafficking for sexual exploitation are highlighted below.

### 1. Role of the private sector

Tourism, technology, manufacturing and transportation industries are all impacted by—and can have an impact on—human trafficking. The corporate sector can make an invaluable preventative contribution by creating opportunities for livelihoods and supporting organizations that prosecute traffickers and protect victims. Through effective collaboration with government agencies, non-governmental organizations, the media, youth, celebrities and international organizations, businesses can disseminate information and create awareness among their workforce. Business

coalitions can be formed to encourage the adoption of codes of conduct that keep supply chains and human resources free of trafficking, and civil society can be supported through corporate social responsibility initiatives.

## 2. Role of the arts, the media and popular culture

The arts, the media and popular culture have a role to play not only with respect to raising awareness of an issue and contributing to its prevention, but also in assisting with the rehabilitation of those who have been victimized by trafficking. Where empowered with sound understanding of the complexities of trafficking, the communicative power of these channels can be harnessed to raise awareness, reduce stigmatization and ultimately effect change by mainstreaming the anti-trafficking message. Through therapy, the creative power of the arts (music, dancing, painting) can be harnessed to both promote sustainable livelihoods and to instil a strengthened sense of self in persons who have been victimized by crime, aiding in victim rehabilitation.

## 3. Role of communities

People are less likely to be vulnerable to sexual exploitation if they are strong and secure members of their community. If they enjoy equal status, can sustain their livelihoods and participate in the functioning of their community, they are less likely to fall prey to traffickers. Prevention of trafficking in persons—particularly women and children for the purpose of sexual exploitation—must be considered in this important context.



- What? UN.GIFT regional event for South Asia
- Where? India
- When? 10-11 October 2007
- Who? 800 representatives from Governments, the media, the film and arts industry, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and United Nations agencies from South Asia
- Why? To build awareness and foster partnerships in fighting the crime of human trafficking, with a focus on trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation in South Asia

## E. Criminal justice response: ending impunity and securing justice

The fight against trafficking in persons calls for broad, multi-agency, flexible and cooperative criminal justice responses, both nationally and internationally, to make sure there are no safe havens. Some of the best results in the prosecution of traffickers have been obtained when the law enforcement and prosecution agencies have effectively worked together both locally and across borders.

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime provides a framework for international cooperation in combating organized crime in general and trafficking in persons in particular. Effective implementation of the Convention by States parties removes many of the obstacles to their effective collaboration in bringing traffickers to justice. It provides for mechanisms of extradition, mutual legal assistance, seizure of assets and confiscation of proceeds of crime.

The Organized Crime Convention aims to enhance integration and synchronization of law enforcement mechanisms to strengthen actions against traffickers, from their investigation to their prosecution. Given that investigations of trafficking networks and prosecutions of traffickers can be complex processes cutting across jurisdictions, it is essential that effective cooperation between law enforcement agencies is an integrated part of any strategy to combat trafficking. Such cooperative mechanisms can take the form of direct bilateral or multilateral cooperation, information sharing (addressed in article 10 of the Convention) and cooperation during investigations and criminal proceedings. Article 27 of the Convention is dedicated to the promotion and facilitation of stronger cooperation in these respects.

Effective cooperation to secure justice also requires that prosecutors fairly and effectively cooperate with law enforcers, other members of the legal profession, government agencies and other entities, bearing in mind the rights of both victims and traffickers at all stages of the process.



- What? UN.GIFT regional event for East Asia and the Pacific
- Where? Thailand
- When? 2-4 October 2007
- Who? Delegates from Australia, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Palau, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, Tonga and Viet Nam
- Why? To communicate recent developments and effective practices in the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of cases involving trafficking in persons and to promote cooperation and common standards within and between countries

## F. Vulnerabilities of conflict and post-conflict countries

The underlying causes of vulnerability to trafficking in persons in the Eastern African region include poverty, gender inequality, lack of employment, corruption, weak legal and policy frameworks, lack of birth registration, and demand for cheap labour, among other factors.

In conflict and post-conflict countries, social vulnerabilities that may have existed prior to conflict are exacerbated, and new vulnerabilities (particularly affecting women and children) are created from the conflict and post-conflict atmosphere. Social vulnerabilities arising in conflict and post-conflict countries can include: lawlessness and social dysfunction, disrupted families, increased sexual violence and exposure to HIV/AIDS, increased numbers of street children, orphans and children directly involved in armed conflict, and a lack of schools and employment opportunities.

Further, during periods of conflict or following conflict in a country, overall “lawlessness” or diminished rule of law can occur. Until basic infrastructure and legal order is established or re-established, crime and violence tend to increase and the most vulnerable members of society are victimized. It is in these social circumstances that trafficking in persons thrives with very little threat of law enforcement taking action against the offenders. These trends are epitomized in a number of Eastern African countries that have experienced protracted periods of civil strife.

At their core, conflict and post-conflict societies struggle with poverty, a difficult socio-economic environment and lack of employment opportunities—or, in times of conflict, lack of employment opportunities outside of the armed conflict. Economic insecurity and poverty that may have existed prior to the conflict are further aggravated by the political instability that often comes with conflict or post-conflict situations. With a lack of economic opportunities, individuals become more vulnerable to trafficking situations.

In addition, conflicts inevitably lead to situations where orphaned children or children left with only one parent are forced to support their households, thereby being made vulnerable to trafficking or dangerous labour situations. In addition, children who have been directly involved in conflicts may have a difficult time readjusting to civil life and may thus become vulnerable to trafficking situations. The lack of a functioning school system in a conflict or post-conflict country is also a factor propagating trafficking in children.



- What? UN.GIFT regional event for Eastern Africa
- Where? Uganda
- When? 19-22 June 2007
- Who? Government officials, as well as representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations from the 11 countries of the Eastern African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization; Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, the Sudan, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania
- Why? To raise awareness, develop a regional action plan, develop recommendations and strengthen partnerships to combat human trafficking, focusing particularly on conflict and post-conflict countries



## IV. Legal framework: the Trafficking Protocol

While not limited to transnational activity, criminal profit from human trafficking is maximized by a disregard for national borders. It is of critical importance to the success of international efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons that countries act, and do so in a cooperative manner, whether they are points of origin, transit or destination. In many ways, the differences in legal frameworks across jurisdictions constitute the most fundamental impediment to an effective response to the ongoing crime of trafficking in persons.

A large number of international instruments have been produced over many years that are both highly applicable and relevant to the multifaceted issue of trafficking in persons (see annex).

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which came into force in December 2003, is the only international legal instrument addressing human trafficking as a crime. Key points to be addressed in implementing the Protocol are listed in the box below. The Trafficking Protocol not only advances international law by providing, for the first time, a working definition of trafficking in persons and requiring ratifying States to criminalize such practices, but also, through its parent instrument, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, marks a significant milestone in international law concerning victims of crime. Building on earlier international policy initiatives, the Convention is the first international instrument requiring States to provide assistance and protection to victims of crime.



### **When implementing the Protocol, States parties should consider the following recommendations:**

#### *Prevention*

1. To establish, together with NGOs and civil society, comprehensive regional and national policies and programmes to prevent and combat human trafficking and to protect the victims.
2. To implement, together with NGOs and civil society, research, information and media campaigns and social and economic initiatives to prevent and combat trafficking in persons.
3. To take measures to alleviate the vulnerability of people (women and children in particular) to human trafficking, such as measures to combat poverty, underdevelopment and lack of equal opportunity.
4. To take measures to discourage demand, that fosters exploitation, that in turn leads to trafficking in persons.
5. To provide training to relevant officials in the prevention and prosecution of trafficking in persons and in the protection of the rights of the victims.

6. To exchange information on human trafficking routes, modus operandi, trafficker profiles and victim identification.
7. To take measures to prevent means of transport operated by commercial carriers from being used in the commission of human trafficking offences.
8. To strengthen cooperation among border control agencies by, inter alia, establishing and maintaining direct channels of communication.

#### *Prosecution*

1. To take measures to ensure that travel and identity documents cannot easily be misused, falsified, unlawfully altered, replicated or issued; and to ensure the integrity and security of travel and identity documents and to prevent their unlawful production, issuance and use.
2. To enact domestic laws making human trafficking a criminal offence. Such laws should also establish as criminal offences attempting to commit human trafficking; participating as an accomplice in human trafficking; and organizing or directing other persons to commit human trafficking.
3. To ensure that such legislation applies to victims of all ages and both sexes; and to distinguish clearly between trafficking in persons and other forms of irregular migration.
4. To ensure that the system of penalties is adequate, given the severity of the crime.
5. To protect the privacy and identity of victims in appropriate cases.
6. To establish measures to protect victims from revictimization.
7. To implement measures providing to victims information on proceedings and assistance to enable their views and concerns to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of criminal proceedings.
8. To implement measures that offer victims the possibility of obtaining compensation.

#### *Protection*

1. To implement measures to provide for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims. This should include housing and counselling in a language the victims can understand, medical, psychological and material assistance, as well as employment, educational and training opportunities. The special needs of victims, in particular children, are to be taken into account.
2. To provide for the physical safety of victims following rescue.
3. To adopt measures that permit victims to remain in the territory, temporarily or permanently, in appropriate cases, giving consideration to humanitarian and compassionate factors.
4. To facilitate preferably voluntary return of the victim without undue or unreasonable delay, with due regard for the safety of the victim.

*"I was in love. My 'prince charming' promised me a better life in Holland. I could leave behind a life of poverty and family problems. But I couldn't fathom that I would be exploited by a criminal network. My 'prince' was a monster. And I lived a nightmare. I had to work in a cheap brothel in Germany near the Dutch border. I had terrible problems with STDs [sexually transmitted diseases]. I also worked in a fancy mansion close to Amsterdam, with drugs, alcohol and wealthy clients. My body, my soul ... my life belonged to a group of criminals who blackmailed me, threatened to kill me and were always saying they could harm my family back home. Now that I have managed to escape to Brazil I want everybody to know about what happened to me so that no other human being becomes a victim of trafficking."*



N. V.,  
34-year-old trafficking victim, interviewed by the  
UNODC Regional Office in Brazil



## V. The way forward

### A. Knowledge

The absence of data cripples efforts to combat trafficking. While the clandestine nature of the crime makes data collection difficult, it is not impossible. Governments need to know the extent of the crime, its geographical spread and the many forms it takes. We need to understand how criminal networks function and what truly makes individuals vulnerable to being trafficked. Without such data, it is difficult to assess the impact of the crime, to develop solutions that will meet real needs and to evaluate the effectiveness of anti-trafficking efforts.

In countries around the world, human trafficking continues because of ignorance. Individuals made vulnerable by need, conflict or social practices may accept a fraudulent offer of employment because they do not know about the potential harm. And, once entrapped in such a situation, they have little knowledge of how to seek help. In countries of destination, trafficking is allowed to continue unimpeded because people do not know how to recognize a harmful situation. Where authorities and other stakeholders are uninformed, a victim may be discriminated against, charged as a criminal or deported—while their exploiters remain active, free of investigation or censure.

### B. Legal framework

The Trafficking Protocol gives the first internationally agreed definition of human trafficking. It obliges countries to criminalize this practice, and many countries have adopted legislation translating the Protocol's obligations into national law. In addition, regional organizations have followed up with regional instruments and action plans. There remains, however, a considerable number of countries where legislation is still lacking or where only certain elements of the Protocol are being addressed. In addition, as several Member States have not yet ratified the Protocol, working towards a globally applicable framework will remain a priority issue for some time.

### C. Capacity to respond

Although it appears that human trafficking features high on the agenda of Member States, it is evident that, even with legislation in place, many Governments do not have the necessary knowledge, expertise or national capacity to fight trafficking in persons in its multidimensional aspects, in particular as it relates to the transnationality of the crime. Only a limited number of Governments have adopted national action plans, created inter-agency coordination mechanisms or ombudspersons, or identified the role of all the different departments concerned in order to counter human trafficking in a coordinated, multidisciplinary manner. In addition, only a few countries have the requisite knowledge, expertise and training to properly investigate and prosecute human trafficking. It is essential that the professional skills of criminal justice practitioners be developed specifically with regard to this crime area.

## D. Protection for victims

In a number of countries, increased awareness of the seriousness of the human rights violations of trafficking victims has led to the creation of victim protection and assistance schemes. This is in line with the requirements of the Trafficking Protocol, which calls for a broad range of measures of protection and support for victims of trafficking. The majority of countries, however, have yet to establish effective victim protection mechanisms. Assistance and protection as the right of the victim in countries of origin, transit or destination should be unconditional, confidential and undertaken in ways that do not lead to social stigmatization and discrimination, or put the victim at risk of retribution from traffickers.



At the recent South Asian UN.GIFT event held in India in October 2007, the working group on protecting victims of human trafficking outlined the following recommendations to enhance victim protection:

- (a) Ensure that human rights of the victims of trafficking are protected during rescue and subsequently during the rehabilitation and repatriation process. To this end, we call upon States and other organizations that run protective homes to adopt minimum standards of care, as well as appropriate rescue and repatriation protocols. These protocols must subsequently lead to appropriate legislation;
- (b) Call upon States and voluntary organizations to keep the best interests of the victim in mind at all times during their rehabilitation and devise sustainable livelihood schemes best suited to their reintegration with society. In this regard, we also note the need to build partnerships and alliances with industries;
- (c) That rehabilitation as far as possible must be balanced between community-based and institution-based means and even within institutions the prime objective must always be the most suitable means of reintegrating survivors back into communities;
- (d) Call upon States to adopt suitable witness protection laws so that victim witnesses are able to complain and depose without fear at the time of trial.

## E. International cooperation

A large number of United Nations entities, other international and non-governmental organizations, business, civil and academic groups, as well as committed individuals, address different aspects of human trafficking. People and groups acting alone and operating within national or local borders can have only a limited impact on trafficking in persons. Combining the efforts and resources of all stakeholders should be channelled into a coherent strategy whereby each of these parts can be combined into a strong and focused whole.

*“He simply said that I had to have a good rest because I was very tired and weak. He said that I could stay there until my passport was ready at the embassy. He allowed me to call [home]. I tried to call some of my acquaintances who contacted my mother. We don’t have a phone at home. My mother contacted the helpline ... and asked for help. As my mother already told me, [the organization] at home contacted [an organization in the destination country]. A few days later I was called by a worker of the helpline in the destination country and offered some assistance.”*



Trafficking victim in South-Eastern Europe

*Source:* International Centre for Migration Policy Development, *Listening to Victims: Experiences of Identification, Return and Assistance in South-Eastern Europe* (2007).



## VI. Taking action

Multisectoral action is needed to fight human trafficking. The research community can support efforts to collect better data. Lawmakers can combine their knowledge with experts on human trafficking to draft comprehensive legislation. Law enforcement officials can work together with service providers to protect and support victims and to develop successful prosecutions. International, regional and local organizations can seek cooperation from different parts of society, including the health care sector, embassies or the private sector.

Areas of action are often presented under the “3P” approach: prevention, protection and prosecution. An additional 3 Ps can be identified: provision of services, participation of civil society and policy formulation.

The United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking aims to build and maintain a shared knowledge base; create and provide necessary technical tools; raise awareness; and mobilize resources. Its work includes the activities described below.

### A. Research

Research activities aim to deepen global understanding of trafficking in persons on the basis of more solid data collection and analysis, better data-sharing, joint research initiatives and creating an evidence-based report on human trafficking.

A global data collection effort has been initiated and an assessment tool to identify a standardized methodology to collect national data on human trafficking is being developed. In addition, a legislative assessment tool is being created to collect and analyse best practices in legislation against human trafficking and to review legislation and terminology.



Discussions at the UN.GIFT event held in Brazil in October 2007 highlighted the crucial point that regional characteristics must be understood in order for responses to be targeted. In the region of Latin America and the Caribbean, it was noted that trafficking must be understood as it relates to deforestation, environmental problems in general, models of economic development, among other issues. In Brazil and many other countries of the region, slave labour is used on a large scale to cut down trees, export illegal timber and make pasture for cattle or the large-scale production of agricultural commodities. The process of deforestation is therefore acknowledged to be linked to trafficking patterns; research is an important instrument for understanding this and strengthening responses against it. To this end it is important that local populations in the Amazon area participate in the design and implementation of the policies that affect them.

The same prioritization of research was stressed with regard to another context at the UN.GIFT regional event for Eastern Africa. Focusing on the issue of trafficking in persons in the context of conflict and post-conflict conditions, the first recommendation to have emerged from discussions was to undertake further research on the linkages of conflict and post-conflict conditions and trafficking in persons to enable evidence-based anti-trafficking efforts that are tailored to problems.

## B. Tools

By bringing together strategic players and providing them with reliable and current information, we will be able to vastly improve our efforts. Stakeholders will be able to draw on common knowledge and the latest data in order to develop practical tools to prevent trafficking, protect victims and bring criminals to justice.

### 1. Capacity-building

- A rapid response needs assessment tool to identify best practices in designing technical assistance projects
- A law enforcement “first aid kit” to collect and consolidate practical tools sensitizing law enforcement to the particularities of trafficking cases and victims
- An advanced training manual for law enforcement, judges and prosecutors to strengthen the technical judicial and law enforcement capacity to become more effective in identifying and protecting victims of trafficking together with investigating and prosecuting offenders
- A global collection of prosecuted cases and case material to be used as a monitoring, awareness-raising and information tool
- A supply chain management toolkit to provide specific practical guidance materials, tailored to the needs of specific industrial actors who can be affected by forced labour and trafficking

### 2. Victim support and protection

- A handbook on the rights of victims of human trafficking based on the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power to build the capacity of service providers and Governments in the application of a victim-centred approach
- A tool to address the vulnerabilities to trafficking
- A comprehensive manual on health and human trafficking to serve as a tool for improved understanding of the health-related aspects of trafficking, better health-care services and ultimately improved access to care for trafficked populations

- A best practice model to encourage cooperation between law enforcement institutions and a range of key stakeholders
- A training resource to assist the work of agencies and other stakeholders in the prevention of child trafficking and exploitation, protection and assistance of child victims

### C. Awareness

UN.GIFT champions innovative partnerships in order to raise awareness among all countries and populations affected by trafficking. The arts, the media and popular culture can play an important role in fighting human trafficking and in contributing to the survival and rehabilitation of those who have been victimized. Films, theatre, photographs, the visual arts and media channels are being used to inform communities around the world about different aspects of human trafficking.



#### Promising practices of awareness-raising through UN.GIFT

At the South Asian UN.GIFT event held in India in October 2007, a dedicated UN.GIFT website was launched to raise the profile of the event and awareness of the issue. Further to this, awareness was raised through prolific media coverage of the event, and four dedicated media events were held to sensitize media counterparts on trafficking issues. A media coalition and various media partnerships resulted from UN.GIFT, and members of the Bollywood film industry committed their support under the UN.GIFT banner to raise awareness of human trafficking.

### D. Partnerships

UN.GIFT provides the framework for coherent, comprehensive, joint action by linking those who wish to end human trafficking and optimizing existing campaigns and action plans, including Governments, civil society, international and regional organizations, the media, the business community and academia. It also provides the means by which new partnerships can be formed and by which existing partnerships can be strengthened and consolidated.

### E. Resources

UN.GIFT raises funds and develops co-financing partnerships at the national, regional and international levels in cooperation with government institutions, private-sector companies and foundations.

## F. Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking

The Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking (13-15 February 2008) is a step towards generating support and political will behind the goals of the Global Initiative. The Forum raises awareness of all forms of trafficking, facilitates cooperation and partnerships among participants, takes stock of progress made and sets the directions for follow-up measures to prevent and counter human trafficking. The Forum also provides for an assessment of the lessons learned regarding the dimensions of the issue and the current action taken in response to trafficking in persons.

The Forum is organized around three central themes that reflect the key issues that need to be addressed in a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy: *(a)* vulnerability: why human trafficking occurs; *(b)* impact: what the consequences are; and *(c)* action: what measures might be taken in response. Within each theme, plenary sessions, as well as workshops, provide participants with an opportunity to explore each theme in greater detail, for the purpose of developing comprehensive intervention strategies and undertaking practical action.

Issues such as disempowerment, social exclusion and economic vulnerability are the result of policies and practices that marginalize entire groups of people and make them particularly vulnerable to being trafficked. Natural disasters, conflict and political turmoil weaken already tenuous social protection measures. Individuals are vulnerable to being trafficked not only because of conditions in their countries of origin, however. The allure of opportunity, the relentless demand for inexpensive goods and services and the expectation of reliable income drive people into potentially dangerous situations where they are at risk of being exploited. The Forum examines existing definitions of and practices related to the prevention of trafficking and, by focusing on decreasing vulnerability, broadens the strategic impact of existing prevention efforts.

Human and social consequences of trafficking are compelling. From the physical abuse and torture of victims to the psychological and emotional trauma, to the economic and political implications of unabated crime, the impact on individuals and society is clearly destructive and unacceptable. The Vienna Forum explores the impact of human trafficking on the lives of the individuals and their communities. Participants share experiences and focus on the consequences of human trafficking to victims—including the violence they experience, adverse health effects, social stigmatization and the risk of revictimization.

The Trafficking Protocol provides a comprehensive strategic approach to combat trafficking in human beings. Implementation of the measures included in the Trafficking Protocol, however, remains uneven. A lack of clarity related to even basic terms and definitions, national political concerns and uncertainty regarding what measures work and what do not have contributed to a lack of systematic and consistent implementation, and sustainable action. Participants of the Forum review major global anti-trafficking strategies and national responses, sharing from their own experiences and identifying elements that constitute best practices.





## International instruments

Instruments applicable and relevant to trafficking in persons include:

- Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (2005)
- Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (2002)
- Brussels Declaration on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (2002)
- South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution (2002)
- Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)
- Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (2000)
- Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (2000)
- Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour (International Labour Organization Convention No. 182) (1999)
- United Nations Declaration on Crime and Public Security (1996)
- Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995)
- Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights (1993)
- Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993)
- International Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979)
- Convention concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour (International Labour Organization Convention No. 105) (1957)

- Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery (1956)
- Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951)
- Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949)
- Geneva Conventions (1949) and Additional Protocols
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
- International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women of Full Age (1933)
- Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour (International Labour Organization Convention No. 29) (1930)
- Slavery Convention (1926)
- International Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Women and Children (1921)
- International Convention for the Suppression of the White Slave Traffic (1910)
- International Agreement for the Suppression of the “White Slave Traffic” (1904)



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