

PROBLEM ASSESSMENT



Tool 2.1 General guidelines for conducting assessments

Overview

This tool recommends resources to assist in conducting effective assessments.

A systematic review of the local circumstances is required in order to assess properly the human trafficking situation in a given State. The assessment should examine the nature and extent of the problem and identify the agencies and groups involved in victim protection and assistance. Assessments should be considered as a means of identifying needs.

- National governmental or non-governmental actors should initiate assessments and conduct them jointly with local government and civic society actors. National authorities should also draw upon the expertise of external research institutes.
- External actors can facilitate assessments, where they are sensitive to the local economic, social, cultural, civil and political circumstances.
- Findings should be openly shared with stakeholders for discussion.
- Clear frameworks and questionnaires should be developed before information is gathered.

Needs assessments should begin at the most basic level by considering:

- The extent to which Government agencies and non-governmental organizations are aware of the problem of trafficking
- Whether there is legislation in place to address trafficking and whether it is adequate
- Whether inter-agency governmental agreements or guidelines have been initiated to build cooperation among Government agencies and non-governmental organizations
- The extent to which the Government is making funds available to combat trafficking and assist trafficking victims

Initial consultations with Government and non-governmental agencies should address:

- How the country perceives trafficking in persons and the victims of trafficking
- Whether the country's approach towards trafficking is rights-based
- What the country's general policies are in relation to irregular migration, migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons



Source: Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, *National Referral Mechanisms: Joining Efforts to Protect the Rights of Trafficked Persons: a Practical Handbook* (2004) available at: www.osce.org/publications/odihr/2004/05/12351_131_en.pdf

Recommended resources

See also Tool 9.15 on use of standardized data collection instruments.

ASEAN and Trafficking in Persons: Using Data as a Tool to Combat Trafficking in Persons (International Organization for Migration/Association of Southeast Asian Nations)

This report, published in 2007, discusses the importance of gathering information and knowledge about trafficking in order to combat it. The publication discusses the basic principles of what data on trafficking is, why it is necessary to combat trafficking and how it is obtained. The publication also provides country studies, examining data from Government sources in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand and discussing the data-collection practices of these four countries. On the basis of lessons learned from these country studies, the report makes recommendations for improving the collection of data on trafficking, including recommendations that can be adopted at the agency level, at the national level and at the level of ASEAN, and elaborates on the following four best practice principles in data collection:

Principle 1. Data must be relevant to clearly defined objectives

Principle 2. Data needs to be regular and reliable

Principle 3. Data must be protected

Principle 4. Data must be turned into information and knowledge



This publication is available at:

www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/offonce/pid/1674?entryId=14477

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe handbook

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has published *National Referral Mechanisms: Joining Efforts to Protect the Rights of Trafficked Persons: a Practical Handbook*, which provides guidance on how to design and implement sustainable mechanisms and structures to combat human trafficking and support victims. It also provides guidance on how to build and monitor the capacity of such mechanisms and structures.

Included in the handbook are three useful questionnaires that can be used in preparing for an assessment of the situation in a country; each concentrates on one aspect of a comprehensive assessment:

Questionnaire I. Assessment of country-specific conditions and needs

Questionnaire II. Assessment of legal framework

Questionnaire III. Analysis of Actors and Organizations



The OSCE handbook can be found at:

www.osce.org/publications/odihr/2004/05/12351_131_en.pdf