



Tool 2.11 An international initiative

Overview

This tool offers an example of a promising global initiative against trafficking in persons.

Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking

In March 2007, UNODC officially set in motion the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) with a grant made on behalf of the United Arab Emirates. UN.GIFT provides a framework for all stakeholders—Governments, businesses, academia, civil society and the media—so that they can support one other, work in partnership and create effective tools to fight trafficking in persons.

Mission statement

UN.GIFT is intended to mobilize State and non-State actors to eradicate human trafficking by:

1. Reducing both the vulnerability of potential victims and the demand for exploitation in all its forms;
2. Ensuring adequate protection and support to those who fall victim to trafficking;
3. 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 of human trafficking; promote effective rights-based responses; build the capacity of State and non-State actors; and foster partnerships for joint action against human trafficking.

Goals

The goals of UN.GIFT are to build awareness, broaden knowledge and step up technical assistance.

Awareness

The level of global knowledge and awareness of trafficking remains low, thereby increasing the vulnerability of potential victims. UN.GIFT seeks to secure a more innovative approach by strengthening partnerships and enlarging the role played by civil society and the private sector. Strong public-private partnerships and regional and topical networks can also help raise public awareness. The Vienna Forum, held in February 2008, provided an opportunity for sharing knowledge and best practices and strengthening partnerships.

Knowledge base

The most significant challenge facing UN.GIFT is the creation of a comprehensive knowledge base, the absence of which currently impedes efforts against trafficking. More data is

needed on the extent of the crime, its geographical spread and the forms it takes. This research component of UN.GIFT is aimed at deepening understanding of trafficking in persons through better data collection, information analysis and sharing and joint research activities to strengthen efforts against the crime.

Technical assistance

States need better national capacity to fight human trafficking. Drawing on an expanded knowledge base, stakeholders are able to create and develop practical tools to prevent trafficking, protect victims and bring criminals to justice. These tools include manuals for law enforcement agencies, judges, prosecutors and victim support groups, as well as draft legislation to assist national programmes and fact-sheets for use in raising awareness. A global human trafficking assessment tool will standardize methodology for collecting and analyzing national data on human trafficking. A legislative assessment tool is assisting the collection and analysis of best practices in anti-trafficking legislation.

Steering Committee

Mindful of the essential need for an approach that is collaborative and draws on a range of expertise, the Steering Committee of UN.GIFT comprises representatives of the six founding members of the Initiative:

International Labour Organization (ILO);

International Organization for Migration (IOM);

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF);

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

and a representative of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, the main donor.

The Steering Committee coordinates aims to create synergies and avoid duplication, to ensure the most efficient and effective delivery of UN.GIFT activities.



More information about UN.GIFT is available at:
www.ungift.org