



## Tool 2.3 Assessment of the national response

### Overview

*This tool provides examples of assessments carried out to analyse aspects of the existing response to trafficking in persons.*

The following examples highlight the value of multi-agency, cross-sectoral approaches to conducting assessments.

### Promising practice

#### ***Assessment of referral practices to assist and protect the rights of trafficked persons in Moldova***

As part of the UNODC project “Building capacity to combat trafficking in persons in the Republic of Moldova”, an assessment of referral practices to assist and protect the rights of trafficked persons in Moldova was completed in February 2007. The assessment was based on interviews conducted in Chisinau, Calarasi and Balti, as well as on observation, policy documents, legislation, non-governmental organization reports and suggestions from participants in a round-table discussion organized by UNODC in partnership with the Ministry of Social Protection, Family and Child and IOM in December 2006.

The chapters of the assessment report reflect each step in the process of victim assistance and referral, from identification to rehabilitation:

The report outlines the current response by multiple governmental and non-governmental organizations in Moldova and the extent of their cooperation for the benefit of victims. It identifies gaps and constraints in responses and makes recommendations for improving: the coordination between actors who come into contact with victims of trafficking; the quality of direct services to victims; and the effectiveness of initial efforts to establish a national referral mechanism.



*An Assessment of Referral Practices to Assist and Protect the Rights of Trafficked Persons in Moldova* (Chisinau, February 2007), is available at:  
[www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/publications.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/publications.html)

#### ***Needs analysis for strengthening anti-trafficking structures and cross-border cooperation in selected border locations in Myanmar***

In August and September 2006, a joint needs assessment team travelled to four border locations in Myanmar to assess local law enforcement mechanisms for combating human

trafficking across borders. The team consisted of representatives of the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit of the Ministry of Home Affairs of Myanmar, UNODC and the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Subregion (UNIAP).

The overall purpose of the mission was to assess how the UNODC border liaison office mechanism could be expanded to address human trafficking, with Myanmar serving as a model for other countries. The overall goal is to strengthen the law enforcement response to human trafficking at both the national and the regional levels. The initiative for the mission came from the Ministry of Home Affairs of Myanmar, within which the Department of Transnational Crime is responsible for the issue of trafficking. The objectives of the assessment mission were to:

- Conduct a needs analysis of the human trafficking-related problems and local responses at four border locations
- Assess existing cooperation among law enforcement agencies (both national and cross-border) on human trafficking
- Discuss ways to expand the work of border liaison offices to include the issue of human trafficking, by sharing experience and best practices of cooperation
- Provide technical inputs for local authority and Government staff by providing an overview of human trafficking, including the definition of the crime
- Prepare the groundwork for the Myanmar National Workshop on Cross-border Cooperation to Counter Human Trafficking
- Explore potential areas of support to strengthen anti-trafficking responses

The assessment was conducted as follows:

### *Pre-departure meetings*

Several pre-departure preparation meetings were held with UNIAP, UNODC and law enforcement agencies to establish which existing cross-border structures could be built upon.

### *Desk review*

After the mission outline had been agreed upon, both UNIAP and UNODC conducted a desk review to learn about each other's work, the human trafficking situation in the country, the local trafficking situations at each location and national and local responses.

### *Workshops*

At each of the locations visited, the assessment team conducted a workshop with key local actors involved in anti-trafficking activities and law enforcement, including border police, immigration staff, local authorities and national and international non-governmental organizations. Basic training was provided to clarify definitions and ensure common understanding of the problem under discussion. The workshops then focused on the local trafficking situation and ongoing responses, with presentations by stakeholders, follow-up questions from the assessment team and group discussion.

### *Individual meetings*

Individual meetings were held with key agencies' law enforcement officers at which questionnaires were distributed focusing on assessing:

- The human trafficking situation
- The functioning of the response mechanism
- Other stakeholders involved (Government/non-governmental organizations/international non-governmental organizations)
- Cooperation mechanisms existing between stakeholders

### *Site visits*

The assessment team visited both official and unofficial border crossings, border offices, law enforcement offices, reception centres and other infrastructure relating to human trafficking and cross-border cooperation.

### *Debriefing*

Information and data collected during the mission were reviewed by UNIAP, UNODC and participating Government agencies.

### *Workshop*

To ensure that the momentum achieved during the assessment mission was maintained, it was decided at discussions between UNIAP, UNODC and the Government of Myanmar to convene a national workshop to bring together border staff and other stakeholders to:

- Share experiences
- Receive training on human trafficking
- Develop individual action plans for individual border locations and develop a workplan outlining necessary steps to improve local capacity and cross-border cooperation

*Source:* "Needs analysis report: strengthening anti-trafficking structures and cross-border cooperation in selected border locations in Myanmar", UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific and United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

### ***Evaluation of anti-trafficking policies in Romania***

At the request of the Inter-ministerial Working Group for the coordination and assessment of activities to prevent and combat trafficking of human beings, and with the technical and financial support of UNICEF Romania, an evaluation of anti-trafficking response in Romania was carried out. The research entailed an analysis of legislation and relevant documentation and of data collection in the field, using both qualitative and quantitative methods. The evaluation report offers chapters on (a) the institutional framework in Romania, (b) the financial resources involved in anti-trafficking policies, (c) profiles of trafficking victims and case studies, (d) the protection and assistance provided to victims of trafficking,

(e) prevention efforts, (f) statistical data, (g) attitudes towards and social perceptions of migration and trafficking, and (h) conclusions and recommendations.



The Evaluation is available at:

[www.childtrafficking.org/pdf/user/UNICEF\\_Evaluation\\_of\\_Antitrafficking\\_Policies\\_in\\_Romania.pdf](http://www.childtrafficking.org/pdf/user/UNICEF_Evaluation_of_Antitrafficking_Policies_in_Romania.pdf)

### ***Action to Prevent Child Trafficking in South-Eastern Europe: a Preliminary Assessment***

An independent consultant, in collaboration with Terre des Hommes and the UNICEF Regional Office for Central Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, prepared a report focusing on efforts to prevent trafficking in children in Albania, Moldova, Romania and the United Nations-administered Province of Kosovo. The report was published in June 2006.

Given that children are recruited and transported in a different way from adult victims of trafficking, taken to different destinations and exploited for different purposes, prevention efforts with regard to trafficking in children should be specifically tailored. For this reason, the report looks at the effectiveness of prevention approaches, particularly those actions taken to address the roots of the problem. It considers what constitutes good practice in the design of prevention approaches, what strategies have been tried, and strengths and weaknesses of projects and programmes, and makes recommendations as to measures which need to be put into place to specifically protect children from trafficking. The report is mindful of the human-rights-based approach, which places the rights of trafficked persons—in this case children—at the centre of consideration and evaluates strategies according to their impact on the individuals concerned.

The author of the report arranged structured interviews with 23 children using a standardized questionnaire. The questions asked were aimed at seeking information about three issues:

1. The child's awareness of any measures to prevent the trafficking of children (and how the child reacted to these)
2. The child's views about any assistance or support which he or she received after being trafficked
3. The child's level of vulnerability and how this factor was addressed, before, during or after the trafficking process

Several procedures were observed in the conduct of the interviews:

- Interviews were conducted in the child's language
- Interviewers were known to and trusted by the children before the interviews, which were conducted as informal conversations rather than formal interviews
- Girls and young women were questioned by women rather than men

- Efforts were made to ensure that interviews did not cause further harm to the child (e.g. by reawakening painful memories)
- A case manager or other professional familiar with the child's trafficking experience provided as much information as possible initially, to spare the child having to answer questions he or she had already been asked
- Written consent was obtained from parents, relatives or shelter managers with legal responsibility for the child



The preliminary assessment can be downloaded at:  
[www.unicef.org/ceecis/Assessment\\_report\\_June\\_06.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/ceecis/Assessment_report_June_06.pdf)