



Tool 8.9 Rehabilitation, skills training and education

Overview

This tool presents some examples of the assistance that can be provided to protect victims from revictimization.

There are a number of complex issues affecting the successful return and reintegration of victims of trafficking. Rehabilitation assistance, skills training and education will often need to be part of a victim's reintegration and are essential to break the cycle of revictimization.

Whether trafficked victims are permitted to remain in the destination State or eventually return home, education, training and rehabilitation should be provided to those who need them. Where States provide temporary residence permits to victims of trafficking, there may be an opportunity for the victims to benefit, prior to their return home from education, training or retraining and employment opportunities available in that State. This can significantly help victims prepare for their return to and reintegration into their State of origin. In several destination States where temporary visas are available, well-developed rehabilitation programmes are operated.

In circumstances where the victim may be able to remain in the destination State, more extensive rehabilitation is possible, with a focus on new employment and lifestyle. The potential for this type of assistance to help victims break the cycle of revictimization in which they can become caught is considerable. For the programmes to be effective, however, it is critical that they are offered in a discreet and sensitive manner, without carrying the stigma attached to a programme that is only offered to victims of trafficking. The employment opportunities must be real, realistic and meaningful. The involvement of major employers, such as transnational companies, in internship or apprenticeship programmes can be a major asset.

Reinsertion into education

Helping victims of trafficking complete their education should be considered a priority, where possible. In cooperation with the national authorities, the organization which receives victims in their State of origin can facilitate the reinsertion of victims into the education system and/or provide financial support for education.

Vocational training

Vocational training is often offered by non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, charitable organizations, religious groups or Government partners, or a combination thereof. Vocational training is an important element to include in reintegration plans, as a means of ensuring the sustainable social integration of victims by increasing their employment prospects, confidence and life skills. Service delivery organizations should assist victims to set realistic employment goals commensurate with their abilities, skills and

education level, and the available employment opportunities in the area. Vocational training should be voluntary and decided upon on a case-by-case basis.

Micro-enterprise and income-generating activities

Where victims are particularly entrepreneurial, income-generating activities and grants for micro-enterprises can be an effective means of increasing the victim's independence, self-sufficiency and self-confidence. To be effective, income-generating projects often need to be integrated with other reintegration components (such as psychological assistance and vocational training). Such measures should be decided upon on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the particular person's experience, education, skills, personality and commitment to manage a micro-business.

Job placement, wage subsidies and apprenticeship programmes

A victim's lack of employment prospects may have been a contributing factor to his or her initial vulnerability to trafficking. Many victims have little experience in finding and keeping jobs; assistance may be necessary to assist them in finding a job and in managing their relationships with colleagues and employers to keep that job. Relevant State agencies may assist with identifying appropriate workplaces and the recruitment process. Where employers are reluctant to employ returnees, wage subsidies or apprenticeship programmes may provide incentive to employers and assist the returnee in gaining employment.



Source: The IOM Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking, available at:

www.iom.int/jahia/Jahia/cache/offonce/pid/1674?entryId=13452

Promising practice

Assistance in Nigeria

The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Within the framework of a programme of action against trafficking in young women and minors from Nigeria into Italy for the purpose of sexual exploitation, implemented by UNICRI in collaboration with UNODC, pilot social-reintegration activities have been designed to help trafficked and at-risk minors and young women to become economically independent and able to meet their own and their families' needs.

In Nigeria, members of a coalition of five non-governmental organizations working against human trafficking received training on victim assistance and social reintegration, and carried out pilot micro-finance activities for trafficking victims and vulnerable young women at risk of being trafficked in Edo State. Between December 2003 and April 2005, 79 young women received funding from the micro-finance project.



In the second phase of the programme, UNICRI and UNODC will continue granting assistance to Nigerian minors and young women who have been trafficked or are at risk of being trafficked, and providing support for their successful reintegration in Edo State. Activities will be implemented in cooperation with local non-governmental organizations, Government institutions and civil society organizations. Rehabilitation and reintegration of the two key target groups will be facilitated through the provision of psychosocial, health and professional counselling to victims and their families, legal and administrative assistance and relevant information allowing them to envisage alternative strategies to make a living.

The project is also intended to expand access for trafficking victims and potential victims to micro-finance so that they can develop viable alternative income-generating activities. Besides offering small credits, the project will provide professional orientation, vocational and skills training and ongoing support to ensure that the victims and potential victims who opt to set up or join a small business can succeed in their ventures. This integrated set of activities will help empower trafficked and at-risk minors and young women (and their families), not only economically but also socially, and equip them with the necessary means to become settled and cater for their own and their families' needs.

Case-by-case monitoring and ongoing counselling and assistance will be provided by local non-governmental organizations responsible for providing support and assistance to the primary beneficiaries at the local level, until they are sufficiently self-reliant to pursue their ventures by themselves.



For further information, see:
www.unicri.it/wwd/trafficking/nigeria/microcredit.php