INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE
ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

Issue Brief Series

Combating transnational crime

International Organization for Migration (IOM)

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SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT **GOALS**
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

FINANCING FOR
DEVELOPMENT

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1.   Introduction

Organized criminal groups are earning billions of dollars in profits from trafficking and exploiting people - many of whom are victims of severe human rights violations. Trafficked persons are often victims to abuse such as rape, torture, debt bondage, unlawful confinement and threats against their family or other persons close to them, as well as other forms of physical, sexual and psychological violence. The demand for cheap labour, sexual services and certain criminal activities are among the root causes of trafficking, while a lack of opportunity, resources and social standing are other contributing factors.

2.   Stocktaking (progress and implementation gaps)[1]

An estimated 21 million individuals are victims of forced labour globally, according to ILO.[2] This figure includes cases of human trafficking for the purposes of sexual or labour exploitation; however, the real number of victims of human trafficking remains unknown. Over half of the estimated victims of forced labour are found in the Asia-Pacific region (11.7 million), followed by Africa (3.7 million) and Latin America (1.8 million). The Central and South-eastern Europe region, together with the Commonwealth of Independent States count 1.6 million victims, while 1.5 million victims are estimated to be in the Developed Economies and the EU, and another 600,000 in the Middle East.[3] The same estimates suggest that over a third of the victims of forced labour worldwide are minors, and the majority are women and girls (11.4 million), particularly in the case of sexual exploitation (98% of the estimated 4.5 million victims of sexual trafficking); conversely, labour exploitation in the private economy appears to mostly concern males (60% of 14.2 million). Annual illegal profits generated by such exploitation of human beings are estimated at USD 150 billion, with yearly profits per victim ranging between USD 3,900 and 34,800.

According to the 2016 U.S. State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons report, the number of identified victims of trafficking globally in 2015 was 77,823, which significantly increased from 44,462 in 2014.[4] The most significant increase in 2015 was observed in South and Central Asia (24,867 compared to 4,878 in 2014), followed by East Asia and Pacific (13,990 compared to 6,349 in 2014), Africa (12,125 compared to 9,523 in 2014) and the Near East (6,068 compared to 3,388 in 2014), while the Western Hemisphere (9,661 compared to 8,414 in 2014) remained relatively stable. Europe was the only region that has experienced a slight decrease (11,112 from 11,910 in 2014). In all regions, only a small proportion of identified cases are followed by

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[1] IOM (2016) Global Migration Trends Fact Sheet 2015.
[2] ILO. See: http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/policy-areas/statistics/lang--en/index.htm.
[3] Ibid.
[4] See: http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2016/index.htm

convictions - less than one in ten on average globally.[5] It must be noted that human trafficking does not necessarily involve crossing an international border; however, undocumented migrants crossing borders irregularly, especially unaccompanied minors, are particularly vulnerable to becoming victims of human trafficking.

On a global scale, policy efforts to prevent human trafficking have advanced since the year 2000 with the adoption of the Palermo Convention and its three Protocols. Adopted as a supplement to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the three protocols act as the main international instrument in the fight against transnational organized crime.[6] The "Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children" came into force in 2003, and has since then impacted national legislations around the world. In November 2003, almost two thirds of countries did not have a specific offence that criminalized trafficking in persons. Three years later this share had dropped to 28 per cent, and in 2014 only 5 per cent of countries did not have specific legislation that criminalizes trafficking in persons.[7]

Additionally, the performance indicator system known as the "Three Ps" (prevention, protection and prosecuting) has been implemented in countries as a tool to combat the trafficking in persons.[8] Governments have taken it upon themselves to carry out 'prevention' activities, which include the adoption of national counter trafficking laws, and identifying at-risk populations in order to reduce their vulnerability to exploitation. Governments also undertake to provide 'protection' and services to victims, such as identifying safe places for victims of trafficking in persons while meeting their immediate basic needs, providing legal support and assisting in reintegration. The final P, 'prosecuting', entails holding traffickers accountable for their crimes. As the nature of human trafficking is often transnational, ensuring sound international cooperation is crucial.

3. Policy options and recommendations for corrective action

SDG targets on trafficking with a focus on women and girls (5.2), forced labour (8.7) and children (16.2) are the most relevant to the AAAA paragraph 112. Although these targets belong under different SDGs of gender, decent work and peaceful and inclusive society, and require specific and tailored interventions to prevent the occurrence of trafficking and assist victims, it is crucial to coordinate and develop coherent polices over different dimensions of trafficking. Interlinkages with other development goals should not be overlooked, particularly economic and social development goals that would impact significantly on people's vulnerability to fraud employment opportunities as well as environmental goals which could lead to increased natural disasters. Given the complex and clandestine nature of the crime, one

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[5] Due to lack of uniform reporting mechanisms across countries, statistics in the TIP report are only estimates.

[6] See: https://www.unodc.org/unodc/treaties/CTOC/

[7] UNODC 2014 https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/GLOTIP_2014_full_report.pdf

[8] IOM Handbook on performance indicators for counter-trafficking projects See: http://www.iom.int/jahia/webdav/shared/shared/mainsite/published_docs/brochures_and_info_sheets/pi_handbook_180808.pdf

of the biggest challenges in combatting human trafficking is the lack of accessible, reliable, high-quality data to develop evidence-based response. Data collected on identified victims of human trafficking have great potential to contribute to the development of the knowledge base on human-trafficking-related issues through research.[9] Trends within identified victim data can also be used to develop measurable indicators for the SDGs.[10]

There are, however, several challenges in using identified victim data and other human trafficking related data, including:
- Databases being diverse, dispersed, and mostly disconnected from each other.
- Data not being standardized and often not comparable.
- Data gathered and tools used being geared towards individual case management.
- Different databases which exist not being easily accessible for researchers, academics, practitioners, and policy-makers, particularly due to the sensitive and personal nature of the data.
- Different kinds of data/information sources rarely being combined in analysis with trafficking data.

It is important for counter-trafficking actors to work together to overcome these challenges, including through leveraging information technology, the development of data standards, and establishing improved data exchange modalities between actors.

Another challenge is to combat trafficking in crisis situations. The erosion of rule of law and institutional breakdown, development of criminal activities, corruption and involvement of officials, impunity, and the enhanced reliance on negative coping mechanisms and risky survival strategies, are observed in many large-scale crises and represent important risk factors for trafficking in persons. Weak governments are less equipped to respond to a large-scale crisis, and when a crisis hits, it will strongly exacerbate the vulnerability of affected populations. Independent from the type of crisis, IDP and refugee camps are a breeding ground of new victims for traffickers and other criminal networks looking for a cheap or free workforce, sexual services and other exploitative services. The general lack of economic opportunities and the increasing reliance on negative coping mechanisms can translate, in some cases, into heightened vulnerability to trafficking in persons among affected populations. Positions of vulnerability may be abused, while traffickers take advantage of the desperate economic and social conditions of the affected population. Traditional harmful practices, such as early

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[9] For example, on the prevalence, locations, causes, effects, and trends of the crime itself and the actors involved; individuals and communities most at risk of being trafficked; the protection needs and durable solutions for survivors of trafficking; and, the impact of measures to combat the crime and protect victims and individuals and communities most at risk.

[10] While the international community needs to be wary of unintentionally creating any perverse incentives with regard to identification, certain trends within identified victim data may function as indicators (e.g. the proportion of total identified victims who are (a) female or (b) children). Methodologies used to estimate the prevalence of human trafficking may also be improved through the use of identified victim data to inform extrapolation or otherwise adjust results. Possible SDG indicators which focus on measuring the enabling environment or 'ecosystem' for human trafficking may also be informed by trends within identified victim data.

marriage, are increasing during crisis settings and some might lead to trafficking. The absence of protection or immediate solutions increases exposure to trafficking, in particular in protracted settings. Other aggravating factors can be related to discrimination, whether gender-based, ethnic, racial, religious, social, in the communities or at national level.

3.1: Foster partnerships with international and non-state actors

Collaboration, information sharing and work in coordination among government agencies including police and border management across countries, is absolutely crucial due to its nature of transnational crimes. States' capacity and commitment to get involved in a counter-trafficking response should be strengthened in collaboration with international actors. Partnerships with civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations should be fostered where relevant and feasible.[11]

3.2: Strengthen cooperation with law enforcement agencies

Cooperation with national and international law enforcement agencies should be enhanced. Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) should be fostered and strengthened, while cooperation with available legal mechanisms, including regional and international bodies should also be enhanced. For example, legalizing the status of foreign trafficking victims through temporary residence permits is an essential precondition to assist them and has become a motivation for them to come forward and seek protection. Doing so would require building the capacity of relevant government bodies and NGOs to appropriately introduce laws and carry out, implement and apply practical measures to make it visible and accessible to trafficking victims.

3.3: Promote awareness raising and education on trafficking in persons

Awareness-raising and educational campaigns on human trafficking and referral pathways should be conducted, targeting at-risk populations, governments and aid workers, in order to bridge the knowledge gap including before, during and after a crisis.[12]

3.4 Prioritize assisting at-risk population and at-risk locations

Vulnerable and mobile populations affected by crisis are at risk of trafficking and exploitation. At-risk populations in times of crisis can include irregular migrants, migrant workers, asylum seekers and displaced populations (refugees and IDPs) directly caught up in a crisis or in transit, people left behind and local communities. Particularly at-risk locations can be transit or collective holding points for irregular migrants, informal places of employment, displacement camps, informal settlements and host communities.

The predominant vulnerable groups may include:
- Unaccompanied and separated children, children on the move

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[11] "All States, irrespective of their place in the trafficking cycle, have an international legal responsibility to act with due diligence in preventing trafficking; investigating and prosecuting suspected traffickers; and providing assistance and protection to those who have been trafficked" – OHCHR, Principle 2.

[12] IOM (2015) Addressing human trafficking and exploitation in times of crisis – Evidence and recommendations for future action to protect vulnerable and mobile populations July 2015   See http://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/press_release/file/CT_in_Crisis_FINAL.pdf

- Women-headed households, women and girl victims of domestic violence
- Victims already trafficked caught up in a crisis
- Minorities and victims of discrimination – ethnic, racial, religious, social
- Individuals in a position of vulnerability – gender, age, status/irregular, social, economic, political and so on.

As previously mentioned, women and girls are considered most vulnerable to trafficking, but are not the only ones targeted. Men and boys are also victims of trafficking in persons and exploitation, mainly related to labour exploitation, forced recruitment and irregular migration. Besides the gender-based discrimination, other forms of discrimination have also been pointed out as aggravating factors in the rise of trafficking occurrences.

Annex 1. Presentation of relevant work by UN system and others in the area

IOM has been working to counter the trafficking in persons since 1994. In this time, we have assisted approximately 70,000 trafficked persons with humanitarian, medical, legal, and migration support. Our primary aims are to prevent trafficking in persons and to protect victims from the trade while offering them options of safe and sustainable reintegration.

IOM Human Trafficking Data Portal
IOM is taking the data revolution to the fight against human trafficking through the development of its Human Trafficking Data Portal. IOM has the largest victim of human trafficking database in the world, containing data on over 40,000 individual cases and with nearly 5,000 additional cases being added every year. The Organization is now partnering with other leaders in this field to host the world's largest open access, multi-stakeholder repository of human trafficking data. By making the Organization and its partners' data available to external parties on a systematic basis, whilst ensuring the anonymity of victims, IOM's Human Trafficking Data Portal will rapidly enhance the evidence base for the development of responses to the threat of human trafficking and labour exploitation and abuse.

6 degree.org initiative to help former victims of human trafficking
The 6 degree.org initiative is an innovative crowd funding pilot project in collaboration with Microsoft to help former victims of human trafficking find their way home. With their consent and active participation, IOM conducts a needs assessment with every survivor of trafficking in persons to see how it can best ensure the safety of individual trafficking survivors while helping them towards social and economic self-sufficiency. IOM Case Officers determine a funding goal based on the survivor's needs. This may cover costs directly associated with his or her immediate accommodation in a place of safety, medical or legal assistance, the return journey home, education or skills development, job placement, or help with establishing a small business. With permission of the survivor, IOM Case Officers then make the case available on 6degree.org. Because a survivor's anonymity is his or her most important form of protection, 6degree.org does not use photographs of faces and modifies information that could compromise their safety or chances of a normal life. Instead, we tell their stories with maps, and other tools, to allow supporters to understand their experiences and appreciate their challenges, in hopes of making it easier for people to help the survivors through donation. (http://6degree.org/)

IOM X Campaign
IOM X is the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) innovative campaign to encourage safe migration and public action to stop human trafficking and exploitation. The campaign leverages the power and popularity of media and technology to inspire young people and their communities to act against human trafficking, which is the buying and selling of people for the purpose of exploitation. IOM X produces video programs for television, online platforms and community screenings. These programs seek to educate viewers on different issues related to human trafficking and exploitation. All IOM X programs are available free-of-charge. IOM X has a strong online presence, and uses its social media sites to engage young

people on the issue of human trafficking and exploitation. Its website, IOMX.org, is optimized for online learning, storytelling and social sharing – with an aim to inspire passive online observers to become active online advocates. IOM X works with digital partners to develop collaborative projects that use technology to help prevent exploitation and better protect victims. IOM X has a network of passionate young leaders across Asia Pacific. After participating in IOM X capacity building activities, these young leaders use IOM X resources and tools to hold outreach activities in their own communities.
(http://www.iom.int/enhancing-protection-and-assistance-victims-trafficking-through-temporary-residence-permits)

The Reintegration Network
The Reintegration Network is a non-funded, voluntary alliance of local and international organizations and United Nations agencies that are working together to improve and strengthen the return and reintegration of women and children in Viet Nam. IOM and ActionAid formed the Reintegration Network in 2007. The Reintegration Network was designed to ensure information on effective programming is learnt and shared and is available to members of the Network or other government and non-government partners, with a view to eventual national use and expansion. The Network also aims to improve the coordination of referrals and assistance to returnees. The annual national workshop, which is cooperatively organized by members of the network in collaboration with the Department of Social Evil Prevention (DSEP, which is under the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs or MOLISA), allows for experience within the country to be documented and shared. The Reintegration Networks aims to i) coordinate and utilize existing resources of organizations; ii) share information related to services and assistance to victims of human trafficking; iii) Facilitate timely intervention in providing support for returnees in a collaborative fashion through an improved referral system; iv) enhance the reintegration services provided to victims of trafficking; v) at the formation of the Reintegration Network a key objective was for MOLISA to assume the role of hosting and running the Reintegration Network. This remains an ongoing goal.
(http://www.iom.int/strengthening-return-and-reintegration-women-and-children-viet-nam)
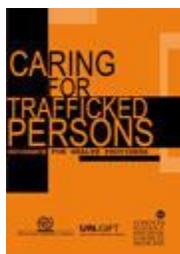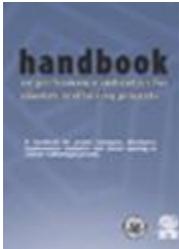

[Caring for Trafficked Persons: Guidance for Health Providers](#)
[> More Info](#)

[Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking](#)
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[Handbook on Performance Indicators for Counter-Trafficking Projects](#)
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