



## IOM COUNTER-TRAFFICKING PROGRAMME IN CENTRAL ASIA

### KAZAKHSTAN: Seminar on VOT identification, referral and protection for local stakeholders in Aktau

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In November 2014, in the framework of the USAID funded Central Asia Counter Trafficking Project IOM Kazakhstan, in close cooperation with the Public Foundation “Meyerim” and the Department of Internal Affairs of Mangystau region, was held a seminar on VOT identification, referral and protection in Aktau.

The key stakeholders in combating trafficking, such as criminal, administrative and migration police, prosecutors, representatives of city departments of health, education, employment and social programme, as well as the media, participated in the seminar.

During the event, an officer of the Department of Internal Affairs made a presentation about the situation of combating human trafficking in Mangystau region. He noted a positive progress in the rate of solved criminal cases related to human trafficking and highlighted some challenges the police faces, such as the lack of shelter for victims of trafficking, weak coordination among key stakeholders to refer victims of trafficking, and also expressed a need for closer involvement of health and social authorities in combating human trafficking.



The main goal of the seminar was to educate the stakeholders about the human trafficking phenomenon and its scope in Kazakhstan, to discuss existing mechanism of identification and referral of victims of trafficking, as well as to define new ways of interaction to identify, refer and provide assistance and protection to victims of trafficking in Mangystau region. During the seminar the participants discussed preventive measures and educational programmes for youth about the risks of human trafficking, the identification and referral of victims of trafficking, and made recommendations for further efforts on combating human trafficking. Particular attention was paid to the joint activities of relevant state agencies, law enforcement, media and civil society on the prevention of human trafficking and assistance and protection to victims of trafficking.



## KYRGYZSTAN: The Dialogue on Implementation of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Prevention and Combating Trafficking in Persons

**November 3, 2014, Bishkek** - the International Organization for Migration (IOM) jointly with the Committee for Social Policy of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic (Parliament) organized the Dialogue on Implementation of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on Prevention and Combating Trafficking in Persons (TIP Law) in the framework of the Central Asia Counter-Trafficking Project financed by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

The event brought together members of Parliament, representatives of Government and heads of non-governmental organizations working in the field of assistance to victims of trafficking (VoTs). Participants gathered to discuss the implementation of the law, identify gaps and develop relevant redress.



The event was attended by more than 50 participants and was moderated by Ms. Damira Niyazalieva, Chairperson of the Social Committee of the Parliament.

The Dialogue addressed pressing issues and specifically brought the topics of the authorized body to coordinate prevention and combating trafficking in persons in the Kyrgyz Republic; state guarantees for the VoTs; state programmes on social rehabilitation of the VoTs and the related government funding; as well as the inclusion of counter-trafficking training courses in the curricula of the state institutions of primary, secondary and higher education.

International organizations, donors and UN agencies were invited to the Dialogue to participate as observers.



This event was conducted at the forefront of 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the TIP Law, which was adopted on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

The Dialogue's stimulating debates resulted in the decision to conduct Parliament hearings on the implementation of the TIP Law. On 23 December 2014, as a follow up to this important event, the Committee for Social Policy of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic issued a resolution to conduct monitoring of the implementation of the law and to hold the Parliament hearings, where the findings of the monitoring will be presented. This resolution also created a counter-trafficking interagency committee to consult during the monitoring.

It is expected that subsequently to the Parliament hearings, the counter-trafficking efforts of the Government will be enhanced.

The event also contributed to strengthening of the partnership of the counter-trafficking non-governmental organizations and the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic

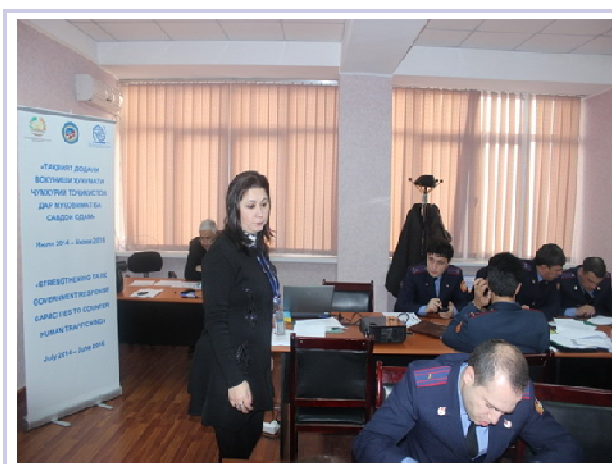
The Central Asia Counter-Trafficking project is one of the many assistance projects made possible by the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

## TAJKISTAN: IOM facilitates training for Tajik law enforcement agencies on capacity building in combating human trafficking.

December 25, 2014. IOM Tajikistan organized training for the staff of the Drug Control Agency (DCA) under the President of Republic of Tajikistan. Participants were offered information on the current situation in counteracting human trafficking as well as on international law ratified by the parliament of Tajikistan. Information on existing legislation in the area, in particular the newly adopted law on “Counteracting trafficking in persons and providing support to victims of trafficking in persons” was presented during the training. Participants were familiarized with the existing practices during investigations, cooperation between IOM Tajikistan and the government of Tajikistan in combating human trafficking, ongoing activities organized by IOM on victim identification, provision of immediate rehabilitation and reintegration assistance, as well as cooperation between involved actors in victim referral.

The main objectives of this training include knowledge assessment of colleagues in the law enforcement agencies, personal attitude to the phenomenon of “victim of trafficking”, issues of “confidentiality of information relating to victims of human trafficking” and tolerance to issues relating to human trafficking.

Twenty employees from operational and investigative units under the Central Office of the Drug Control Agency attended the training. Participants included 19 men and 1 female among junior and middle officers.



The training was held in the format of free discussions between trainers and participants. Law enforcement officers were particularly interested in the connection of human trafficking to drug trafficking. Many were surprised that drug mules that were forced to traffic drugs under certain circumstances were identified as “victims of human trafficking”.

Attendees were predominantly interested in issues related to identification of crimes under Article 130 (human trafficking) and Article 132 (recruitment for the purpose of exploitation) of the Criminal Code.

It should be noted that participants of this training, as well as attendees of previous trainings, expressed their controversial opinion in not recognizing women, which agreed to engage in prostitution in UAE or other countries but were in the process sexually exploited, as victims of trafficking in the criminal cases. For this reason, the trainer drew attention to issue of victims’ “consent” defined under the Palermo Protocol.

Such trainings will be organized for officers of the Ministry of Interior, National Security Committee, Customs Service and the prosecutors.

## TURKMENISTAN: International Organization for Migration in Partnership with the Government of Turkmenistan continues their efforts in the area of combating human trafficking



Ashgabat, 16, 19 December, 2014 –Members of the working group came together to continue their work and discussion on developing the draft of TIP Strategy and the National Action Plan on Combating Human Trafficking (NAP) in Turkmenistan.

During the first meeting of the working group in July, 2014 particular emphasis was placed on the distribution of responsibilities among the working group members in regard to their competence in the frame of NAP and following the template of the NAP, developed by international expert, in accordance with international standards. Also the mode of interaction and communication among the members of the working group, as well as between working group members and the international expert, who provides methodological support to the group, were discussed and defined.

The second meeting of the working group was held on December 16, 2014 at the building of the Turkmen National Institute of Democracy and Human Rights under the President of Turkmenistan. During the meeting the participants were familiarized with the Assessment Report on existing TIP law and policies in Turkmenistan, developed by the National Expert. After the completion of the presentation, the report became the subject of intense discussion and validation among the working group members. Then the international expert Tatyana Fomina came up with the first draft of the NAP which have been revised in accordance with the suggestions and comments received from the members of the working group.

During the meeting, the working group members were continuing their joint work and discussion on improving the first draft of the NAP. At the end of meeting, it was decided to forward the second draft of the NAP for consideration to relevant ministries and agencies of Turkmenistan.

## TURKMENISTAN: Provision of capacity building training for the members of working group on Combating Trafficking in Person in Turkmenistan



Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, December 17-18, 2014 – Members of the working group on combating human trafficking continue to increase their knowledge and skills on implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the regulatory acts in the area of combating human trafficking. International Organization for Migration (IOM), in partnership with the Government of Turkmenistan, has organized the second two day training for the working group, which was established with the aim to develop a TIP Strategy and National Action Plan on Combating Human Trafficking (NAP) in Turkmenistan.

Counter trafficking, together with migration and health, and disaster risk reduction, was identified by the government as one of three priority areas for cooperation with IOM in Turkmenistan.

The purpose of the training was to improve the capacity of the working group members, their knowledge and practical skills on implementing, monitoring and evaluating the regulatory acts in the area of combating human trafficking, as well as consolidation of cooperation among the participants of the training.

During the training, the participants strengthened their knowledge about the concept of result based management and learned the particularities of coordination process of implementing, monitoring and evaluating the TIP Strategy and NAP. The training also provided the opportunity for participants to broaden their horizons on existing best practices on cooperation among governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations and public organizations in the area of implementation of the NAP on combating human trafficking, as well as in the area of monitoring and evaluation. It was very valu-

able for the working group members to learn about the international recommendations on coordination, the efforts in the field of combating human trafficking, the theoretical aspects of coordination and the role of the civil society organizations. The trainer has also drawn the audience's attention to different aspects of internal and external monitoring, as well as evaluation of the NAP implementation. At the end of the training, applying the newly acquired skills and knowledge, the participants developed the monitoring report on implementation of a NAP and each group presented its own part of it. In this regard, the trainer provided the relevant recommendations on how to improve the report and the working group members shared their comments and suggestions on presented materials.



The organization of the training is a part of IOM activities on prevention of human trafficking in Turkmenistan, and IOM believes that the event contributes to, and supports the government's efforts in combating human trafficking in Turkmenistan.

## UZBEKISTAN: Government and non-government bodies discuss gaps in identification and protection of male VoTs in Uzbekistan

On December 12, 2014, IOM's NGO partner "Istiqbolli Avlod" (Tashkent) held a round table which was attended by key members of the National Inter-agency Commission on Prevention of Human trafficking of Uzbekistan. Participants, who were representing a particular government and non-government body, touched upon all aspects of identification and protection of victims of human trafficking (VoTs). The negative factors affecting proper referral of VoTs and the lack of certain direct assistance services were among some of the issues. The role of community based bodies in identifying and referring VoTs, such as Women's Committee established in each Uzbek community, was emphasized. The lack of information about services of organizations assisting VoTs is another factor adversely affecting the referral mechanism. This event helped to present the work of IOM's partner NGOs. The services NGOs provide were noted as truly essential in the context of the aforementioned problems related to the national identification and protection of VoTs. IOM's NGO partners also mentioned the difficulties they faced while providing reintegration and rehabilitation assistance. Employment and education opportunities for VoTs were among the most significant challenges.

In general, the discussion during the event was truly sincere and insightful. Most importantly, it represented an opportunity to emphasize and show the important role of IOM's NGO partners. The event was attended by government bodies, including Department on prevention of human trafficking under Ministry of Internal Affairs, staff of Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Justice, Women's Committee.



Photo 1-2. Representatives of MIA, "Makhalla Fund", Lawyer of NGO "Istiqbolli Avlod" State Supported Rehabilitation Center at the roundtable delivering a presentation (CT roundtable)

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