

# GloACT

Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants

This project is funded by  
the European Union



## Newsletter 2017

A SOCIETY WILL BE JUDGED ON THE BASIS OF HOW IT TREATS THE MOST VULNERABLE

SPECIAL EDITION ISSUE

## Welcome

*This special edition newsletter, by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), is designed with a truly global audience in mind. We are delighted to be able to use this special edition issue to introduce and update you on one of our key initiatives - GLO.ACT.*

### GLO.ACT...

GLO.ACT stands for **Global Action** and is a €11 million joint initiative between the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) aimed at addressing the trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. GLO.ACT is a project being delivered by UNODC together with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

### Countries...

Launched officially by the European Commission in Brussels (Belgium) in January 2016, the GLO.ACT initiative builds on more than 10 years of EU-UNODC



partnership and represents the largest project to date within the UNODC Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section. GLO.ACT will run through till July 2019 and will reach thirteen countries across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America namely, Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, South Africa and Ukraine.

### The challenges...

**Trafficking in Persons (TIP)** is a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights. Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers, in their own countries and abroad. Almost every country in the world is affected by trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination

for victims. UNODC's 2016 Global Report on TIP has shown that traffickers continue to benefit from weaknesses in our collective criminal justice response.

**Smuggling of Migrants (SOM)** virtually affects every country in the world, whether as an origin, transit or destination country for smuggled migrants by profit-seeking criminals. Smuggled migrants are vulnerable to life-threatening risks and exploitation; thousands of people have suffocated in containers, perished in deserts or dehydrated at sea. Taking into account trends and patterns of SOM there is a need for responses to be coordinated across and between regions, and adaptable to new methods.

### Our response...

Combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling is of the highest importance for the EU, UNODC and the United Nations as a whole. GLO.ACT was therefore designed to work closely with government authorities, civil society organizations and victims in order to really make a positive difference to people who are trafficked or are migrants who are smuggled and exploited.

**DISCLAIMER:** This publication has been produced by the GLO.ACT team and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.





## Shining the spotlight on...



Two years ago on 15 July 2015, GLO.ACT started operations. Although much has been achieved across all the 13 beneficiary countries we wanted to shine the spotlight on Colombia, the Kyrgyz Republic, Niger and Pakistan.

### Colombia...What's Lego got to do with it?

We are excited to tell you more about a recent workshop that the GLO.ACT team in Colombia organized. The aim of the

workshop was to facilitate constructive dialogue and the exchange of ideas between national institutions and NGOs working on TIP. The team was keen to find a way to promote a better understanding of what is required to develop technical guidelines addressing the protection of child victims of trafficking in persons. Up until this workshop, only limited collaboration on such matters had been taking place between national institutions and NGOs, with each group often having limited

insights into each other's experiences and viewpoints. Therefore, to achieve their intended goal, the team decided to use Lego's Serious Play Methodology. According to Lego this method is a "facilitated meeting, communication and problem-solving process in which participants are led through a series of questions, probing deeper and deeper into the subject. Each participant builds his or her own 3D LEGO® model in response to the facilitator's questions using specially selected LEGO® elements." Ultimately, what this method achieves is that it guides you into a free and honest exchange of opinion. When asked what they felt about using Lego's Serious Play Methodology during the workshop, participants responded by saying that it had enabled everyone to contribute to the discussion, the decisions and the outcomes. Workshop participant, Ms. Betty Pedraza Lozano, founder and director of the Colombian NGO Corporacion Espacios de Mujer concluded by saying that *"the synergy between civil society and government on the issue of human trafficking is a real exercise of participation and partnership to build effective mechanisms for the benefit of victims and survivors."*

## Country snapshots...

All 13 countries have made real progress launching or implementing GLO.ACT. In the last six months for example, government officials from Brazil, Colombia, Nepal and South Africa have held launch events with the EU, UNODC, IOM and UNICEF.

As recent as May 2017, GLO.ACT, through IOM, released a call for proposals for civil society organizations in Belarus, Brazil, Lao PDR, Morocco, South Africa. Grant beneficiaries will be selected by June 2017. In addition, UNICEF conducted field visits in Lao PDR to learn more about the situation of trafficked women and children.

All countries have held and continue to hold regular coordination meetings with national institutions and implementing partners, ensuring that strategic entry points for project

delivery have been discussed with government officials from the participating countries, the EU delegations, UNODC, IOM, UNICEF, and civil society. We are conscious of the fact that many of the highlights listed below may appear technical in nature and do not overtly draw attention to the end beneficiaries. However, it is this type of work that enables us to continue to generate the much needed cooperation and collaboration at national and international level.

### Belarus

In cooperation with the National Centre of Legislation and Legal Research, a review has been started on the implementation of the best interests of the child in the national legislation on migrants and juveniles in contact with the law.

### Brazil

We are reviewing existing standard operating procedures, policies, and practices related to identification and referral of vulnerable migrants.

### Colombia

In March and April 2017, regional workshops took place in Cúcuta, Pasto and Bogota with local defence lawyers and the Colombian Institute on Family and Welfare to promote the use of the new technical guidelines on child trafficking and the identification of TIP among unaccompanied minors. In addition, awareness-raising missions about GLO.ACT took place at the first African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP)-EU Peer-to-Peer Exchange Meeting on TIP and SOM in Georgetown, Guyana and April 2017 in Cartagena, Colombia.



## Kyrgyz Republic... Cooperation - it's at the heart of everything we do

The GLO.ACT team in the Kyrgyz Republic is busy organizing several media, communications and advocacy workshops for June 2017. The idea is to plan and develop awareness raising outreach activities around the Kyrgyz Republic's National Action Plan 2017-2020. What the team really wants to achieve is to strengthen interaction and cooperation between local government agencies, responsible for TIP prevention, and local NGOs working in this area. The training will include sessions on how to work with mass media on TIP and SOM.

## Niger...Why protecting the most vulnerable in society is our priority

We are also delighted to report that training for lawyers defending children was the first activity by GLO.ACT in Niger in May 2017. Just before going on mission to Niger, Aimée Comrie, policy lead for GLO.ACT and a UNODC Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer said: "I am very much looking forward to contributing to a joint training for lawyers in Niamey. Twenty qualified lawyers



*have registered for the training, which will feature experts from the Niger Bar Association, the French National Bar Council as well as GLO.ACT. My role in the training will be to highlight the strengths of the existing national legislation on the protection of children from violence, children in conflict with the law, as well as child victims of trafficking in persons, together with the international legislative framework. The event is organized by UNODC Regional Office for West and Central Africa, the Justice Section and GLO.ACT, and follows on from a successful joint mission to Niamey in March 2017 to identify areas of mutual interest between GLO.ACT and the UNODC Justice Section's Global Program on Violence against Children."*

## Pakistan...Why raising awareness on TIP and SOM really matters

In April 2017 the GLO.ACT team organized police and community awareness trainings on human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Peshawar.



In Peshawar, like in so many other places, criminal networks have become increasingly good at luring vulnerable people into being exploited and into bonded labour. These workshops were an amazing opportunity for law enforcement and civil society representatives to gain much better insights into the latest trends on TIP and SOM. In addition, experts presenting during the workshop also highlighted the importance of applying the correct sections and articles under Pakistani law, with a special focus on the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance (PACHTO). The Ordinance is a comprehensive law designed to meet Pakistan's obligations under various international treaties on TIP.

### Egypt

In December 2016, a workshop took place in Cairo on the new Law 82/2016 concerning *Combating Illegal Migration and Smuggling of Migrants*.

### Kyrgyz Republic

GLO.ACT presented to the newly appointed Vice Prime Minister and the Kyrgyz State Migration Service and the Department for Social Development confirmed as main partners for GLO.ACT.

### Lao People's Democratic Republic

In March 2017 GLO.ACT held a 2nd stakeholder meeting with senior government official, international and civil society partners, along with representatives of the relevant line ministries, to design an action plan with a view to starting project implementation in July 2017.

### Mali

We are keen to finalize a strong work plan and to put in place a realistic implementation

timeline. Several missions to Mali by GLO.ACT are scheduled for June 2017.

### Morocco

In November and December 2016, anti-human trafficking workshops, with a focus on the protection of women and children, were held for social workers and judges in Rabat and Marrakesh.

### Nepal

A meeting with the Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare, Ministry of Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs is planned in May 2017 to discuss the establishment of a working committee to oversee the GLO.ACT coordination and implementation efforts.

### Niger

From the end of May to early June 2017, GLO.ACT will jointly deliver training in Niamey with UNODC's Justice Section to 40 participants from law enforcement, prosecution and judicial authorities. The training will feature

sessions on best practices in interviewing child victims, assistance measures to child victims and particular vulnerabilities of child victims of human trafficking.

### Pakistan

An investigators and prosecutors training on victim identification, financial investigation and recovery of assets took place in Islamabad and in Karachi in May 2017.

### South Africa

A survey on migrant smuggling was undertaken in March 2017 at the Lindela Repatriation Centre and the Desmond Tutu Refugee Centre, with results of the survey to form part of the evidence base that will inform policy development on SOM in the country.

### Ukraine

A special curriculum on addressing TIP is being developed for prosecutors and judges and capacity building activities are planned for better identification of TIP victims, especially children.

# The people behind GLO.ACT...

GLO.ACT is managed by a Project Coordinator from the UNODC Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section. The GLO.ACT core project team is made up of four project staff supported by five Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Experts at its Headquarters Vienna and National Advisors located in UNODC field offices around the world. The IOM and UNICEF staff members are comprised of a team based in Geneva and New York respectively and in country offices where IOM and UNICEF have country presence.

## UNODC



### Margaret Akullo

Project Coordinator for GLO.ACT and is based at UNODC Headquarters in Vienna. She is providing oversight and strategic guidance to the

coordination of project activities by all three UN agencies and in all 13 countries. Margaret is a Criminologist with a long standing career of 25 years, having worked in different managerial capacities on regional and multi-country programs addressing criminal issues related to drug trafficking, murder enquires, human trafficking and crimes against children. Margaret previously worked with the London Metropolitan Police Service, UK Shelter Homeless Charity, the UK Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, and UNODC offices in Uzbekistan, Albania and Thailand.

trafficking in human beings where she was the lead for the criminal justice portfolio including on capacity building for judges and prosecutors. She holds both civil and common law degrees as well as a B.A. in Anthropology and a Masters in Forced Migration Studies.

## IOM



### Heather Komenda

Counter trafficking professional with 12 years of experience implementing counter trafficking projects in emergency, post-

conflict, and development contexts. She joined IOM in 2004 and has worked in South East Asia, East Africa and the Horn, and the Middle East and North Africa. She has provided technical assistance and advisory services to governments in the development of counter trafficking legislation, national plans of action, and national referral mechanisms; capacity development services to national police departments, immigration services, government ministries, service providers, and civil society organizations; and has overseen provision of direct assistance services to hundreds of vulnerable migrants. In addition to her counter trafficking work, Heather has worked extensively on organizational development initiatives aimed at improving project and performance management. She holds a Master of Arts Degree in Political Science and a Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) Degree in Political Science.

on a wide range of topics. Noëlle previously worked with governmental and non-governmental organizations in Switzerland. She holds a Master Degree in Development Studies and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science.

## UNICEF



### Katharina Thon

Child Protection Officer in the Social Welfare and Justice Team at UNICEF Headquarters in New York, where she supports the team in

all matters related to children on the move. She joined the UN in 2015 and spent her first year in Department of Peacekeeping Operations, working on children and armed conflict, in particular on the development and roll out of training for the military and police component of peacekeeping missions. Prior to her assignment at the UN Katharina worked for SOS Children's Villages Austria, Child Welfare South Africa, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the German Children Fund. In addition to her child protection work, Katharina has served as an officer in the German Armed Forces for more than six years where she was responsible for designing, carrying out and supervising the pre-deployment training for conflict prevention and crisis management as well as civil military cooperation. Katharina holds a Master degree in educational science.



### Aimée Comrie

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer and the policy lead on GLO.ACT. She is a qualified lawyer with a background in international criminal

law and has direct experience investigating crimes against humanity and war crimes, including enslavement and the conscription of children by armed groups. From 2004-2011 she conducted investigations for the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, and Uganda with vulnerable victims as well as suspects. From 2011-2015 she served as Adviser to the OSCE Special Representative on



### Noëlle Darbellay

IOM project officer for the GLO.ACT. Noëlle joined IOM in 2012

and has worked at IOM Geneva headquarters, Burundi and Morocco. She has been working on vulnerable migrant assistance issues such as the reintegration of vulnerable migrants in their home communities, counter-trafficking issues and assisted voluntary return and reintegration. In addition to her work on assistance to vulnerable migrants, Noëlle has been working extensively on project development



## Shout out...

We would like to say a big thank you to everyone that is involved with and supports GLO.ACT. This project, so generously funded by the European Union, could not be delivered without the amazing team and implementing partners currently delivering the project in the 13 participating countries.



## Know their stories...



According to UNODC 2016 Global Report on TIP 79 per cent of all detected trafficking victims are women and children. This is a story from **Nepal** and amongst others, is one kind of person that GLO.ACT hopes to be reaching.

*I am SKYE and I want to share my past with you. I was trafficked by relatives to India when I was 13 years old. I was trafficked to a brothel. When I refused to sell my body they sold me to another brothel. I stayed there for 9 months. My sister was also brought there after 4 months and they told us they would send us back home after 5 months, for the Dashain Festival. But they didn't send us back, so we ran away from there together. We arrived back in Nepal after a 5-day journey. After that I met with my older sister and my parents, and we went to the NGO Child Workers in Nepal together and filed a case against the trafficker. After 7 months they referred me to Shakti Samuha. I was able to resume my studies in the 8th grade. In 2012, we won our case and the traffickers got a sentence of 170 years. I have since finished my schooling and now I'm working as a staff member in Shakti Samuha. As I am a member of Shakti Samuha, I had the opportunity to participate in trainings on counselling so that I can help survivors who, like me, were trafficked. I am happy as I am getting help from the many supporters of our organization, such as the UN Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking. I want to be a successful social worker in Nepal and fight against traffickers who are still selling girls for different work. That's why I'm working in Shakti Samuha, and doing awareness work for adolescent girls in slum areas.*

## Our focus - prevention, protection, prosecution, partnerships

GLO.ACT works with the 13 countries to plan and implement strategic national counter-trafficking and counter smuggling efforts through a prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnerships approach. We believe such an approach is best suited when addressing not only weaknesses in any criminal justice system but also when ensuring that adequate assistance and support programmes are put in place for victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants.

### How does it work?

GLO.ACT addresses TIP and SOM through six pillars:



**Strategy and policy development:** Here we work with countries to develop strategies and policies tailored to their national context.



**Legislative assistance:** Is all about ensuring that domestic legislative frameworks meet international standards for criminalizing TIP and SOM.



**Capacity building:** Here we work with governmental authorities to enhance the capacity and knowledge of criminal justice practitioners to combat TIP and SOM but also to protect victims and vulnerable migrants.



**Regional and trans-regional cooperation:** Is all about promoting cooperation and information exchange with law enforcement officials on the identification, investigation and prosecution of offences related to TIP and SOM.



**Protection and assistance to victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants:** Here IOM works with civil society as well as government authorities to develop assistance and support programmes for victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants.



**Assistance and support to children among victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants:** Here UNICEF and IOM work with victim support services and relevant government authorities to develop frameworks for protection and assistance of children.

### Outcomes...

Apart from preventing and addressing TIP and SOM in each country, we also expect GLO.ACT to enhance the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children and the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. Both protocols supplement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC). We also anticipate that the project will have some bearing on the ability of the 13 selected countries to further develop their post-2015 UN Development Agenda. In fact, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda calls for an end to trafficking and violence against children, as well as the need for measures against human trafficking. This means that we now have an underpinning for the action needed under the provisions of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and its protocols on trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling.



## REGIONAL COOPERATION...

Promoting cooperation and information exchange with key stakeholders on TIP and SOM is a priority for GLO.ACT. Here are some examples of the type of cooperation we support:

- On 9-11 May 2017, supported by prosecutors from EU member states and SOM experts from UNODC Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, a regional workshop on migrant smuggling by sea with a focus on judicial cooperation took place in Malta. GLO.ACT supported prosecutors from Egypt and Morocco and the workshop also included prosecutors, judges and central authorities from other coastal transit

States (Algeria, Lebanon, Libya, Tunisia and Turkey).

- In March 2017, GLO.ACT invited key government counterparts (Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Health, Labour and Mayors of two Amazonian municipalities) to a public hearing/town hall in April 2017 in Tabatinga, Brazil, just across the border from Leticia, capital of Amazonas Department in Colombia to ascertain public perceptions on the problem of commercial sexual exploitation in the tri-border region. This activity is part of a south-south cooperation effort between the two governments, supported by UNICEF through the tri-border regional working group on commercial sexual exploitation and the Brazilian Parliamentary Group to Confront Sexual Violence.



## Days of Action...



GLO.ACT will celebrate and promote both the World Day against Trafficking in Persons (30 July), and EU Anti-Trafficking Day (18 October).



These days of action not only enable us to raise the profile of the project even further but also provide us with an opportunity to put the spotlight on children and youth - the most vulnerable groups across all regions of the world in all sectors of exploitation. Indeed, for GLO.ACT children are specifically prioritized under Objective 6 of the project on assistance and support to children among victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants.

## What lies ahead...

On a project wide basis by June 2017, we hope to have 13 government focal points appointed, 13 project work plans adopted, GLO.ACT launched in all 13 countries and over 50 activities delivered across the globe.

By 2019, we hope – with the help of countries - that there will be significant increase in the number of cases investigated and prosecuted; legal reform, reviews, amendments, policies and strategies will be developed by government authorities and

civil society organizations to meet international standards thus enabling trafficked victims, smuggled migrants and other vulnerable migrants to be identified and ably assisted.

We expect to see knowledge and skills development increase through our capacity building initiatives aimed at criminal justice practitioners and other third party actors. And finally better outcomes as a direct consequence of awareness raising to criminal justice officials, social and health sector officials and specific targeted population groups.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our webpage:

[https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/glo\\_act.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/glo_act.html)

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