



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

GloACT

Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants



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Newsletter

October 2017

SPECIAL EDITION ISSUE

Welcome

This special edition newsletter, by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), is designed to mark EU Anti-Trafficking Day, being celebrated on 18 October 2017. We are delighted to be able to use this special edition issue to introduce and update you on one of the EU's key initiatives with UNODC - GLO.ACT.

GLO.ACT...

GLO.ACT stands for **G**lobal **A**ction 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.



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.

Know their stories...

According to [UNODC 2016 Global Report on TIP](#) over the last 10 years, the profile of detected trafficking victims has changed. Although most detected victims are still women, children and men now make up larger shares of the total number of victims than they did a decade ago. Below are stories from **Niger** and **Ukraine** that represent the kind of person that GLO.ACT hopes to be reaching.

Niger

I do not know how I got to be a wahaya (slave). I know I became one when I was only 10 years old and lived as one for 15 years. A man called Amola owned me and we lived in his family village. I was his only slave and my clothes set me apart from his four legal wives. They dressed decently, while my clothes barely covered me. He used to come to me at night in secret for sex. My workload was heavy. I had to fetch water for all the family. I had to fetch water for over 100 cattle. I had to hull and pound millet and sorghum for food. I had to provide firewood for the family. I often had to prepare everything for and during large community gatherings for up to 40 people that took place in the fields during the rainy season. I had to wash up, keep the courtyard clean, prepare all the beds and look after the children. These were my tasks until Amola died.

Ukraine

I know I had no job for so long and during one of my attempts to find work on the Internet I got a message from a man named Fedor. He invited me to Kiev. During our meeting I was offered to sell my kidney and travel to Costa Rica. I wasn't told that such an intervention could cause severe health problems. But I felt had no choice. Fedor got me to United Arab Emirates first, where we went to the clinic to see if my kidneys were healthy enough and suitable for transplantation. After that I was taken to Costa Rica where I was immediately put in a medical facility. I was always under the close watch of Fedor and his guards. I did think about changing my mind but all along I felt that I couldn't really refuse to do it any more. They were constantly reminding me that refusing such an "arrangement" could be deadly. After the operation I did receive some money. I was taken back to Ukraine by the guards and only after that did I fully realize what had actually happened. I went to the police because I don't want this to happen to other people.



Shining the spotlight on...



To mark the 11th EU Anti-Trafficking Day on 18th October 2017, we wanted to shine the spotlight on the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator Dr. Myria Vassiliadou. The role of the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator is based on EU law: The EU Anti-trafficking Directive (2011/36/EU) is intended to contribute to a coordinated and consolidated Union strategy against trafficking in human beings. Below is an interview GLO.ACT conducted with Dr. Vassiliadou for this special edition newsletter.

Q: Dr. Vassiliadou part of your role is to improve coordination and coherence among EU institutions, EU agencies, Member States and international actors. What does this look like in practice? My role, as the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator is to carry out extensive work at the operational, policy and political level in both EU internal and external policies, in areas ranging from security to migration, justice, equality anti-discrimination, fundamental rights, employment, development, research, humanitarian aid and fisheries, amongst others to make sure that as appropriate THB is addressed.

In practice it means that my Office, consisting of a small but excellent team, works with a variety of actors within the Commission and outside, not least with: an Inter-Service Group on THB bringing together currently 16 European Commission Services, working closely on the anti-trafficking policy with Justice and Home Affairs EU agencies, with key national counterparts via the EU Network of National Rapporteurs or Equivalent

Mechanisms (NREMs) and the EU Civil Society Platform against trafficking in human beings (consisting of 100 civil society organizations working in the field of trafficking in human beings in the Member States and in neighbouring non-EU countries). The European Parliament is a dedicated partner addressing important aspects of trafficking in human beings, and has indicated its strong commitment and support in numerous resolutions. The same with the Council, which has concluded to continue the EU Policy cycle for organized and serious international crime for the period 2018-2021 and has identified THB among the priority crimes affecting the EU.

The external dimension is an integral part of the EU policy framework to address trafficking in human beings and one of its pillars. In this context, in my role as EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, I provide strategic policy guidance to promote a coherent and coordinated approach to address THB both within the EU and in relation to non-EU countries. In practical terms it means following closely international and regional processes, listening, participating and cooperating. This is a great opportunity to ensure maximum impact in our joint efforts against trafficking but as you can imagine, a big challenge as well. It is important that we are accountable, that have conceptual clarity, consistent messages, and effective actions while ensuring funding is wisely allocated.

Last but not least, we work towards ensuring that funding and research matches policy priorities and that duplications are avoided.

Q: What are the most recent developments with regards to EU policies on trafficking in human beings that we should all know about? The EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016 has completed its cycle, and we are developing the next policy framework, taking stock of all that has been achieved in the past five years through the joint efforts of a wide range of actors, at all levels. We need to ensure coherence and continuation of efforts, while also addressing emerging trends. As an example, we know very well that trafficking in human beings is not a

migration related phenomenon only. Indeed, we know from our data that two thirds of registered victims in the period 2013-2014 are EU nationals. However, there is also evidence that traffickers are taking advantage of the migration routes targeting the most vulnerable, in particular women and girls trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation in the EU. Addressing trafficking in human beings is hence embedded in all EU policy instruments adopted to respond to the migration challenges, including the European Agenda on Migration. I would like to stress here that when addressing trafficking in human beings in the context of migration, it is crucial to ensure conceptual clarity. We see a tendency, at all levels, to use trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants interchangeably. Although interlinked, these are very different phenomena, and their difference bears significant implications on the rights of the victims, the obligations of the Member States, as well as in relation to prevention.

Trafficking in human beings is a crime fuelled by the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation and by the huge financial profits it renders to traffickers. To eradicate it, we must enhance prevention, bringing perpetrators to justice through following the money throughout the trafficking chain and discouraging demand. We must ask difficult questions, such as who is profiting from the exploitation of women and girls, men and boys? Where do the huge profits go?

Q: What does the EU hope to achieve by funding projects such as GLO.ACT? UNODC is a long-standing strategic partner of the EU in the fight against trafficking in human beings. GLO.ACT represents our joint efforts to partner with countries globally and contribute not only at promoting international legal standards but also at supporting implementation of these standards. It is vital to ensure that we address impunity of perpetrators but also to treat victims as holders of rights and ensure access and realisation of these rights. Most importantly, we must join efforts to prevent this crime because anything else comes too late for the victims.

Q: What is the role of law enforcement in addressing human trafficking? Law enforcement authorities in Member States give operational effect to the EU legal and policy framework in their actions on the ground. The Trafficking in Human Beings Directive I mentioned above, which Member States had to make part of their national laws, lays down a number of provisions, such as the definition of the offence, effective, proportionate and dissuasive penalties, investigating and prosecuting the crime and protecting its victims.

Trafficking in human beings is a complex transnational phenomenon that often requires cross-border cooperation, including the sharing of intelligence, exchange of information as well as a continuous open dialogue between the police, judicial and financial authorities of the Member States. National law enforcement authorities are not left alone in their fight. At EU level regular cooperation between law enforcement authorities of Member States takes place via a European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats on Trafficking in Human Beings (EMPACT THB) in relation to the EU Policy Cycle on Serious and Organised International Crime (2014-2017). The Commission follows closely the work

of this platform. The role of Europol needs to be highlighted providing operational coordination and diverse support to the work of Member States.

I would also like to highlight the special role of police, who take often first contact with victims and has therefore huge responsibility to refer victims to appropriate care and support services. While law enforcement is the basis of all operational work to detect, investigate and prosecute this serious and organised crime, there is a need for improved coordination and cooperation among all key actors working in the field of trafficking in human beings, based on a multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary approach.

Q: Do you believe that regular community members can help stop trafficking in human beings? We know which the high-risk sectors for trafficking in human beings are, who the vulnerable groups at risk to become victims of trafficking in human beings are, and we know what is required by the trafficking in human beings Directive to put in place in order to address this. It includes preventive measures, such as awareness raising campaigns, training, education programmes, and we know that some Member States has considered or has

laws in place for the criminalization of the use of services of trafficking victims.

But it is not just governments that are responsible. Indeed, we must all be accountable at the same time for what we do or what we could have done. Trafficking in human beings is a serious crime driven by demand. Trafficking in human beings brings money for the traffickers, money for illegal sectors and also money for legal sectors engaged in illegal business, and money for legal sectors engaged in legal business. It creates a cycle of profits that also fuels demand. In order to eradicate trafficking in human beings, we must also target the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation. I often say that trafficking concerns the buying and selling of people in order to exploit them. We must, in this logic, ask who buys the services of victims? Who buys boys and girls? Who buys dubiously cheap products? Who keeps slaves in their house? Are we unknowingly (or indeed) knowingly involved in any way? How can we stop this cycle of exploitation? We must be responsible consumers, users and buyers. The more engaged we are as regular community members, the more we are able both to prevent but also tackle this horrifying crime that affects people to such a profound extent.

Days of Action...

The 11th EU Anti-Trafficking Day, the 18th October 2017, not only enables GLO.ACT to raise the profile of the project even further but also provide us with an opportunity to put the spotlight on victims of TIP, especially children and youth - the most vulnerable groups across all regions of the world in all sectors of exploitation. This year, under the theme of "*Hear their voices. Act to protect.*" GLO.ACT has organized an exhibition in Brussels featuring 15 life size cutouts that display a broad range of victim testimonies from primarily GLO.ACT countries.

The EU's main objective for the day is to raise awareness on trafficking in human beings and increase the exchange of information, knowledge and best practices amongst the different actors working in this field. In addition, GLO.ACT wanted to increase awareness on why victims need to be placed at the centre of any anti-human trafficking strategy, about the need to be more 'proactive' about identifying TIP victims and about the role victims' need to play in shaping responses and in addressing vulnerabilities.



Country snapshots...



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

UNICEF is currently conducting a review of the data collection system on child migrants, victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants. It is expected that a draft report will be available by end of October 2017.

Brazil

In May 2017, UNODC successfully facilitated the 7th Ordinary Meeting of the National Committee against Trafficking in Persons (CONATRAP) at the Brazilian National Secretariat of Justice and Citizenship. Although the Committee is scheduled to meet at least three times a year, due to the political and economic crisis there had not been any meeting since December 2015.

Colombia

In June 2017, together with the Ministry of Labour of Colombia, GLO.ACT held the First National Meeting of Labour Inspectors. An outcome of the meeting was the creation of the National Network of Labour Inspectors on Human Trafficking for Forced Labour. The purpose of the network is to build capacity at the local level to better identify and refer cases around the country.



Egypt

In June 2017, UNODC and IOM held an official meeting at the Prosecutor General Office in the presence of the National Committee

to start the process of establishing a national database for TIP and SOM.

Kyrgyz Republic

On 30 July 2017, a nationwide "100 Days against Trafficking in Persons" public information and awareness raising campaign was launched. The campaign is currently being rolled-out in the regional administrations of Osh, Jalalabad, Batken, Talas, Naryn, Karakol and Chui.



Lao People's Democratic Republic

In September 2017, UNODC held a meeting with senior representatives of national anti-human trafficking committee whose secretariat is based in the Ministry of Public Security to discuss the implementation of GLO.ACT.

Mali

In June 2017, a joint training workshop on TIP and SOM took place between an IOM Development Fund (IDF) funded project and GLO.ACT/IOM. 28 participants from the government and the civil society took part in the workshop.

Morocco

In August 2017, a high-level workshop on Morocco's Law 27-14 on combating human trafficking and its associated institutional framework took place. Over 100 participants worked on the creation of a national commission on human trafficking as foreseen by law 27-14, and the setup of a victim-centered National Referral Mechanism (NRM).



Nepal

In August 2017, a multidisciplinary workshop to combat and prevent trafficking in persons for organ removal was held for 45 medical professionals, criminal justice actors and civil society representatives. The outcome of the workshop was a set of recommendations as well as concrete activities which have been requested by participants, including efforts to collect, analyze and share data, facilitate cooperation between relevant NGOs, police and medical professionals, as well as between destination countries.



Niger

In June 2017, UNODC supported a roundtable organized by UNODC's Justice Section with national authorities that will be involved in the elaboration of the relevant legislation and regulation of the "centres d'accueils" or shelters for children. In view of the operationalization of three "centres d'accueil" for children key decisions were taken

regarding: the mission and target of the centres; their functioning and management; personnel and key services to be provided.

Pakistan

In July 2017, GLO.ACT was officially launched in Pakistan. The launch ceremony took place in the presence of the diplomatic community, senior government representatives from provincial line departments, provincial police, academia, media and civil society representatives.



South Africa

In July 2017, UNODC organized a three-day workshop on TIP to respond to the capacity needs of criminal justice practitioners involved in the response to TIP.

Ukraine

In June 2017, UNODC held technical meetings with experts on the better identification of child victims of TIP. This included interviews and discussions on the development of a training module that will form part of a special curriculum addressing TIP being developed for prosecutors and judges.



Regional Cooperation...



Tercer Encuentro de la Red Iberoamericana de Fiscales Especializados Contra la Trata de Personas y Tráfico de Migrantes de la AIAMP
Cartagena de Indias (Colombia), 19 al 21 de septiembre de 2017

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

On 19-21 September 2017, the third meeting of the Ibero-American network of specialized prosecutors against TIP took place in Cartagena, Colombia. The aim of the meeting was to facilitate regional cooperation to combat TIP and to follow-up on the agreements reached during the previous meeting held 2 years ago in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. The now updated cooperation protocol, which now also includes the issue of SOM, has strengthened the Ibero-American network of prosecutors against TIP.

The people that support GLO.ACT...

In the first issue of the GLO.ACT newsletter we introduced the core management team of GLO.ACT. In this edition, we would like to introduce colleagues from the UNODC Liaison Office in Brussels as well as begin to introduce our 10 National Project Officers for Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. We will use upcoming newsletters to introduce the rest of the team.

UNODC - Brussels, Belgium



Ms. Yatta Dakowah has been the Representative of the UNODC in Brussels and Chief of the Liaison Office since 5 September 2016. Before that she served as Policy Coordination Officer in the Office of the Director-General/Executive Director leading the Policy and Inter-agency Coordination Team working across all UNODC mandates on significant policy, programme and operational matters. Ms. Dakowah joined UNODC in 2007 as part of the core UN.GIFT team, working on multi-stakeholder issues, donor relations and partnership building. Prior to joining UNODC, Ms. Dakowah worked with the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa in New York.



Ms. Valérie De Vuyst joined the UN in Brussels in 2008. In 2012 she started working for UNODC as team assistant and since 2015 is also the office's communication assistant. Her role entails a broad range of tasks covering administrative matters as well as advocacy/communication projects and initiatives. She acts as a focal point for the national Goodwill Ambassador Mr. Ozark Henry and maintains the office's website and Twitter account. Prior to joining the UN, Valérie worked at the European Commission.

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Shout out...

As always, 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our webpage:
https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/glo_act.html

Follow us on Twitter at: @glo_act

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