

Findings at a Glance (2016)
Summary of key themes and common recommendations

GLO.ACT Outcomes	Key themes	Common Recommendations
<p>1. To assist beneficiary countries to develop and/or strengthen national strategies and policies against trafficking in persons (TIP) and smuggling of migrants (SOM).</p>	<p>All countries have national plans of action against TIP but often without a realistic budget, which means they cannot be fully implemented. Data to guide prioritization of plan activities and measurement of progress is also limited in many countries.</p> <p>All countries have, or are developing coordinating bodies on TIP, although these are often under-resourced. Planning and coordination arrangements on SOM are less developed and existing mechanisms are often geared more toward irregular migration.</p>	<p>Respondents placed strong priority on improved data through (1) support for strengthened data collection systems and (2) additional research, particularly on SOM. This data would in turn inform proposed work to further develop or revise plans and policies on TIP and SOM.</p> <p>Priority was also given to strengthening coordination on TIP and SOM, including ensuring that there were staff dedicated to this work, with access to training and resources.</p>
<p>2. To assist beneficiary countries to bring national legal frameworks in line with international standards and other good practices.</p>	<p>All 13 countries supported by GLO.ACT have advanced their legal frameworks on TIP and SOM in the past five years and there is strong ratification of relevant international instruments. Overall, respondents considered the existing legal framework provided a sufficient basis for the prosecution of traffickers but not necessarily for the provision of support to trafficked persons. More work is needed to strengthen SOM laws.</p>	<p>As well as providing support in the development of SOM laws, key recommendations included (1) addressing uneven treatment of the means of trafficking and the issue of consent, (2) harmonization of TIP laws with other parts of the national legal framework, including immigration and labour laws; and (3) closing gaps in the area of victim identification and support.</p>
<p>3. To assist beneficiary countries to strengthen their criminal justice response to trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling.</p>	<p>Respondent feedback across multiple countries frequently highlighted (1) a lack of awareness of new laws, (2) confusion on the difference between TIP, SOM and irregular migration, and (3) inability or unwillingness of key actors to identify victims. Accordingly, there is general agreement that capacity building on TIP and SOM is a priority.</p> <p>Country reports frequently highlighted a range of barriers to capacity building including high staff turnover, complicity, scarce investigative resources and limited foundations on which to build specialist skills in TIP and SOM. The impact on these issues on the likely effectiveness of training activities needs to be carefully considered in decisions about priorities for allocating project resources.</p>	<p>There were more recommendations for this outcome than any other, reflecting the perception of strong capacity building needs. Common training recommendations were (1) support for front-line officials, including border officials in identifying possible cases of TIP and SOM, (2) training on evidence gathering and interviewing techniques, (3) specialist training for prosecutors, lawyers, border guards and labour officials, and (4) capacity building for judges through training and experience exchange.</p> <p>Recommendations also recognized (1) the need for standard operating procedures on TIP and SOM case, and (2) the value in developing a national training strategy to address barriers identified in the previous column.</p>
<p>4. To assist beneficiary countries to strengthen regional and trans-regional</p>	<p>Countries generally have strong foundations in place to support international cooperation, in relation to both (1) international and regional agreements and (2) laws concerning mutual legal</p>	<p>Recommendations emphasize activities to strengthen international cooperation in practice, particularly through informal channels. This includes joint trainings, information</p>

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<p>cooperation in criminal matters related to trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling.</p>	<p>assistance, tracing and confiscation of assets, extradition and joint investigations. However, these have not necessarily led to effective cooperation, with a common theme across countries and regions being that formal instruments are not well suited to prompt, reactive investigative action on fast-moving crimes such as TIP and SOM.</p>	<p>exchange, and development of personal relationships.</p> <p>There is also scope for sharing of positive examples such as a major recent successful operation against TIP in Latin America.</p>
<p>5. To assist beneficiary countries to develop assistance and support programmes for victims of trafficking and protect the rights of vulnerable migrants, such as smuggled migrants.</p>	<p>There appears significant support provided to TIP victims – generally by NGOs – once they have been identified. Identification remains an issue, however due to (1) a lack of guidelines and processes, (2) limited understanding by key front-line officials, and, in some instances, (3) a reluctance to acknowledge the situation as one of trafficking in persons.</p> <p>Information on the provision of services suggest more emphasis on short-term services such as accommodation and medical care than on longer-term assistance with a view to reintegration, such as job placement and training.</p> <p>In many countries, some services appeared available for unaccompanied minors, as well as trafficked children, but few services for other vulnerable migrants. There appears further a lack of alternatives to detention including for families with children.</p>	<p>Recommendations included support for the provision of direct assistance in recovery and, in particular reintegration, with a focus on livelihood options.</p> <p>A number of recommendations focused on improving identification of trafficked persons, including the (1) guidelines and procedures for identification and referral, (2) training for first responders, including embassy and consular staff, and (3) the development of, or support for, hotlines. Complementary recommendations related to the formation or strengthening of identification and referral networks, such as national referral mechanisms.</p> <p>Recommendations also reflected the importance of recruiting, training and engaging social workers, frequently highlighted in relation to both adult and minor victims of trafficking as well as unaccompanied minors and vulnerable smuggled migrants.</p>
<p>6. To assist beneficiary countries to develop frameworks for protection and assistance of children among trafficked victims and smuggled migrants within child protection systems.</p>	<p>Report data clearly evidenced strong government support for child protection at policy level. Gaps between policy and practice on child protection were, however, a common theme across different countries and regions. Child support systems, including in relation to TIP and SOM, are often constrained by similar resource constraints to those facing other social issues.</p> <p>A number of concerning trends were noted such as the continuing presence of child labour and forced criminality, and an increase in unaccompanied minors. Responses also suggested that social norms and attitudes – such as community perceptions on what constitutes a child, and an expectation children will contribute to family income – may be contributing to child exploitation.</p>	<p>Recommendations across the countries supported by GLO.ACT highlighted a strong need to strengthen the capacity of professionals working with children with a view to establishing child friendly procedures and practices to work and care for vulnerable children including victims of trafficking in persons and other forms of violence.</p> <p>As with support for adult victims, better monitoring of services to children was also highlighted as a priority, including better monitoring of children’s homes.</p>