



Title:

Preventing Human Trafficking among Crisis-Affected Populations in Emergency Settings

Sponsors and Organizers:

US Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons & IOM

Time and Date: Thursday, 22 June 2017, 18:00 – 19:15

Room XXII, Palais des Nations, Geneva

This is one of the side-events to be convened during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, in keeping with this year's theme: *Restoring Humanity and Leaving No One Behind: Working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability.*

Background and objectives

There is a growing body of evidence demonstrating that humanitarian crises can lead to an increase in trafficking in persons. The issue has recently gained international traction and there is now a growing recognition at the global level by States, UN entities, and other humanitarian actors that responding to trafficking in persons should be further strengthened as part of emergency humanitarian programming. This was reaffirmed in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (2016) and when the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2331 which urges States to take multiple actions in this regard. Specifically, preventive action aimed at reducing the risk of migrants and refugees in large movement, as well as the provision of assistance services to victims of trafficking and potential ones are essential elements of any response to a crisis and need to be provided at the onset.

Responding to human trafficking should be addressed and mainstreamed within the IASC Cluster System to ensure preparedness, as well as immediate, system-wide response from the outset of a humanitarian emergency. This is confirmed by research published in 2015-2016

Existing models for prevention and protection should be adapted to humanitarian settings; humanitarian actors should be trained to better prevent, identify and respond to the needs of victims of human trafficking and better coordinate their responses.

In particular, there needs to be an evidence-validated approach to gain a better understanding of risk and protective factors of those subject to or potentially subject to trafficking. This should inform the development of indicators to not only help humanitarian actors identify and protect victims of trafficking but also importantly devise preventive action. Our collective efforts must ensure that no one be left behind.

The objectives of the event are: (i) to increase the understanding of the drivers of trafficking in persons in emergency settings; (ii) to discuss approaches to prevent crisis affected communities and individuals from adopting negative coping mechanisms and (iii) to discuss about the development of indicators on trafficking among crisis-affected communities and guidance for all actors involved in fighting it.

Discussion points

Against this backdrop, the side-event will focus on the following suggested questions and discussion points:

- 1. What are the factors leading crisis affected populations to adopting negative coping mechanisms leading to trafficking in persons and exploitation during crisis settings?*
- 2. What kind of preventive actions can be applied to reduce the risks that crisis affected populations are exposed to in crisis settings? When can such action be undertaken (at what point of the crisis)? Which actors should be involved?*
- 3. How can the effectiveness of the current response to trafficking in crisis be improved? How can indicators of trafficking among vulnerable migrants be identified to better address the needs of specific vulnerable groups and prevent them from becoming victims?*

Intended outcomes/conclusions/recommendations

This event aims at presenting evidence that there exists a pervasive link between human trafficking and exploitation of vulnerable migrants and crisis. The panel will allow presenters to address this issue from different angles and to present their proactive engagement to address human trafficking in emergency situations, including conflicts and disasters. Specifically, interventions will present an overview of operational interventions and policy oriented action, which are currently being undertaken by UN agencies, academia and the donor community to address human trafficking in crisis for it to become an intrinsic component of the response to crisis. Presentations will include focus on joint actions and synergies among the different actors involved. Finally, each panelist will expose current challenges and specific recommendations to address those challenges.

Format

Moderator:

- **OHCHR, Federica Donati**, Coordinator, Equality, Non-Discrimination and Participation Unit, Special Procedures Branch

Panel composition:

- Megan Hjelle-Lantsman, JTIP, Program Officer, U.S. Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
- Renate Held Director, Department of Migration Management, IOM
- Madeline Garlick, Chief, Protection Policy and Legal Advice Section, UNHCR

- Dr. Hanni Stocklosa, Director and Medical Doctor, HEAL Trafficking, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative, Harvard University

Background Material

Special Rapporteur Report to HR Council, May 2016:

http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/32/41

Special Rapporteur, Report to UNGA, August 2016: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N16/250/78/PDF/N1625078.pdf?OpenElement>

L. Lungarotti, S. Craggs, A. Tillinac, “Human trafficking in crises: a neglected protection concern”, ODIHPN, October 2015 <http://odihpn.org/magazine/human-trafficking-in-crises-a-neglected-protection-concern/>

IOM Research paper ‘Addressing human trafficking and exploitation in times of crisis: findings and recommendations (June 2015): http://publications.iom.int/system/files/addressing_human_trafficking.pdf

IOM Research paper ‘Addressing human trafficking and exploitation in times of crisis, full study (Dec. 2015): https://publications.iom.int/system/files/addressing_human_trafficking_dec2015.pdf

MICIC Brief: Responding to Human Trafficking and Exploitation in Times of Crisis (January 2016):

<http://micicinitiative.iom.int/sites/default/files/brief/Trafficking%20Issue%20Brief%20final.pdf>

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