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Turkey **is fighting** Human
against Trafficking

by implementing the project
"Supporting Turkey's Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking"

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Combating Human Trafficking

Dear Reader,

Within the scope of the two-year project titled "**Supporting Turkey's Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking and Promote Access to Justice for All Trafficked Persons**," implemented by the Ministry of Internal Affairs in co-operation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and financed by the European Union, we are delighted to inform you that we are already one year into the project.

The active participation and support provided by the respective national and international stakeholders, specifically by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, General Command of Gendarmerie, Directorate General of Security, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour, as well as the Human Resources Development Foundation and the Foundation for Women's Solidarity, have made it possible for the project to progress efficiently and in a productive manner.

To date, various activities have been carried out to combat human trafficking and to protect trafficked persons with a view to support

Turkish institutions in line with the EU Directives and the acquis. These activities have focused on increasing the identification and protection of trafficked persons in Turkey and increasing the efficiency of the investigation and prosecution of individuals involved in human trafficking crimes.

The March edition of the Project Bulletin contains current information about the developments and the conducted activities carried out since October 2008 when the previous Bulletin was published. The Bulletin will also serve as a reference for all related stakeholders, including public institutions and NGOs, to keep abreast of all the latest developments.

We would like to thank everyone for their contribution in preparing this Bulletin. We hope that our readers, that is you, will find the articles informative and useful.

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Bu proje İçişleri Bakanlığı eşgüdümünde yürütülmektedir.

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Cascaded Trainings by the National Training Team of the Ministry of Interior

As part of the project, a group of 32 trainers from the staff of General Command of Gendarmerie and General Directorate of Security of Ministry of Interior, who are involved in tracking and investigating human trafficking cases, received the necessary skills to become trainers in their respective institutions to help combat human trafficking. The two-week training course took place in June 2008 with the participation of Turkish and international experts.

The training of the trainers activity was supported through study visits to the UK, Italy, Russia, Sweden and the Ukraine. These study visits following the training, were organised with a view to help provide members of the national training team with the opportunity to learn from the experiences and the best practices of other countries and to share data. Accordingly, the members of the national training team were able to enhance their knowledge and gain experience in the field of combating human trafficking thus delivering a more efficient and comprehensive training program.

Throughout the duration of the project, the national training team is set to deliver a total of six cascaded trainings to 280 Gendarmerie and Police Officers within the Ministry of Interior. The Project is being

targeted in cities where human trafficking cases are most common. The first of these trainings were held between the 10th and the 13th of November 2008 in Izmir, the second commenced between the 9th and the 12th of February 2009 in Istanbul and the third training was held between 10th and the 13th of March in Antalya.

The remaining trainings that aim to build capacity in the identification, investigation and prosecution of human trafficking crimes will take place in Trabzon in April and in Erzurum in May through the participation of the law enforcement officers from neighbouring provinces.



Curriculum on the Legal Aspect of Combating Human Trafficking



Preventing human trafficking, protecting victims and prosecuting the crime constitute of the three pillars of combating human trafficking that are in line with the aims of the project. The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Turkey is one of the key players in the Turkish system set up to combat human trafficking.

Within this project, a national training team comprised of academicians, judges, prosecutors and IOM staff has been created. The national training team has been established with a view of preparing a curriculum based on information from national and international legislation pertaining to combat human trafficking. The said curriculum will comprehensively address the crime of human trafficking within the scope of the respective legislation and thus fulfil the need in this respect.

The curriculum will be shared following the regional training of trainers programme. During the cascaded trainings the programme is to be delivered to 300 judges and prosecutors across Turkey to increase their knowledge in combating human trafficking more efficiently. The curriculum will be disseminated to a total of 1,500 judges and prosecutors.

Community Specific Actions in Combating Human Trafficking

One day workshops have been organized to develop community specific actions in combating human trafficking, to raise public awareness and to inform local authorities on the implementations of counter trafficking actions. The first three workshops were held in Antalya (8th September 2008), Izmir (14th November 2008), Adana (25th November 2008) and the fourth will be organized in Istanbul.

Mutual Legal Assistance to Combat Human Trafficking

The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Turkey and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) have jointly organised a seminar on "Mutual Legal Assistance in Combating Human Trafficking" between the 27th and the 28th of November 2008 in Istanbul. The main ambition of the seminar was to unite Turkey with the main source countries in order to enhance the capacity of mutual legal assistance. Through this seminar, an international dialogue platform was developed to enhance information sharing techniques between the participating institutions and to share experiences within the field of mutual legal assistance.

Prior to the seminar, the Ministry of Justice Department of International Law and Foreign Relations conducted a benchmark analysis in order to identify Turkey's status in terms of mutual legal assistance. This analysis played an important role in identifying the topics to be discussed under the seminar agenda.

Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Romania and Ukraine also took part in the seminar. During the seminar, participants identified the current problems, discussed national strategies towards combating human trafficking and worked on developing concrete and practical solutions aimed at overcoming the problems encountered in mutual legal assistance.

Within the scope of the project, the second seminar is aimed at enhancing mutual legal assistance and is planned to take place in the autumn of 2009.



Outputs of the Research on the Demand for Human Trafficking

The outputs of the research conducted by the Middle East Technical University under the co-ordination of Prof. Ayşe Ayata are summarised the outputs by the research team below.

The aim of this research was to develop legal and practical recommendations to prevent human trafficking by employing a holistic approach that takes into account the demand and supply dimensions of human trafficking. This research is based on literature, field work and media scanning in the area of human trafficking. While the demand dimension in literature mainly focuses on male behaviour and psychology, this research has employed an approach that takes into account the intermediary organisations that constitute the sex industry and the socio-cultural values that condone or encourage sexual exploitation.

In-depth interviews with focus groups have been used as the main qualitative research technique in the study. Accordingly, officials at

international organisations and state institutions, NGO staff and experts such as lawyers and psychiatrists that work independently with victims of human trafficking were interviewed. Additionally, in order to understand the demand side, individuals receiving, offering and mediating prostitution and labour trade services were interviewed. The field work was carried out in Adana, Antalya, Istanbul, Izmir and Ankara.

The aim of these interviews was to understand the increased level of institutional awareness towards human trafficking, the similarities and differences between the approaches of different institutions, the challenges of defining human trafficking and the approaches towards its definition, the perceptions of the socio-economic and cultural factors leading to human trafficking. Additionally, the practices of and services delivered by institutions to protect victims of human trafficking were also taken into account. ►

The most important finding of this research was the determination identified amongst institutions of the Republic of Turkey and NGOs to tackle human trafficking seriously and in a comprehensive manner. Within this scope, the Republic of Turkey has ratified the Palermo Convention. Accordingly, Turkey has brought together the respective stakeholders by implementing a project, has established the required legal framework and has set up protective mechanisms. These mechanisms include a helpline entitled 157, that holds responsive, qualified and knowledgeable staff within the Police and Gendarmerie forces. It is also comprised of the establishment and support provided to shelters, the training provided to stakeholders; as part of the ongoing project and most importantly, the establishment of the National Task Force to ensure the co-ordination between institutions and efficient combating deemed necessary.

Human trafficking has three dimensions: the trade of organ/tissues, labour and sex. Human trafficking has an organised structure. Within this structure, there are mediators and organisations that bring the

demand and supply sides together. Another important finding was that demand is more difficult to control than supply. Demand is made up of difficult and complex social processes that directly influence the quality and quantity of supply. Another very important finding of the research was that human trafficking is addressed in the context of women/sex trade. Factors that foster human trafficking are high income levels, unregistered income (in general), low costs and no need to make specific investments for those that are part of the industry.

As a result, human trafficking in essence is based on the procurement of services that are delivered in an unequal manner and are vulnerable to exploitation between the strong and the weak. Although social, economic and international power structures underlie the phenomenon of human trafficking this issue needs to be approached in terms of initially taking measures and developing strategies to reduce demand in order to protect the weak.

Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking

Preventing and combating human trafficking requires a comprehensive international approach that entails punishing human traffickers in source, transit and destination countries and protecting the internationally accepted human rights of trafficked persons. The protection of victims is defined according to international standards as identifying and implementing measures aimed at improving the physical, psychological and social status of human trafficking victims by ensuring co-operation between the respective state's NGOs, other institutions and other elements of the civil society.

The protection of victims consists of providing decent and safe shelter, counselling and information services; especially for legal rights in a language they can understand, medical treatment, psychological and financial assistance, and educational and learning services. Each state is also required to make an effort to ensure the physical security of human trafficking victims throughout their stay in the respective state.

One of the main objectives of this project is to strengthen the current infrastructure in Turkey to protect victims of human trafficking and develop new infrastructures.

In this context, as part of the project, the European Union finances the shelter in Istanbul operated by the Human Resources Development Foundation (HRDF) and the shelter in Ankara operated by the Foundation for Women's Solidarity (FWS) for a period of 17 months.

The project will also fund the 157 helpline for a period of 24 months. The helpline is an important part of the system Turkey has in place to combat human trafficking. The 157 helpline aims to assist victims of human trafficking for self-rescue and provide support to potential victims of human trafficking and works in co-operation with the respective state institutions. The 157 helpline operators receive training on psycho-social counselling, emergency help and the sharing of sensitive information so as to be able to provide more efficient support to individuals seeking help through the helpline. The 157 helpline has been operational since May 2005. A total of 152 victims of human trafficking have been rescued through the helpline with 16 human trafficking victims rescued in 2008.



Study Visit to Germany

The study visit to Germany organised between the 2nd and the 5th of December 2008 was aimed at bringing together NGOs working in the field of combating human trafficking. The delegation consisting of a total of five representatives from the Human Resources Development Foundation (HRDF), the Foundation for Women's Solidarity (FWS) and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) found the opportunity to share experiences and ideas concerning the approaches and services of NGOs and state authorities involved in combating human trafficking in Germany. During the visit to Berlin the delegation had meetings with the following NGOs: Intercultural Women's Shelter, Solwodi, IN VIA Catholic NGO, Ban-Ying, ONA, Hydra and KOK Umbrella Organisation. The main areas discussed during the study visit are as follows:

In Germany, a one-month evaluation period applies to each potential victim of human trafficking and the final decision concerning victim identification is made at the end of this period. During this period, potential victims of human trafficking receive services from social workers and psychologists. In the event that victims agree to co-operate with judicial authorities victims are granted a temporary



residential permit and are given 200 Euros per month. If the victim does not accept to co-operate, then the victim is returned to his/her country of origin except for cases where high risk is involved. The shelters in Germany do not only provide shelter to victims of human trafficking but also victims of other types of crime and immigrants that are in a difficult situation. Victims can enter and exit the shelter freely. Shelters are being managed by the NGOs'.

Do you know...

- ▶ Human trafficking violates the fundamental human rights of individuals. These fundamental rights include:
 - 1 Right to physical and mental integrity
 - 2 Right to life, freedom and security
 - 3 Right to freedom from slavery and servitude
 - 4 Right to freedom from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment
 - 5 Right to fair compensation for work
 - 6 Right to freedom of choice in employment and decent working conditions
 - 7 Right to standard living conditions for a healthy and decent life, and
 - 8 Right to social security
- ▶ To date, a total of 390 victims of human trafficking have benefitted from the support programme provided by the Human Resources Development Foundation (HRDF) in Istanbul and 158 victims have benefitted from the support programme provided by the Foundation for Women's Solidarity in Ankara.
- ▶ Turkey has signed the "Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings" on 19th March 2009 in Strasbourg, France.

Upcoming Events

● International Information Campaign

In spring 2009, preparations to launch an information campaign will begin. The information campaign aims to promote Turkey's efforts in combating human trafficking through the 157 helpline within the co-operation between Turkey and the main source countries.

● Regional Workshop to Combat Human Trafficking

In order to support a co-ordinated combat between Turkey and the main source countries, as part of the project, two regional workshops will be organised with the aim to develop transnational operational and legal co-operation, to ensure efficient co-ordination for victim identification, and to establish a regional data collection network. The first regional workshop is planned for spring 2009 in Ankara.

● Cascaded Regional Trainings for the Ministry of Justice

Following the training of trainers delivered in co-operation with the EU Directorate of the Ministry of Justice, a total of eight cascaded trainings will be provided to 300 judges and prosecutors across Turkey so as to build their knowledge to combat human trafficking more efficiently. The first regional trainings will be organised in Ankara, Antalya and Istanbul.

● Evaluation of the Administrative Capacity to Combat human Trafficking

Under the co-ordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, an analysis will be conducted to evaluate the capacity of the National Task Force to Combat Human Trafficking and to develop a more efficient combat system.

Latest Statistics on Trafficked Persons Assisted by IOM in Last Five Years

Source Country	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008		TOTAL
	Adult	Minor	Adult	Minor	Adult	Minor	Adult	Minor	Adult	Minor	
Azerbaijan	3	0	2	0	6	3	3		4		21
Belarus	1	0	5	0	1	0			2		9
Bulgaria	0	0	0	0	2	0	6		1		9
Armenia	0	0	0	0	1	0					1
Georgia	0	0	3	0	2	0	3				8
Kazakhstan	1	0	6	0	1	0				1	9
Kyrgyzstan	0	0	19	1	23	1	13	1	4		62
Colombia	1	0	0	0		0					1
Moldova	33	1	62	2	59	0	42	1	16	1	217
Uzbekistan	1	0	11	0	16	0	11		18	2	59
Romania	5	1	9	2		0			4		21
Russia	2	0	28	1	37	2	16	2	6		94
Sri Lanka							1				1
Turkmenistan	1	0	2	0	4	0	12		15		34
Uganda	0	0	1	0		0					1
Tunisia							1				1
Ukraine	12	0	65	1	29	4	6		3		120
Morocco									1		1
Total	60	2	213	7	181	10	114	4	74	4	669
General Total	62		220		191		118		78		669

