

ENCT Project NEWSLETTER

Nº 2

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INFOCUS

Since November 2016, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission in Azerbaijan has been implementing the “Enhancement of National Capacities to Combat Human Trafficking (ENCT)” project, funded by the European Union and co-funded by the IOM Development Fund. The project aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Government of Azerbaijan to effectively combat human trafficking and protect the potential and identified victims of such crime.

The project specifically focuses on i) building the capacity of the judiciary to better prosecute cases of human trafficking and protect the rights of (potential) victims; ii) strengthening inter-agency coordination to counter trafficking; and iii) enhancing regional and international cooperation to fight against human trafficking and protect the victims.

Workshop on exploring migrant vulnerabilities and root causes of human trafficking

On 23-24 July 2018, a two-day workshop on exploring migrant vulnerabilities and root causes of human trafficking was organized in Baku. The event was attended by 20 officials representing Main



Department on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Migration Service (SMS), State Committee on Family, Women, and Children's issues, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of Azerbaijan, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Economy. The workshop on exploring migrant vulnerabilities & root causes of human trafficking, 23-24 July 2018. Photo credit: IOM Azerbaijan

Department on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Migration Service (SMS), State Committee on Family, Women, and Children's issues, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of Azerbaijan, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Economy.

The presentations were delivered by IOM consultant, specialists from Migrant Protection and Assistance unit on initial findings of rapid assessment on human trafficking in Azerbaijan, exploring the root causes and vulnerabilities of trafficked victim. The IOM Model on migrant vulnerabilities with a special focus on the situation in Azerbaijan was prepared by IOM consultant, as a result of 2-day meetings with state agencies active in the field and shared with agencies for their further consideration

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Beynəlxalq Miqrasiya Təşkilatı (BMqT)
BMT-nin Miqrasiya Agentliyi
International Organization for Migration
The UN Migration Agency

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and analysis.

Development of Combatting Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Training Program for SMS use

The Training Manual on combating human trafficking along with the Curriculum were published for the use of the Training Center of the State Migration Service. This tool will support the ongoing trainings conducted by officials of SMS in order to continue raise awareness of the role of migration offices in preventing and countering trafficking. The document serves as a resource material for the staff of both the Training Center as well as trainers of the SMS.

Training of Trainers for State Migration Service

On 8-12 October 2018, a 5-day training of trainers was carried out for representatives from Nakhichevan and Baku State Migration Service by applying specialized Training Manual and Curriculum. The officials attending represented the Migration Control Head Department, Migration Regime Control Department within Baku Regional Migration Office, along with Nakhchivan SMS Department on Migration Policy, Migration Control and Analysis of Migration Processes and Department on Regulation of Labour Migration and Registration.

Both theoretical concepts and practical exercises were applied during the training. The participants gained knowledge of theoretical concepts such as national and international legislation, indicators of human trafficking, forms of

trafficking, victim-centered approach, as well as assisted voluntary return and reintegration of victims of trafficking.

Cascade Trainings for SMS officials in Baku and Nakhichevan

3-day cascade trainings were organized for 50 officials of the State Migration Service both in Baku and in Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic. The trainings were conducted by SMS trainers who were trained through ToT with close monitoring and supervision of IOM consultant. The trainings were carried out with the guidance of Training Manual and Curriculum on combating human trafficking for the use of SMS officials.

The capacity building workshop for representatives of Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On 11-12 October 2018, a 2-day capacity building training for consular officials on combating human trafficking was conducted in Baku. The training was attended by 20 key personnel including 15 officials from MFA, 3 representatives from the Main Department on Combatting Human Trafficking of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as 2 officials from State Migration Service, both from Baku and Nakhichevan cities. The main objective of this training was to train relevant officials on the issues of human trafficking as well as on the role of consular officials being in the front line to combat human trafficking and importance of coordination between the state agencies. The training was conducted by IOM consultant, who produced the Training Manual titled “What Diplomats should know and do”.

The training covered the topics of concept of human trafficking, the role of consular officials in prevention of human trafficking, identification and protection of victims, as well as techniques used while interviewing individuals IOM consultant, experts from European Court of Human Rights as well as Main Department on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Azerbaijan presented their work in preventing trafficking in human beings.

EU Anti-Trafficking Day



EU Anti Trafficking day, 18 October, 2018. Photo credit: IOM Azerbaijan

On 18 October 2018, EU Delegation to Azerbaijan and IOM organized an event to mark the European Union (EU) Anti-Trafficking day which was established in 2007. The event that gathered around 70 officials started with the official opening remarks delivered by H.E. Ambassador Kestutis Jankauskas, Head of EU Delegation to Azerbaijan, Police Major General Mr. Heydar Heydarov, Chief of the Main Department on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Azerbaijan and Mr. Serhan Aktoprak, Chief of Mission of the IOM in Azerbaijan.

The event gathered around 70 officials from line ministries, diplomatic corps, international and civil society organizations, as well as international and local experts.



Following panel discussions and presentation of a video documentary on counter trafficking was screened to inform the audience on vulnerability of victims of THB.

Training of Trainers Program for Criminal Prosecution Authorities in Azerbaijan



Training of Trainers, 16-19 October 2018. Photo credit: IOM Azerbaijan

On 16-19 October 2018, IOM organized Training of Trainers (ToT) for criminal prosecution authorities in Baku. The ToT gathered 20 participants from Baku city Court on Grave Crimes, Baku city Court of Appeal, Ganja city Court on Grave Crimes, Lankaran city Court of Grave Crimes, Ganja city Court of Appeal, Sumgayit city Court of Appeal, Shirvan regional Court of Appeal, General Prosecutor's office, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Azerbaijan Bar Association. The overall aim of the TOT was to advance and enhance the abilities and professional capacities of the participants to effectively investigate, prosecute and adjudicate cases of trafficking in persons, by using victim centered approach in line with the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) fair trial requirements. The training methodology constituted a balanced combination of short theoretical presentations on the national, compara-

tive and ECHR court practice along with prosecuted cases.

Cascade seminars for Criminal Prosecution Authorities officials

Four 3-day cascade trainings were held in Lankaran, Zagatala, and Baku targeting judges, prosecutors and lawyers. 88 professionals benefited from the trainings. The cascade trainings were delivered by the trained trainers who utilized developed tools and resources such as case studies, interactive discussions that served as reference materials for the training participants. The draft Manual on the Advanced Training Programme was the main reference document used for methodological testing during the cascade trainings. The international consultant and co-author of the Manual facilitated the cascade training in Lankaran and provided recommendations for improvement of the next cascades in Zagatala and Baku.

Roundtable on Multi-Disciplinary Approaches to Countering Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling International and National Legislative and Operational Framework

On 30 October 2018, an international roundtable on "Multidisciplinary Approaches to Countering Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling, International and National Legislative and Operational framework" aiming at enhancing international and regional partnerships for better investigation of transnational organized crimes and protection of trafficked persons was held

in collaboration with the National Parliament of Azerbaijan as well as the Ministry of Internal Affairs and State Migration Service.

The roundtable was attended by key actors in the area of combatting human trafficking and migrant smuggling, including Members of Parliaments (MPs) from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Georgia, Greece, Iran, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, together with the representatives of respective embassies and international organizations, such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as well as state officials from the government agencies involved in combating trafficking in Azerbaijan, including the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, State Migration Service, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Youth and Sport, State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs General Prosecutor's Office and the Ombudsman's Office together with relevant NGO representatives.

The event served as a shared platform to exchange expertise of different actors by sharing relevant practices in prevention, investigation of trafficking cases as well as protection of VoTs.



Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting

On 20 November 2018, the third PSC meeting was held to discuss overall implementation of the project and keep partners and stakeholders abreast of achievements and activities planned. The PSC meeting was attended by the members comprising of representatives from Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, State Migration Service, Justice Academy of Ministry of Justice, Ombudsman's office, General Prosecutor's office, EU Delegation and IOM. The stakeholders shared their views on the activities implemented in the framework of the project and provided relevant feedback and recommendations with regard to effectively achieving results and outcomes within the project.

Role of The Criminal Prosecution Authorities In Combating Human Trafficking

On 3-4 April 2019, a two-day international workshop on "Role of the Criminal Prosecution Authorities in Combating

Mr. Vladimir Gjorgjiev, Chief of IOM's Mission to Azerbaijan:

"This workshop contributed to the work of the criminal prosecution authorities and enhanced their capacity in line with the strategy of prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership in countering human trafficking."

Human Trafficking" was organized in Baku. The event provided 70 national and international attendees from Eastern Partnership countries with the opportunity to exchange experiences, approaches and best practices on prosecution of Trafficking in Human Beings cases as well as challenges from different perspectives of countries of origin, destination and transit countries. The workshop provided a platform for participants to learn from EU experts including those of the European Court of Human Rights case-law analysis, and methodologies.

Furthermore, the workshop aimed at contributing to the establishment of a network between participants to nurture international cooperation and exchange of information in combating human trafficking.

Workshop on combatting human trafficking for labor inspectors



On 29 April 2019, IOM conducted a workshop on combating human trafficking for 20 labor inspectors from State Labor Inspectorate Service under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population. The workshop was conducted by a specialist on Labor Mobility and Human Development from regional office of IOM. The event aimed at raising participants' awareness about all forms of human trafficking, in particular forced labour. In addition, the workshop provided participants with a solid background on international definitions and the role of labour inspectors in combating human trafficking.

As a result of the workshop, a list of indicators was prepared by the participants to guide them during their inspection.



The workshop for the criminal prosecution authorities, 3-4 April 2019. Photo credit: IOM Azerbaijan



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Study visits to Austria and Lithuania on combating human trafficking for Azerbaijani Officials

IOM facilitated a four-day study visits to Vienna, Austria on 15-18 April, and to Lithuania on 13-16 May, 2019 for government officials representing Justice Academy of the Ministry of Justice, Head Department on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as judges from capital and regional appeal courts, and prosecutors from General Prosecutors Office.

The objective of the study visits was to familiarize representatives with the implementation of International and European standards in judicial decisions, protection of victims of trafficking, analysis of legal framework as well as prosecution of Trafficking in Human Beings cases in Austria and Lithuania along with the procedures and rulings in the area of combating human trafficking.

During the study visit to Austria, various meetings with Austrian government agencies including, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Federal Ministry of Constitutional Affairs, Reforms, Deregulation and Justice



A study visit to Austria on combating human trafficking, 5-18 April 2019. Photo credit: IOM Azerbaijan

Prosecutor's Office, Provincial Criminal Court of Vienna, Criminal Intelligence Service of Austria along with non-governmental agencies such as LEFÖ – Intervention Center for Trafficked Women and Drehscheibe Crisis Center for Unaccompanied Foreign Minors of the City of Vienna were held where the participants were provided an opportunity to exchange information and knowledge as well as to learn from Austrian practice.

National referral mechanism, coordination with relevant agencies, and with nonprofit organizations active in the field were discussed during the meetings with different bodies including; National Committee on combating human trafficking, Prosecutor's Office, Police Department on combating human trafficking, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labor and Protection, Criminal Division of the Supreme Court of Lithuania, as well as nonprofit organizations such as Vilnius Crisis Center actively collaborating with state agencies in effectively preventing and combating human trafficking in Lithuania. In addition, a visit was also paid to Kaunas city where the delegates had an opportunity to attend a meeting with Kaunas city Municipality Interdisciplinary group for combating human trafficking and to be exposed to current practice in relation with coordination mechanism among the agencies.



A study visit to Lithuania on combating human trafficking, 13-16 May 2019. Photo credit: IOM Azerbaijan



Workshop on the role of diplomatic missions in combating human trafficking in collaboration with Ministry of Foreign Affairs



On 31 May 2019, IOM Mission in Azerbaijan in close collaboration with Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a workshop on the role of diplomatic missions in combating human trafficking with participation of representatives of local state agencies, and diplomatic missions Embassies of Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Turkey, Ukraine, Kingdom of the Netherlands, United States of America, Lithuania, and Czech Republic. The workshop was opened by Vladimir Gjorgjiev, Head of IOM Mission in Azerbaijan, Faig Baghirov, Head of Consulate Department of MFA, Heydar Heydarov, Head of the Main Department on Combating Human Trafficking of MIA, and Kestutis Jankauskas, Head of European Union Delegation to Azerbaijan. Several presentations were delivered by the keynote speakers during the workshop that shed light on the US Embassy's experience on preventative measures in relation to trafficking, IOM's initiatives tackling the problem globally as well as locally, and MFA's practice in exchange of information and awareness raising in the field. The workshop provided the participants of local and international agencies a platform to share their expertise in relation to the role of

consulates / diplomatic representations in prevention, protection, prosecution as well as partnership in countering trafficking in human beings.

Closure of "Enhancement of National Capacities to Combat Human Trafficking in Azerbaijan (ENCT)" project



On 12 June 2019, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Mission to Azerbaijan held a closing conference of the EU-funded project "Enhancement of National Capacities to Combat Human Trafficking in Azerbaijan (ENCT)", the project also co-funded by the IOM Development Fund. The closing conference gathered project beneficiaries, stakeholders, officials from the ministries and diplomatic corps.

The UN Resident Coordinator in Azerbaijan Ghulam Isaczai, Head of the EU Delegation to Azerbaijan, Ambassador Kestutis Jankauskas and Chief of IOM Mission to Azerbaijan, Vladimir Gjorgjiev reiterated the support and active participation of the Government of Azerbaijan in this project coordination and implementation. The representatives of beneficiary organizations of the project – Mr. Heydar Heydarov, Chief of the Main Department on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of Ministry of Internal Affairs, Police General-Major as well as

Mr. Parviz Musayev, Deputy Head of State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Mr. Alimirzamin Askarov, Head of Department on Humanitarian and Social Issues of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Elchin Khalafov, acting rector of Justice Academy of Ministry of Justice in their speeches appreciated IOM work in this field and outlined project's contribution to the effective fight against human trafficking in Azerbaijan and the protection of human trafficking victims in the country.

The final meeting of Project Steering Committee (PSC)

The final project steering committee meeting was held on 19 June, 2019. The PSC was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State Migration Service, the Justice Academy of the Ministry of Justice, the Office of the Prosecutor General, the State Border Service, the EU Delegation and IOM.

The stakeholders involved in the project implementation demonstrated satisfaction about the project implementation and expressed their gratitude to IOM Mission in Azerbaijan of the foundation the project laid in raising awareness and capacity building about the cases of trafficking among the stakeholders.



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