

**Draft Compendium of Trafficking-Related Tools Developed at the Regional Level**

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## 1: Table of Tools

	Organization	Tool	Description	Link
A1	ASEAN	Handbook on International Legal Cooperation in Trafficking in Persons Cases (2010)	The Handbook provides operational guidelines for criminal justice officials involved in cross-border trafficking investigations on investigation and prosecution of trafficking in persons as well as protection of the victims.	<a href="http://www.asean.org/20440.htm">http://www.asean.org/20440.htm</a>
A2	ASEAN	Practitioners' Guidelines on Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons (2007)	The guidelines contain a detailed list of tools for criminal justice practitioners on regional and international cooperation, specifically legal mutual assistance and extradition in relation to trafficking in persons cases.	<a href="http://www.artipproject.org/artip-tip-cjs/tip-cjr/recent_developments/ASEAN-PG_Web_English_Final.pdf">www.artipproject.org/artip-tip-cjs/tip-cjr/recent_developments/ASEAN-PG_Web_English_Final.pdf</a>
A3	ASEAN	Compendium of Good Practices in Investigation, Prosecution and Adjudication of Trafficking in Persons Cases (forthcoming)		
A4	ASEAN	Training Program on Trafficking in Persons for Specialist Investigators (2009)	The purpose of this course is to improve the capacity of specialist law enforcement officials to investigate trafficking crimes through the use of reactive investigative techniques while protecting the human right of victims. It is a two week course consisting of 14 modules.	
A5	ASEAN	Training Program on Trafficking in Persons for Front Line Law Enforcement Officials (2008)	The purpose of this course is to strengthen frontline officials' ability to: recognise human trafficking when they are confronted with it; more accurately identify victims; provide victims with increased protection and support; and enhance cooperation between frontline officials and specialist	

			investigators.	
A6	ASEAN	Awareness Program on Trafficking in Persons for Judges and Prosecutors (2008)	The purpose of this course is to increase the awareness of trafficking among non-specialist prosecutors and judges and strengthen their capacity to recognise and understand basic legal concepts, trial issues and practical concerns often involved in human trafficking cases. It is a two-day course.	
A7	ASEAN	Skills Course on Trafficking in Persons for Specialist Prosecutors (2010)	The purpose of this course is to increase the level of competence among prosecutors to analyse evidence, work more effectively with police, perform more persuasively in trial and ensure that victims and witnesses are better protected and supported. The course provides basic legal and courtroom skills training on litigation issues in human trafficking cases, including victim interview techniques, developing corroborative evidence for trial, preparing the victim to testify in court and delivering a persuasive closing argument. It is a five-day course.	
B1	COMMIT-Mekong	Guiding Principles for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region	The Guiding Principles were drafted at a technical workshop by participants representing countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region as a basis for the development of ‘Regional Guidelines on Victim Protection’ and are accompanied by a ‘Suggested Strategic Approach’ outlining measures for consideration by COMMIT member governments that could be undertaken in pursuit of the objective to develop draft regional guidelines.	See Guiding Principles in <b>Annex I.</b>
B2	COMMIT-	Human Trafficking Laws – Legal Provisions for Victims	This document compares legal definitions and frameworks against the UN Trafficking Protocol	

	Mekong	(2010)	(Palermo Protocol)	
B3	COMMIT-Mekong	Counter-Trafficking Training Needs Assessment (2009)		
B4	COMMIT-Mekong	Training Manual for Combating Trafficking in Women and Children, UNIAP (2002), RSA/98/HOI	The goal of this training manual is to provide a thorough grounding in the subject of human trafficking in order to equip participants with the knowledge, understanding and skills to influence and enhance policy and practice in countering trafficking in the region.	
B5	COMMIT-Mekong	Common Guidelines on the Identification of Victims		
B6	COMMIT-Mekong	Guidelines for Improved Mechanisms and Systems for Exchange of Information		
B7	COMMIT-Mekong	Guidelines for Effective Monitoring of the Implementation of Bilateral Agreements and National Multi-sector Cooperation Arrangements		
B8	COMMIT-Mekong	Operational Guidelines on Protection of Victims and Prosecution of Traffickers		
B9	COMMIT-Mekong	Common Service Guidelines for Victims		

C1	ECCAS/ ECOWAS	Country Report Framework for Counter Trafficking in Persons Activities for ECCAS and ECOWAS Member States	This framework is designed to guide Member States in the preparation of annual reports on the implementation of the joint ECOWAS/ECCAS plan of action, and contains specific questions under the following headings: legal framework; national strategy; prevention; repression/prosecution; protection; repatriation; international cooperation; stakeholders; and assessment.	
D1	ECOWAS	Training Manual on Trafficking in Persons	This training manual contains the following 9 modules: basic concepts in trafficking in persons; counter trafficking response; cooperation and networking; practical steps in cooperation and networking; formalizing commitment and decisions; best practices in cooperation and networking; developing indicators; and the anti-trafficking unit of the ECOWAS secretariat.  It includes activities under each sub-section and provides examples and case studies from the region, including good practices.	
D2	ECOWAS	Regional Policy on Protection and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Persons in West Africa		See Regional Policy in <b>Annex II</b>
D3	ECOWAS	Guidelines on witness protection, support and assistance		

D4	ECOWAS	Guidelines for the Protection of the Rights of Child Victims of Trafficking		
D5	ECOWAS	Checklist for Member States compliance with the Palermo Protocol		
D6	ECOWAS	Model National Task Force and National Focal Points for ECOWAS Member States		
D7	ECOWAS	Elements of an effective National Plan of Action		
D8	ECOWAS	Manual on Cooperation and Networking for ECOWAS Member States		

D9	ECOWAS	Model Bilateral Agreement on cooperation and mutual legal assistance in protecting children from trans-border trafficking		
E1	EU	Measuring responses to Trafficking in Human Beings in the European Union: An Assessment Manual, European Commission (2007)	This manual aims at enhancing the capacity of EU Members to develop and implement policies and strategies in response to trafficking in persons. It presents a checklist of 55 questions to enable States to assess their own progress in implementing anti-trafficking recommendations, and indicators to measure results.	<a href="http://www.ec.europa.eu/justice_home/news/events/anti_trafficking_day_07/indicators_manual.pdf">www.ec.europa.eu/justice_home/news/events/anti_trafficking_day_07/indicators_manual.pdf</a>
F1	CoE	Handbook for parliamentarians on the CoE Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings	The handbook contains a description of the main provisions of the CoE Anti-Trafficking Convention and suggest approaches for parliamentarian who wish to propose or amend legislation concerning trafficking in their countries.	<a href="http://www.assembly.coe.int/committeedocs/2007/Trafficking-human-beings_E.pdf">www.assembly.coe.int/committeedocs/2007/Trafficking-human-beings_E.pdf</a>
G1	OAS	Protocol for Victim's Assistance	The Protocol identifies the responsibilities of each institution in providing assistance to trafficked persons.	
G2	OAS	Toolkit for training of diplomats and consular officers	The toolkit includes: trainer's manual; booklet; training video; interactive CD-Rom; agenda for developing specific model trainings designed to train diplomats and consular officers; gender and human rights component.	
G3	OAS	Guidelines for Repatriation of Trafficking Victims		

H1	OSCE	Handbook on National Referral Mechanisms, joining efforts to protect the rights of trafficked persons	This handbook sets a framework for the design and implementation of effective National Referral Mechanisms to prosecute traffickers and provide adequate support to victims. It addresses political, legal and practical elements to be considered when creating responses to trafficking.	<a href="http://www.osce.org/publications/odi/hr/2004/05/12351_131_en.pdf">www.osce.org/publications/odi/hr/2004/05/12351_131_en.pdf</a>
H2	OSCE	Analyzing the Business Model of Trafficking in Human Beings to Better Prevent the Crime (2010)	This publication is intended to ensure a deeper understanding of how trafficking enterprises work – their members, roles, <i>modus operandi</i> and the markets in which they exploit their victims – and to allow governments to take measures to prevent and successfully intervene in trafficking operations.	
H3	OSCE	Guide on Gender-Sensitive Labour Migration Policies	The guide highlights the decisive role played by gender on migrant populations worldwide and highlights policies designed to positively impact on migrant experiences and contributions.	
H4	OSCE	Handbook on Establishing Effective Labour Migration Policies in Countries of Origin and Destination (OSCE, IOM and ILO).	The handbook stresses the role of women in the process of migration as well as the feminization of migration. It analyzes migration policies that, while appearing neutral, can have different unintended impacts on women and men. The guide seeks to serve as a practical policy tool highlighting gaps and solutions as to how to integrate gender-sensitive measures into the migration policies of countries of origin and destination, as well as in bilateral and multilateral agreements, and encourage states, particularly those in the OSCE area, to make their labour migration policies more gender sensitive.	

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### 3: Summary of Publicly Available Tools

#### **A1. HANDBOOK ON INTERNATIONAL LEGAL COOPERATION IN TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS CASES**

The Handbook on International Legal Cooperation in Trafficking in Persons Cases was launched during the 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting held on 26-29 October 2010 and aims to help improve cooperation between criminal justice officials who are involved in cross-border trafficking investigations.

The Handbook forms part of a collection of tools and resources developed by and for the Member States of ASEAN, through the Asia Regional Project on Trafficking in Persons (ARTIP). It has been designed to encourage and enable criminal justice officials within the ASEAN region to initiate and engage in the processes of mutual legal assistance and extradition where this would facilitate an investigation or prosecution of the crime of trafficking in persons or a related crime. While intended primarily for ASEAN countries, it addresses issues that are relevant to all countries engaged in combating trafficking in persons through a more effective criminal justice response.

The Handbook provides a step-by-step guide to pursuing transnational trafficking cases where victims, perpetrators and evidence are located in more than one country. It outlines the key forms of international cooperation, from informal police-to-police assistance to mutual legal assistance and extradition, as well as full documentation for making or responding to a request for cooperation. The standards set out in key international and regional treaties relating to transnational organised crime; corruption; and international legal cooperation are also clearly explained in the Handbook to strengthen the collaboration amongst the law enforcement, judiciary and prosecutorial officials of ASEAN.

It acknowledges that the disjuncture between the reality of transnational crime and the limits of national systems presents a significant challenge to the ability of countries to effectively respond to trafficking in persons. Further, it recognizes that numerous practical and political factors can impede cooperation across borders in criminal investigations and prosecutions.

Therefore, this tool is aimed at criminal justice practitioners, primarily law enforcement officers, prosecutors, central authority lawyers, and those who are likely to be involved investigating and prosecuting trafficking in persons cases, or in processing or considering requests for assistance across borders. The Handbook is based on international legal and criminal justice standards as they relate to trafficking in persons. It provides criminal justice officials with basic information on cooperation tools, specifically mutual legal assistance and extradition as well as guidance on how these tools can be used most effectively in the specific context of regional and international cooperation in trafficking in persons cases.

The handbook is divided into five chapters:

- **Chapter 1:** provides information on trafficking in persons with an emphasis on the elements of the crime of trafficking in persons as it has been defined in international law, specially the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the UN Trafficking Protocol. The chapter also provides an overview of the international legal framework around trafficking in persons with a particular focus on those instruments that are most directly relevant to international cooperation.
- **Chapter 2:** provides an introduction to basic concepts of international cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases, more specifically informal cooperation, mutual legal assistance and extradition. It explains the importance of such cooperation; identifies the main forms of cooperation; and provides an overview of its legal basis. The chapter concludes with a note on the key issues of sovereignty (doctrine of non-inquiry), safeguards and human rights as these relate to international cooperation.
- **Chapter 3:** provides practitioners with practical information that will assist them to either make or respond to a request for mutual legal assistance in the context of trafficking in persons investigations and prosecutions. It commences by identifying the key international and regional principles on mutual legal assistance; explaining the relevance of mutual legal assistance in trafficking cases; and summarizing the legal basis for mutual assistance. The chapter then identifies and considers the various principles and conditions attached to mutual legal assistance. Information is provided on how to prepare, transmit and respond to mutual assistance requests. Chapter 3 also contains as attachments a checklist for preparing Mutual Legal Assistance requests under the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters among Like-Minded ASEAN Member Countries; a model request form for that Treaty; and model checklists and forms for good practice in requesting mutual legal assistance, from the UNODC Informal Expert Working Group on Mutual Legal Assistance Casework Best Practice.
- **Chapter 4:** follows on from the previous chapter by considering mutual legal assistance in the specific context of recovery of proceeds of trafficking crimes. It commences by identifying the key international and regional principles on mutual legal assistance in this situation; explaining the importance of tracing, seizing, freezing and confiscating the proceeds of crime; and summarizing the legal basis for mutual assistance to recover trafficking proceeds. The chapter then identifies and considers the procedural and evidential requirements as well as additional considerations that may arise in the context of cross-border proceeds recovery.
- **Chapter 5:** deals with extradition. It includes information on the nature of extradition; the importance of extradition as a tool in prosecuting trafficking cases; and the various legal bases that can be relied on to support a request for extradition. The chapter then considers the pre-conditions and safeguards that typically apply in extradition cases. It concludes with practical information on procedures that are typically followed in extradition cases and on how to prepare, transmit and respond to extradition requests. Chapter 5 also contains the following attachments: checklist for outgoing extradition casework planning; and a checklist for the content of extradition requests, required supporting documents and information, all from the UNODC Informal Expert Working Group on Effective Extradition Casework Practice.

The Handbook contains a number of important annexes. Annex 1 provides comprehensive country summaries of the legal and procedural framework relevant to international cooperation in each of the ten ASEAN Member States. Those country summaries have been organized in a

way that tracks the structure of the present book. Other annexes include full texts and extracts from the major international and regional treaties that provide a legal basis for extradition between ASEAN Member States.

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## **A2. Practitioners' Guidelines on Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons**

In 2007 ASEAN published the *Practitioners' Guidelines on Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons*, containing a set of tools for criminal justice practitioners on regional and international cooperation, specifically mutual legal assistance and extradition in relation to trafficking in persons cases. These guidelines cover investigation, prosecution and judicial responses to trafficking in persons, including specialization of judicial practitioners, victim-witness management, and special measures for child victims and trial issues. It is a practical and concise instrument, divided in 2 main parts: evidential matters and international operational and legal/judicial cooperation.

Furthermore, the Guidelines recommend strengthening the capacity of the criminal justice system including judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials that should develop a specialist capacity to understand the crime of trafficking and their responsibility in the respective phase of the criminal justice response to trafficking in persons. It promotes knowledge and skills development among criminal justice officials in the area of international legal cooperation and the implementation of mechanisms to enhance networking opportunities for criminal practitioners from the ASEAN Member States.

The Guidelines follow the principle “extradite or prosecute” applied towards securing international and regional cooperation to remove safe havens for traffickers, who otherwise could avoid criminal responsibility. As a result, it promotes existing and future bilateral and multilateral extradition and mutual assistance treaties applicable for trafficking in persons and trafficking-related crimes.

In addition, a series of measures have been put forward as a means to enhance international co-operation and mutual judicial cooperation, including regional training workshops, national multi-agency border liaison units, modern information and communication techniques, review and harmonization of domestic law to ensure extradition and mutual assistance, alternatives in instances where extradition is not possible, transfer of criminal proceedings to the most appropriate State, etc.

Finally, it is important to mention that the Guidelines pay special emphasis on the central role of the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matter among Like-Minded ASEAN Member Countries (MLAT), as an effective mechanism towards ending impunity for traffickers in the region.

## **E1. Measuring responses to Trafficking in Human Beings in the European Union: An Assessment Manual**

*Measuring responses to Trafficking in Human Beings in the European Union: An Assessment Manual* aims at enhancing the capacity of EU Members to develop and implement policies and strategies in response to trafficking in persons. It presents a checklist of 55 questions that enables Member States to assess their own progress in implementing essential measures to stop trafficking and to protect people who have been trafficked, along with indicators to measure the results.

The manual is divided in 4 chapters: guiding principles; prevention; protection and assistance; and law enforcement strategies. Each checklist is preceded by a summary of measures needed, a short explanation about them, key questions and indicators. The latter is assessed in relation to the direct effects of a specific measure or action and the long-term impact of that same action.

This manual is targeted at agencies and institutions that would be best placed to use these indicators and to measure State progress in implementing anti-trafficking measures, including a National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, a National Referral Mechanism, or the Ministry responsible for coordinating anti-trafficking actions. Therefore, this manual highlights the need to identify a central place at the national level where information from different sources is brought together and analyzed.

It also highlights the need for an adequate legal framework and definition of the problem to be complemented by more standardized systems for recording data on the problem, not only about trafficking in human beings to inform their policies, but about the broader policy context within which policies and measures that address trafficking are situated in each country. In this sense, Member States should ensure that its various agencies share a common language and have standard mechanisms for recording data.

This manual presents 6 guiding principles that are complementary and interdependent. In other words, any measure to prevent trafficking in human beings, to protect and assist people who have been trafficked and to prosecute traffickers will be unlikely to be effective if any of these 6 principles is missing. Those principles are:

1. Ensure the country has an adequate legal framework and (adequate) definition of trafficking in human beings;
2. Make human rights a paramount issue;
3. Take a holistic, coordinated and integrated approach;
4. Make government policies linked to migration, the economy and the informalisation of the workplace consistent with efforts to stop trafficking in human beings;

5. Respect the rights of children and the State's duty to protect them in anti-trafficking actions;
6. Promote research about trafficking in human beings and monitor and evaluate the impact of all anti-trafficking measures.

These principles require a holistic approach to ensure that different sectoral policies concerning issues like migration, employment and prostitution are consistent with the objective of protecting people from being trafficked; and to ensure coordination among the many different professionals who have a role to play in stopping trafficking and assisting people who are trafficked.

The manual also includes mechanisms to measure if progress is being made to prevent trafficking in human beings. Those include the technical capacity of institutions to stop trafficking, administrative controls to combat trafficking in human beings, actions to prevent trafficking which complement criminal justice interventions, and the use of information about trafficking as a prevention mechanism.

In relation to actions to protect and assist trafficked persons, the manual incorporates checklists to assess referral systems to identify trafficked persons, refer them for assistance and guarantee them a minimum period to recover, assistance for individuals who have been trafficked, witness protection and treatment of trafficked persons in the course of legal proceedings and return and social inclusion.

Finally, the manual addresses law enforcement strategies, taking into consideration if Members States have made efforts and progress into developing law enforcement agency expertise, establishing priorities and ensuring coordination and cooperation between agencies; tackling corruption; tracing and confiscating traffickers' assets; and providing restitution and compensation for victims.

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## **F1. Handbook for Parliamentarians on the CoE Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**

The *Handbook for Parliamentarians on the CoE Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings*, published in 2009, includes a description of the main provisions of that treaty and is intended as a practical tool setting out ways parliamentarians can press for introducing or amending legislation on trafficking.

The manual advances a multi-disciplinary approach incorporating prevention, protection of the human rights of victims and prosecution of traffickers, as well as seeking to harmonize relevant national laws and ensure that those laws are applied uniformly and effectively. Moreover, it addresses some of the key measures that parliamentarian can take in relation to each of those approaches. It also includes the role they can play in ensuring the independence and effectiveness of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) and promoting international co-operation and co-operation with the civil society.

The Manual targets parliamentarians due to the key role they can play in combating trafficking in human beings as they can create the political and legislative climate for the successful development and implementation of anti-trafficking initiatives, through promoting the signature and ratification of anti-trafficking international and regional instruments, drafting and ratifying bilateral and multilateral agreements, strengthening the review of national legislation, allocating sufficient funds for anti-trafficking programmes, ensuring that there are legal instruments in place which prohibit the trafficking of persons for the purpose of organ or tissue transplantation, and adopting and ratifying international agreements to ensure full co-operation with other states and international agencies.

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## **H1. Handbook of OSCE on National Referral Mechanisms, joining efforts to protect the rights of trafficked persons**

The *Handbook of OSCE on National Referral Mechanisms, joining efforts to protect the rights of trafficked persons*, drawing from the OSCE's Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human, promotes the establishment of National Referral Mechanisms (NRM) and victim assistance systems to ensure that all victims of trafficking have access to support services tailored to their individual needs, from the point of identification up to that of reintegration into society.

Published in 2004, this tool is divided in 4 chapters, addressing the definition and core elements, importance, implementation and issues to be dealt with by a NRM, respectively. It defines a NRM as a “co-operative framework through which state actors fulfill their obligations to protect and promote the human rights of trafficked persons, coordinating their efforts in a strategic partnership with civil society”.

This handbook is intended to be a tool for governmental representatives, civil society actors and law-enforcement structures working in all OSCE participating States. Indeed, NRM should be designed to formalise co-operation among government agencies and non-governmental groups dealing with trafficked persons. Taking into consideration that NRMs involve all levels of the society (individuals, civil society and governmental structures), in order to be effectively entrenched in a country's anti-trafficking programme, these mechanisms should fit within a larger democratization programme or approach.

Moreover, this tool advocates for the adoption of a human rights-based approach to victims of trafficking by way of considering human trafficking not only a problem of criminality but as a grave abuse of the human rights of the victims. Therefore, the basic aims of NRMs are to ensure that the human rights of trafficked persons are respected and provide an effective way to refer victims of trafficking to services.

The handbook sets out a framework for the creation and operation of an effective NRM. It also addresses the political, legal, and practical elements to be considered when creating a NRM. Furthermore, this handbook defines suggested roles for governmental institutions and civil society in an NRM, and describes the types of programs and services that should ideally be available to trafficked persons.

According to the Handbook, a NRM should incorporate the following elements: guidance on how to identify and appropriately treat trafficked persons while respecting their rights and giving them power over decisions that affect their lives; a system to refer trafficked persons to specialized agencies offering shelter and protection from physical and psychological harm, as well as support services (such shelter entails medical, social, and psychological support; legal services; and assistance in acquiring identification documents), as well as the facilitation of voluntary repatriation or resettlement; the establishment of appropriate, officially binding mechanisms designed to harmonize victim assistance with investigative and crime-prosecution efforts; an institutional anti-trafficking framework of multidisciplinary and cross-sector participation that enables an appropriate response to the complex nature of human trafficking and allows its monitoring and evaluation.

Moreover, establishing NRMs in countries of destination, transit, and origin can help ensure a comprehensive and inclusive system of support

targeted at, and accessible to, all trafficked persons.

In addition, the handbook outlines the steps required for their creation:

1. Undertake a comprehensive assessment of the nature and extent of human trafficking, and the measures in place to combat trafficking and to assist victims and the effectiveness of the actors involved in a country. It is important to carry out a holistic assessment of the legislation, legal procedures and practices as existing laws in place and their adequacy for punishing traffickers, providing protection to victim, compensation, etc.
2. Set up a coordinating structure, an NRM, or improve existing coordination at the national level according to the standard required by an NRM. NRMs should build first on existing national structures; therefore it is essential to identify the main actors from the government and civil society.
3. Set up a Roundtable for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, made up of government representatives and civil society involved in responding to trafficking. NRMs require good co-operation between government agencies and the civil society (often, victims of trafficking are first identified by law-enforcement officers, while civil society organizations provide them with shelter and direct assistance to the victims). Therefore, NRMs should seek to be as inclusive as possible in its membership and participation.

Establishing an NRM is a dynamic process; all the components do not necessarily have to be in place at once but can be developed in stages. The handbook points to five essential components of an NRM. These are:

1. Identification of Presumed Trafficked Persons;
  2. Basic Principles of Co-operation Agreements (eg. directive or a memorandum of understanding);
  3. Support and Protection Services (including financial assistance, shelter and specialized services);
  4. Repatriation and Social Inclusion; and
  5. Specific Legal Provisions (eg. compensation and/or seizure of criminal gains or assets, residence status of trafficked persons, witness and data protection, etc).
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#### 4. Annexes

### **Annex I: B1 Guiding Principles for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region & Suggested Strategic Approach**

#### ***Guiding Principles for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region***

*Supplementing the COMMIT Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation against Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region*

##### **I. General Principles**

*Individual countries are encouraged to promote the following:*

- 1) Placement of the rights of trafficked persons at the centre of all efforts to prevent and combat trafficking, giving appropriate weight to the rights and obligations recognized in the international human rights instruments (CRC, CEDAW, etc), and ensuring that actions taken in relation to victims are guided by a rights-based and victim-centered approach.
- 2) Development of policies and practices to ensure that all victims of trafficking have access to comprehensive, high quality support services that are age, gender, language and culturally appropriate, that are responsive to the victim's needs and respect their right of choice, that are provided by adequately trained professionals or paraprofessionals, and that aim to restore the victim's dignity and decision-making power.
- 3) In all actions concerning child victims, the best interests of the child is a primary consideration.

- 4) Progressive commitment of government resources to support victim return and reintegration, having regard to existing government resources.

## **II. Identification of Trafficking Victims**

*Individual countries are encouraged to promote the following:*

- 1) Incorporation into their national legal framework, to the greatest extent possible, the definition of trafficking in persons as contained in the Palermo Protocol.
- 2) Development of special arrangements for individuals considered victims of trafficking under the COMMIT MOU, but who do not fall within the scope of domestic trafficking laws as trafficking victims.
- 3) Completion of victim identification as expeditiously as possible in order for the victim to enjoy protection and services as required. If a clear determination cannot be made during the initial screening process, the presumption shall be that the person is a potential victim of trafficking and thus appropriate protection/support measures provided until further determination can be made through the victim identification interview or other investigations.
- 4) Development at a national level of a standardized screening checklist which reflects domestic law and the COMMIT MOU, so as to provide for more consistent identification of potential victims of trafficking.
- 5) Clear definition and division of roles, responsibilities, and cooperation mechanisms among the agencies involved in the victim identification process, with due provision for specialized training and resource allocation.

- 6) Acceptance of the definition of a child as a person under the age of 18. Where age is uncertain and there are reasons to believe that the victim is a child, the presumption shall be that the victim is a child. Special measures shall be taken to put in place child sensitive victim identification strategies, including guidance on age determination and child sensitive interviewing procedures.
- 7) Development of policies, practices and protocols on the timely sharing of information on trafficking victims based on the principle of “informed consent” that ensure privacy and confidentiality of victims.
- 8) Development of operational guidelines during the identification of trafficking victims, that address at a minimum:
  - a) Provisions for the removal of trafficked persons from detention-like facilities and referral to appropriate interim care and protection services;
  - b) Victim-sensitive interview procedures ensuring interviews are conducted in a safe environment and with an appropriate support person present.
  - c) Access to a translator, where necessary, and the provision of information on the victims’ rights and support that is available in language they understand.
- 9) Incorporation into bilateral agreements dealing with victim identification, proactive operational procedures for the exchange of information and sharing experiences on ad hoc arrangements for possible broader application.

### **III. Interim Care and Protection**

*Individual countries are encouraged to promote the following:*

- 1) The right to security and protection for all victims of trafficking in close consultation with victims.
- 2) Development of standardized bilingual intake/interview forms in the language of the country of origin and destination.

- 3) Specially trained bilingual staff to support the translation process. This may include Foreign Affairs and embassy staff or other relevant agencies.
- 4) Development of individualized interim recovery plans with the full participation of the victim. Victims should be informed of the range of services and support options available, and have the right to decline interim care and protection assistance. This should, at minimum, include the establishment of a referral system to provide for:
  - a) Gender and age appropriate safe accommodation that provides a secure and supportive protection environment;
  - b) Medical care;
  - c) Psycho-social support; and
  - d) Access to legal advice and assistance
- 5) Establishment of a designated coordinating body, referral networks, multi-skilled teams and the like, and a clearly defined division of roles, responsibilities, and cooperation mechanisms among the different agencies and organizations providing support to victims of trafficking.
- 6) Development of strict Victim Protection Policies and Procedures and related minimum standards and monitoring mechanisms for all care providers to ensure that they meet the basic and specialized needs of victims.
- 7) Development of specialized interim care and protection services that recognize the special needs of child victims and that link support to the child with appropriate support to the family.

#### **IV. Assessment and Best Interest Determination of (Re)Integration**

Individual countries are encouraged to promote the following:

- 1) Development of national level policies and procedures that ensure reintegration solutions are individually assessed on the basis of the best interests of the victim of trafficking.

- 2) Designation of case manager or case management group in the destination country to undertake the assessment, make recommendations for best interest determinations, and coordinate relevant support required.
- 3) Designation of a focal ministry/department to coordinate between country/place of origin and destination in sharing relevant information relating to nationality verification, family assessment and victim assessment.
- 4) Development of standardized case forms and family assessment procedures at the national level that contribute to a sub-regional standard for information sharing and assessment with respect to determining the feasibility of family-based reintegration solutions. This includes:
  - a) Assigning appropriately trained personnel to conduct assessments, using standardized forms, in a language understood by the victim;
  - b) Applying child-sensitive procedures in conducting assessment interviews with children;
  - c) Establishing bilateral coordination channels between countries of destination and origin for expeditious nationality/identity verification;
  - d) Conducting comprehensive risk and security assessments to verify if family reunification is in the best interests of the child.
- 5) Development of policies and guidance on the sharing of information on trafficking victims, bearing in mind that while information exchange between relevant agencies is essential to determine best interest solutions, the victim's right to privacy should be respected and the victim not put at risk.
- 6) Development of policies and guidance on the determination of an appropriate "best interest" solution for reintegration of victims that involves the full participation of the victim, as well as coordination, collaboration and joint planning of relevant governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental agencies of both countries ensuring that:
  - a) Durable solutions are reached based on adequate information on identity confirmation, risk/security assessment and family tracing/assessment.
  - b) In absence of appropriate care-givers/guardians, a child victim is not be returned until suitable arrangements for care is made in place of origin;
  - c) If the best interest of the victim is to remain in destination country, consideration should be given to the provision of special stay permits/visas that facilitate legal (temporary) residency.
  - d) Alternatives to family reunification are provided for children and other vulnerable victims when return to immediate family is not recommended (e.g. foster homes, safe houses, extended family/relatives).
  - e) Institutionalization should be used as a measure of last resort.
  - f) In case there are serious concerns related to health care access in the place of origin, provisions for such care is made in the destination country – in the best interest of the victim.

- 7) Establishment of a bilateral process by the appropriate authorities in the country of destination and probable country of origin, and the victim to arrive at a best interest solution for individuals where nationality is suspected, but can't be verified, so as to avoid statelessness.
- 8) Strengthening of criminal and civil procedures against traffickers to ensure that victims are provided full information on legal proceedings (including time frame, process, consequence, right not to participate, etc.), necessary psycho-social and technical advice and are not forced to testify, provide information on traffickers, or participate in the legal proceedings.

#### **IV. Return and Reception**

*Individual countries are encouraged to promote the following:*

- 1) Designation of an appropriate agency to serve as a focal point for arranging and coordinating return travel of victims of trafficking with destination/origin countries.
- 2) Expeditious return of victims of trafficking when all assurances of protection have been met; unless rapid return is not in the victim's best interest due to medical or psycho-social, or other needs.
- 3) Development of appropriate bilateral and national operating procedures to ensure timely, safe and victim-sensitive repatriation of victims of trafficking. Such procedures should include provisions for:
  - a) Agreed mechanisms for communication between the sending and receiving countries, in advance of return travel, about the place, time, date and number of returnees;
  - b) Victim safety and protection throughout the transit process through, where necessary, provision of social worker and other appropriately trained escorts. Adult victims may choose to decline transit support, however children should be accompanied throughout the return process.
  - c) Ensuring the privacy and dignity of victims throughout the transfer and handover process, including reduced formality in the handover process and restrictions on the presence of the media.
  - d) Preparation of an individual case file including all relevant personal information of each victim, services provided during interim care and details regarding their trafficking situation, for handover to the designated receiving authorities in the country of origin.

- 4) Development of national-level policies, procedures and minimum standards for gender and age appropriate temporary transit accommodation and services in the country of origin that ensure:
  - a) Victims have a choice whether to return directly to their home community, to receive transit support, or to integrate into another community in their country of origin;
  - b) Victims who cannot return home immediately have access to transit accommodation. Any stay in transit accommodation shall be voluntary.
  
- 5) Introduction of mechanisms to identify and provide follow-up support to victims who return by themselves without having been identified as victims of trafficking in the destination country.

## **V. Reintegration**

*Individual countries are encouraged to promote the following:*

- 1) Reintegration support services that aim to restore a person's sense of self worth, prevent re-trafficking, and contribute to safe and dignified inclusion into society.
  
- 2) Reintegration plans for returnees that address individual needs identified with the participation of the returnee, by conducting gender, age and culturally sensitive assessments.
  
- 3) Protection of returned victims of trafficking and their families, as well as service providers, from threats and reprisals from their traffickers or others, by means of regular security assessments by law enforcement officials, service providers, local leaders and the community.
  
- 4) Mechanisms to ensure that returning victims of trafficking have access to and are provided legal advice and support, that legal cases are pursued in both destination and origin countries even after they have returned to their home communities, and that victims are able to pursue legal claims for compensation and restitution.

- 5) Equal access to support services (and right to refuse such services) for any returnee identified as being a victim of trafficking whether or not they have returned through established formal return mechanisms.
- 6) Provision of ongoing reintegration services to achieve sustainable integration, taking into account the severity of the harm suffered, the age of the person, and other relevant factors.
- 7) Development of national and bilateral procedures to ensure the secure and confidential handling of case information in the reintegration process, on an “as needed” basis.
- 8) Appropriate measures are taken to provide, to the extent possible, ongoing reintegration support for victims of trafficking, including access to psychosocial recovery and mental healthcare support, formal or non-formal education and services, and economic empowerment services, with due respect given to confidentiality and the principle of informed consent of victims.
- 9) Minimum time frames and standards for regular monitoring and follow up visits are established recognizing that some cases may require longer monitoring and follow up, and that “reintegration” is seen as an ongoing process.
- 10) Development of specialized reintegration support services for child victims, particularly those who cannot, in their best interest, return to their families. Adequate care arrangements should be made that favour family and community-based arrangements rather than residential/institutional care.
- 11) Victims are provided information about safe and legal migration through reintegration programmes in the country of origin.

**Annex II: D2 Regional Policy on Protection and Assistance to Victims of Trafficking in Persons in West Africa**

**ECOWAS COMMISSION**



**COMMISSION DE LA  
CEDEAO**

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**REGIONAL POLICY ON PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF  
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN WEST AFRICA.**

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**ACCRA, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009**

ECOWAS Commission

April 2009

## 1.0 Introduction

Trafficking in persons is a problem that impinges on human rights insofar as it violates the dignity and integrity of individuals, their freedom of movement and, even in certain cases, their right to life.

Article 3 of the Protocol supplementary to the United Nations Convention on the fight against organized crime which is aimed at preventing, suppressing and punishing trafficking in persons, especially women and children (2000), defines trafficking in persons as follows:

*« .....the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of person, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. »*

In West Africa, trafficking is mainly rooted in rampant poverty. Traffickers take advantage of the high demand for migrant workers in many local industries inclusive of mining, agriculture, fishing, restaurant, bars, massage parlors, commercial sex activities, petty trade, and a range of activities in the so-called informal sector.-

Violence against individuals or communities, natural disasters, armed conflicts, social conflicts that fuel forced migration and increase vulnerability of children, and young girls and women are contributing factors to trafficking. The growing feminization of migration increases trafficking risks.

The magnitude of the phenomenon and its consequences in West Africa are considerable and call for actions by the governments and civil society. In 2006 for instance, the certified number of victims declared by the judicial systems of nine ECOWAS countries was 2012, according to UNODC. This figure could be very far from the reality owing to the clandestine nature of the phenomenon, as well as the inadequacy of the necessary resources of the national

structures responsible for trafficking issues. Nonetheless, the measures taken by the Member States to identify the victims and appraise the level of trafficking in persons in their respective countries demonstrate their will to tackle this scourge, especially the risks and consequences they entail for victims and society at large.

As far as individuals are concerned, victims of trafficking in persons undergo a violation of their human rights and all sorts of abuse. They also suffer from loss of self esteem, physical harm including assaults and rape, and are exposed to diseases, especially STI and HIV/AIDS, fear, lasting emotional trauma, and death. Victims also suffer from social exclusion and subsequently resort to crime as a result of this ostracization.

As far as the society is concerned, the risks and consequences are translated, among other things, by the spread and diversification of organized crime, for groups of traffickers become involved in other types of organized crime with the proceeds from the trafficking in persons (trafficking in weapons and drugs); and economic destabilization as a result of money laundering. Coupled with these are demographic de-stabilization, human capital erosion, growth of public sector corruption, and increased public sector costs mainly due to higher health expenditure as a result of an eventual spread of HIV/AIDS.

At regional and inter-regional levels, trafficking in persons constitutes a major concern which has, among other things, led to:

- the adoption by the Authority of Heads of State and Government, in 2001, of an ECOWAS Plan of Action to combat human trafficking;
- the adoption, in 2006, of an ECOWAS/CEEAC Plan of Action against human trafficking; and
- the signature, in 2006, of a multilateral cooperation agreement to combat trafficking in persons, particularly in women and children in West and Central Africa.

As regards institutional and technical provisions, the ECOWAS Commission set up, in 2005, a unit to combat trafficking. Training courses were organized for national groups and an evaluation of national legal frameworks was carried out in 2006, which contributed to development capacity building and Plans of Action.

Specifically, in the framework of the fight against trafficking in persons, it is fundamental for victims to be identified and assisted with a view to rehabilitating them by restoring their dignity and reintegrating them socially and economically.

The cross-border and multi-faceted nature of trafficking, as well as its international spill-over, requires the establishment of a coherent and concerted reference framework within ECOWAS to collectively undertake the struggle against this degrading and criminal scourge.

The regional policy for the protection of, and assistance to, victims of trafficking in persons in West Africa prepared by ECOWAS provides a response to this concern. It is the overarching instrument that supplements the existing provisions and incorporates them with a view to safeguarding the efficiency and efficacy of the efforts being made by the various stakeholders.

## 1.1 PREAMBLE:

The Governments of member States of the Economic Community of West African States

**Recalling** the ties of solidarity and cooperation between them;

**Deeply concerned** with the increasing scope of the phenomenon of trafficking in persons, especially women and children within the region;

**Considering** their common commitment to promote and protect human rights in general and to grant to children in particular, all the necessary attention in order to ensure their integral and harmonious blooming;

**Inspired** by the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children to establish mutual co-operation at the international level to jointly fight the menace of human trafficking;

**Determined** to mobilize necessary efforts and resources to punish all those engaged in human trafficking especially in women and children by prosecuting their crimes wherever they occur;

**Conscious** of the fundamental principle of the best interests of the child and the commitment to promoting and protecting human rights and, in particular, the general well-being of a child with a view to ensuring their total and harmonious self-realization;

**Reaffirming** their commitment to the international, regional and legal instruments listed below:

- The ILO convention No. 29 concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, 1930;
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948;
- The UN supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, 1956;

- The ILO Convention No. 105 on the Abolition of Forced Labour, 1957;
- The Convention No. 138 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment, 1973;
- The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979;
- The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, 1981;
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989
- Optional Protocol to the Convention of the Rights of the Child on Relating to the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography, 2000;
- The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1990;
- The ECOWAS Convention A/P1/7/92 on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters adopted in Dakar in 1992;
- The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Cooperation in the field of International Adoption, 1993;
- The Treaty of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), revised in 1993 and the Protocol Relating to Free Movement of Goods and Persons;
- The ECOWAS Convention A/P1/8/94 on Extradition adopted in Abuja, 1994;

- The Convention No. 182 of the International Labour Organization (ILO) on the Worst Forms of Child Labor and Immediate Action to Eliminate them, 1999;
- The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Supplementary Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish trafficking in persons, especially Women and Children, 2000;
- The Constitutive Act of the African Union, 2000;
- The Cooperation Agreement on Criminal Police between the Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), 2003;
- The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the rights of Women in Africa, called Maputo Protocol, 2003;
- The Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to combat child trafficking in West Africa, 2005.

**Drawing on** existing Agreements to combat trafficking in persons in the regions;

**Further recalling** the ECOWAS Protocol on the Mechanism Relating to Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution, Peacekeeping and Security of 10 December 1999 and its provisions on the control of trans border crimes;

**Considering** our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

**Considering** the commitment of the ECOWAS Heads of States through the adoption of the ECOWAS Initial Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons in 2001 in Dakar; and adoption by Ministers of the ECOWAS/ ECCAS Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children in 2006 in Abuja and the Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons in West and Central Africa in 2006 in Abuja;

**Recalling** the Declaration and Plan of Action deriving from the United Nations General Assembly Extraordinary Session devoted to children held in May 2002;

**Noting** with satisfaction the initiatives taken by the agencies of the United Nations System, international organizations, bilateral cooperation, international and national non-governmental cooperation as well as organizations of the civil society and other partners, regarding trafficking in persons in West Africa;

**Recognizing** that child victims of trafficking need special protection measures for their development, well-being and self-realization;

**Knowing** that the combat against trafficking in persons, especially women and children is a priority of the authorities of the West African States, which calls for concerted and urgent action;

**Noting** that the actions require, inter alia, implementation of prevention of trafficking in persons as well as programmes for the reintegration of victims;

### **Agree to give to ourselves the following Policy**

#### 1.2 VISION

This Policy seeks to establish and maintain a supportive and friendly environment where victims of human trafficking and exploitative/ hazardous child labor have equitable access to protection and assistance in West Africa.

#### 1.3 MISSION STATEMENT

Commitment to restoration of the victims of human trafficking and exploitative/ hazardous child labor to the fullest possible state of physical, psychological, social, vocational and economic wellbeing through sustainable assistance programmes.

#### 1.4 GOAL

To ensure that victims of human trafficking and exploitative/ hazardous child labor are assisted to become functional members of the society.

## 1.5 SCOPE

This Policy adopts a holistic approach in protecting trafficked persons through assistance that provides appropriate and relevant services that will empower them for effective integration into their various communities. The components of the scope include: reception, identification, sheltering, health, counseling, family tracing, return/ repatriation, integration, empowerment, follow-up, after care and disengagement.

## 1.6 DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

### ***a. Trafficking in Persons:***

Trafficking in persons refers to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at the minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.”

Trafficking could be for the following purposes:

- (i) Exploitative labour
- (ii) Sexual exploitation
- (iii) Sexual abuse
- (iv) Slavery

- (v) Organ harvest/sale
- (vi) Pornography
- (vii) Marriage/forced or early marriage
- (viii) Baby harvest/sale
- (ix) Begging
- (x) Sale of Drugs
- (xi) Armed conflicts; and other related matters
- (xii) Sex tourism

***b. Target groups:***

The target groups for the purpose of this policy are **trafficked persons**, and **victims of exploitative/hazardous child labor** and **other persons at risk** (children, women and youths) and institutions and persons responsible for implementation of the policy.

***c. Victim:***

A victim is a trafficked person (TP) and includes a person to whom all or any of the following activities has been applied: recruited, transported, transferred, harbored or received and to whom any of the aforementioned means have been applied, with the intent that he or she be exploited, even when actual exploitation is yet to take place.

**d.** A child victim of trafficking is any child to whom all or any of the acts of recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt have been applied , with the intent of exploitation (even where actual exploitation is yet to take place); the means do not have to be present in the case of a child.

**e. *Trafficker*:** A person or an entity that commits, aids, abets or acquiesces to an act of trafficking in persons

## **2.0 POLICY ISSUES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

### **2.1 RECEPTION**

Reception is referred to as the warm and friendly welcoming and acceptance of trafficked persons by trained personnel.

Oftentimes, trafficked persons have suffered severe trauma of a physical, sexual or psychological nature. How a victim is treated at the point of first meeting with care providers is crucial in creating an atmosphere of trust and security for the trafficked person. Proper reception facilities that provide privacy, and are non threatening should be provided.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

- (i) To establish a friendly and conducive environment that will create a trusting relationship between trafficked persons and care providers including social workers, law enforcement officers and other stakeholders.
- (ii) To uphold the fundamental rights of trafficked persons.
- (iii) To ensure victims are kept in reception centres for no longer than is necessary

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Provide adequate shelters to examine, identify and receive victims of trafficking in persons.
- (ii) Provision of a warm, protective and supportive environment on arrival/reception to calm and reassure Trafficked Persons.
- (iii) Provision of adequate reception centres for the identification and reception of trafficked persons as shall be prescribed and approved by Member States
- (iv) Setting and enforcing standards to ensure the fundamental human rights of trafficked persons.
- (v) Ensuring the presence of care providers and interpreters at reception.
- (vi) Production and provision of information materials about the rights, obligations and welfare of trafficked persons at every reception centre
- (vii) Ensuring the initial screening of trafficked persons within a period of 72 hours on arrival at the reception centres.
- (viii) Provision of immigration personnel at the points of reception to process deportees and identify trafficked persons without moving them to Immigration and Police cells.
- (ix) Designing a standard interview protocol to be used at reception.

## 2.2 IDENTIFICATION

The criminal and complex nature of the offence of TIP is bound up in secrecy, deceit and is clandestine. Resultantly, a good number of personnel who are likely to be the first to come into contact with victims are unable to recognize and distinguish a victim from, say for example, a smuggled migrant. There is the need for objective criteria that qualify persons in transit or at reception as victims. Thus there is need to equip operational officers with background information that will enable them to identify victims with ease.

### **Check list for identifying victims:**

The following criteria and indicators are provided as examples and should be applied together.

- (i) The person is a minor;
- (ii) Upon questioning the suspicion of recruitment by deceit, coercion, fraud or force appears;
- (iii) The person was sold
- (iv) The individual had no knowledge that the job might include any activity not subjected to his/her free volition including sexual services;
- (v) The person was kept by debt bondage;
- (vi) The documents (passports, ID, other travel documents) of the victim of trafficking were retained/confiscated by the traffickers;
- (vii) The person's freedom of movement was either partially or totally denied;
- (viii) The trafficked persons/ or his/her family was subjected to violence or threats; or the person has suffered abuse of a physical, mental or sexual nature;
- (ix) The intermediaries/traffickers have obtained economic or other profit through deception, coercion and/or other forms of exploitation under conditions that violate the fundamental human rights of the potential victim;
- (x) The trafficked person was proposed a different type of job when she/he applied and was recruited from the one in which she/he was actually engaged by force;

### **General Indicators**

- ▶ Possible indicators: child travels with an adult who is not biological parent, does not know the exact destination.
- ▶ Cumulative judgement of available indicators: age, gender, nationality, documentation, evidence of abuse
- ▶ Age assessment: where age of possible victim is uncertain and it appears the victim might be a child, the person should be

treated as a child until his/her age is verified

- ▶ Looks of that individual, child being alone, child is not going to school, child is abused, child is forced to work.
- ▶ Signs from traffickers, people who travel together, but do not communicate.
- ▶ Woman does not mix with neighbours, has no contacts, does not look after her kids.
- ▶ Excitement on the side of the child, child finds her/himself in an environment that s/he is not used to.
- ▶ Person too well dressed (compared to his/her social background).
- ▶ Borders: one person goes, looks for reaction of officials, then others follow.
- ▶ Odd working hours for children.
- ▶ Begging of handicapped people.
- ▶ Circumstances such as where there are several persons travelling but only have one piece of luggage.
- ▶ The person possesses travel documents: passport with residence permit but does not know anything about the destination.
- ▶ An adult who never leaves a house unaccompanied.

#### OBJECTIVES

- (i) To identify Victims
- (ii) To rescue the trafficked persons
- (ii) To obtain information needed for rehabilitation of the victims
- (iii) To counsel the victims
- (iv) To provide information that could lead to the extradition and punishment of traffickers.

#### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Provision of guidelines to facilitate the rescue of victims.
- (ii) Documentation of trafficked persons.
- (iii) Provision of counseling services.
- (iii) Provision of information to the victims on TIP.

### 2.3 SHELTERING

The need to give immediate shelter and rest to the traumatized victim is paramount. The shelter offers immediate protection to the victims to regain their self esteem and confidence. It also affords them the opportunity to enhance their capacity to face the challenges of the future.

#### OBJECTIVES

- (i) To provide temporary accommodation for the trafficked persons.
- (ii) To provide an opportunity for obtaining additional information from the victims necessary for further steps in the rehabilitation process.
- (iii) To provide psychosocial and legal services to the trafficked person.
- (iv) To provide recreational facilities
- (vi) To provide clothing and medical services
- (vii) To provide a warm, protective and supportive environment to promote personal development
- (viii) To provide an opportunity for educational attainment

#### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Provision of adequate shelters for trafficked persons for an average period of 6 weeks (the time spent in shelters must be primarily based on the needs of each case and the availability of facilities and resources).
- (ii) Provision of counseling, psychosocial, medical and legal services.
- (iii) Provision of cultural and recreational services and facilities.
- (iv) Provision of security facilities at the shelter.

- (v) Facilitating and fostering adoption processes.
- (vii) Provision of effective referral system for the protection and assistance of trafficked persons.
- (viii) Provision of a library or reading room with relevant material.
- (ix) Provide interpreters where necessary.

## 2.4 **HEALTH**

Victims of Human Trafficking are exposed to various health risks and abuse. This may result in health problems such as sexually transmitted infections (STIs), HIV/AIDS, pelvic inflammatory disease, hepatitis, tuberculosis, skin infections and other communicable diseases; unwanted pregnancy, forced abortion, abortion-related complications, mental and emotional health problems including recurring nightmares, insomnia, suicidal tendencies, alcoholism, drug abuse and addiction.

Victims also face neglect and poor living conditions which often result in anaemia, malnutrition, diarrhoea and parasitic infestations.

Against this background, it is imperative that all victims of trafficking are provided with non-discriminatory, comprehensive and equal access to adequate health-care services.

Provision of health care for TPs is a basic human right that must be promoted and protected in accordance with Article 16 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights. In addition, Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides for the rights to standard of living adequate for the health and well being of individuals and their families, irrespective of gender, age and background. Victims of human trafficking, therefore, have the right to access all health care services irrespective of gender, age or background.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- (i) To ensure equitable access to comprehensive and qualitative health care services for all TPs irrespective of age, gender or other circumstances;
- (ii) To provide standardized screening and treatment of identified health conditions especially malaria and communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, STIs, etc., and referral.
- (iii) To offer comprehensive mental health care services to all TPs, including rehabilitation, referral and follow-up;
- (iv) To provide standardized counselling services, which addresses specific health needs and social problems of TPs and support for future planning and reintegration;
- (v) To provide adequate health information and communication services on reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, STIs, malaria, mental health, etc., to all TPs;
- (vi) To educate law enforcement officers and other stakeholders on the importance of health care services and referrals for victims;
- (vii) To ensure the delivery of health services that meet specific needs of TPs,
- (viii) To uphold the fundamental human rights of TPs, especially mother and child by protecting them from stigmatization and discrimination in accessing health care services;
- (ix) To ensure that TPs have information on existing health services in their communities for follow-up;
- (x) To ensure that all TPs are accommodated in a healthy and conducive environment at all stages of the rehabilitation process;
- (xi) To ensure that all shelters accommodating TPs network with existing health care facilities in order to achieve these objectives.

## **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

- (i) Provide access to standardized and equitable health care services at the shelters for all TPs irrespective of their gender or circumstances;
- (ii) Link shelters with government endorsed health care facilities, providing VCT/HCT, ART, PMTCT, STIs and tuberculosis management, mental health services and other referral services as appropriate;
- (iii) Provide mental health services to all TPs through prompt and functional referral system; including victims with drugs and substance abuse problems
- (iv) Develop standard instruments for counselling services capturing information on socio-cultural background of TPs including planning and reintegration;
- (v) Provide comprehensive health information and communication services on reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, STIs, Malaria, Mental health, etc., to all TPs;
- (vi) Sensitize stakeholders especially law enforcement officers on the importance of health care services to TPs;
- (vii) Provide information to the TPs on their fundamental human rights, especially mother and child so as to protect them from stigmatization and discrimination in accessing health care services;
- (viii) Inform all TPs of their medical status and provide all necessary information and referral for follow-up in their communities;
- (ix) Register shelters with the National Focal Point on Trafficking for appropriate monitoring and coordination;
- (x) Establish shelters that meet basic hygiene and environmental health standards;
- (xi) Train staff to acquire specific skills on protection and assistance for victims of trafficking and in the administration of First Aid/Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) and refer when necessary;
- (xii) Provide shelters with First Aid kits, ART for PEP, vehicles/ambulances for medical emergencies;
- (xiii) Provide for periodic Monitoring and Evaluation of shelters to ensure compliance with aforementioned standards.

### **2.5 COUNSELING**

The aim of counseling is to provide psychosocial advisement to trafficked persons and to establish a warm relationship that accords the victim reassurance that he or she is safe. Also affords the counselor the opportunity to penetrate the psychosocial state of mind of the victim thereby building trust, confidence and re-assurance. It also seeks their cooperation in investigating and prosecuting their traffickers as well as determines the appropriate intervention program for their rehabilitation. This involves working in conjunction with the trafficked persons to establish the circumstances surrounding the incidence of their being trafficked. It affords the counselor opportunity to penetrate the psychological state of mind of the victim thereby building trust, confidence and reassurance. It also seeks

their cooperation in investigating and prosecuting their traffickers as well as determines the appropriate intervention programme for their rehabilitation.

### OBJECTIVES

- (i) To identify and ascertain causal factors responsible for the trafficking of the victim.
- (ii) To formulate appropriate intervention strategies for the protection and assistance of different categories of trafficked persons.
- (iii) To assist in identification and prosecution of traffickers.
- (iv) To reduce the risk of re-trafficking after the completion of the assistance process.
- (v) To rebuild the self-confidence of the victim

### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Conduct a risk assessment on the wisdom of returning the trafficked person to the family and community of origin.
- (ii) Providing information about rehabilitation services to stakeholders.
- (iii) Provision of spiritual and moral counseling.
- (iv) Provision of psychosocial, medical and legal services.
- (v) Provision of training kits and resettlements tools

## 2.6 **FAMILY TRACING**

There is a need for family tracing in order to return and integrate victims into their families and communities as might be appropriate. In addition the families and the communities shall be enlightened and counseled to create a supportive environment for the proper integration of trafficked persons.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- (i) To locate and prepare trafficked persons' family and community for the victims return.
- (ii) To enlighten the family and the community on the dangers of TIP.
- (iii) To facilitate the integration of trafficked persons into their families, communities and the society.

## **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

- (i) Conduct a risk assessment of returning the trafficked person to the family and community of origin.
- (ii) Provision of counseling to the family.
- (iii) Facilitating the provision of psychosocial, medical and legal services to the victims and their families.
- (iv) Provision of security for the family of the trafficked person where necessary.

## **2.7 RETURN/REPATRIATION**

The primary goal in the successful handling of trafficking cases is the establishment of the trafficked person as a fully autonomous individual, an integral part of society and an entity capable of both a sustainable livelihood and positive social contributions. To achieve this eventual return of victims to his/her home or place of origin is often a necessary step. Many victims of human trafficking are continuously rescued in West Africa, hence the need for proper procedures for return/repatriation.

Depending on the circumstances, return can take place within the country (victims of internal trafficking) or between two countries (victims of cross border trafficking-repatriation). Safe and dignified return/repatriation is essential in the integration process.

## OBJECTIVES

- (i) To ensure safe and secure travel of TP from the shelter to their local communities.
- (ii) To ensure safe, secure and dignified return of foreign victims to their own countries.
- (iii) To discourage internal/transnational trafficking in persons.
- (iv) To ensure collaboration with local communities and home countries of victims of human trafficking.

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Ensure that appropriate agencies handle the return/repatriation process.
- (ii) Strengthening the referral system or networking with other countries.
- (iii) Embark on social investigations of the home situation of the victim to ensure effective return/repatriation.
- (iv) Development of memoranda of understanding with other countries and Agencies, NGOs, etc.
- (v) Arrangement for the transfer of victims from safe and secure shelter to similarly receptive and nurturing home environment.
- (vi) Provision of necessary psychological, social, medical, legal, financial, language and translation support to trafficked persons with a view to facilitate integration.
- (vi) Ensure access to alternative protection where Trafficked persons may face persecution upon return to country or community of origin

## **2.8 INTEGRATION**

Integration is paramount in the protection, assistance and rehabilitation of trafficked persons. The primary goal of the integration process is to facilitate reintegration of the victims so that they can function independently. It should be an ongoing process that seeks to develop the prospects of an individual so as to enable the trafficked person live a normal life in the society.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- (i) To assist trafficked persons to achieve socio-economic independence through community-based vocational skills acquisition, education, etc.
- (ii) To reduce the impact of trafficking and associated social stigma on trafficked persons and their families.
- (iii) To provide access to psycho-social and spiritual care to the trafficked persons and their families.
- (iv) To periodically monitor the integration process.

### **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

- (i) Integration to be undertaken as much as is practicable using a community based approach.
- (ii) Collaboration with relevant stakeholders in the process of integration of trafficked persons.
- (iii) Provision of vocational training programmes for trafficked persons and their families where applicable, to ensure income security
- (v) Facilitating placement in formal educational institutions for trafficked persons. Provision of micro-credit financing for the establishment of micro-enterprises through liaison with financial institutions
- (vi) Provision of stipends during period of internship
- (vii) Monitoring of the integration process of trafficked persons

- (viii) Pay advocacy visits to the communities, traditional and religious leaders on TIP.
- (ix) Embark on community sensitization programmes to enlighten the community on dangers of TIP.
- (x) Integrate trafficked persons using the Community Based Vocational Rehabilitation (CBVR) approach
- (xi) Monitoring of the integration process.
- (xii) Collaborate with relevant stakeholders
- (xiii) Provide trafficked persons stipends during the period of re-adaptation

## **2.9 EMPOWERMENT**

Empowerment provides the trafficked victims and their families an opportunity to increase their knowledge and enhance their coping skills that will prevent them from being trafficked, ensure income security and full integration into their communities.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- (I) To instill confidence and dignity in TPs for effective functioning of the mind.
- (ii) To empower trafficked persons to achieve socio-economic independence through vocational skills acquisition, education, etc.
- (iii) Building up of self esteem and assertiveness.
- (v) Ensure proper enlightenment of the victims to avoid being re-trafficked.

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Providing information about rehabilitation services to stakeholders.
- (ii) Provision of formal/informal education for trafficked persons.
- (iii) Enlightenment of victims on their rights, obligations and other relevant information.
- (iv) Provision of vocational training programmes for trafficked persons to ensure income security and self-reliance.
- (v) Exposure to decision making and entrepreneurship skills.
- (vii) Provide micro-credit facilities for the establishment of micro-enterprises through liaison with financial institutions.
- (xi) Provide training kits and resettlement tools.

### **2.10 FOLLOW-UP/AFTER CARE**

There is need for trafficked persons to be physically, socially and psychologically stabilized and sustained economically. Also it is important to assess the impact and efficacy of the integration process in order to evaluate the impact of service delivery.

Once the immediate needs of the victim have been met after return there will be a long term need for follow-to to ensure that the victim remains safe and make progress, obviating any possibility of being re-trafficked.

## OBJECTIVES

- (i) To ensure that rehabilitated persons are fully integrated into their communities.

- (ii) To ensure that the goals of rehabilitation and integration are achieved.
- (iii) To address problems trafficked persons face in the home environment after return.
- (iv) To monitor and evaluate the implementation of the programme.

### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Periodic visits to victim to assess the progress of the integration programme.
- (ii) Identify problems victims face during integration and proffer solutions.
- (iii) Development of indicators as a basis for assessing the success of the integration process.

### **2.11 DISENGAGEMENT**

Beyond establishing indicators for the assessment of whether or not the integration process is progressing, efforts should be geared towards determining whether or not there has been a demonstrated improvement in the victim- physical, socially, psychologically and economically. Disengagement takes place when the indicators confirm the achievement of integration and empowerment.

### OBJECTIVES

- (i) To determine the readiness of trafficked persons for disengagement.
- (ii) To determine the point of disengagement.
- (iii) To ensure that the victims are successfully integrated into their communities.

- (iii) To foster independence and self reliance of victims.
- (iv) To develop appropriate indicators for disengagement

### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Determining the success of the integration plan based on indicators.
- (ii) Preparing the mind of the victims towards eventual disengagement.
- (iii) Develop indicators for assessing the readiness of the victim for eventual disengagement.
- (iv) Assess the readiness of the victims for eventual disengagement.

### **2.12 PREVENTIVE MEASURES**

Poverty, ignorance about trafficking in persons, the greed of traffickers, large family size, low level of education, broken homes and an increasing number of orphans and other vulnerable children (OVC) in the society are some causes of human trafficking in West Africa . The desire to migrate for economic and other reasons is also a very powerful motivator for potential victims, who in pursuing this goal become victims of traffickers. Trafficking can only be effectively dealt with when prevented and as such has linkages with the care and assistance of victims.

### OBJECTIVES

- (i) To address the causes of Trafficking in Persons.
- (ii) To develop collaborations on the subject of trafficking in persons between Member States and relevant non ECOWAS States.
- (iii) To minimize the vulnerability of persons to trafficking in West Africa.

- (iv) To sensitize families on the phenomenon on TIP.

#### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Creation of employment opportunities for people at the grass roots level.
- (ii) Provision of infrastructure facilities at the grass root level.
- (iii) Introduction of social security schemes for vulnerable groups.
- (iv) Ensure access to schooling for all children in West Africa .
- (vi) Sensitization of families at the community levels.
- (vii) Implementation of the appropriate policies and plans on support to Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC's).
- (viii) Member States to domesticate and Implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- (ix) Development of programmes to reduce the vulnerability of families to trafficking in persons.
- (x) Ensure full coverage of birth registration
- (xi) Provision of information on safe migration to intending migrants.

#### **2.13 VICTIMS WITHIN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS AGAINST TRAFFICKING**

The investigation and prosecution of traffickers directly affects a trafficked person. Unless the parties take adequate measures, the safety of the victim will be jeopardized, while the benefits of rehabilitation can be lost during criminal proceedings.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- (i) To ensure that trafficked persons are not forced to testify in criminal proceedings.
- (ii) To ensure that trafficked persons are protected under a special victim protection scheme during criminal proceedings
- (iii) To engender a cordial relationship between victims, counsellors and law enforcement agents.

## **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

- (i) Provision of a reasonable reflection period for victims to decide whether or not to participate in criminal proceedings.
- (ii) Provision of a comprehensive victim/witness protection scheme.
- (iii) Establishment of cordial relations between victims, counsellors and law enforcement agents during criminal proceedings.

### **3.0 RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF VICTIMS**

The United Nations High Commission for Human Rights has provided guidelines and principles that incorporate the rights of victims of TIP's. Victims must be acquainted with these rights and obligations as part of the rehabilitation and integration process.

#### **3.1 RIGHTS OF VICTIMS**

- (i) Trafficked persons shall not be detained, charged or prosecuted for their involvement in unlawful activities to the extent that such involvement is a direct consequence of their situation as trafficked persons .
- (ii) A victim shall not be compelled to stay in a shelter to undergo rehabilitation and integration.
- (iii) A victim shall not be abused in any form while undergoing rehabilitation and integration.
- (iv) Security of the victims shall be ensured while undergoing rehabilitation.
- (v) A victim who volunteers to give evidence against trafficker(s) shall be protected during and after the prosecution.
- (vi) A victims shall be entitled to medical counseling services during the

period of reception , sheltering, rehabilitation and integration.

- (vii) A victim shall be assisted to achieve financial sustenance.
- (viii) A victim shall have the right to legal assistance in respect of civil proceeding.
- (ix) The right to privacy of the victim shall not be infringed upon.
- (x) The integrity of the victim shall not be brought to disrepute.
- (xi) The right to own private property by the victim shall be protected.
- (xii) The right to retrieve all of his/her belongings from the country of deportation shall be facilitated and protected.
- (xiii) A victim shall be protected from any form of maltreatment or degradation at all times.
- (xiv) Adequate information on the rights, privileges and responsibilities of the victim shall be provided on arrival.
- (xv) The health status of a victim should be handled with confidentiality.
- (xvi) Victims are entitled to routine medical check on arrival in the shelter.

### **3.2 RESPONSIBILITIES OF VICTIMS**

- (i) An adult victim that has consented to rehabilitation shall comport himself/herself in a manner that will not jeopardize the objectives of the rehabilitation; in case of a child or mentally disabled adult, their best interests shall be paramount.
- (ii) A victim shall make himself/herself available at all times for the purpose of informal/formal education to achieve the purpose of rehabilitation/integration.
- (iii) A victim shall not act in a manner as to be detrimental to the wellbeing of other victims and his or her care providers.
- (iv) A victim shall subject himself/herself to the rules and regulations, as well as the daily routine of the shelter while in residence.

- (v) A victim who has consented to rehabilitation shall complete the rehabilitation programmes designed for him/her.
- (vi) A victim should disclose relevant information concerning their health to their counselors to enhance the quality of care.

#### OBJECTIVES

- (i) To identify the rights and responsibilities of victims of TIPs in respect of protection and assistance;
- (ii) To acquaint the victims of TIPs of their rights and obligations;
- (iii) To respect the fundamental human rights of victims of TIPs;
- (iv) To encourage healthy interaction amongst TPs and service providers.

#### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Provide a Code of Conduct for Rehabilitation Shelters ;
- (ii) Sensitize TPs on their fundamental human rights to protection and assistance;
- (iii) Assist TPs to meet their responsibilities while undergoing rehabilitation with respect to the program of rehabilitation;
- (iv) Facilitate access to available services.

#### 4.0 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Institutional framework for implementation of this policy shall be the Focal Point of the National Task Force in every Member State with oversight from the ECOWAS Trafficking in Persons Unit.

Also, every National Task Force shall develop a referral system for victims of trafficking in persons which will link all service providers and also integrate the work of institutions involved with care and assistance.

#### 4.1 REFERRAL

The complexity of the crime of trafficking in persons necessitates a coordinated, multi-institutional approach. This is applicable for countries of origin, transit and destination. The goal of referral is to make services available to victims in a timely and effective manner. To achieve this all care providers, including government agencies concerned with rehabilitation, civil society organizations, law enforcement agencies, health care providers and the community at large must work in a properly coordinated fashion

##### OBJECTIVES

- (i) To establish effective national and international referral systems.
- (ii) To identify partners and their roles in the referral system.
- (iii) To offer trafficked victims specialized services that will aid their integration.
- (iv) To facilitate guardianship, fostering and adoption.
- (v) To avoid duplication through mapping of the various responses.
- (vi) To enhance coordination by streamlining intervention strategies for trafficked persons.
- (viii) To monitor the welfare and progress of trafficked persons.

##### IMPLEMENTATION STRATIGIES

- (i) Map relevant stakeholders and their roles in the referral system.
- (ii) Develop Directories of actors and distribute to stakeholders for easy contact and communication

- (vi) Institutionalize and hold coordination meetings on the delivery of care and assistance to victims
- (vii) Through the referral system provide opportunities for guardianship, fostering and adoption to TIP.
- (vi) Enhance coordination by streamlining intervention strategies for trafficked persons.

#### 4.2 INSTITUTIONS/STAKEHOLDERS

The institutions and stakeholders responsible for the protection and assistance of trafficked persons shall include:

- (i) The National Institutional Focal Point for Trafficking in Persons
- (ii) National Task Force on Trafficking in Persons
- (iii) Local Communities
- (iv) The Organized Private Sector
- (v) Civil Society Organizations (CSOs including religious groups)
- (vi) Foreign Governments
- (vii) International Agencies and Donors
- (viii) The Media
- (ix) Individuals

#### 4.3 ROLES

Institutions and stakeholders responsible for the protection and assistance of trafficked persons are expected to contribute in the following ways:

- (a) **Government**
  - Enact legislation.
  - Provide political will

- Review legislation
- Formulate and review policies.
- Make budgetary allocation.
- Provide security and social safety nets.
- Coordinate research, planning, monitoring and evaluation.
- Create an enabling environment and provide infrastructure and other forms of support.
- Create awareness
- Build capacity of practitioners

**(b) Local Community**

- Community policing in collaboration with traditional institutions.
- Improve community development efforts to enhance the quality of life.
- Creating a warm, protective and supportive environment for the rehabilitation of trafficked victims.
- Awareness creation within the community.

**(c) Organized Private Sector**

- Provide funds and sponsorship for programmes.
- Assist government in infrastructure development.
- Provide community development and skills acquisition centres.
- Provide scholarship and employment.

**(d) Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) -NGOs, FBOs, CBOs**

- Advocate for needs of the communities.
- Network in the areas of referrals, care and treatment of trafficked persons, information sharing etc.
- Complement Government efforts
- Encourage spirit of volunteerism among youths.
- Empowerment and capacity building.
- Spiritual care for trafficked persons.
- Mobilization of resources.
- Awareness creation and advocacy on the dangers of TIP.

**(e) Foreign Governments and International Agencies/ Development Partners**

- Provide funding, training, capacity building and infrastructural development.
- Awareness creation and advocacy.
- Information sharing and collaboration.
- Development of bilateral and multilateral agreements and linkages.
- Humane treatment of trafficked persons in transit/ destination countries.

**(f) Individuals**

- Providing funding.
- Spiritual care and counseling.
- Volunteering.
- Information sharing and awareness creation.

- Vigilance and reporting suspicious activities to authorities
- Provision of shelters as approved by government

(h) **Media**

- Creation of awareness and sensitization.
- Information sharing and partnership.
- Creation of specialized desks on social issues

## **5.0 RESEARCH, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **5.1 DATA COLLECTION**

The effective planning and implementation of development programmes and projects depend largely on the availability of reliable and valid data. There is therefore the need to conduct research at regular intervals on relevant areas in order to generate up to date data that will make planning more meaningful. This will also enhance the adoption of appropriate intervention strategies.

The gathering of accurate information on trafficking in persons is very vital as it will enable all parties involved in the development and implementation of anti-trafficking strategies to have and maintain a clear understanding of issues. The use of standardized instruments and methodologies make it possible to measure, compare and interpret data across jurisdictions and overtime on the prevalence, nature and effects of TIP.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- (i) To develop appropriate tools/indicators for effective planning monitoring and evaluation

- (ii) To collect statistical information on trafficking.
- (iii) To identify emerging trends and challenges.
- (iv) To enhance counseling and rehabilitation initiatives.
- (v) To facilitate the implementation of the provisions of this policy.

### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Development of data gathering/ survey instruments and appropriate, reliable, valid, qualitative and quantitative indicators.
- (ii) Standardization of the collection of statistical information on trafficking.
- (iii) Conduct specialized periodic and system studies, surveys and research.
- (iv) Collection and collation of disaggregated data from all partners.
- (v) Organize conferences, workshops, seminars and training.
- (vi) Coordination of all research in trafficking in persons.
- (vii) Provision of resource base for research activities.
- (viii) Development of a pool of knowledgeable, skilled and academically qualified personnel.
- (ix) Production and circulation of reports on research, seminars, workshops etc for National and International use.
- (x) Building capacities for sustainability of research projects.

## 5.2 CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PRACTITIONERS

Human resources and institutional capacity building occupies a central position in the effective and efficient integration of trafficked persons and equally important for better service delivery.

#### OBJECTIVES

- (i) To increase the knowledge and enhance the skills of practitioners working in all areas of protection and assistance of trafficked persons.
- (ii) To ensure more efficient/effective service delivery.
- (iii) To ensure overall success in the fight against trafficking in persons.
- (iv) To strengthen the institutional capacity of public/private sector practitioners in the delivery of protection and assistance services.
- (v) To provide information on rehabilitation services to stakeholders.
- (vi) To identify areas of need for human resources and institutional capacity building.

#### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Establish training/capacity building units in the Counseling and Rehabilitation institutions or departments of institutions in the field of TIP for social workers and other relevant persons.
- (ii) Conduct training/ development programmes for relevant operational personnel.
- (iii) Collaborate with International partners for the provision of training/capacity building programmes.
- (iv) Mobilize resources for training/ capacity building activities.

## **6.0 PLAN OF ACTION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY**

The implementation of the policy must be undertaken at three levels; namely the regional, national and local. To This effect, a plan of action for implementation of the policy will be developed by the ECOWAS Commission.

### **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

- (i) Develop a plan of action that priotizes development of standard operating procedures and implementation guideline
- (ii) Collaborate with other bodies , including international partners in effecting capacity building strategies over the timeframe for implementation
- (iii) Develop measures for monitoring and evaluation in line with existing formats for monitoring and evaluation of the ECOWAS Plan of Action on Trafficking in Persons

## **7.0 RESOURCE MOBILIZATION**

To effectively address the ills of human trafficking through rehabilitation/ integration of trafficked persons, it is necessary that adequate human, financial and material/ technical resources be committed to achieving the desired goal. Consequently, practitioners and stakeholders alike must identify, explore and pool available resources to actualize effective service delivery.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- (i) To find programmes aimed at the protection and assistance of trafficked persons.
- (iii) To pool national and international resources for the effective implementation of the protection and assistance programmes of trafficked persons.
- (iv) To gain the financial and moral support of all sectors of the economy.

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- (i) Budgetary allocation.
- (ii) Collaboration with financial institutions.
- (iii) Collaboration with development partners.
- (iv) Collaboration with Civil Society Organizations.
- (v) Solicitation of funds from the private sector and individuals in the society.
- (vi) Collaboration with National and local authorities
- (vii) Establishment of Victims Assistance Fund.
- (viii) Conducting and coordinating fund raising activities.
- (ix) Collaboration with agencies involved in employment generation, poverty alleviation, and care of trafficked persons.
- (x) Capacity building, technical assistance and training.

## **8.0 COORDINATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION**

Its is pertinent that continuous coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the entire Protection and Assistance process be undertaken to ensure the success and sustainability of the whole programme.

### OBJECTIVES

- (i) To co-ordinate protection and assistance programmes;
- (ii) To monitor the implementation of the policy;

- (iii) To gather data for evaluating the effectiveness of the protection and assistance programmes;
- (iv) To identify challenges in the implementation of assistance and protection for TPs.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES**

- (i) Develop indicators for monitoring and evaluation;
- (ii) Conduct baseline surveys and design parameters for assessment of programmes;
- (iii) Evaluate the relevance of programmes to the target beneficiaries;
- (iv) Monitor programmes and services to assess the impact of intervention on the target groups;
- (v) Build capacity for monitoring and evaluation;
- (vi) Review policy, planning and implementation programmes to address identified challenges.

### **9.0 POLICY REVIEW**

The phenomenon of trafficking in persons is dynamic and changes overtime. It is necessary to infuse the changes required for policy update so that it remains a valid and useful guide for actions relevant and adaptable to contemporary situations.

The ECOWAS Commission shall have the responsibility for Policy review and will, in performing this function, have recourse to National Task Forces of Member States.

For an effective review of this policy, consideration should be given to networking, research, best practices from all national, regional and international stakeholders.