Counter-Trafficking

Quick facts

7,193
Number of victims of trafficking assisted by IOM in Indonesia from 2005 to 2014

82%
Percentage of assisted victims trafficked out of Indonesia from 2005 to 2014

82%
Percentage of female victims (including 16% girls) assisted by IOM from 2005 to 2014

85%
Percentage of victims trafficked by recruitment agencies from 2005-2014

The UN Trafficking Protocol, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, defines trafficking in persons (TIP) as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring 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”.

Indonesia is a key source of cross-border and internal TIP, mostly for labour or sexual exploitation. A majority of cross-border victims are women migrants being trafficked through labour recruitment channels. Trafficking into the country is also an issue, with victims originating from other ASEAN countries or as far as South America to work in the sex or fishing industries.

IOM’s Approach

Guided by the principles of the UN Trafficking Protocol, IOM works to fight TIP worldwide, including in Indonesia. IOM Indonesia’s counter-trafficking programme is in line with IOM’s “4 Ps” approach, namely:

Partnership

At the national level, Indonesia has shown strong commitments to combat TIP, as reflected by its Anti-Trafficking Law 21/2007, its National Plans of Action and the set-up of a National Anti-Trafficking Task Force coordinated by the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection (KPP-PA). At sub-national level however, progress has been more limited, creating an institutional gap characterised by weak policy response and dysfunctional inter-service partnership and coordination. In this light, IOM is supporting selected districts in the provinces of West Java and Riau Islands to set-up their own inter-departmental Anti-Trafficking Task Forces and develop multi-annual Plans of action (PoAs) and budget. Only with such a structure and policy framework in place, will all relevant government services be able to better coordinate among themselves and with external partners to prevent TIP and protect TIP victims.

Prevention of trafficking

In Indonesia, information on labour migration is hardly available at the grassroots level and many prospective migrant workers are uninformed or misinformed of the recruitment process. This lack of information leaves many Indonesian migrant workers vulnerable to recruitment malpractices and labour exploitation. To address the particular issue of labour trafficking, IOM Indonesia conducts various awareness-raising initiatives to promote a culture of safe migration in key migrant-source provinces such as West Java, West Nusa Tenggara or East Java. IOM’s awareness-raising activities are taking an up-
stream prevention approach aiming at providing communities with timely and accurate information on labour migration and its risks. For this purpose, IOM Indonesia partners with the KPP-PA, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration, the National Board for the Placement and Protection of Indonesian Overseas Workers (BNP2TKI), the Indonesian Police, local provincial and district governments and community-based organizations to develop and disseminate information and education materials on safe migration, including Safe Migration pocket books; Safe Migration comic books and Counter-Trafficking comic books.

Protection of victims
The level of violence and abuse linked to TIP exposes victims to a range of serious physical and traumatic psychological pain. Such experience has dire consequences on victims’ ability to cope anew with social norms and resume a stable social and economic life. Often subject to stigmatization within their own social circles, many victims remain vulnerable, with the risk of being further abused and/or re-trafficked.

The protection of trafficked persons lies at the core of IOM’s counter-trafficking intervention world-wide. In Indonesia, IOM operates since 2005 a Victim Assistance Fund under which it provides, in partnership with government and non-government services providers as well as private sector partners, a range of return, recovery and reintegration assistance to TIP victims. As of 2014, IOM Indonesia assisted more than 7,000 victims, of which detailed data are kept on their trafficking and medical profiles. IOM Indonesia also provides technical assistance and regular trainings to capacitate both state and non-state partners in adequately identifying and assisting victims following a gender-sensitive, child-sensitive and human rights-based approach.

Prosecution of trafficking crimes
Indonesia’s Anti-Trafficking Law 21/2007 provides a comprehensive framework defining TIP in line with the UN Trafficking Protocol, criminalizing the offence of TIP within, into or outside Indonesia; while formalising state’s obligations to protect victims whether Indonesian or foreign victims. However the level of prosecution against trafficking crimes remains low. To enhance Indonesia’s criminal justice response to TIP, IOM provides both at national and sub-national levels, regular law enforcement capacity building support, using a Handbook first developed in 2005 on Law Enforcement and the Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Handling Trafficking in Persons Cases. Since 2005, more than 5,000 law enforcement agents (police officers, prosecutors and judges) were trained across the country. Complementary to law enforcement capacity-building, IOM also works to improve victims’ access to justice by training legal aid NGOs, the Agency for the Protection of Witnesses and Victims (LPSK) and member-lawyers of the Indonesian Lawyers Association (PERADI) on the realities of TIP and the applicable legislation to prosecute acts of TIP and related crimes. As a result of such a partnership, the trafficker of some of the victims assisted by IOM were successfully convicted with jail sentence and/or fine.

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