

Project Brief

Development of a comprehensive anti-trafficking response in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia



International Labour Organization



International Centre for Migration Policy Development



With funding by the EU



exchange mechanism for governments and organisations in the wider European region.

ICMPD advises on measures against irregular migration and human trafficking as well as on policies regarding border management, visa, return, readmission, and asylum. ICMPD will contribute in expertise with regards to the design and implementation of National Action Plans, training of law enforcement personnel and data gathering. The website www.antitrafficking.net is maintained by ICMPD and serves as a platform for the exchange of information, experiences and best practices between key actors in the field of anti-trafficking.

The Ministries of Labour and social partners in all three project countries will be actively involved in the labour market based interventions, including awareness raising through the public employment service, vocational training, labour inspection and specific rehabilitation measures for victims. The ILO will also work closely with other national agencies responsible for the eradication of human trafficking, in particular Ministry of Interior, General Prosecutor's Office, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Activities in all project countries will be closely coordinated with other relevant organisations, especially IOM and UNDP.

Key ILO publications

- *ILO: A Global Alliance against Forced Labour, Geneva, 2005*
- *ILO: Human Trafficking and Forced Labour Exploitation: Guidance for Legislation and Law Enforcement, Geneva, 2005*
- *ILO: Trafficking for Forced Labour: How to Monitor the Recruitment of Migrant Workers, Training manual, Geneva, 2006*

Key ICMPD publications

- *ICMPD: Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of a Comprehensive National Anti-Trafficking Response, 2006 (available in English and Russian)*
- *ICMPD-UNDP: Law Enforcement Manual to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, 2006 (available in English and Russian)*
- *ICMPD: Anti-Trafficking Training Material for Judges and Prosecutors in EU Member States, Accession and Candidate Countries, 2006*
- *ICMPD: Anti-Trafficking Training for Frontline Law Enforcement Officers, 2006*

Key OSCE publications

- *OSCE: National Referral Mechanism Handbook - Joining Efforts to Protect the Rights of Trafficked Persons: A Practical Handbook, Warsaw, 2004*

Contact

ILO Georgia

Zsolt Dudas, Chief Technical Advisor
41 Gogebashvili, 0179 Tbilisi/Georgia
Tel/fax: +99532250442
mobile: +99595317144
e-mail: dudas@ilo.org

ILO Geneva

Beate Andrees
Email: andrees@ilo.org
Tel.: +41-22-799 6452
Fax: +41-22-799 6561

ICMPD Vienna

Elisa Trossero
Email : elisa.trossero@icmpd.org
Tel.: +43-1-504 4677 40
Fax: +43-1-504 4677 75
Brigitte Stevkovski
Email: brigitte.stevkovski@icmpd.org
Tel.: +43-1-504 4677 54
Fax: +43-1-504 4677 75

OSCE Vienna

Liliana Sorrentino
Email: Liliana.Sorrentino@osce.org
Tel: +43-1 514 36 62 56/62 57
Fax: +43-1 514 36 62 99

European Commission

Santa Falasca
Task manager for EIDHR and Thematic Budget Lines
Europe Aid Cooperation Office, Unit A3
Tel: +32 2 29 66 66 5
Fax: +32 2 295 56 65
Email: santa.falasca@ec.europa.eu

Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia – source countries of labour migration and human trafficking

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia have witnessed major flows of labour migrants, leaving through regular and irregular channels to look for employment. Many of them work abroad without valid work permits. Major destination countries for migrants from this region are the Russian Federation, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Greece, Italy, Poland and the Czech Republic.

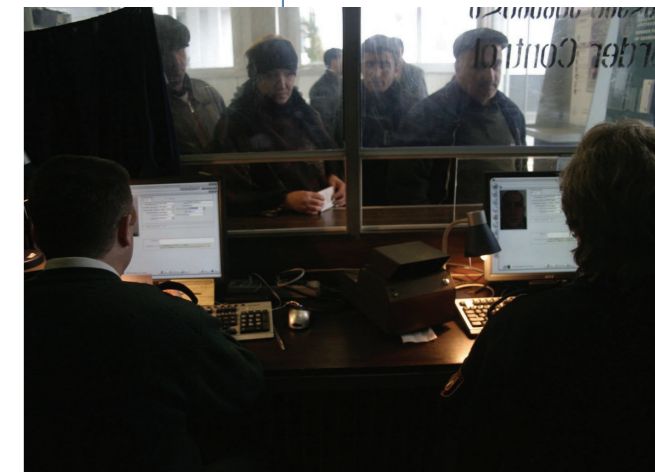
For many families in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, money sent home by migrants working abroad is an indispensable source of income to make ends meet. Higher wages paid in destination countries attract many workers especially in situations of widespread unemployment or underemployment in their home countries and the lack of decent work. In countries of destination, employers' demand for cheap and flexible workers to fill jobs that often do not attract national workers, fuels migration.

The lack of sufficient legal migration channels contributes to the vulnerability of migrant workers, along with their lack of access to trustworthy

and realistic information about working conditions abroad. Smugglers and traffickers exploit the bottleneck by promising lucrative jobs abroad that either do not exist or turn out to be very different in reality. Some unscrupulous

employers reap high profits from the exploitation of irregular migrant workers who are unaware of their rights or are afraid to denounce their exploiters. The distinctions between human trafficking and smuggling, forced labour

and substandard working conditions are often difficult to make in practice. However, several mechanisms have been documented that are used to keep migrant workers in a situation of dependence and exploitation, such as retention of identity documents, threats of deportation if the person is in an irregular status, debt bondage, violence or restriction of the freedom of movement. Reliable estimates on the number of trafficking victims do not exist, however, prosecution of individual cases are under way in each of the three countries.



Photographer:
David Khizanishvili
© OSCE Mission to Georgia

The ILO approach

Since its establishment, the ILO has been concerned with the protection of migrant workers' rights. In 1998, with the adoption of the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and its follow-up, the ILO stressed once again the need to protect migrant workers from violations of their basic labour rights. One fundamental principle is the freedom from all forms of forced labour at the workplace. In 2001, the ILO Governing Body established the Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour (SAP-FL) to spearhead ILO activities against forced labour and trafficking. SAP-FL has undertaken new research on the scope of forced labour in the world today, including human trafficking. It provides technical support to governments and social partners on laws and policies that aim at the elimination of forced labour and trafficking. It has also initiated work on prevention and rehabilitation through micro credit schemes and vocational training in cooperation with public employment services. The ILO stresses the importance of labour market institutions in the prevention and eradication of trafficking as well as the need to build their capacity for more effective action. SAP-FL draws on the expertise of and works closely with other ILO departments, in particular ILO field offices, the International Migration Programme, Employment Sector, International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour, and the Statistical Department.

The International Labour Organization

The ILO was founded in 1919 and became the first specialized agency of the UN in 1946. The ILO formulates international labour standards in the form of Conventions and Recommendations setting minimum standards of basic labour rights: freedom of association, the right to organise, collective bargaining, abolition of forced labour, equality of opportunity and treatment, and other standards regulating conditions across the entire spectrum of work related issues. It provides technical assistance primarily in the fields of migration; employment policy; labour administration; labour law and industrial relations; working conditions; cooperatives; social security; labour statistics and occupational safety and health. It promotes the development of independent employers' and workers' organisations and provides training and advisory services to those organisations. Within the UN system, the ILO has a unique tripartite structure with workers and employers participating as equal partners with governments in the work of its governing organs.

ILO Conventions relevant to the prevention of human trafficking

- Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)
- Migration for Employment Convention (revised), 1949 (No. 97)
- The Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143)
- Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181)
- Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)

The project

The project offers measures against trafficking in human beings in Southern Caucasus by building on existing National Action Plans and enhancing the legal framework in all three countries. It aims at awareness raising among stakeholders and potential victims. The project will involve labour market institutions in preventive action in order to improve the protection and assistance of trafficked persons. Since human trafficking mainly occurs in the context of irregular migration, the project proposes a range of measures that aim at promoting legal migration and fostering international cooperation. It will contribute to increased dialogue among government agencies, workers' and employers' organisations, as well as NGOs. In Armenia and Azerbaijan, the project will be closely anchored in the Decent Work Country Programmes that were recently concluded between national stakeholders and the ILO. The project is funded under the European Commission's Tacis Programme, which provides grant-financed technical assistance to countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. It will be implemented over a period of two years, starting in December 2006. Additional co-funding will be provided by ILO and partners.

Expected results

- Enhanced National Action Plans against human trafficking, migration policies, legislation and administrative regulations
- Increased number of prosecutions of trafficking and related offences, including abusive recruitment practices
- Potential migrants have wider access to migration-related information and legal channels of migration
- Increased number of trafficking victims referred to assistance, including opportunities for compensation and socio-economic reintegration

Project partners

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) has a field presence in all three countries, where it implements various capacity building interventions across its comprehensive mandate. It has an extensive experience in work with various actors in the three South Caucasus countries and engages in policy consultations, legislative expertise and delivery of technical assistance projects. In July 2003 the OSCE Permanent Council adopted an Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human

Beings, which envisages measures against this modern form of slavery at national and international level. It urges OSCE members to take steps to make trafficking a criminal offence, to protect victims and witnesses and to establish special antitrafficking units to fight trafficking in origin and destination. It also recommends better educational and employment opportunities, especially for women and children, to help stop trafficking at its source.

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is an inter-governmental organisation based in Vienna with a mandate to promote comprehensive and sustainable migration policies. It functions as a service



Photographer:
David Khizanishvili
© OSCE Mission to Georgia



Photographer:
David Khizanishvili
© OSCE Mission to Georgia