



R³ (Research Request Response) Report

On

Human Trafficking

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DESCRIPTION.....3

CLIENT..... 3

REPORT TYPE..... 3

REQUEST DESCRIPTION..... 3

OVERVIEW4

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP) DEFINED 4

KEY STATISTICS..... 4

GLOBAL TRENDS 5

CURRENT STATE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.....6

TRAFFICKING SEGMENTS 6

COUNTRY/REGIONAL PROFILES 7

GLOBAL IMPACT 9

RESPONSE AND PREVENTION.....11

GLOBAL PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES 11

PREVENTION 11

NOTES, ADDITIONAL SOURCES, WEBSITES OF INTEREST12

NOTES..... 12

ADDITIONAL SOURCES..... 13

WEBSITES OF INTEREST 13

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DESCRIPTION

Client

Confidential

Report Type

Current Awareness Research Report

Request Description

You have asked us to provide summary of global human trafficking or trafficking in persons (TIP) activities. This is to be used in preparation for participation in an upcoming session at the World Economic Forum (WEF) entitled, *Human Trafficking for Labour Exploitation*. Per your instructions, the following points will be examined:

Overview – definition, key statistics, trends

Current State – trafficking segments, country/regional profiles, global impact

International Response – including initiatives and prevention measures

OVERVIEW

Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Defined

Human trafficking is the modern-day slave trade. Traffickers target those who are in desperate need of money or want to escape poverty, discrimination or war. Many think of TIP only in terms of prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, but it involves many other situations including domestic, agricultural or factory work, soldiering and child labor.

Whether an impoverished family is directly contacted by a trafficker (common in rural settings), an individual is recruited by an employment agency with the promise of a better job, or a child is kidnapped, the common denominators for any trafficking scenario are force, fraud or coercion. The only way for it to be successful is for the trafficker to maintain control over the victim. This is often accomplished through violence, torture, or threats to family and friends.

Consequently, it comes as no surprise that there is no single profile for traffickers. They can manage recruitment agencies, or they can be friends and even family members. They can pretend to be potential husbands. They can also be former trafficking victims who have learned how profitable the trade can be. TIP can also be managed by larger, more defined groups that may or may not have ties to organized crime syndicates.

Although it has significantly increased over the past couple of decades, human slavery in all its forms is not new. Increased globalization of the world economy and advances in communication technology have contributed to increased movement across borders. People have always migrated to find work, but in many cases, national laws make it difficult for workers to migrate legally. Consequently, they choose other means.

Key Statistics

It is impossible to accurately measure the number of individuals who fall victim to this crime. By its very nature, trafficking deals with hidden populations. On national levels, there is simply no data available for many countries because they lack any sort of centralized gathering/reporting system. Regional estimates often rely on aggregated smaller-scale statistics which are inaccurate or incomplete from the beginning. Additionally, because countries define and prosecute trafficking crimes differently, one is often comparing apples and oranges when it comes to global statistics.

Nonetheless, UNESCO¹ has compiled a matrix that provides a comparative look at statistics compiled by various organizations involved with human trafficking. Following is an abbreviated version (agency names provide links to the source documents; [click here](#) to view the complete matrix):

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Agency	Estimate	Target Pop(W ,C ,P)*	Year
UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)	2.5 million	P	2008
UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women)	.5 to 2 million	W, C	2007
FBI	up to 2 million	P	2006
UN	.6 to .8 million	P	2005
UNHCR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)	.7 to 4 million	P	2003
ILO (International Labor Office)	1+ million	C	2005
UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)	1.2 million	C	2007
*W=women C=children P=people			

Global Trends

For the most part, trafficking goes from poorer, less developed countries to industrialized nations or to neighboring areas where the standard of living is higher, albeit marginally in many cases. It is generally believed that South and Southeast Asia are still the main sources for trafficking and that the former Soviet Union is the largest new market for sexual exploitation. Other high trafficking regions include Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. North America, Asia, the Middle East and Western Europe are the main countries of destination. Gangs in China, Mexico, Central America and Japan are also major traffickers, while South American drug cartels and the Russian and Italian mafias interact with local and international networks to provide transportation, forged documentation and logistical contacts.²

In addition to increased globalization, other factors have contributed to the recent surge in TIP activity:

- Organized crime has quickly taken advantage of the freer flow of people across borders.

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- The continued oppression of women in many societies and the fact that they are often viewed as economic burdens make them disposable and easy targets for sexual exploitation. Also, prostitution is legal or tolerated in many countries.
- Hardship and dislocations created by political instability, the wars in the former Yugoslavia and the collapse of communism in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have also contributed to TIP growth in these areas.
- Recent efforts to stem illegal immigration in many countries have blurred the lines between trafficking and immigration issues. Victims are often seen as the violators.

Legally speaking, the laws of most countries are inadequate for controlling and fighting trafficking. Victims are reluctant to testify for fear of reprisals by the traffickers or deportation by the governments. Oftentimes governments are involved in trafficking indirectly through disinterest or directly through participation or accepting bribes.

CURRENT STATE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Trafficking Segments³

As mentioned before, trafficking is not limited to sexual exploitation. It involves a number of different scenarios with varying degrees of severity; however, all forced labor is controlled by unscrupulous employers exploiting vulnerable workers. Immigrants are obvious targets, but individuals are also trafficked in their home countries.

Bonded labor – uses a bond or debt to keep an individual subjugated. Traffickers or employers exploit an initial debt the worker assumes as terms of employment. This is also referred to as “debt bondage”.

Involuntary servitude – involves workers who are coerced into remaining for fear of physical harm to themselves or others or legal reprisals. Migrant workers and low-skilled laborers who move from an impoverished area to one more developed are most often the victims. Many are physically or verbally abused or held against their will.

Involuntary domestic servitude – forces workers, often children, into labor in private homes. Since residences are generally unregulated by public authorities, this type of abuse is difficult to detect.

Forced child labor - is one area in the trafficking arena that is actively being targeted by most nations for eradication.

Child soldiering - involves the unlawful recruitment of children through force, fraud or coercion to be exploited for their labor or to be abused as sex slaves or used as combatants in conflict areas. UNICEF estimates that more than 300,000 children under 18 are currently being exploited in more than 30 armed conflicts worldwide. While the majority of child

soldiers are in their mid-to-late teens, some are as young as 7 or 8 years old. Male and female child soldiers are often sexually abused and are at high risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Servitude on the high seas – lends itself easily to trafficking since the environment makes escape difficult and limits involvement by law enforcement agencies.

Sexual exploitation and prostitution - is the largest subcategory of trans-national trafficking. Where prostitution is tolerated, there is a greater demand for human trafficking victims and nearly always an increase in the number of women and children trafficked into commercial sex slavery. It is estimated that more than two million children are exploited in the global commercial sex trade

Country/Regional Profiles

Sadly, TIP occurs in every country in the world. Each year, the US Department of State publishes its *Trafficking in Persons Report* that provides a status report on the fight against global trafficking. A section of this report ranks countries according to whether they meet minimum standards for prohibiting, punishing, and eradicating human trafficking as defined in the *Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)* and the *Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003*.² Countries are placed in four groups or “tiers” accordingly:

- Tier 1: Countries whose governments fully comply with TVPA’s minimum standards.
- Tier 2: Countries whose governments do not fully comply but are making significant efforts to do so.
- Tier 2 Watch List: The same as Tier 2 with the following stipulations:
 1. The number of victims of severe forms of trafficking is very significant or is significantly increasing
 2. There is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in persons from the previous year
 3. The determination that a country is making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with minimum standards was based on commitments by the country to take additional future steps over the next year.
- Tier 3: Countries whose governments do not fully comply and are making no efforts to do so.

Following are the 2007 rankings: ³

Tier 1			
AUSTRALIA	FINLAND	KOREA, REP. OF	NORWAY
AUSTRIA	FRANCE	LITHUANIA	POLAND
BELGIUM	GEORGIA	LUXEMBOURG	SLOVENIA
CANADA	GERMANY	MALAWI	SPAIN
COLOMBIA	HONG KONG	MOROCCO	SWEDEN
CZECH REPUBLIC	HUNGARY	NETHERLANDS	SWITZERLAND
DENMARK	ITALY	NEW ZEALAND	UNITED KINGDOM

Tier 2			
AFGHANISTAN	ECUADOR	MACEDONIA	SENEGAL
ALBANIA	EL SALVADOR	MADAGASCAR	SERBIA
ANGOLA	ESTONIA	MALI	SIERRA LEONE
AZERBAIJAN	ETHIOPIA	MALTA	SINGAPORE
BANGLADESH	GABON	MAURITIUS	SLOVAK REPUBLIC
BELIZE	GHANA	MONGOLIA	SURINAME
BENIN	GREECE	MONTENEGRO	TAIWAN
BOLIVIA	GUINEA	NEPAL	TAJIKISTAN
BOSNIA/HERZEGOVINA	GUINEA-BISSAU	NICARAGUA	TANZANIA
BRAZIL	INDONESIA	NIGER	THAILAND
BULGARIA	ISRAEL	NIGERIA	TOGO
BURKINA FASO	JAMAICA	PAKISTAN	TURKEY
CAMEROON	JAPAN	PANAMA	UGANDA
CHILE	JORDAN	PARAGUAY	URUGUAY
CONGO (DRC)	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC	PERU	VIETNAM
COSTA RICA	LAOS	PHILIPPINES	YEMEN
COTE D'IVOIRE	LATVIA	PORTUGAL	ZAMBIA
CROATIA	LEBANON	ROMANIA	ZIMBABWE
EAST TIMOR	LIBERIA	RWANDA	

Tier 2 Watch List			
ARGENTINA	CYPRUS	HONDURAS	MOLDOVA
ARMENIA	DJIBOUTI	INDIA	MOZAMBIQUE
BELARUS	DOMINICAN REP.	KAZAKHSTAN	PAPUA NEW GUINEA
BURUNDI	EGYPT	KENYA	RUSSIA
CAMBODIA	FIJI	LIBYA	SOUTH AFRICA
CENTRAL AFRICAN REP.	THE GAMBIA	MACAU	SRI LANKA
CHAD	GUATEMALA	MAURITANIA	UKRAINE
CHINA (PRC)	GUYANA	MEXICO	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

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Tier 3			
ALGERIA	EQUATORIAL GUINEA	NORTH KOREA	SUDAN
BAHRAIN	IRAN	OMAN	SYRIA
BURMA	KUWAIT	QATAR	UZBEKISTAN
CUBA	MALAYSIA	SAUDI ARABIA	VENEZUELA

Countries not included are either not seen as having a significant problem (<100 cases/year) or there is insufficient information

Global Impact

Obviously, trafficking is profoundly damaging to the individual. Most victims already experience poverty, abuse, exploitation or social isolation. Rather than eliminating these issues, trafficking only exacerbates the problems. Further complicating the situation is the fact that TIP has reached such proportions that the global social and political ramifications are profound. Following is a discussion of some of the most critical factors as presented in a background paper at the 2008 Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking: *An Introduction to Human Trafficking: Vulnerability, Impact and Action*.⁴

Migration and Border Control – Destination Countries

Each year, many people migrate legally in hopes of improving their lives. The numbers have grown so in recent years, and tighter restrictions have been placed on legal migrations. As a consequence, more and more are seeking entry illegally. In addition to tightening legal migration, increased border control is another response to human trafficking increases. This is particularly evident in the US, Australia and Western Europe.

Migration and Border Control – Source Countries

The challenges and consequences for those countries exporting labor are different. These nations must manage migration so that it contributes to social and economic stability without endangering its people. Some countries include a range of subsidized benefits, including pre-migration training on social and work conditions abroad. Other source countries may restrict migration among certain population groups, notably women. These restrictions may stem from a country's norms related to the status of women or as a direct response to abuse or exploitation perceived in countries of destination. Poor women job-seekers, in particular from remote rural areas with less access to accurate information on migration procedures, job opportunities, recruitment channels and legitimate jobs are at higher risk of being trafficked in these situations.

Human Rights

As mentioned above, when crime control/prevention measures become focused on illegal entry and stay in destination countries, the victim is often perceived as the criminal. As a

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result, human rights are subject to abuse. This becomes a double-edged sword when one considers that coercion, violence, and exploitation are probably already being used by the traffickers. Human rights violations are taken to a third level when one considers that improved and intensified border security and monitoring make it increasingly difficult for traffickers to be successful. As a consequence, the violence and abuse may escalate.

Victim Status and Return

How nations deal with managing the detection, identification and return of trafficked individuals presents many challenges. Somehow they must reconcile human rights obligations with national security and migration requirements. To that end:

- Several destination countries have adopted measures for the temporary or permanent residence of victims of trafficking.
- Some countries provide protection that entitles the victims to other rights and benefits.
- Other countries grant reflection periods to allow for time in which the victim is referred for services and counseling, without having to make an immediate statement to the police. This enables trafficked persons to receive appropriate support and to make informed decisions.
- In some cases, cooperative bilateral assistance efforts exist between source countries and countries of destination. This should assist in reducing the risks faced by victims.

Hopefully, these programs of early assistance will encourage the victims to bring charges against their traffickers and testify. It can also help with recovery and may lead to reduced TIP by eliminating re-trafficking.

Trafficking Costs

It is extremely difficult to wrap one's mind around the enormity of trafficking costs to society. The following presents these related costs as a "big picture" summary and includes monetary as well as more intangible costs:

- Trafficking prevention and prosecution – includes all costs associated with law enforcement activities (including border security and personnel), court proceedings and legal services, defense costs, witness protection, legal aid, etc. Unfortunately, the confiscation of traffickers profits and assets does begin to cover these costs, and more times than not, public funds must be used.
- Public health – accounts for any expenditures on behalf of the victims and their communities, including emotional suffering and fear. Also included are diseases like HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis which are at epidemic proportions in many source countries.
- Lost revenue and resources – occur at many levels. Trafficking generates no tax revenue and often compounds that loss through money laundering and tax evasion. Fewer people participate in their country's labor market. Also, premature death and

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disabling injuries can result from the violence associated with trafficking, thus affecting future productivity,

- Lost remittances – is the most direct economic impact of trafficking. Formal remittance flows from foreign workers now total over \$232 billion, with developing countries receiving \$160 billion, while informal flows and national or domestic remittances add 50 per cent more. A direct impact of trafficking in persons is to deny a victim those benefits.
- Organized crime profits – from TIP activities were estimated by the ILO (International Labor Organization) to be around \$31.6 billion in 2005. The IMF (International Monetary Fund) estimates that worldwide total organized crime profits come in at over \$1,500 billion, and trafficking revenues are believed to be the third largest segment after drugs and arms.

RESPONSE AND PREVENTION

Global Programs and Initiatives

Following is a listing of the key international initiatives aimed at preventing human trafficking ([click here](#) to view countries' ratification/acceptance status):⁵

- *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.* (This was done in conjunction with the United Nations' Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; it is commonly referred to as The Protocol.)
- *Optional Protocol to the Convention on Right of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.*
- *Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Armed Conflict*
- *ILO (International Labor Organization) Convention 182, Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labor*
- *ILO Convention 29, Forced Labor*
- *ILO Convention 105, Abolition of Forced Labor*

Prevention

The first step in combating TIP is the implementation of the UN Protocol. Further, most experts agree that trafficking will not be eradicated without extensive local international cooperation. UNODC, in its 2006 report *Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns*⁶, suggests the following strategies:

- Establish comprehensive regional and national policies and programs to prevent and combat human trafficking and to protect the victims.
- Implement research, public awareness and media campaigns and social and economic initiatives to prevent and combat trafficking in persons.

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- Undertake measures to alleviate the vulnerability of people and discourage demand that fosters exploitation.
- Provide training to relevant officials in the prevention, prosecution of trafficking in persons and protection of the rights of the victims.

Traffickers must also be prosecuted and face punishment fitting their crimes, but victims are often reluctant to come forward for fear of reprisals. To complicate matters even further, many countries still lack specific TIP legislation. Without this legislation, it is very difficult to prosecute the offenders.

In recent years, human trafficking issues have received increased international scrutiny. A positive consequence is that more resources are being allocated to combat this crime, and more new nations have signed and ratified the UN Protocol recently. Of urgent need, however, is the design and implementation of a process to collect and store information about trafficking patterns and forms of exploitation so that anti-trafficking initiatives will do what they need to do to combat this crime.

NOTES, ADDITIONAL SOURCES, WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Notes

¹”Trafficking Statistics Project: Data Comparison Sheet”. UNESCO Bangkok.
<http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=1963>

²”Trafficking in Persons: The U.S. and International Response,” Miko, Francis T. Congressional Research Service: December 2006 (p.14).
<http://www.humantrafficking.org/uploads/publications/RL30545.pdf>

³”Tier Placements” from the *Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000: Trafficking in Persons Report 2007*. US Department of State: June 2007.
<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/82802.htm>

⁴”The Impact of Trafficking in Persons” Dixon, Judith. *An Introduction to Human Trafficking: Vulnerability, Impact and Action*, background paper presented at the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking: February 2008. (pp 81-100).
http://www.ungift.org/docs/ungift/pdf/vf/backgroundpapers/vf_background_paper.pdf

⁵” Relevant International Conventions” from the *Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000: Trafficking in Persons Report 2007*.US Department of State: June 2007.
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<http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/HT-globalpatterns-en.pdf>

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Additional Sources

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United States Department of State. *Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000: Trafficking in Persons Report 2007*. June 2007. (This is a large document; opens slowly). <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/82902.pdf>

World Revolution.Org. “Human Trafficking.” (accessed May 2008 from

<http://www.worldrevolution.org/guidepage/humantrafficking/overview>

Websites of Interest

Human Trafficking.Org <http://www.humantrafficking.org>

ILO (International Labor Organization) <http://www.ilo.org>

UN.GIFT (United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking)

<http://www.ungift.org/>

UNHCR (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees)

<http://www.unhcr.org/>

UNICEF (United Nations Children’s Fund) <http://www.unicef.org>

UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women) <http://www.unifem.org/>

UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) <http://www.unodc.org/>

Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking (<http://www.ungift.org/ungift/en/vf/index.html>)