STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES IN PREVENTING & COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Importance of a Coordinated and Integrated Approach

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PRESENTATION INCLUDES

1. What is going on (in reality – not just what the media says!)
2. What forms of exploitation should you, at local level, be concerned about?
3. What do you have legal obligations to do?
4. What can local government or local services do with appropriate support?
5. What connections have you made or could you potentially make to help?
1) WHAT DO WE KNOW?

A quote from one city:

“Stakeholders...felt that minimal and inaccurate information on human trafficking was available in [their city], causing a significant barrier to receiving support from the city, the province or the federal government. Respondents noted the conditions for trafficking are created by often intersecting socio-structural factors, including poverty, sexism/gender stereotyping, racism, homophobia and oppression”.
WHAT ARE THE MAIN SOURCES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILD MIGRANTS? (=MSF IN SERBIA)

- Smugglers/traffickers --- 8%
- Agents of the State --------76%
- Most of the 76% involved violence by EU border ‘protection’ agencies (92%): Bulgaria 48% (30 cases), Hungary 27% (17) and Croatia 13% (8)
- Leaving migrants without a livelihood pushes them into precarious work
5 phases to the trafficking process

1. A person is recruited or moves away from home
2. Possible period on the move
3. Recruited & exploited
4. Withdrawal e.g. by escape, agreement or outside intervention
5. Recovery and possible reintegration

2) WHAT SORT OF EXPLOITATION?

PREVENTION STRATEGIES

PROTECTION (identification, to be followed by withdrawal from exploitation, protection and assistance)
Some occupations where trafficking has been found in Europe:

- Restaurant & Hospitality sector (hotels, cleaners, etc)
- Agriculture (seasonal) & forestry
- Construction sites ("social dumping")
- Forced begging (to earn money for a 'controller')
- Illicit/criminal activities, e.g. cannabis in UK / picking pockets / dealing in contraband
- Live-in domestic servants in servitude & commercial cleaning
- Commercial sexual exploitation (adults whose prostitution is not voluntary and ALL children)
3. YOUR LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

- Public procurement
- Child protection services (for migrant as well as local children)
- Some law enforcement? (labour inspectors)
- Health services
- Food safety? (checking restaurants)
- Fire services? including checking safety of commercial premises
- Participating in referral systems?
- Who has to understand how the local economy works, including the informal one?
OBLIGATIONS CONCERNING PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

- State institutions, including local government, have a special duty not to allow violations of human rights (trafficking or slavery-related)
- State as a whole has a duty to “discourage demand” that leads to trafficking
- But Town Halls sub-contract cleaning and other services without checking, exposing themselves to risk of expensive fines
- What to do? MONITOR and don’t turn a blind eye
OBLIGATIONS CONCERNING CHILD PROTECTION

• Duties are not limited to trafficked children, but include acting with due diligence whenever a child is reported to be abused, exploited or neglected, e.g. a child begging in the street.

• But police in some cities are instructed “to turn a blind eye”.

• E.g. for fear of being accused of racism against Roma involved in begging.

• So close liaison is required between different services.
4. WHAT CAN LOCAL SERVICES DO TO IDENTIFY TRAFFICKED PEOPLE?

- Example of fire service testing electric wires and fire threats in a restaurant in the Netherlands (the ‘prawn cracker’ case)
- Front-line services must recognise the “tell-tale” signs (also known as “indicators”)
- But also understand the danger of stereotypes (“all victims are migrants / Roma / women”)
WHAT SORT OF “TELL-TALE” SIGNS (CLUES) DO LOCAL SERVICES NEED TO BE TRAINED TO NOTICE?

• Take care to build on real case information, not inaccurate stereotypes

• Some States have published on ‘indicators’ (FYR Macedonia) Индикатори за идентификација на жртви на трговија со луѓе 2014

• It is vital that services don’t interpret their mandate so narrowly that they ignore warning signs!
COMMON “TELL-TALE” SIGNS

1. Person kept isolated or not allowed out (domestic or other workers, including brothel workers)
2. Extreme dependency (not speaking the local language despite long-term residency)
3. Not in possession of own passport or identity papers
4. No contract
5. Not paid (no bank account of his/her own)
6. Bad living conditions (living in workplace)
7. Wounds resulting from violence
8. Unduly long working hours and/or harsh/hazardous working conditions
9. (School age Children) No access to school/active on streets during school time
WHICH ARE THE SERVICES THAT CAN PLAY A ROLE? — "A lot!"

SERVICE

• Social workers - particularly street outreach workers
• Officials checking or licencing bars, hotels, etc
• Inspection staff, including labour inspectors, health and fire inspectors

TARGET

• Make contact with street children or sex workers (HIV prevention)
• Monitoring who is involved in the sex industry
• Checking workplaces, including fire and food safety
WHICH SERVICES? (2)

**SERVICE**
- Tax inspectors
- Social assistance/protection staff
- Health care workers, including doctors, nurses, midwives, dentists etc.
- School staff
- Local police

**TARGET**
- ‘Al Capone’ type tax investigations
- Informed about who applies for financial assistance
- Noting health & cause of wounds; providing care for reproductive health issues (pregnancy, STIs)
- Monitoring children’s welfare/news about parents
HOW TO BUILD COORDINATION BETWEEN SERVICES?

- Develop ‘multidisciplinary’ teams
- E.g. representatives of different agencies who share intelligence about ‘children at risk’ and make collective decisions
- Such teams can be based on OFFICIAL agencies, but also include representatives from civil society
- Phone helpline operators can function as the hub of a local referral network
- The aim is to build a local referral system – the local version of a National Referral Mechanism (NRM)
WHO ARE THE OTHER LOCAL ACTORS TO COORDINATE WITH?

• Migrant communities (community leaders) and organisations & interpreters
• Librarians and Advice Centre workers
• Trade unions
• Church and other faith-based organisations
• NGOs providing services
• Individuals with relevant information, e.g., Taxi drivers, hotel staff, security guards
5. WHAT USEFUL CONNECTIONS CAN YOU MAKE IN OTHER PLACES?

- Liaise directly with officials in places where migrants come from, e.g. Vienna-Bulgaria & Paris-Oaş (Romania)
- Who can legitimately share intelligence & advice on responses (e.g. bands of child beggars being moved from place to place)?
- E.g. NGOs concerned about children sharing a child’s photo?
- When would it be negligence not to liaise with others? i.e. negligence which could result in you being accused of failing to act with due diligence
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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