KEY TENETS OF OUR APPROACH

The Anti-Trafficking Programme’s approach builds upon the core foundations of ICMPD’s working philosophy; that the complexities of migration can only be addressed by working in partnership with governments, the research community, international organisations and civil society.

Our key tenets are that activities must be human-rights centred and relevant to the national or regional context we are working in. We encourage national ownership of solutions to ensure that the outcomes of our interventions are sustainable.

THE ISSUE OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Human trafficking is a criminal and human rights violation that preys on society’s most vulnerable. It turns aspiration into fear, and freedom into servitude. It feeds the criminal economy, exacerbates corruption and undermines the rule of law. It perpetuates human vulnerability.

To respond, we must therefore not only focus on addressing the criminal element, but also the human rights violations and long-term consequences of trafficking on individuals, by ensuring a victim-centred approach.

OUR APPROACH TO ANTI-TRAFFICKING

ICMPD’s Anti-Trafficking Programme was established in 2002. With over 12 years experience in the anti-trafficking field, ICMPD has developed an approach to anti-trafficking that responds to the changing needs of stakeholders. Our approach avoids simple, once-off interventions and instead emphasises coherent, complementary and concrete activities that support states’ counter-trafficking efforts at a systemic policy level.

ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROGRAMME – THE FACTS

- Established in 2002.
- 14 staff members.
- Over 40 projects implemented in 50 countries.
- 18 research studies and assessments published since 2007.
- Language proficiency within the team: Bosnian-Serbian-Croatian, Bulgarian, Czech, Dutch, English, French, German, Irish, Italian, Macedonian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish.
**POLICY**

Initiatives to support the development and implementation of national anti-trafficking strategies, action plans and mechanisms lie at the heart of the Anti-Trafficking Programme's activities. We work with governments around the world in developing policies and translating them into action, as well as developing transnational referral mechanisms and contributing to national policy debates.

- We support the development of national anti-trafficking strategies and action plans.
- We facilitate the development and support the implementation of transnational referral mechanisms between countries of origin, transit and destination.

**Project Showcase: Transnational Referral Mechanism - Central and South Eastern Europe**

The Anti-Trafficking Programme pioneered the development of transnational referral mechanisms (TRM) through three EU and USAID funded projects supporting European countries between 2006 and 2012. A transnational referral mechanism is a tool for institutionalising international cooperation through:

- Consolidating the process of victim referral, from initial identification through to return and assistance.
- Applying a structured and solution orientated approach between countries of transit, destination and origin.
- Embedding standard operating procedures for transnational cooperation within national level processes through transnational workshops and consultative working groups.
- Ensuring sustainability beyond original project frameworks through post implementation monitoring and evaluation.

The TRM concept has also been applied to support the development of a bilateral referral mechanism between Canada and the Philippines, as well as the creation of Standard Operating Procedures at the national level in Lebanon and Sweden. In addition, the development of a model for an EU Transnational Referral Mechanism was specifically mandated in the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012 – 2016 (2.1:Priority A: Action 1), to take place by 2015.

**CAPACITY**

Policy and institutional tools will remain as mere frameworks if they cannot be translated into concrete actions. Our capacity building activities seek to provide stakeholders with the knowledge, skills and confidence to implement anti-trafficking policies and strategies.

- We conduct multi-agency training sessions for law enforcement officers, labour inspectors, judges, prosecutors, social workers and civil society actors to strengthen harmonious working practices and capacities to identify and prevent trafficking.
- We develop tailored training curricula based on the training requirements of stakeholders.
- We assist in the development of Standard Operating Procedures, guidelines and Training of Trainers programmes to ensure the sustainability of interventions and embed best practice within institutional settings.
- We develop systems for harmonised data collection and information exchange. ICMPD avoids applying blueprint models of data collection and always seeks to provide a solution adapted to the requirements of current systems. In the past we have supported partners in updating or fine-tuning existing data collection systems, as well as developing entirely new systems in response to national needs.
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- Applying a structured and solution orientated approach between countries of transit, destination and origin.
- Embedding standard operating procedures for transnational cooperation within national level processes through transnational workshops and consultative working groups.
- Ensuring sustainability beyond original project frameworks through post implementation monitoring and evaluation.

The TRM concept has also been applied to support the development of a bilateral referral mechanism between Canada and the Philippines, as well as the creation of Standard Operating Procedures at the national level in Lebanon and Sweden. In addition, the development of a model for an EU Transnational Referral Mechanism was specifically mandated in the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of transnational referral mechanisms (TRM) and the training of stakeholders on transnational trafficking in Human Beings 2012 – 2016 (2.1:Priority A: Action 1), to take place by 2015.

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- We facilitate the development and support the implementation of transnational referral mechanisms between countries of origin, transit and destination.

Project Showcase: “Transatlantic Journeys: An exploratory research on human trafficking from Brazil to Italy and Portugal”

The Transatlantic Journeys research identified vulnerable and at-risk groups as well as the relevant transnational trafficking routes from Brazil to EU Member States, especially Italy and Portugal. The research applied an innovative approach through utilising three separate research teams, based respectively in Brazil, Italy and Portugal, allowing for localised expertise to be applied in a transnational context. The findings, generated through desk research and field based interviews, provided tailored recommendations for each partner country.

Our Expertise in the anti-trafficking field has been recognised through results achieved working with countries in different regions of the world facing diverse challenges related to human trafficking. The Anti-Trafficking Programme has implemented over 40 projects, and members of the programme team currently benefit from previous professional experience and close links with external experts from government, international organisations, NGOs and academia. The Anti-Trafficking Programme has published 18 research studies and assessments since 2007, which are further complemented by academic studies produced by ICMPD’s Research Department.

Our Organisation is flexible, dynamic and international. We offer tailor-made solutions with a global reach. ICMPD is a centralised organisation, with headquarters in Vienna, a mission in Brussels, and a number of operational/project offices around the world. This allows for anti-trafficking specialisation at HQ level and close coordination with ICMPD’s other Competence Centres working on related issues, such as labour migration, irregular migration and border management. Since 2002, we have ensured close alignment with European institutions and Member States’ priorities, and have played an active role in supporting the development of European Anti-Trafficking frameworks. We continue to remain alert to global priorities, and our European expertise is increasingly complemented by our long-term partnerships with stakeholders in South American and West African regions, among others.

Our Partnerships are a fundamental component of our success. The Anti-Trafficking Programme benefits from close coordination with the regional migration dialogues that ICMPD supports, such as the Budapest, Prague and Rabat Processes. These provide ready-made platforms for promoting regional approaches to counter-trafficking. ICMPD also serves as the Secretariat for the South East European National Anti-Trafficking Coordinators (NATC) meeting within the Brdo Process. Our partners include:

- United Nations agencies and offices
- European Union institutions
- International organisations and NGOs
- Regional and international dialogues and cooperation frameworks
- Development, immigration, foreign affairs
- National anti-trafficking coordinating bodies and focal points
- Victim service and care providers
- Human rights and child protection organisations
- Academic institutions, think tanks and civil society actors.

CONTACT US

Our approach to anti-trafficking is honed and enhanced on a daily basis as we learn from our experiences. We are always searching for innovative solutions and areas where we can add value, and welcome enquiries and suggestions about the work we do.

Follow us on Twitter for regular updates: @ICMPD_THB

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