Project Description

Preventing, Identifying and Combating Trafficking of Refugees in Turkey (PICTOR)

Timeline
1 July 2016 – 31 March 2017 (9 months)

Location
Turkey

Implementing Agency
International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), in cooperation with the Directorate General of Migration Management of Turkey (DGMM)

Donor
British Embassy, Ankara

Background and Justification
The conflict in Syria is now in its sixth year, and Turkey has become the world’s most important refugee-hosting country, with over 2.7 million registered Syrian refugees. Turkey recently restructured its migration and international protection systems, notably by establishing the Directorate General of Migration Management (DGMM) and adopting Law No. 6458 on Foreigners and International Protection (LFIP) in April 2013. Furthermore, in response to the needs of people fleeing the conflict in Syria, the Regulation on Temporary Protection was issued in October 2014, as per Article 91 of the LFIP, and the Directive on Work Permits for Foreigners under Temporary Protection (No: 2016/8375) was issued in January 2016. Both these legal instruments apply to Syrian nationals and stateless people from Syria seeking protection in Turkey. This legal framework grants people under temporary protection the right to lawful residence, as well as access to social assistance, education, healthcare and, since January 2016, to the labour market. In March 2016, the Turkish Government issued the Regulation on Combating Human Trafficking and Victim Protection, a comprehensive by-law that regulates the procedures for identification and referral of trafficking victims. The provisions of this Regulation also apply to victims and potential victims who are under temporary protection. In addition, a specific department for identifying and assisting victims of trafficking has been set up within DGMM, as well as specialised human trafficking and migrant smuggling units within the Turkish National Police and the Gendarmerie.

Nevertheless, despite this comprehensive legal and institutional framework, there are indications that some of these people are vulnerable to trafficking in persons (TIP). The ICMPD study Targeting Vulnerabilities: The Impact of the Syrian War and Refugee Situation on Trafficking in Persons – A Study of Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq, published in December 2015, found that Syrians in the countries under study, including Turkey, are vulnerable to various forms of TIP due to difficulties meeting their basic needs, and widespread informal employment and child labour. This is exacerbated by a lack of awareness and information among many Syrians in Turkey about their rights and obligations. While Turkey has substantially strengthened legal and institutional anti-trafficking responses in recent years, including efforts to develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for trafficking victims, these measures are not yet fully adapted to the realities of the large displaced population from Syria, and do not comprehensively address their needs. The provisions for applying for and issuing work permits to people under temporary protection are quite recent, and therefore additional efforts are needed to ensure their effective implementation.
Therefore the PICTOR project builds upon, and is complementary to, the existing capacities and mechanisms of the relevant State agencies, particularly DGMM, the Disaster and Emergency Management Authority (AFAD), Ministry of Labour as well as of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and international organisations (IOs), to prevent and combat trafficking among these vulnerable groups. The project activities comprise two components: a) **capacity building** in order to increase victim identification and improve services to trafficking victims among vulnerable populations and b) **targeted information campaigns** on the labour rights and trafficking prevention for people under temporary protection.

### Objectives

- To significantly increase the knowledge and capacities of relevant State institutions, NGOs and IOs to prevent, identify and refer trafficking cases among the vulnerable groups arriving and residing in Turkey under the temporary protection regime, by developing a training curriculum and conducting a series of multi-disciplinary trainings;
- To contribute substantially to the long–term resilience of the large population under temporary protection in Turkey by providing them with targeted information on their labour and other rights.

### Activities

The project comprises two interlinked and complementary components:

#### Component 1: Capacity Building

1. Development and implementation of a **training curriculum** composed of relevant modules, tailored trafficking indicators for the target group and other tools for identification of trafficking (July - October 2016);
2. Two **training of trainers sessions** and three **multi-disciplinary trainings** designed according to the specific responsibilities and capacities of: (a) frontline officials in law enforcement, border control and immigration; (b) government institutions (DGMM and AFAD central and local staff) and NGOs involved in registering and providing services to people under temporary protection; (c) government institutions responsible for the identification, referral and protection of trafficked people; and (d) service-providers working with Syrians, including international and national humanitarian staff (October 2016 - March 2017).

#### Component 2: Targeted Information Campaign

1. Development of a **dissemination strategy** and preparation of the **content** of the targeted information campaign (July - October 2016);
2. Development of **information materials**, including layout, printing and translation into Turkish and Arabic (September 2016 - January 2017);
3. **Campaign launch** event and dissemination of information materials (February – March 2017).

### Expected Results

- Training curriculum developed and implemented;
- Training of trainers events and multi-disciplinary trainings held;
- Existing knowledge and capacities of State and non-State anti-trafficking actors increased;
- Higher identification rate of trafficked persons among target population;
- Increased number of trafficked people among target population referred and assisted;
- Inter-agency cooperation on trafficking cases among target population strengthened;
- Information materials developed and distributed;
- Level of information among target population about labour and other rights raised.

### Contact

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