

**Civil Society Response to Trafficking in Persons
EXAMPLE OF GEORGIA**

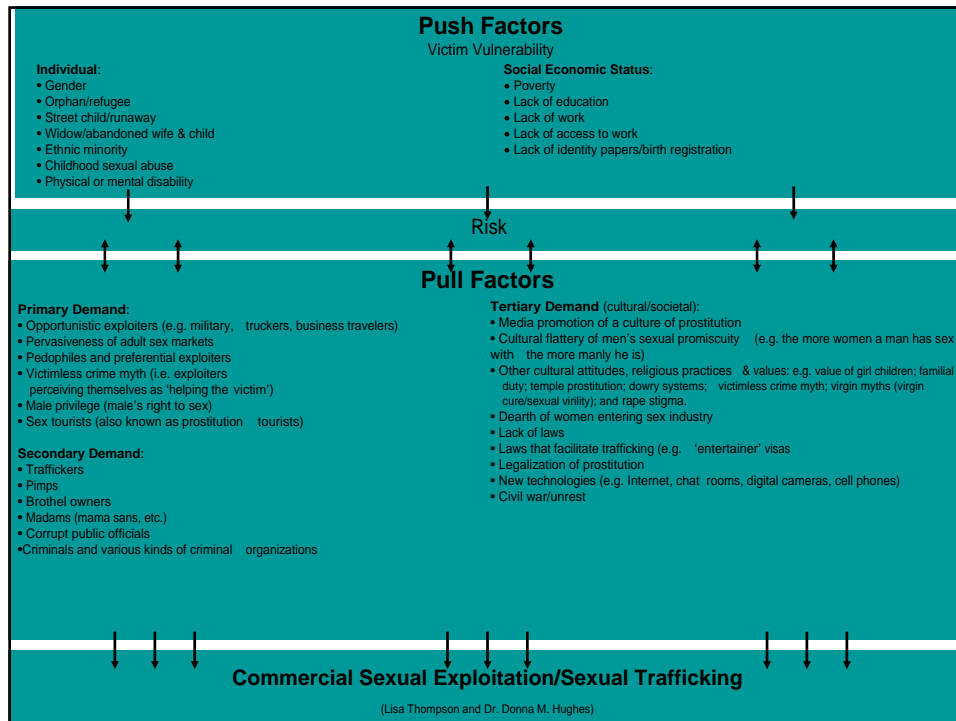
Black Sea NGO Forum – “Time to Meet”

World Vision Georgia, 2008, Bucharest, Romania

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

Assorted Trafficking in Persons Estimates

- In 2004, some 27 million people may have been enslaved, more than at the height of the transatlantic slave trade (Bales, 2004).
- UNICEF reports that throughout the world, there are over 1 million children entering the sex trade every year (UNICEF, 2006).
- In India, experts believe that more than 2.3 million girls and women are in sex industry (U.S. Department of State, 2006).
- 600 000 to 800 000 people globally are trafficked each year. 80% are girls and women. 50% children under the age of 18. (U.S. Dept. of State).
- Lack of data on the scope of trafficking in persons.



Regional Picture Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA)

- Increased supply of people from the countries of the former Soviet Union to South-eastern and Western Europe, Middle East and countries in East and South-east Asia.
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) are a major source of trafficked persons, besides being a transit and, to some extent, also destination countries.

Major Forms of Trafficking in the Region

Sexual exploitation (women and girls)
Forced labor in the construction industry (men)
Begging (children)
Human Organs

Strengths

- 2003 US State Department A-TiP report triggered response to trafficking in the country;
- ✓ 2003 criminalization of trafficking - working group (OSCE, IOM, GYLA, other local NGOs);
- ✓ The Government of Georgia has made considerable headway in 2005 - 2006 in developing and implementing counter-trafficking activities through
 - adoption of a separate law against trafficking in persons in 2006;
 - Development of 2005 – 2006 National Action Plan;
 - National Referral Mechanism;
 - Civil Society Supported State Structures for Protection and Assistance of Trafficking Survivors.
 - National Action Plan 2007-2008.
 - Rehabilitation/Reintegration Strategy for VoTs.

Weaknesses

- ✓ The issue of sustainability - **WE SHOULD DEVELOP SERVICES AND CAPACITIES THAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN TAKE OVER ONCE WE PHASE OUT ENSURING THAT FULL SUSTAINABILITY IS ACHIEVED!!!**
- ✓ Lack of information about the issue – sharing of data among various state agencies is usually a problem
- ✓ Lack of cooperation at the regional level – (State and non-state agents; state to state agencies) example of Turkey;
- ✓ Late response to cases from government agencies dealing with TIP;
- ✓ Lack of professional staff – social workers; caregivers.
- ✓ Issue of recognition of child begging and recruitment of children in criminal groups as a form of trafficking – directly reflected on the status of a country in TiP response.

**Opportunities for Government-Civil Society
Cooperation to combat Trafficking in Persons in
Georgia**

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- ✓ Supporting government in institutionalization of social services for VoTs through – state employed social workers capacity building; mainstreaming trafficking in JDs of SWs; working with MoES and MoLSHA;
- ✓ Supporting the development of social work as a profession in the country by development academic resources (human) in assistance and protection of VoTs.
- ✓ Establishing structure for identification of presumed VoTs/victims of illegal migration or sexual exploitation and a referral service to assistance (social work, medical, legal, employment) structures.
- ✓ Supporting the GoG in Rehabilitation/Reintegration of VoTs – capacity building of State VoT shelter personnel;

THREATS

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- Ongoing and “frozen” conflicts in the region (ex: Abkhazia, South Ossetia) – flow of IDPs; war orphans; decline of economic opportunities; etc.
- Tier Allocation and funding issue.

What needs to be done at the regional level?

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1. Information and Data
2. Cooperation with governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, civil society
3. media;
4. Educational Opportunities for Children and Young Women
5. Economic Opportunities
6. Civil Society
7. Bilateral Agreements
8. Victim Safety and Assistance
9. Rule of Law
10. Reintegration

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