



GPC PROTECTION CONFERENCE
20-24 May 2019, Pullman Bangkok King Power

09:00-10:00am: Anti-Trafficking in Humanitarian Action

The Anti-Trafficking Task Team is co-led by Heartland Alliance International (HAI), IOM, and UNHCR.

Background

Trafficking in persons is both a crime and a serious violation of human rights taking place in ordinary times *and* in crisis. Vulnerable populations in emergency contexts are at heightened risk of being trafficked.ⁱ Despite this, preventing trafficking and responding to victims have either remained unaddressed within the humanitarian cluster system, or have not been addressed in a comprehensive manner, nor been perceived, in certain instances, as a life-saving intervention.



The increasingly severe cases of trafficking witnessed in crises over the past five years, including grave cases of trafficking perpetrated by armed groups,ⁱⁱ has drawn calls for humanitarian responders to better incorporate anti-trafficking initiatives into protection efforts. A coherent strategy is now needed to address the trafficking risks to affected populations that arise in emergency contexts. Recent analyses indicate that victims are often identified months into a crisis, at which time the exploitation has already occurred. This finding underscores the need to build prevention and risk analysis into the initial humanitarian response, even when concrete evidence is not yet unavailable. For this to happen, anti-trafficking activities need a clear place in the existing humanitarian response system and should be part of the protection approach implemented before, during, and after crises.

The GPC established the Task Team on Anti-Trafficking in Humanitarian Action in 2017 to develop guidance on addressing trafficking in humanitarian responses and to provide recommendations on how to best mainstream action in existing cluster activities.

Purpose of the session

This one hour session will address three goals, namely, all protection actors will –

- (1) Understand what trafficking is, and their role in combating it, using real case studies;
- (2) Be introduced to the anti-trafficking tools in development by the Task Team;
- (3) Provide feedback to the Task Team on their promising practices, challenges and needs.

Intended outcome

After the session, protection actors can articulate why trafficking is a humanitarian protection concern. They understand that existing trafficking trends are amplified in crisis and new demands are formed, how they can identify cases, and which in-country partners they can refer to for support. Participants will also utilize the support available to them through the Task Team and its resources, and develop collective ownership of the tools for improved distribution and use upon publication.

Format

The first part of the session will introduce participants to trafficking trends and responses, using case studies from the TT, Kahoot and a debate format. Participants will have the opportunity to share their own experiences and challenges. The second part of the session will introduce the guidance and tools currently being developed by the Task Team and the way forward for how these can be utilised in humanitarian situations.

Speakers

Renata Bernardo, Anti-Trafficking Specialist, Task Team Secretariat
Sam McCormack, UNHCR, Task Team co-lead



Background reading

- UNODC, *Countering Trafficking in Persons in Conflict Situations: Thematic Paper*, 2018, https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/2018/17-08776_ebook-Countering_Trafficking_in_Persons_in_Conflict_Situations.pdf
- GPC Task Team on Anti-Trafficking in Humanitarian Action, *Anti-Trafficking in Humanitarian Responses*, 2018, <http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/assets/files/anti-trafficking-in-humanitarian-responses.pdf>
- Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking, *ICAT Issue Brief 03: Trafficking in Persons in Humanitarian Crises*, 2017, <http://icat.network/sites/default/files/publications/documents/ICAT-IB-02-Final.pdf>
- IOM, *Addressing Human Trafficking and Exploitation in Times of Crisis*, 2015, https://publications.iom.int/system/files/addressing_human_trafficking_dec2015.pdf

ⁱ Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action Reducing Risk, Promoting Resilience and Aiding Recovery, IASC, 2015.

ⁱⁱ For example, the abduction, sale and forced marriage of female students by Boko Harm in North East Nigeria, and the systematic abduction, enslavement, sale and forced marriage of the Yazidi community by ISIS in Northern Iraq.