MOLDOVA: Raising Awareness through Strengthening and Broaden Capacity of the Moldova Red Cross on Combating Trafficking in Persons

Project summary:

Moldova remains the poorest country in Europe, despite rising economic growth since 2000. The average salary is less than 100 dollars a month and each fourth citizen (26.5%) lived in absolute poverty as recently as 2004. Proportionately, the dimensions of Moldovan emigration are staggering. Estimates of Moldovans working abroad vary, but the unofficial figure is 600,000. Many of them left illegally and are presumably working abroad without legal documents and regular permits of stay. The foundation of massive migration has created a much more negative phenomenon, trafficking in human beings. Trafficking in women and minors with the purpose of sexual exploitation appears to be the most serious and growing form of trafficking in persons.

Trafficking in persons in Moldova is strongly linked with the political situation. The Transdnistria region is formally part of Moldova, but de facto is administrated by a secessionist group. In practice, the border between Ukraine and Moldova does not exist, but there is a border between Ukraine and Transdnistria under the control of Transdnistria paramilitary troops. The "real" Moldovan boundary runs to the west of Dniester River. As the region lacks the authority of a strong national government, it has become an international transit centre for all kinds of smuggled goods such as drugs, weapons and, last but not least, human beings, according to several intelligence sources.

The combination of these factors has rendered Moldova a major source country. Moldovan women, children and men are trafficked around the world for prostitution, forced labour, begging and petty crime, and, as some reports suggest, for organ harvesting. They are trafficked to at least 33 countries of destination[1]. Moldova is a fertile ground for traffickers who recruit vulnerable young women between the ages of 16 to 30. Moldova's rural poverty contributes to a strong motivation for accepting opportunities for work abroad, made all the more attractive by the "success stories" of those who have secured employment abroad, even illegally, and the lack of social service capacity in rural areas to address the needs of the most vulnerable.

The problem of human trafficking is mainly caused by lack of economic opportunities and poor living conditions. Also, one of the biggest factors behind trafficking in human beings is lack of awareness and education. Therefore, prevention is the key to combating human trafficking. And the key to prevention is getting the right and most compelling information out to the young girls and women, as well as young boys and men, who are most at risk from the traffickers. No amount of information will substitute for providing good jobs and real economic opportunities to potential victims. But Moldova Red Cross prevention programme is based on the premise that young people must have the information they need to make truly informed choices in their struggle for a better life. The philosophy of MRC prevention programme is that it should reach directly those at greatest risk in the villages, in small towns and in the cities.

The programme designed for 2006-2007 will supplement preventive work of other NGOs by peer education sessions run by Red Cross volunteers. Special attention will be paid towards establishing partnership with key actors in anti-trafficking work to ensure better coordination of efforts as

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[1] Recent reports by IOM, La Strada Moldova (LSM) and Save the Children Moldova, together with the US Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report of 2003, list as destinations: Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, France, FYROM, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Province of Kosovo, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, UK, United Arab Emirates, USA.

well as introduction of MRC to the OSCE coordination group on counter-trafficking. Another challenge is to establish the role and mandate of the Red Cross in the National Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking in Human Beings.

Logical framework planning matrix: Raising Awareness through Strengthening and Broaden Capacity of the Moldova Red Cross on Combating Trafficking in Persons

	Indicators	Sources of verification	Assumptions/Risks
Overall Goal The scale and the impact of human trafficking in Moldova is reduced by increasing the capacity of the National Society to implement educational, preventive and reintegration activities in the area of trafficking in human beings as well as creating a greater awareness about the problem in the society of the Republic of Moldova	• Diminished risks of being trafficked among the risk groups • Number of victims of trafficking identified and referred for assistance to respective partner NGOs	• Official statistics • Reports of other stakeholders (IOM, La Strada and other)	• Different stakeholders will cooperate and coordinate
Project Objective A reduced number of people trafficked from Moldova through increased capacity of MRC in conducting preventive counter-trafficking activities	• Counter-trafficking programme coordinator is employed at the Moldova Red Cross headquarters • Establishing cooperation network with state authorities, partner National Societies, international organizations and NGOs • Moldova Red cross is an active member of the European Anti-trafficking network • Educational workshops for RC personnel on THB are conducted • Awareness raising campaign in 4 districts of Moldova	• Red Cross Reports • Official statistics • Reports of other stakeholders • Signing agreements on cooperation with relevant state authorities and NGOs • Conducting questionnaires of participants of trainings/peer education sessions	▪ Coordinating and cooperating with the IFRC as well as with other RC partners that target human trafficking ▪ The programme receives sufficient financial and technical support through the network of the Federation and other stakeholders ▪ Training manual for RC volunteers available ▪ Cooperation with educational institutions and respective state authorities

	focused on prevention of THB is conducted • RC volunteers trained in running peer sessions on trafficking prevention • Raising awareness of the dangers of trafficking among youth		
Expected Results **Result 1** The Moldovan Red Cross has established a network of qualified staff at headquarters and regional branches to provide better services to displaced people.	• The Moldova Red Cross has trained 15 people in the branches and the headquarters to act as focal points on population movement related issues. • 10 coordination meetings/round-table discussions have been conducted with participation of key partners. • Number of trained programme staff	• Training reports. • Project progress reports. • Red Cross reports	• MRC is capable to organise workshops on counter trafficking • Technical support is available
Result 2 Red Cross volunteers and staff are trained in running peer education sessions on THB prevention	• Number of meeting held • Number of RC peer educators trained • Number of active RC peer educators • Training module for RC volunteers is developed	• Red Cross reports • Reports of other stakeholders	• Volunteers and staff are interested in the issue of THB and are available • Expertise from stakeholders is available
Result 3 An increased knowledge base is created among those that are at risk through peer education sessions, dissemination of information and knowledge	• Number of peer education sessions held • Number of trained RC peer educators • Distribution of information	• Official statistics • Red Cross reports • Reports of other stakeholders	• Sensitivity of target group to the delivered information, readiness to share further this knowledge in their immediate surroundings

	materials during sessions		• Good reputation and high credibility to MRC among the target group
Result 4 General public is informed of the scale and negative implications of human trafficking issues towards their own communities	• Issues on THB are regularly highlighted in mass media • Number of events planned and implemented by MRC	• Audio and visual material • Progress reports from MRC	• Readiness of mass media to highlight the issue of THB
Result 5 Cooperation between Moldova Red Cross and major stakeholders within the country and abroad as well as with sister societies is created	• Signing respective agreements/MoUs • Identifying mechanisms of cooperation and readdressing victims for help • Facilitation by NGOs in identifying the victims of trafficking and referring them for assistance to respective partner NGOs • Moldova Red Cross is a member of the European Anti-trafficking platform • Moldova Red cross is recognised in the National prevention plan as major stakeholder • Spreading information about NGOs where victims can receive specialized medical and legal assistance.	• Official statistics • Red Cross reports • Reports of other stakeholders	• Coordination of efforts of URCS and state authorities • Consistent activities of URCS and partner NGOs • Informational support • Red Cross Societies and key stakeholders are open and contribute to cooperation
Activities	**Resources**	**Sources**	**Preconditions**
Result 1 • Focal persons amongst existing staff in the regional branches to work on the counter trafficking issues will be identified and a coordinator in the headquarters will be hired. • Series of seminars to staff	• MRC staff and volunteers • Venue • Booklets • Technical expertise	• IOM, La Strada and other stake holders • Federation and National Societies	• Expertise and technical support from the IFRC and key stakeholders is available

and volunteers on human trafficking in cooperation with the IOM and La Strada will be conducted • Producing brochures on human trafficking / recommendations to work with victims of trafficking (VOT) • Sub regional/cross-country workshops on experience exchange in human trafficking will be organized • Regular meeting will be organized with other organizations active in human trafficking for the purpose of exchanging experiences and coordinating activities			
`Result 2 • ToT is organised for the RC volunteers and staff on running prevention activities and identification of VOT • A general facilitator's guide for a Youth Peer Education session on trafficking is tailored to the needs of youth Red Cross groups. • The Youth Peer Education session will be incorporated in the future youth activities of the National Society.	• MRC staff and volunteers • Partner organisations • A general facilitator's guide for a Youth Peer Education developed by IOM for RC volunteers	• IOM, La Strada and other stakeholders • Federation and National Societies	• RC volunteers are interested in trainings • MRC volunteers stay
Result 3 • An increased knowledge base will be created among those that are at risk • Producing leaflets on human	• Equipment • Expertise • RC volunteers	• RC expertise • Federation expertise • Expertise of other stakeholders	

trafficking / recommendations to diminish risk of being trafficked			
Result 4 • Public campaigns and broadcasting of video materials through country TV and radio networks • Round table discussion/debates on human trafficking will be organized in the regional capitals	• Venue • Equipment • Expertise • RC volunteers	• RC expertise • Federation expertise • Expertise of other stakeholders	
Result 5 • To sign cooperation agreements with respective state authorities • To elaborate system of readdressing for assistance and mutual collaboration in providing assistance	• Cooperation agreements with respective ministries and NGOs • Contacts with NGOs providing psychological assistance, legal counseling and reintegration of the victims of trafficking • Strategic partnership with IOM Office in Chisinau • Dissemination of information about hot lines functioning in Moldova	• Agreements • Number of cases of readdressing the victims of trafficking for psychological or medical assistance to partner NGOs	• Support to MRC project from the state • Support to MRC activities from partner NGOs
Monitoring and Evaluation			
• The program will be regularly monitored through the Program Officer of the International Federation delegation in Minsk • Attending of peer education sessions in pilot regions • Feedbacks of the target group on the sessions conducted • Monthly, quarterly and annual narrative and financial reports • Monitoring of coverage of			

conducted activities in mass media			