

## Joint Programme of UNHCR, UNODC and IOM to Combat Human Trafficking in Serbia

**Programme Duration:** 1 June 2010 – 31 May 2012

**Programme budget:** USD 1,410,097

**Funding secured:** Belgium: USD 680,097; Switzerland: USD 200,000; UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN GIFT): USD 530,000;

### Background:

The Joint Programme (JP) to Combat Human Trafficking implemented by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Serbia, under the auspices of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) is the very first joint initiative by UN agencies in the field of anti-human trafficking in Serbia. It has been developed in broad consultation with all relevant national and international counterparts, with the aim of creating a programme based firmly on the needs of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). It is designed to provide support to the Serbian authorities in implementing the recommendations outlined by the UN Palermo Convention and its Protocols.

### Objectives:

The JP's overarching aim is to operationalize Serbia's National Action Plan (NAP) on Counter-Trafficking (2009-11) through four core and interlinked objectives: 1) by strengthening national capacities to implement the NAP and to improve coordination within the NRM; 2) by creating a sustainable framework for systematic prevention of trafficking in human beings among particularly vulnerable groups; 3) by strengthening the criminal justice responses of the Government of Serbia; 4) by improving mechanisms for protection and (re)integration of potential and actual victims of trafficking (VoTs), including those identified within the asylum channels.

### Methodology:

Each core objective is implemented in a systemic manner which incorporates: a) research and/or policy making activities; b) trainings or workshops to define and refine relevant counter-trafficking tools/instruments; c) pilot activities to test approaches as well as direct assistance; d) monitoring and evaluation of all activities including building on best practices of previous and complementary CT activities.

### Expected main outcomes:

- 1) Cooperation between all relevant NRM actors formalized and nexus between asylum and human trafficking mainstreamed;
- 2) Enhanced preventive approaches put in place to protect vulnerable target groups: children, young job seekers, women suffering from gender-based violence, Roma, returnees under readmission agreements, IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers;
- 3) Improved knowledge of Anti-Human Trafficking legislation and jurisprudence that strengthens the criminal justice response;

- 4) Strengthened capacities of law enforcement and the judiciary (judges and prosecutors) to carry out successful investigations, prosecutions and adjudications of human trafficking cases;
- 5) Law students and professors trained in anti-human trafficking and able to provide free legal aid to VoTs;
- 6) Improved detection of human trafficking cases including those identified within asylum channels;
- 7) Mechanisms for protection of VoTs improved through the introduction of decentralized and country wide identification, referral (including between the NRM and the asylum system) and an assistance approach in line with international and EU standards.

**Partners:** Ministry of Interior (main partner), Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy, Commissariat for Refugees, national NGOs, OHCHR.

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