



## IOM Stabilizing Vulnerable Communities



*Eastern Cape participants enact a play depicting the human trafficking process*

The desire for a better life is one of the reasons many migrate from their homes. It is also an incentive traffickers use to lure their victims. Without any options, one is less likely to resist the temptation to take up a job offer, even one that is too good to be true.

Through the economic stabilization project, IOM's Southern African Counter Trafficking Assistance Programme (SACTAP) is offering vulnerable women between the ages of 16 and 30 an option to improve their lives by giving them grants to start their own businesses. This two - pronged project is being piloted in three of South Africa's poorest provinces: Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Eastern Cape. The beneficiaries who have already been identified have also received participatory theatre skills training to enable them to use drama as a means to raise awareness against human trafficking. The Mother tongue Project has been responsible for training the beneficiaries on how to use drama to raise awareness.

To ensure that the beneficiaries receive appropriate mentoring and support, IOM

has partnered with local NGO partners; the Barnabas Trust in the Eastern Cape, Nelspruit Community Forum in Mpumalanga and Centre for Positive Care in Limpopo. The NGO partners will provide ongoing business mentoring by providing the beneficiaries with business skills training.

In commending the impact of the project Alma Lawler, the CEO of the Barnabas Trust said, "it has been a self development undertaking for the beneficiaries who for the first time have had to develop business proposals, approach suppliers for quotations, as well as learn how to keep records for business purposes. It's a life saving experience which has greatly impacted their personal lives as well."

The economic stabilization project is a pilot project funded by the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) within the US Department of State. It is an extension of IOM's prevention activities. The project objectives are twofold, to prevent the occurrence of trafficking and address some of the root causes that create vulnerability.

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**NORWEGIAN EMBASSY**



Department of International Relations and Cooperation - South Africa



Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration - US Department of State

# Editorial



Dear Reader,

Welcome to the January 2010 issue of the Eye on Human Trafficking, the first since I took over from my predecessor, Hans -Petter Boe as IOM's Regional Representative for Southern Africa.

This reflective issue gives you an opportunity to get a glimpse of some of the initiatives we undertook towards the end of 2009.

The Human Trafficking Awareness Week enabled the creation of participation of government and civil society to raise awareness on human trafficking. This annual event bears testimony to the rapid progress that has been made in framing a collaborative and coordinated approach to counter-trafficking in the country, and in the region.

To mitigate the prevalence of human trafficking it is important to address the push factors that render people vulnerable. Research has shown that poverty and lack of economic opportunities create vulnerable communities. Awareness raising and advising people to be wary of lucrative offers isn't enough, it is necessary to give people an alternative means of improving their economic well being. It is on

this premise that the economic stabilization project is built upon; that when women are economically empowered their vulnerability levels are reduced. This issue provides an update of our economic stabilization project and also profiles two lives that are set to be changed through this project which is being rolled out in the Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces.

This issue also sheds light on some of the activities that IOM and other like minded partners are undertaking to raise awareness and counter trafficking in the SADC region. The Angolan government for example has publicly committed to fighting trafficking during the African Cup of Nations held in January 2010. In South Africa, the government leads a national counter-trafficking programme, Tsireledzani!. Such commitment is essential in preventing trafficking. It must however, be supported by appropriate policy and legislation to empower officials to take concrete measures to prosecute and protect. To this effect, the specific counter-trafficking legislation, already passed by Mozambique, Swaziland and Zambia, must be a priority in the region in 2010.

On behalf of the IOM counter trafficking team, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a fruitful 2010. Enjoy the newsletter and please do give us your feedback.

Bernardo Mariano  
Regional Representative  
IOM Southern Africa

## IOM Animation Educates Young Internet Users About the Dangers of Human Trafficking



*A snippet obtained from the animation*

IOM recently released a five minutes animated video to educate young internet users about the dangers of human trafficking in South Africa. The animation begins with a group of youngsters on their way to school when they meet a trafficker who entices them with a better life. The story unfolds to reveal different trafficking scenarios which help the youngsters learn about trafficking. The cases used in the animation are based on true stories from interviews conducted by IOM while assisting actual victims in South Africa. Produced by IOM, the animation is available on IOM's website ([www.iom.org.za](http://www.iom.org.za)) for free viewing, download and dissemination. Copies can also be requested for free dissemination or broadcast by contacting IOM through the website.

# Undeterred by hardships

*One of the most effective means of preventing human trafficking is addressing the causes of vulnerability in source communities. Two women open up on how IOM's Economic Stabilization programme is making a difference in their lives.*

## \*Mary's Story

It has been said that 'dreams are the seedlings of reality'. For Mary one of the beneficiaries of the Economic Stabilization project in the Eastern Cape, her dream has become a reality.

Mary's life had all the pre-existing factors that make one susceptible to human trafficking. She grew up in an impoverished township in the Eastern Cape in a four-roomed house that accommodated her two siblings, her mother, a cousin and a maternal uncle. They all depended on her mother's salary as a domestic worker to feed, clothe and educate the children. Despite the hardships, in 2004 she was able to complete high school though she was not able to further her education. Mary began to volunteer at a local community based organization in her township as a home based care giver. With the 100 rands stipend that she received, Mary was able to contribute towards the family income.

However, in 2005 things changed and her 100 rand became the only source of income for her family. Both her mother and uncle died of AIDS-related illnesses. Mary assumed responsibilities for her two siblings and cousin. "I wished to die, we were living alone, but I felt I would never sell my body to earn money" she remembers.

To survive, Mary would run errands in the community in exchange for money. When asked what kept her going, she says "God gave me hope, also Babalwa\* (the leader of the CBO where she volunteered) prayed with me, we got support from the project". The family would also receive food parcels from the CBO since her younger siblings were considered to be orphans and vulnerable children. The 100 rand stipend that Mary received from working in the CBO was not enough to feed, clothe and educate her brother who was still in school.

Life's harshness did not deter her from hoping for a better life, "I would pray that I would be something, I wanted my own business like a catering business" Mary notes. When she was selected to be part of the economic stabilization project as a grant beneficiary, she felt like her dream had finally come true. "Yho! I don't know what I can call it, it was like God coming to me in front of my eyes" she thankfully says. The project will give her an opportunity to provide for her family and also serve her community.



With the grant that Mary has received from the project, she has started an internet cafe that also offers photocopying, laminating and telephone services. The internet cafe is located in her community where she feels such a service is most needed. In future Mary would like to set up more similar businesses in others areas in the township. With her newly acquired knowledge about human trafficking, Mary has made it a point to warn orphans and vulnerable children in her community about this form of modern day slavery, this is because in retrospect she says that had someone offered her a job after her mother died, she would have taken it. \* For confidentiality names have been changed.

## \*Thandi's Story

Thandi one of the beneficiaries from Mpumalanga concedes that she could have been vulnerable to trafficking, "my life wasn't that good, they (referring to traffickers) could have trafficked me". Life for Thandi has been tough though her upbeat and positive outlook to life do not give away the hardships she has experienced.

When Thandi was seven, the death of her mother led to a separation from her father until he remarried. She moved from one relative's home to another and remembers how in one home, "we would wake up at 5.00 a.m. go to school and come back at 2.30 p.m. and really work, we would work and work". She later moved to live with her dad and her stepmother.

After going to live with her father, her struggles were far from over. When in grade 10 she got pregnant, this made her father very angry and he asked her to leave. Thandi went to stay with her uncle until her father asked her to return home. As a result of the pregnancy she lost one year of school. At age 17 while in grade 12, she met a man in his mid twenties, fell in love and after family negotiations the man was given permission to take her as his wife. Thandi moved to Johannesburg to start a new life with her husband.



# SACTAP's National Technical Workshop Mobilizes Participants



Workshop Participants adorned in white t-shirts to commemorate the Human Trafficking Awareness Week.

**A** National Technical Workshop (NTW) held in October 2009 brought together 51 participants from various government departments as well as some civil society members. The objective of the four day workshop was to equip the participants with specialised knowledge to enable an appropriate coordinated response to human trafficking.

A key discussion point was the need to implement and enforce a comprehensive legislation in South Africa. Participants felt that having a comprehensive legislation will enable the prosecution of traffickers as well ensure that the rights of victims of trafficking are upheld. The Chief Directorate: Legislation Development, Engela Steyn presented the status of the human trafficking draft bill stating that it had not yet been presented to parliament. In addition to the legislation, information sharing and a coordinated response with clear role definitions were also noted by participants as fundamental in combating trafficking.

Often the challenge faced by departments, is the lack of resources to advance counter trafficking initiatives. To overcome the lack of resources, a participant from the South African Police Service (SAPS) in KZN said that “personal initiative and commitment is necessary to drive the process of developing a comprehensive

counter trafficking strategy”. In response, Mariam Khokhar SACTAP's Programme Manager encouraged the participants saying that “expertise can be shared to create synergy between government departments as well as develop ways of overcoming constraints such as lack of resources”.

The workshop included experts Robert Farar of the Serious Organized Crime Agency (SOCA) in the United Kingdom and Mrs. Chilufya Siwale the Director of Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) in Zambia. In his presentation, Robert Farar shared the important role legislation plays in the fight against trafficking. He further spoke about SOCA's approach which includes understanding the threat and

collaborating with stakeholders. Closer to home, Mrs. Siwale shared the YWCA's experience in dealing with victims of trafficking. In her experience, strengthening networking and referral systems as well as lobbying government to implement the necessary legal frameworks are some of the steps that can be taken to combat human trafficking in the region.

Overall the workshop provided a networking experience for government officials working on the issue. The workshop was opened by H.P. Boe, IOM's former Regional Representative for Southern Africa, Stefano Varriale, the European Commission's representative, and Advocate Thoko Majokweni, the Special Director and Head of the Sexual Offences and Community Affairs (SOCA) of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA). It was funded by the European Commission as part of SACTAP's assistance to the South African government to prevent and react to human trafficking.

**“Personal initiative and commitment is necessary to drive the process of developing a comprehensive counter-trafficking strategy.”**

*SAPS Representative*



## Fourth Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Week Commemorated

The 4th annual Human Trafficking Awareness Week (HTAW) in South Africa was commemorated last year in October. The HTAW brought together like-minded organisations and government departments: the Inter departmental Management Team (IDMT), the International Labour Organization (ILO), The Department of Home Affairs (DHA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) as well as Metro FM and the Kaizer Chiefs soccer team. The theme for the week was 'Human Trafficking is Real...Tsireledzani' (Tsireledzani means 'let's protect each other' in Tshivenda).

According to Mariam Khokhar "the key significance of the annual HTAW is the joint effort of communities, civil society, the private sector, media and government as well as international organizations to raise awareness on the realities and consequences of human trafficking in the country".

Various activities were undertaken to draw the public's focus to this form of modern day slavery: DHA ran an internal awareness raising campaign during which awareness posters were distributed to their

offices and border entry points countrywide. Various presentations were made in institutions of learning by World Hope SA and IOM. Through the 'Hope-Fest' World Hope SA was able to reach about 2500 learners between grades five and eight. At the University of Fort Hare, Prof. Cecil Seethal of the Geography Department organized a presentation during which IOM had an opportunity to raise awareness about human trafficking. The presentation was attended by university students, learners from neighbouring schools as well as community members in Alice. Other activities included radio announcements, television and radio interviews and discussions.

Activities undertaken during the 4th annual HTAW focused on using institutions, media and grassroots partnerships to move communities into taking action against human trafficking. According to Nde Ndifonka IOM's Media and Communication Officer, in October, IOM's counter-trafficking helpline recorded a 48% increase in calls with an increase being noted during the HTAW.

## Communities in Mozambique's Flood Prone Areas Stabilized

IOM recently undertook a community stabilization project in Morrumbala, Caia, Mutarara districts in Mozambique. The project incorporated a series of group discussions on human trafficking as well as the need to set up informal community protection mechanisms in times of natural disasters. "Tailor-made approaches engaging communities through their leadership can considerably reduce vulnerabilities to trafficking" says IOM's Nely Chimedza.

Through the Japanese funded stabilization project, the most vulnerable received grants to start income generating projects. In addition, beneficiaries received seeds for crops

that thrive in the flood prone areas, fertilizer, farming tools and business training skills.

The income generating activities which focused on farming were carried out in partnership with Oikos-Cooperação- e Desenvolvimento in coordination with the Mozambican Department of Agriculture.

Mozambique is a source and to a lesser extent a destination county for men, women and children trafficked. An assessment carried out by IOM in May 2007 established that regular destruction of livelihoods increased the vulnerability of communities to human trafficking.

# European Commission Boosts IOM Zambia's Counter-Trafficking Efforts



Home affairs Minister, Honorable Lameck Mangani delivers a speech at the launch of the EU-funded Joint Programme on Human Trafficking.

A joint United Nations programme to counter human trafficking in Zambia which involves IOM, UNICEF and the International Labour Organization (ILO) has been boosted with 1.6 million Euros funding from the European Commission.

The three-year programme is a key part of a national effort to create awareness of the issue in the southern African country and will strengthen the ability of government and non-government agencies to detect and respond to human

trafficking in addition to tackling its root causes.

IOM, ILO and UNICEF will focus on preventing human trafficking through mass communication, the training of private and public sector officials on the implementation of anti-trafficking legislation and working with the Zambian police to revise their crime reporting and data management systems.

A 2007 ILO study on the nature and extent of child trafficking in Zambia showed that high poverty and unemployment levels have created an environment where victims are easily duped by human traffickers.

The study notes that the internal trafficking of children, mainly from poor households, for domestic labour or sexual exploitation appears to be the most prevalent form of human trafficking in Zambia. Girls and children without access to education are at a greater risk of being trafficked than others.

In response, the Zambian government has adopted a new national policy that aims to eradicate human trafficking in the country through combined measures to raise awareness of the issue and to stamp out the root causes while ensuring victims are protected and perpetrators are prosecuted.

# Angolan Government Pledges to Combat Human Trafficking

Angolan Minister of Interior, Mr. Roberto Leal Monteiros expressed the government's commitment to fight human trafficking during the January 2010 African Cup of Nations (CAN) football tournament in Angola.

He made this commitment during a two day conference held on the 26th and 27th October 2009 to discuss strategies of mitigating a possible escalation of human trafficking during the African Cup of Nations football tournament in Angola in January 2010. Organized by

IOM and Angola's Ministry of Interior, the conference was attended by over 100 delegates consisting of government officials from Angola, Brazil, South Africa, and Portugal, as well as members of the Angolan national assembly and civil society organizations. IOM's mission in Germany also sent representatives, who shared with participants their experiences on fighting human trafficking during big sporting events.

There are concerns among women's rights groups in the country that the inevitable influx of tourists will set a fertile



ground for sex work that could be exploited by human traffickers. “Although this is a potential worry, we need to turn it into an opportunity to raise awareness of human trafficking on a scale that has not been seen before in Angola. With a lot of international attention on the region next year, we have to grab some of it to ensure traffickers don’t win. It is also an opportunity for both the government and civil society to engage more actively on countering human trafficking,” says Katherina Schnöring, IOM Chief of Mission in Angola.

Participants recommended that specific legislation be pursued in order to ensure that perpetrators of human trafficking are prosecuted. They also agreed that there is a need for more capacity building and partnerships between

government, non governmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations in combating human trafficking. Alongside this, participants proposed cooperation and information sharing between law enforcement agencies and NGOs from the Republic of Angola, Namibia, DRC, Congo, and Zambia in order to develop regional strategies to counter human trafficking ahead of CAN 2010.

Mr. Roberto Leal Monteiros noted that IOM’s partnership with the Ministry of Interior has been effective in raising awareness of the problem in the many provinces of Angola, and sought further collaboration in that regard.

The conference was funded by the British Embassy in Luanda and the Norwegian government.

## IOM Glossary: Key Terminology Associated with Human Trafficking

To help address common misconceptions and misunderstandings related to trafficking in persons, below are a few key definitions:

•**Abduction** - Some people are trafficked through the use abduction; this means that they are lead away by force or fraudulent persuasion.

•**Assisted voluntary return** - Logistical and financial support to rejected asylum seekers, trafficked migrants, stranded students, qualified nationals and other migrants unable or unwilling to remain in the host country who volunteer to return to their countries of origin. Through our victim[s] assistance programme SACTAP provides victim[s] with assisted voluntary return.

•**Debt bondage** - One of the ways traffickers control their victims is through debt bondage and it is defined as the status or condition arising from a pledge by a debtor of his/her personal service or those of a person under his/her control as security for a debt, if the value of those services as reasonably assessed is not applied toward the liquidation of the debt or the length and nature of those services are not respectively limited and defined.

•**Deception** - In the migration context, this term not only refers to false or wrong information, but also to the intentional abuse of capitalizing on the lack of information available to the migrant. For example, victims of trafficking are deceived by traffickers who offer them a better life.

•**Exploitation** - The act of taking advantage of something or someone, in particular the act of taking unjust advantage of another for one’s own benefit (e.g. sexual exploitation,

forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs).

•**Human rights** - Those liberties and benefits which, by accepted contemporary values, all human beings should be able to claim “as of right” in the society in which they live. These rights are contained in the International Bill of Rights, comprising the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 and the International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and on Civil 30 International Migration Law and Political Rights, 1966 and have been developed by other treaties from this core (e.g. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979; International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965). Therefore human trafficking violates the liberties all human beings are entitled to have by putting people in slave like conditions.

•**Smuggling** - The procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident (Art. 3(a), UN Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational 61 Glossary on Migration Organized Crime, 2000). Smuggling contrary to trafficking does not require an element of exploitation, coercion, or violation of human rights.

•**Trafficker, human** - An intermediary who moves people in order to obtain an economic or other profit by means of deception, coercion and/or other forms of exploitation. The trafficker’s intention is to exploit the person and gain profit or advantage from the exploitation.

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Zambia's Talkline

990

TOLL-FREE 24hrs

Zimbabwe's Hotline

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## IOM launches the 'Buy Responsibly' Campaign



Consumers are being challenged to play a greater role in combating trafficking. Through the 'Buy Responsibly' Campaign launched during the third European Union Anti-Trafficking day in Brussels in October 2009, IOM seeks to eliminate the demand for trafficked and exploited labour by turning the spot light on consumers for the role they play in creating the demand for products and services that utilise victims of trafficking. The campaign encourages consumers to question what lies behind products purchased.

"For too long the belief has been that poverty and gender discrimination are root causes of human trafficking, which can only be tackled at source. This is short sighted. Quite simply, human trafficking is driven by the demand for unreasonably cheap labour and goods

from around the world" stated IOM Director General William Lacy Swing.

Human trafficking profits from the demand for cheap foreign labour and services because of factors such as ageing populations, falling birth rates and labour force participation in industrialized countries, over-supply of labour in developing countries and lack of sufficient channels for legal migration. Though in the recent past focus has largely been on women and girls trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation, incidences of victims trafficked for labour exploitation involving all ages and gender are increasing.

IOM's Global Counter Trafficking Database which tracks and details assistance provided to victims indicates that over the past 11 years, IOM is more and more assisting people trafficked for labour exploitation with the largest increases in the last five years. Those trafficked for labour exploitation end up in industries such as agricultural, construction, fishing and domestic servitude.

Consumers are encouraged to visit [www.buyresponsibly.org](http://www.buyresponsibly.org) to find out more about this campaign which has been designed by Saatchi & Saatchi in Geneva. It is hoped that the campaign will positively influence consumer behaviour.

## \*Thandi's Story

Life was initially good. Thandi assisted her husband in the shop he owned; however things took a downward spiral after she suddenly lost her second baby. Though they had another child her husband became physically abusive and she had to return back home to Mpumalanga for safety. He followed her and Thandi was forced to go back with him. Within the span of a year, Thandi's husband became ill and died, at 19 she became a widow. Left with no option, Thandi packed her bags and went back home to Mpumalanga.

Life in Mpumalanga was not easy, though her family was supportive, Thandi felt the need to find work since she now had two children "it was tough to find work, I tried so hard but could not find anything" she says. With no certificates and an incomplete high school education, job searching was a daunting

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task. She did contemplate migrating to find work, though the thought of leaving her two children made the choice difficult.

Being a beneficiary of the economic stabilization project is a dream come true. "It will change a lot of things at home, it was my dream to have a business, I thought about it, dreamed about it and now, I will be able to start something for myself" says Thandi. With the grant that she has received, Thandi has registered with a hairdressing school in preparation for the hair salon business she intends to start in her community. This will empower and assist her to establish a sustainable income generating activity, hence provide for herself and her two children.

\* For confidentiality names have been changed.