



## Highlights of the month

- \* Representatives from various government and non-government stakeholders in various provinces to strengthen multi stakeholder coordination through community based interventions to respond TIP challenges at local level.
- \* Building technical capacity of Afghan media on safe migration and TIP reporting.
- \* Developing training manual to build capacity of Afghan law enforcement officials to identify, refer and assist victims of trafficking (VoTs).

## Background Overview: Afghan context

Trafficking in persons (referred to as Qachaq-e-Ensan in Dari / Da Ensan Qachaq in Pashtu) is a human rights violation of the affected person. It has a long history within and from Afghanistan for various purposes and is an extremely sensitive issue, linked with the migration cycle, poverty, social exclusion, gender, work, money, power and violence. The problem remains extremely prevalent internally, across borders and beyond, with Afghanistan being a country of origin, transit and destination for its own citizens and those from neighboring nations. While Afghanistan's social and cultural features are diverse and complex, socio-cultural affinities with its regional neighbors inform societal perceptions of men, women and children. Lack of public awareness on how such socio-cultural perceptions perpetuate the trafficking cycle and related violence is a key challenge that the Afghan government and civil society including media sectors have been encountering. As highlighted in the U.S. State Department Trafficking in Persons Report 2016, Afghanistan is a source, transit and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sexual exploitation. Internal Trafficking is more prevalent than transnational; and the majority of Afghan trafficking victims are women and children. While women are subjected to both the sexual and non-sexual nature of exploitation, children are largely trafficked to work in carpet weaving and brick factories, domestic servitude, bacha bazi (dancing boys) and for forced begging. Furthermore, in recent years IOM has observed a steady increase in young females being trafficked to Afghanistan from neighboring countries such as Pakistan. As elsewhere, in Afghanistan too, traffickers and their agents normally use violence and force and withholding of travel documents to coerce men, women and children into trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labor, as well as other means such as threats, deception, kidnapping, sale by economically desperate family members, and through emotional abuse.

**Organization for Fast Relief and Development (OFRD)**, an IOM/ USAID CTIP partner, conducted a number of community based interventions to raise public awareness on the vulnerabilities, causes and consequences of human trafficking in Laghman and Kunar provinces. The participants were representatives from local communities including socio-cultural leaders, youths, CSOs and government officials from the following institutions:

- Directorate of Information and Cultural Affairs
- Directorate of Youth Affairs
- Directorate of Women Affairs
- Directorate of Hajj and Religious Affairs
- Directorate of Ministry of Justice
- Directorate of Human Rights
- Independent directorate of local governance (IDLG)
- Directorate of Labor and Social affairs

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Details on community interventions:

SN	Activities	Province	Date	Female	Male	Total
1	Public Speaking Forum	Laghman	17-April	11	49	60
		Kunar	23-Apr	11	53	64
2	Community Meeting	Laghman	18-Apr	8	22	30
		Kunar	24-Apr	6	14	20
3	Interaction with Gov. Officials	Laghman	19-Apr	5	15	20
		Kunar	25-Apr	2	14	16



FRD's Community meeting (CM) held in Laghman on 18 April © IOM 2017 (Photo: by IOM)

**Hagar International**, another project partner, conducted the monthly TIP coalition meetings in Balkh, Herat and Kabul in April. The objective of these coalition meetings was to bring representatives from the line ministries, particularly members of the TIP commission, and NGOs/CSOs including media, to address various forms of TIP in those particular areas and strengthen coordination to respond the issue. The coalition meeting broadly discussed:

- Establishing a coordination structure among various TIP stakeholders to set up a mechanism to identify, refer and assist cases of human trafficking.
- Identifying communities where vulnerability to trafficking is more prevalent so that relevant trainings, public awareness campaigns are targeted.

Monthly TIP coalition meeting:

The main agenda for the fourth monthly TIP coalition meeting involved discussions with the representatives on the draft referral form which IOM has been preparing with TIP commission.

The participants of the monthly TIP coalition meeting in both provinces were representatives of various members of TIP commissions such as Ministry of Interior (Afghan National and Border Police), Ministry of Justice (MoJ), the chief of the provincial TIP commission, National Directorate of Security (NDS), Attorney General Office, Ministry of Information and

Culture (MoIC), Ministry of Education (MoE), Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR), Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MoLSAMD), Ministry of Women Affairs (MoWA) and also representatives from UN-WOMEN, UNAMA, UNHCR and a few NGOs.

During the coalition meetings in Balkh and Herat the participants indicated that the following districts are at high risk for human trafficking:

**Balkh province:**

- Sakhi IDP camp – Balkh district
- Yakatot IDP camp – Dehdadi district
- Shahrak Balkh Bastan - Sayah gerd
- Robot IDP camp – Chental district

**Herat province:**

- Maslakh IDP camp (Astand Kamaluddin Behzad).
- Monarha IDP camp
- Shahrak Shahedayee
- Dahanay Kamarband IDP camp

#	Activity	Province	Date	Female	Male	Total
1	Monthly TIP coalition meeting	Balkh	16 - April	12	21	33
2	Monthly TIP coalition meeting	Herat	24 - April	8	16	24
3	Monthly TIP coalition meeting	Kabul	30 - April	5	17	22



Hagar's coalition meeting held in Herat Province on 24 April © IOM 2017(Photo: by IOM)

Cross Border situational analysis:

Hagar International also conducted a situational analysis exercise in Balkh province and Herat province. The purposes of such exercise were:

- To understand existing, if any, mechanisms and protocols at the border to prevent cross border human trafficking;
- To explore a strategy for setting up/strengthening coordination through possible cross border protocols between law enforcement officials on both sides;
- To assess protection related training needs of the relevant officials managing migration at the border.

#	Activity	Province	Date	Female	Male	Total
1	Cross Border situational analysis meeting	Balkh	15 - April	0	7	7
2	Cross Border situational analysis meeting	Herat	25 - April	0	6	6

**Internews**, CTIP media partner produced and aired a total of 9 episodes of the drama titled 'From the village to the town' in Pashto and Dari. The series is being broadcast through the Salam Watandar radio network across the country. In order to attract more listeners, Salam Watandar is promoting the drama series on radio and on social media, with over 24,958 views and 2,586 likes. Salam Watandar also broadcasted two feature stories on 'Sexual exploitation of male children and the practice of Bacha bazi: a slavery form of human trafficking,' and 'Forced to become Beggars: TIP for labor exploitation in unregulated sectors' in April. All stories were aired in both Dari and Pashtu languages.

The panel members for the radio roundtable were representatives of the TIP high commission, Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Religious Scholar & Member of Academy of Sciences in Afghanistan and civil society organizations and was facilitated in both national languages (Pashto and Dari).

In addition, two more stories on 'Trafficking in Persons for the purpose of organ removal and underage deceived recruitment by armed groups in combat zones: a form of trafficking of children in armed conflict situation' were developed by Pajhwok Afghan News and published on 17th and 30th of April 2017 on Pajhwok website in Dari, Pashto and English languages.

For more information on the stories please click on the below links:

#### Trafficking in Persons for the purpose of organ removal

English: <https://tinyurl.com/jw5qkx9>

Dari: <http://tinyurl.com/n4qrm9x>

Pashto: <https://tinyurl.com/kpgx963>

#### Underage deceived recruitment by armed groups in combat zones: a form of trafficking of children in armed conflict situation

English: <https://tinyurl.com/m7nf7z3>

Dari: <http://tinyurl.com/l9h6fwr>

Pashto: <http://tinyurl.com/lz9pb38>



Salam Watandar's 2nd radio roundtable held on 19 April  
© IOM 2017 (Photo: by Internews)

TIP training manual:

The project team has developed a training manual to build the technical capacity of Afghan law enforcement officials to identify, refer and respond the needs of VoTs. The manual was developed with technical support from the IOM regional offices for South Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (SEEECA), Vienna Asia and the Pacific Bangkok. The training team of Hagar International also contributed. This is the first training manual in the context of Afghanistan, which will be piloted in the next phase of the project and will be finalised next year in coordination with the Afghan government.