



INFORMATION CAMPAIGN: At a school in Rakhine State on counter-trafficking and safe migration in collaboration with the Anti-trafficking Task Force and civil society organisations. Sittwe, Rakhine State. © IOM 2016 / Yoko Kimura

OVERVIEW

Since 2007, IOM Myanmar has been implementing a victim-centered and rights-based approach to counter-trafficking programmes. The effort is aimed at improving the technical capacity of key government agencies to prevent human trafficking, provide assistance to victims of trafficking, and to enhance law enforcement effectiveness and good governance to combat human trafficking and smuggling. IOM works closely with key government bodies under the Central Body for the Trafficking in Persons (CBTIP), including the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MoSWRR), and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population (MOLIP). IOM also collaborates with Myanmar’s civil society organisations (CSOs) and promotes home generated solutions towards the issue of human trafficking.

MPU’s strategy focus and activities are in line with the priority areas stipulated in the Five-Year National Plan of Action to Combat Human Trafficking (2017-2022), and the draft National Prevention Strategy in response to migrant protection in Myanmar. They include,

- Awareness raising towards informed decisions and behavior change; addressing drivers of unsafe/irregular migration; promotion of safe migration; and enhancing rule of law;
- Direct assistance and reintegration support for victims of trafficking, vulnerable and stranded migrants;
- Strengthening international and regional cooperation aiming at information sharing, harmonization of national laws and policies, and coordinated response;
- Enhancing law enforcement effectiveness and good governance to counter human trafficking, people smuggling and related crimes; as well as legislative reform and policy development;
- Building migration crisis management capacities and responding to immediate needs through data collection and analysis to develop evidence-based policy and programming.



ASSISTING MIGRANTS RETURNED FROM MALAYSIA: Post-Arrival Assistance to over 2,200 stranded Myanmar migrants from Malaysia who were in immigration detention centres. © IOM 2017 / Lynn Pyait Htoon

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

IOM Mission in Myanmar
 Migrant Protection Unit
 Euan McDougall | Programme Manager
 E-mail: iomyangon@iom.int

“In tackling human trafficking and other forms of exploitation, it is imperative that we affirm that migrants’ rights are human rights and that they are entitled to the same respect and dignity to which all persons are entitled. We must all strive for this and remain united in the fight against human trafficking.”

– IOM DG William Swing

PROTECTION

MPU provides return, referral, and reintegration support (i.e. shelter/temporary accommodation, medical, psychosocial support, counselling, food, non-food items, legal support, communication with families, family reunification) to victims of trafficking, stranded, intercepted, apprehended and other vulnerable migrants including internal victims of trafficking. This direct assistance aims to ensure victims of trafficking, vulnerable and stranded migrants enjoy safe, voluntary, orderly, and dignified return to their country of origin.



INFORMATION CAMPAIGN, AWARENESS RAISING: Portraying the moment fishermen take the risk of escaping exploitation on fishing boats. © IOM 2017 / Yoko Kimura

PREVENTION

IOM's approach towards prevention is multi-faceted. Contextualized information and sensitization messages, IEC materials and awareness raising programmes (e.g. community-based dialogue, peer education, songs, drama, video, SMS, billboards, social media, religious events and teachings, etc.) are constructed. For instance, in response to the lack of awareness about the risk of irregular migration and human trafficking, especially in conflict affected communities, IOM is providing Training-for-Trainers (ToTs) trainings to CSOs, and trained facilitators conduct awareness raising on counter-trafficking at the community level.

MPU has been working with religious leaders (from both Buddhist and Christian communities) to address human trafficking, and develop key messages and IEC materials on counter-trafficking.

EVIDENCED-BASED STRATEGY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

MPU aims to strengthen Myanmar society (Government, national and international partners, and CSOs) to gain evidence-based understanding of migration dynamics including causes, patterns, trends, and consequences of human trafficking and irregular migration, as well as of migrants' vulnerabilities through research and dialogue.

MPU provides technical support to Government and CSOs in collecting, sharing, and analysing evidence-based policy making, and making the better use of data related victims of trafficking identification, screening, and needs assessment and referral. MPU also gives technical assistance to develop, revise, update, and implement the National/Sub-national Plan of Action on Combatting Trafficking in Persons.



NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON PREVENTION STRATEGY: Sister and CSOs engage with the Anti-Trafficking Task Force to develop a national prevention strategy. © IOM 2017 / Yoko Kimura

PROSECUTION

MPU is committed to enhance law enforcement effectiveness and good governance of the Government of Myanmar to combat human trafficking and smuggling. MPU delivers training to frontline law enforcement bodies (immigration, police, customs) at the regional and local level on enhanced investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases including border management, operations of border check points, Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SOM) victim-centered screening and identification, investigation, passenger profiling and detection of imposters.

Moreover, implementation of operational and high-level Myanmar-Thailand cross border cooperation workshops is carried out in mainstreaming TIP and SOM issues at the national and bilateral level.