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DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in the Western Balkans Region (PaCT)

Approach: Mobile Identifications
Teams (MITs)



PROJECT OVERVIEW

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)** is implementing the regional project "Preventing and Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings in the Western Balkans (PaCT)". The project advises public authorities and civil society organizations (CSOs) in the Western Balkans on how to establish the underlying conditions to improve the situation for (potential) victims of human trafficking.

The strategic partner of the project is the **Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI)** – the regional intergovernmental organisation on migration – with its Regional Centre in Skopje, North Macedonia.

The two main target groups of the project are migrants and refugees in the Western Balkan region and vulnerable groups from the Western Balkans who are particularly at risk of being trafficked such as, for example, members of the Roma minority.

PaCT four fields of action:



Prevention:

Making vulnerable groups more resilient to the risks of human trafficking



Protection:

Better identifying (potential) victims of human trafficking



Partnership:

Improving coordination and cooperation between different institutions and referral mechanisms



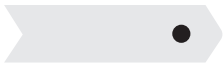
Support services:

Offering education and training as well as advisory services in the area of mental health and psychosocial support tailored to the requirements of the target groups

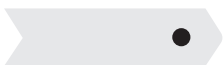
APPROACH: MOBILE IDENTIFICATIONS TEAMS (MITS)

The Mobile Identification Teams are considered a valuable and strategically vital resource for the proactive and effective recognition and early identification of (potential) victims of trafficking. MITs are multidisciplinary teams of committed, educated, skilled and highly experienced professionals from state institutions as well as from the NGO sector.

The approach targets two levels:



On regional level, this approach is focused on enhancing the mobile identification of (potential) victims of trafficking across the region, by mapping existing MIT approaches and fostering a regional dialogue. The approach offers a platform for exchange of good practices and lessons learnt as the basis for conceptualising and operationalising an improved and unified MIT approach.



On local level, we are working on the establishment and operationalization of MITs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, and Kosovo*.

Our implementing partner NGOs are: In Bosnia and Herzegovina - World Vision International (WVI); In Serbia - Association for Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH); In Montenegro - Legal Center Podgorica; In Kosovo* - NGO AKTI. This approach also ensures cooperation with the relevant offices of the Coordinators for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Ministries of Interior / Security).

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE APPROACH

Mobile Identification Teams are community and field-based resources, formed for early recognition of (potential) victims of trafficking. They aim to contribute to the prevention of human trafficking by providing support to (potential) victims to recognise and address the possible risks of smuggling and human trafficking. The approach also enhances the professional capacities within the institutions and the civil society organisations for recognition and early identification of (potential) victims of trafficking. In addition, it targets citizens and local communities in general by contributing to raising their awareness and engagement in prevention activities.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The MIT approach primarily targets:



Local population groups vulnerable to trafficking



Victims and potential victims of trafficking in human beings within the migrant, refugee and asylum seeker population on the move

BENEFITS

- Proactive and improved identification and access to services for (potential) victims of trafficking
- Direct communication with the target group, close involvement with and maintained presence in the community
- Integrative and holistic approach to vulnerable people and populations at risk where (potential) victims of trafficking are one of the target categories

RESULTS

- Developed training modules for Mobile Identification Teams.
- 30 professionals from the region are trained on the aspects of MITs (composition, tasks, position within the referral mechanism(s) and roles and responsibilities of MIT in detection and identification of (potential) victims of trafficking).
- 14 MITs established: 4 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 4 in Serbia, 3 in Montenegro and 3 in Kosovo*.
- 36 (potential) victims of trafficking identified as a result of the established MITs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Mobile Identification Teams should be integrated within the existing referral mechanisms and capacities. Sufficient budget funds should be allocated for their adequate and sustainable work.
- A multi-sectoral approach is essential to MITs effectiveness and should be continuously advanced in recognition and identification of potential victims of trafficking.
Trafficking in human beings is a dynamic domain, influenced by constant changes and developments. Thus, MIT members' capacities and competencies should be continuously enhanced, in line with the members' sectoral competencies.
- The general public needs to be informed and their awareness raised about the establishment, roles, and responsibilities of MITs. Citizens' engagement and support is invaluable for the effective functioning of a MITs.

**Mobile
identification
team in
Tuzla, BiH**



*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

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On behalf of BMZ

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