



UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Centre
TERMS OF REFERENCE

Title: Consultant for a good practice documentation of anti-trafficking efforts by sex workers' organisation

Type of Contract: Special Service Agreement

Duration : 2 months

Duty Station: Home-based

Background

Both human trafficking and HIV greatly threaten human development and human security. Although figures vary significantly among sources, it is estimated that 300,000 children and women are trafficked in Asia every year¹. Women and girls are trafficked for various purposes, but sexual exploitation remains the single largest category of exploitive trafficking crime worldwide. The 2009 UNODC report reveals that 79% of identified human trafficking cases were committed for the purpose of sexual exploitation².

Not only is human trafficking a hideous crime and gross violation of human rights, it also contributes to the spread of HIV. Severe sexual exploitation is the integral part of trafficking and sexual transmission is the main cause for the spread of HIV in Asia.

A study conducted by Harvard University confirmed such link by revealing HIV prevalence of 38% among 287 rescued Nepalese sex-trafficked women and girls in Mumbai, India³. Moreover, among girls trafficked before 15 years of age, HIV prevalence was staggering 60%.

Human trafficking and HIV are connected to a vast number of development issues, particularly those of rights, gender inequality, disempowerment, and denial of rights. These factors are intertwined, reinforced, and perpetuated in Asian societies where rights violation, gender inequality, and disempowerment of women prevail. They include poverty, unsafe or forced migration to support family and escape poverty, gender inequalities compounded by women's lack of sexual, social and economic autonomy, violence within and outside families, and insufficient access to information and health care services. In fact, these are manifestations of norms, values and practices prevailing in Asia that disempower, discredit, and disregard girls and women.

¹ UNESCO anti-trafficking statistics website,
<http://www3.unescobkk.org/culture/WebTraffickingV2/Search.aspx>

² UNODC (2009) Global Report on Trafficking in Persons.

³ Silverman JG, et al. (2007) HIV Prevalence and Predictors of Infection in Sex-Trafficked Nepalese Girls and Women. JAMA, p536-542: Vol 298. No.5

As commercial sexual exploitation constitutes the core of trafficking and given high HIV prevalence among sex workers in Asia, sex work can be considered a primary venue where trafficking and HIV intersect. Recognising such an opportunity for prevention of both HIV and trafficking, some sex work organisations in Asia are proactively implementing prevention activities.

One of the well-known models is DMSC (Dubar Mahila Samanwaya Committee) from Kolkata, India. DMSC carries out both HIV and trafficking prevention (removal of minors and trafficked victims) through the Self-Regulatory Boards in partnership with a range of stakeholders such as the local police, clients and brothel owners. It takes the empowerment and engagement of sex workers as the principal approach to the prevention activities. While the DMSC model has been highlighted in some literatures, not much is known about anti-trafficking efforts by other sex work organisations in Asia.

As part of continuous effort to strengthen evidence and knowledge on the nexus between HIV and human trafficking in Asia and ways to prevent it, UNDP Regional HIV and Development Programme proposes to commission a good practice documentation to examine trafficking prevention efforts by sex work organisations.

Objectives of the Assignment

- To identify sex work organisations in Asia carrying out trafficking prevention
- To examine in detail the mechanisms and processes of trafficking prevention for each organisation (including that of DMSC)
- To investigate key issues/factors facilitating and impeding trafficking prevention

Scope of Work

- Conduct literature review and contact relevant organisations such as the Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers to gather information
- Conduct in-depth telephone interviews
- Discuss an outline of a report with UNDP Regional HIV and Development Programme

Duration of Assignment, Duty Station and Expected Place of Travel

- The duration of this assignment is 2 month, within which the assignment must be completed. This is a home-based assignment with no travel required.

Deliverables/Output

- Produce a draft (by October 10, 2010) and a final report with appropriate references and comments incorporated

Provision of Monitoring and Progress Control

- The consultant will report to the UNDP HIV Practice Team leader in Asia and the Pacific and to the Programme Specialist.

Degree of Expertise and Qualifications

- Education: Master's degree in Journalism, Social Sciences, related field or academic equivalent

- Substantive experience in issues related to human trafficking in Asia
- Working experiences with sex work organizations in Asia an asset
- Experience in substantive report production

Please visit <http://www.undp.or.th/aboutus/jobs.html> to see full job descriptions. Interested persons should submit a detailed resume, and UN Personal History Form (P11) with a cover letter clearly stating the position title by **9 September 2010**. Women candidates are encouraged to apply. Kindly send the application to:

Procurement Unit

G.P.O Box 618, Bangkok 10501 or email to: rcb.procurement.th@undp.org

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified