



IOM International Organization for Migration
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

**11th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference
“Preventing Trafficking for Labour Exploitation: Decent Work and Social
Justice”**

Partners in the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons

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Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, colleagues,

It is a pleasure to join you today for the 11th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference.

As has already been underlined by the previous speakers, trafficking in persons is one of the most heinous international crimes of the globalized era. It is a scourge that feeds on inequality, and harshly exploits the most vulnerable of human beings.

While there has been some progress in the fight against trafficking in persons, we know that human trafficking is as prevalent today as it was 17 years ago when IOM started tackling this crime, or more importantly as 11 years ago when the Palermo Protocol was adopted and 7 years when this alliance was created. Sadly, hundreds of thousands of men, women and children continue to be abused and exploited by this human rights violation all over the world.

Since the advent of the Palermo Protocol, we all have been working to counter trafficking in persons by focusing on the 3Ps: Prevention, Protection and Prosecution. In the process, we have also added a fourth P to this equation: Partnerships.

In some areas, we have made tremendous strides. To see signs of progress, one need only to compare the number of countries which had specific national legislation to combat trafficking in 2000 with the number that have it today.

But, are these signs that we see adequate? After mobilizing a global movement against trafficking, and collectively investing hundreds of millions of dollars and an immeasurable amount of time and energy, are we on the right track?

If we look at the estimates of the number of individuals trafficked, these have hardly changed over the past decade. What then has gone wrong? Why, with all the progress that has been made in establishing protection and prosecution systems, does the problem remain as it was ten years ago?

When I survey the field of what has been done to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute perpetrators, I rarely see evidence of a rigorous evaluation culture. Have we been effective in protecting victims? Are we effectively preventing

trafficking? Have we been able to dismantle trafficker networks? What has been the impact of our efforts?

Without systemic evaluation, we will continue to

- Lack the ability to identifying practices which are effective;
- Replicate practices which may not be as effective as we thought they were;
- Determine how to make practices that have proven their effectiveness in one place equally effective elsewhere, and;
- Fail to understand cases where practices which appears effective in a narrow way have unintended or negative impacts.

While most policy-makers responsible for implementing migration programmes would no doubt agree that it is important to know “what works and what doesn’t work”, little has been done to explore, particularly in a systematic way, what impact programmes to counter trafficking have had, despite some encouraging examples such as the recent report on an evaluation of Norway-funded IOM's counter-Trafficking Programmes that was published in January 2011.

IOM is firmly convinced of the need to strengthen our evaluation efforts, and to programme for results in a manner that allows us to assess not only the immediate outputs of our projects and activities, but most importantly, the broader outcomes and overall impact as well.

With this in mind, our ongoing restructuring exercise has created an opportunity to strengthen our project development and implementation model and prepare a new IOM Project Handbook that,

- Mainstreams a project results-based management approach and places significant emphasis on project outcomes, or on the ‘changes in institutional performance, in the behaviour of groups or individuals, or in the social, economic, or political conditions of the beneficiaries’ that projects may have; and
- Creates a new template for IOM project proposals that requires that IOM project developers include both outcome-level indicators and a detailed assessment of the most appropriate type of evaluation for the project.

These are small but important steps, and are indicative of the Organization’s commitment to strengthen our capacity to measure the effectiveness for all of our programmes and projects, including those which aim to counter trafficking.

Despite this commitment, we recognise that there are many outstanding challenges in this effort, such as the financing of evaluations in particular for small size or short-term counter-trafficking projects, which are the large majority, and for which may be difficult to justify the allocation of evaluation funds. Possible solutions include increasing the size and duration of these projects, or encouraging regular thematic evaluations at national or regional level.

In any case, a solution must be found! IOM is convinced that an evaluation culture is necessary if we are to learn lessons from our project implementation, and identify, replicate and refine best practices to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute perpetrators. We need to evaluate to be more performing.

Conclusion

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen.

Establishing methodologies to evaluate results of programs and projects within the processes of institutions is important and necessary, but also very important in this regard is the development of sector oriented assessments done in a collective and broader way, for example by evaluating jointly with other stakeholders what are the results of the last ten years working against counter-trafficking.

A culture of joint evaluation may create an environment which would help us to assess not only our institutional and operational response to trafficking as individual organizations, but also to analyze the effectiveness and efficiency of the strategic alliances such as the one that brings all of us here today, created to counter trafficking from a broader, less expensive, and more efficient and objective way.

Given the scale of the phenomenon we are facing I would like to stress the vital role which successful partnerships play not only in the substance of our work but also on the efficiency and effectiveness of the processes and procedures. Only investing in the development of a culture of evaluation we can identify and replicate best practices, avoid repeating errors, and develop procedures for measuring results.

Thank you for your attention.