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Swiss Cooperation Office
South Caucasus

Secondary School Education in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to Prevent Trafficking in Persons (Phase 3)



Project title

Secondary School Education in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to Prevent Trafficking in Persons (Phase 3)

General information

Region: South Caucasus (Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan)
Duration: January 1, 2012- December 31, 2013
Budget: CHF 1'000'000

Project partners

- Implementing partner: International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Institutional partner: Ministries of Education in 3 countries
- Various NGOs in 3 countries

Project objectives

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to the prevention of trafficking in persons and promote safe migration behavior in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

The project works towards the following objectives:

- To improve capacities of national education authorities and teachers to integrate the module on the prevention of trafficking in persons into the relevant school curricula.
- To identify common modalities and best practices in raising awareness on trafficking in persons and reflect them in teaching and dissemination.
- To raise awareness of disadvantaged children to the issue of trafficking prevention via child care workers in state structures

Background

Trafficking in human beings is a problem that affects all three countries in the South Caucasus. However, comprehensive data on trafficking in the 3 countries are scarcely available. Despite overall economic progress gained over past decades, there is still considerable vulnerability among

rural communities and people living in impoverished towns across the three countries. Unemployment is the major reason for people migrating abroad in search of jobs and often becoming victims of trafficking. The Project directly supports the implementation of the National Action Plans to counter human trafficking in three countries, calling on state and non-state partners to provide objective information on the pitfalls of irregular migration to potential migrants. It responds to the strategic priorities set by the governments of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan that emphasizes the importance of preventing trafficking in persons through education as part of their action plans to combat trafficking in persons.

Project activities

The main target groups the project works with are: school students and their parents, teachers, school directors, marginalized youth groups, lecturers and students in pedagogical universities, NGO partners, government counterparts in relevant Ministries. The project activities mainly focus on:

- Capacity building of more school teachers, students at various pedagogical university faculties and vocational education institutes as well as child care workers.
- Information exchange for awareness raising among stakeholders at the national as well as the regional level, mass media campaigns, Public Service Announcements, printing and dissemination of project-related brochures, etc....
- Reaching out to disadvantaged children to counsel them on trafficking-related issues and capacitate child care workers in this field.

Expected results

- The sustainability and ownership of the government authorities and the civil society have been ensured.
- 1,000 education officials and 500 pedagogical students have been capacitated and continue to teach effectively trafficking topics at schools that targets 30,000 persons (pupils, parents, school directors, marginalized youth groups).
- 6 meetings of regional nature have been facilitated to foster regional exchange among education officials and young people.
- Awareness among young people and societies at large on trafficking prevention have been raised through a large array of national and local media and fora, including peer education sessions, community meetings and mass-media outlets.
- Up to 1,300 child care workers and other relevant personnel have been capacitated through intensive capacity building activities, including train-the-trainer sessions.
- Up to 1,000 children without parental care living in orphanages, boarding schools and on the street have been made aware about trafficking prevention measures in individual and group counselling sessions.



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