

**THE VIENNA FORUM TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING
13-15 February 2008**

Vienna, Austria

AIDE MEMOIRE

PANEL: COMMUNITIES IN CRISIS

BACKGROUND

The Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking to be held at United Nations Headquarters in Vienna from 13 to 15 February 2008 will focus on the three overriding themes of vulnerability, impact and action. It will offer plenary sessions and a series of panels and workshops on different aspects of the three themes.

This event is part of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT). The Global Initiative aims to mobilize state and non-state actors to eradicate human trafficking by i) reducing the vulnerability of potential victims and the demand for exploitation in all its forms; ii) ensuring adequate protection and support to those who do fall victim, and iii) supporting the efficient prosecution of the criminals involved, while respecting the fundamental human rights of all persons.

UN.GIFT is part of a wide partnership by the UN-System and other international and regional organizations (ILO, IOM, OSCE, OHCHR, UNICEF, UNODC). These organizations, which form part of UN.GIFT Steering Committee, are responsible for the organization of the panels and workshops of The Vienna Forum.

The panel is organized by IOM, in close collaboration with key partners.

CONTEXT

Natural disaster and conflict place people into situations of extreme vulnerability, weakening or completely destroying family support structures, community bonds and self-protection mechanisms which might otherwise serve as a buffer to the risk of human trafficking. Affected communities often face difficulties accessing education and/or livelihood and self-reliance opportunities, making them particularly vulnerable to traffickers offering often life-saving livelihood opportunities to both adults and children.

Unaccompanied children, child heads of households, single – especially female – headed households, young girls and former victims of trafficking are some groups which may be at heightened risk of becoming trafficked in situations of crisis. In situations of conflict, children may be at particular risk of being forcibly recruited into armed groups

Although more research needs to be undertaken to better understand the link between trafficking in persons and communities in crisis induced by conflict or natural disaster, experience indicates that during the very early stages of such crises while the focus is on immediate relief, the risk of trafficking is low. This risk increases as the affected population realizes the extent to which their lives have been disrupted and their lack of means of livelihood. At the same time, traffickers can become more organized as time goes on.

Family members, as a survival strategy, can often be complicit in human trafficking in a crisis or post-crisis setting, especially in a camp context. As such, livelihood support should be considered as a prevention activity, along with training of community leaders, government officials, NGOs, UN staff and, where relevant, peace-keeping forces.

OBJECTIVES

This panel aims to demonstrate the vulnerabilities to human trafficking specific to communities in crisis (conflicts and natural disasters) and the various ways these can be addressed, and to contribute to eliciting broad agreement among humanitarian actors to ensure human trafficking concerns are included as a core part of any crisis response.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. A concise statement of key policy messages/recommended principles and guidelines will be elaborated on the essential anti-human trafficking elements to be incorporated into crisis and post-crisis assistance strategies including in the Inter-agency Consolidated Appeals Process;
2. A summary of panel discussions will be prepared and incorporated into the overall final report of the Vienna Forum.

STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The panel will consist of a single session, which will take place on Thursday 14 February, from 11:00 until 12:30.

The panel will feature four experts, one of whom will be designated as the panel chair, who will facilitate the session, and another the rapporteur. All four experts will speak in succession, and each will have ten minutes.

Following the presentations, participants will have 35 minutes to address questions to the panel experts or to the session at large. The rapporteur will offer a summary of the discussions at the end of the session, and secure a general consensus for the summary to be adopted as the official record of the panel session.

THEMES

The following themes will be addressed:

- Prevention and protection in the wake of natural disasters and conflict
- The role of key stakeholders such as UN, NGOs and peacekeeping forces

PARTICIPANTS

Approximately 150/200 participants are expected, including government officials, parliamentarians, representatives of the private sector, civil society, academia and international organizations.

Moderator: Gisela Holmen-Yngrot, independent expert **tbc**

Confirmed Speakers:

- Maria Ulfa Anshor, Fatayat (Indonesia)
- Rogers Kasirye, Uganda Youth Development Link (Uganda)
- Monica Peruffo, IOM (Tanzania)

WORKING LANGUAGE

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French, Spanish, Russian, and Mandarin Chinese.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Faryal Shah

Division: Migration Management Services Department

Organization: International Organization for Migration

E-mail: avrctmms@iom.int