

# Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (2015-2019): An Overview

## Abstract

Human Trafficking is a serious crime against Humanity and a grave violation of Human Rights. Globally every year thousands of men, children and women become a victim of trafficking in their own countries and abroad. Almost every country of the world is affected by trafficking as a source country, transit or destination country. This article discusses the Global Action against Trafficking in Person's and the smuggling of Migrants (2015-2019) in details and highlights the contribution of European Union (EU), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Organization for Migrants (IOM) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

**Keywords:** Human Rights, Global Action against trafficking, UNODC, UNICEF, IOM, Trafficking, UDHR, Sexual abuse, Trafficker, Trafficked, re-Trafficking, Stakeholders, NGOs and International Organization, GLO Act.

## Introduction

Trafficking is an organized crime. Globally countries are detecting and reporting more victims of trafficking, and are convicting more traffickers. This is only possible as the countries are able to identify the victims and traffickers and are working towards strict implementation of the laws at national and International level.

## Objectives of the Study

1. To explain the GLO.Act.
2. To discuss the challenges of the GLO.Act.
3. To discuss the response of the GLO.Act.
4. To explain the lessons of the GLO.Act.

## What is Human Trafficking?

Article 3, paragraph (a) of the Protocol to Prevent Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Person's defines Trafficking in Persons as the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.<sup>1</sup>

As per the above definition of Human Trafficking, we can give a chart to explain the elements of Human Trafficking:

Which Acts Constitute Trafficking?	What are the means of Trafficking?	What is the purpose of Trafficking?
Recruiting a person	By using threat or force	Exploitation, Torture and Violation of Human Rights
Transportation	Coercion	Prostitution and Sexual exploitation
Transfer	Fraud	Forced and hazardous labour
Harbouring	Abduction	Slavery
Receipt of Person	Abuse of power	Illegal Activity and employment
	Abuse of Vulnerability	Beggary and Organ Trade
	Lurement	Beggar



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To know whether a particular Act constitutes trafficking in persons we have to look at the above chart and the definition of human trafficking and find out the link.

**GLO.Act**

GLO.Act stands for Global Action and this is a €11 Million joint initiative between the E.U and UNODC. It aims at addressing the issues of Trafficking in Person's and the smuggling of Migrants. This project is delivered by UNODC together with IOM and UNICEF.<sup>2</sup>

**Countries**

GLO.Act was implemented in two phases .First phase for this Act was applicable in 13 strategically selected countries across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America namely Belarus,Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, the Kyrgyz Republic,Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, South Africa and Ukraine.<sup>3</sup> Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Person's and the smuggling of Migrants was launched in 2015 and entered into second phase expanding towards Asia and Middle East until 2022.

**Challenges**

Trafficking in Person's (TIP) is a serious crime and grave violation of human rights. We all know that almost every country is affected by trafficking and traffickers continue to benefit from the weakness in the collective criminal justice response.Most of the countries do not have special legislation related to human trafficking.Even the existing legislations are not able to address the issue of trafficking collectively at global level, many a times it is difficult to address the issues of cross border crimes and reporting of missing people. Close coordination between and amongst the countries at global level is another issue. Peer group interaction at global level amongst different stakeholders is very rare and so the suggestions and remedies are taken at national level without taking into consideration the global response to this problem.

**Response of the GLO.Act**

Combatting human trafficking and migrant Smuggling was the utmost priority of EU, UNODC and United Nations as whole. GLO .Act was designed to work closely with the government authorities, civil society organizations and victims in order to make a positive difference in the lives of people who are trafficked or smuggled and exploited .The GLO.Act worked with 13 countries to develop and implement counter trafficking and counter smuggling responses. GLO. Act activities are organized into 6 work steams:

**Strategy and Policy Development**

First thing is to work with countries to develop strategies and policies tailored to their national context.

**Legislative Assistance**

One of the important things was to see that the domestic framework of the nation's meets the international standards for criminalizing TIP and SOM. So that trafficking can be tackled across borders.

**Capacity Building**

The team had to create network with governmental authorities to enhance the capacity and

knowledge of Criminal Justice practitioners to combat TIP and SOM along with protection of victims and vulnerable migrants.

**Regional and trans-regional cooperation**

It is all about promoting cooperation and information exchange with law enforcement officials on the identification, investigation and prosecution of offences related to TIP and SOM.

**Protection and assistance to victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants**

IOM worked with civil society as well as government authorities to develop assistance and support programmes for victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants.

**Assistance and support to children among victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants**

UNICEF and IOM worked with victim support services and relevant government authorities to develop framework for protection and assistance of children.<sup>4</sup>

**Outcomes**

The GIO. Act enhanced the implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Person's especially women and children and the Protocol against Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air.

It prevented and addressed TIP and SOM in each participating country.

It also anticipated that the project will have some bearing on the ability of the 13 countries to further develop their post 2015 UN Development Agenda,as the 2030 Sustainable development Agenda calls for an end to trafficking and violence against children ,as well as the need for measures against human trafficking.

As per the UNODC, 2018 Global Report on Trafficking in Person's Eastern Europe and Central Asia are characterized by a large detection of victims for forced labour as well as a large detection of adult men compared to other regions.<sup>5</sup>

**Country Level Response****The Republic of Belarus**

Belarus is one of the first countries that recognized the problem of human trafficking and responded to the issue with a set of comprehensive actions. They tried to protect vulnerable migrants and trafficking victims through an improved national referral mechanism. The representatives from the Belarusian government,NGO's, and International Organizations improved the National Referral Mechanism, contributed their frontier expertise working in boarder management, irregular migration management and counter trafficking.The guidelines presented in the workshop were for government officials and practitioners working on migrant protection worldwide and can be applied to countries of origin,transit and destination. <sup>6</sup>

**Ukraine**

In Ukraine a new TIP training module was designed for Judges during the workshop held from 21 to 23 November, 2018. The new curriculum covers all aspects of human trafficking. It provides theoretical as well as practical exercises for future Judges. Now it

is hoped that the newly appointed Judges will be able to interpret Article 149 of the Ukraine's Criminal Code.

#### **Kyrgyz Republic**

100 days campaign against trafficking in Person's was done in Kyrgyz amongst the communities all around the country to raise awareness about human trafficking. 80 youth leaders representing 30 youth Organizations ran the campaign with local government authorities, civil society and media in all 7 regions and major cities including Bishkek and Osh. The campaign directly engaged 5000 young activists and reached over 60000 people. As a result of the campaign the number of calls to the Migration Services hotline 1899 increased by 14%.

#### **Turkey**

The Turkish legislation imposes strict legal requirements on private employment agencies, measures that are necessary to prevent human trafficking and migrant smuggling. During the exchange visit the Kyrgyz Republic and Turkey strengthened bilateral cooperation to curb human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

#### **Pakistan**

The parliament of Pakistan passed new legislations i.e. The Prevention of Trafficking in Person's Act and The Prevention of Smuggling of Migrants Act in May, 2018. UNODC in collaboration with Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) organized an essay competition at Shifa Tameer -e- Millat University on "The menace of human trafficking and migrants smuggling" to involve youth in the discussion on human trafficking and migrant smuggling. UNODC also organised multiple workshops and seminars to alert criminal justice practitioners in existing legislative gaps and limitations. It also conducted extensive advocacy work engaging senators and members of National Assembly on human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

#### **Nepal**

UNODC organised a workshop in April, 2018 on Approaches and Practices on TIP victim referral guidelines and national referral mechanisms and developed a first draft on the new guidelines in Nagarkot. Nepal also participated in 8th session of the working group on TIP. Nepal has also ratified the United Nations Transnational Organized Crime Convention (UNTOC), which is the parent convention of the Trafficking in Person's and Smuggling of Migrants Protocols but is yet to ratify the Protocols.

#### **Colombia**

In March, 2018, GLO. Act National Project officers visited Migracion Colombia to research Migrant smuggling routes from Asia to North America. The research seeks to confirm whether Migrants have been smuggled from Asia to South Africa and onwards to Brazil and Colombia to reach North America. It is also trying to establish to what extent fraudulent documents are being used on this route.

#### **Lao**

Training of social workers and social welfare officials were conducted by UNICEF in Attapeu and

Saravane Provinces. The training focused on broad range of child protection and assistance issues.

#### **Thailand**

On 27 November, 2018, UNODC gathered stakeholders to exchange information on legal support provided to victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants in Thailand.<sup>7</sup>

#### **Lessons of GLO. Act in 13 countries**

1. Establish good bilateral relationship with potential beneficiary institutions before engaging them in any key decision-making process.
2. Early engagement of high-level representatives of government administration is good.
3. Duplication of efforts should be avoided by understanding the national concern's and linkages.
4. Identification of possible bottle necks is important to avoid delay in implementation.
5. Gaps in training curriculum should be identified by feedback and should be removed in further training programs.
6. Establishing effective mechanism of UN agency coordination is important along with a project coordinator.
7. Focal point meeting is helpful in addressing specific issues and this also builds relationship and a sense of responsibility in the government.
8. Pooling human and financial resources between target countries is very important and effective in advancing the fight against human trafficking at regional level.
9. Comprehensive implementation approach is better than issue-based approach.
10. Budgetary constraints can be avoided by multidisciplinary workshops which have a more effective and sustainable outcome.
11. Effective communication and cooperation between head quarter and national staff enables to address challenges quickly and they also get an opportunity to learn from other countries as a team.
12. Comprehensive coordination and consultations can take more time sometimes so be mindful while developing work plan.
13. Regular training and assessing training impact should be ascertained.<sup>8</sup>

#### **Suggestions**

1. The Global Action should be continuously monitored at global and national level.
2. The training and workshop reports should be shared with all the nation's globally so that they can also take advantage of the findings and learn from the experiences of the partner countries.
3. Other Countries should also start workshops with UNODC to combat human trafficking and Migrants smuggling.
4. Missing persons should also be reported globally, and interconnected legal mechanism should be there to punish the traffickers.
5. Local as well as International NGO'S can play a positive role.
6. Forming Human trafficking clubs at school, college and university level should be encouraged.

7. Anti-human trafficking units should work on Global coordination.
8. The reports related to human trafficking and Migrants smuggling should be made available globally.
9. Efforts should be made at national level to create awareness amongst the masses about the issues related to human trafficking and Migrants smuggling.
10. Local Media and International media can play an important role in highlighting the cases of Human trafficking and Migrants smuggling.
11. All stakeholders should work in close coordination at national and Global level to combat trafficking and Migrants smuggling.
12. Latest technologies should be shared by all so that lack of technology does not hampers the intent to curb trafficking and Migrants smuggling.
13. Young population should be encouraged and involved in decision making to curb this menace.
14. Legislations should be implemented strictly at national and Global level to address the issues of Human trafficking and Migrants smuggling.
15. Positive political will is also necessary to address the issue of human trafficking and Migrants smuggling.

**Conclusion**

GLO.Act gave the opportunity to the participating states to translate and adopt to local context global objectives. It also opened opportunities to engage with the activities of implementing partners, a key for project sustainability and local ownership. As a part of human rights network the members shared their experiences, found out the best practices at global level and worked towards making a realistic and practical framework at national level to combat

human trafficking and Migrants smuggling. The exposure in the workshops helped them in understanding different dimensions of the problems and probable state response to that. Peer to peer interaction also helped them in addressing the concerns of cross border crimes and were able to relate in a practical way to the issues of human trafficking and Migrants smuggling. The close interaction also helped in committing to transform the attitudes and perception of people regarding human trafficking and Migrants smuggling. Together we can change the present global scenario about these issues and when we will take initiative at regional, National and global level then the reporting and convictions of traffickers will increase. Awareness and global connect will help in breaking the vicious circle of trafficking and human dignity and worth will be attained in actual at both national as well as global level.

**Endnotes**

1. *Definition of human trafficking, available at: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>*
2. *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, available at [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2018/GLOTiP\\_2018\\_BOOK\\_web\\_small.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2018/GLOTiP_2018_BOOK_web_small.pdf)*
3. *Supra 2.*
4. *Supra 2*
5. *Supra 1*
6. *Supra 2*
7. *<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/glo-act/index.html>*
8. *Supra 7*