

Fact Finding, Data Collection, Data Processing and Documentation

Role of Social Service Providers in
Identifying and Victims Protection



PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- Understanding human trafficking
- Identifying human trafficking victims
- Health problems of trafficking victims
- Special considerations when working with trafficking victims
- Support for victims through Act



HUMAN TRAFFICKING: WHAT IS IT?

- Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery
- Victims of trafficking exploited for commercial sex, labor purposes, forced begging and other forms
- Traffickers use force, fraud or coercion to achieve exploitation



HUMAN TRAFFICKING: HOW ARE VICTIMS TRAFFICKED?

- Force, fraud and coercion are methods used by traffickers to press victims into lives of servitude, abuse
 - **Force:** Rape, beatings, constraint, confinement
 - **Fraud:** Includes false and deceptive offers of employment, marriage, better life
 - **Coercion:** Threats of serious harm to, or physical restraint of, any person; any scheme, plan or pattern intended to cause victims to believe that failure to perform an act would result in restraint against them; or the abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING: WHO ARE VICTIMS?

- Many victims in the Thai do not speak Thai and are unable to communicate with service providers, police, or others who might be able to help them.
- Often kept isolated and activities restricted to prevent them from seeking help
- Typically watched, escorted or guarded by traffickers or associates of traffickers
- Traffickers may “coach” victims to answer questions with cover story about being wife, student or tourist
- Victims comply and don't seek help because of fear



TRAFFICKING VICTIMS: UNDERSTANDING MINDSET

Frequently victims:

- Do not speak Thai and are unfamiliar with culture
- Confined to room or small space to work, eat, sleep
- Fear, distrust health providers, government, police
 - *Fear of being deported*
- Unaware what is being done to them is a crime
 - Do not consider themselves victims
 - Blame themselves for their situations
- May develop loyalties, positive feelings toward trafficker as coping mechanism
 - *May try to protect trafficker from authorities*
- Sometimes victims do not know where they are, because traffickers frequently move them to escape detection
- Fear for safety of family in home country



MYTHS ASSOCIATED WITH HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Myth #1:

All Prostitutes Are Willing Participants



MYTHS ASSOCIATED WITH HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Myth #2:

**All Immigrants Smuggled into
Thailand Enter Willingly**



MYTHS ASSOCIATED WITH HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Myth #3:

**All Participants Involved in Human Trafficking Are
Criminals**



IDENTIFYING VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Social service providers play important role identifying and helping trafficking victims
- While trafficking is largely hidden social problem, victims are in plain sight if you know what to look for
- Very few places where someone from outside has opportunity to interact with victim



IDENTIFYING VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Is potential victim accompanied by another person who seems controlling?
- Does person accompanying potential victim insist on giving information to you?
- Can you see or detect any physical abuse?
- Does potential victim seem submissive or fearful?
- Does potential victim have difficulty communicating because of language or cultural barriers?
- Does potential victim have any identification?



COMMUNICATING WITH VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- Before talking to potential trafficking victim, isolate individual from person accompanying her/him without raising suspicions
 - *Individual accompanying person may be trafficker posing as spouse, other family member or employer*
 - *Say that it is your policy to speak to person alone*
- Enlist trusted translator/interpreter who also understands victim's cultural needs
 - *If person is child, important to enlist help of specialist skilled in interviewing child trafficking or abuse victims*



COMMUNICATING WITH VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- For victim's safety, strict confidentiality is paramount
 - *Talk to victims in safe, confidential and trusting environment*
 - *Limit number of staff members coming in contact with suspected trafficking victim*
- Importance of indirectly and sensitively probing to determine if person is trafficking victim
 - *May deny being trafficking victim, so best not to ask direct questions*
 - *Phrase "trafficking victim" will have no meaning*



COMMUNICATING WITH VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING: QUESTIONS

- Can you leave your work or job situation if you want?
- When you are not working, can you come and go as you please?
- Have you been threatened with harm if you try to quit?
- Has anyone threatened your family?
- What are your working or living conditions like?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep or go to the bathroom?
- Is there a lock on your door or windows so you cannot get out?



COMMUNICATING WITH VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING: MESSAGES

- Gaining victim's trust important first step in providing assistance
- Sample messages to convey:
 - *We are here to help you.*
 - *Our first priority is your safety.*
 - *If you are a victim of trafficking and you cooperate, you will not be deported.*
 - *We will give you the social services that you need.*
 - *We can find you a safe place to stay.*
 - *We can help get you what you need.*
 - *We want to make sure what happened to you doesn't happen to anyone else.*
 - *You are entitled to assistance. We can help you get assistance.*
 - *If you are a victim of trafficking, you can receive help to rebuild your life safely in this country.*



VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AND THEIR NEEDS

There are four general areas of victim needs:

- **Immediate assistance**

- *Housing, food, medical, safety and security, language interpretation and legal services*

- **Mental health assistance**

- *Counseling*

- **Income assistance**

- *Cash, living assistance*

- **Legal status**

- *Temporary stay, immigration, certification*



GETTING VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING THE HELP THEY NEED

- If you think you have come in contact with victim of human trafficking, call **Trafficking Information and Referral Hotline, 1300**
- This hotline will help you:
 - Determine if you have encountered victims of human trafficking
 - Identify local community resources to help victims
 - Coordinate with local social service organizations to help protect and serve victims so they begin process of restoring their lives
- ***Call local police if victim is at risk of imminent harm***

HOTLINE 1300



Questions and Answers

