

# *Issues & Directions for Recovery & Integration*

**Labour Dimensions of Human Trafficking,  
Understanding the Issue & Effective Responses  
– Lessons from the Greater Mekong Sub-Region,  
Bangkok, 21-25 July, 2008**

## Reflection 1:

# Why focus on recovery & reintegration?

### Participants:

- Basic human rights that victims be rehabilitated and reintegrated
- Helps to reduce vulnerability of the groups
- Helps create safe social environment
- Obligation of the government to help these groups
- For mental and physical rehabilitation
- Need for a network appropriate to assist the victims
- Need to reunite victims with their families and avoid becoming a victim again (retrafficking)
- Traumatic physical and emotional experiences need to be addressed
- To enable them to live their lives happily
- To give them the opportunity to live a normal life
- Social responsibility of the government to provide them with the necessary assistance
- Loss of resources (labour) if they are not recovered or reintegrated into society
- Need to him/her to recover from physical/mental abuse
- Society has to accept and not discriminate against the victims and become members of society
- Recovery from physical and mental abuse and have a normal life in their communities

# Why focus on recovery & reintegration?

- . Because if we identify victims of trafficking (during inspections etc.) and exploited laborers we need to be able to assist them.
- Because rescued victims often still are vulnerable and we need to prevent them from being re-trafficked.
- Because reintegration often is about economic and social empowerment and this often is closely linked to sustainable livelihoods and decent work opportunities

## Reflection 2:

# In the victims shoes

- **Imagine it was YOU!**
  - What would be your first / worst concern?
    - List 3 concerns/fears:
  - What kind of assistance would you need?
    - List 3 examples of assistance you would need:

# Content

- **Background**
- **Different people (Returnees background)**
- **Guiding principles**
- **The process of return & integration**
- **Integration challenges & opportunities**
- **Capacity & coordination**
- **Lessons learnt: Experiences from other projects**
- **Questions and Answers**

# Background

- Growing attention to trafficking and growth of child & women's care institutions to assist trafficked victims.
- At the same time – the growth of institutions has not always followed by a improved quality care & services.
- Often there is a lack of quality care for victims & rights have been violated in the name of rescue, rehabilitation & reintegration

# Background

## Conceptual and practical challenges

Recovery & Reintegration might look straight forward – but it's not:

- Reintegration programmes are often ad-hoc and limited in scale (short term with limited real solutions for the victims)
- Many victims do not get assistance:
  - Official returnees only “tip of the iceberg”
  - Many don't know about services available
- Some believe as soon as a victim of trafficking get assisted, it is recovery (rehabilitation), and as soon as the person is being send back home, it is reintegration.
- However, recovery and integration requires sincere commitment, detailed planning, coordination and professional skills.

**R&R often more problematic than out-migration**

**One of the most difficult challenges in all anti-trafficking work**

# FROM WHERE AND WHAT SITUATIONS DO MIGRANTS RETURN?

**Age & gender:** Men, women, children. Babies, adolescents, adults

**Countries:** Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, Korea, Taiwan,, Singapore, Arab states etc.

**Types of return:**

- a) Identified victims of trafficking - Official returnees
- b) Deported illegal migrants - Official returnees
- c) Self-returning – Unofficial (incl. unidentified trafficking victims)

**Sectors:**



**Experiences:** Some empowered, some broken, some with savings some without, some mentally strong and resilient and some weak and vulnerable.

# We are all special...

EACH RETURNEE, CHILD OR ADULT, HAS SPECIFIC  
**NEEDS** AND **CONCERNS** AND SPECIFIC  
**STRENGTHS** AND **RESOURCES**

THOSE MUST DETERMINE THE TYPE OF  
ASSISTANCE WE PROVIDE

- **SOME CAN RETURN TO SOCIETY ALMOST IMMEDIATELY**
- **SOME NEED TIME TO HEAL AND STRENGTHEN THEMSELVES**
- **SOME WILL NEED LONG-TERM CARE AND ASSISTANCE**

# Rights & Responsibilities

## **International Instruments:**

- UN Protocol on Trafficking
- UN High Commissioner for Human Rights: Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking.
- ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at work
- International labour Standards on Migrant Workers
- ILO Plan of Action on Labour Migration in Asia and Pacific
- ILO Decent Work agenda / Asian Decent Work Decade 2015
- ILO C. 182 & C. 138
- Regional instruments: COMMIT: (Safe and timely repatriation & Post-Harm Support incl. reintegration.
- National Legal instruments & Action Plans.
  
- **ILO-IPEC Standards & Guidelines on Recovery and Integration**

# Standards & Guideline on Recovery & Integration

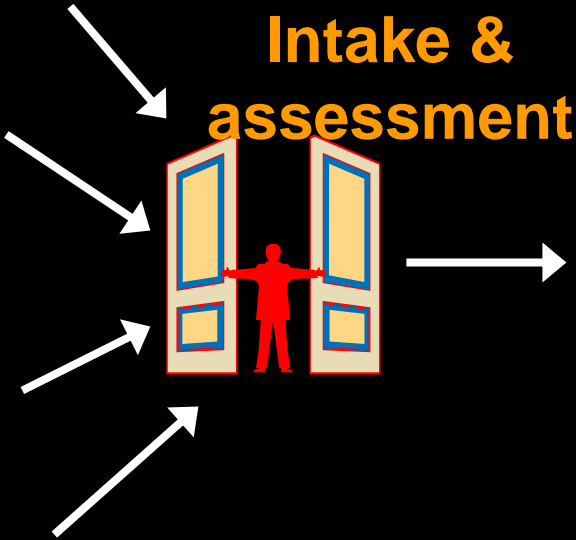
## Guiding principles

- Individual and Personal care (case management)
- Non-discrimination (equal treatment – respect difference)
- No detention
- Privacy and confidentiality (Protect identify)
- Protection from further abuse (by authorities etc. incl. verbal abuse)
- Participation (Listen to & respect their view and wishes)
- Rights and responsibilities (Informed about entitlements)
- Treated with respect, affection and dignity and promoting self-reliance (empowerment)
- Family and community-based care (favored over institutions)
- Rapid family reunion unless neglect or abuse
- Promote networks of protection (referral and coordination)
- Professional care (care-providers appropriately trained and + follow minimum standards of care )

# THE BASIC 3 STAGES OF RECOVERY & INTEGRATION

Identified victims

**Intake & assessment**



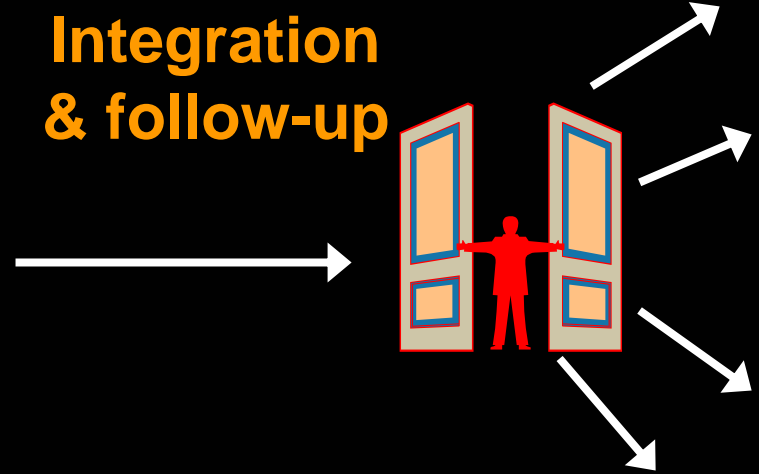
Can last from a day to a month

**Interim care and support**

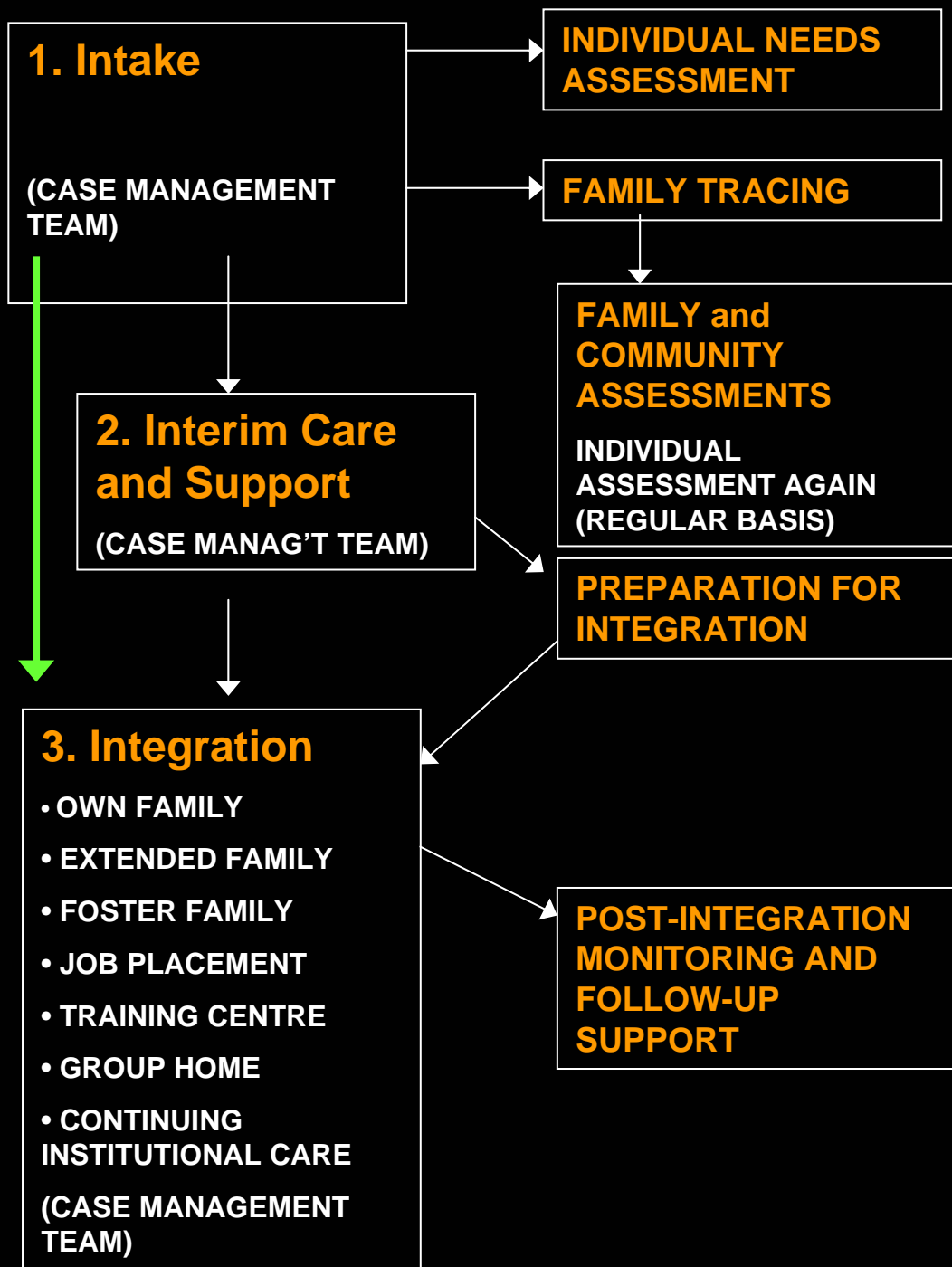


Can last from no time to six months

**Integration & follow-up**

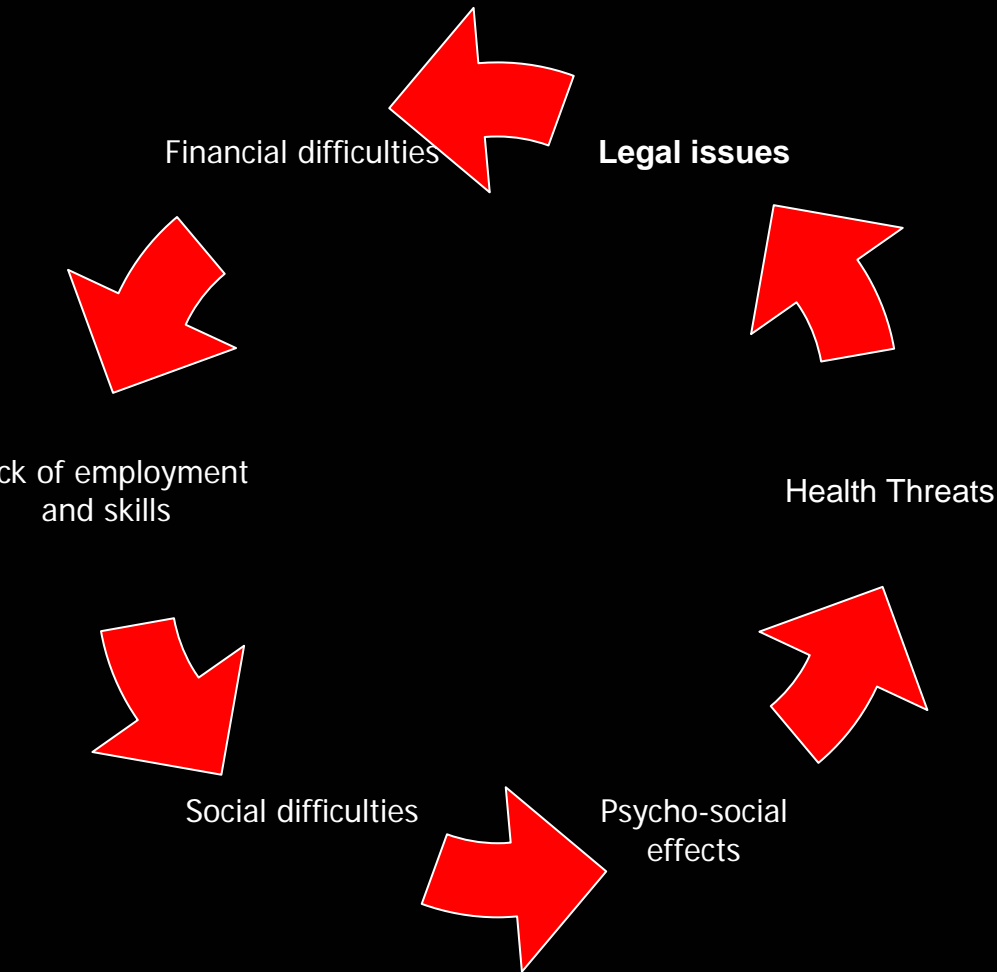


Can last from weeks to a year or more



- RIGHTS AND SERVICES THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS**
- SAFE AND ADEQUATE ACCOMODATION
  - CHILD PROTECTION
  - ACCESS TO FAMILY
  - ACCESS TO COMMUNITY
  - HEALTH
  - PSYCHO-SOCIAL
  - EDUCATION + TRAINING + JOB
  - LIFE SKILLS
  - LEGAL SUPPORT
  - NUTRITION
  - RECREATION
  - (AS PROVIDED BY CARE PROVIDERS, FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND SELF)

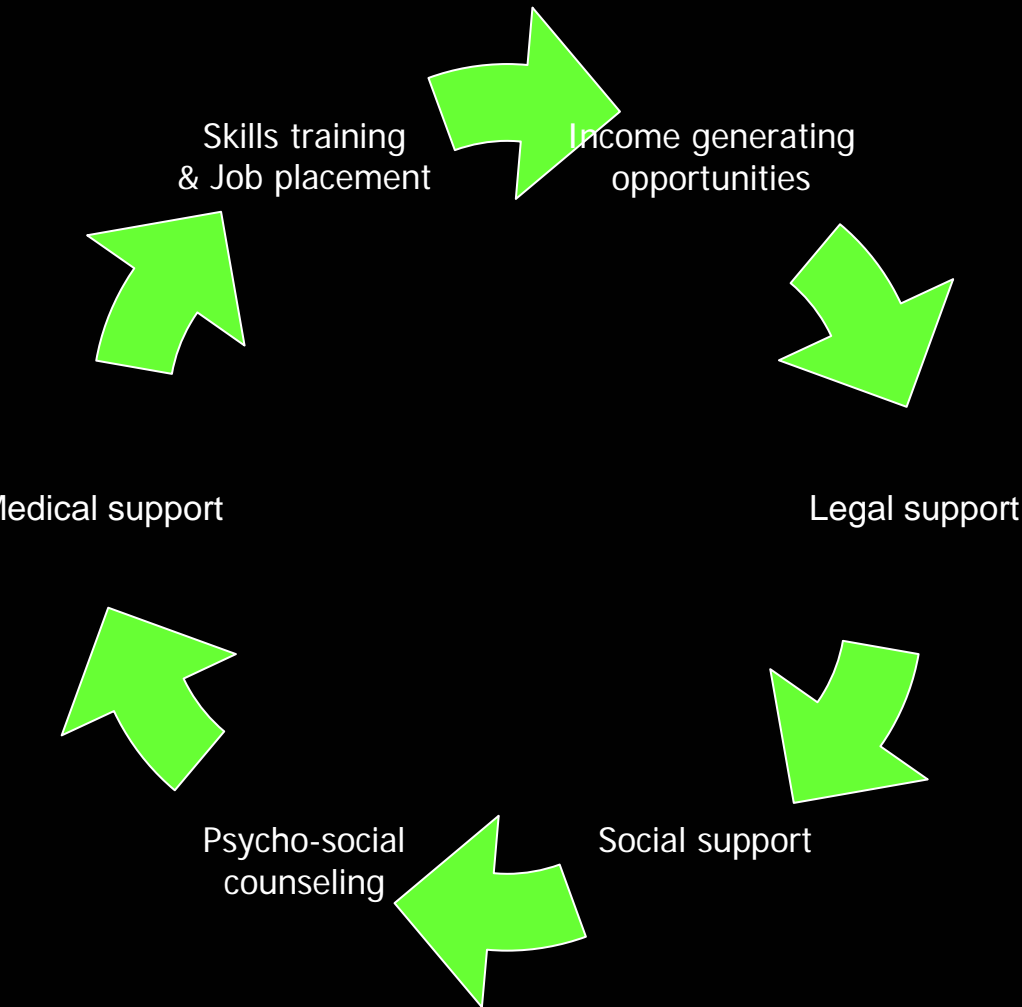
# A vicious circle of vulnerability



- **Financial difficulties**
  - Debt
  - no saving
  - Remittances spend,
  - family depended (cont. pressure)
- **Family & Social difficulties**
  - Break down of relationships & changed roles
  - Lack of decision making power
  - Stigmatization & rejection
  - Strained relations with children
- **Lack of employment & skills**
  - Few job & business opportunities
  - Lack of skills
- **Medical & Psycho-social effects**
  - Isolation, loneliness
  - Sense or identity & belonging
  - Post-traumatic & stress
  - Depression
  - Alcohol abuse
  - HIV
- **Legal issues**
  - Feeling of unjust
  - Traffickers/agents still active
  - Children abroad or children with no nationality (foreign)

**Result: continued vulnerability both at home or if re-migrating – in the worst case this might result in re-trafficking**

# Empowerment U-turn



- **Income generating opportunities**
  - Job-placement
  - Start up business
  - Saving schemes
  - Micro-credit & grants
  - Safe migration
- **Skills training and job placement**
  - Education
  - Vocational training (not a goal!)
  - On the job straining (apprentice)
  - Business training
- **Legal support**
  - Complaint mechanisms
  - Compensation
  - Rights awareness & empowerment
- **Social support**
  - Peer support groups
  - Family counseling
  - Social workers
  - Life skills
- **Psycho-social counseling**
  - Trained counselors / therapist
- **Medical support**
  - Health treatment and follow-up

**Result: Empowered socially and economically - both if staying or if going again**

# Integration – challenges

## **Economic / livelihood aspect of integration:**

- Strategies to identify occupations that provide income ('work that works'),
- Quality training programmes need to be developed (Training is not a goal!)

## **The social aspect of reintegration:**

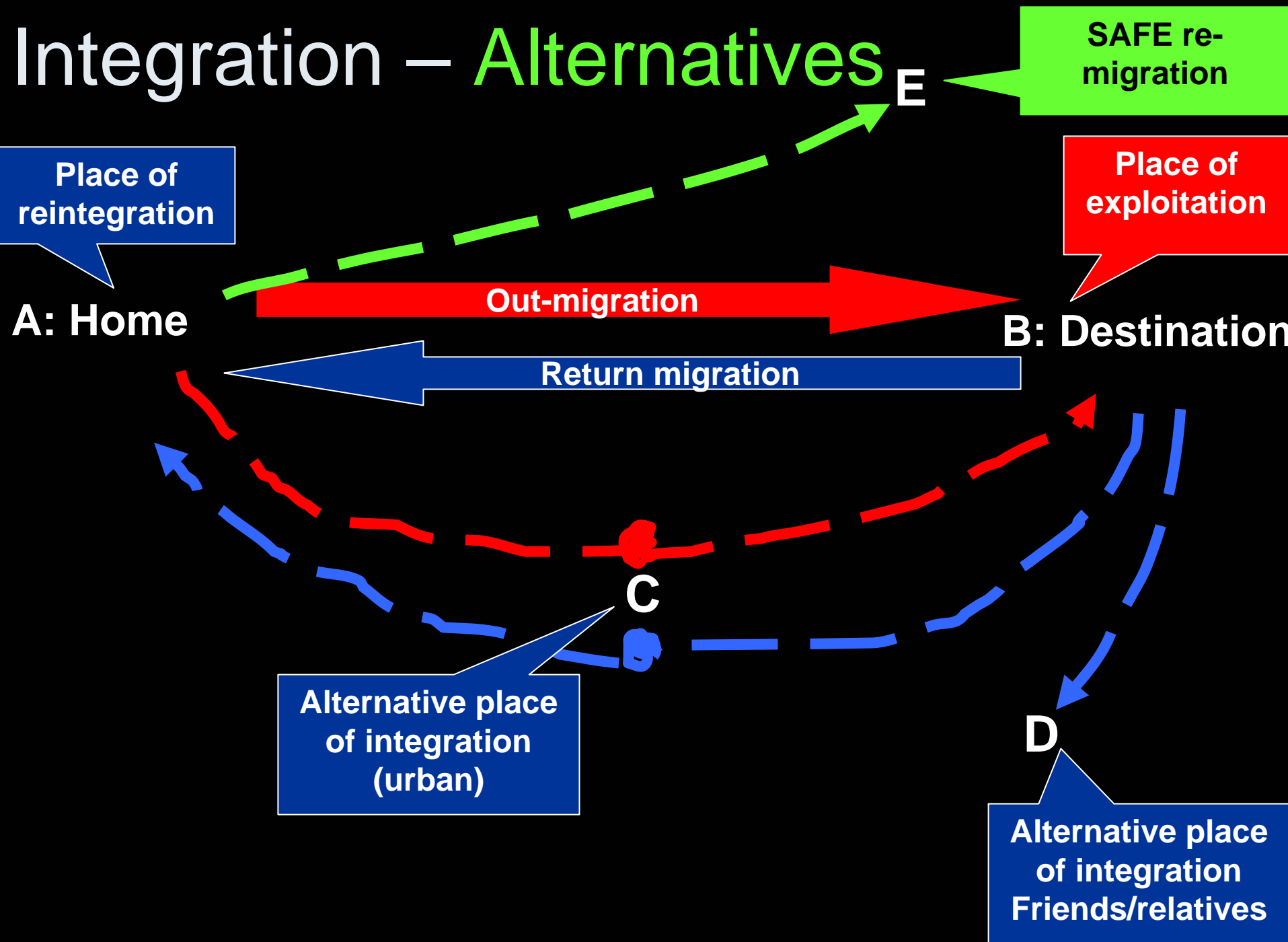
- Employment alone does not ensure a good life. Even if good employment is provided for a reintegrating person, it comes to naught if:
  - The person still can't save money – continued family pressure
  - Protect herself / himself from exploitation.

# Integration – challenges

It's a myth that all can return to their family and community, and they will live happily ever after.

- **MANY CANNOT GO HOME:**
  - because they are not accepted
  - because it is dangerous for them (Conflict, re-trafficking)
  - because they need medical or psychological care
  - because they have no family or community to return to
  - because they don't want to

# Integration – Alternatives



# Integration – Alternatives

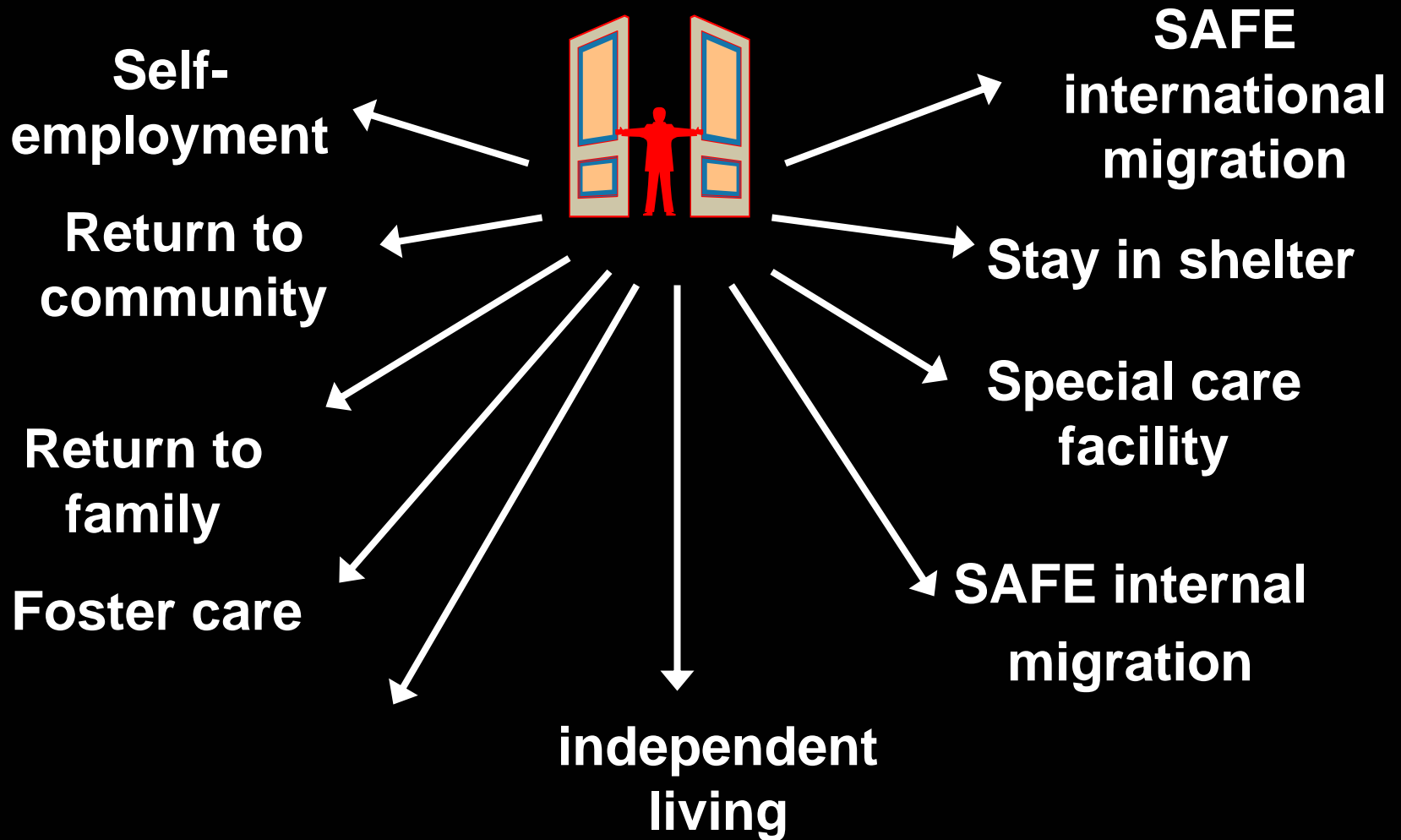
Might need to go from idea of reintegration towards ~~Re~~-integration

**IN PLANNING INTEGRATION, WE MUST:**

- **EXPLORE ALL THE ALTERNATIVES WITH THE VICTIMS**
- **BE EQUIPPED TO PREPARE VICTIMS FOR ALTERNATIVES**

**What are the alternatives we need to consider and prepare for?**

# Integration – Options



**For each alternative, the preparation for integration, and the follow-up after integration are different**

# Special considerations for recovery and integration

- Age
- Gender
- Physical and mental health
- Family situation
- Livelihood opportunities
- ...others???

## Reflection 3:

# My childhood

- What was most important for you as a child? – and/or what is important for you to give your children?
  - List five important points:

## Reflection 4:

### Child considerations in recovery & integration

- Once a child is rescued, should he/she be send back to his or hers family?
  - If yes, when?
  - If no, why not?

## Reflection 5:

### Child considerations in recovery & integration

- If a child cannot go back to her/his family, where can she go?
  - List options
- If there are several possibilities for living arrangements, what should you take into account in deciding which is best for the child?
  - List 3-5 key points

# Capacity to make a difference

- **Better understanding of Victims**
  - Returnees wishes and priorities
  - Taking point of departure in their self-understanding
- **Coordination & collaboration & referral**
  - Develop an agreement with build in monitoring mechanisms, between key government and non-government agencies, clearly outlining the roles and responsibilities of each one in terms of victims support.
- **Training and professionalism**
  - Social workers, psycho social counselors, career/livelihood counselors
- **Resources**

# Some Lessons learnt:

- Focus on issues that are close their (returnees) heart
- Participation. Actively involve returnees
- Respect and support their decisions – it's their life.  
(A RIGHTS BASED APPROACH)
- Assistance and services should be an attractive opportunity (Create a “winners” project image)
- Integration becomes meaningless if there is no livelihood to return to
- Linkages with groups in host and home countries are critical
- Skills training programmes should be high quality & short and focused (women have other responsibilities)
- Start-up your own business courses can be excellent – but keep in mind returnees are not necessarily more entrepreneurial than others
- Focus on empowerment – not just protection – to help women claim their rights and make informed decisions.

## Reflection 6:

# Group work

- CASE 3: Massage Parlor, Sex industry
- Case 7: Entertainment – Return from Japan

Thank you