

## Country Presentation-Lao PDR

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Third Session of the SURAC of the  
Mekong Project to Combat Trafficking  
in Women and Children

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# Situation of Human Trafficking

- increased migrants during the past 10 years, particularly in provinces sharing border with Thailand.
- Similarity of culture, tradition, language.
- Least developed (Laos) and neighboring developed and prosperous (Thailand)
- The influence of the increased information

# Situation of Human Trafficking

## (cont..)

- **No national data on migrants available.**
- **Survey carried out in Savannakhet, Champassak and Khammouan in 2003 showed:**
  - **6.9% of total population have migrated**
  - **74.1% of migrants aged 18 to 35**
  - **25.9% under 18**
  - **55.9% female**

# Situation of Human Trafficking

(cont..)

- 181,164 Lao migrants officially registered in Thailand (2004)
- 422 trafficking victims sent home, incl. 359 below 18 yrs and 63 above 19 yrs (2001 - 2005)
- 2,8% annual population increase, limited local market
- Increasing consumption culture
- Seeking better job and opportunities abroad
- Getting income to support families
- Being lured by peers or traffickers and then ending up with prostitution, forced labour.

# Policy Framework

- Within the framework of Lao National Goals and MDG target:
  - Increase primary net enrolment rate from 58% in 1991 to 85% in 2005 and to 98% by 2015.
  - Reduce from 40% of malnourished children by 2005 to 20% malnourished children by 2015.
  - Increase literacy rate of persons aged 15-24 from 78.5% in 2001 to 99% by 2015.

# Policy Framework (cont..)

- **National Law on the Development and Protection of Women's Rights promulgated**
- **ILO Convention No. 29 on Forced Labour ratified**
- **ILO Convention No. 182 on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child labour ratified**
- **ILO Convention No. 138 on Minimum Age ratified**
- **Lao National Labour Law to be revised**
- **Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) ratified**
- **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) ratified**

# Policy Framework (cont..)

- **MoU between Laos and Thailand on cooperation on employment**
- **MoU between 6 countries on cooperation against trafficking in persons in GMS**
- **Draft national action plan on CSEC submit to GoL for approval**
- **MoU between Laos and Thailand on cooperation to combat trafficking in persons, especially in women and children**

# Coordination mechanisms

- **National Committee on HT set up by the PM's Decree, chaired by Vice-Prime Minister**
- **COMMIT Task Force established**
- **National Steering Committee on Child Labour and Children Trafficking**

# Coordination mechanisms

- **5 ILO-IPEC/TICW Provincial Steering Committees on Child Labour and Children Trafficking**
- **ILO-IPEC/TICW Target District Steering Committees on Child Labour and Children Trafficking**
- **Village Development Committees in target villages**

# Intervention Programs

- The Lao Government is working with ILO:
  - To implement the project to combat trafficking in children and women (TICW) 5 provinces
  - Phase I (2001 to 2003) in 3 southern provinces and Phase II (2004 to 2008) adding 2 more northern provinces
  - TICW focus on 3 strategies: capacity building, advocacy and direct assistance

# Intervention Programs (cont..)

- **TICW migration survey in 3 southern provinces. Data used to inform project and intervention frameworks to combat HT. Process strengthened the capacity of participating government officers.**
- **TICW direct assistance to target communities: Village Development Funds set up with funds allocated from the project and the contribution from villagers themselves. This strategy is replicated in non-project target communities**

# Intervention Programs (cont..)

- Working with other UN Agencies and NGOs in the following areas:
  - Policy/legal frameworks : UNICEF, UNIAP, UNIFEM
  - Capacity building for national staff who work for the human trafficking areas: UNICEF, NCA, SCUUK, SCA, Consortium, IOM, ADB, ARCPPT, GAPE
  - Awareness raising / advocacy on the dangers on the human trafficking: UNICEF, SCUUK, SCA, NCA, ARCPPT, GAPE, Consortium
  - Direct assistance: SCUUK, SCA, UNIAP, IOM, NCA

# Contribution to National Agenda on Human Trafficking

- **2 ILO Conventions ratified and now used to revise the National Labour Law**
- **Target groups received vocational trainings**
- **Knowledge on project management of local project staff at all levels improved**
- **Lao PDR is now acknowledged as a country has an intention to address the human trafficking (TIER 2)**

# Contribution to National Agenda on Human Trafficking (cont..)

- People informed about the dangers of HT through village meetings with trained staff
- VDF Members trained in financial management
- Attitudes of officers dealing with returnees and traffickers/brokers was changed
- Support the events : National Children's Day, Child Forum, Boat race festival.

Thank you