

Child Trafficking and Child Labour in Agriculture: Gaps and Opportunities

Research Paper for the National Conference on Child labour in Agriculture in Malawi

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Abstract

Malawi has adopted a number of strategies to address both Child trafficking and child labour in Agriculture. Child Trafficking for exploitative labour in commercial agriculture is not new; what is new, are the appalling dimensions acquired in recent decades in the context of globalisation.¹This research paper discusses child trafficking in Malawi by assessing and highlight the nature, prevalence, gaps and opportunities available if stakeholders have to develop effective strategies that aim at eliminating trafficking of children for exploitative labour.

1. Introduction

It is widely recognised that child trafficking and child labour in agriculture is among the major problems faced by countries in the 21st century. As such, there is need for commitment from government and other relevant stakeholders to tackle the problem by engaging on comprehensive interventions that address both the root cause and its negative impact.

In order to develop and implement proper and effective strategies that aim to prevent and/or reduce child trafficking and child labour in Agriculture, it is important to understand the whole process of trafficking and its link to child labour, including methods and mechanisms employed to recruit victims, incentives used to entice children, methods of transportation, forms and modes of payment, what happens when children are being trafficked and the actors involved. Above all, both pull and push factors that influence child trafficking have been researched as they are essential to understanding why these practices continue to increase unabated in Malawi.

This research paper aims to help stakeholders in the country to get to the heart of the issue, to understand its complexities and to design proper programmes and interventions that address child trafficking and child labour in Agriculture. These should aim to disrupt and dismantle trafficking activities and thus ultimately prevent child trafficking for child labour in agriculture. The findings of the study will also serve as the first stage in the development of a coherent strategy map, identifying the challenges ahead and suggesting steps to guide the many agencies

¹ The Common Wealth Secretariat, Report of the Expert Group on Strategies for Combating the Trafficking of Women and Children, (2003)

involved in the prevention, investigation, law enforcement and protection of the children from trafficking and child labour in Agriculture.

2. Context

Child trafficking and child labour in Agriculture is officially recognised by the Government of Malawi. In this course, the government is part of the global family with an effort to reduce and/or prevent child trafficking and child labour. Its commitment has been through being party to several conventions and protocols.

The problem of child trafficking and Child labour in Agriculture in Malawi is severe, as in other African countries. However, up to now there has just been anecdotal evidence on the problem of child trafficking, particularly internal trafficking for exploitative labour. This is being fuelled by poverty, illiteracy, lack of awareness, lack of resources and weak policies. Very few organisations have put in place mechanisms to record children that are trafficked. Most of this data are drawn from children withdrawn from various forms of exploitation.

Child Trafficking is an offence that is still little understood in Malawi, as is the case in most parts of the world. Skeptics have gone so far as to question whether child trafficking as defined in the Trafficking Protocol and the Child Care, Protection and Justice Act (2010) really occurs in Malawi. Most dismiss cases of trafficking as child labour. There is hardly any distinction made between child trafficking for purposes of child labor, child prostitution and pornography and employment of children as domestic servants. Even political leaders and public officials express similar skepticism about child trafficking. At the very least, many Malawians think child trafficking does not and cannot happen in Malawi. Anecdotal evidence exists, however, that suggests child trafficking and child labour in agriculture is real in Malawi. Of course there is little empirical data forcefully supporting the existence of child trafficking in the unique nature and form it occurs in Malawi, either because of lack of focused research or through a misunderstanding of what exactly trafficking entails. Nevertheless, numerous documented cases and recorded instances exist that substantiate assertions that child trafficking for labour exploitation in Agriculture does take place in Malawi.

In recent years, a number of ad hoc research studies on trafficking in persons have been conducted in Malawi. Recently, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Community Development through the Malawi Child Trafficking Network (M-NACT) commissioned the Millennium Centre for Research and Development (MCRD) to conduct a study on child trafficking trends in the country. More specifically, MCRD was commissioned to “review the current legal and policy frameworks, assess the nature and magnitude of child trafficking, and make preliminary recommendations.

According to data collected by MCRD in Dedza as reported by this National study on child trafficking, 1646 boys aged between 9-13 years and 873 girls aged between 11-14 years of age

were trafficked from Dedza in 2005. In the study, the report indicated that in 2006 alone, 958 boys (aged between 7-15 years) and 231 girls (ages between 9-16 years) were also recorded as trafficking victims. These children were mainly trafficked for labour and sexual exploitation.

3. Methodology

The study paper has reviewed various relevant documents and reports related to child trafficking and child labour at country levels, in order to find out the gaps and opportunities available. The Secondary data used was collected based on review of statistics, policies and laws, stakeholders 'reports and activities. The data reviewed was sourced from reports related to the subject matter. However one major limitation relates to absence of a comprehensive study on child trafficking for labour exploitation in Agriculture and policies as it is the case of child labour.

4. Research findings

4.1 The situation analysis

Child trafficking is a national, regional and international issue that raises many challenges to those working towards the rights of children. This situational analysis reports on the various forms of exploitation experienced by children identified in these research paper. The findings show that children in Malawi experience gross violations of human rights whether in their place of origin or outside. Although very often children experience all forms of abuse within their home, when children are trafficked they are taken away from their 'place of safety' to be exploited elsewhere. Agriculture estates have been identified by the study as the main destination in Malawi, where children are trafficked to primarily for purposes of labour exploitation. Trafficking for purposes of labour exploitation has however not been the topic of the majority of studies, yet some of the studies present document large numbers of children who are trafficked for labour exploitation in Agriculture.

While accurate data is difficult to obtain, given the clandestine nature of the activity, trafficking especially of children is considered to have increased in scale and magnitude. Estimations show that, trafficking in persons, especially of women and children, for commercial sexual exploitation is one of the fastest growing areas of international criminal activity.² Trafficking for the purposes of labour exploitation, forced marriage, adoption and the trade in organs are additional areas of concern, but are less well documented, and the overwhelming majority of trafficked persons are women and girls.³ The forms of labour for trafficked persons that have been documented internationally include; domestic service, labour in sweatshops and small factories, begging and sale of items (flowers, garlands).

² The Commonwealth Secretariat "Report of the Expert Group on Strategies for Combating the Trafficking of Women and Children: 2003, p. 5

³Ibid, p.5

Trafficking is now considered the third largest source of profits for organised crime. The UNDOC has observed that globally most trafficking is national or regional, carried out by people whose nationality is the same as that of their victims. Furthermore, there are also notable cases of long-distance trafficking, with Europe being the destination for victims from the widest range of destinations. These statistics however may not necessarily represent the reality on the ground given the fact that trafficking for sexual exploitation has come to be more visible and the most widely reported form of trafficking while the other forms still remain under-reported.

The UNDOC report a total of 161 countries including Malawi are reported to be affected by human trafficking by being a source, transit or destination country. People are reported to be trafficked from 127 countries to be exploited in 137 countries, affecting every continent and every type of economy in the world. According to United States State Department data, an "estimated 600,000 to 820,000 men, women, and children [are] trafficked across international borders each year, approximately 80% are women and girls and up to 50 percent are minors. The data also illustrates that the majority of transnational victims are trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation."

Globally, the majority of trafficked victims are between 18 and 24 years of age. An estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked each year and 95% of victims experienced physical or sexual violence during trafficking (based on data from selected European countries). According to the UNODC Report, a disproportionate number of women are involved in human trafficking, not only as victims but also as traffickers as some countries have significantly documented. 42% of traffickers are women, while 58% of the traffickers are men.

Notwithstanding the fact that comprehensive studies on the magnitude and trends on human trafficking have not been undertaken in Malawi, there is a growing body of evidence that demonstrates the existence of human trafficking in Malawi, suggesting that Malawi is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labour and sexual exploitation of trafficked persons.

The incidence of internal trafficking is believed higher than that of transnational trafficking, and practices such as forced labour exist, particularly on tobacco estates.⁴**Children are trafficked primarily within the country for forced labour in agriculture, animal herding, domestic servitude, and to perform forced menial tasks for small businesses.** Girls and young women are trafficked internally for forced labour and prostitution at local bars and rest houses. Malawian adults and children are lured by fraudulent offers of employment into situations of forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation in Mozambique, South Africa, and Zambia. In 2008, Malawian men were also trafficked to Tanzania for forced labour in the fishing industry.

⁴U.S. State Department Trafficking in Persons Report, June 2009

Children, as well as a smaller number of women, from Zambia, Mozambique, Tanzania, Burundi, and Zimbabwe are trafficked to Malawi for forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation.⁵

According to the Centre for Social Research (July 2008) between 500 to 1,500 women and children are trafficked within the borders of Malawi annually.⁶ Out of this figure, 30% are children aged between 14 to 18 years, and about 400 women and 50 children are trafficked outside the country every year.⁷ Anecdotal reports from the media have recorded incidences of human trafficking both within and outside Malawi.⁸ The Malawi courts have handled cases that touch on human trafficking. However, due to the lack of a law that specifically criminalise human trafficking, the perpetrators were charged with other offences such as abduction. The Child Care, Protection and Justice Act enacted limits itself to only criminalising child trafficking, and therefore, trafficking of adult persons remains unaddressed by the criminal law.

A number of factors have been identified as contributing to human trafficking. These include: endemic poverty; the HIV and AIDS epidemic that escalates the problem of orphanhood and destitution thereby rendering children vulnerable to trafficking; harmful cultural practices that have elements of human trafficking through the commercialisation and sexualisation of girls; and the fact that the country had until recently not put in place a system of national registration and identification of people, increasing the risk of subjection to human trafficking; and the lack of a comprehensive and appropriate legal framework on human trafficking, including its criminalisation, contributing to an attitude of impunity on the part of perpetrators.⁹

4.2 Opportunities

A number of efforts have been channelled towards the prevention of human trafficking. The government established the National Steering Committee on Orphans and Vulnerable Children and the National Steering Committee on Child Labour, which were created to provide policy guidance and coordinate the national response to child protection related issues including trafficking.¹⁰ To that effect most Local Assemblies have a district child labour committee, a district orphan and vulnerable child committee, a district child protection committee, and child protection officers. In one known drive although not fully addressing all aspects of human trafficking, the government in collaboration with UNICEF conducted a nation-wide child rights

⁵ Ibid

⁶ The Center for Social Research, Report of the study on the Prevention of Trafficking in Women and Children for purposes of sexual exploitation, July 2008, p. 10

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Ibid

⁹ See the Center for Social Research and Malawi Law Commission Reports referred to above.

¹⁰ Ibid

prevention multi-media (radio, billboards, stickers, posters advertisements) campaign called **“Lekani nkhaza” or “Stop child abuse!”** A number of civil society organisations have also been instrumental in conducting public awareness on human trafficking.

The Government has also put in place policies that are relevant to combating human trafficking such as: the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, the National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, the National Orphans and Vulnerable Children Policy, the National Gender Policy,¹¹ and the Malawi Child Labour National Action Plan.

The Malawi Human Rights Commission, a constitutional body responsible for promotion and protection of human rights continues to play a critical role in awareness raising on human rights issues related to human trafficking as well as in policy and law reform.¹² Recently, the government through Malawi Law Commission and in collaboration with partners embarked on the development of a human trafficking legislation and the draft Bill is drafted pending presentation to the Parliament before it becomes a law.

The Government of Malawi’s anti-trafficking law enforcement efforts have improved over the past years, although punishment of trafficking offenders remain weak, inconsistent, and highly dependent on the knowledge level of the judges and prosecutors involved in the case.¹³ Malawi prohibits some forms of trafficking through existing laws, including the Employment Act and Articles 135 through 147 and 257 through 269 of the Penal Code. However, lack of specific anti-trafficking legislation allows for a range of potentially weak punishments to be imposed on convicted trafficking offenders. For example, prescribed penalties under the aforementioned statutes range from small fines of 2 months to 10 years’ imprisonment.

The government uses laws against child labour, kidnapping, and profiting from prostitution to convict trafficking offenders. For example according to the media reports, a court in Mchinji once sentenced a man to eight years’ imprisonment for trafficking children for agricultural labour; in the same district a tobacco farm employee received a sentence of two years’ imprisonment for his participation in child labour trafficking; and in Kasungu district court sentenced a man to two years’ imprisonment for attempting to sell his 17-year old daughter into slavery for MK105, 000.00 (\$700). In the year 2008, the government conducted at least 24 child labour trafficking investigations and prosecuted three cases under the Employment Act in 2008 (Ministry of Labour, Report).¹⁴ While the government has to a certain degree improved its efforts to identify victims and bring them to justice, currently there are still lenient punishments being meted out to offenders.

¹¹ Currently undergoing review

¹² MHRC, Annual Reports for the years 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009.

¹³ U.S. State Dept Trafficking in Persons Report, June 2009.

¹⁴ US Department of State Year 2010 Trafficking in Persons Report, www.state.gov/tip (accessed on 13th December 2010)

Available literature shows that existing Government human trafficking-related interventions have mainly been limited to Police investigations, social rehabilitation of victims through victim support units and to a lesser extent public education. For example, in 2008 the government provided shelter and legal assistance to one identified Zimbabwean trafficking victim. Through Police, social welfare officers, and labour officers, the government has also referred victims to various NGO-run facilities that provided protective services. The MoGCCD trained about 289 community-based child protection workers to protect and offer various forms of support to child victims of all forms of exploitation, including trafficking.¹⁵

At the international level the commitment to combat human trafficking, especially in women and children is demonstrated by the adoption of the Palermo Protocol. The Protocol has since been ratified by a number of states including Malawi. However, Malawi is yet to enact a law that specifically addresses the specific issue of human trafficking. The UNDOC has noted that as of November 2008, 98 countries, (63%) of the 155 countries and territories covered by the UNDOC report had passed laws against trafficking in persons addressing the major forms of trafficking, another 16% had passed anti-trafficking laws that cover only certain elements of the Protocol definition, and 30, (20%) of the countries did not have a specific offence of trafficking in persons in their legislation.¹⁶ However, most of these countries reported that they criminalize forms or aspects of trafficking through other offences, such as sexual exploitation, child protection or labour-related offences.¹⁷ The UNDOC study further noted that 54% of the countries that were involved in the study have established a special anti-human trafficking police unit, and more than half have developed a national action plan.¹⁸

4.3 Gaps

The main objective of this research paper, as noted earlier, was to assess the opportunities and gaps related to child trafficking and child labour in Agriculture in Malawi. Gaps and opportunity analysis in absence of clear programmes of intervention and data presents its own unique challenges. However the analysis is based on the fact that in Malawi the problem is compounded by the variation between the commonly accepted conceptions of trafficking in persons and what actually takes place in practice. The hypothesis posited in this research paper is that trafficking in persons in Malawi takes a different form from the commonly accepted form of trafficking but is nonetheless equally if not aggravatingly more exploitive for children in Agriculture.

The findings of the research, in addition to confirming and realizing the main and specific objectives of the research disclose a more complex web of trafficking in persons for various

¹⁵ US Department of State, Trafficking in Persons Report, June 2009

¹⁶ UNDOC Report, note 18 above, p. 22

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Ibid p. 8

other purposes. The research indicates that trafficking of children for labour exploitation in agriculture is widespread in Malawi.

Over the past few years, any skepticism on whether trafficking in persons occurs in Malawi has largely been overcome with clearly documented cases and numerous reported incidences of trafficking of Children in Agriculture. Trafficking in persons has also been confirmed by a number of independent research studies commissioned by other organisations and institutions.¹⁹ Nevertheless, questions about the exact nature, scope and the prevalence of trafficking in persons in Malawi still remain unclear²⁰.

Human Trafficking is an offence that is still little understood in Malawi, as is the case in most parts of the world. Skeptics have gone so far as to question whether trafficking in persons as defined in the Trafficking Protocol really occurs in Malawi. Most dismiss cases of trafficking as voluntary adult prostitution. There is hardly any distinction made between prostitution and trafficking in persons for purposes of sexual exploitation. Likewise there is no distinction made between child trafficking for purposes of child labor, child prostitution and pornography and employment of children as domestic servants. Unfortunately this has for a long time given rise to conclusions that an otherwise grown person could never fall victim to trafficking in persons, especially for sexual exploitation and employment of children as domestic servants is considered an inseparable factor of Malawi's socio-economic structure. Even political leaders and public officials express similar skepticism about trafficking in persons in the country. At the very least, most Malawians think trafficking does not and cannot happen in Malawi. Anecdotal evidence exists, however, that suggests trafficking in persons is real in Malawi. Of course there is little empirical data forcefully supporting the existence of trafficking in persons in the unique nature and form it occurs in Malawi, either because of lack of focused research or through a misunderstanding of what exactly trafficking entails. Nevertheless, numerous documented cases and recorded instances exist that substantiate assertions that trafficking in persons does take place in Malawi.

In recent years, a number of ad hoc research studies on trafficking in persons have been conducted in Malawi. The International Organization for Migration conducted a study into human trafficking in southern Africa in 2003.²¹ The research was aimed at assessing the

¹⁹ See for example, **INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION, SEDUCTION, SALE AND SLAVERY; TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, (2003); CENTRE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH, PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN FOR THE PURPOSED OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION: MALAWI; JILL THOMPSON, ASSESSMENT OF LAWS AND POLICIES TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE SADC REGION, (2007).**

²⁰ The terms "human trafficking" and "trafficking in persons" are used in this report interchangeably depending on suitability of context. Their respective use does not in any way suggest they mean different things.

²¹ See **INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION, SEDUCTION, SALE AND SLAVERY; TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, (2003).**

trafficking of women for sexual purposes of sexual exploitation. The study covered several countries in southern Africa: Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, Mozambique, Botswana, Lesotho and South Africa. The study mainly was conducted by way of interviews with victims, public officials and human rights activists. It was, however, heavily criticized as inaccurate and largely speculative because it did not fully canvass empirical data to substantiate its findings. Nonetheless, IOM's study spurred much response from governments within the SADC region to address trafficking in persons.

In 2005, the International Organization for Migration commissioned a research into the legal frameworks of six SADC countries to assist law and policy makers in the region in their efforts to use, develop, review and strengthen counter-trafficking interventions, especially in the area of criminalization and prosecution.²² The research also sought to harmonize regional laws and approaches to trafficking in persons to ensure a more effective and focused approach to combating human trafficking.

The Norwegian church Aid also commissioned research of trafficking in persons trends in Malawi in 2008.²³ The research sought to provide data that would foster a richer understanding of the nature and magnitude of trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation in Malawi. The research however, only focused on a few districts in south and central Malawi; Salima, Mangochi, Lilongwe, Blantyre and Mwanza.

More recently, the Malawi Child Trafficking Network commissioned the Millennium Centre for Research and Development (MCRD) to conduct a study on child trafficking trends in the country. More specifically, MCRD was commissioned to "review the current legal and policy frameworks, assess the nature and magnitude of child trafficking, and make preliminary recommendations. MCRD has just published its report, which raises a number of significant points, among which are: -

"Children are taken mainly to Lilongwe and Blantyre, district headquarters, and areas of intensive agriculture. Information on trafficking to Europe and South Africa is anecdotal at best, but there is clear evidence of trafficking across borders to neighbouring countries.

Trafficked children often face long journeys with little food or sleep. Conditions are worse during the rains - many victims try to return home at this time. Most trafficked children are paid little or nothing.

²² See **JILL THOMPSON, ASSESSMENT OF LAWS AND POLICIES TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE SADC REGION, (2005)** (Unpublished manuscript, on file with Author).

²³ See **CENTER FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH, PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN FOR THE PURPOSE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN MALAWI: A REPORT PREPARED AND SUBMITTED TO THE NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID (2008)** (Unpublished manuscript, on file with Author).

The trade is fuelled by poverty, illiteracy, lack of awareness, lack of resources and weak policies. Porous internal and international borders contribute to the problem; poor human capacity in child protection and the weak counter-measures currently in place appear to exacerbate the situation.

Most people know almost nothing about child trafficking and its risks. Traffickers exploit this ignorance and the lack of policing, and they move children freely by various means and routes.

Child protection initiatives implemented by various government departments and NGOs are fragmentary and do not focus specifically on child trafficking. The Social Welfare Office is involved with more interventions than other government departments; the Immigration Office does not appear to be directly involved in any activity to do with child protection.

Efforts to combat child trafficking are not effectively coordinated, and inter-departmental collaboration is weak or non-existent. Apart from community support and rehabilitation/repatriation, government interventions are only small-scale. Even in the NGO sector, child trafficking has not so far been prioritised.

Lack of child registration, poverty, and a lack of awareness were perceived to be the biggest obstacles to reducing child trafficking. Insufficient funding and a lack of commitment at the highest levels, coupled with policy and legal gaps, were also important. Corruption also appears to be a real inhibiting factor. Poor coordination, the reluctance to talk about the issue and a lack of human capacity were also mentioned.” The report makes inter alia the following recommendations: -

- Government should show more commitment and increase resources available to anti-child-trafficking initiatives.
- A robust awareness campaign on the dangers of child trafficking should be designed and implemented. The campaign should reach remote rural areas as well as centres of population.
- A national database for child trafficking cases should be set up for use by all agencies.
- Guidelines on record-keeping, and managing and sharing information should be developed and followed. Collaboration between stakeholders to identify, repatriate and rehabilitate victims must also be improved.
- Bold new anti-trafficking legislation should be introduced, consistent with international conventions, and proposed amendments to existing legislation should be enacted.

- Mechanisms for cooperating with neighbouring countries also dealing with child trafficking should be devised.²⁴

A number of cases have been documented and research studies published that conclusively demonstrate the existence of trafficking in Malawi. In 1999, a business woman named Ruth Lourenco was tried for trafficking four young women to the Netherlands.²⁵ In 2005, two Zambian nationals were tried for trafficking young children from Dedza to Zambia to work on Tobacco Estates.²⁶ Papers also reported the dramatic rescue of three girls kidnapped in Blantyre by an unidentified gentleman who kept them confined for over three days.²⁷

In spite of these studies, there remains a significant gap in terms of research into the prevalence of trafficking in Malawi. The IOM study was conducted in less than optimal conditions when very little was known about trafficking in persons; the Norwegian Church Aid Research focused on only a few districts in south and central Malawi, leaving the north virtually un studied. The second IOM study only focused on legal frameworks and did not venture into assessing factual trends, magnitude and prevalence of trafficking in Malawi.

5 Conclusion and Recommendations

Legal framework and actions

1. Turn the ratified international instruments such as the Palermo Protocol, or reform current legislation to be in conformity with the aforementioned instruments;
2. Further ratify international the 'Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families' (1990), aimed at protecting the human rights of migrants;
3. Establish bilateral and multilateral agreements to run joint actions against organized crime, trafficking and exploitation of children in transit and destination countries;
4. Provide adequate training to law enforcement officers on human trafficking matters, specifically the causes of trafficking, modus operandi of crime syndicates, profile of

²⁴*Id.*

²⁵*Republic v- Ruth Lourenco*, Criminal Case No. 150 of 1999-Lilongwe Magistrate's Court-(Unrep); **MALAWI LAW COMMISSION, TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS: A RESEARCH PAPER 23 (2005)**

²⁶ See Austin Msowoya 'Judicial Discretion and Mandatory Minimum Sentencing Legislation: An Overview of the Development of Sentencing Practice in Malawi' Paper presented to the OSF-SA Sentencing Conference, Cape Town, South Africa October 24-26, 2006, at 8, available at http://www.osf.org.za/File_Uploads/docs/SENTENCINGREPORT1ConferenceReport.pdf (last accessed on January 8, 2009)

²⁷**THE DAILY TIMES, FEBRUARY 23, 2005, at 1**

- traffickers and how to identify victims of trafficking, as well as investigate the legal and social implications of the problems within and across borders;
5. Reinforce border protection measures in order to prevent and detect situations of trafficking in persons;
 6. Introduce standard procedures within the region for the voluntary return and reintegration of victims of trafficking in their countries of origin, and extradition of traffickers for subsequent prosecution;
 7. Ensure the establishment of child-friendly judiciary and easily accessible judicial services;
 8. Create a specialised department to combat human trafficking, especially of women and children, where qualified personnel would work on investigating reported cases of child trafficking;
 9. Ensure that legislative measures are taken in the protection of victims destined to mould the legal procedures to the best interests of the child and ensure the rights of the child are protected;
 10. In case of adoptions provisions should be made so that Social Services, or other relevant institution, follows-up the national or international adopter in order to safeguard the best interests of the child.

Policy Change and Development

11. Prioritise the fight against trafficking of children as a political issue that must be part of the governance agenda, including human trafficking in the fight against poverty according to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
12. Develop strategies in income-generation and informal education thereby reducing the risk of children turning to harmful practices or resorting to irregular migration as their only options;
13. Promote increased access to education, particularly the enforced enrolment of girls in school, as well as challenging the existing role models attributing an inferior position to girls and women;
14. Address migration issues, ensuring that migration policies, especially in demand or destination countries, take into consideration the rights of temporary migrant labourers, as well as other human rights, with a particular focus on women and children;
15. Address gender issues, specifically gender mainstreaming, paying attention to the equality of women and men in agenda setting, policy making, planning, budgeting, implementation and evaluation, as well as all decision making procedure, as well as the inclusion of gender issues in school curricula;
16. Promote the elimination of harmful cultural practices, and its alternatives, through culturally sensitive and appropriate interventions;
17. Promote community involvement and child participation in the development of prevention and protection programmes;

18. Draw on all sectors, directly or indirectly involved with child protection, to devise a joint multi-sectoral (health, police, migration, justice, education, social welfare and civil society) policy for the protection of children and women;
19. Invest in study and policy-oriented research of the phenomenon of abuse and trafficking of children;
20. Develop national plans of action that include measures to bring about change in social perceptions regarding child labour;
21. Develop adequate prevention public sensitisation programs targeting children, families, communities and societies;
22. Develop programs for the recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration of children affected by trafficking, abuse and exploitation;
23. Develop prevention and protection programs at community and national levels.

To complement Governments' activities Civil Society and NGOs are called upon to:

24. Define and/or adapt an integrated strategy to combat child trafficking, prevention and victim support with clear definitions of actions and the responsibilities of different actors;
25. Promote child rights, informing communities of the importance of preserving these, as well as encouraging communities to respect, protect and report violations of children's rights;
26. Improve advocacy efforts to influence decision makers to adopt appropriate policies for child development;
27. Put forward mechanisms to protect migrant rights, such as giving migrants access to complaint procedures through structures and measure that do not bring them into direct contact with law enforcement and immigration officials, thus encouraging migrants to report cases of exploitation without facing deportation or repatriation;
28. Provide access to temporary shelter for victims of abuse and exploitation, as well as psychological and legal assistance services, and social reintegration;
29. Establish a community education program for the prevention of abuse and trafficking of children, with children as the main actors, consisting of awareness building in schools and other places through drama, sports, dance, debates and speeches on harmful practices to children and women;
30. Promote the establishment of places of leisure and play, such as monitored children's parks in periphery areas to keep children occupied after school, so that they do not resort to playing on the street or hanging around informal markets.

Research, awareness raising and training

Government, Civil Society and NGOs are encouraged to:

31. In order to fill in the knowledge gaps on employment practices in the informal and temporary work sectors, resources should be made available for research on the informal

- sector and sectors that have been identified as employing trafficked person in particular, such as agriculture and sex industry sectors, as well as the domestic service sector;
32. Undertake research with regard to the phenomenon and ensure that such knowledge is used to influence the community and decision makers in the fight against harmful practices against children;
 33. Conduct more research and information on the phenomenon of child trafficking for purposes of exploitation, particularly child labour, organ removal, as well as other forms of exploitation;
 34. Conduct research focused on addressing demand factors in destination countries, as well as further examining the sex offender in order to better understand demand;
 35. Run awareness campaigns to improve access to information for those people vulnerable to abuse and exploitation and for those who abuse others out of ignorance;
 36. Run awareness campaign in destination countries aimed at users of children’s services;
 37. Train community leaders on gender issues in order to address the perceptions of the role of women and men, girls and boys in association with the phenomenon of trafficking;
 38. Train paralegal staff to work in communities to assist victims of sexual abuse and trafficking;
 39. Train and sensitise government officials and other role players about the issues of children’s vulnerability and children’s rights so that those who encounter children in the various systems, including education, social services, criminal justice, are trained to deal with cases of abuse and trafficking.

End