



هجرة آمنة
HIJRA AMINA
SAFE MIGRATION FOR IRAQ



THE IRAQ-EU-IOM JOINTLY RUN ADVANCED ASSISTED MIGRATION INITIATIVE

FLASH REPORT



“Combining the psychosocial and trafficking in human beings training gives us a wider view of the problem and supports us to focus on the psychological state of the victims of trafficking.”

Mr. Ali Naji, General Inspector Office, Ministry of Health

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IOM Iraq demonstrates the importance of holistic interventions for vulnerable populations

The International Organization of Migration (IOM) in Iraq, through its European Union (EU)-funded HIJRA AMINA Programme, continues its efforts to address the pertinent facets of migration management to respond to a migration crisis. From 1 to 4 June, IOM Iraq hosted a training on ‘Psychosocial Support and Victim Assistance in Human Trafficking Cases’ in Baghdad for 18 participants from the Central Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons

(CCCT), Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Migration and Displacement, Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the latter is responsible for shelter management. The aim was to build the capacities of an inter-ministerial group of officials with a view to encourage a multidimensional approach when providing relief to presumed Victims of Trafficking (VoTs).



“Persons who have lived a traumatic experience should be allowed to freely express themselves; this entails that their experience is publicly acknowledged, which is the path towards reconciliation.”

Dr Renato Libanora, IOM Iraq Psychosocial Officer



“I am familiar with some aspects of psychosocial support and with the concept of changing identities, from having lived the experience of being a refugee, uprooted from my homeland. My link to the life I left behind is to keep records of my past and present experiences.”

Mohammed Salih, CCCT Member

The training combined sessions on psychosocial support and other essential assistance services required for a presumed VoT. Dr. Renato Libanora, IOM Iraq Psychosocial Officer, presented a wide array of tools to support vulnerable populations, especially in emergency situations. He emphasized the importance of building a response around the notion of resilience – an innate characteristic that humans possess to naturally cope with traumatic experiences. Psychosocial support should consider this human dimension and the changing identity of a vulnerable person within the complexity of the crisis. Practically, this means that those providing psychosocial assistance to a vulnerable person, including presumed VoT, should be sensitive to this and be able to adapt their approach depending on the individual’s observed identity at that point in time.

The human trafficking component was incorporated through tools introduced in the psychosocial support sessions. Building on this understanding, the participants learned to adopt a psychosocial approach when faced with a presumed VoT. The training was an opportunity for the participants to explore their role as providers of humanitarian assistance.

Participants recognized that the Government has the ability to implement measured interventions in Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) through utilizing its available resources and technical skills beyond immediate assistance to focus on addressing longer term needs.



The sessions encouraged open discussions on the importance of reacting to THB both at individual level, by providing personalized and structured support to VoTs; and the institutional level, by enhancing the processes required to adequately respond to the crime. Participants were responsive and engaged in discussions, especially during the practical sessions including role playing, where they enacted situations which may be presented with a potential VoT. Participants went through the process

of identifying the individuals as a VoT and providing subsequent tailored assistance.

The sessions offered an opportunity for IOM Iraq to share lessons drawn from migration crisis response experience in Iraq. The training demonstrated IOM's commitment to share good practices to enhance the knowledge and skills of Iraqi Government officials and to contribute to sustainable capacity building.



“Iraq is at a stage where it is working to engage its THB decision-makers to develop a more holistic approach when addressing the plight of presumed VoTs.”

Ms. Ban Ridha, Shelter Manager, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

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