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SAFE MIGRATION FOR IRAQ



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

FLASH REPORT



“With greater awareness, we have a very good chance of curbing THB, which is why the option of implementing counter trafficking awareness in schools is worth exploring.”

Zainab Abdullah, Ministry of Education

IOM Iraq upholds inter-ministerial coordination within the Government of Iraq to combat Trafficking in Human Beings

The International Organization of Migration (IOM) in Iraq, through its European Union (EU)-funded HIJRA AMINA Programme, continues to pursue capacity building Initiatives to empower Government of Iraq (GoI) officials to combat Trafficking in Human Beings (THB). Towards this objective, a two-day Counter Trafficking in Persons Awareness Session was held in Baghdad on 16 and 17 June 2015.

During the two days, 27 operational officials discussed improved ways to prevent and fight THB. Emphasis was put on the need for enhanced inter-ministerial coordination. Participants benefited from the opportunity to initiate a collective dialogue on means of collaboration between their respective Ministries: the Ministry of Migration and Displacement, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Women Affairs.

June
16-17
2015



“ Human trafficking is a crime and a menace to human dignity; it has dire effects people’s lives, especially children and women. The effects of this crime also include negative economic impact. You are all in privileged positions, and can influence decision makers in Iraq to ensure strong inter-ministerial coordination, to effectively counter this crime at different levels and guarantee dedicated assistance to victims of human trafficking. ”

Dr. Thomas Weiss, Chief of Mission, IOM Iraq

The session had strong female representation, with over 60% women



“ THB is a hidden crime that mainly affects vulnerable individuals such as women and children; it is therefore our responsibility to raise awareness among these populations. ”

Zainab Qasim, Ministry of Women Affairs



“The Ministry of Migration and Displacement commends IOM for this awareness raising session; this Ministry needs support, similar trainings and additional capacity development in counter trafficking, which is part of its core responsibilities.”

Ahmed Raheem, Ministry of Migration and Displacement

Women were strongly represented at the training; more than half of the participants were female.

After conducting awareness raising sessions in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq in October and November 2014, IOM Iraq’s initiative to roll out these sessions to the Central Government was commended by all participants. A high level of interaction and deep interest in addressing THB was evident throughout the sessions.

The focus of the awareness session was to enable early detection of this crime as well as the provision of direct assistance to Victims of Trafficking (VoTs). IOM Iraq and Gol officials shared on-the-job experiences and gained knowledge on means of identifying THB cases, best practices on screening new cases and interview techniques, and minimum standards for providing assistance to VoTs.

Participants practiced their skills in several role plays and a group simulation of the VoT screening process. Case studies were presented as a basis to foster discussion.

A highlight of the counter THB session was a session on psychosocial support, which should be considered as an important tool when dealing with potential VoTs and assisting vulnerable populations.

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