


# Human Trafficking: Global updates, trends, and the role of health professionals

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# Learning Objectives

participants will:

- ▶ Recognize the barriers and issues in determining true estimates of the numbers of trafficked people
  - ▶ Discern emerging trends in Global TIP
  - ▶ Identify some of myriad ways health care professionals can intersect in counter-trafficking efforts
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# Overview



- ▶ Emerging trends
- ▶ Estimating numbers & examining data
- ▶ Globalization
- ▶ Efforts in networking and standardization
- ▶ Research
- ▶ Healthcare and TIP intersection

# Health care and human trafficking

- ▶ Health care intersects along the entire spectrum of human trafficking stages
- ▶ However, very little data exists to inform our interventions.
  - Health Risks
  - Identification of victims
  - Effective advocates
  - Prevention strategies
- ▶ It is important to know about larger trends in order to know best how to intervene


# Estimating Numbers

- ▶ UNODC, IOM, ILO, TIP report all different
- ▶ Different groups using different indicators and parameters in defining numbers
  - Cases with convictions vs cases filed vs estimates on population, etc
- ▶ Different countries have different laws and definitions of trafficking


# Trafficking Estimates:

- ▶ 2012 ILO estimate: 20.9 million people trafficked (adults + children)
- ▶ Prevalence (per 1,000 inhabitants)
  - 4.2 Central & SE Europe & Commonwealth of Independent States
  - 4.0 Africa
  - 3.4 Middle East
  - 3.3 Asia and the Pacific
  - 3.1 Latin America & the Caribbean
  - 1.5 Developed Economies & European Union


Includes both labor and sex exploitation



# Prevention Strategies

- ▶ Defining social determinants in assessing risk
    - SE Asia
  - ▶ Supply chain transparency
    - California law
  - ▶ Corporate social responsibility
    - ECPAT's Code of Conduct
  - ▶ Community awareness and action
    - Foot & Vanek (MANGOs), 3-3-5 Campaign
  - ▶ Fair trade movements
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# Labor Trafficking

- ▶ “Traffickers fish in the stream of migration”
  - ▶ Be aware of economic trends and movements, projects, cross-border developments
    - Where are people going to work?
  - ▶ China in Africa
  - ▶ SE Europeans to Middle East
  - ▶ Asian fisherman
  - ▶ Domestic servants to developed economies
  - ▶ GMS
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# Greater Mekong Subregion

- ▶ Thailand
- ▶ Burma
- ▶ Lao PDR
- ▶ Cambodia
- ▶ SW China
- ▶ Vietnam



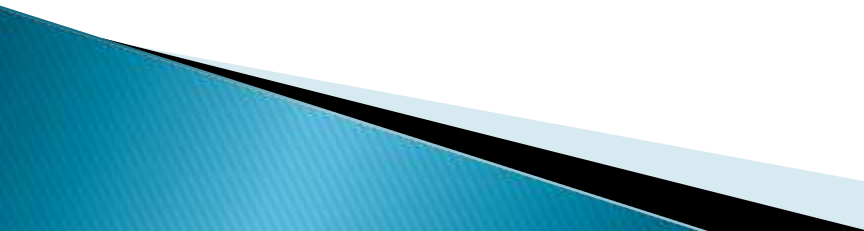
# GMS

- ▶ Widespread irregular migration provides a template for forced prostitution, domestic servitude, or forced labor into sweatshops or onto fishing boats, farms, or construction sites;
- ▶ Trafficking of children from rural to urban areas who are forced to beg, steal, or sell flowers on the streets;
- ▶ Trafficking of young girls for virginity selling;
- ▶ Trafficking of women from rural China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, or Vietnam into the interior of China for forced marriage, sometimes leading to domestic servitude, forced labor, and/or sexual exploitation.


# Research

- ▶ Those studied are most often those who have been rescued, but this doesn't necessarily reflect the true demographic of trafficked people worldwide.
  - Tend to be women & children rescued from sex trafficking
- ▶ “If we do not correct this, we may create a vicious cycle whereby we continue to support our misconceptions about victims by the way in which we provide assistance, and therefore continue to ignore the needs of populations which do not fit within our framework.”
  - (USAID “Best Practice 2008)

# Restorative care models

- ▶ Survivor-centered
  - ▶ Community-based & Residential care models
  - ▶ Children & adults
  - ▶ Research project in Cambodia
  - ▶ Meeting needs and desires
  - ▶ Appropriate and timely (re)integration plans
  - ▶ Implications for health care accessibility
  - ▶ Developing a plan for (re-)integration from the very beginning
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# Butterfly Longitudinal (Re-)Integration Research Project

- ▶ 10-year prospective study, Cambodia
  - ▶ Gives voice to those who have been exploited on what has worked and what hasn't in their (re-)integration experience
  - ▶ Qualitative and quantitative
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# Sexual Exploitation of Boys

- ▶ Boys & men are overlooked
- ▶ Projects in Cambodia, India, Thailand, others
  - Love146, First Step, Urban Light
- ▶ Barriers such as cultural norms, social stigma, and assumption about gender norms contribute to problems
- ▶ It is crucial to understand the issues of exploitation of boys in order to best serve their needs and prevent exploitation

# Research ideas


- ▶ Screening, diagnosis and treatment of HPV/cervical dysplasia
- ▶ Mental health problems and effective treatments among different cultural groups in different settings
- ▶ Health problems of trafficked people
- ▶ Demand side of trafficking
- ▶ Evaluation and monitoring of aftercare programs to ensure best practice and outcomes
- ▶ Estimating # of TIP victims

# Other emerging trends


- ▶ Technology
    - Social media in awareness and protection
    - Genetic testing
  - ▶ Offenders
    - Increasing number of women identified and convicted of trafficking... why???
    - Labor organizations taking advantage of legal loop holes, and increasing # women
  - ▶ Community awareness
  - ▶ Legal issues
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# Networking and Coalitions

- ▶ Working together, sharing knowledge as well as pitfalls
  - ▶ Builds capacity to work with governments and larger multi-national NGOs
  - ▶ Collaborate on research
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# Strengthening NGOs

- ▶ Collaboration
    - Peer-based, multi-disciplinary, public-private
  - ▶ Transparency
  - ▶ Evaluation and monitoring programs
    - Many do not implement
  - ▶ Knowledge-sharing
    - Need to know what is going on & who is doing what
    - Internet-based, regional gatherings.
  - ▶ Equipping
    - Expert and peer-based solutions
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# What to look for in a project

- ▶ Transparency & Accountability
    - Board
    - Financials
  - ▶ Connected to others in the region
    - Other similarly focused NGOs
    - Gov't collaboration
  - ▶ Media & Child Protection Policy
    - Do they exploit their clients
  - ▶ Holistic approach to restorative care
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# Conclusion

- ▶ Human Trafficking has implications for individual as well as a public health
  - ▶ Health care is central in the restoration of a trafficked person
  - ▶ Human trafficking is a complex health, social, and legal issue – problems are compounded
  - ▶ Health professionals and organizations, need to be involved in prevention, research, monitoring, developing treatment guidelines, and evaluation in addition to direct patient care
  - ▶ Need funding, organizational support and political will to make global difference
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Kingdom work needs to be  
most excellent work

Why is it often not?



# Relentless

- ▶ Consultant to organizations that address abuse, trafficking, and exploitation
- ▶ Outreach clinics
- ▶ Develop protocols and procedures for organizations in developing countries
- ▶ Train aftercare staff
- ▶ Based in Chiang Mai, Thailand
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