

Meeting Minutes
Workshop for Practitioners on Return and (Re) integration of Victims of
Trafficking in Thailand
25 – 26 November 2010 at Grand China Hotel, Bangkok

The purpose of the meeting is to:

- 1) Review the practitioners understanding about reintegration
- 2) Evaluate the reintegration process
- 3) Provide recommendations to develop a reintegration system

The activities will focus on active participation of participants.

Participants of this workshop include representatives from the Bureau of Anti-Trafficking in Women and Children (BATWC), government run shelters from throughout the country, TRAFFCORD, World Vision Foundation of Thailand (WVFT), UNIAP, Foundation for Women (FFW), YMCA, Friends International (FI) and Fight Against Child Exploitation (FACE).

Participants were divided into groups to discuss about “the Elements of Reintegration”. From the different elements discussed, each group was asked to come up with a meaning of reintegration. The outcomes of the two discussions are shown in the table below:

Elements of Reintegration
1) Family/home
2) Education
3) Health/treatment
4) Occupation
5) Justice system
6) Community (Individual/Environment/Organization/Resource)
7) Prevention/Watch Dog Group
8) Monitoring

Meaning of Reintegration
1) Process
2) Community work (Concerned networks)
3) Monitoring while in the community
4) Prevention
5) Support

Later, there were presentations on laws and policies related to reintegration, regional laws and policies and the principles of reintegrating children.

The topic ‘Laws and policies related to reintegration’ was presented by the expert on Anti-Trafficking from the Bureau of Anti-Trafficking in Women and Children (BATWC). The

presentation was basically about the Royal Thai Government's (RTG) policies and initiatives to combat human trafficking. The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act B.E. 2551's key provisions were the definition of human trafficking, article 6 about victim protection, article 33 about safety and security measures for victims, article 34 – 36 about confidentiality etc. Also, the presenter mentioned about the regional and national MOUs, guidelines on return and reintegration produced by IOM, and guidelines on rehabilitation.

The next presentation was about regional laws and policies, presented by Ms. Varaporn Naisanguansri from the International Organization of Migration (IOM). The legal framework at the regional level is the COMMIT MOU whose signatories consist of the 6 countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region (GMS). In the past, workshops have been organized to provide recommendations to combat human trafficking in the region.

The purpose of reintegration is:

- 1) Make the victims feel that they are important and prevent them from becoming re-trafficked.
- 2) Assistance provided is tailored to fit the needs of each particular victim.
- 3) Provide protection to victims and their families to prevent them from being threatened by human trafficking rings through people in the community.
- 4) Ensure that the victim is being provided with continued legal support.
- 5) Provide ongoing reintegration service as well as monitoring of the service provided.
- 6) Make sure that there are national and bilateral operational guidelines.
- 7) Need to know basic
- 8) Physical and mental recovery, education, employment etc.
- 9) The time frame for monitoring is 6-7 months, depending upon the level of violence and the need of the victim.
- 10) Considering the special needs of child victims when reintegrating them
- 11) Make sure that the victim receives information related to safe/legal migration so that they don't fall victim to traffickers again or become a trafficker themselves.

A representative from UNICEF presented on the guiding principles of reintegrating children. The principles involved include the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and ASEAN Guiding Principles and Handbook. The main considerations are

- 1) The rights of the child namely right to survival, development and protection
- 2) The best interest of the child by considering the needs of the child
- 3) Non-discrimination
- 4) Respecting the child's opinion, while considering whether it is appropriate or not
- 5) Right to information
- 6) Confidentiality
- 7) Respect in the child's nationality and culture

Return and reintegration has to be in the best interest of the child. The child must be safe, and their other rights must be respected. The community must have an understanding and have a friendly attitude towards the children. There is also needs to be consideration about

reintegrating the child into the destination country, in case it is not safe to return them to their origin country. There is legal support and service provided for the child.

An assessment of the reintegration process

The participants were divided into 4 groups and each group was asked to rotate stations. The four stations include:

- 1) What are the processes of reintegration
- 2) The resources required in the reintegration process
- 3) Best practices of reintegration
- 4) Challenges in reintegration

Station 1: What are the processes of reintegration?

- Monitoring and evaluation of the needs of each victim, family and community after repatriation
- Analyze and plan the appropriate assistance scheme
- Provide assistance according to the plan and with the family and community involvement
- Enhance and develop the capacity of victims of trafficking to become more involved
- Develop a mechanism to strengthen the protection, prevention and watch dog in communities
- Review and assess the process to improve the existing mechanism

Summary from facilitator of station 1: Each group discussed about the reintegration process and analyzed the problem, the services provided, and the point about victims being part of the watch dog group in their community.

Station 2: The resources required in the reintegration process

- Human resources
 - o Practitioners: social workers, physicians, police, attorneys, court, case managers, multidisciplinary team, translators.
 - o Supporting staff: experts on children and occupation, youth leaders, activity therapist, community volunteers, religious leaders, community leaders, relatives.
- Organization resource
 - o Occupational group, health care centers, communities, local government and non-governmental organizations, community media.
- Tools
 - o Handbook, operational procedures, laws, regulations
 - o Means of communication e.g. camera, television, internet, campaign materials, 1300 hotline center
 - o Create opportunities for multitude employment
- Funding
 - o Funding for career, market for selling products, welfare money, the basic necessities

Summary from facilitator of station 2: Cooperation of agencies will need to focus on development of coordination, volunteering, funding etc.

Station 3: Best practices of reintegration

- Victim
 - Does not get re-trafficked
 - Can rely on his/herself
 - Is able to reintegrate into their community
 - Joins the watchdog group
 - Receives legal benefits and compensation
 - Has social immunity
 - Has better living standards
 - Knows and understands the legal processes related to human trafficking
 - Is able to solve his/her own problems
- Family
 - Family is aware of the problem
 - Is involved in providing assistance to victims
- Community
 - Acceptance
 - Watchdog network
 - Has correct attitude towards trafficking
 - The community arranges welfare for victims of trafficking
- Practitioners
 - Working as a multidisciplinary team
 - Resources ready for use
 - Good relationships among practitioners

Summary from facilitator of station 3: There are different levels of success. For example, it is easier for men to find a job. However, the ultimate goal is for the victim to live happily in their home communities.

Station 4: Challenges in reintegration

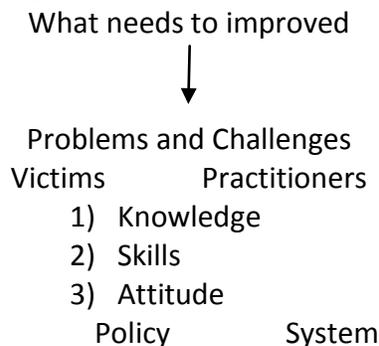
- Families/communities
 - The community has a negative attitude/weak communities/ there is stigmatization of HIV infected persons
 - Family non-acceptance
 - Brokers are still in the area
- Victim
 - Has complicated problems
 - Lacks life skills
 - Debt problems
 - Does not have access to services in the community
 - Victim is afraid to show his/herself/ is uncooperative
 - Victim only wants money but does not want to remain in the government system e.g. legal process

- Victim has migrated and became difficult to trace
- Victim has mental issues
- Victim cannot adapt into society and community
- Victim may become a broker
- Broker has influence over victim's parents
- The victim died
- Official
 - Lacks knowledge, understanding and skills
 - Lacks understanding on relevant laws
 - Insufficient human resources
 - Official does not have appropriate attitude e.g. biased
 - Corruption
 - Language barriers
- Organization, system, resources
 - There is no multidisciplinary team in the area
 - Slow prosecution process
 - International legal process is not effective enough
 - Tracing trafficked victims in some areas cannot be implemented or is difficult to do/ lacks monitoring
 - There is no referral of information
 - No continuation of assistance provided
 - Partners in the area do not give priority to victims

Summary from facilitator of station 4: How many groups of stakeholders are there? What are the problems and challenges? Family, society, legal etc.

The main facilitator summarized the discussion of each group as follows:

- What are the strengths?
 - Process: There is clarity in the process and there needs to be prioritization
 - Resources
- What needs to be improved?
 - Challenges from the victim's and practitioner's perspective in terms of knowledge, attitude, policy and system



The facilitator asked each participant to write four recommendations about reintegration; two for policy level and two for practitioner level.

✚ Summary of the recommendations

▪ Practitioner

- Increase the number of practitioners due to the complex nature of the human trafficking problem
- Provide trainings for concerned practitioners at all levels to increase understanding about laws related to human trafficking, the definition of human trafficking, victim identification, victim protection, social skills, reintegration plan etc.)
- Practitioners are able to explain and understand the process and roles of persons involved in the reintegration process
- There are safety measures for practitioners
- Promote good attitude towards the victim within the community
- Provide training and skills for victims to be able to live happily in their home community
- Raise awareness about the problem within the community
- Etc.

▪ Policy, system and law

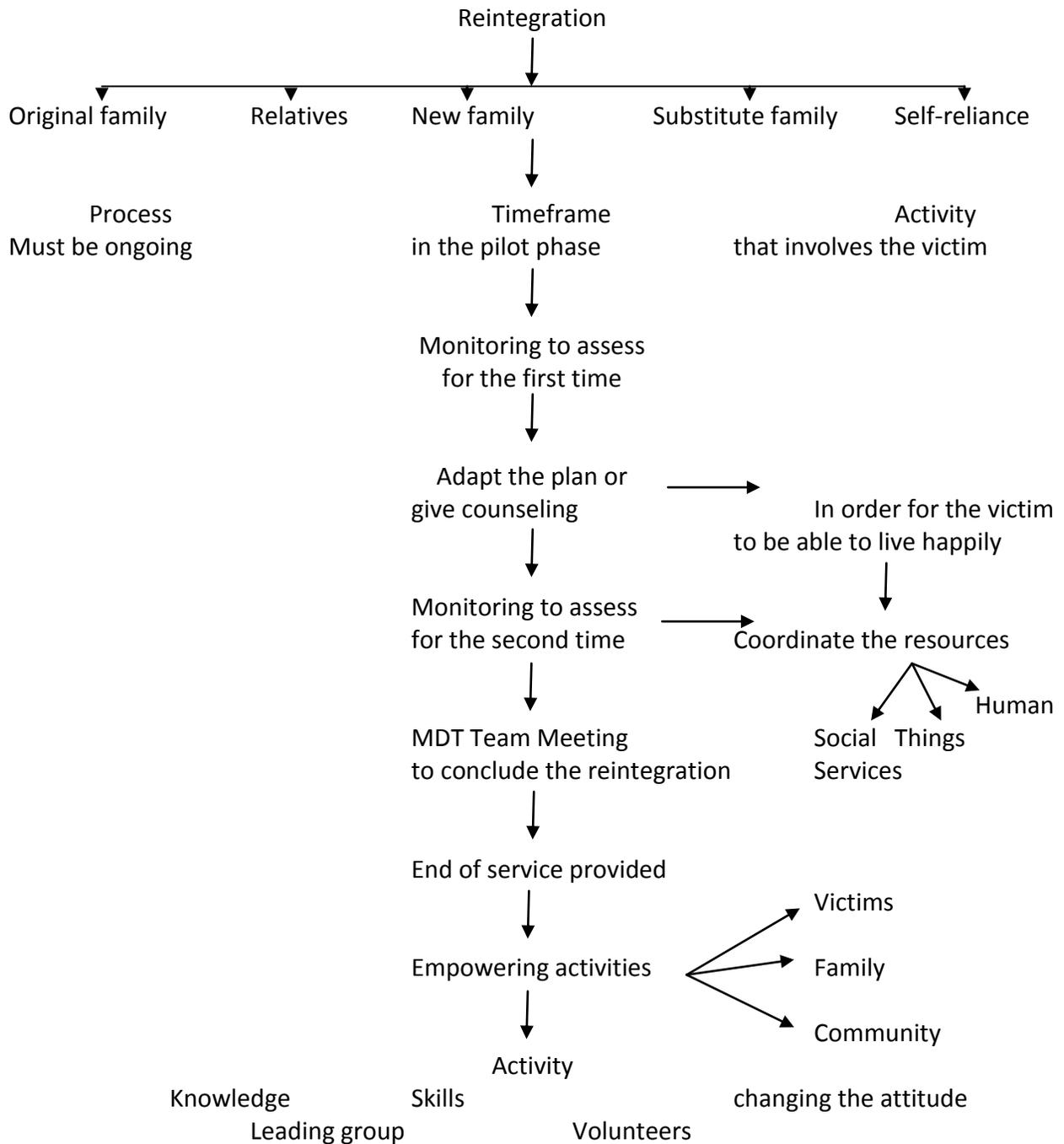
- There is systematic monitoring and evaluation
- Bringing planning to action
- Monitor every 3 and 6 months and 1 year. There is involvement from the community, sub-district administration organization, and head of the village
- Review the policies so that concerned ministries are on the same page
- See human trafficking as a specific problem that requires immediate action
- The government must give priority to human trafficking and poverty which is the main push factor of migration
- Strengthen the cooperation between government and non-government agencies
- Create watchdog groups within communities
- Policy makers assign tasks that are in relation to the official's capacity (some officials do not have the authority under the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act B.E. 2551)
- Provide opportunity for officials with experience to be authorized officials according to the ATP Act B.E. 2551
- Increase preventive measures and raise awareness in schools and academic institutions
- Establish a working committee under the National Operation Center on Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking (NOCHT) and assign the responsibilities within the province
- There should be a one stop service for victims along the border to prevent illegal immigration
- Continue to provide sufficient funding for victims in the local areas
- Etc.

▪ Others

1. Develop a handbook, standard operational form, and monitoring form

2. There is referral of information and ongoing communication with network organizations
3. Involve organizations working in the area
4. There should be a national data base system
5. MOU agreed with the receiving country, as appropriate
6. Analyze and assess the situation in order to adapt the law, policy

Summary from Day I



Activity 4: Providing recommendations

Participants have been divided into 4 groups; 1 group for policy makers, and 3 groups for practitioners.

Potential challenges for:

- Practitioners
 1. Lack knowledge and skills
 2. Not enough officials
 3. Inappropriate attitude
 4. Is not aware about their roles and responsibilities
 5. Database system
- Policy
 1. Lack of involvement from practitioner level in designing policies and drafting laws
 2. No focal contact agency
 3. Mechanism and system does not reach the community level
 4. Transferring of policy level officials leading to non-continuation of work

Practitioner Group 3

1. Establish a framework of responsibilities for each agency within the respective area, especially the role of Ministry of Social Development and Human Security Offices and identify clear operating procedures.
2. Organize multidisciplinary team meetings to discuss specific cases.
3. Develop mechanism for multidisciplinary team, both at the policy and practice level.
4. Provide opportunity for practitioners who are not government officials to be able to build their capacity according to the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act B.E. 2551
5. Etc.

Practitioner Group 4

1. Operational curriculum and clear timeframe
 - a. There is more frequent MDT meetings
 - b. Enhance the skill in utilizing handbooks and guides
2. Boost the morale of officials
 - a. Security (protection)/risk cost/welfare/rewards
 - b. There should be focal person that is an expert

Practitioner Group 2 (NGO)

1. There is operational handbook
 - assessing the progress of the victim
 - Operational procedure for visiting victims in their home communities
 - solving problems in crisis situations
 - Mental healing
2. Operational procedures in providing economic assistance
 - List of business establishments to promote employment
 - Source for skill development

- source/place for victims to work and earn money
- 3. Provide various trainings for officials
 - Case management (knowledge, technical, procedures)
 - Problem solving in crisis situations
 - Stress management
 - Listening skills
 - Skills to analyze problems (psycho and social)

Policy Group 1

1. Planning, monitoring and evaluation	Provincial Operation Center on Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking (POCHT) is the host in coordination, drafting the action plan to assist and reintegrate victims. Also the multidisciplinary team, NGO and private sector should be involved.
2. Central database of victims that have been reintegrated	Concerned organizations report about victims that they have reintegrated to POCHT
3. Sign MOU between concerned agencies in order to assign tasks that is related to the victims' problem	POCHT is the lead agency in developing the MOU with public health, employment department, social welfare department, police, lawyers' council, NGO etc. involved
4. Create a mechanism to promote cooperation within the local area in order to assist victims of trafficking to reintegrate into the society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide training for network agencies - Set up a focal person/team to assist victims in reintegration - Set up a counseling team in the local area
5. Allocate the funding at the provincial level for employing reintegrated victims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set up a committee at the provincial level to consider and approve the requests - CSR
6. The presentation and dissemination of information about human trafficking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National level - Local/provincial level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ministry of Foreign Affairs - PR in the province/community radio - Media