

BEYOND THE SHORT TERM: *How to address vulnerability to trafficking in persons in the context of lasting crises?*

Vienna Migration Conference Side Event

October 11, 2022
13:30-14:05 CET/Vienna/Geneva Time

sponsored by
ICMPD and the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons

Introduction

The Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons ('ICAT') is a policy forum mandated by the UN General Assembly (through its Resolution 61/180) to improve coordination among UN agencies and other relevant international organizations. The aim is to facilitate a holistic and comprehensive approach to preventing and combating trafficking in persons, including protection and support for victims of trafficking. ICAT counts, as of July 2022, 31 members and partners.

In 2020, ICAT undertook a joint exercise for the elaboration of an Analytical Review on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol. While this report acknowledges the complexity of the challenges the global community faces in the fight against trafficking in persons, there are key response areas where considerable impact can be generated.

One of these key response areas outlined in [ICAT 2020-2025 Plan of Action](#) is to address the core drivers of Trafficking in Persons through a *'shift towards vulnerability reduction'*. Therefore, in 2022, under ICMPD and UNODC co-chairmanship, ICAT is underlining the importance of addressing vulnerability to trafficking in persons by unpacking the different dimensions and factors contributing to, and exacerbating, relevant vulnerabilities.

ICAT committed to “look at the factors which make particular groups vulnerable to trafficking in persons” and, in the medium-term, “[...]to develop comprehensive policy guidance to support Member States in addressing the **short-term and long-term impact of crises** on the crime of trafficking in persons and its victims and survivors [...]”. It further committed to “[...] facilitate international cooperation through expert exchange of information and best practices, and advocate for practical measures to ensure access to justice for victims, in particular in times of crises [...]”.

Rationale

Vulnerabilities fuelling trafficking in persons affect migrants at all stages of migration. In transit and upon arrival, migrants may find themselves in particularly vulnerable situations. This is especially so for migrants who have fled conflict areas, often in haste and who are in situations of destitution or high precariousness. Such persons are, resultingly, targeted by traffickers, particularly when adequate long-term integration support is lacking or cannot be accessed.

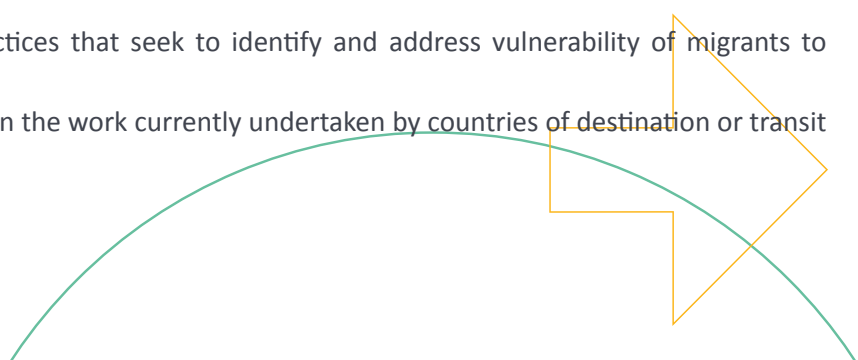
Understanding the factors that contribute to the vulnerability of migrants to human trafficking is of utmost importance to the design and implementation of effective operational responses aiming to not only prevent the crime of trafficking but also to identify and protect its victims. Moreover, strategies designed to understand and address vulnerability of persons fleeing conflicts or in other type of humanitarian crises should be embedded in overarching protection responses and mechanisms that aim to cater to the immediate and long-term protection needs of displaced and refugee populations.

The event, organised in the margins of ICMPD’s flagship annual event, the Vienna Migration Conference, will introduce the work carried out by ICAT on the question of vulnerability to trafficking in persons in general, and in the context of humanitarian crises in particular. It will also provide a space to policy and decision makers who are currently addressing such situations in their country, be it as a result of the displacement created by the war raging in Ukraine, or as a consequence of other humanitarian crises, as well as persons with lived experience of trafficking in the context of crises, to critically reflect on the impact of current policy measures to prevent trafficking in the context of crises and protect its victims.

Objectives

The objectives of this side event are two-fold:

- To take stock of current practices that seek to identify and address vulnerability of migrants to trafficking in persons;
- To foster a critical reflection on the work currently undertaken by countries of destination or transit in a crisis context.



Moderator and Discussants:

Moderator:

Ms Melita Gruevska-Graham is the Head of the Anti-Trafficking Programme of ICMPD.

Discussants:

Ms Ana Revenco is the Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova.

Mr Ilias Chatzis is the Head of the Anti-Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, United Nations Office against Drugs and Crime.

Logistics

Format: In person (open for participants in the VMC) with live streaming ([online registration](#) required);

Language: English

Supporting documents:

- [Addressing vulnerability to Trafficking in Persons](#) (ICAT Issue Brief)
- [Targeting Vulnerabilities The Impact of the Syrian War and Refugee Situation on Trafficking in Persons](#) (ICMPD)
- [Trafficking in Persons in Humanitarian Crises](#) (ICAT Issue Brief)

Agenda

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Time (CET)	Session	Speakers
13:30-13:33	Welcoming Words	Ms Melita Gruevska-Graham
13:33-14:03	Panel Discussion: What challenges countries face to address the vulnerability of persons displaced by lasting crises? What policy and operational measures have proven to overcome such challenges?	Ms Ana Revenco Mr Ilias Chatzis
14:03-14:05	Closing words	Ms Melita Gruevska-Graham

VMC 2022 Contact Information

vienna-migration-conference@icmpd.org
<https://vienna-migration-conference.org>

