

ENHANCING CAPACITIES AND MECHANISMS TO IDENTIFY AND PROTECT VULNERABLE MIGRANTS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS – PHASE III



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Key Activities

Capacity building:

(1) Conduct cultural competency trainings for legal practitioners to improve investigations in migration-related crimes; (2) Strengthen law enforcement agencies and the judiciary's capacities to apply a victim-centred approach in cross-border crime cases; (3) Support the revision and update of key strategic and operational documents for TIP prevention and suppression; (4) Support campaigns to increase refugees and migrants' awareness of the risks of TIP and other forms of violence, exploitation and abuse; (5) Increase asylum and migration management staff's capacities for screening and identification of potential/victims of trafficking (P/VOT), including through digital screening questionnaires; (6) Enhance national capacities to refer and assist PVOT and migrants in vulnerable situations; (7) Increase migration management actors' awareness on protection of migrants in cases of man-made and natural disasters.

Direct assistance:

(1) Operate and support mobile teams in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, the FYR of Macedonia and Serbia to enhance outreach to vulnerable migrants and refer them to available services.

Regional dialogue:

(1) Facilitate bi- and tri-lateral operational-level meetings to enhance cooperation in responding to migration challenges along new and emerging routes; (2) Hold regional coordination meetings of the border police directorates; (3) Support regional and sub-regional meetings of law enforcement actors and prosecutors to enhance cooperation and exchange information on cases of smuggling and trafficking in persons.

The overall objective of the program is to support sustainable mechanisms and structures of the target countries in the region to independently manage migration and protect vulnerable migrants, while expanding cooperation and coordination among them. Through four interlinked and mutually supporting components, the program aims to:

Improve the capacities and strengthen the commitment of key national stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies and the judiciary, to protect migrants and reduce their vulnerability factors;

Enhance transit centers' staff and other frontline officials' capacities to proactively screen, identify, refer, and assist migrants vulnerable to violence, exploitation or abuse in mixed migration flows;

Strengthen national capacities and sub-regional coordination to anticipate, better prepare for, and respond to migration flows relating to emergencies and crises; and

Facilitate exchange of information and cooperation among key stakeholders in the region to protect migrants and to hold migrant smugglers and human traffickers accountable.

Implemented in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNSCR-1244 Kosovo*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia (September 2018 – August 2019).

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