

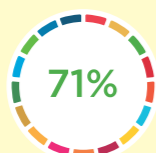
Global Estimates of Modern Slavery, ILO ,Geneva, 2017



Metrics

40 million people were victims of modern slavery. This includes:

- 25 million people in forced labour
- 15 million people in forced marriage



Gender

Women and girls accounted for 71 percent of modern slavery victims.



Debt Bondage

Debt bondage affected half of all victims.



Children

One in four victims of modern slavery were children.

Useful references

- **Section 360C of the Penal Code (Amendment) Act, No. 16 of 2006 - Sri Lanka**
[http://www.hrsl.lk/PFF/Llibrary_Do_mestic_Laws/Legislations_related%20to_Migrants_Workers/Penal%20Code%20\(Amendment\)%20Act,%20No.%2016%20of%202006.pdf](http://www.hrsl.lk/PFF/Llibrary_Do_mestic_Laws/Legislations_related%20to_Migrants_Workers/Penal%20Code%20(Amendment)%20Act,%20No.%2016%20of%202006.pdf)
- **Trafficking in Persons Report 2017:**
<https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/271339.pdf>
(SRI LANKA: TIER 2 : pg 369)
- **ILO: General principles and operational guidelines for fair recruitment:**
http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/-migrant/documents/genericdocument/wcms_536263.pdf
- **The New ILO Protocol on Forced Labour:**
http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_norm/@declaration/documents/publication/wcms_508317.pdf
- **ILO Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29):**
http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@asia/@ro-bangkok/documents/genericdocument/wcms_346435.pdf



Decent Work



International
Labour
Organization

EQUIP: Equipping Sri Lanka to counter trafficking in persons



Background

A considerable proportion of the Sri Lankan labour force migrates in search of better pay and work opportunities abroad. For most it is a positive and rewarding experience. However, uninformed and ill-prepared migration have created a dangerous vacuum in which human traffickers are able to exploit migrant workers.

Figures from the government mandated authority on migration indicate that 263,307 women and men migrated overseas for

employment in 2015 contributing 40 per cent of the country's annual foreign exchange earnings. Most of these migrants found semi and low-skilled jobs in the GCC countries.

The above migration patterns play a pivotal role in the trafficking situation in the island state something that has thus far gone predominantly unaddressed in the local narrative, and a gap that this project shall bridge. As the 2016 TIP report notes, "Many migrant workers go

into debt to pay high recruitment fees imposed by unscrupulous labour recruitment agencies, only to be trapped in debt bondage on arrival at their destination". Vulnerable communities, often faced with a dearth of decent local employment opportunities, feel compelled to seek jobs overseas, and are thereafter subjected to misleading information, exorbitant recruitment fees from both licensed agencies and unlicensed recruitment intermediaries.



Strategy and Objectives

EQUIP takes into account these clear challenges and proposes a set of interventions comprising 3 overarching goals of Prevention, Protection and Prosecution, with a total of 4 core objectives, which are:



Objective 1

Research and awareness to inform regulations and practice: A favourable regulatory environment and practices in place to reduce forced labour and trafficking vulnerabilities through research and targeted awareness by 2020.



Objective 2

Ensuring fair and ethical business recruitment practices: Recruitment agents, MDOs and migrant workers are better equipped to conform to ethical and fair recruitment principles and guidelines by 2020.



Objective 3

Protection services for identified victims: To improve protection services to ensure identified victims, including men and children, receive specialized care services.



Objective 4

Prosecuting and investigating offenders: To increase investigation and prosecution of offenders of trafficking through due process, training of officials on victim identification, legal procedures and referrals processes.

Time Frame : September 2017 – March 2020

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Donor : United States Department of State Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs (SCA)

Partners : Ministries of Justice, Labour, Foreign Employment, Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment, workers, employers, recruitment agency associations, INGO's and civil society partners.

Target beneficiaries : Men, women and children that are trafficking victims or those at risk of being trafficked.

Individual or collective change agents from government bodies, policymakers, businesses who can positively influence policy and practice to counter trafficking.

To ensure improved policy and practices against trafficking

Prevention



Objective 1:
Research & Awareness to inform regulations & practice

Grassroots Awareness Campaigns in Migration Hotspots:
Targeted grassroots campaign in 4 migration hotspot districts, with vulnerable populations

Research to solve knowledge gap:
Via 2 studies, on: Recruitment fees; Gap analysis is of national legislation versus ILO Forced Labour Protocol

Improving regulatory environment to alleviate trafficking:
Above research fed into recommendations for improved regulations & guidelines. Also priming government bodies for ILO Forced Labour Protocol ratification.

Protection



Objective 2:
Ensuring fair & ethical business

Training recruitment agents, intermediaries:
To ensure adherence to fair recruitment principles

Potential collaborations with business partners, within specific migration corridors:
Mapping potential partners, corridors to boost the business case for fair recruitment

Technology against trafficking:
Fighting trafficking with tech.
Introducing a web-based app which allows for a user-based rating of recruitment actors.



Objective 3:
Protection Services

Training counselling assistants:
For better counselling services to victims of trafficking

Capacity building support:
For Ministry of Women's Affairs (WMA) and shelter staff, on victims of trafficking

Legal advice and services:
Advice to victims of trafficking on accessing the justice system

Prosecution



Objective 4:
Prosecuting and Investigating

Training justice-actors:
To boost awareness of prosecutors, Police, SLBFE staff. Training on several Areas: From handling trafficking cases more effectively, victim identification and investigation, to referrals in alleged cases of trafficking

Supporting NAHTTF to improve existing processes:
To support the National Anti Human Trafficking Task Force (NAHTTF) on improving coordination, decision-making

Partnerships