Child Trafficking
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Thematic Policy
Terre des hommes - child relief
This sectorial policy has been written in 2005 by:
O. Feneyrol, R. Fichtl, P. Philippe, V. Tourneecuillert

It has been helped by comments from the following:

Editing: G. Cordell

Design: O. Wermus, Lay-out: A.-L. Dorbec
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Overview

Terre des hommes Foundation, Lausanne, (TdH) has focused on child trafficking since 1999. Resisting child trafficking is one of its organisational priorities. TdH has developed an understanding of child trafficking from its fieldwork experience in several countries, from its expertise in child rights and from the collective experience and knowledge of other agencies. From this accumulated experience and knowledge, TdH has developed its response.

This document describes TdH’s approach and constitutes its policy against child trafficking. This policy defines TdH’s main operating framework for anti-child trafficking projects. The document serves as a reference and provides guidelines for the elaboration of anti-child trafficking projects. The policy is a means to create coherence throughout TdH anti-trafficking projects worldwide. Another document, “Plan of action of Terre des hommes against child trafficking, 2006-2009” defines the TdH time-bound objective against child trafficking.

The focus of these guidelines is child trafficking for purpose of labour and sexual exploitation. It does not concern itself with child trafficking for adoption purpose. We believe that despite root causes being similar, the modalities and outcomes of the process are different enough to warrant a separate strategy. The issue of child trafficking for adoption and TdH’s response is covered by the adoption department of TdH.

This policy against child trafficking is a reference document for TdH. It is linked to other documents such as the Foundation’s Charter and its Strategic Plan 2005-2009. It is also linked to our intervention methodologies including the Project Cycle Management and core strategies for advocacy, children in a street situation, juvenile justice, psycho-social work and our approach to adoption.

Section One serves to orient the reader to the issue of child trafficking by providing a definition, and through a review of the phenomena and causes. It also describes the ways in which stakeholders can intervene, and in this way describes the context in which TdH itself defines its role.

Section Two focuses more specifically on TdH’s anti-trafficking programming. It introduces key principles which guide TdH actions against child trafficking. It presents the aim and axes of intervention for TdH anti child trafficking projects. Finally, it highlights main elements related to the TdH mode of action as previously defined by the Foundation.

Section Three provides information on practical actions implemented or supported by TdH, including the importance we attach to situation analyses as the platform from which our work is built. It then reviews in depth the three different axes of intervention: Prevention (I), Assistance to victims through withdrawal, rehabilitation, and social integration (II) and Advocacy (III). Finally, it explains the approach and concrete actions of networking.
Executive summary

_Tdh resists child trafficking and acts against it at two levels through an approach that is designed to:_

1. Reduce identified child trafficking trends. The means is project implementation.
2. Change macro level policy and practices. The means is advocacy work that is based on knowledge gained from projects, in particular from an analysis of lessons learned, and from monitoring and evaluation reports, and from research that may have been conducted within the project or programme.

This policy is aimed at the first level, since it defines Tdh’s main operating framework for anti-child trafficking projects. It serves as a reference and provides guidelines for the elaboration of anti-child trafficking projects.

Child trafficking concerns the business of removing children from their homes and families, transporting them elsewhere, whether elsewhere within the country or overseas, to be put to use by others, usually to make money. The purpose of this exploitation is child labour, or child sexual exploitation. Besides the harm inflicted by the exploitation, the separation of the children from its family and its environment aggravates the harm inflicted. Special attention is focused on trafficking for slavery-like practices, as a worst form of exploitation.

_Tdh understands the existence of child trafficking to be the result of a combination of different factors including poverty, the weakness of child protection systems, basic needs not being covered, and the migration dream and gender discrimination. However, Tdh notices that child trafficking is often the result of collapsed social bonds - often linked to poverty - or the result of a social organisation in which trafficking is accepted by some of its powerful members. We recognise, too, that this is often due to a different concept of childhood. Tdh’s intervention acknowledges this fact and it views it within a long-term strategic focus._
Child Trafficking for Terre des hommes

Section One serves to orient the reader to the issue of child trafficking by providing a definition, and through a review of the phenomena and causes. It also describes the ways in which stakeholders can intervene, and in this way describes the context in which Tdh itself defines its role.
1. The issue of Child Trafficking

This chapter offers a definition of child trafficking and presents brief information on the issue worldwide. In the second part, the chapter focuses on the main concern for Tdh.

1.1. The issue worldwide

The Executive Summary of Kids as commodities, written by Mike Dottridge for the IFTDH, has been used as a reference for this paragraph. Key messages have been quoted.

Child trafficking concerns the business of taking children away from their homes and families, transporting them elsewhere, across frontiers or inside a country, to be put to use by others, usually to make money. The estimations of children trafficked per year vary from 300,000 (US State Department Report 2005) to 1.2 million children (by UNICEF in 2005). Most statistics about trafficking refer exclusively to cross-border trafficking and are very imprecise. Not one single country has been spared from this phenomenon. The problem is more prevalent in Asia and Africa.

Until a few years ago, the term “trafficking” was interpreted to refer to children and adults subjected to commercial sexual exploitation in prostitution. However, a new definition of human trafficking was adopted by the United Nations (UN) in 2000 in a Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women, and Children. This makes it clear that human beings are trafficked for many different purposes, all of them defined as “exploitation”. The Protocol makes a distinction between “trafficking” and “people smuggling”, which involves taking people across borders illegally, but without the same intention of exploiting them afterwards.

Trafficking in children is directly associated with their subsequent exploitation by other people in a way that violates their human rights – usually by being forced to make money for them by working, but in the case of babies who are trafficked for adoption and young women trafficked for marriage, to satisfy the demands of those who take control of them in other ways. The forms of exploitation described in some detail are commercial sexual exploitation (for prostitution or pornography), bonded labour, other illicit activities such as burglaries, theft, and pickpocketing, and work that is so hazardous that it endangers the health or life of the child concerned, such as domestic servitude, begging and labouring in quarries, certain forms of child marriage, and adoption. For all, “the child is denied the right to normal and appropriate development within the protective environment of their family or other family like situation”.

The specific forms of harm caused to children as a result vary, in both the short and the long-term. Besides the harm inflicted by the exploitation, the specificity of the trafficking is the separation of the children from its family and its environment. This aggravates the harm inflicted.

In general children are limited in their capacity to understand fully the consequences of their actions, to express and to defend themselves. Therefore,
even when a child agrees to be trafficked and/or exploited, consent cannot be assumed and should never be used against the child.

Understanding the existence of child trafficking implies always understanding a combination of different factors, including poverty, weakness of child protection system, basic needs not covered, the migration dream and gender discrimination. Each trend has its own combination of factors, both short and long-term.

Experience has shown that the involvement of community members is more frequent than that of external “organised crime”. Depending on the context, child trafficking can be the result of collapsed social bonds (often linked to poverty) or the result of a social organisation which accepts trafficking by some of its powerful members. This is often due to a different concept of childhood.

Tdh estimates that the phenomenon of child trafficking will increase in the future. This can be explained by a conjunction of different factors including an improvement of transport, an increase in migration, the rise of inequitable distribution of wealth, the rural exodus, and rapid urbanisation, and the collapse of community based safety nets such as public state services and associative initiatives that are unreplaced by public solidarity.

Further reading:

- To fully understand the issue: Mike Dottridge, *Kids as commodities*, IFTDH, 2004, (Chapter 1 to 6).
- Regarding the legal definition: Tdh lexicon on legal terms related to child trafficking.
- Regarding the reference to international legal text as convention: *Compilation of the main legal international text*, CD-Rom, Tdh.
- These references are available on KIT at [www.childtrafficking.com](http://www.childtrafficking.com) or at [http://www.tdh.ch/website/tdhch.nsf/pages/trafficking_documentationE](http://www.tdh.ch/website/tdhch.nsf/pages/trafficking_documentationE)
1.2. The main concern for Tdh

For Tdh, the main concern is the outcome of the trafficking, which is a situation of exploitation of the child or a situation of slavery or practices similar to slavery.

Tdh considers two strong globally important descriptions to designate the situation in which trafficked children end up: ILO Convention 182 (1999) and the Slavery Convention (1926) and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery (1956).

In both situations, “the child is denied the right to normal and appropriate development within the protective environment of his family or another family-like situation. Neither does the child have control over the following elements:

• Access to normal relations with the child’s family, family-like situation.
• Control over the decision to work.
• The child’s work environment and the conditions of this forced work.
• The child’s freedom of movement within the context of a forced labour situation.”

2. Reasons to act

This chapter justifies why Tdh is active against child trafficking.

Tdh is against all forms of contemporary slavery. Tdh is motivated by the principles of its Charter and guided by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The first reason to act is a strong motivation to give concrete help to children who are in difficulty and who wish to change their circumstances and conditions. (See Diagram “Harm inflicted on children who are trafficked,” on the following page.)

The Charter of the Tdh Foundation (1960) states that: “As long as a child remains hungry, sick, abandoned, in misery or pain, whoever and wherever he may be, the movement Terre des hommes, created for this reason, will pledge itself to his immediate and complete rescue.”

The Convention of the Rights of the Child (1989) requires that: “States Parties shall take all appropriate national, bilateral, and multilateral measures to prevent the abduction of, the sale of or traffic in children for any purpose or in any form.” (Article 35)
Diagram 1- Harm inflicted on children who are trafficked (list non exhaustive)

**TRANSIT PHASE**
- Dangers during illegal frontier crossing
- Dangers from unsafe transport
- Violence from police or other interceptors
- Loss of identity if trained to claim a false name

**EXPLOITATION PHASE**
- Coercion to make child obey orders: torture / corporal punishment / trauma / physical scars or disability
- Occupational diseases
  - Specific effects of commercial sexual exploitation
  - Effects of sexual violence and unprotected sex
  - Programmed to be obedient
  - Programmed to fear police / inquiring adults

**RECOVERY AND REINTEGRATION PHASE**
- Ill-treatment in police custody or residential care
- Risks associated with unprepared deportation
- Threats or actual violence from trafficker against child or relatives
- Stigma of sexual exploitation, if known / revealed
- Mocked by children or adults for returning home empty handed, resulting in low self esteem

**IMPACT THROUGHOUT ALL PHASES:**
- Lack of schooling
- Lack of normal socialisation
- Lack of affection

**Specific effects of commercial sexual exploitation**
- Children in a brothel - possible effects of drugs, alcohol and other substance misuse
  - Sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS
  - Unwanted pregnancy/motherhood
  - Early motherhood
  - Fistula

**Behavioural effects of sexual abuse**
- Ill-treatment in police custody or residential care
- Risks associated with unprepared deportation
- Threats or actual violence from trafficker against child or relatives
- Stigma of sexual exploitation, if known / revealed
- Mocked by children or adults for returning home empty handed, resulting in low self esteem
3. Context of intervention

This chapter describes the different stakeholders involved in the fight against child trafficking and identifies Tdh’s added value within this environment.

3.1. Stakeholders analysis

In a trafficking process, the child’s freedom is very limited but should not always thought as inexistent9. Children from communities where trafficked children originate are a major resource to prevent child trafficking and should not be seen only as “victims” or potential victims. A special attention should be paid to former victims of trafficking, often called survivors to better emphasize their strengths. They are a source of understanding the process and the context of the trafficking path.

Involvement of community members and families currently exists in child trafficking. Parents may search a better future for their children and be misleading. Other parents may neglect their children (often due to gender discrimination). However, many communities have mechanisms for protecting their children, even if these are informal and not linked to those organised by their government. As these child protection systems (like those put in place by governments) allow some children to fall through the net, projects can potentially strengthen them, rather than introducing completely new tactics from outside. The community as a whole is a resource (or a specific minority group within a community, if their children are the main ones recruited by traffickers). Although, ensuring meaningful participation can be a challenge, especially if the community in question has different views on what problems need confronting as a matter of priority.

Labour recruiters or employers have financial interest in the business of child trafficking. They can belong to organised crime organisation and be hardened criminals. But, field experiences show that they should not only be dismissed as “evil”. Some see themselves as professional labour recruiters who have not harmed children themselves on connived in children being exploited. Besides, they can play a recognised role in the community. Inaccurate stereotypes should be challenged. Understanding their motivation and the benefits which trafficking gives them is necessary. Some can be mobilised in a positive way.

Many state services and organisations are involved in anti-child trafficking strategies, including social affairs or child protection services, the police, education authorities, labour organisations, justice departments, and – when the phenomenon takes on an international dimension - ministries of foreign affairs.

UN organisations involved are UNODC, the High Commission for Human Rights, UNIFEM, UNICRI, UNESCO, UNICEF, ILO-IPEC, and the IOM. The list is non-exhaustive.

National players involve Scandinavian countries, the United Kingdom and the European Union. The USA is especially involved against the trafficking of Human Beings, and is the most important stakeholder on the international level. It works on advocacy and is a big donor as well.

NGOs are also active. There is a coalition of international NGOs such as the Asia Foundation, Care, Catholic Relief Services, ECPAT, and Save the Children. Other actors include Human Rights organisations like Human Right Watch, Amnesty International, and Anti Slavery International.

After a situation analysis, Tdh fills gaps with available internal resources and plays an active role in networking along the trafficking chain.
3.2. Tdh’s added value

A micro and macro expertise. Since 1999 Tdh has implemented or supported projects to reduce child trafficking and to withdraw, rehabilitate and socially integrate child victims of trafficking. Ground level interventions focusing on diverse trends in different contexts (regions or forms of exploitation) have given Tdh knowledge on the complexity of the problem. Advocacy work nourished with grass root experience and macro analysis has lead to peer acknowledgement. For instance, Tdh is regularly invited by International Organisations (UN or regional organisations, such as OSCE) to share its experience. These two inseparable forms of action: intervention programmes in the field and advocacy are two essential principles of the Foundation’s Charter: “The rescue of the child for who the movement is both the ambassador and the instrument of life, survival, and solace”.

Tdh as a global player in the fight against child trafficking. Many IFTDH members are involved in the fight against child trafficking. The International Campaign against child trafficking (ICaCT) of IFDTH initiates coordination between organisations and promotes collaboration for common communication, advocacy, and research. It encourages the sharing of lessons learned and the identifying and application of good practices. Due to ICaCT, Tdh has become a global player in the fight against trafficking, and results can be capitalised from different regions. Being a global player, Tdh is acknowledged in networks with other local, national, and international organisations and agencies.

Transnational approach. Tdh works across geopolitical boundaries in its programming approach against child trafficking and strives to follow the path of the child from the location of origin to the location of exploitation (and vice versa).

Tdh allocates funds towards solid research and situation analyses. Internal and external expertise is recruited to carry out research and situational analyses.

Further reading:


Thematic Policy: Child Trafficking - Section I: Child Trafficking for Tdh
Endnotes section I

1 Statistics about trafficking are notoriously slippery. According to research by UNESCO-Bangkok on trafficking (http://www.unescobkk.org/index.php?id=1022), available statistics are not reliable, in part because of the variability of the definitions used to identify who is a “trafficked person”. Consequently, statistics mix sources related to smuggling, forced labour and trafficking for only sexual purpose. Besides, the nature of the phenomenon (secret, highly moving…) increases the complexity of the work.

2 Article 3 of the UN Trafficking Protocol says that:
   (a) “Trafficking in persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;


3 See Bangladesh thematic group “Strategies for addressing Trafficking in Persons: a new paradigm. Child scenario (up to 12 years of age)”.

4 It is true that poverty is favourable to the emergence of phenomena such as child trafficking, but it is not a sufficient cause by itself. Not all poor children in the world are victims of trafficking; neither all poor communities are affected by child trafficking.

5 As an example of the potential for increased exploitation and trafficking of children, we may look at Bangladesh: “Rural to urban migration within Bangladesh will most likely continue to accelerate in the next decade. Rural to urban migration within Bangladesh often allows the established urban community to exploit the newly arrived and under-resourced migrant particularly un-accompanied children. The role of the urban middle class in exploiting child domestic labour as a part of many children’s trafficking episode is a phenomenon that is often rationalised by the middle class as a benign outcome or even as a positive benefit for the child involved. This particular phenomenon within the sector demands further pursuits and investigation considerations in the future.” In Davies (J), The role of Migration Policy in creating and sustaining trafficking harm, 2002.

6 Slavery refers to human beings treated as property: “the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching the right of ownership are exercised”. The word “exploitation” refers to a range of situations which are much wider than slavery. Tdh distinguishes the two words to emphasize the slavery situation and focus our interest on the children who are in the worst situation.

7 See Bangladesh thematic group “Strategies for addressing Trafficking in Persons: a new paradigm. Child scenario (up to 12 years of age)”.

8 Age varies following the context. In some village of Burkina Faso, children since 13 are traditionally allowed, even encouraged, to migrate. In other context, only older children, 16-17, are allowed to migrate.

9 See Tdh Children in Street Situation sectorial policy, and specifically in the child trafficking context:
   • http://www.tdh.ch/website/tdhch.nsf/pages/trafficking_documentationE

10 For instance and further information, see two Tdh reports about Albania-Greece and Burkina Faso on http://www.tdh.ch/website/tdhch.nsf/pages/trafficking_documentationE or www.childtrafficking.com:

11 For examples of advocacy activity: see “9.4 Work plan: Advocacy”.

12 See stopchildtrafficking.org and the mapping of IFTDH projects against child trafficking.

13 As the Osnabrück declaration (in KIT or stopchildtrafficking.org).

14 For instance, see the Tdh capitalisation reports:
   • http://www.tdh.ch/website/tdhch.nsf/pages/trafficking_documentationE or www.childtrafficking.com

15 See 9.1 Work plan: situational analysis.
Section Two focuses more specifically on Tdh anti-trafficking programming. It introduces key principles which guide Tdh actions against child trafficking. It presents the aim and axes of intervention for Tdh anti child trafficking projects. Finally, it highlights main elements related to the Tdh mode of action as previously defined by the Foundation.
4. Tdh guiding principles

Guiding principles mean pragmatic principles which guide all Tdh interventions against child trafficking. These guiding principles are based on concepts (as such as resiliency, child rights and needs based approach…). The major reference is the UN Convention of the Rights of the child (1989). Other guiding principles are based on our “lessons learned” (along a trafficking chain, focus on the outcome…) This chapter identifies key guiding principles which characterise Tdh’s actions against child trafficking.

1. Child rights and needs based approach. Tdh takes a human rights / child rights approach to combat trafficking. Practically speaking, a human rights approach places the children who have been trafficked, or might be, at centre stage and assesses strategies on the basis of their impact on these individuals. The approach involves identifying the vulnerabilities of individuals or groups of persons to trafficking, analysing who is accountable for protecting them, and recommending what measures are required to ensure that their rights will be upheld and protected more effectively.

2. A holistic approach and inter-actionist model\(^6\). Tdh promotes a variety of complementary interventions (project & network) to address adequately the complexity of the trafficking problem.
3. Psychosocial support to child relying on his capacity of resiliency. Although having suffered from trafficking, psychosocial support to children should rely on the concept of resiliency and protective factors\(^\text{17}\) such as relationships, activities, and beliefs. Resiliency provides a hopeful perspective from which to work with children and youth. The emphasis is to focus on resources, not weaknesses. All children have assets and strengths.

4. Carrying out an in depth situation analysis. All intervention requires in-depth situation analysis in order to avoid a programming approach that is based on assumptions, myths, and moral values. A situation analysis is regularly updated and must include the analysis of the exploitation situation.

5. Working along a trafficking chain. A child’s trafficking episode represents a series of steps that create a continuum covering the period from the risk of recruitment to the moment when the child achieves an amount of choice over life options that is comparative to those who are not in a trafficking episode. Tdh focuses on three axis of intervention: prevention, assistance to victims (withdrawal, rehabilitation, social integration), and advocacy. Tdh has an overview of the different steps of the process of the trafficking. It acts in networking along the continuum between origin areas and exploitation areas, whatever the kind of exploitation, following the path of the child.

Diagram 2: Working along a chain. Complementary roles of prevention and protection\(^\text{18}\)

6. Focusing on the outcome. All Tdh projects against child trafficking intervene on the outcome of the trafficking process: the exploitation or slave-like situation\(^\text{19}\).

7. Networking. Tdh networks with stakeholders involved in the counter-trafficking process. Tdh interventions take into account the stakeholder’s analysis and the gaps identified along the continuum. Actions planned are based on the principle of complementarity and subsidiarity\(^\text{20}\).

8. Building on existing community mechanisms. Even in the case of child trafficking, communities have their own child protection mechanisms and develop coping mechanisms, but many children do not benefit from them. Community based intervention should take into account these coping mechanisms in order to reinforce them, and make them available to all children.

9. Placing equal emphasis on all trafficking outcomes. Tdh places equal emphasis on all forms of exploitation and slavery-like practices, sexual or labour.

Diagram 2: Working along a chain. Complementary roles of prevention and protection\(^\text{18}\)
10. **A sense of “trust”**[21]. In most of the cases, the trust relationship has been directly abused during the trafficking process. All projects prioritise the establishment of trust relationship between the child and the community.

11. **The “best interest” of the child**, as encompassed in the UNCRC (Art. 3) and other instruments, is the primary consideration in all actions concerning children. A “Do not harm” policy is strictly applied in all aspects of the projects especially in the withdrawal process[22].

12. **The right to participate.** All children have the right to express their opinion and to participate in decision-making for all matters affecting them. (Art 12 of the CRC)

### 5. The Foundation’s aims, objectives and target groups

**The Foundation’s final aim:** trafficking in children for exploitation and slavery like practices is reduced.

All anti-trafficking projects follow the methodology of project cycle management. Definitions of final aims and objectives are given in the Tdh Manual of Project Cycle Management.

The final aims and the objectives of the projects supported by the Foundation vary according to the project and the context[21]. Depending on the situation analysis, Tdh develops projects that include one or more of the three strategic axes (see following chapter).

**Target groups**
The Tdh mandate is the protection of children. The UNCRC states that a child is less than 18 years old (Article 1).

While at-risk or trafficked children constitute the main target group, other vulnerable children – such as migrants, seasonal workers, and sexually abused children must be considered part of the wider circle that will benefit from the interventions of the Foundation. We recognise that vulnerable children’s situation may increase their danger of being trafficked. In most projects, anti-trafficking intervention responds to the wider issue of child protection.

It is certainly understood that the immediate environment of a child is an integral part of any action strategy. Therefore, mothers, fathers, concerned relatives and local leaders, for example, will need to be more involved in the projects, given their key roles in child protection behaviour. Gender is a cross cutting focus area for the Foundation[23]. Finally, clients, traffickers, and child employers could also be our target groups when the project includes prevention on the demand side.

Analysing the problem, the stakeholders and the resources available determine the final choice of the target group.

13. **Promoting safe and sustainable solutions for the child.** Anticipating possible counter effects of well-intended interventions, the projects will ensure that anti-trafficking measures do not create or exacerbate situations that cause or contribute to trafficking and do not negatively affect a child’s rights[23].

14. **Non-discrimination.** All child victims, non-national as well as national or resident children are entitled to the same protection and rights. All considerations of their status, nationality, race, sex, language, religion, ethnic or social origin, birth or other status have no impact on their rights to protection.
6. Priority strategic axes

*Tdh develops child protection strategies which aim to empower the persons and communities who are or could be affected. The strategies focus by self-organisation, encouraging participation to find solutions, improving living and working conditions and strengthening rights and increasing possibilities to exercise control over their own lives.*

Tdh’s three priority areas of intervention are:

- **Prevention**, in order to reduce the trends of trafficking. Action to prevent trafficking of girls and boys at the source side or supply side and to address the demand at the destination side.

- **Assistance to victims of child trafficking (withdrawal, rehabilitation and social integration)**. This area of intervention occurs when the child has been already trafficked. The aim is a successful social integration. It occurs when a child achieves an amount of choice over life options that are comparable to those who are not in a trafficking situation.

- **Advocacy**, Advocacy should be understood to include planned activities which aim to bring positive change to public and institutional policy, including the improvement of legislation, the allocation of skilled human resources and appropriate finance, and the change of mindsets and collective representations of childhood at the heart of political and social systems26.

Depending on the situation analysis, Tdh develops projects that include one or more of the three strategic axes. At all times, Tdh maintains an overview of the different steps of the process of the trafficking and it networks along the continuum between source area and exploitation area, supply and demand.

**Networking**. In order to increase coordination between the different stakeholders involved against child trafficking and in the protection of trafficked children, networking with other stakeholders is an indispensable ally to each of the three priority areas of intervention.
7. Mode of action

The mode of action of the Tdh Mother and Child Health sectorial policy is a reference of this paragraph. Many sentences have been copied.

Tdh aims at a negotiated integration of its activities within national policies on child protection. When existing policies are weak, or not implemented, Tdh will work with the community to help it strengthen existing community-based child protection systems. This includes:

• Linking up at the micro level with the macro level in order to encourage coherent interventions rather than dispersing interventions on a small scale.
• Providing support and assistance to withdrawal, rehabilitation and social integration programmes.
• Providing support and assistance to preventive actions and child protection at the supply and demand side.
• Working within local, national, regional, and international networks in order to promote coherent interventions and to exchange work experience or lessons learned.
• Considering the phenomenon as transnational (or when internal as transregional) and building cross border partnerships.

Under certain rare circumstances, Tdh would consider developing substitution measures in order to respond to a crisis context (as “rescue-deportation” of hundreds of children by authorities following repressive strategies.) However, Tdh seeks to complement the work of existing institutions and infrastructures rather than replace them. Experience shows that Tdh often combines direct field intervention (when, for example, there is no indigenous will and capacities to act) with support to local duty bearers for other actions (when minimal will and capacities have been identified). Direct management of care facilities or social work must be temporary and followed by an exit strategy.
Endnotes section II

16 For in depth information, see Social Integration Daniel Stoecklin, in KIT forum thématique 18.02.2003.

17 Ibid. page 10.

18 In reality, the child’s experience is unlikely to be sequential like this. Some children escape (or negotiate their withdrawal) only to be drawn back into an exploitative situation again. However, diagram I serves to illustrate the basic point that trafficking consists of a chain of events.

19 The aim is to protect children in the most harmful step of the process. It also helps the monitoring of the trafficking situation and avoids confusion with migration.

20 For instance, when shelters for the rehabilitation of victims of trafficking are operational, Tdh will not open new shelters but supports or implements action to prevent child trafficking if needed.

21 Self-esteem of the child, trust between the child and the parents, trust between the project and the child and family, the trust between the family and community…

22 See for protection the guidelines of UNICEF.

   Examples of harm frequently cited by victims and rights advocates include:
   - Forced detention and extended remand (up to many years).
   - Abuse, including rape, assault and deprivation in custody.
   - Denial of rights of legal representation, contact with family, mobility, speech, etc.
   - Forced repatriation.
   - Rape and physical abuse in the repatriation process.

23 By instituting policies and practices that further undermine or adversely affect the human rights of individuals, such as the right to privacy, the right to freedom of movement, the right to leave one’s country, to migrate legally and to earn an income: moreover, it should be ensured that counter-trafficking measures do not undermine, adversely affect or infringe upon the child rights of individuals, e.g. migrants, child workers, refugees or asylum seekers.

24 Please consult the document compiling final aims and objectives of all Tdh projects against child trafficking (updated every year). In KIT.

25 See, Haspel (N), Suryiasarn (B), Promotion of gender equality in action against child labour and child trafficking: a practical guide for organisation, 2003, ILO.

26 See 2.2.1 The relevance of advocating the rights of the child, in the Strategic plan of the Terre des hommes Foundation 2005-2009, p 11, 12.
Thematic Policy: Child Trafficking - Section II: Tdh interventions
Section Three provides information on practical actions implemented or supported by Tdh. It insists on the importance of situation analysis for all anti-child trafficking projects. Then it reviews in depth the three different axes of intervention: Prevention (I), Assistance to victims through withdrawal, rehabilitation, and social integration (II) and Advocacy (III). Finally, it explains the approach and concrete actions of networking.
8. Prerequisite: situational analysis

A situational analysis is pre-condition for all field operations. There are two options for this analysis:

1. Operations start just after the situation analysis. Operations may include fact-finding or research activities. Research is a scientific and action-oriented study to improve knowledge and practices on specific topics.

2. The situation analysis indicates the need to conduct more in-depth research on complex issues beyond its scope and reach, such as gaining more knowledge on such issues as illegal activities or sexual exploitation.

It is necessary to invest in solid situation analyses from the start in order to take into account available resources, existing opportunities, and obstacles in the planning process. Financial and human resources combined with a sufficient allocation of time must be invested in these situational analyses. A rigorous situational analysis must be undertaken prior to any strategic planning of a project. The Project Cycle Management Manual provides a framework for situation analysis: problems (different involved factors, modalities, social and economic organisation of the trafficking), stakeholders, available resources (with a special focus on the coping mechanisms of the affected community), and limits (including the poverty of the families).

As Tdh focuses its intervention on trends, the situation analysis has a reduced scope in order that it may collect as much evidence as possible. We recommend following two steps:

- A research review or “desk study”. This will review existing knowledge and findings from previous work related to the subject.
- Follow up field studies as necessary. To be conducted by field workers such as social workers, teacher, or project officers from Tdh or its partners under the supervision of experts, including academic researchers, specialists, or Tdh’s own experts. Tdh seeks the engagement of researchers who come from or know well the communities affected. If the desk study has identified a good situation analysis done by others, the Tdh field studies should only review it.

Each situation analysis must include the analysis of the exploitation situation.

Situation analysis on child trafficking trends needs sufficient time in order to establish confidence with victims, or the communities, so that evidence can be collected, analysed and understood. Typically, they will last from between 3 to 9 months.

The application of the child protection policy is obligatory in any investigation or research. Besides, ethical approach for interviews of victims should be strictly followed (see WHO guidelines below).

As the trafficking routes and modalities change quickly, the situation analysis needs to be regularly updated and the monitoring system designed to include the collection of data specifically concerning the problem. Moreover, further investigation continuously updates the first situation analysis. Investigation follows law enforcement or journalistic approaches on specific cases or trends.
For example, Tdh developed situation analysis on:

• Albanian children trafficked for begging in Greece (2000 – 6 months, updated 2002/03 – 6 months).
• Albanian children sexually exploited in Greece (2004 – 3 months).
• The situation of trafficked Nepalese girls and women in the three brothel areas of Mumbai and three brothel areas of Kolkata (India). A study of the economic and social system that engenders the trafficking process (2004 – 9 months).

• The trend of girls from North West Burkina Faso working as child domestic workers in Ouagadougou (2003 – 3 months).
• The trend of Beninese boys from the area of Zakpota trafficked in stone quarries in Abeokuta, Nigeria (2004-2005 – ongoing research combined with operations).
• The trend of Romanian children from Oas (10 villages) migrating to Paris, France (2003 – 5 months).

Further reading:

  [http://www.tdh.ch/website/tdhch.nsf/pages/trafficking_documentationE]
9. Strategic axe I: prevention of trafficking

Tdh implements activities which mainly fit the following definition: “Prevention activities are those activities and policies whose purpose is to stop persons from becoming victims of trafficking; they do not refer to the wider range of counter-trafficking programming, such as prosecution or victim services.”

Action to prevent child trafficking is understood to include a wide range of efforts to influence decisions or actions which result in the occurrence of trafficking, and to influence the factors that make some children particularly vulnerable to being trafficked. This focus on prevention concentrates on actions taken specifically to address the causes of trafficking at the supply and demand side. Of course, trafficking does not have just one cause and consequently there is no single “magic bullet” assuring prevention. Trafficking is a process, with many different factors – decisions and actions by different people – contributing to a chain of events. While action to influence any of the decisions and actions in this chain might prevent an individual child from being trafficked, only a range of coordinated actions are likely to have a noticeable preventive effect.

Support to prevention initiatives most often provided by Tdh is:

- Awareness raising for specific target groups on safe migration. These may include, inter alia, children and communities identified as at risk of trafficking, community leaders, and professionals such as government and child protection officials.
- Empowerment of children in order to increase the choices available to children and their families, and so reduce the likelihood of the trafficking option being chosen. See Tdh’s Children in a Street situation strategy and the psychosocial tools for a more detailed discussion of this strategy.
- Empowerment of the communities. Negotiation with the communities to reinforce their system of child protection when migration trends present a risk of trafficking. Special attention should be devoted to the coping mechanisms (strategies) that communities have developed in order to resist the problem and how best to build upon these existing strategies.
- “Negotiation” with the “exploiters” to reduce the demand (with an understanding of the economic demand).
- Birth registration as both a prevention tool and as a way to identify missing children. This ensures that children cannot disappear, since there is a legal document to prove they exist.
- Social work with vulnerable children and families at risk of trafficking (including in specific cases, material support in collaboration with authorities).
- Education activities as a mean of prevention: school building and technical support to alternative education.

Preventive measures, such as providing economic support to the families or the communities through micro-credit or other means, are inconsistent with Tdh’s strategic plan. However, we will work with partners who deliver such services.

Further reading:

- Psychosocial tools of Tdh on KIT.
10. Strategic axe II: Assistance to victims

When a child is trafficked, different levels of activities are implemented: identification and withdrawal, rehabilitation and social integration. The aim is a successful social integration. It occurs when a person achieves an amount of agency (choice over life options) that is comparable to those who have not been trafficked.

Protection and assistance to the children victims of trafficking is a prime responsibility of the State (article 20 of the CRC). All initiatives to protect and assist a child are implemented under the authorities’ approval and supervision and within the framework of the juvenile justice system.

Guidelines set out good practice with respect to protection and assistance of children victims of trafficking from initial identification up until the final integration and rehabilitation of the child. These guidelines for protection of the rights of children victims of trafficking have been developed on the basis of relevant international and regional instruments and provide a straightforward account of the policies and practices required to implement and protect the rights of children victims of trafficking.

The main principles of the practices in withdrawal, rehabilitation, and social integration are:

• The best interest of the child.
• The right to non discrimination.
• Respect for the views of the child.
• The child’s right to participation.
• The right to information.
• The right to confidentiality.
• The right to be protected.
• The right to rapid reintegration.
• Access to family.
• The institution as a last resort.

Further reading:


10.1. Withdrawal

Identification and withdrawal of children victims of trafficking are a State responsibility and should be undertaken by law enforcement agencies. Therefore Tdh may support or contribute to appropriate law enforcement and prosecution activities (following juvenile justice principles) so far as these activities do not harm the children involved.

Withdrawal has to take into account the reality that not all children who have the ability to leave the “harmful environment” actually do so. They can survive using different coping mechanisms depending on a range of external and personal factors. They may manifest a range of behaviours towards their exploitation, which may vary according to the nature of their exploitation.

• Subjugation (passive acceptance). Some no longer have the strength to embark on a new life for themselves, and, though they may be free to leave, they remain.
• Normalization. As restrictions are lessened over time, for many, their co-workers become their “adopted” family and the exploiter their foster parents. Thus, leaving would result in the loss of their support system.
• **Negotiated status.** Many children who have been trafficked develop a strategy of using various points of resistance to negotiate changes in their circumstances. This change sometimes allows them to negotiate, maintain, and/or fashion a situation which brings a gain in status, power and more control over their lives within the “harm environment”.

• **Full agency.** In this case, an originally oppressive situation changes into one which might hold some benefits for the victim.

Support to identification and withdrawal initiatives most often provided by Tdh are:

- Lobbying and campaigning for the improvement of appropriate techniques and procedures of law enforcement agencies.
- Assisting and accompanying children to overcome the situation of exploitation. This may be done through providing outreach activities, supporting a drop in centre, and creating an enabling environment for children and parents through community support. This list is not exhaustive.
- In certain circumstances and especially for younger children, rescue operation led by law enforcement agencies can be supported. However, harm in the withdrawal process has to be systematically avoided.

### 10.2. Rehabilitation

The goal is to protect children from new abuses and to help them recover from physical and psychological harm through rehabilitation efforts.

“The term ‘recovery’ is being used loosely to refer to a stabilization process during which the survivor develops the physical and emotional means to face a new life situation. The recovery can be facilitated with the assistance of an individual such as a social worker, counsellor, or legal representative, or from an institution such as a public or NGO managed home. The recovery can also take place in the country/community of destination or the country/community of origin, depending on the particular situation.” Assistance to the child is provided under his/her legal guardianship authority - usually a juvenile judge.

Rehabilitation initiatives most often provided by Tdh are:

- Support to shelters, transit centres, community-based care facilities and residential care. Financial and technical support (conducting needs assessment and capacity building activities to increase the quality of residential care facilities). This support should be time limited and focused on the autonomy of the concerned stakeholders in order to avoid dependence.
- Activate or reactivate the social institution and individuals on the community level which facilitate the rehabilitation of the child whenever possible (medical attention and treatment, empowering children to interact with other people and society in general).
- Legal assistance (administrative assistance and assistance during testimony).

Further reading:

- Full list of references in [www.childtrafficking.com](http://www.childtrafficking.com)
10.3. Social integration

Social integration “comprises adaptation and the (re)learning of social skills to survive in society at large as the most important and pressing element, and only subsidiarily, and not necessarily, a readaptation to family and kin. This term social ‘integration’ has also been used here in accordance with general usage.”

Ideally, a successful social integration occurs when a child achieves an amount of agency (choice over life options) that is comparable to those who are not in a trafficking episode. However, the reality of the intervention context constrains social workers to compose (1) on individual level: the trafficking episode consequence; and (2) on societal level: lack of resources.

Actions which encourage this mutual consent include interviews of families in the project, participation of families in the project activities, visits to the homes, telephone contact, team meetings to analyse systematically the family relationships, meetings with network partners, etc.

In some specific circumstances, family reunification could be harmful as the trafficked child is stigmatized, victimized, or rejected by family members, neighbours, and relatives.

Support to social integration initiatives most often provided by Tdh includes:
• Social work to assess the child and/or family situation in order to find a “durable solution” and to promote his/her social integration.
• Assisted voluntary return according to special guiding principles (see conditions of intervention and criteria for good practices in annex).
• Offering education, vocational training, and life skills development to trafficked children.
• Community based care development.
• Foster care family development.
• Legal assistance.

Further reading:
• Full list of references in www.childtrafficking.com
11. Strategic axe III: Advocacy

Defined in “The relevance of advocating the rights of the child”, in the Strategic plan of the Terre des hommes Foundation 2005-2009:

“Advocacy should be understood to include planned activities which aim to bring positive change to public and institutional policy, including the improvement of legislation, the allocation of skilled human resources and appropriate finance, and the change of mindsets and collective representations of childhood at the heart of political and social systems. The goal is to improve effectively the implementation of rights of the child. The reference point in the Convention of the Rights of the Child: Article 3 aims to promote the best interest of the child in all circumstances. The function of advocacy is not simply to denounce behaviour or situations, but to mobilise and propose alternative solutions. (...) advocacy activities are legitimised by the experience gained and lessons learnt in the field of intervention programmes, and from the children and in the heart of their natural and cultural environment.”

Tdh considers that a criminal justice response to prevent crime and deter offenders along with measures to protect and to defend the rights of the trafficked persons is a prime responsibility of the State. Advocacy initiatives most often supported by Tdh include:

• Training to authorities or community members on good practices, jurisprudence, new patterns of child trafficking etc.
• Direct lobby and proposals of policies with policy makers through bilateral discussion or round-tables.
• The launch of new studies or data collection, using media and other multipliers. Efforts and resources should be planned in order to have a real impact for the findings and recommendations of the report.
• Mobilisation of the civil society on specific issues related to child trafficking e.g. campaigns.
• Media work to gain national and international coverage.
• Denunciation of child rights violation by media or other agencies. Regarding denunciation in certain circumstances, “role division” is sought with Human Right NGOs as Amnesty International in order to keep operations and collaboration with officials.
• Promotion of coalition and alliances.
• Dissemination of data on specific cases to law enforcement agencies so far as this information does not harm the children involved.
12. Mainstreaming networking

“Child trafficking is a pattern of abuse that no single agency can solve alone. Even organisations which operate throughout a country lack the right expertise to take on all the types of work required at both ends of a trafficking chain, such as both prevention and providing care to children recovered from traffickers. Therefore, counter-trafficking work involves different organisations and requires coordination with others.”

TdH emphasizes in its project the importance of coordination between different stakeholders and especially between local and international NGOs. This coordination is useful to avoid overlapping in the different operations, to ensure the continuity of the care to the children and to avoid cultural or legal misunderstanding between the different services involved.

Best practices in different types of contexts and projects will be capitalized. Credibility is needed to coordinate different stakeholders. This credibility is based on good field practices and expertise.

13. References

Key references (non-exhaustive)

- For full reference, consult the digital library [www.childtrafficking.com](http://www.childtrafficking.com)
Endnotes section III


28 Tdh doesn’t support untargeted “awareness raising” campaigns (difficult to measure impact). Tdh doesn’t support “Don’t migrate” message (keeping children at home doesn’t help them realise their rights). Prevention is based on the understanding of factors which young people take into consideration when deciding whether to migrate.

29 In the Palermo Protocol the term used is “Protection”. In order to avoid confusion and misunderstanding with the different existing definition of protection, we have preferred the title assistance to victims. About the protection definition, see “The field guide for protection of children in emergency contexts; using a psychosocial approach”, Tdh, 2006.

30 Article 20: 1. A child temporarily or permanently deprived of his or her family environment, or in whose own best interests cannot be allowed to remain in that environment, shall be entitled to special protection and assistance provided by the State.
   2. States Parties shall in accordance with their national laws ensure alternative care for such a child.
   3. Such care could include, inter alia, foster placement, kafalah of Islamic law, adoption or if necessary placement in suitable institutions for the care of children. When considering solutions, due regard shall be paid to the desirability of continuity in a child’s upbringing and to the child’s ethnic, religious, cultural, and linguistic background.

31 For in-depth information, please consult references: www.juvenilejusticepanel.org and publications on juvenile justice from Tdh.

32 The 4 different profiles are listed in IOM “Revisiting the Human Trafficking Paradigm. The Bangladesh experience”, 2004, p 61.

33 For example, the trafficked person may fear what might happen to her if she returns to her home; she may not be accepted back by her family (as she has not brought back money to “to help mum”, she may be further stigmatized (as former prostitute) or perhaps even end up in a worse situation.

34 For example, after years of slavery situation, all Nepalese victims of child trafficking for sexual exploitation in India remain within the system after having their free agency restored to them out of concern that they will lose this status if they go elsewhere.

35 For example, over time, the Beninese children boy trafficked in quarries in Nigeria are given more freedoms and allowed to keep more of their earnings. Realizing that they are making much more money than they could earn at the village, they remain within the “harm environment”. Sometimes, they move on to become traffickers themselves.

36 For example, over time, the Beninese children boy trafficked in quarries in Nigeria are given more freedoms and allowed to keep more of their earnings. Realizing that they are making much more money than they could earn at the village, they remain within the “harm environment”. Sometimes, they move on to become traffickers themselves.

37 Capitalisation of the project between Albania and Greece shows that bi-national team for outreach activities give better results as it eases the trust building with the children (same language, cultural reference) See “Solutions found for Albanian children trafficked in Greece”, 2004 and “TACT guidelines”, 2006.

38 However, in most cases, the survivors find their own way without the help of others.

39 IOM “Revisiting the Human Trafficking Paradigm. The Bangladesh experience”, 2004, p 68. For further in-depth information, on social integration please refer to D. Stoecklin “Social Integration”, 2004 in KIT.

40 Reference is Fredericks, guidelines for the operation of care facilities for victims of trafficking, Planète Enfants, 2005.

41 See psycho-social tools developed by Tdh in “Protection project in emergency” or Children in street situation projects.

42 Tdh recognises the dilemma and occasional contradiction between upholding a child’s best interest (i.e. role as child advocates) and attempts to prosecuting traffickers (i.e. persuading a child to testify and exposing her/him to risk).

43 As stated by the Bangladesh thematic group.


45 For instance, a Nepalese girl trafficked for sexual exploitation in Kolkata and by consequence, HIV positive, limit choice over life options.

46 In many regions of intervention, lack of basic service as such as schools limit the choice for social integration.

47 This stigmatization happens for Nepalese girls trafficked for sexual exploitation.

48 Mike Dottridge, Kids as commodities, IFTDH, 2004, p 47.
   http://www.tdh.ch/website/tdhch.nsf/pages/trafficking_documentationE

   http://www.tdh.ch/website/tdhch.nsf/pages/trafficking_documentationE