

International Labour Organisation (ILO)
International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)

Trafficking in Children for Labour and Sexual Exploitation in the Balkans and Ukraine

MANUAL FOR RAPID ASSESSMENT

Prepared by Fafo Institute for Applied International Studies

Prevention and Reintegration Programme to Combat Trafficking of Children for
Labour and Sexual Exploitation in the Balkans & Ukraine (Phase I: Identification
of a Strategy for Concerted Action)

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Table of Contents

<u>I- INTRODUCTION</u>	3
I.1. BACKGROUND	3
I.2. PURPOSES OF THE SURVEY	4
I.3. OUTPUTS	5
I.4. PARTICULAR METHODOLOGICAL ISSUE	6
<u>II- RESEARCH AND PROTECTION</u>	7
II.1. ETHICAL ISSUES IN RESEARCH WITH CHILDREN	7
II.2. ETHICAL ISSUES IN RELATION TO ADULT RESPONDENTS/PARTICIPANTS	8
II.3. ETHICAL ISSUES PERTAINING TO RESEARCHERS AND FIELD WORKERS	8
<u>III- FRAMEWORK FOR STUDYING TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN</u>	10
III.1. DEFINITION	10
MOVING TOWARDS CONSENSUS ON A WORKING DEFINITION	12
III.2. LIFE HISTORY OF CHILDREN BEING TRAFFICKED	15
<u>IV- METHODOLOGY</u>	16
IV.1. DIFFICULTIES IN STUDYING TRAFFICKED CHILDREN	16
IV.2. SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION VERSUS REPRESENTATIVE DATA	16
IV.3. DESIGN OF RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND TOOLS	17
IV.4. INCLUDING VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF RESPONDENTS	17
CHILDREN	17
PARENTS	17
KEY INFORMANTS	18
IV.5. COMBINING DIFFERENT TYPES OF INFORMATION	18
STANDARDISED INFORMATION: THE QUESTIONNAIRES	18
QUALITATIVE INFORMATION: THE SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS	19
QUALITATIVE INFORMATION: GROUP DISCUSSIONS	19
IV.6. TOOLS AND RESPONDENTS	20
IV.7. THE TRAINING	20
<u>V- RESEARCH PREPARATIONS BY THE NATIONAL TEAMS</u>	22
V.1. IDENTIFYING COOPERATING INSTITUTIONAL BODIES	22
V.2. COLLECTING BACKGROUND INFORMATION	22
V.3. SELECTING RESEARCH STAFF	22
V.4. THE TRAINING OF INTERVIEWERS	23

<u>VI- ASSESSMENT BASED ON QUESTIONNAIRES</u>	24
VI.1. MAIN TOPICS TO BE STUDIED	24
VI.2. QUESTIONNAIRE MANUAL	26
VI.3. USING THE INFORMATION FROM QUESTIONNAIRES	26
<u>VII- QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT</u>	27
VII.1. USING THE TOOLS	27
SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS	27
GROUP DISCUSSIONS	27
VII.2. TOPICS FOR SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS AND GROUP DISCUSSIONS	28
TOPICS FOR SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS WITH CHILDREN	28
TOPICS FOR SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS WITH PARENTS	30
VII.3. RECORDING INFORMATION	31
VII.4. THE CASE STUDIES	32
VII.5. FIELDWORK FOLLOW-UP	33
<u>VIII- SAMPLING AND LOCATING INFORMANTS</u>	34
VIII.1. STRATEGIES FOR SELECTING RESPONDENTS	34
VIII.2. EXAMPLES OF CRITERIA FOR SELECTION	34
VIII.3. IDENTIFYING LOCATIONS AND COMMUNITIES	36
<u>IX- OVERALL ANALYSIS PLAN FOR COUNTRY REPORTS</u>	37
IX.1. COUNTRY REPORTS	37
<u>REFERENCES</u>	39

I- Introduction

This document gives an outline for a Rapid Evaluation of trafficking in children for labour and sexual exploitation from Ukraine, Moldova, Albania and Romania. The survey focuses on boys and girls under 18, being trafficked or exposed to trafficking both abroad and within their country of origin. The current manual describes the framework, the methodology and procedures necessary to provide an analysis of trafficking of children, its causes, its various forms, the recruitment process, the activities and daily life of the children once trafficked, and the conditions for exiting trafficking and a successful rehabilitation. It also contains an analysis plan according to the expected output – 4 Country reports - of the survey.

The rapid evaluation is part of the phase I of the Prevention and Reintegration Programme to Combat Trafficking of Children for Labour and Sexual Exploitation in the Balkans & Ukraine of the International Labour Organisation / International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). Phase I aims at providing the information necessary to identify a Strategy for Concerted Action, to then be implemented (Phase II).

The Research Manual has been prepared for the researchers and other fieldworkers (supervisors, interviewers) who will carry out the rapid evaluation. A set of 2 questionnaires (Annex 1) and 5 interview guidelines (Annex 2) is attached to the manual.

The manual was elaborated based on:

- The tools developed by Fafo for data production and analysis of children in conflict situation and disaster areas;
- The ILO / UNICEF manual for Rapid Assessment surveys on the worst forms of child labour;
- Experience from the Rapid Evaluation survey on Children used in Armed Conflicts in Central Africa (ILO/IPEC 2002);
- Preliminary findings from pilot-test questionnaires and semi-structured interviews carried out in Moldova (ILO/Fafo joint mission in May 2002).

I.1. Background

The transition process in Central and Eastern Europe as well as the Balkan crisis has brought drastic changes in the economic, political and social environment. From being societies with a fairly well developed social service infrastructure in which access to education and health care was virtually universal, the countries now face serious problems in these areas. Unemployment has increased, and as a result, average living standards have been falling, poverty has been rising, and inequality has been increasing. Economic hardship has undermined traditions and social customs, eroding the protection families used to provide.

Child labour, which had largely been prevented in most socialist countries, re-emerged in the wake of social crisis and has become a concern for policy makers. However, since there is a lack of knowledge, limited capacity and no experience regarding child labour issues, neither governments nor the civil society have been able to effectively respond to it. Therefore there is an urgent need to specifically address child trafficking as well other forms of forced labour in the region.

Of great concern to the International Labour Office (ILO) is the growing evidence that, alongside with women, children and youth are increasingly being bought and sold within and across national borders by organized networks in Eastern and Southern Europe. They are trafficked for sexual exploitation as well as other worst forms of child labour including stealing, begging and drug peddling. They are exposed to physical and moral abuses and treated as slaves. Their vulnerability to exploitation is even greater when they are trafficked in a foreign country, where they find themselves at the mercy of criminal networks, often with ties to their families severed. Girls are particularly affected as they are lured into prostitution through deceit or, more generally, threat and force, notably by Albanian and Ukrainian gangs that operate throughout the region.

Numerous reports mention that Moldova, Romania and Ukraine are the most significant sending countries in terms of scale. Albania, which is a major source for the trafficking of women and children, has also reportedly turned into being the first transit country for children and youth trafficked from the Balkans to Western Europe.

Children are easy preys for a variety of reasons, including persecution of ethnic minorities, lack of education and employment opportunities and poor social protection systems. Trafficking in children and their exploitation is also linked to parents' attitude. Indeed, children are expected to contribute to family income and parents often encourage them to find a job and emigrate if necessary. Besides, a deep-rooted gender-based discrimination strongly contributes to the trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and girls.

Inadequate or insufficient legislation on child trafficking, including a definition of the offence in law and common standards for penalties, offers free play to criminal organizations. Although, in some countries it is possible to press charges, such cases are very rare. Inefficiencies in law enforcement, lack of efficient intervention strategies (and the capacity for implementation) and dysfunctional political and administrative structures including corruption, perpetuate the problem.

Consumerism and a specific demand in the sex-trade also play a role. The following groups are at special risk: children from politically disturbed areas, those living in economic hardship, street children, orphans and children from socially/economically marginalized groups, such as ethnic minorities (e.g. Romas in North Eastern Romania).

The ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) together with other ILO departments that have developed expertise on specific issues related to child trafficking (DECLARATION, MIGRANT), is working to develop effective preventive measures as well as a regional response to the problem.

I.2. Purposes of the survey

The rapid evaluation survey is intended to provide background information that in turn will facilitate the development of strategies for action, to prevent trafficking of children and assist them when returning to former community / place of living.

The survey will therefore focus on:

- The causes and context in which children are exposed to trafficking ;
- The recruitment process ;
- The various forms of labour and sexual exploitation children are confronted with;
- The every-day-life of trafficked children ;
- The way out of trafficking ;
- The conditions for returning to former community ;
- The life after return (reintegration/new life, stigma).

The survey also includes a mapping of institutions and programmes that aim at preventing child trafficking and assisting children who have been victims of trafficking, the goal being to index successful practices and shortages in the perspective of the implementation of a concerted action.

Moreover, it is important to stress that this manual does *not* give instructions on how to conduct in-depth psychological analysis of the effects of trafficking, nor does it intend to provide an evaluation tool of existing programs.

I.3. Outputs

The main outputs of the surveys will be:

- 4 Country Reports analysing the trafficking of children. Analysis plan and content for the Country Reports are specified further in the present manual;
- A Synthesis Report that will summarise insights from country reports. The aim is to compare findings at national level and confront child trafficking with the broader issue of trafficking in human beings in the region;
- A sub-regional workshop, aimed at presenting and discussing survey findings with professionals working with prevention of trafficking and assistance to children, and national policy-makers;
- A strategy for concerted action in the perspective of Phase II of the Prevention and Reintegration Programme.

I.4. Particular methodological issue

The various forms of labour and sexual exploitation children are trafficked for are core to the rapid evaluation; these forms will consequently be inventoried. But it is not the aim of the survey to document or detail all trafficking-related horrors, hardships, or exactions, and this would also be contrary to basic ethic principles of protection of respondents. This also applies to the parents of trafficked children.

II- Research and Protection

To a great extent, the ethical issues of research with children (as well as with adults) have shaped the design of the present survey. What follows is aimed at giving fieldworkers (1) an overview of possible risks when doing research with children, (2) instructions for activities that will imply interaction with respondents.

A few basic principles must be remembered:

- Respondents must never feel pressure to participate in research; in other words answering questionnaires as well as semi-structured interviews must be voluntary;
- Respondents getting emotional difficulties during questionnaires are not committed to answer the whole questionnaire and the interviewers must be sensitive to the reactions of the respondents; the same applies to semi-structured interviews;
- Respondents must feel free to end an interview whenever they want, i.e. without permission from someone else or justification.

II.1. Ethical issues in research with children

In the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child*, one of the most important principles is children's right to participate in activities that affect them. Even though research may be seen as an investigative quest, and not as straightforward program activity, it is still an activity that affects children, or in turn is intended to do so. In this sense, research is no different from other activities when it comes to child participation.

Children are not simply respondents or informants but will also be given the possibility to react to the questions they will be asked and make suggestions, and therefore to give new directions to the research. This can be highly beneficial for the research itself, but it should not be detrimental to the children; several words of caution must then be raised at this point.

A danger of any kind of participatory approach is that children may feel obliged to answer to questions or share their experiences, in a setting they do not feel comfortable with. Discussions with adults whom they *do* feel comfortable with may also unleash a range of emotional reactions that demand follow-up that a fieldworker is not in a position to personally respond to. Finally, once a child has confided in an adult, the child may not necessarily be able to distinguish between the researcher role and that of a caretaker. This is the reason why children do not always understand why nothing happens after they have told about their problems or fears, or why they believe that there is no need to tell other adults (e.g. resource personnel) again about their experiences if they have already spoken about them once. In the latter case, the research activities with children may actually work against the child's well being, unless it is responded to in the proper way.

This does not imply that one should not talk with children at all. The point is that it should be done with the greatest care, and only when the child can be directed to

health/support personnel. Thus, if fieldworkers talk to formerly (or presently) exposed children or children at risk outside of shelters/rehabilitation centres, they must have the possibility to direct them to skilled personnel who can help them. Before fieldwork starts, institutional bodies (NGOs, UN or state bodies) should be identified for these purposes, and all fieldwork personnel should be informed about them.

Furthermore, it must be ensured that children who tell about their past will not come at risk in the aftermath. All fieldworkers and researchers must ensure confidentiality, and full names of children (or adults who tell about their childhoods) must never be exposed. It must be ensured that interviewees do not risk social stigma, retaliation or prosecution after having talked to researchers.

Regarding children's right to anonymity in research, there is a grey zone regarding the duty to report cases of current abuse, or suspicion of such. If the fieldworker suspects, or can document, that a child is being threatened or abused (even within an institutional setting), this should be reported to the institutional bodies that have been identified for this purpose. In this case, however, the fieldworker must be extremely cautious so that the child does not risk reprisals. This has to be discussed in detail with institutional representatives, and no action should be taken unless the child can be offered a new place of residence.

II.2. Ethical issues in relation to adult respondents/participants

Interviewing adults involves some of the ethical considerations mentioned above: researchers and fieldworkers must ensure the same professional confidentiality in interviews with parents and local community members as for interviews with children. Moreover, it must be ensured that parents of participating children or other community members do not risk social stigma or reprisals in any way.

II.3. Ethical issues pertaining to researchers and field workers

Ethical considerations pertaining to researchers and fieldworkers are basically related to two issues.

Firstly, researchers and fieldworkers must have received the necessary training to be able to handle the ethical issues mentioned above. The main point is that there must be an informed consent from all fieldworkers about the ethical considerations above.

Secondly, the personal safety of researchers and fieldworkers may be put in danger in a research of this sort, basically because trafficking is a criminal activity; they may then be exposed to traffickers and anyone associated with trafficking. Team leaders (country/study area levels) must always investigate into the security situation before personnel is sent to interviews.

Researchers and fieldworkers may also be put into danger when working into trafficking-affected community because of the stigma on trafficked children and stigma-related behaviour of community members and representatives. Fieldworkers must therefore inform local authorities and get approval for doing interviews; they must present themselves when arriving on the field, and make sure that the aim of the survey cannot be misinterpreted.

Authorisation from and information to local authorities is important. However, such information might entail a risk for the respondents in case local authorities staff is involved in trafficking. Fieldworkers must be cautious that informing local authorities will not jeopardize the anonymity of the respondents.

III- Framework for studying trafficking in children

III.1. Definition¹

A simple term for a complex reality

The last decade of the twentieth century saw an unprecedented level of international concern over the trafficking of human beings. Broad recognition of the links between trafficking and the exploitation of children in particular also emerged as the children's rights movement gained momentum during this period. Today, abhorrence of the slavery-like practices associated with child trafficking has put this criminal activity squarely on the international agenda as a distinct and egregious violation of children rights and comprising one of the worst forms of child labour.

People were first referred to as 'traffickers' as early as the mid-sixteenth century, although at that time the label implied neither wrongdoing nor internal or cross-border movements. Traffickers were simply traders, and the two terms were roughly synonymous. By the end of that century, however, 'trafficking' had become disassociated from trading and was used to refer to the sale of illicit or disreputable goods. It is in this form that it first appeared in the discourse of politics, law and social development, where it came to denote the smuggling of contraband – often drugs or weapons but not yet human beings – across borders for profit. Towards the end of the nineteenth century, when the term 'trafficking' finally came into common usage to also refer to the illicit trade in human beings and their displacement across borders or within a country, it represented an amalgamation of the various meanings attributed to the word at various times: movement, illicit trade, and people as merchandise.

The first international treaty to address trafficking in human beings was the *International Agreement for the Suppression of White Slave Traffic* (1904). Today, the term has re-emerged on political and operational agendas around the world with an expanded meaning informed by current discourse on migration, changes in prostitution patterns, the feminist and gender debate, increased attention to human rights and, most recently, children's rights. In effect, 'trafficking' has proved a useful and simple label for a complex phenomenon, whose wide-ranging manifestations and root causes necessitate a multi-strategy response.

Although a distinct issue, the trafficking of children is often discussed together with trafficking of women. This is not only because the same mechanisms and processes often apply to both, but also because much of the available data on trafficking of women is not clearly disaggregated by age. For example, many reports on the trafficking of women state that the majority of women coerced into prostitution are between 16 and 24 years of age. However, 16 and 17 year-old girls are children according to the *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC) and the *ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention* (No. 182). In order to set priorities for policy and programme interventions that combat trafficking of children, it is essential to

¹ Extracts from ILO-IPEC: *Unbearable to the Human Heart: Child Trafficking and Action to Eliminate it*, (Geneva, 2002); pp.3-7.

understand the context and the magnitude of trafficking of those under the age of 18. At the same time, policy and interventions must make clear distinctions between the suppression of trafficking of adults and that of children. In the case of adults, the recognition of the right to make informed decisions and choices, even if this includes the choice to remain in exploitative situations, will continue to be an issue of debate and has to be considered in programme interventions. In the case of children, the international consensus is to withdraw them from exploitation without delay. Action to combat the trafficking of children can and should be an integral part of action to combat the trafficking of adults.

Determining whether or not a child or adult is being ‘trafficked’ requires a nuanced working definition of trafficking that distinguishes it from other types of activities. Trafficking as a distinct, discrete act does not really exist. It is, in fact, a combination or series of events that occur at places of origin, transit points and destinations, involving potentially both legal and illegal acts.

Various means can be used to entrap victims, including persuasion, deception, threats and coercion, and these can involve different actors, including recruiters, intermediaries, transporters, employers, brothel/inn operators, and even families and friends. The methods of entrapment, as well as the means of transport/movement and the nature of the exploitation, can also have significant regional and national variations. What transforms this chain of events into ‘trafficking’ is the exploitation of the child or adult who is being relocated, whether that exploitation occurs at the beginning, during or at the end of the trafficking process.

Exploitation, always illegal in international law and national laws, may occur at any point in the chain of events that, taken together, are recognized as trafficking. It may occur, for example, if the child is misled with false reports or promises, coerced, or otherwise forcibly recruited or handed over to transporters. It may also occur when the child is transported: a child might be told s/he is going to a nearby big city, only to be moved elsewhere, or a child or family might be charged an exorbitant fee in order to ensnare them in debt bondage. Trafficking may be said to have taken place when the child is recruited as a dancer but forced into prostitution, or by the withholding of wages or their payment to a third party. It may take the form of exploitative and/or abusive conditions to which the child is subjected, including physical and mental abuse or confinement, inadequate or non-existent health care, poor accommodation and hazardous work.

Alien smuggling is often a component of cross-border trafficking, although the smugglers themselves may not be traffickers if, in the process of transferring the child, they are not involved in exploiting him/her or otherwise subjecting the child to abuse of any kind. According to the United States (US) Congress definition -- which seems to be the clearest and most widely applicable -- alien smuggling is the “provision of a service, albeit illegal, to people who knowingly buy the service in order to get into a foreign country”. As will be shown in this report, this would apply to those providing services to the many children who willingly seek out ways to relocate to another country in order to work or sometimes just in the vague hope of a better life. Alien smuggling is an issue of relevance to consideration of trafficking, however, because many smuggled people will fall into the hands of exploiters, thus entering the ranks of trafficking victims under international law.

Irregular migration also involves actors who may or may not be traffickers *per se*. These include recruiting agents who help minors to acquire false documentation so that

they can be employed in other countries (for example by providing to 15 year-old girls passports certifying that they are over 18 and documentation that they are to be employed as ‘dancers’); and service, agricultural or industrial sector representatives who employ under-age children and falsify reports or do not report. It also involves corrupt migration, police or customs officials who facilitate the illegal exit or entry of children. These actors are not only in violation of migration laws, but they also may be committing fraud, counterfeiting or breaking labour laws. Furthermore, if they are at any point deceiving, abusing or exploiting the child, then they are also trafficking.

Traffickers may even follow legal migration procedures to implement their exploitative schemes. As exploitation is the key to determining whether or not a person has been trafficked, it is important to understand what exactly is meant by exploitation.² In this report, the focus will be mainly on exploitation in labour and the sexual exploitation of children.

Moving towards consensus on a working definition

If coordinated and comprehensive efforts are to be made to combat trafficking, then there has to be consensus on a working definition of what it is. Reaching international accord on this has been as complex as the issue itself. Early international legal instruments were criticized both for their narrow focus on prostitution and for failing to fully protect children from the many hazards they face across the wide scope of the trafficking process. Negotiations on the *UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (2000)*, for example, dwelled extensively on the question of whether trafficking can exist if the victim has not been coerced. The answer matters because it determines the criminal liability of the perpetrator or, more particularly, whether or not the penalties and measures proposed in the overarching *UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime* apply to a particular situation.

In some respects, the variations found in the definitions of trafficking in international instruments and frameworks are both inevitable and legitimate, and in no way represent confusion or disagreement. Each international instrument relates to the place the organization of reference occupies in the international multilateral structure, for example as a crime-focused or rights-focused body. As a result, what might at first seem an uneven handling of trafficking issues across organizations is actually more a question of approach and context than a difference of intent, and allows different organizations working in this area to accommodate institutional objectives and contexts. Practically speaking, then, a wide working definition permits accommodation of the specific objectives of the different, yet complementary international instruments that have been adopted by the international community over the years.

From the major international instruments that are of relevance to the fight against trafficking, therefore, has grown sufficient consensus on the nature of trafficking to make debate and joint action possible:

² The UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons requires coverage of at least four types of exploitation: exploitation in prostitution, other forms of sexual exploitation, slavery/similar practices, and removal of organs.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

Because trafficking involves serious violations of children's rights, the 1989 *UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* (CRC) is highly relevant and applicable. The CRC, while neither defining trafficking nor addressing it as a specific issue, spells out a clear rights-based approach that serves as an invaluable guide for action to combat trafficking and protect vulnerable children. In dealing with children's rights, the CRC uses a protection framework built on its over-arching call for the child to be considered the subject, not object of rights and of all rights simultaneously. Article 32 of the CRC stipulates the "right of the child to be protected from economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development"; Articles 9, 10 and 11 also have provisions for illicit movement of the child; Article 34 calls on States Parties 'to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse...[including] the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices', and Article 35 aims to protect children from being treated as chattels. An *Optional Protocol to the CRC, on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography* (2000), which entered into effect in January 2002, explicitly relates to the prostitution and trafficking of children, although it does not attempt to define trafficking further.

ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182) and Recommendation (No. 190)

Since 1999, the ILO's work against child trafficking has been reinforced by the adoption of the *ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182)*. This declares child trafficking to be unacceptable in all countries regardless of their level of development, and calls for it to be eliminated without further delay. It confirms that child trafficking is a practice similar to slavery, and belongs in the same category as forced labour. Convention 182 urges countries to both prohibit and eliminate trafficking of children (under 18 years of age). It not only targets trafficking that leads to exploitation in more recognizable labour situations (sweatshops, domestic work, agriculture and fishing, for example), but also in illicit or criminal situations (drug trafficking and prostitution). In addition, Convention 182 suggests operational guidelines to effectively eliminate child trafficking, while providing protection for boys and girls who have fallen victim to trafficking or are at risk of doing so. Ratifying States commit themselves to:

1. Undertake immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of trafficking of girls and boys under 18 years of age.
2. Establish mechanisms to monitor child trafficking: its incidence, development, patterns, links with organized crime. Monitoring includes developing methods for gathering critical information, identifying and publishing successful strategies, and regularly reviewing the success with which various actors (eg labour inspectors, law enforcement officers, immigration officials, customs officers, judiciary) discharge their responsibilities.
3. Draw up a programme of action to eliminate child trafficking as a matter of priority. Measures to combat trafficking must be properly enforced.
4. Implement effective and time-bound measures to:
 - prevent children from being trafficked;

- provide the necessary and appropriate direct assistance for both the removal of children from exploitative situations and for their rehabilitation and social integration; eg reporting procedures and helplines, rehabilitation programmes and shelters for child victims of sexual abuse and exploitation, and family reunification;
 - ensure access to free basic education and, wherever possible and appropriate, vocational training for all children rescued from trafficking;
 - identify and reach out to children at special risk of being trafficked; and
 - take account of the situation of girls.
5. Designate an authority responsible for coordinating action against child trafficking;
 6. Seek and impart international assistance to combat child trafficking and assist victims, for example through bilateral or regional agreements for repatriation of trafficked children.

UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

The *UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children* adopted in December 2000 represents a direct attempt at comprehensively defining trafficking in international law. Responding to growing organized criminal involvement in trafficking in human beings, this Protocol was designed as a tool for combating cross-border trafficking through judicial and law enforcement means. It supplements the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and emphasizes putting in place effective legal and law enforcement frameworks and responses. These include: the criminalizing of traffickers, not victims; protection of victims from revictimization; sanctioning of individuals and organizations involved in trafficking; and promotion of child-friendly procedures for securing testimony.

The Protocol provides the current internationally accepted definition of trafficking developed in consultation with governments and a wide range of international organizations working in the field of human rights. Article 3(a) of the Protocol defines trafficking as “...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 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.” The Protocol points out that, as far as children are concerned, “recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered ‘trafficking in persons’ even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in the definition”. In line with *ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention (No. 182)*, it specifies that exploitation shall include “forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery [or] servitude”.

III.2. Life history of children being trafficked

The research is shaped by the life history of children being trafficked. The investigation for trafficked released children (the core respondents) is structured as follows:

- Life before being trafficked (occupations, relations to parents, satisfaction and hardships)
- Recruitment process (contact/first steps, persons involved, the offer)
- The transaction (job, remuneration, daily life, travel, etc.), the forced or voluntary aspects of the recruitment
- Awareness of trafficking children, attitude of child's nearest
- Journey and "transactions" (recruiters, transporters, bosses and other intermediaries)
- Workload, living conditions and control
- Exiting trafficking (conditions for release, first destination after release)
- Living conditions since release (occupations, relations to former community/parents/caretakers, trafficking-related stigma, assistance, perspectives)

Sections of questionnaires and topics for semi-structured interviews are detailed further.

IV- Methodology

IV.1. Difficulties in studying trafficked children

Trafficked children are difficult to study. Quantitative assessment of children currently trafficked is almost beyond attempt, and may be straightforward dangerous. Determining the number of trafficked children, for instance, is also a difficult task in statistical terms even when the dangers to the researchers or fieldwork personnel are disregarded. Trafficked children, like child soldiers, are a typical example of what sample statisticians would qualify of “rare” and “elusive” population.

Trafficked children are “rare” in the statistical sense because they as a rule only make up a small part of the *total* population of children. Accordingly, even large surveys of the general population, had they been possible, would only sample a small number of trafficked children. Therefore, national surveys are generally not useful in the case of trafficked children.

Nevertheless, if trafficked children had only been “rare”, established statistical methods exist that can be used to ascertain their number. But they are also “elusive”. They are difficult to observe. That is, even if one knows that trafficked children are present in a specific setting, it is likely that field workers will fail to detect them, as they are involved in mostly illegal activities and under the control of criminal organised groups. This calls for particular research strategies.

Returned trafficked children may be easier to reach, but still face researchers and fieldworkers with particular challenges. The ones who have been trafficked may not want to talk to researchers at all, and parents may feel ashamed or partly responsible, and thus be reluctant to discuss the issue. Children who were trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation may not want to talk about their pasts at all, not even the seemingly “straightforward” aspects of their background. Neither should they be pressured to do so.

IV.2. Significant information versus representative data

The methodology developed for the present rapid evaluation survey does not allow producing **representative** data, in statistical sense, as sample will be chosen by non-probability protocol. Obviously, for example to say that *70 percent of the trafficked children are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation* does not say anything about the population of trafficked children if the sample has been chosen by visiting a rehabilitation centre for ex-prostitutes. Therefore, to produce unvaried statistics on the frequencies of particular characteristics of the trafficked children are not very useful except as a characterisation of the sample (to show who was interviewed), and may be misleading because readers easily interpret the frequencies as characteristics of the population.

Thus, the objective of the present survey is to produce data that are **significant** of the trafficking of children.

IV.3. Design of research methodology and tools

Research methodology and tools have been designed in four stages:

- A set of questionnaires and guidelines for semi-structured interviews were developed for pilot test (Moldova, May 2002);
- Tools were modified based on the learning from pilot-test; the new set was submitted to researchers (national consultants) before the training to be reviewed and commented;
- Tools were modified according to researchers comments and suggestions; questionnaires and interview guidelines were reviewed during the training workshop;
- Tools were finalised after the training and sent to researchers with ad hoc documents: instructions for questionnaires were provided to interviewers, manual to conduct semi-structured interviews and group discussion were given to consultants.

IV.4. Including various categories of respondents

Trafficked released children are the core but not the only group of respondents. Three main groups will be interviewed: children, parents (or caretakers), and key informants.

Children

Respondents are boys and girls under 18; however, boys or girls over 18 but who fell into trafficking when they were under 18 can be interviewed. However, one should avoid selecting the latter if they were trafficked a long time ago, unless the respondent is very informative; in such a case, the respondent would be interviewed as a Key Informant, and the researcher should look for another child.

In addition to trafficked released children (TRC), never trafficked children (NTC) will be interviewed. Among NTC, we target children with similar background to those who were trafficked, i.e. conditions that presumably expose them to trafficking. Street children may be a typical example.

The objective of interviewing NTC is to understand:

- whether/to what extent they have been exposed to trafficking, or approached by traffickers, or pushed by others;
- the mechanisms/reasons determining why these particular children have not been trafficked;
- their knowledge and awareness of trafficking;
- their attitudes towards children who were trafficked.

Parents

Including the parents is motivated by the presumably key role they do (or do not) play in terms of prevention and reintegration, and their possible implication (voluntarily or not) in the trafficking of their children.

Three categories of parents will be interviewed:

- Parents of trafficked released children;
- Parents of (currently) trafficked children;
- Parents of never trafficked children.

Among parents of never trafficked children, we target parents with socio-economic status similar to those whom children were trafficked, meaning parents with children who are presumably at risk of being trafficked. Interviewing this category is aiming at:

- Exploring whether they have attempted to find a job for their children (a scenario that may lead to trafficking) ;
- Assessing to what extent their children have been exposed to traffickers ;
- Assessing their knowledge about and perception of trafficked children.

Key informants

We include here people, professionals or not, who are whether directly involved in the lives of children who were trafficked or are at risk of being trafficked, or have a specific knowledge of the trafficking. They can be political and administrative authority representatives, assistance organisation staff, health, education and other social services personnel, local community leaders, academics, or anyone with specific relevant knowledge of trafficking.

Interviewing key informants has specific objectives:

- to get feedback and to discuss preliminary findings;
- to expose various scenarios, situations, arguments, etc. that were given by respondents and ask for, if any, different ones that are known or were experienced by the key informant;
- to get information about what is done to prevent, to release and to reintegrate trafficked children, what works, what does not work, what could work under which conditions, what are the limitations/challenges.

IV.5. Combining different types of information

The description and analysis of trafficking in children is based on:

- Standardised information coming from questionnaires;
- Qualitative information from semi-structured interviews (with both individuals and groups);
- Existing information, especially the review and learning of programmes for prevention of trafficking and reintegration of children who were trafficked.

Standardised information: the questionnaires

Questionnaires provide standardised information aimed at revealing the relation between important variables (e.g. child relations with parents and child's response to job offer from traffickers, socio-economic status of parents and attitude towards job offer).

Questionnaires enable analysis and comparison among different locations within the country as well as among the four countries.

Qualitative information: the semi-structured interviews

The main objective for conducting semi-structured interviews is to dig into some of the information provided by the questionnaires. Semi-structured interviews enable researchers to take into account specificities (of the respondent, a case of recruitment, etc.).

Semi-structured interviews also enable to discuss topics that are not addressed in questionnaires, for instance, sensitive issues that would be imposed on the respondent if they appeared in a questionnaire. However, such topics may come up during semi-structured interview, whether on the respondent's initiative, or on the interviewer's initiative if she/he can reasonably assume that the topic can be addressed while respecting basic ethic principles.

It often happens that respondents, while answering to a questionnaire tend to provide "extra" information (their personal story, the case of a friend, etc.). This may happen even before the interviewer begins with the questionnaire. Interviewer must then make notes of the information, writing for instance in the margins of the questionnaire. It is up to the interviewer to make the best use of such an opportunity: whether to go through the questionnaire first, and to then conduct a semi-structured interview, or to develop the information that came out and then to come back to the questionnaire (that must be completed anyway). This implies that interviewers are able not only to fill out questionnaires, but also to conduct semi-structured interviews.

More generally, if a respondent of a questionnaire has additional knowledge or experience of importance she/he wants to share, the interviewers may continue with the semi-structured interview once the questionnaire is completed. Again, it is up to the interviewer to decide whether to conduct a semi-structured interview with a respondent who has already answered a questionnaire.

Qualitative information: group discussions

Group discussions have three advantages:

- Opinions and rationalizations may be more informative and intelligible when debated;
- The group gives the opportunity to test preliminary findings and hypothesis and get different feedbacks at the same time;
- Topics of relevance that are not included in questionnaires and interview guidelines may come out as the group dynamics makes the discussion less structured than interview with an individual.

IV.6. Tools and respondents

Questionnaires, semi-structured interviews and group discussions will be combined as follows:

	Questionnaires	Semi-structured interviews	Group discussions
Trafficked Released Children	60	20	2
Never Trafficked Children	20	10	4
Parents of Trafficked Released Children		10	2
Parents of Trafficked Children		5	
Parents of Never Trafficked Children		10	4
Key Informants		To be determined by each national team	
Total	80	55	12

The choice of tools and corresponding categories of respondents is based on the learning from the pilot-test work done in Moldova and other fieldwork, and on the training workshop for researchers that took place in Budapest (28th October-1st November 2002).

Due to the stigma on trafficking and labour and sexual exploitation, parents may simply refuse to be interviewed as it could “reveal” to neighbours that the family is affected by the problem. Interviewing both parents of trafficked children and parents of trafficked released children (PTRC) will request a high level of confidence anyway; therefore a semi-structured interview may be more appropriate, as it is more flexible than a questionnaire.

Trafficked Released Children are usually not willing to talk in the presence of other children who were also trafficked if they do not know them. This may be different if children know each other, which may be the case of children receiving assistance (e.g. living in a rehabilitation centre). Moreover group discussions may occur without being organised, for instance when visiting a rehabilitation centre. This also applies to the Parents of Trafficked Children and Parents of Trafficked Released Children.

IV.7. The training

Researchers receive a 5-day training course. This training covers the various aspects of the survey, mainly consisting of the following points:

- Objective, final output, and rules for doing research with children;
- The tools (review of questionnaires and interview guidelines);
- The respondents (selection criteria);

- Reporting information (interview notes, résumés, case studies).

Researchers receive questionnaires and interview guidelines one week before the training; they are asked to comment them and suggest possible changes; this is aimed at saving time during the training and taking into consideration particular circumstances of research in the different countries. The training also gives room for such discussions, and the tools are ultimately finalised after the training. Researchers will inform the ILO and Fafo about possible changes in the tools.

Researchers will make sure that the interviewers are given proper training and instructions for the use on how to use the tools prior to the fieldwork, and special weight should be put on the ethical aspects involved in a survey of this kind. It is advisable that this training takes place as soon as possible after the regional training in Budapest.

V- Research preparations by the national teams

The research preparations consist of identifying institutional actors with which to cooperate, assessing existing information about the issue of child trafficking and conditions for doing research in this field, and selecting and training research team.

V.1. Identifying cooperating institutional bodies

Before the fieldwork starts, it is very important that researchers and interviewers know and have established contacts with institutional actors that can provide assistance to children. Such institutional actors may be governmental services, non-governmental organisations, international organisations, etc. The purpose of this is to be able to refer to institutions respondents identified by research personnel to be in need of help, be it psychological support or others forms of assistance.

V.2. Collecting background information

The consultants in each national team should initially collect background information in order to get a deeper insight into the details of the issue of trafficking in their respective countries. Such background information includes both written sources, and the information that can be obtained through discussions with experts on the area, local NGOs, UN-agencies, etc. Background information can also result from semi-structured interviews with key informants.

The written or secondary data material should include:

- Published work on trafficking;
- Reports and documents available at NGOs and other institutions;
- Newspaper clips and articles in newspapers;
- National laws and regulations on trafficking human beings in general and in children in particular.

In addition to collecting this background information, each national team must map existing prevention and rehabilitation programmes on trafficking in the country implemented by NGOs, State and/or UN-organisations. A mapping of existing initiatives is of crucial importance for the ILO in order to develop useful and efficient intervention.

V.3. Selecting research staff

The national team will consist of researchers and interviewers. Researchers are responsible for coordinating the survey in each country and are accountable to the ILO. They are also responsible for staying in touch with Fafo and the coordination of the work of the interviewers. The criteria for selecting the research team is that its members should cover the following areas of expertise:

- Social sciences and statistics;
- Knowledge of the issue of trafficking;
- Knowledge of the socio-economic conditions of the country;
- Experience in participatory research;
- Analytical and writing abilities.

The methodology used for the survey and the importance of the qualitative dimension means that the researchers should participate in the fieldwork for the semi-structured interviews, group discussions. The interviewers should have knowledge of the issue of trafficking or experience in participatory research. The semi-structured interviews may in certain cases be easier to carry out with female personnel, so the gender composition of interviewers should be kept in mind. The most important is that the respondents are treated in a respectful attitude.

V.4. The training of interviewers

Interviewers will receive a 2-day training course. This training will cover the various aspects of the survey, mainly consisting of the following points:

- Objective, final output, and rules for doing research with children;
- The tools (review of questionnaires and interview guidelines);
- The respondents (selection criteria);
- Reporting information (interview notes, résumés, case studies).

VI- Assessment based on questionnaires

VI.1. Main topics to be studied

The questionnaires were designed in order to identify a strategy for preventing trafficking of children and rehabilitating those who have been trafficked.

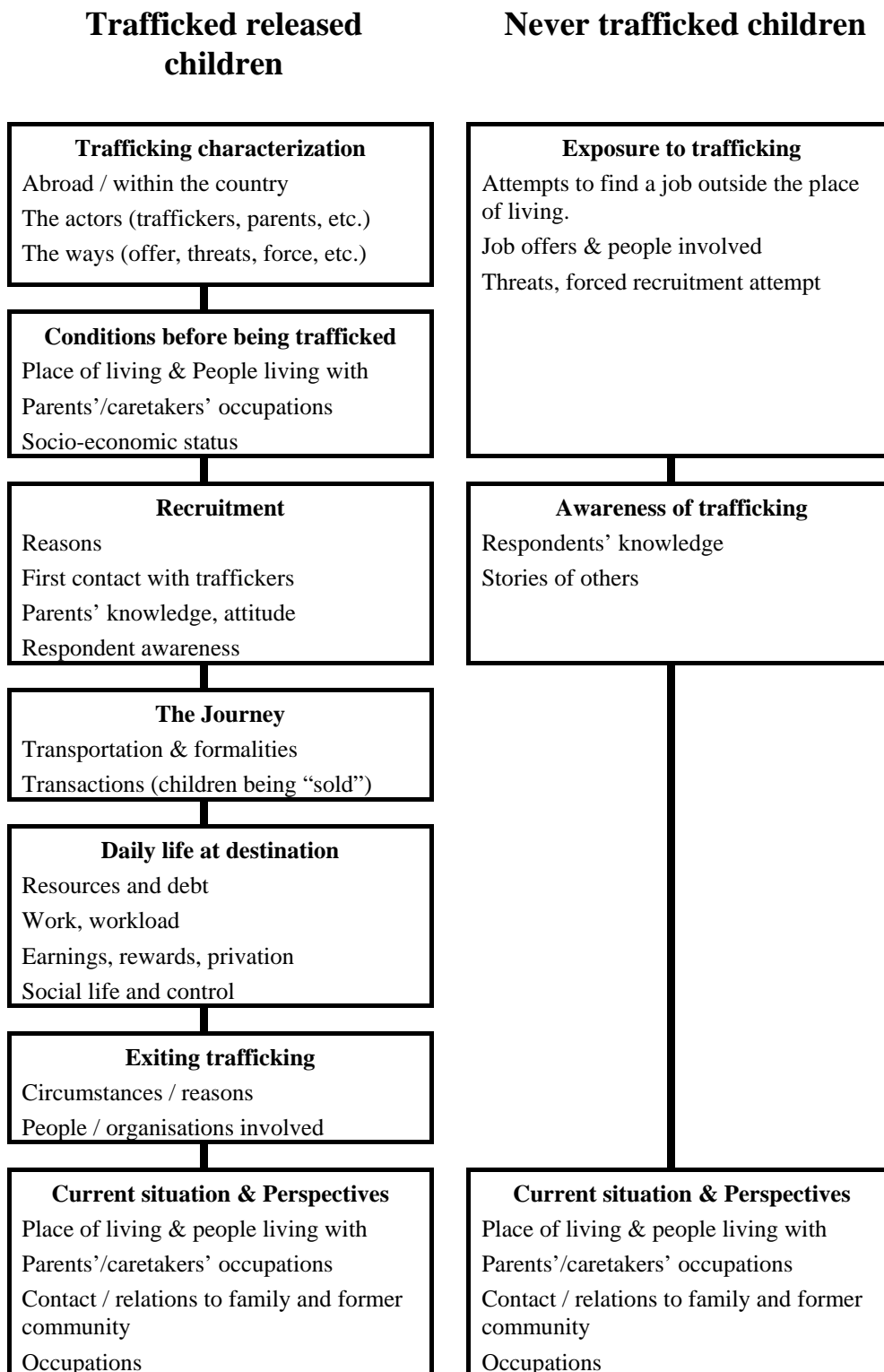
In order to prevent trafficking mechanisms we need to understand:

- The family and social background of the children who were trafficked or are likely to become victims of trafficking;
- The “recruitment” process from the first contact and including the organisation of the journey, and the role of the nearest family;
- The awareness of children and their parents/caretakers on trafficking and exploitation.

The possibilities for rehabilitating children who were trafficked request knowledge about:

- The conditions and circumstances under which children exit the trafficking situation;
- The conditions and constraints (such as the stigma on being trafficked and exploited) for returning where they lived before;
- Their current situation (since exiting trafficking), their wishes and the perception of their needs and opportunities.

These topics are addressed in the various sections of the questionnaires as follows:



VI.2. Questionnaire manual

A Questionnaire manual is provided to the researchers; it consists of specifications (on the meaning of questions and terms, on the information that is sought) and instructions (how to ask the questions, how to record the answers).

Two points are worth mentioning here:

- The interviewers keep and fill out the questionnaire during the interview; they may under no circumstances give the questionnaire to a person to fill it out and return it later;
- In principle, all questions are asked. However, the interviewer may choose not to ask a question in cases where a third person is present (and this person may represent a risk to the respondent) or based on the attitude or reaction of the respondent, for instance a strong negative reaction to being asked about the daily life. In such instances, the interviewer writes in the right hand column QNP (Question Not Posed).

VI.3. Using the information from questionnaires

The results of the questionnaires concern the various mechanisms involved in the trafficking of children, rather than representative data on the situation in a country on the whole. In a survey with a representative sample of respondents, the percentages derived from data files make sense in as much as one may make presumptions about the populations the sample is taken from. This is not the case in this particular survey. We cannot draw any conclusions based on the analysis of a single variable, for instance asserting that *16 % of trafficked released children lived only with their mother before being trafficked* simply doesn't make any sense.

Rather, we are looking for:

- Profiles and categories, of trafficked children, of behaviour regarding job opportunities, of recruitment process, of parents attitude towards their children, etc.;
- Characteristics that go together, e.g. parents socio-economic background and wish to get a job outside the community, level of education and awareness.

Thus, using data from questionnaires consists in crossing information from several of the variables in order to see whether there are certain trends that appear.

VII- Qualitative assessment

VII.1. Using the tools

Semi-structured interviews

Partly, the interviews have an *unstructured* and *flexible* form, in the sense that interviewers should explore topics that arise through open-ended questioning. At the same time, interviews have a *structured* form in the sense that they require answers to certain pre-determined questions, or rather, they require certain issues to be covered. Topics are listed further below.

As in the case of the questionnaires, one cannot refer to isolated elements of individual stories; information must be crossed, for instance in the following manner:

- Present the similarities and differences between answers to the questionnaires and the semi-structured interviews;
- Describe differences between cases/experiences/interpretations within a group of respondents of the same type;
- Describe differences between interpretations of a subject among respondents of different types (for instance children and parents).

Group discussions

In the group discussions, participants discuss given topics, issues, ideas, and experiences among themselves, and reflect freely around topics of discussion specified by the discussion group mediators. The topics to be discussed in groups are the same as those proposed for semi-structured interviews. Letting the participants question and answer each other and oppose their arguments is a basic principle. Throughout the session the discussion group mediators may direct the discussion, or carefully follow up on issues of particular relevance.

Group discussions may wander from the subject; the mediator can then refer to the list of topics to come back to the subject. The manual can also be used in the opposite case, when the discussion does not give enough information. In that case, the mediator can launch another subject to restart the discussion.

With increased participation from the mediators, the group discussion may develop into a group interview. Generally, however, this should be avoided, and participants should rather be encouraged to comment, or, elaborate on each other's statements, opinions, etc. The group interview form is a safety-line when discussions among participants in a group are dying out.

Group discussions are also flexible in their setting up and their organisation: the group should be composed of 6 to 8 persons but it is possible to start the talk with fewer persons. In the same way, the persons can come and join to the talk after it has started. The same flexibility is necessary about the duration of the talk; it is up to the mediator to decide when it should stop, depending on the group's dynamics (weariness, tensions, and so on) and on the interest of the talk (stop when it is not informative anymore).

During group discussions, one of the researchers/interviewers writes down all statements in the local language, as closely as possible to the articulated statements. After the session, the notes should be written in full, with English translations. Important local terms used by participants during the group discussion should be written in local language in brackets after the English translation. Notes from each group discussion must be attached to a data registration form.

VII.2. Topics for semi-structured interviews and group discussions

The topics follow the structure of the “life history” of the children as outlined in the framework for the survey.

Interview guidelines consist in a list of possible topics; the interview does not consist in addressing all the topics that are proposed. Indeed, getting enough and solid information on all the topics would take too much time. The interviewer must select some of the topics and discuss them in detail, rather than trying to address them all.

Topics for semi-structured interviews with children

- Exposure to trafficking (mainly for never trafficked children):

- Attempts to find a job abroad or in another place within the country with the assistance of individuals or organisation. Proposals (job, residence, travel, etc.)
- Any case where the child was asked to leave the place where he/she was living to go working and staying somewhere else
- Any case where the child was approached by individuals or an organisation that offered job abroad or in another place within the country
- Any case where someone tried to force the child to work

- Life before being trafficked:

- Daily life before being trafficked (main occupation, education and educational results, job and income)
- Relation to parents/caretakers, reasons for living with others than mother and father
- Good and bad things in life before being trafficked
- Prospects if staying at the place the respondent was living at the time, older brothers and sisters main occupations

- First steps, first stages:

- Who initiated the process? Were you asked, were you persuaded, were you forced, etc.
- Particular events related to the process
- First meeting with intermediaries

- The deal and the people involved in it:

- What was the deal (job, remuneration, daily life, travel, others)?
- Discussion, bargaining, agreement
- Obligations to the traffickers / guarantee for the child and for family/caretakers from the traffickers
- What was attractive and what was constraining?
- Evaluation of the deal (child / parents benefit)
- Trust in the deal and in the people
- Awareness/knowledge and attitude of others:
 - Knowledge of others' stories/experiences staying abroad or leaving to another location to work, people being forced to do unpleasant jobs, being exploited or exposed to violence
 - Sources of information
 - Attitude of others (trying to convince you not to go, encouraging you, pushing you, etc.); their says/arguments/rationale. Different persons with different attitudes
- Travelling and starting working:
 - The journey
 - Trafficking mechanisms (stakeholders and transactions during the journey)
 - The "arrival"
 - Starting working
- Living conditions and control:
 - The job, workload, constraints
 - Living conditions
 - Relations to the "bosses" and control
 - Room for manoeuvre (strategies to protect oneself, to relieve hardship, to get better status within the group/organisation)
 - Differences among trafficked children/people within the group (hierarchy, relations to bosses, earnings and other resources, freedom and control)
 - Change in working and living conditions during the stay
 - Opportunity, if any, to leave the place or the job the respondent was set to do? Conditions/constraints for leaving (e.g. repayment of debt)
- Release and after:
 - Circumstances and conditions
 - Who/what was helpful? Who/what could have been helpful?
 - Stories of others being released

- From release to arrival where the respondent is staying currently (persons she/he turned to / places she/he went to and why?)

- Stigma:

- Trafficking-related attitudes and situations the respondent was faced with
- Attitude towards other trafficked persons
- What makes others' opinions and attitudes differ?
- What do the people you live with or are acquainted with today know about you being trafficked? Reactions (compassion, blame, etc.)

Topics for semi-structured interviews with parents

- Pre-departure knowledge and actions:

- The way parents got to know the possibility that the child would leave
- Knowledge of the first step, the people involved, the "offer"
- Opinion and first reaction, opinion and attitude of others

- The reasons:

- Child intention/decision to leave
- Reasons for parents to want the child to go for work

- Arrangements:

- Job, residence, and travel organisation
- Parents' implication in the arrangement

- Post-departure knowledge and action:

- First reaction (*if the child suddenly disappeared without the parents knowing anything about it beforehand*)
- Asking for assistance / reasons for not asking assistance, results
- Fears, threats from the traffickers
- The child during her/his stay abroad/away (where she/he was, what she/he was doing, etc.)
- Any possibility to do something to assist the child during her/his stay abroad/away

- Exit trafficking:

- The circumstances under which the child left the job and the people who trafficked him/her
- Persons/organisations/institutions involved in the release
- Parents' role in the release

- Return:

- Circumstances of the return, difficulties if any, how did the parents cope with the situation/difficulties
- The behaviour of relatives/friends/neighbours towards the child (differences from before trafficking)
- Others experiences with a child returning; what makes conditions differ / be more difficult/easier
- What can make return/reintegration easier?
- Attitudes towards and perceptions of trafficked children

- Assistance:

- The child's' needs / the parents' needs
- Assistance received
- Have the parents applied for any assistance? Reasons for not asking
- Results / reasons for not receiving assistance
- Fears and threats related to the trafficking

- Risk of being (re-) trafficked:

- What makes your child or could make her/him exposed to trafficking?
- Measures to reduce risk
- What could be done (by others) to prevent her/him from being trafficked again?

VII.3. Recording information

Fieldworkers will take notes during interviews and group discussions. After the sessions, the notes must be properly filled out in order to make résumés, and in order to ensure interpretation and recording in English.

Even though all interviews / discussions will be recorded as résumés, it is not always possible to take notes during the conversations. For instance, the participant / respondent may turn mute or silent when seeing a notebook. In cases when sensitive issues are revealed and discussed, taking notes may give the impression of formality that may destroy the secure atmosphere that is often a precondition for an open discussion. Therefore, it is not always possible to use a notebook during the sessions. In these cases, the fieldworkers must memorise main points, and assist each other during the process of writing-up the résumés.

It is crucial to take the necessary time to go through notes from each interview / group discussion and write résumés. Résumés are more than neat copies of interview notes; they must be analytical: the main findings of relevance for the survey are highlighted, former hypothesis may be reconsidered, new hypothesis and questions can be developed, new/different situations or cases are taken into account.

Résumés can thus inspire or orient next interviews / discussions. Therefore, it does not make sense to run through several interviews / discussions without writing résumés.

VII.4. The case studies

Developing case studies is part of the qualitative assessment. A “case” can be a person (the case of a trafficked child, of a parent whom child was kidnapped), a process (the case of an agreement between parents and traffickers, the case of a family being under threats of traffickers, the case of a release), an event (the dismantling of a trafficking network, a court case), or a social arena (the village community, the street, the rehabilitation centre).

A case is eligible for study if it is **significant** of the trafficking of children. “Significant” does not mean “representative”, in other words a case study is not only a sample (or an illustration) of the most common cases. A case that differs from the most common ones can thus also be considered, as long as it provides information on the various categories of children and adults affected and involved, on the processes of organising trafficking, etc.

Case studies must be developed from bits and pieces of information from semi-structured interviews, group discussions, and questionnaires. For example, the case of a child who was trafficked could be built based on the questionnaire addressed to the child (TRC questionnaire), a semi-structured interview with his parents (PTRC interview), a semi-structured interview with staff from the rehabilitation centre where the child stayed for a while (Key Informant interview), and a group discussion conducted in the neighbourhood of the family.

A case study consists in presenting the facts, the people involved, the reasons and rationalisations of their action, and the consequences of their decision/actions. The case of a child who would explain that there was nothing to do where he was living and that he thus decided to work abroad does not constitute a case study. The proper study of such a case would request to know among others:

- If there was actually any occupation/opportunity but that he did not consider;
- What from he/she was living at the time (to understand the needs, the wishes, etc.)
- What his/her older brothers and sisters were doing at the time (had they stayed, left?);
- What other children of his age were doing;
- What the parents were doing for a living;
- What he thought he would/could get with the job that was offered;
- Did he know (or had heard of) people who had answered such an offer;
- What were the conditions (job, earnings, etc.) and how he did evaluate them;
- If there were other reasons than the lack of opportunity where he lived.

As for interviews and group discussions, it is up to the researchers to decide to study a case - there is not a fixed number of cases to be studied -, and how to study it - there is neither a minimum amount of information or number of interviews, discussions, questionnaires to be conducted so that the case study is achieved. In the same way, researchers must decide to “not to lose time” if the case turns out to be not relevant or

impossible to be properly studied, as well as to spend more time if they assess it is worth it or necessary.

Case studies will be inserted into the reports in boxes in order to distinguish them from the text.

VII.5. Fieldwork follow-up

Possibilities for fieldwork follow-up depends on local conditions, mainly the possibility to send résumés. The ideal follow-up consists of e-mailing résumés for comments and suggestions (to complete an interview, for the following interviews, etc.) that are returned while researchers are still on the field.

VIII- Sampling and locating informants

VIII.1. Strategies for selecting respondents

There are numerous strategies for selecting respondents for this type of survey, which is essentially qualitative in its approach:

- Maximise information: selection of individuals who have the most to tell
- Maximise diversity: selection of cases that differ the most from each other
- Disconfirming: selection of cases that contradict a hypothesis
- Selection of cases provided by the respondent: the respondent refers the researcher on to the next one
- Typical cases
- Convenience: selection of the first available person at arrival in the field

In this survey the aim is to maximise diversity and select cases that contradict a hypothesis (which is actually one way of maximising diversity). The selection of cases presumed to be typical should be avoided, however, this must be considered in relation to the opportunities to get enough respondents for the survey. What we want to avoid is to have all respondents telling more or less the same story, or having been through more or less the same scenario. It is therefore important that the researchers and interviewers use their own discretion during the fieldwork when selecting respondents. If the experience in the field shows that one does not learn anything new from interviewing one type of respondents, try to find others that may be able to tell a different story, or who come from a different background.

One particular challenge in this survey is the identification of formerly trafficked children. In most cases this will only be possible through some formal structure, such as rehabilitation centres. This entails a risk of getting very similar stories as the children may for instance have been through the same release process, or having been repatriated (in the case of external trafficking) at the same time or from the same place. To the extent possible, one should at least aim to use different such structures as starting points for identifying respondents. It would be interesting and more productive to reach respondents also in other settings; however, this must never be at the expense of confidentiality or security.

VIII.2. Examples of criteria for selection

Ethical aspects of research is important not only for the interview situation itself, but must also be considered when selecting respondents. It is important to remember that many trafficked children have suffered psychological traumas, and it would be advisable not to interview someone who returned recently. There is a higher likelihood that they will not have been able to recover from their experiences. Consequently the interview itself, when the respondent is asked to remember and recapture to some detail what may have been very traumatic experiences, can have a damaging effect.

In the case of trafficked released children, there are certain criteria in particular that should be observed:

- Gender - most focus on trafficking in Eastern Europe has been on girls and women; however, boys must also be presumed to be at risk.
- The type of activity the child was engaged in while being in the trafficking situation, since most focus up until now has been on commercial sexual exploitation. As we do know that children are also being trafficked for other activities, such as for instance begging or pick pocketing, it is necessary to keep this in mind during the selection.

The trafficked released children do not necessarily have to be under 18 at the time of the interview, but must have been under 18 at the time they were trafficked.

Other central criteria for the selection of trafficked released children for questionnaires and semi-structured interviews are:

- The age when trafficked;
- The degree of voluntary departure;
- The duration of time for which they were in the trafficking situation;
- The location the child came from;
- The location the child was trafficked to (domestic versus cross-border trafficking);
- Socio-economic background of their families;
- The family situation of the child (having parents versus orphan);
- Education/schooling.

The respondent group consisting of never trafficked children are included in order to give a perspective on prevention. We need to understand some of the reasons for why children are *not* trafficked. This means that the group of never trafficked children should consist of children who come from similar backgrounds as children who *have been* trafficked, i.e. children who may be presumed to be at risk. From what we already know about risk factors, some selection criteria may be:

- Coming from a disadvantaged family (in terms of poverty, unemployment, abuse or alcoholism);
- Having no family, or living in the streets;
- Having dropped out of school.

For the selection of the parent group of respondents, some general selection criteria are:

- Sex of the parent/caretaker;
- Sex of the child;
- Socio-economic conditions of the family;
- Whether the parent lived with the child or not prior to the trafficking.

In addition, as in the case of the never trafficked children, the group of parents of never trafficked children should also ideally have some of the characteristics that are presumed to increase risks of trafficking.

The key informants for the semi-structured interviews constitute a separate group of respondents. As will be remembered, the main aim for these interviews will be to:

- Discuss the preliminary findings from fieldwork;
- Expose various scenarios, situations, arguments, etc. that were found in interviews with the individual respondents and ask if the key informants have encountered different ones;
- Get information about what is done to prevent, to assist, to repatriate and to reintegrate trafficked children; what works, what does not work, what could work under which conditions, what are the hindrances for succeeding in the work against trafficking?

This means that guidelines for these interviews have not been developed, as the interviews will take on different forms depending on what is found during the fieldwork. Further, this means that the key informants should fill some of the criteria below:

- They have special knowledge about trafficking issues, the situation of children or the context of a given community;
- They represent official structures (ministries, police, etc.);
- They represent organisations that work with trafficked victims (prevention, rehabilitation, awareness raising, etc.)

VII.3. Identifying locations and communities

In accordance with the aim of maximising diversity, the survey should also cover different locations in each country. There are no strict criteria for what kind of locations should be approached; however, the choice should be justified in the national reports, explaining why the final locations were chosen. What is important is not only to conduct interviews in one place. Further, as pointed out above, the diversity in stories from different locations should also be preserved in the interviews with trafficked released children, through the selection of children having lived in different locations at the time they were trafficked.

The aspects of security and working conditions should be taken into consideration when selecting locations, as well as the conditions of access, in terms of time and travel costs.

IX- Overall analysis plan for country reports

The design of the survey warrants some words of caution regarding the analysis and reporting of the information. The national reports cannot be based only on the standardised information from the questionnaires, but must draw on questionnaires, information from both the individual semi-structured interviews and group discussions, and on existing information from other sources.

IX.1. Country reports

The national teams will have to adapt to the circumstances during fieldwork, and the situation of trafficking may be different in the various countries. The content of the report may therefore vary from one country to the next, or between regions or areas. Even so, in order to enable comparison across national boundaries, and to enable the analysis on sub-regional level, country reports should be as homologue as possible.

Therefore, we suggest a table of contents to the reports for the four respective countries, described below.

The national reports will cover:

1. An abstract of the report (executive summary)
2. A presentation of the national context and of the survey:
 - The situation of trafficking in the country and what is known about it, especially as regards trafficking of children
 - National legislation on the issue of trafficking, ratification of relevant international conventions, governmental structures in charge of the issue of trafficking in children
 - Presentation of the rapid evaluation (tools that were used, number of interviews conducted - both questionnaires and semi-structured interviews, sites visited) and difficulties encountered.
3. An analysis of the phenomenon of trafficking in children for labour and sexual exploitation:
 - Description of the various sides of the phenomenon: the different categories of trafficked children, the places and modes of recruitment, the types of activities children are trafficked into, differences in terms of sex and age, the duration of “being trafficked”;
 - Analysis of the roles of children of different categories (girls/boys, 15-18 years, 12-15 years, younger than 12) when trafficked (commercial sexual exploitation, begging, stealing, other tasks);
 - Analysis if the factors surrounding the recruitment: socio-economic profile of the trafficked children and their families/of never trafficked children and their families; background factors (education, activities, family structures); characteristics of trafficked children. The concern here is to identify mechanisms for recruitment of children and to identify factors that make children vulnerable for trafficking;

- Description of the children's life when in the trafficking situation, the working conditions, differences between girls and boys, etc.
4. An analysis of the conditions for rehabilitation
- Typologies of return/release for formerly trafficked children (return to place of origin, returning to live with same people they lived with before, go somewhere else, assistance, activities, etc.);
 - Analysis of the factors, circumstances and persons facilitating the release of the children;
 - Difficulties met by trafficked released children;
 - Perceptions and stigmatisation of trafficked released children;
 - Risks of being re-trafficked;
 - Presentation of programmes of prevention, of assisting victims currently in a trafficking situation, and rehabilitation in the country (by government, local NGOs, international NGOs, international organisations); results and encountered difficulties.
5. Recommendations for prevention, release and rehabilitation of trafficked children
- List of proposals for actions in order of priority, distinguishing between strategies for prevention and for rehabilitation, and identifying who could do what.

Case studies in boxes of maximum one page should be included in the report in order to illustrate the analysis.

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