



Pocket guide on trafficking in persons

AMiRA Programme: Action for migrants:
route-based assistance

The power
of kindness

Essential trafficking awareness

The AMiRA Programme aims to facilitate access to basic services and the protection of migrants' rights along the migratory routes in six countries in Africa, namely Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Guinea, Egypt and Sudan. During the course of your activity you may encounter migrants who have been trafficked.

1. What is trafficking in persons?

Trafficking in persons is a violation of human rights and a crime in which people are exploited for other people's personal gain.

People who experience trafficking may have been coerced, deceived, threatened or forced into exploitative situations. It can happen to people of all backgrounds and to both adults and children. Trafficking in persons has three specific components which are outlined in this booklet.



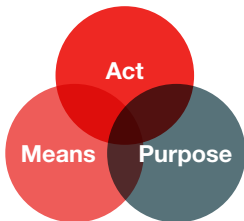
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Trafficking in persons consists of an act, means and purpose

Act: recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt.

Means: threats, force, use of coercion, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, shame or stigma, addiction.

Purpose: exploitation, including: sexual exploitation, forced labour, domestic servitude, financial exploitation, illegal adoption, removal of organs.



When trafficking involves a child, it is irrelevant whether the means, such as force or deception, have been used or not. A child will be recognised as trafficked if they have been moved within a country, or across borders, whether by force or not, with the purpose of exploiting the child.



2. It is very difficult to calculate the full scale of trafficking in persons. Can you think why?

Some key reasons are:

- Trafficking is a hidden and underground crime
- Not all trafficked people are able to escape from their situations
- Not all exploited people are able to self-identify as trafficked
- Not all countries collect the same type of data about trafficked people

3. What is the difference between trafficking and smuggling?

There are many differences between trafficking and smuggling, although the terms are often mistakenly used interchangeably. Migrant smuggling refers to irregular entry into another country or state. Smuggled people (usually) consent to being transported.

Trafficking occurs without informed and valid consent and for the purpose of exploitation. Trafficking may include movement across international borders, however it can also happen internally within a country. People travelling along migratory trails can be at risk of trafficking, and people can become trafficked even if they believe they are being smuggled.

Trafficking	Smuggling
A crime against a person	A crime against the state
Can happen internally within countries as well as across borders	Always happens across borders
Includes an ongoing exploitative relationship	Often has no ongoing relationship between the parties involved. The relationship between a smuggler and the person ends when they reach their destination
Can treat a person as a commodity who can be used for repeated gain	Transaction between parties with one-off profit



4. Consent and trafficking

With regard to trafficking of adults, any consent that was given by the trafficked person becomes irrelevant if the situation they were expecting to be in changes. This is also true if the person experiences any means of coercion, force, violence, abduction, fraud, or abuse of power.

Even where an individual may have consented to undesirable conditions, or bought their own ticket, they may be experiencing trafficking. Consent can therefore be meaningless where deception and/or coercion has taken place. Children are not able to give consent to their own exploitation. This means that any recruitment, movement, or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation is considered trafficking, regardless of any apparent willingness of the child to participate in this.



5. Types of exploitation and how to spot the signs of trafficking

There are many ways in which people can be exploited. Often people will be exploited in more than one way at the same time. They can be forced into labour, criminality, sexual exploitation or domestic servitude, and these are all forms of exploitation. This section will explore the types of exploitation and the more specific indicators you could look for. At the end of this section you will find some overarching ones that could be common across many of the forms of exploitation.

Indicators can be very helpful for frontline staff and volunteers to recognise the warning signs of trafficking. The indicators listed below are not exhaustive. The presence or absence of these indicators does not prove or confirm the existence of a trafficking in persons situation.

People who have experienced trafficking in the present, recently or the past may also need support.

What happens to people trafficked for sexual exploitation?

A person trafficked for sexual exploitation performs sexual acts that they do not want to do. This includes sex work, escort work, massage parlours, brothels and pornography. It can be experienced by adults and children. It is possible for a person who consents to provide sexual services to be sexually exploited, or for their situation to become one of trafficking.

Spotting the signs of sexual exploitation:

This is often a difficult form of exploitation to detect. It may be more likely that general protection and wellbeing concerns connected to the exploitation may be encountered.

- ✓ Has the person been deceived about the nature or conditions of the job?
- ✓ Has the person been forced or intimidated to perform acts or services of a sexual nature?
- ✓ Has the person received threats that their family, community or the wider public will be told of the nature of their work?
- ✓ Has the person been hurt, psychologically or sexually abused, or received threats?
- ✓ Is the person closely monitored when they are accessing other services?
- ✓ Other indicators may include pregnancy as a result of rape, sexually transmitted infections, substance abuse, being overly alert, mental health issues, infertility, and undiagnosed health conditions, among others.



What happens to people trafficked for labour exploitation?

Trafficking for labour exploitation can happen in industries such as construction, farming, agriculture, manufacturing, mining, domestic work and transportation, among others. People may also be exploited in unregulated work such as the production and transport of drugs.

People trafficked for **labour exploitation** usually **work long hours in poor conditions and for little, delayed or no payment**. In addition, people may find themselves in **debt bondage** where services or labour are used to pay off a debt to a trafficker, which will often never be feasible to repay.

They may remain in these conditions for various reasons, often because they are threatened, physically hurt or controlled by threats of harm to their family.



Spotting the signs of forced labour:

- ✓ Is the person working excessive days or hours and/or in very poor and dangerous conditions?
- ✓ Has the person incurred a big debt to pay for their travel and cannot leave their work until they pay it off?
- ✓ Is the person required to pay for food or accommodation via deductions from their pay?
- ✓ Is the person unsure of the area/place/ country where they work and live?
- ✓ Is the person threatened with being subjected to even worse working conditions?
- ✓ Does the person live in a group in the same place where they work, leaving those premises infrequently, if ever?



What happens to people trafficked for domestic servitude?

People who are trafficked for domestic servitude are made to work in private houses, often as nannies or cleaners. They often work very long hours, sleep in communal areas, are unpaid, and have little or no freedom.

Spotting the signs of domestic servitude:

- ✓ Is the person living with and working long hours for a family in a private home?
- ✓ Does the person rarely leave the house without the employer?
- ✓ Does the person not have their own private space to sleep?
- ✓ Is the person subjected to insults, abuse, threats or the use of violence within the house?



Indicators that may be present across all types of exploitation

People will show signs of abuse, control and fear in different ways. As well as the indicators discussed, other potential causes for concern include:

✓ **Restrictions on freedom of movement:**

somebody is with them at all times; they are not in control of their own money; their passport and ID documents are held by somebody else; they are not allowed to speak for themselves or voice their own opinion; they act as if instructed by someone; they are unfamiliar with the local language; they are unaware of the area/place/country of work and/or accommodation.

✓ **Signs of threat, force, coercion and**

deception: threats have been made against them or their family members; they are fearful of the authorities; they fear revealing their immigration status; immigration status may be used as a form of control; they owe money to traffickers; they are unable to leave the work environment; they are sanctioned at work with the use of violence; they are forced

to work under certain conditions; travel to their destination country has been paid for by someone else and the sum has to be repaid by working or providing services; **they have been threatened through religious beliefs or rituals such as witchcraft or juju**; they have acted on the basis of false promises; a job was offered to them in the country of destination with a good salary and very attractive working conditions.

✓ **Poor physical and mental health:** physical signs of abuse; untreated medical conditions including mental health problems; signs of shame and/or fear; anxiety, experiences of sexual violence, addictions.



6. What to do if you have concerns

If you are concerned about something or someone always consider the current situation and assess the risks.

Responding to trafficked people with compassion, sensitivity and dignity is crucial whilst supporting them to explore the options available to them. The support they need may look different for different people, and it's important to ensure a person-centred approach. Often people need help within the first few days. Sometimes people do not recognise that they are being exploited, or are not ready to leave the situation they are in. Regardless of what stage they are at, you can help people to access immediate and longer-term support. However, it is important to keep in mind the following:

- ✓ Do not rush and do anything urgent if the situation doesn't need that.
- ✓ Do not raise your concerns with anyone accompanying the person.

- ✓ If you are using an interpreter, do not use the person accompanying them and use a professional interpreter where possible.
- ✓ Ensure you address the needs identified by the person and continue to support them.
- ✓ Ensure that the person knows that the Red Cross/Red Crescent is a safe place.
- ✓ Consider the principle of 'do no harm' in any response you take. It is really important to consider the consequences of any action or inaction you take.
- ✓ Consider if you are the right person to discuss trafficking concerns. Do you have the skills, knowledge and resources to support somebody who may have been trafficked? Does the person trust you?
- ✓ Consider contacting your line manager, the PSS Officer or the Protection Focal Point to refer the person. Get support and guidance on next steps.

If someone tells you they have been **trafficked** or are currently being **exploited**, consider the current situation and assess the risks.

- ✓ React in a sensitive way, acknowledge their situation and listen carefully to what they have to say.
- ✓ Take accurate notes and respond calmly.
- ✓ Ensure you communicate that you believe them, both verbally and non-verbally.
- ✓ Explore their needs and ensure you address them: Are they feeling safe? Are there any risks? What would they like to happen next? If appropriate, ask if it is okay for you to get some advice from a PSS Officer, a Protection Focal Point or your line manager.
- ✓ Explain that you will respect their wishes about what they want to happen next. It is very important not to make any promises about the support that will be available to them, as this often differs on a case by case basis. Help them to make an informed decision.

Contact your line manager, PSS Officer or Protection Focal Point to get support and guidance.

It is our responsibility to put people's needs at the centre of our response and to ensure that we find a solution together with the person, in respect of their right to choose the type of support they want.

How might you feel and what support can the Red Cross/Red Crescent offer you?

Hearing or suspecting that someone has been trafficked and exploited can be challenging and distressing. It is important that you seek advice and support for yourself.

This could be by talking to your line manager, the Protection Focal Point or one of the PSS Officers. In addition, you can seek further guidance and support by visiting the Movement's PSS resources on the Psychosocial Centre website: pscentre.org



The AMiRA programme is a FCDO funded programme and has been run by:

British Red Cross

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