

CHALLENGES OF (RE)INTEGRATION ASSISTANCE

1. Many victims are never identified, and therefore not connected with assistance

Many survivors return through the border without being identified as victims of trafficking. There is limited screening at borders, or awareness raising of available assistance. There is very little proactive searching for Cambodian victims in destination countries.

“I think we are missing thousands of cases...”

-Service provider

2. Inconsistent referrals, particularly a lack of systematic referral to case managers

Some identified victims are not referred for *any* services, perhaps because first responders are not aware of their responsibility to refer, the importance of (re)integration assistance, or the services available. Other survivors have been referred for only short-term or partial assistance. A key problem is that victims are not systematically referred to organisations offering long-term case management. Case managers are essential to build trust and to assist the survivor with long-term and changing needs.

“When we focus on legal assistance, we only focus on legal assistance, and we forget about [other needs in] (re)integration...”

-Legal aid provider

“The police asked about my work and the company that took me, and then nobody came to assist me.”

-Survivor quoted in Surtees, 2014¹⁷

3. Case management limited by resource constraints

Many survivors live in remote areas. Resource constraints have led to delays and limited assistance. Current funding to NGO service providers is typically US\$800-1000 per survivor; some service providers estimated that \$2000 is needed to enable comprehensive long-term assistance. Further, case managers are not necessarily trained to identify all needs and refer appropriately, particularly for health or mental health needs.

“I want to be assisted very much, because I want my mental health to be like before I went to Thailand. I have forgotten many things, I am sometimes dizzy, sometimes have headaches, and I’m always worried...”

-Survivor who said he did not receive mental health care in over one year of being assisted.

4. High mobility of survivors limits all forms of assistance

Survivors are highly mobile and many are lost to follow up. One provider estimated they lose contact with 20-30 percent of male clients; another estimated 70-80 percent or more. There is a need for creative approaches to retain contact with survivors, and to support survivors in a new community if they choose to re-migrate.

5. Economic empowerment support is often unsuccessful

Current empowerment support is often incomplete, poorly-matched, or for other reasons fails. Support is usually confined to a limited set of self-employment options, based in the survivor’s home community even if generating income there is immensely difficult.

There is opportunity to explore:

- A more diverse range of self-employment options
- Job-placements
- Opportunities to help survivors integrate into a new community with better economic prospects.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

For the Royal Government of Cambodia:

- Increase the operational budget of MoSVY so the Ministry can play a greater role in (re) integration assistance.
- Train immigration officials and police who respond to trafficking case to refer all identified survivors to organisations who provide case management. Update training curricula accordingly.
- Improve how victims begin the (re)integration process. Provide more resources to embassies and consulates in order to speed up repatriations of identified victims.
- Improve screening at borders to identify victims. Introduce targeted screening for deportees who report they previously worked on fishing vessels.

For assistance providers:

- Train service providers to systematically refer all survivors to organisations that offer long-term case management. Update training curricula accordingly.
- Advocate for increased funding and resources for case management.
 - Build capacity of case managers to identify survivors' needs.
 - Investigate the apparently low level of ongoing health support currently offered, and barriers to mental health support.
 - Explore creative methods to retain contact with survivors, such as conditional cash grants or other incentives.
- Explore broader opportunities for economic empowerment, such as more diverse self-employment options, job placements, and more options outside the home community.
- Explore methods to identify more victims, such as Khmer-language outreach in overseas ports or publicising a list of missing persons.
- Create a coordinated database of victims assisted, to enable analysis and improvement of support over time.

Sources:

- 1 See U.S. Department of State, *2015 Trafficking in Persons Report, Cambodia* (Washington D. C.: U.S. Department of State, 2015); and service providers' data referenced in the report.
- 2 Rebecca Surtees, In African waters: *The trafficking of Cambodian fishers in South Africa* (Geneva; Washington D.C.: IOM/ NEXUS Institute, 2014): 155.
- 3 Rebecca Surtees, *After trafficking: Experiences and challenges in (re)integration in the Greater Mekong Sub-region* (Bangkok: UNIAP/NEXUS Institute, 2013): 38.
- 4 Robin Mauney and Rachana Srun, *Assessment of shelter versus community services for survivors of trafficking in persons in Cambodia* (Phnom Penh: Winrock International, 2012).
- 5 Surtees, 2013, 110. That study included an additional 24 participants (2 Cambodians) who were boys when trafficked (p. 21, 33). Data on Cambodian respondents supplied by the author.
- 6 Surtees, 2014, 155.
- 7 Data provided by Winrock International. Age is not specified for eight survivors.
- 8 Data provided by IOM Cambodia.
- 9 United Nations Action for Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT), *Migration experiences of Cambodian workers deported from Thailand in 2009, 2010 and 2012 Poipet, Cambodia* (Bangkok: UN-ACT, 2015), 49.
- 10 International Labour Organisation and Asian Research Center for Migration, Institute of Asian Studies, Chulalongkorn University, *Employment practices and working conditions in Thailand's fishing sector* (Bangkok: ILO, 2013): 68.
- 11 Data from ILO Bangkok.
- 12 ILO and Asian Research Center for Migration, 2013, 5.
- 13 Surtees, 2014, 17.
- 14 Cathy Zimmerman et al., "Health and human trafficking in the Greater Mekong Subregion. Findings from a survey of men women and children in Cambodia, Thailand and Viet Nam, Cambodia results," (presentation at STEAM launch held by London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and IOM Cambodia, Phnom Penh, 18 November 2014).
- 15 Ibid.
- 16 MoSVY and IOM, *Standard operating procedures on the provision of reintegration support to male victims of trafficking* (Phnom Penh: IOM, 2012): 9-11.
- 17 Surtees, 2014, 153.

HAGAR

the whole journey

(Re)integration of Cambodian trafficked men: Trends in trafficking and available aftercare services

By Kate Day

Information Sheet on Research Findings

Men are a significant proportion of the victims of trafficking identified in Cambodia.¹ Hagar has researched the trends in trafficking of men, the needs of survivors and (re)integration services available for them in Cambodia. Special attention is paid to men trafficked to fishing vessels. The aim of this research is to inform service providers, donors and policy makers about filling the gaps in aftercare for men.

The research finds that Cambodian men trafficked are likely to number in the thousands, though in recent years the survivors receiving assistance have typically numbered between 100-200 per year. Many of these survivors return with severe economic, health, mental health and other needs that require specialised and long-term support.

Existing (re)integration services have made a huge difference in the lives of the individuals they touch. However, some survivors still receive no assistance; many receive only short-term or partial support. Organisations providing long-term assistance face numerous challenges. Hagar identifies a range of opportunities to improve (re)integration services. This information sheet details the key findings and recommendations from the full report.

"I want my experience and others' experiences to be heard by organisations and the government so that they will be able to assist us some day. Please deliver my message to all organisations and the governments within the country and outside the country to help [trafficked] Cambodians."

—Survivor of trafficking to a fishing vessel²

BACKGROUND

(Re)integration is “the process of recovery and economic and social inclusion following a trafficking experience.”³ Survivors may reintegrate into their home community or integrate into a new community. (Re)integration assistance is any support that helps survivors to recover and achieve social and economic inclusion following a trafficking experience.

Previous research has shown that Cambodia’s (re)integration assistance for men lags far behind those available for women and children, and that many males have missed out on assistance. A 2012 assessment noted that some organisations in Cambodia were “starting” to provide aftercare for men.⁴ A 2013 study of victims in Mekong countries found that of 54 trafficked men interviewed (25 of them Cambodian), only five had received comprehensive assistance.⁵ A recent study of Cambodian trafficked fishers found that no interviewees were receiving assistance at the time of the interview, despite having ongoing needs.⁶

A 2013 study of victims in Mekong countries found that out of 54 trafficked men interviewed (25 of them Cambodian), only 5 had received comprehensive assistance.

The aim of this research is to assist service providers to address this disparity in Cambodia. The report provides information about trends in trafficking and the challenges survivors face on return in order to identify the profile of men needing assistance. The report also outlines the landscape of existing services and opportunities to improve these services.

METHODOLOGY

This study was qualitative. The report collates existing literature and commentary, supplemented with key stakeholders’ observations and data provided by service providers. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 33 key stakeholders, including assistance providers, non-government and international organisations, academics, psychologists, and government staff. In addition eight survivors of trafficking were

33 STAKEHOLDERS

18 SURVIVORS OF
TRAFFICKING

interviewed for case studies and invited to share their opinions about types of services that would benefit them. A further ten shared in focus groups. The process for interviewing survivors for case studies was drawn from UNIAP’s Ethical Standards for Counter-trafficking Research and Programming. The research was conducted between October 2014 and February 2015.

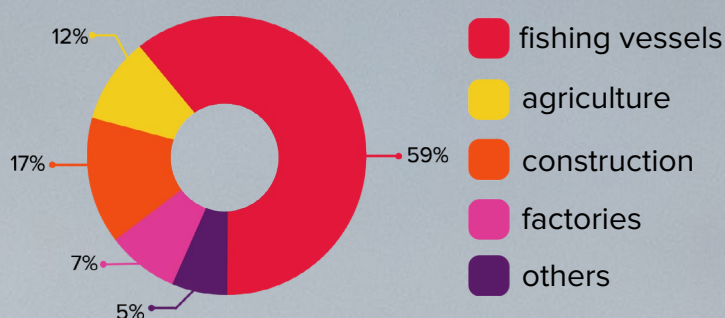
TRENDS IN TRAFFICKING OF CAMBODIAN MEN

Men are a significant proportion of Cambodian victims of trafficking who are identified. While there is no collated database of victim numbers, data from IOM Cambodia and CTIP II- who collectively assist the bulk of identified victims- sheds light on the profile of survivors. Between 2011 and 2014, men and boys comprised **59 percent** of the victims assisted by USAID’s Counter Trafficking in Persons Program Phase II (CTIP II), and more than **88 percent** of those were assisted by IOM Cambodia.

In this period, CTIP II assisted 479 trafficked men and boys. At least 317 were adults.⁷ IOM Cambodia assisted more than 450 males with voluntary return and direct assistance (these figures overlap with those of CTIP II).⁸

Cambodian men are trafficked to a variety of sectors, most commonly fishing, construction, agriculture, factory work and begging. Most of the identified male survivors return from Thailand, followed by Indonesia, Vietnam and Malaysia.

Many survivors originate from remote, rural areas. They have seldom been educated beyond primary school. Almost all have responsibility to provide financially for other family members. As a result they are highly transient because of their need to travel to find work.



Sector of Exploitation

Male victims assisted with voluntary return and direct assistance by IOM Cambodia 2013-2014 (n=241)

TRAFFICKING TO FISHING VESSELS

The majority of identified victims have been trafficked to fishing vessels. The largest trend is via Thailand.

- UNACT surveys of Cambodian deportees from Thailand found that in 2009, 2010 and 2012, more than one in five deported fishers were 'potentially trafficked.'⁹
- An ILO study of the Thai fishing industry found that 9 percent of Cambodian fishers interviewed were victims of forced labour.¹⁰
- Between June and October 2014, more than 22,000 Cambodian fishers registered in Thailand.¹¹ It is likely that thousands more work un-registered.¹²

“In Maha Chai province I was cheated. I was sold for 20,000 baht (approx. US\$613), along with my brother and cousin. We worked on a fishing vessel for more than one and a half years.”

-Survivor

One exception to this trend is the case of Giant Ocean International Fishery Co. Ltd, a private recruitment agency that sent an estimated 700 Cambodians to vessels all over the world.¹³ Service providers estimate that roughly 200 have returned to Cambodia. Trafficked fishers commonly suffer severe abuse aboard the vessel. After escape many suffer further exploitation or time in detention.

NEEDS OF SURVIVORS

Economic needs are paramount for most trafficked men. A 2014 study found that male victims' most frequent post-trafficking concern was "money-related problems in the family".¹⁴ Many survivors interviewed in the present study were in debt, from US\$180 to 1,000. Re-migration for work is very common. One stakeholder recalled visiting one village from which roughly 30 former victims had re-migrated, most returning to work on fishing vessels. Many survivors have ongoing health problems: some require long-term care. Extremely poor mental health is also common.

A 2014 study found that 62 percent of Cambodian adult trafficked males showed symptoms of depression and 46 percent of PTSD.¹⁵

Service providers recalled survivors struggling with aggression, substance abuse and memory problems. Survivors' need access to social support, but often face barriers of guilt, shame or fear of discrimination. Victims' family members can be considered 'secondary victims' when they have problems resulting from the victim's trafficking experience. Many victims need temporary accommodation on return. Many need legal aid to pursue cases against their trafficker. Some victims have fears for their safety, and therefore need security and privacy.

EXISTING (RE)INTEGRATION SERVICES FOR TRAFFICKED MEN IN CAMBODIA

Government services

The Cambodian Government has a mandate to provide (re)integration assistance for trafficked men. For instance, the Palermo Protocol requires states to “consider implementing measures to provide for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking in persons” (Article 6). The Cambodian Government has acknowledged this responsibility by developing the *Standard Operating Procedures on the Provision of Reintegration Support to Male Victims of Trafficking*, which states that MoSVY is responsible for conducting family tracing, visiting the family and assigning a case-worker to support and monitor the victim throughout (re) integration.¹⁶ Interviews with stakeholders identified that while MoSVY does acknowledge its responsibility to provide (re)integration assistance, it has an insufficient operational budget to conduct this work. Staff can usually get involved when non-government organisations cover their operational expenses.

“Our MOSVY really wants to help the fishermen, but we don’t have the money... we need funding from NGOs and donors.”

-MoSVY staffmember

Non-government services

At least 12 non-government or international organisations provide (re)integration assistance for trafficked men. Assistance is almost exclusively based in the community: as of February 2015, only one shelter in Cambodia accommodated trafficked men (the CCPCR shelter in Svay Rieng). Most victims who are identified and connected with a service provider receive basic assistance on arrival, such as a medical check, food package or travel grant. Some victims receive ongoing assistance such as legal aid, vocational training, or in rare cases, ongoing health or mental health care.

Long-term case management

The survivors who receive the most comprehensive assistance are those referred to one of four organisations providing long-term case management. ‘Long-term’ assistance lasts at least six months and often up to two years, occasionally longer if ongoing needs are identified. Case managers (sometimes called reintegration officers) have responsibility to maintain contact with each survivor, provide basic counseling and economic empowerment support, and refer to other services. Long-term case management has helped some survivors become economically stable or overcome mental health problems.

“One victim we supported for more than two years. He started a small barbershop in his village. This helped his income and gave him confidence. He became a commune council member responsible for youths and children, and educated others about safe migration.”

*One survivor said of their social worker:
“My social worker keeps calling me. He never forgets me.”*

Further information on this research can be obtained from HAGAR.

For more information/interview, please
contact: media@hagarinternational.org

Day, Kate. *(Re)integration of Cambodian trafficked men: Trends in trafficking and available aftercare services*. Phnom Penh: Hagar Cambodia, 2015.