

Support for victims/witnesses of trafficking in human beings in the Philippines



UN Trust Fund for Human Security



Fast Facts

Country: The Philippines

Duration: July 2005 to December 2007

Implementing UN Agencies: UNODC

Other Implementing Partners: Department of Social Welfare and Development

Budget: \$250,800

Key Words: Human trafficking; social integration; psycho-social rehabilitation; capacity-building

BACKGROUND

In the Philippines, trafficking in persons has been recognized as a grave human security threat, cutting across the different dimensions of poverty, migration, education, employment, child labour and governance. While responses have been underway to reduce the incidences of trafficking, gaps in the return and reintegration process have continued to leave victims and those at risk highly vulnerable. As a result, returned trafficked victims have faced a repertoire of

challenges ranging from psychological and physical trauma as well as social rejection and economic insecurity stemming from lack of employment opportunities and the job skills required. Therefore, without adequate and holistic support during the return and the reintegration process, returnees have remained vulnerable to further exploitation and even re-trafficking.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The project aimed to increase the human security of victims of trafficking by enabling rehabilitation centres in three regions to deliver comprehensive support- and reintegration services in collaboration with the communities. To this end, victims were offered a support package, combining efforts to (i) restore physical and mental well-being of victims

through therapy and psycho-social rehabilitation; (ii) deliver vocational training, education and employment for better reintegration into the communities; (iii) support victims to access justice; and (iv) mobilize communities to protect victims and prevent re-victimization.

BENEFICIARIES

The primary beneficiaries were victims of trafficking who received psycho-social treatment, vocational training, legal assistance and other rehabilitation services. Moreover, the project organised a series of

workshops on management, legal counselling and victim assistance targeting Government officials, social workers, NGO staff, prosecutors and law enforcement officers.