



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies statement
*Government and Business Forum of the
Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime*

Bali, Indonesia, 7 August 2018

Delivered by Ms Helen Brunt, Senior Migration Officer, IFRC Bangkok

Co-Chairs, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, an official observer to the Bali Process Government and Business Forum.

Through our wide global network of millions of community-based volunteers and staff, we recognise that in order to detect and protect people who have been trafficked, it is essential to understand local trends and dynamics, and to know what to look for.

People who have been trafficked are often unaware that they have been trafficked, and may deliberately keep out of sight. Thus, it is important to recognise and understand the reasons why people may remain in hiding, including their fear of being punished or returned to their country of origin, and critically to avoid doing any harm.

We know that once someone has been trafficked, the challenge of detecting and providing them with assistance increases immensely. Hence, we emphasise the significance of the prevention of trafficking and forced labour, including through collaborative efforts to:

- Understand local dynamics and raise awareness with people at risk of the methods used by traffickers, and how they can protect themselves.
- Provide training for representatives of local and national government, including service providers.
- Reform and regulate the recruitment sector, leaving as little space as possible for illegal and unscrupulous actors to operate.
- Counter the normalisation of exploitation by enhancing the resilience and raising the expectations of prospective migrants about the conditions under which they will work and how they should be treated, and ensure that migrant workers and the communities they live and work amongst are aware of the protections they are entitled to.

Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies engage in a range of activities to promote the protection of all migrants irrespective of their legal status. This includes with people who are at risk of and have experiences of trafficking and modern slavery.

All our activities, and especially those targeted towards survivors of trafficking and exploitation, conform to the principle of 'do no harm'. This requires that any activity, at the very least, does not increase the risks faced by migrant workers or indeed any person, either by act or by omission.

Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies also play an important role in the prevention of trafficking and exploitation through education in schools, our presence in local communities and our ability to interact with groups who may be at risk of trafficking. Our experiences have illustrated that

it is much more effective to work in prevention, and more challenging to respond to the consequences of trafficking, an activity that can in itself bring with it additional risk factors.

Through our health and psycho-social activities – a pillar of Red Cross and Red Crescent programming – our volunteers and staff may be able to detect signs of trafficking and abuse; hence this may be a rather unique entry point for action.

Above all, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies recognises that it is critical to adopt a victim-centred approach, including through the compassionate treatment of survivors, and offering continuous support and information, and particularly in the process of reintegration, to enable people to make informed decisions.

Our experiences through implementing, in partnership with civil society organisations in 15 countries, a global initiative from 2015 to 2017 called the [*Rights of Migrants in Action*](#) highlighted regional specificities related to the issue of human trafficking and forced labour.

In the Asia Pacific region, current legislative frameworks and political impediments are key barriers to the effective protection of and access to people who have experienced trafficking. As we have already heard from other distinguished delegates, the recruitment sector compounds challenges for migrant workers, and it is therefore important for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and our member National Societies, to undertake humanitarian diplomacy efforts with governments and all relevant stakeholders to enhance the regulation of these agencies, and ensure more effective protection of migrant workers.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies stands ready to collaborate with members of the Bali Process Government and Business Forum in this regard.

Thank you.
