The Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative:
Harnessing the data revolution to combat human trafficking and deepen understanding of migrants in vulnerable situations

SIDE EVENT

Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration | Fifth Informal Thematic Session

5 September 2017 | 13.45 to 14.45
Room M2
Vienna International Center

Lunch will be provided in front of the room from 13.15 to 13.45

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the risks of abuse, exploitation, and trafficking in persons and reaffirms the need to take immediate and effective measures to address and eradicate these issues. Similarly, in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, States committed to preventing and combatting trafficking in persons as well as identifying, protecting, and supporting victims of trafficking. In its Annex II: Towards a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), it further affirms the importance of combatting trafficking in persons and the need for effective protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, and the specific needs of migrants in vulnerable situations.

Efforts to combat trafficking in persons have gained momentum across the world. Despite our collective efforts, however, there is no reason to believe that human trafficking is less prevalent today than it was when the Palermo protocol was adopted in 2000. In particular, reliable, high quality migration data is essential for effectively realizing these efforts. However, current data, especially data on human trafficking and migrants in a vulnerable situations, is limited, and the data that does exist is too often isolated in silos, leading to fragmented knowledge. This makes it difficult to develop evidence based policy responses, or evaluate the impact of anti-trafficking programming. Increased access to this critical information will strengthen counter-trafficking institutions worldwide, and modern technological tools are needed to maximize information potential.

IOM, Polaris and other partners are launching a global data repository for researchers, lawmakers, advocates, funders, and other stakeholders. The Counter Trafficking Data Collaborative (CTDC) publishes harmonized human trafficking data from various organizations without identifying victims and using a new international standard. This is the first global data repository on human trafficking, with primary data contributed by counter-trafficking organizations around the world. Given the near non-existent public availability of human trafficking data, CTDC will have a wide impact. A more developed evidence base will also provide opportunities to deepen our understanding of vulnerability-producing contexts that migrants encounter during the migration process.

The session will address the following questions, among others:

- What kind of data do governments need to combat human trafficking and prevent migrants from ending up in vulnerable situations?

- How can we ensure relevant data reaches academic, policy and governmental institutions in order to make an impact?

- Can legal and institutional obstacles to sharing sensitive data be overcome through the use of new technology and de-identification techniques?

- What can case data from trafficking victims tell us about how migrants fall into vulnerable situations?

The session will include a brief presentation of CTDC, including the development of the initiative and the data transfer, harmonization and anonymization processes. The use of CTDC and related approaches in the implementation of GCM commitments and strategic counter-trafficking interventions will be discussed.

Government representatives will also share their own country's experiences in bringing data to bear on ensuring safe, regular and orderly migration, including combatting human trafficking and addressing migrant vulnerabilities. This shall include dealing with challenges surrounding data sharing and publishing, sensitive data, and data protection concerns. Participants will have the opportunity to make interventions, ask questions, and discuss how solutions discussed during the session may be helpful in overcoming such challenges.

Speakers:

- Corinne Dettmeijer-Vermeulen, Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings

- Carlos Eduardo Almeida Martins de Andrade, Labour Prosecutor, Federal Labour Prosecution Office, Brazil

- Harry Cook, Data Management and Research Specialist, International Organization for Migration

- Sara Crowe, Associate Director – Data Systems, Polaris

- Closing remarks by IOM's Director General, William Lacy Swing

Session chair:
Suzanne Sheldon, Senior Policy Advisor – Global Compact on Migration, International Organization for Migration