

22nd Alliance against Trafficking in Persons conference

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Presentation summary

- When examining best practices that allow for preventing and responding to child trafficking, what matters most is the richness and strength of the protection system around each child.
- Critical actors in the circles around the child are services providers, those actors present in the communities who are responsible for providing access to services to children.
- There is a need to examine capacity building approaches related to such personnel, including social workforce, security forces, justice personnel, teachers and personnel working where children are deprived of their liberty, including in migration contexts.
- There is a plethora of tools and training packages available. Many are of great quality.
- However, there is an important problem when it comes to the sustainability of current approaches to training, where most of these ad-hoc efforts depend on external actors who deliver these courses to in-service personnel according to the accessibility of outside funding. Ownership is minimal, and the responsibility is outsourced.
- We need to enhance the responsibility of States to integrate permanent mandatory training as part of the national training curriculum for new recruits, with a competency-based framework (rather than only lectures on knowledge), so that new generation of practitioners are evaluated and certified by their own police academy, school for magistrates, school for social work, etc. for their ability to know **HOW** to prevent and respond to child trafficking, especially as the phenomena is getting more complex, notably with the role played by technologies to facilitate child trafficking.
- Oftentimes, skills needed do not require money. It relates to communication techniques, referral pathways, monitoring and reporting properly disaggregated data to relevant authorities, building connections with other services providers, and building trust with children and community as professional forces, immune to corruption, that will deliver on their obligations and responsibility.
- Call for greater accountability of front-line workers to children, once provided with the know-how needed to deliver.
- Need for truly effective durable solutions for trafficked children which would be in their best interests and developed through a multi-agency discussion, for which sustainable State-led training should also be a must.