

The Dangers of Displacement:
Vulnerabilities to Trafficking within IDP Populations

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I. Executive Summary

In August 2008 more than 130,000 people were uprooted by conflict between Georgia and Russia. Ten months later, over 25,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) had not returned home - forced to make a living in dozens of temporary settlements and collective centers around Georgia. Lebanon's vast IDP population, similarly displaced during the 2006 war with Israel, serves as a comparison to the Georgian context. This study hypothesizes that prolonged poor social and economic conditions, combined with a lack of awareness to trafficking and a willingness to migrate, create the potential for these internally displaced to fall victim to both internal and cross-border trafficking

This study uses key socioeconomic factors which increase the risk of trafficking as identified in international literature (UN, 2000; IOM, 2003; UNODC, 2008). Research aimed to determine if a deviation in vulnerabilities exists between the IDP population and the overall population of Georgia, with supplemental data from Lebanon. The study analyzed results of the research - which attempted to determine specific risk factors faced by displaced populations, including inadequate housing, lack of economic opportunity, and willingness to migrate. The research attempted to extrapolate trends on IDP vulnerabilities which might be applied to other displaced populations not only in Georgia and Lebanon but worldwide.

Methodology combined secondary source analysis with primary data collection. Research used both quantitative surveys directed at IDP populations and qualitative interviews of key informants. Within the scope of this research, only populations of persons displaced by the August 2008 Georgian conflict and the July 2006 war in Lebanon were targeted. Results from field research were compared against known socioeconomic data about the populations at large, to provide a broad base for future analysis.

II. Introduction

Problem Statement

Human trafficking is a complicated international problem and human rights offense. The seriousness of trafficking is now recognized worldwide by numerous governments and international organizations, but given the ambiguous size and scope of the problem there is a need for greater understanding. Human trafficking affects almost every country in the world; the consequences of such a crime have repercussions in the government, economy, civil society, and elsewhere. The crime of trafficking can take many forms. More than just sexual exploitation, the definition of trafficking includes forced labor, bonded labor, debt bondage, involuntary domestic servitude, forced child labor and other forms of exploitation (Trafficking in Persons Report, 2009). Trafficking can occur across international borders, as well as within the boundaries of a single country, region, or even city.

At its core, trafficking deals with exploitation and manipulation of those who are vulnerable - poverty, isolation, and lack of information are all factors which can lead to a person falling victim. Vulnerability to trafficking can also be increased through conflict and displacement (Inter-Agency Standing Committee, 2009). The often poor economic conditions of IDPs make them a target for human traffickers (Inter-Agency Standing Committee, 2009).

According to Georgian government statistics and non-profit organization statistics, more than 130,000 people have been displaced as a result of the events of August 2008 (IOM, WVG, 2009). Of this initial group, approximately 37,000 have been unable to return to their former places of residence (IDMC, WVG, 2009). Displacement occurred on a larger scale during the 2006 war in Lebanon, with some 1,000,000 displaced over two weeks (IOM, 2007); but prolonged displacement without return, like the Georgian case, is still a reality for between 40,000-70,000 Lebanese IDPs (UN, 2008).

As with any emergency situation, the recent conflicts in Georgia and Lebanon eliminated the livelihoods of thousands of people, in addition to destroying homes and forcing relocation. Beyond initial displacement and hardships, however, this study examined conditions and vulnerabilities still present in the post-emergency environment. Return for Lebanon's IDPs is hindered by cluster bombs and lost livelihoods, and long-term effects of the July war still persist

in everyday life (IDMC, July 2008). According to the Georgian government, “The living conditions and economic situation of many IDPs are disadvantageous. The unemployment rate among IDPs is high. For many, their existence depends upon state allowances and international humanitarian assistance” (2007). With so many lacking socioeconomic opportunities, both Georgia and Lebanon’s displaced find themselves in situations which could easily be taken advantage of by traffickers.

Much of the general literature on the topic assumes that those displaced by the conflict are living in unfavorable social and economic conditions. Nevertheless, the question that needs to be addressed is not merely how poor the conditions are, but how poor in relation to the general population. A comparative analysis between the population as a whole and IDPs serves to provide concrete information to confirm or refute such assumptions. If the internally displaced of Georgia and Lebanon appear to suffer from more extreme socioeconomic ills than the overall population, they may indeed be more vulnerable to the exploitative tendencies of human traffickers.

Hypothesis

This study hypothesizes that continued poor socioeconomic conditions, lack of trafficking awareness, and willingness to migrate, create the potential for both Georgian and Lebanese IDP populations to fall victim to both internal and cross-border trafficking. It is postulated that socioeconomic conditions and awareness levels of these IDP populations are worse than those of the general population – due to the specific difficulties faced from forced migration, isolation, and prolonged displacement. Additionally, strong willingness to migrate may exist due to continued displacement a full 10 months in Georgia and more than two years in Lebanon.

Risk factors and indicators used in this survey were drawn from accepted international literature and previous World Vision reports. The Handbook for the Protection of IDPs states, “Forced displacement can increase the risk of trafficking by weakening or destroying family support structures, community bonds, and self-protection mechanisms that might otherwise serve as a buffer to trafficking. Because internally displaced persons often lack documentation and have limited access to education, livelihoods and self-reliance opportunities, they may be

particularly vulnerable to traffickers who appear to offer life-saving access to employment opportunities” (Inter-Agency Standing Committee, 2007).

The Palermo Protocol specifically mentions “poverty, underdevelopment, and lack of equal opportunity” as “factors that make persons, especially women and children, vulnerable to trafficking” (UN, 2000). An IOM report (2003) on the vulnerability of young women from Romania states a main factor in a person’s decision to migrate is “the lack of opportunities at home,” a sentiment echoed in a 2006 paper from the Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children (CEDAW, 2006). In World Vision's own Assessment Report on Trafficking in Georgia, respondents “indicated their belief that trafficking issues are largely tied to Georgia’s social and economic context, and that emigration and a desire to emigrate will persist until socioeconomic conditions are improved” (2007).

Vulnerability and Risk Factors

Primary risk factors were divided into two categories: social and economic. For the economic component, primary source of income, monthly income level, and unemployment were used to determine risk; for the social component, questions looked at domestic violence, abuse, neglect, as well as housing conditions. Data were collected about change in IDPs' economic situations, opinions on economic assistance, and the existence of economic opportunities during displacement.

In addition to the socioeconomic factors used for baseline comparisons to the general population, this research attempted to understand other factors which might contribute to trafficking vulnerability of IDPs. “Willingness to migrate”, operationally defined in this research as the desire to relocate to a different area, is a common theme seen in many displaced populations wishing to either return home or find more permanent housing away from temporary settlements. Survey questions dealing with 'willingness to migrate' involved plans and ability to move out in the next six months, thoughts on working abroad, ideal work locations, knowledge of other IDPs who had migrated seeking work, and willingness to take a sudden job offer.

In the final section of the survey, questions targeted IDPs' awareness to human trafficking, as unfamiliarity with trafficking was seen as increasing risk. Beyond simple

knowledge of the term 'human trafficking', the survey sought to gauge whether or not IDPs comprehended the full definition. Questions were also asked about the sources providing IDPs with their information on human trafficking as well as opinions on the most likely victims of trafficking.

Definitions

This research adopted the definition of human trafficking provided by the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, Article 3, Section a. (UN, 2000). A definition for internally displaced persons was adopted from the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, Introduction, Paragraph 2 (UN, 1998). Vulnerability was defined based on An Introduction to Human Trafficking: Vulnerability, Impact, and Action (UNODC, 2008).

III. Background

The Republic of Georgia is a small country located in the North Caucasus, with an estimated population of around 4.63 million (U.S. Department of State, 2009). The breakaway republics of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, comprising 20% of Georgia's total territory, are not currently under government control. Lebanon, although geographically smaller, has a comparable population size of around 4 million. Georgia's economy saw high growth in recent years, posting rates of 10 percent and 12 percent in 2006 and 2007, respectively (Department of State, 2009). Conflict and economic crisis in 2008 saw key Georgian industries take an economic hit while growth dropped to a mere 3%. Lebanon experienced an estimated \$3.6 billion in infrastructure damage from the July 2006 conflict between Hezbollah and Israel, and ongoing political crises have hampered attempts at reconstruction.

Migration and displaced populations have been present in both countries for decades. From 1975-1990 in Lebanon, waves of IDPs totaling around one million were brought about by internal strikes, Israeli invasions, and fighting between Syrian forces and Lebanese militias. In the early 1990s, separatist conflicts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia threatened instability in

newly-independent Georgia. Many were killed while more than 300,000 Georgians, Ossetians, Abkhaz and others were displaced. Regional strife again flared up in August 2008, causing at least 150,000 to flee South Ossetia and the territory bordering the zone of conflict. (IDMC, 2009).

As of 2009, approximately 250,000 remained internally displaced in Georgia (IDMC, 2009). From the most recent wave of IDPs, some 37,000 have been unable to return to their homes. The majority of Georgia's displaced who have not secured private housing reside in government collective centers and IDP villages. It is estimated by the Lebanese government and the UN (February 2008) that 40,000-70,000 people remain displaced.

Georgia's government solutions for displaced persons and trafficking have gained in number recently. In the last six years of the U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report, Georgia has risen from a Tier 3 ranking - for governments that fail to meet the report's standards and were making no attempts at compliance - to a Tier 1 ranking, indicating full compliance with the report's standards (Department of State, 2009). In improving its ranking, the government created many new initiatives to fight trafficking, including strengthening existing legislation, aiding in the creation of a national trafficking victim's hotline, as well as the creation of a Task Force and mobile groups assigned the duty of aiding and identifying victims of trafficking.

IDP-related legislation and policy have also improved in recent years. In 2009, a new State Strategy for Internally Displaced Persons was approved by the government of Georgia. Scheduled to be implemented over the course of several years, the plan focuses on economic integration and long-term solutions for those displaced by the recent events of August 2008 as well as in the early 1990s, seeking to amend insufficient IDP policies from the previous decade (MRA, 2009). Unlike Georgia, Lebanon currently lacks a national strategy for IDPs; previous solutions have been heavily region and conflict-specific. Responsibility for those displaced in the 2006 conflict lies primarily with the High Relief Commission (HRC), with assistance from other organizations such as the U.N.

IV. Applied Methodology

Methodology combined secondary source analysis with primary data collection. Taking into account framework laid out by World Vision, research relied on secondary data collection and analysis whenever possible. Original research was conducted in the field through a random sampling of the targeted IDP populations by the researcher with the aid of a translator. Subsequent data collection in Lebanon was carried out based on the existing World Vision project in Georgia, using the same research methods and survey questions.

A twenty-six question survey, administered orally in individual interviews with a random sample of IDPs was the primary research tool. The survey was divided into sections relating to the four broad risk factors defined in the design of the project: social factors, economic factors, willingness to migrate, and trafficking awareness. Each section was intended to capture a brief insight into the socioeconomic conditions facing Georgia and Lebanon's IDPs post-conflict, in addition to underlying motivations and trafficking comprehension issues which might increase trafficking vulnerability.

Interviews were conducted orally, in-person by the translator with the researcher present. The survey questions were asked in Georgian or Russian, depending on the preference of the interviewee. All interviews involved a verbal agreement of confidentiality, as per U.N. standards for conducting interviews in the field (UN, 2007). When developing survey questions, consideration was given to cultural and linguistic differences; questions were formulated in English but carefully translated into Georgian by the translator working with the project. Surveys were administered to a total of 203 IDPs in six resettlement villages and six collective centers selected based on geographic and practical access as well as percentage of IDPs within the target population from the most recent conflict.

For purposes of continuity, several of the questions used in the survey were modeled after nation-wide trafficking and sociological assessments conducted by World Vision Georgia and other international organizations. Two previous World Vision reports were relied upon in the creation of social and trafficking-related questions for the research (World Vision, 2007). Some questions used in the survey modified several questions from World Vision's Assessment on

Child Trafficking in Georgia (World Vision, 2007). Research also relied on a previous UN report on the protection of refugees to inform the structure of questions (UNHCR, 2007).

In addition to the primary data collection through surveys conducted in the field, several qualitative interviews were held with experts at key organizations relevant to the scope of the research. These groups include Transparency International, the Council of Europe, and the Georgian Young Lawyers Association. Expert interviews were intended to inform the research findings, as well as provide a broad overview and perspective on the issues of human trafficking and internal displacement in Georgia.

V. Presentation of Data

203 surveys were conducted across twelve locations, with data¹ collected over a period of four weeks. A total of twenty-six questions were administered, divided into four sections: basic information and social (questions 1-9), economic (questions 10-17), willingness to migrate (questions 18-22), and trafficking awareness (questions 23-26). In addition to the questions on the survey, the gender and age range of each respondent was recorded at the conclusion of the interview. The demographic breakdown of the sample is as follows:

Male	Female
32.5%	67.5%

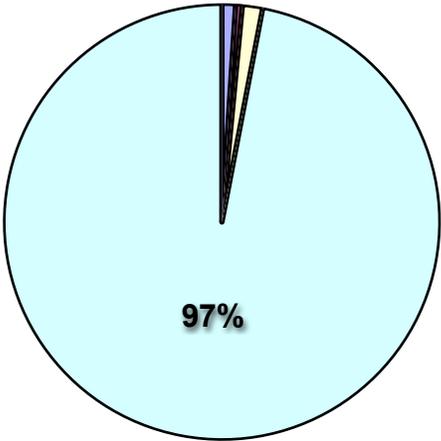
Age Range	Percent
Less than 20	12.3%
20-29	23.6%
30-39	20.3%
40-49	15.3%
50 or greater	28.6%

26.6% of the sample currently live in collective centers (either in Tbilisi or Gori), while the remaining 73.4% were of respondents currently live in IDP settlements across the Shida-Kartli and Mtskheta regions. The average IDP household size for the sample was three members. 91.2% of households contained two or more adults, and nearly half of the IDPs in the sample, 49.8%, reported no children as household members.

Respondents were asked to rank their current living conditions compared to their living conditions before being displaced; 97% of all respondents categorized their change in living conditions as “much worse.” As to the particular

¹ Unless explicitly indicated, the data presented is from the research conducted in Georgia. Supplemental data from research in Lebanon has been provided where noted for purposes of comparative analysis.

Comparison of Living Conditions, Georgia



- My Current Living Conditions are Better
- My Current Living Conditions are the Same
- My Current Living Conditions are Worse
- My Current Living Conditions are Much Worse

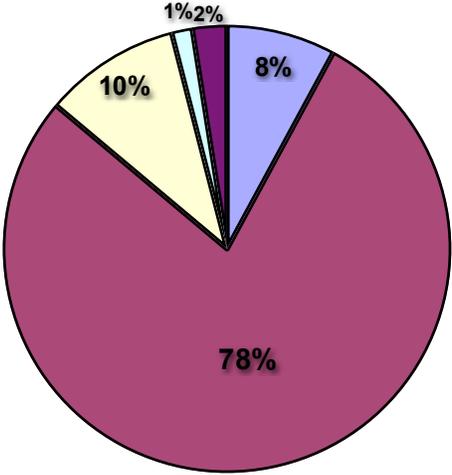
somebody in the IDP community who had suffered domestic abuse, and 8.4% reported that they knew somebody who had suffered from abuse and/or neglect.

Information on economic vulnerabilities was the focus of the second section of the survey. Respondents were first asked to list the main source of income - almost half (48.8%) said they relied primarily on different social welfare programs. The rest listed pensions (29.1%), wages/earnings of family members (14.8%), the aid of relatives (2.0%), or agricultural products they harvested (0.5%). 4.9% were unsure as to their main source of income. For income levels of those surveyed, 78.2% reported their total monthly household income at less than 150 GEL per month, and the

complaints about IDPs' living conditions, 73.9% listed "all of the above" as their choice, 12.8% cited the lack of water closets, 5.4% the generally poor living conditions, 3.9% lack of space, 2.5% the lack of basic personal commodities such as clothing and blankets, and 1.5% either refused to answer or considered themselves homeless.

Completing the social portion of the survey were questions dealing with domestic abuse, neglect, and other behaviors which can contribute to trafficking vulnerabilities. Of all IDPs surveyed, 4.9% reported that they knew

Monthly Income (Georgia Laris GEL)



- No income
- 150-300
- More than 450
- Less than 150
- 301-450

same extreme poverty can be seen in Lebanon, where data showed approximately 73.8% of the displaced lived below the lower poverty level.

Respondents were also asked to compare the present economic situation of their household with that before displacement, and describe the conditions of their current economic conditions. 98% claimed that their current economic situation had worsened greatly since becoming displaced. None of the 203 IDPs interviewed reported a positive change in their economic situation after displacement. More than 60% of respondents categorized their current economic situation as “Harsh,” claiming a reliance on others for basic necessities such as clothes and food.



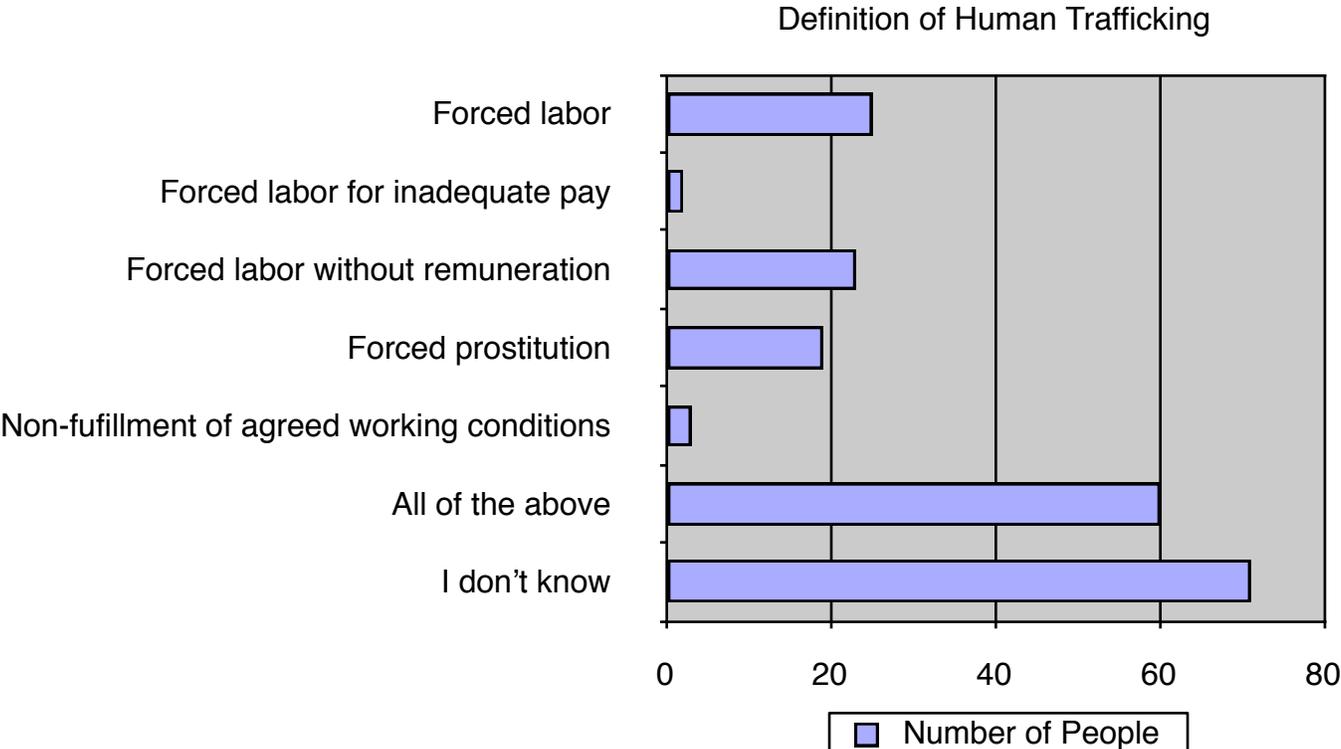
Unemployment highlighted one of the most direct economic impacts of displacement. Of the total sample, 54.2% of respondents reported being employed before displacement. The number of IDPs who reported employment ten months after displacement decreased to a staggering 5.4%. Georgia’s national unemployment rate for 2006 was estimated at 32.2% (UNDP, MED, 2006). High national unemployment was another reason which made Lebanon an effective comparison; although the official unemployment figure is estimated to be 7.9% (UNDP, CAS, MOSA, 2006), the Ministry of Labor in 1999 indicated it could be as high as 25% and independent studies estimate the actual rate to be around 20%. Despite this, IDPs from the 2006 war reported a unemployment rate of 60% after displacement - well above the national estimates.

The survey also sought to determine the perspective of Georgia’s IDP population in terms of current economic hardships. 40.4% believe finding work would improve their economic

situation the most, while more than a quarter of those surveyed (29.1%) think that more government aid is the answer. 86.2% of IDPs surveyed described their present location as having no opportunities for work. Displacement’s detrimental effect on livelihood opportunities was similarly reflected with Lebanese IDPs, where 81% reported no opportunities for work during displacement.

Part three of the survey, building on the socioeconomic conditions captured in earlier sections, dealt with the willingness of IDPs to migrate. Respondents were first asked if they had plans to move out in the next six months. More than 86% stated that they couldn’t afford to improve their living conditions, regardless if they desired to move. Just over 5% said they planned to move out for a better dwelling, while 17% were unsure as to their future housing situation.

When asked if they had thought about working abroad, 39.9% responded yes while 60.1% answered no. As for ideal work location, the majority of respondents (66.0%) stated a desire to return to work where they lived before displacement. In the Lebanon data, 51% stated the same desire to find employment in their pre-displacement location. IDPs were also asked if they knew of anyone in their community who had left to seek work elsewhere in Georgia or abroad - only 13.8% answered in the affirmative compared to 41.8% in Lebanon. The last question of the section directly asked interviewees whether or not they would take job elsewhere



in the country or abroad the next day, if offered. More than half the respondents in Georgia and Lebanon (64% and 55.6%, respectively) answered yes.

73.4% of those interviewed said they had heard of the term “human trafficking” in the first of four trafficking-related questions. However of that group only 39.6% correctly identified all definitions of trafficking. The other 60.2% either did not know the definition of human trafficking or identified the phrase in much narrower terms, such as only forced prostitution. Almost half of those surveyed (48.3%) received the bulk of their information about trafficking from television; other source of information included acquaintances/relatives (3%), advertisements (1.5%), the press (1%), or all of the above (18.7%)

The final question dealt with IDP perceptions of trafficking and vulnerability - asking which of the following people was most likely to fall victim to human trafficking. Almost half of the respondents believed a person who goes abroad illegally is most likely to be trafficking, and nearly as many, 41.4%, claimed they did not know. “All of the above” was the response of 5.9%, and 3.4% said the most vulnerable was a person who contacted firms organizing labor abroad.

VI. Discussion

Implications

Taking into account government statistics as well as data from previous studies on IDPs and trafficking, poverty and economic opportunity were two risk areas where Georgia’s internally displaced appear to exhibit vulnerabilities greater than that of the general population. Economically, a post-displacement unemployment rate of 96% among those surveyed coupled with a monthly income averaging almost 30% less than the government’s subsistence minimum illustrates the dire economic situation faced by Georgian IDPs. Unemployment data for Lebanon represented a similar trend, exhibiting a rate of 60% in IDPs compared to a national estimate of 7.9%.

In 2008, 31% of the Georgian population fell below the poverty line (Ministry of Economic Development, 2008). Officially, the subsistence minimum set by the government for the average family is 206.4 Georgian Lari (GEL) per month. Of those surveyed, 78.2% reported their total monthly household income at less than 150 GEL per month, well below the

government-mandated minimum, and farther below the average monthly family income of 375.6 GEL. (Ministry of Economic Development, 2008). At the time of writing, 150 GEL was equivalent to less than three dollars. From 1993-2004, the average percentage of the entire population below the poverty line was 54% (Human Development Report, 2008).

An overwhelming majority of Georgian respondents, 98%, stated their economic situation had “worsened greatly” since becoming displaced, and almost half still rely on various social welfare programs as the primary source of income. But even with the aid packages provided by the government and international organizations, many IDPs described a situation where providing even basic food for their household was proving difficult.

Lack of trafficking awareness also remains high within the IDP populations compared to the general population; in a previous trafficking assessment of the Georgian population (World Vision, 2007), 93.6% indicated they had heard of human trafficking - almost 20% more than the data from the IDP sample in the research. The number of respondents who indicated they did not know who stands a better chance of becoming a victim of trafficking was significantly higher among Georgian IDPs interviewed than in a previous national assessment carried out by World Vision. In the 2007 report, only 11% of those surveyed said they were at a loss of an answer to the same question.

Policy Recommendations

In tackling the causes of social vulnerabilities, there are two key areas which need to be addressed by both governmental and non-governmental organizations: improving access to information and resettlement solutions. Both groups can enhance access to information through community based focus groups and awareness campaigns, especially regarding government accountability measures relating to social assistance. Such programs would enable IDPs to better understand their social situation. More knowledge relating to aid programs and legislation would allow IDPs to make more informed decisions about their situation, and how they can help improve social and economic assistance, successfully voice complaints, and influence current and future legislation. Empowerment through information allows for better civic participation and connects IDPs their communities and countries. Providing this sense of connectedness may

help alleviate the problems of isolation, frustration, and helplessness about social conditions encountered in so many of the survey participants - problems which create vulnerabilities which may then be exploited.

The government should also improve and maintain existing as well as future resettlement solutions through regulatory bodies, and holding appropriate parties accountable for existing problems with conditions. Both measures are key to providing sustainable solutions for Georgia's internally displaced. Long-term housing options are a critical step to integration into surrounding permanent communities. The government and other relevant organizations need to show a commitment to acceptable, sustainable resettlement programs from which IDPs can start to rebuild social, economic, and other livelihood components. If poor housing conditions such as lack of running water, lack of access to toilets, insufficient space persist over the coming months, migration outside IDP settlements will appear ever more appealing. Despite research which showed the majority of IDPs are yet unable to afford to improve their living situations, the possibility of resorting to other means to secure adequate housing is not eliminated.

In addressing economic vulnerabilities, policy makers should focus their resettlement approaches around the following: integrated economic development solutions combining local communities with the IDP settlements. Long-term development and capacity building can be accomplished through training, education, and improving the economic infrastructure of IDP settlements. Integration into local communities is one of the goals of recent government legislation on the internally displaced (MRA, 2009). As with housing concerns, providing long-term and sustainable solutions for economic development targets underlying problems affecting vulnerability to trafficking - poverty, unemployment, and lack of economic opportunity. Although data indicate vulnerabilities of poverty and unemployment are higher in the IDP populations than the population at large, both groups are facing economic hardships as a consequence of recent conflict and a global economic crisis. By having organizations utilize integrated approaches that combine local and IDP communities, both groups would benefit through shared training, experiences, and joint efforts to build the economic infrastructure in their communities. Integration issues stemming from conflict between IDPs and local

communities would be lessened if both sides understand the importance of cooperation in livelihood development.

Understanding the issue of ‘willingness to migrate’ among Georgia’s IDP populations highlights the critical role of access to information when combating the associated vulnerabilities with trafficking. Policy needs to take advantage of what can be called the ‘window of opportunity’ indicated by data in this study. The majority of respondents either do not want or have not thought about working abroad, nor do they know many IDPs who have left to seek work elsewhere in Georgia or abroad. This may be due to the fact that many are still hopeful of the possibility of return to their pre-displacement residences. When conducting the survey, numerous participants indicated a desire to work where they lived before displacement, but if that option were unavailable, they would immediately seek work opportunities outside Georgia. Continued promotion of the possibility of return for IDPs prevents successful long-term social and economic solutions which provide safe livelihood opportunities. IDPs need to be informed about current efforts legislation in place, and how they can influence and participate in solutions to underlying social and economic problems. Informative data highlighting the efforts and willingness of all organizations involved with socioeconomic initiatives may provide Georgia’s displaced with incentives to rebuild their lives within their current communities.

In addressing knowledge of trafficking, informational campaigns must be developed which account for IDPs unique situations and channels of information, target misconceptions about more detailed aspects of trafficking, and arm IDPs with an improved understanding of their situation in relation to the crime of human trafficking. This and previous studies have shown a general awareness of the term human trafficking exists within IDP communities as well as the general population. However, comprehension of the different forms of trafficking and situations which lead to increased risk can help alleviate the knowledge-based vulnerabilities which are reflected in both Georgia and Lebanon’s IDP populations.

Policy Recommendations for Non-State Actors

Taking the above broad recommendations into consideration, organizations like World Vision Georgia can easily adapt policies which reflect and understanding of the trafficking

vulnerabilities facing IDP populations they work with. Policy recommendations specific to World Vision MEER's Regional Anti-Trafficking Strategy include:

- Incorporation of expanded trafficking awareness literature (to include more thorough definitions as well as examples of those most vulnerable) into existing psychosocial programs working with IDPs
- Facilitating focus groups and community discussion to expand the knowledge base of IDP communities and increase informational exchange on topics relevant to minimizing underlying vulnerabilities such as: socioeconomic development, migration, social/behavioral stigmas, and trafficking awareness
- Working with the government to ensure successful monitoring and implementation of the new State Strategy for Internally Displaced Persons, taking into account lessons learned from past insufficiencies with long-term IDP solutions
- Focus on integrated economic solutions and cooperative projects between IDP settlements and the local communities in order to eliminate conflict and other deterrents to successful long-term IDP integration
- Expand dialogue between IDPs and their local communities, authorities, and governments through town-hall style meetings, seminars, and informational sessions in order to improve situational understanding and provide incentives for IDPs to assist with local and regional socioeconomic development

Conclusion

There is a critical need for understanding the specific conditions which displaced populations face. Social and economic hardships faced by many IDP populations, including inadequate housing, poverty, and unemployment, may be disproportionately high compared to the general population, as was seen in the Georgian case and reiterated by data from Lebanon. The persistence of such critical socioeconomic conditions, believed to make groups more vulnerable to human trafficking, represent a common danger facing IDP communities worldwide. Appropriate policy solutions paired with targeted trafficking awareness raising must be undertaken in order to address these underlying vulnerabilities, otherwise displaced persons

such as those uprooted by recent conflict in Georgia, Lebanon, and elsewhere could become human trafficking casualties in the ongoing fight against human rights of internally displaced persons worldwide.

VII. Appendices

Abbreviations and Terms

CEDAW - Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

CRTD-A - Collective for Research and Training on Development – Action

IDP - Internally displaced person

IDMC - Internal Displacement Monitoring Center

IOM - International Organization for Migration

MRA - (Georgian) Ministry of Refugees and Accommodations

UN - United Nations

UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNODC - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

WV - World Vision

WVG- World Vision Georgia

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