

COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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Challenges and Opportunities
for Third World Countries:
A Focus on Zambia



NATIONAL PROSECUTION AUTHORITY
Workshop



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BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT



HUMAN TRAFFICKING: A GLOBAL CRISIS

Human trafficking is a severe violation of human rights affecting millions worldwide, with women and children being disproportionately targeted.



CHALLENGES IN COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES

Third World countries face unique challenges in combating this crime due to socio-economic factors, such as:

- * Poverty
- * Lack of education
- * Weak legal frameworks



ZAMBIA'S EFFORTS TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

This presentation explores Zambia's efforts and strategies to combat human trafficking, highlighting:

- * Initiatives to address socio-economic factors
- * Strengthening legal frameworks
- * Collaboration with international organizations



THE CRITICAL ROLE OF PROSECUTORS

The discussion will highlight the critical role of prosecutors within the National Prosecution Authority (NPA) in addressing human trafficking cases, including:

- * Investigation and prosecution strategies
- * Collaboration with law enforcement agencies
- * Ensuring justice for victims



WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking involves the exploitation of individuals through:

- * Force
- * Fraud
- * Coercion

Encompassing various forms, including:

- * Forced labour
- * Sexual exploitation
- * Organ trafficking



COMMON FORMS OF TRAFFICKING IN THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES

- * Child labour
- * Forced prostitution
- * Domestic servitude



VULNERABILITIES OF THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES

Third World countries are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking due to:

- * Poverty
- * Lack of education
- * Political instability
- * Weak legal frameworks



THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL PROSECUTION AUTHORITY (NPA)

The NPA plays a crucial role in:

- * Prosecuting traffickers
- * Securing convictions
- * Ensuring justice for victims



CHALLENGES IN COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

LACK OF AWARENESS AND EDUCATION:

- ✦ Limited awareness about trafficking realities among the public and potential victims.
- ✦ Need for more training for law enforcement, judiciary, and border control officials.
- ✦ Prosecutors may lack specialized knowledge in human trafficking cases, affecting the quality of legal arguments.

WEAK LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS:

- ✦ Many Third World countries, including Zambia, lack comprehensive anti-trafficking laws or have laws that are poorly enforced.
- ✦ Corruption within law enforcement and judicial systems undermines anti-trafficking efforts.
- ✦ Prosecutors face challenges in gathering evidence, leading to low conviction rates.

POLITICAL INSTABILITY AND CONFLICT:

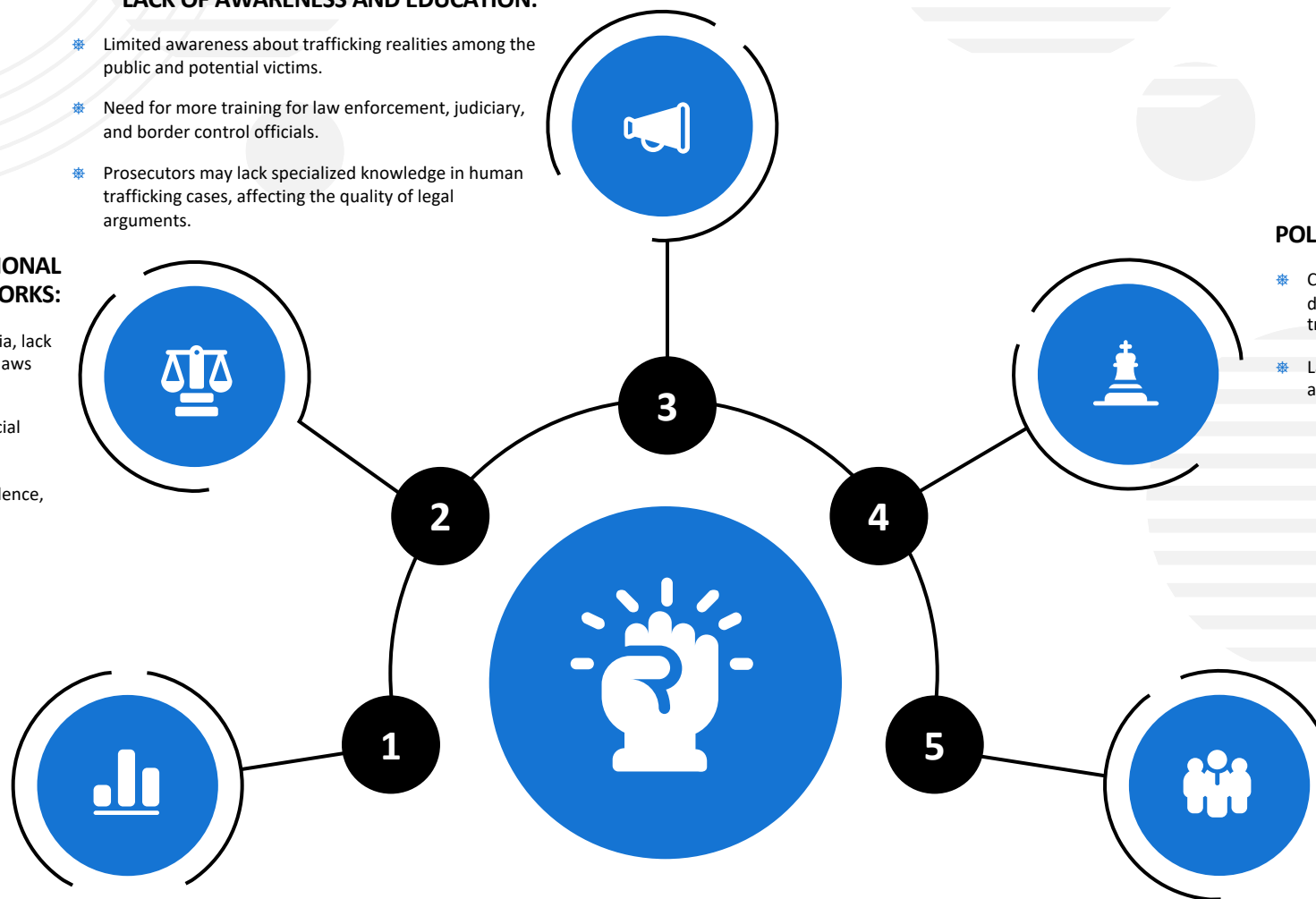
- ✦ Conflicts and political instability lead to displacement, increasing vulnerability to trafficking.
- ✦ Law enforcement may be absent or too weak to address trafficking in conflict zones.

CULTURAL AND SOCIAL FACTORS:

- ✦ Gender, ethnic, and social discrimination exacerbate vulnerabilities.
- ✦ Harmful traditional practices and societal norms contribute to trafficking.
- ✦ Prosecutors may face societal pressure or bias, impacting their ability to prosecute cases effectively.

ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY:

- ✦ High poverty rates increase susceptibility to trafficking as individuals seek better opportunities, making them easy targets for traffickers.
- ✦ Unemployment forces people into precarious situations, leading to exploitation.





OPPORTUNITIES IN COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

STRENGTHENING LEGAL FRAMEWORKS:

- ✦ Developing and enforcing comprehensive anti-trafficking laws aligned with international standards.
- ✦ Implementing judicial reforms to ensure swift and fair prosecution of traffickers, including specialized courts for trafficking cases.
- ✦ The NPA can advocate for legal reforms to close gaps in existing anti-trafficking legislation.

01

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING:

- ✦ Developing specialized training programs for law enforcement, judiciary, and border officials, focusing on the unique aspects of human trafficking cases.
- ✦ Allocating resources to strengthen institutions involved in combating trafficking, including enhancing the capabilities of the NPA.
- ✦ Prosecutors should receive continuous professional development in human trafficking, including victim-centered approaches and trauma-informed practices

03

SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- ✦ Investing in economic empowerment programs to reduce vulnerabilities, thereby reducing the risk of trafficking.
- ✦ Promoting job creation initiatives to provide alternatives to risky migration.

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ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION:

- ✦ Strengthening cross-border cooperation to track and dismantle trafficking networks, particularly through mutual legal assistance treaties (MLATs).
- ✦ Leveraging support from organizations like the UN, IOM, and Interpol for resources and expertise.
- ✦ Prosecutors play a key role in facilitating cross-border investigations and prosecutions.

02

PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS:

- ✦ Implementing widespread educational campaigns to raise awareness about trafficking risks and prevention.
- ✦ Engaging community leaders and local organizations in awareness and prevention efforts.
- ✦ The NPA can collaborate with NGOs to educate the public on legal avenues available to trafficking victims.

04

VICTIM SUPPORT AND REHABILITATION:

- ✦ Providing comprehensive support services, including legal aid, medical care, and psychological support for victims.
- ✦ Developing reintegration programs to help trafficking survivors rebuild their lives.
- ✦ Prosecutors should work closely with victim support services to ensure that victims receive holistic care and are protected from re-victimization.

06



ROLE OF PROSECUTORS IN COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

ENSURING VICTIM-CENTERED PROSECUTIONS:

- ✦ Prosecutors must prioritize the safety and well-being of victims, adopting a victim-centered approach throughout the legal process.
- ✦ Special measures should be taken to protect victims' identities and provide them with psychological support during trials.

ADVOCATING FOR LEGAL REFORMS:

- ✦ Identifying gaps in current legislation and advocating for reforms that enhance the legal framework against trafficking.
- ✦ Proposing amendments that increase penalties for traffickers and provide greater protections for victims.

BUILDING STRONG CASES:

- ✦ Collaborating with law enforcement to gather robust evidence, including witness testimonies, forensic evidence, and financial records.
- ✦ Utilizing technology and data analysis to track trafficking networks and build strong, evidence-based cases.

ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY:

- ✦ Prosecutors must be vigilant in combating corruption within the legal system that may impede justice.
- ✦ Holding public officials and law enforcement accountable if they are found complicit in trafficking activities.

ENHANCING LEGAL EXPERTISE:

- ✦ Prosecutors should receive ongoing training on the complexities of human trafficking laws and international legal standards.
- ✦ Developing expertise in prosecuting cases involving cyber trafficking, labor trafficking, and cross-border trafficking.

COLLABORATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS:

- ✦ Working closely with NGOs, international organizations, and law enforcement agencies to ensure comprehensive case management.
- ✦ Engaging in public-private partnerships to address trafficking, particularly in sectors vulnerable to exploitation such as agriculture, mining, and domestic work.

PROMOTING AWARENESS AND EDUCATION:

- ✦ Prosecutors can play a role in educating the public and other stakeholders about the legal aspects of trafficking and the importance of reporting suspected cases.
- ✦ Conducting workshops and seminars to enhance the understanding of human trafficking laws among legal professionals and the general public.





CASE STUDY: ZAMBIA

CHALLENGES:

- * High levels of poverty and unemployment make individuals, especially women and children, vulnerable to trafficking.
- * Although Zambia has anti-trafficking laws, enforcement is inconsistent due to corruption and lack of resources.
- * The NPA faces challenges in securing convictions due to weak evidence, lack of resources, and limited public awareness.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- * Efforts are being made to strengthen and enforce existing laws, including training prosecutors and law enforcement.
- * Zambia collaborates with neighboring countries to tackle cross-border trafficking, with the NPA playing a central role in these efforts.
- * Non-governmental organizations are active in raising awareness and providing victim support services, which prosecutors can utilize to build stronger cases and support victims during trials.



SUMMARY (CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS)



Conclusion

To effectively combat human trafficking, a multifaceted approach is crucial. This includes:

- * Addressing root causes and immediate risks
- * Strengthening legal frameworks and international cooperation for successful prosecution and prevention
- * Investing in socio-economic development to reduce vulnerabilities
- * Collaboration between governments, international organizations, and civil society to protect vulnerable populations and ensure justice for victims

Prosecutors within the National Prosecution Authority (NPA) play a vital role in driving these efforts forward, ensuring accountability, and safeguarding victims. Their work is essential to creating a comprehensive and effective response to human trafficking.



Recommendations

POLICY DEVELOPMENT:

- * Governments should develop and implement comprehensive anti-trafficking policies and ensure robust enforcement.
- * Prosecutors should be involved in policy formulation to ensure that legal frameworks are practical and enforceable.

CAPACITY BUILDING:

- * Continuous training and capacity-building initiatives for all stakeholders involved in combating trafficking, with a focus on legal professionals.
- * Establish specialized trafficking units within the NPA to focus on prosecuting human trafficking cases.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

- * Engage local communities in prevention efforts and victim support mechanisms.
- * Prosecutors can work with community leaders to raise awareness and encourage reporting of trafficking activities.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION:

- * Foster international and regional partnerships to combat trafficking networks effectively.
- * Prosecutors should actively participate in international legal networks and forums to share knowledge and strategies for combating trafficking.

Q&A

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