

# Trafficking, Infrastructure, and Regional Economic Integration Experience of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)

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The logo of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), consisting of the letters "ADB" in a white serif font on a dark blue square background.

# Dynamics of Human Trafficking

- See Handout
  - (Source: ADB. 2003. *Combating Trafficking of Women and Children in South Asia. Regional Synthesis Paper for Bangladesh, India, and Nepal.* pp. 42)

# Types of Antitrafficking Programs

- Prevention (e.g., awareness raising, vulnerable group empowerment)
- Rescue/protection/repatriation (e.g., PPP in raid, legal assistance, shelters)
- Reintegration (e.g., psycho rehab, skills development)
- Tools – regional and national policies, action plans, research, targeted assistance, legal support, etc.

# ADB's Approach to Trafficking in Persons (TIP)

- Since the late 1990s, grew with poverty reduction and regional cooperation strategies
- Driven by gender specialists and transport, tourism, and regional cooperation staff

# ADB's Approach to Trafficking in Persons (TIP)

- Focus on
  - Partnerships
  - Prevention in transport corridor projects and large-scale infrastructure (along with HIV)
  - Gender dimensions
- TIP an opportunity for building a case of “good” regional economic integration

# Key Achievements

## Policy level

- Three regional technical assistance completed (1 South Asia, 2 GMS), one ongoing
- Evidence collected on impact of regional economic integration on trafficking vulnerabilities

# Key Achievements

## Policy level

- Partnerships built with regional mechanisms (e.g. COMMIT), UN, NGOs, and other partners
- TIP one of the issues in ADB's regional cooperation and economic integration strategy—most successful in GMS

# Key Achievements

## Project level

- Trafficking prevention in 16 road projects across Asia
- Trafficking risks assessment part of mandatory social analysis

# Road Projects with Trafficking Prevention Component (2002–2007)

Afghanistan	North–South Corridor Project (2006)
Bangladesh	Padma Multipurpose Bridge Design Project (2007)
	Road Network Improvement and Maintenance II (2003)
Cambodia	GMS: Southern Coastal Corridor Project (2007)
	GMS: Rehabilitation of the Railway in Cambodia (2006)
PRC	Taiyuan–Zhongwei Railway (2006)
	Southern Gansu Roads Development (2006)
India	National Highway Sector II (2004)
	National Highway Sector I (2003)
Kyrgyz Republic	Southern Transport Corridor Road Rehabilitation Project (2004)

# Road Projects with Trafficking Prevention Component (2002–2007)

Lao PDR	Basic Education Sector Development Program (2006) GMS Northern Economic Corridor (2002)
Mongolia	Regional Road Development Project (2004)
Nepal	Road Connectivity Sector I Project (2006)
Tajikistan	Dushanbe–Kyrgyz Border Road Rehabilitation Project II (2005)
Viet Nam	GMS: Kunming–Hai Phong Transport Corridor–Noi Bai–Lao Cai Highway Project (2007) GMS: Kunming–Hai Phong Transport Corridor: Yen Vien–Lao Cai Railway Upgrading (2006)

# TIP Prevention in Transport Projects

- Components typically include awareness raising among construction workers, communities, and/or local governments provided by NGOs or consultants
- TIP component added to core labor standards for construction workers
- All TIP components are together with HIV components
- Need for a comprehensive review of 16 projects—available documentation limited

# Preliminary Lessons Learned from Prevention Components—1

- Some short-lived or cancelled (e.g., Kyrgyz Republic)
- Modes of implementation matter
  - Ministry of transport vs. TIP ministries
  - Loan component vs. stand-alone TA grant project
  - Pros and cons of linking with HIV component
  - WHO selects implementing NGOs and consultants
  - Realistic expectation of contractors expertise and obligations

# Preliminary Lessons Learned from Prevention Components—2

- Awareness raising designs matter—e.g., target groups, quality of IEC materials, content of message, media used (e.g. radio, ethnic language)

# Preliminary Lessons Learned from Prevention Components—3

- Careful site selection criteria for prevention programs along transport projects is important
- Quality research—both at the design stage and during evaluation—is key for effective awareness raising

# Preliminary Lessons Learned from Prevention Components—4

- Role of economic empowerment as TIP prevention—insufficient experience but tends to be dropped as a means to TIP prevention
- Need time to move from “project by project” approach to a more programmatic and systematic approach

# Next Steps (2008–2010)

- **Prevention**

Review of effectiveness of selected components included in selected roads projects

# Next Steps (2008–2010)

- **Regional institutionalization**  
Start-up support to Social Development and Labor Migration subgroups under Working Group on Human Resource Development (WGHRD) in GMS to cover regional cross-cutting issues related to ADB-assisted GMS programs

# Next Steps (2008–2010)

- **Replication**

GMS's successful subregional cooperation as model to other subregions

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