

## INFORMATION SHEET

### **‘Vulnerability’ to Human Trafficking: A Study of Vietnam, Albania, Nigeria and the UK**

*A partnership between The University of Bedfordshire and the International Organization for Migration (IOM)*

#### **Background: Why is this research being carried out?**

This research seeks to improve understanding of causes, dynamics and ‘vulnerabilities’ to human trafficking of both adults and children in three source countries - Vietnam, Albania and Nigeria. It also seeks to improve understanding of the consequences and support needs of people from these three countries who arrive into the UK having experienced trafficking. We will examine contextual factors that lead to trafficking and seek to identify ‘good practice’ in prevention, identification, protection and interventions that support people who have experienced trafficking.

There are many different reasons why human trafficking can occur. IOM has developed a ‘Determinants of Vulnerability Model’ to help understand human trafficking and migration more broadly. This model focuses on both the ‘vulnerabilities’ and ‘capacities’ of people who may experience trafficking at five different levels; individual factors, household and family factors, community factors, structural factors and situational factors. Within this model each factor, at each level, can be considered as a risk or protective factor, depending on the context.

We will use the IOM Determinants model to help shape this study. We want to gain a more informed understanding of ‘vulnerability’ to trafficking at every level using the individual, household and family, community and structural factors outlined in the model. This also means using the model to take into account the characteristics contributing to migrant resilience. This research will subsequently inform this framework in respect of human trafficking in Vietnam, Albania and Nigeria.

This research will contribute to richer, more nuanced and contextually-based understandings of ‘vulnerabilities’ and ‘capacities’ that can support identification, referral and assistance in each of the countries. This will also enhance understandings of the support needs of people from these countries in the UK.

#### **Aims of Research:**

1. Explore socio-economic and political conditions plus other contextual factors that create ‘vulnerability’ and ‘resilience’ to adult and child trafficking in Vietnam, Albania and Nigeria
2. Utilise and refine the IOM Determinants Model of Vulnerability
3. Review existing academic and ‘grey’ literature on trafficking within and from Vietnam, Albania and Nigeria, particularly focusing on prevention, identification, protection and interventions involving good practice
4. Explore the support needs of people who have experienced trafficking or exploitation from Vietnam, Albania and Nigeria and have arrived into the UK

#### **What are the main questions being asked?**

1. What are the main causes and determinants of ‘vulnerability’ to human trafficking and exploitation within Vietnam, Albania and Nigeria?

2. How is the issue of vulnerability to trafficking and exploitation understood and perceived in Vietnam, Albania and Nigeria, including at individual, household and family, community and structural levels?
3. What are the support needs of people who have experienced trafficking from these countries to the UK based on their respective countries of origin?

### **How will the research be carried out?**

Initially, we will hold 'Shared Learning Events' in Vietnam, Albania and Nigeria to explore what is already known about 'vulnerability' and resilience to trafficking and to develop ethically-informed research tools to conduct this study. These events will involve presentations, workshops and discussions about the contextual factors that lead to trafficking in each country.

Semi-structured interviews with key informants, people from Vietnam, Albania and Nigeria who have experienced trafficking and those who work with them.

A desk-based literature review of existing knowledge, particularly focusing on causes of trafficking and good practice in prevention, identification, protection and interventions.

The quantitative aspect of this proposal relates to data extraction and analysis from IOM's human trafficking databases and locally held databases, allowing insights into contextual factors in Vietnam, Albania and Nigeria. In addition, 'Communities of Practice' will be established within and across the three IOM country offices and the UK to allow space for reflection and learning.

### **How will the research be used at the end of the study?**

There are a number of accessible key outputs planned from this project which include:

- A short report synthesising learning from Shared Learning Events held during 2017 in Vietnam, Albania and Nigeria
- A literature review of academic and 'grey' literature, focusing on good practice in identifying and supporting those who have experienced trafficking
- Contextually based Ethical Research Protocols
- A Good Practice Guide
- Final Conference presentations by the research team, including Vietnam, Albania and Nigeria points of contact within IOM
- Final Report

Further dissemination of findings to maximise impact will include papers presented at international conferences, high quality scholarly outputs in high impact journals, plus presentations to policy and practice audiences. Reports from the research will be included on IOM publications pages and disseminated through each participating country office.

### **Who is funding this research?**

The Modern Slavery Innovation Fund at the UK Home Office.

### **Who will provide Governance for this project?**

An Expert Reference Group will be established to provide oversight and quality assurance for this project.

### **Contact Information**

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