Our Lives. Vulnerability and Resilience Among Indonesian Trafficking Victims

Summary Report

2017

Rebecca Surtees
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This study is dedicated to Indonesian trafficking victims and their family members who are in the process of recovery and reintegration. We are especially grateful to the 108 trafficking victims who graciously and generously participated in this research project and from whom we have learned a great deal about risk and resilience in their daily lives before and after trafficking.
Foreword from the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection

With mercy and blessings of God. Greetings for all of us.

The criminal act of trafficking in persons is a form of modern slavery. It not only happens domestically, within Indonesia but also transnationally. The crime is committed by a chain of individual and organized perpetrators.

The modus and objective of the criminal act of trafficking in persons keeps developing and changing over time. Many perpetrators of human trafficking exploit their victims economically, physically or sexually. Perpetrator often deceive their victims, promising jobs with a large salary. However, in reality, victims often arrive in the place of exploitation where they are forced to work in prostitution and other sectors, receiving very low wages or often no salary at all. Recently, human trafficking in Indonesia has also often involved trafficking in body organs and the sale of babies.

Various regulations and/or policies have been issued as the legal foundation in the effort to prevent, treat and eradicate of trafficking in persons. This includes Law number 21/2007 on the Eradication of the Criminal Act of Trafficking in Persons; Government Regulation number 9/2008 on the Procedure and Mechanism of Integrated Services for Witnesses and/or Victims of Trafficking; Presidential Regulation number 69/2008 on the Task Force for the Prevention and Control of Trafficking in Persons; and other regulations. These regulations and policies state that every trafficking witness and/or victim has right of health rehabilitation services, social rehabilitation, repatriation, social reintegration, legal aid and restitution.

The publication of the book, Our lives. Vulnerability and resilience among Indonesian trafficking victims, presents the experiences of surviving trafficking victims and the family members of these trafficking victims. This book is expected to offer greater understanding and sensitivity in our efforts to increase prevention and to fulfill and realize the rights of trafficking victim and/or witness.

Finally, I hope that the book Our lives. Vulnerability and resilience among Indonesian trafficking victims can offer maximum advantage to women’s protection programs, especially programs for trafficking victims. I also want to express my gratitude and highest appreciation to the writers and editors, especially Rebecca Surtees, who has poured much energy and thought into the study, and to all parties who supported the preparation and publication of this book.

With mercy and blessings of God.

Dr. Wahyu Hartomo, M.Sc
Secretary
Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection
Jakarta, March 2017
Foreword from the Ministry of Social Affairs

We are thankful for God’s blessing and grace that the research study on the reintegration of trafficked persons in Indonesia has been prepared by NEXUS Institute of the United States of America. This report is the second study prepared by NEXUS, entitled Our lives. Vulnerability and resilience among Indonesian trafficking victims and focuses on the wider dynamics in the lives of trafficking victims.

Issues and social problems are, from year to year, always increasing, along with the complexity of human life. One of the issues that is our concern is the phenomenon of human trafficking. Victims of trafficking are among those persons with social welfare problems (Penyandang Masalah Kesejahteraan Sosial or PMKS). The Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia is mandated to provide them with social welfare services. The forms of human trafficking that are handled by the Ministry of Social Affairs are, among others, child labor, forced labor, involuntary servitude, child sexual exploitation, prostitution, forced labor migration as well as other forms of violence.

The United States Department of State, in 2010, stated that Indonesia is a major source country for human trafficking. It is also a transit and destination country for women, children and men who are subjected to human trafficking, particularly for prostitution and forced labor. It occurs due to unsafe migration in Indonesia. Trafficking seems to be an integral part of the migration process itself - from falsification of legal documents to the falsification of identity and age, from prospective migrants’ lack of information to the lack of protection from the State. The above empirical facts need to be seriously addressed by various elements of society to tackle trafficking.

The NEXUS Institute’s research findings – on human trafficking, the melancholy experiences of the victims, the source areas of victims of trafficking in Indonesia – provide a picture of the scope of human trafficking in Indonesia. It is a sort of map which can serve as a reference and referral; a compass that can help us to be more focused and concerned in moving forward in handling cases and assisting victims of trafficking in Indonesia.

I would like give the highest appreciation for the research findings that have an important strategic value in efforts to end trafficking. Hopefully in the future we will continue our cooperation to follow up and operationalize the research findings to improve the quality of services for Indonesian victims of trafficking.

Finally, I would like to thank you for the publication these research findings. I hope that this book can inspire anti-trafficking stakeholders to provide better services to victims of trafficking in Indonesia.

Dr. Sonny W. Manalu, MM
Director of Social Rehabilitation for Socially Disadvantaged and Victims of Trafficking, Ministry of Social Affairs
Jakarta, December 2016
Preface

The vision that inspired the creation of the NEXUS Institute included addressing the need for independent in-depth research and analysis on human trafficking to support the development and implementation of more effective laws, policies and practices to combat human trafficking and to assist trafficking victims to recover and rebuild their lives. While research on human trafficking around the world has grown and improved since NEXUS began more than a decade ago, there is still a great need for thoughtful analysis of more in-depth data and evidence to provide meaningful guidance for improved laws, policies and practices.

Our lives. Vulnerability and resilience among Indonesian trafficking victims is the second in a series of three research studies on reintegration undertaken by NEXUS within the framework of a multi-year research project in Indonesia supported by the United States Department of State’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. Despite assertions around the world that more “data” on human trafficking is needed, this type of commitment to research that involves in-depth data collection and analysis remains relatively rare. In supporting this work, the State Department demonstrates that it recognizes and appreciates that high quality and independent analysis of intensive field-based research provides the essential foundation for achieving improved long-term outcomes against human trafficking.

This series of reports advances the overall body of knowledge in at least three key ways:

First, this is among only a very few studies thus far utilizing longitudinal methodology in the field of human trafficking. The project’s multi-year framework has permitted NEXUS researchers to undertake the labor-intensive and challenging process of conducting multiple interviews over time with victims of trafficking and their families. As a result, NEXUS has been able to piece together a fuller picture of the lives of trafficking victims, including important aspects of their lives before and after trafficking. In future, longitudinal studies that reveal the stories of victims of trafficking over even longer periods of time than were possible here will be recognized as essential for designing and implementing more effective and appropriate institutional responses to prevention, protection/assistance and prosecution of human trafficking cases. This research is an early meaningful step in that direction.

Second, NEXUS has expanded the pool of research participants by identifying and interviewing trafficking victims whom authorities and others – sometimes in multiple
countries – had not previously identified as having been trafficked. This approach, which is a hallmark of NEXUS' research, strengthens the overall understanding of human trafficking by including the experiences of a broader sample population of surviving trafficking victims than occurs when research is limited solely to those officially or formally identified.

Finally, the scope of our research adopts a perspective that victims of trafficking should not be defined solely by their trafficking experience. As a result, this report sheds light on the broader contours of the lives of victims of trafficking. It looks, for example, at the existence of vulnerabilities, life challenges, and needs in the lives of individuals during a wider swath of their lives to include those that existed pre-trafficking, those that arose or were accentuated during and because of trafficking, and those that developed after the individual's rescue or escape and return home. To help round out the picture further, this research includes the perspective of family members and members of the community, when possible and appropriate. Understanding the more all-encompassing range of vulnerabilities, life challenges and needs – as this report describes – will contribute to developing more tailored and successful assistance and care.

Governments have international legal obligations to assist and protect victims of trafficking and to work in cooperation with local organizations and civil society to accomplish this. Fortunately, there is now increasingly strong research and analysis to help guide governments toward satisfying these obligations. It is my hope that this report, and the larger body of research conducted for this project, will contribute toward purposeful implementation of better reintegration and support practices in countries around the world.

I invite those who care about human trafficking and related issues and are interested in being part of seeking solutions to follow our work at [www.NEXUSInstitute.net](http://www.NEXUSInstitute.net) and @NEXUSInstitute.

Stephen Charles Warnath
Founder, President & CEO
The NEXUS Institute
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Washington, D.C. 20005
[www.NEXUSInstitute.net](http://www.NEXUSInstitute.net)
@NEXUSInstitute
Acknowledgements

The project (Protecting the Unassisted and Underserved. Evidence-Based Research on Assistance and Reintegration in Indonesia) is generously funded by the U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP). We are grateful for J/TIP’s support and dedication to enhanced reintegration efforts in Indonesia and globally.

Thanks are also due to the Government of Indonesia – namely, the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Kementerian Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak) and the Ministry of Social Affairs (Kementerian Sosial Republik Indonesia) – which have been supportive of the research project from the outset, recognizing the importance of an enhanced reintegration response to better assist Indonesian trafficking victims, their families and communities.

We are especially grateful to the many Indonesian men and women who participated in this research, sharing their experiences of exploitation as well as the successes and challenges they have faced after trafficking. We also thank their family members who helped us to understand life after trafficking, not only for trafficked persons but also for their families.

Thanks are also due to the many professionals working on victim assistance in Indonesia who were interviewed for this study, often on multiple occasions. Staff of the following government institutions were generous with their time, knowledge and expertise:

- Kementerian Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak (Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection of Indonesia), particularly Bagian perlindungan korban perdagangan orang (Victims of Trafficking Protection Unit) and P2TP2A (Pusat Pelayanan Terpadu Perlindungan Perempuan dan Anak or Integrated Service Center for Protection of Women and Children) in Sukabumi, Cianjur, Bogor and Jakarta.
- Kementerian Sosial Republik Indonesia (Ministry of Social Affairs), including: Direktorat Rehabilitasi Sosial Tuna Sosial dan Korban Perdagangan Orang (Directorate of Social Rehabilitation for the Socially Disadvantaged and Trafficking Victims); Direktorat Perlindungan Sosial Korban Tindak Kekerasan dan Pekerja Migran (Directorate of Social Protection for Victims of Violence and Migrant Workers); RPTC (Rumah Perlindungan dan Trauma Center or House of Protection and Trauma Center) in Jakarta and Sukabumi; Rumah Perlindungan Sosial Wanita (Social Protection Home for Women); Panti Sosial Karya Wanita (Social Homes for Women); LK3 (Lembaga Konsultasi Kesejahteraan Keluarga or Family Welfare Consultation) including LK3 Kesuma in Bogor and LK3 Dinsos Sukabumi; Dinas Tenaga Kerja, Sosial dan Transmigrasi Kabupaten Bogor (Social, Manpower and Transmigration Bureau of Bogor); Dinas Sosial Kabupaten Sukabumi (Social Bureau of Sukabumi); and TKSK (Tenaga Kesejahteraan Sosial Kecamatan or Voluntary Community Workers) of Ciawi of Bogor.

The following organizations also gave generously of their time and expertise, meeting with us on multiple occasions and discussing issues and challenges faced by victims over the course of recovery and reintegration. Our thanks to: ATKI (Asosiasi Tenaga Kerja Indonesia or Association of Indonesian Migrant Workers); LBH Jakarta (Lembaga Bantuan Hukum Jakarta or Jakarta Legal Aid Institute); PBHI Jakarta (Perhimpunan Bantuan Hukum dan HAM Indonesia Jakarta or Indonesian Legal Aid and Human Rights Association of Jakarta); PBM (Peduli Buruh Migran or Caring for Migrant Workers); SBMI (Serikat Buruh Migran Indonesia or Indonesian Migrant Workers Union) – including SBMI DPN (Dewan Pimpinan Nasional or National Board of SBMI, SBMI DPW (Dewan Pimpinan Wilayah Jawa Barat or Regional Board of West Java), SBMI Cianjur, SBMI Sukabumi, SBMI Cirebon, SBMI
Banyuwangi; FORWA (Forum Wanita Afada or Afada Women Forum) of Sukabumi; SBMC (Solidaritas Buruh Migran Cianjur or Migrant Workers Solidarity of Cianjur); SBMK (Solidaritas Buruh Migran Karawang or Migrant Workers Solidarity of Karawang); SP (Solidaritas Perempuan or Women's Solidarity for Human Rights); SPILN (Serikat Pekerja Indonesia Luar Negeri or Overseas Indonesian Workers Union); TIFA Foundation; Solidarity Center; ICMC (International Catholic Migration Commission); IOM (International Organization for Migration); AAPTIP (Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons); Bandungwangi Foundation of Jakarta; Bahtera Foundation of Bandung; Institut Perempuan (Institute for Women) of Bandung; FWBMI (Forum Warga Buruh Migran Indonesia or Citizen’s Forum of Indonesian Migrant Workers of Cirebon); WCC (Women’s Crisis Center Balqis of Cirebon); Yayasan Kusuma Bongas of Indramayu; Jalin CIPANNAS of Indramayu; Kesuma Foundation; APSAKI (Assosiasi Pekerja Sosial Anak dan Keluarga Indonesia or Social Worker Association of Children and Family); Bandung College of Social Work; Societa Foundation; Migrant Institute; Migrant CARE; JBM (Jaringan Buruh Migran or Network of Migrant Workers).

In addition, some organizations and institutions were of great assistance in contacting and facilitating access to the trafficked persons who have generously participated in this research project. This support was integral to the success of the research and we extend our sincere gratitude to the following organizations for their on-going support and assistance over the course of the project: Yayasan Bandungwangi Jakarta; Yayasan Bahtera Bandung; Institut Perempuan Bandung; FWBMI Cirebon; WCC Balqis Cirebon; Yayasan Kusuma Bongas Indramayu; Jalin CIPANNAS Indramayu; Dinsosnaktrans Kabupaten Bogor; TKSCKiawi Bogor; SP; PBM; SPILN; SBMK; SBMC; IOM; SBMI DPN; SBMI Cianjur, SBMI Cirebon, SBMI Banyuwangi and SBMI Sukabumi.

This research project would not have been possible without the hard work, dedication and expertise of my colleagues at NEXUS Institute. I am very grateful to Thaufiek Zulbahary and Suarni Daeng Caya who conducted the field research over the course of this multi-year project. They travelled across Java (in all weather, across all terrain, during weekends and holidays and into distant communities) to meet with and learn from trafficking victims and a wide range of key informants. We have also spent long hours together discussing and analyzing these experiences as well as considering how reintegration efforts might be improved. They also made a substantial contribution to this study, having reviewed and provided feedback into this study at various stages of the drafting process. In addition, Thaufiek Zulbahary translated the study into Bahasa Indonesia. Laura S. Johnson contributed to the study through data analysis as well as reviewing and providing invaluable feedback into this study throughout the drafting process. She also designed and copy-edited the report and provided extensive support throughout as well as demonstrated endless patience over the course of this complex project. Pattarin Wimolpitayarat was of great assistance in cleaning and coding the transcripts as well as other important support tasks. Sheila Berman provided administrative and moral support throughout the project. Peter Biro’s compelling photographs of daily life in communities Indonesia are another important contribution to this study and project. Thanks also to the translators, transcribers and assistants: Umi Farida, Gracia Asriningsih, Idaman Andarmosoko, Achmad Hasan, Santi Octaviani, Nur Yasni, Ilmi Suminar-Lashley, Elanvito, Ismira Lutfia Tisnadibrata, Ni Loh Gusti Madewanti, Ratih Islamiy Sukma, Susiladiharti, Nike Sudarman, Chandrasa Edhityas Sjamsudin, Yunda Rusman and Raymond Kusnadi. Finally, sincere thanks to Stephen Warnath, Founder, President and CEO of the NEXUS Institute for his oversight of the project and his input and technical advice on all papers in this research series. We have all benefited from his expertise and guidance throughout this complex project.

Rebecca Surtees
Senior Researcher
NEXUS Institute
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### Acronyms and abbreviations

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<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AK</td>
<td>Akte Kelahiran (birth certificate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BPJS</td>
<td>Badan Penyelenggara Jaminan Sosial (Social Security Agency)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEBA</td>
<td>Group Economic Business Assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDR</td>
<td>Indonesian Rupiah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IO</td>
<td>international organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOM</td>
<td>International Organization for Migration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JKN</td>
<td>Jaminan Kesehatan Nasional (National Health Insurance Program)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEJAR</td>
<td>Kelompok Belajar (Studying Group or Working Group)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIS card</td>
<td>Kartu Indonesia Sehat (Healthy Indonesia Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KJS card</td>
<td>Kartu Jakarta Sehat (Jakarta Health Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KK</td>
<td>Kartu Keluarga (Family Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KPPPA</td>
<td>Kementerian Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak (Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KTKLN</td>
<td>Kartu Tenaga Kerja Luar Negeri (Foreign Employment Identity Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KTP</td>
<td>Kartu Tanda Penduduk (Personal Identity Card)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUA</td>
<td>Kantor Urusan Agama (Office of Religious Affairs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUBE</td>
<td>Kelompok Usaha Bersama (Group Economic Business Assistance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LK3</td>
<td>Lembaga Konsultasi Kesejahteraan Keluarga (Family Welfare Consultation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LPSK</td>
<td>Lembaga Perlindungan Saksi dan Korban (Witnesses and Victims Protection Agency)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSPS</td>
<td>Lembaga Sertifikasi Pekerja Sosial (Social Worker Certification Agency/Body)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M&amp;E</td>
<td>monitoring and evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MA</td>
<td>Madrasah Aliyah (Islamic senior high school)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAK</td>
<td>Madrasah Aliyah Kejuruan (Islamic secondary vocational education)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MBR</td>
<td>Masyarakat Berpenghasilan Rendah (low-income communities)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MI</td>
<td>Madrasah Ibtidaiyah (Islamic elementary school)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoSA</td>
<td>Ministry of Social Affairs (Kementerian Sosial Republik Indonesia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MoWECP</td>
<td>Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (Kementerian Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MT</td>
<td>Madrasah Tsanawiyah (Islamic junior high school)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>non-governmental organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTB</td>
<td>Nusa Tenggara Barat (West Nusa Tenggara)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTT</td>
<td>Nusa Tenggara Timur (East Nusa Tenggara)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P2TP2A</td>
<td>Pusat Pelayanan Terpadu Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Anak (Integrated Service Center for Women and Children)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PKBM</td>
<td>Pusat Kegiatan Belajar Masyarakat (Community Learning Center)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PKL</td>
<td>Perjanjian Kerja Laut (Sea Employment Contract)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLAT</td>
<td>Pusat Pelayanan Anak Terpadu (Integrated Services for Children)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNS</td>
<td>Pegawai Negeri Sipil (Civil Servants)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSBR</td>
<td>Panti Sosial Bina Remaja (Youth Center)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviation</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
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<tr>
<td>RPSA</td>
<td>Rumah Perlindungan Sosial Anak (Social Protection Home for Children)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPSW</td>
<td>Rumah Perlindungan Sosial Wanita (Social Protection Home for Women)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPTC</td>
<td>Rumah Perlindungan dan Trauma Center (House of Protection and Trauma Center)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RT</td>
<td>Rukun Tetangga (neighborhood)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RTLH</td>
<td>Rutilahu or Rumah Tidak Layak Huni (Uninhabitable Homes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RW</td>
<td>Rukun Warga (harmonious citizens)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SATGAS</td>
<td>Satuan Tugas (Entry Point Task Force)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD</td>
<td>Sekolah Dasar (elementary school)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SKCK</td>
<td>Surat Ketrangan Catatan Kepolisian (police reference letter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMA</td>
<td>Sekolah Menengah Atas (senior high school)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMK</td>
<td>Sekolah Menengah Kejuruan (secondary vocational education)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMP</td>
<td>Sekolah Menengah Pertama (junior high school)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMU</td>
<td>Sekolah Menengah Umum (senior high school)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TKI</td>
<td>Tenaga Kerja Indonesia (Indonesian migrant worker)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TKIB</td>
<td>Tenaga Kerja Indonesia Bermasalah (Indonesian migrant worker who faces problems)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TKS3K</td>
<td>Tenaga Kesejahteraan Sosial Kecamatan (Sub-district Social Welfare Worker)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>United Arab Emirates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPPA</td>
<td>Unit Pelayanan Perempuan dan Anak (Women and Children Services Unit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USD</td>
<td>United States Dollar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Introduction
When trafficked persons escape their exploitation, it is often only the beginning of a complex and taxing process. Trafficked persons must recover from the very serious and debilitating effects of trafficking exploitation. They may have a range of short- and long-term assistance needs, which are directly related to and caused by their trafficking experiences, including issues related to housing and accommodation, physical and mental health, their economic situations, education and training, safety and security, legal status, legal issues and needs within the family. In addition, human trafficking is largely a function of broader, structural inequality and individual vulnerability, which means that trafficked persons must also navigate and tackle underlying and pre-existing vulnerabilities that contributed to being trafficked and have the potential to undermine reintegration. Vulnerabilities and resiliencies are also influenced by external factors such as the family and community settings into which trafficked persons seek to reintegrate, which may fluctuate and change over time.

This paper discusses what Indonesian trafficking victims have identified as vulnerabilities and resiliencies at different stages of their lives (before trafficking, as a result of trafficking and over the course of recovery and reintegration) and in relation to the family and community environment. It also explores victims’ different assistance needs over the course of reintegration and makes recommendations for how these needs can best be met.

This paper is part of a research series of papers produced in the context of the NEXUS Institute’s longitudinal research project, Protecting the Unassisted and Underserved. Evidence-Based Research on Assistance and Reintegration, Indonesia, which aims to enhance the evidence base about successful reintegration of Indonesian trafficking victims. It is one of a series of papers generously funded by the United States Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP).
2. Research methodology

2.1 Research methodology and data collection

Two rounds of interviews with trafficked persons (n=108), including 49 males and 59 females in Jakarta, West Java (Bandung, Bogor, Cianjur, Cirebon, Indramayu, Karawang and Sukabumi), Central Java, East Java and South Sulawesi. Second round interviews were conducted with 66 respondents (24 males and 42 females) typically six to nine months after the first interview.

Informal communication with trafficked persons. Researchers had informal contact and communication with 30 respondents between interviews - speaking by telephone, exchanging text messages and meeting informally during fieldwork.

Interviews with family and friends of trafficked persons (with victim’s consent). We interviewed 34 family members (spouses, parents, siblings, children, grandparents, aunts/uncles, nieces/nephews and in-laws) about how they experienced and coped with their loved one’s absence while trafficked, his/her return home and the process of recovery and reintegration. We also interviewed 31 persons from respondents' social environment – primarily friends and neighbors.

Participant observation in the family and community environment. The research team generally spent two of four weeks each month conducting community-based fieldwork. Interactions included informal conversations and discussions (with individuals or groups), direct observation and participation in community events.

Interviews with key informants/stakeholders at national, district, sub-district and village level. We conducted 144 interviews with key informants between October 2013 and April 2016, including representatives of the Indonesian government (32), national and international NGOs (97), international organizations (5), donors/embassies (4) and academics/researchers (6). Twenty-five (25) informants were interviewed more than once. Key informants included administrators, policy-makers, law enforcement, medical personnel, social workers, lawyers and paralegals, village chiefs, teachers/principals, trade unionists and migrant worker activists.

2.2 Research sample. About the respondents

Sex and age. Of 108 trafficking victims, 49 were male and 59 were female. Respondents were almost exclusively adults when interviewed, although two respondents were 17 years old. Twelve individuals were trafficked as children, but adults when interviewed. Respondents ranged in age from 13 to 49 when trafficked. Age varied according to the form of exploitation. Women trafficked for sexual exploitation were generally much younger than victims of labor trafficking.

Table #1. Age of respondents when trafficked

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Males (n=49)</th>
<th>Females (n=59)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trafficked for fishing</td>
<td>Trafficked for other forms of labor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 18 years</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-29 years</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39 years</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49 years</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50+ years</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Education.** Most respondents (n=65) had some level of elementary school (24 males, 31 females); 17 respondents attended junior high (7 males, 10 females); 20 respondents attended senior high school (13 males, 7 females) and five respondents attended vocational school.

**Table #2. Education level of respondents**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of education</th>
<th>Males (n=49)</th>
<th>Females (n=59)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trafficked for fishing</td>
<td>Trafficked for other forms of labor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some elementary school (grade 1-6)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior high school (grade 7-9)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior high school (grade 10-12)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational school</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not answer</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Family situation.** Most respondents (61 out of 108) were married when trafficked and had one or two children (although some had more children). Thirty-one respondents were unmarried at the time of trafficking and did not have children, 14 were divorced or separated and two were widowed. However, trafficked persons’ family situations changed after return from trafficking and, in many situations, over the course of the research project. Some had since married and had children (or more children); other marriages and families had dissolved. Some trafficked persons’ marital status was in a state of flux during the project.

**Table #3. Family situation of respondents at time of trafficking**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital status (at time of trafficking)</th>
<th>Men trafficked for fishing</th>
<th>Women trafficked for domestic work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmarried</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Unmarried</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Divorced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Widowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children (at time of trafficking)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4+</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital status (at time of trafficking)</th>
<th>Men trafficked for other forms of labor</th>
<th>Women trafficked for sexual exploitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmarried</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Unmarried</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Divorced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Widowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children (at time of trafficking)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4+</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Area of origin and integration. Respondents originated from Jakarta (n=6), South Sulawesi (n=3), Central Java (n=15), East Java (n=1), Lampung (n=2) and seven districts in West Java (n=81), including Bandung (n=9), Bogor (n=5), Cianjur (n=11), Cirebon (n=11), Indramayu (n=16), Karawang (n=20) and Sukabumi (n=9). Most returned to live in their areas of origin after trafficking, although some were staying temporarily in Jakarta, permanently integrating in Jakarta or moving to new villages/communities in the province or district. Most respondents (102 of 108) were Sundanese (n=58) or Javanese (n=44).

Map #1. Districts and provinces of origin for 108 respondents

Forms of trafficking. Victims were trafficked for sexual exploitation (n=20) as well as for different forms of labor exploitation (n=88, including construction (n=3), domestic work (n=39), fishing (n=32), factory work (n=4), work on plantations (n=8) and work in a cleaning service (n=2). Some suffered multiple forms of exploitation – most commonly women trafficked for labor were also sexually abused or exploited.

Country of exploitation. Respondents were trafficked within Indonesia (n=19) as well as abroad (n=86). Three individuals were first trafficked within Indonesia and then abroad. Those trafficked abroad were exploited in 17 destination countries including in the Middle East (n=28) – Bahrain, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, UAE – and in Asia (n=35) – Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan (Province of China). Most men trafficked for fishing (n=23) were trafficked in less common destinations such as Ghana, Mauritius, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay. Some victims were exploited in more than one destination.
2.3 Data analysis
All interviews and field-notes were cleaned, coded and entered into the qualitative data analysis software NVivo 10. Data was analyzed according to principles of thematic analysis and the research team worked collaboratively in the identification of critical themes and issues. Analysis was contemporaneous with data collection, which allowed the team to follow up on issues and themes that arose during on-going fieldwork over time.

2.4 Ethical issues & considerations
We conducting research in communities with the utmost care, selecting only villages where we had working relationships with authorities or civil society and working with them to identify possible respondents. Potential respondents were only approached if we were able to do so safely and ethically. Respondents were first approached by an interlocutor (NGO staff, community leader, migrant worker activist, another migrant worker), who explained the research and also provided them with written information about the study. Respondents were given time to decide whether to participate in the research and were, under no circumstances, persuaded or pressured to participate. Interviews were conducted in a location chosen by the respondent. Each interview began with a detailed process of informed consent. After each interview, the researcher provided referral information about assistance options and spent time explaining possible assistance options and how to access them. Because compensation can potentially create a pressure to participate in research in ways that may compromise informed consent, compensation per se was not provided. Instead we reimbursed costs associated with the respondent’s involvement in the project – e.g. transportation costs and meals – and a small “gift” was given to each respondent to acknowledge and appreciate his/her important contribution to the project. Respondents were not immediately asked to participate in repeat interviews, but given time to reflect and decide about their subsequent participation. Researchers contacted respondents after several months to gauge their willingness to be re-interviewed and, if they agreed, the process detailed above was repeated. Particular attention was paid to the privacy, confidentiality and safety of respondents. All interviews were strictly confidential; interview transcripts were shared only within the research team and secured according to NEXUS’ internal data protection policies. This research was conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection in Indonesia. It was overseen by a reference group comprised of two research experts with experience in longitudinal research and research with trafficking victims.
3. Supporting successful reintegration

3.1 What is reintegration?
Reintegration is the process of recovery and economic and social inclusion following a trafficking experience. Successful reintegration is often comprised of different components including, for example, living in a safe and secure environment, access to a reasonable standard of living, mental and physical well-being, opportunities for personal, social and economic development, and access to social and emotional support.

Diagram #1. Successful reintegration

There are specific considerations, which may, cumulatively, indicate that a trafficked person has successfully reintegrated. These center around different aspects of an individual’s life and well-being as well as the broader family and social environment and may include: having a safe, satisfactory and affordable place to live; physical well-being; mental well-being; legal status; access to justice; safety and security; economic well-being; educational and training opportunities; healthy social environment and interpersonal relationships; and well-being of victims’ families and dependents.

Trafficked persons may reintegrate into different settings, depending upon individual needs, interests and opportunities, including in their home communities or a new community. Reintegration also takes place at different levels – at an individual level; within the trafficked person’s family environment; within the wider community; and also within the overarching formal society.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Different aspects of successful reintegration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• safe, satisfactory and affordable place to live</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• physical well-being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• mental well-being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• legal status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• access to justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• safety and security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• economic well-being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• educational and training opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• healthy social environment and interpersonal relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• well-being of family and dependents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2 What is reintegration assistance?

A comprehensive package of reintegration assistance includes the following services: housing or accommodation, medical assistance, psychological support and counseling, education and life skills, economic opportunities, legal and administrative support, legal support during legal proceedings, family mediation and counseling, case management and assistance to family members, if needed. Trafficking victims may require a single service (e.g. transportation, emergency medical care, job placement) or multiple services (e.g. a combination of housing, medical assistance, psychological care, legal support, education and vocational training). Services may be trafficking-specific – e.g. offered by anti-trafficking organizations and institutions – or they may be more general – e.g. offered by agencies/institutions working with vulnerable persons, returned migrants, community development, child protection.

Meaningful reintegration is a complex and costly undertaking, often requiring a full and diverse set of services for victims (and sometimes their families), who themselves have widely differing short- and long-term physical, psychological, social and economic needs. Once the immediate needs of trafficked persons have been met (e.g. emergency health needs, immediate protection and so on), many victims require further assistance to reintegrate into their families and communities (e.g. vocational training, economic support, long-term access to healthcare, counseling, education, family mediation and so on). Because reintegration can take years to achieve, programs should provide a range of services and long-term case management.

Indonesian trafficking victims are exploited for different purposes (for sexual exploitation and different forms of forced labor) and their distinct experiences of exploitation inform the types and amount of services they may require, the time needed to recover and so on. Some trafficked persons need many, even all, of the services listed above at some stage of their reintegration after trafficking. Others require one or two services and are able to draw on their personal, family and community resources to support their reintegration. Not all trafficked persons will require reintegration services. And some trafficked persons will not want or need the services that are offered or are available. Many trafficked persons reintegrate without any formal assistance, drawing on their personal, family and community resources. What services are required (if any) will depend on the specific situation and needs of each trafficking victim.
4. Understanding our lives after trafficking. Disentangling vulnerability & resilience

Trafficked persons have multi-layered vulnerabilities and resiliencies at various stages of their lives – before, during and after trafficking – which influence the support and services they may (or may not) need. Vulnerability and resilience are also influenced and created by the family and community environments into which trafficked persons seek to reintegrate and can fluctuate over time and in response to a range of factors.

![A former migrant worker in her home village in West Java. Photo: Peter Biro.](image)

4.1 Layered and mutually reinforcing vulnerability and resilience

Addressing injuries and assistance needs related to trafficking is crucial as a first step in recovery and longer-term reintegration. However, assistance needs are not only related to the impact and consequences of trafficking. Each individual trafficking victim has a distinct experience of life before, during and after exploitation, with his/her own unique vulnerabilities as well as sources of resilience and support. As relevant, therefore, is an individual’s situation preceding trafficking, as well as what happens in his/her life after trafficking exploitation ends.

This study is framed around these discrete layers of vulnerability and resilience — those directly connected with trafficking, those which were pre-existing and pre-dated trafficking and those that have emerged after and not necessarily linked to trafficking — all of which directly influence victims’ assistance needs and what services and support they may (or may not) require. In some cases, victims’ needs are discrete — linked to only one of these layers of vulnerability. In other cases, assistance needs are complex and tied both to the effects of trafficking and to trafficking victims’ general vulnerability, often anchored in structural inequalities.
Diagram #3. Intersecting vulnerabilities and resilience – before, during & after trafficking

**Overlapping and intersecting needs**

“Dewi” and her husband struggled to make ends meet at home and pay for the education of their three sons. She and her husband decided that she would migrate as a domestic worker, to feed and educate their children. She migrated to Malaysia where she was badly exploited – verbally abused, forced to work long hours and not paid for her work. After two years, she received news that her husband had died. She managed to leave her employer, returning to Indonesia with only 500,000 IDR [45USD]. Her situation once home was very difficult. She described how she was devastated by the loss of her husband and felt enormous pressure to care financially for her three young sons. The period after her return was also fraught with conflict with her mother-in-law who blamed her for her husband’s death. After a year, Dewi remarried to find help in raising her children and to avoid the stigma and gossip surrounding widowhood. But it amplified conflict with her mother-in-law. Initially the marriage to her second husband was successful and she was able to work and support her three children. Over the course of the next few years, however, conflict emerged between her children and their stepfather and also between herself and her second husband, including verbal abuse on his part. She then separated from her second husband.

Dewi’s story illustrates how an individual’s struggles do not trace back to one event or experience but can be part of a lengthy continuum of challenges and set-backs. Dewi had migrated as a domestic worker to support her family, due to the very poor economic situation in her family before trafficking. She faced problems as a result of trafficking, but also needed to navigate a range of interpersonal, social and on-going economic challenges that emerged over the course of her life after trafficking. Her vulnerabilities and problems were as much related to her pre-trafficking and post-trafficking experiences as to the impact of trafficking itself.

Vulnerabilities were often mutually reinforcing and coterminous. Many difficulties and needs were as much a result of broader social and economic vulnerabilities as a function of trafficking. Moreover, for some victims, their most pressing assistance needs were not caused by trafficking, but were linked to their social and economic exclusion and
vulnerability before and/or after trafficking. Disentangling when victims’ assistance needs are a consequence of trafficking or a function of social and/or economic vulnerability allows us to pinpoint when and how trafficking exploitation translates into distinct and specific needs which require a tailored response, and when trafficking victims’ needs might be addressed within the existing social protection framework.

Victims’ assistance needs cannot be understood separately from the socioeconomic and structural context from which trafficked persons originate and to which they return after their exploitation has ended. At the same time, while trafficking victims share many assistance needs with other vulnerable groups (and, in many cases, with the general population), this does not mean that specialized services for trafficking victims are not needed. It is also important that trafficking victims are treated sensitively and with respect by service providers.

4.2 Vulnerability & resilience within the family environment

Trafficked persons must recover and come to terms not only with their own exploitation, commonly involving multiple layers of violence and hardship, but also the reactions and responses of their family members. And the family of trafficked persons, who have also been negatively affected by the victim’s trafficking, must also navigate and manage the trafficked person’s reintegration. The family environment is diverse and highly complex, even contradictory. Some family environments were supportive and contributed to an individual’s reintegration success. In other cases, the family environment was destructive and worked against recovery and reintegration. In addition, some trafficked persons returned to families where they faced different reactions and responses from different people within the family. We also saw changes in the family over time and in response to different events and situations.

Supportive family – resilience & protection. While some respondents received short-term assistance (including temporary shelter) prior to returning home, the vast majority did not. Most relied on family for support (emotional, economic, physical) in the aftermath of trafficking and over the course of reintegration. Family was, for almost all victims, the primary source of support in the longer-term. And a number of respondents found this to be a safe, supportive and protected environment. They received love, support and acceptance at this very difficult and tense period of their lives; they were helped by their families to recover and reintegrate. That being said, while some families were supportive, they did not have the resources to support their loved one upon
return, which meant that some victims lacked a safety net even with a positive interpersonal family situation.

Unsupportive or disruptive family environment – risk & vulnerability. Family was not always the supportive environment that victims hoped for and needed. Some faced tension and conflict, anger and hurt, disappointment and blame. In some cases, an unsupportive family environment was largely an economic issue (e.g. economic pressure translated into tense family relationships). In other instances, family tensions and problems were a function of social and interpersonal dynamics. Some problems were instigated by trafficked persons who returned home stressed and anxious and struggled to behave and interact with family members in constructive and positive ways. And family members also reacted negatively to the returned trafficking victim – feeling disappointment and anger at his/her long absence, lack of communication and so on. It can be difficult to re-establish relationships within the family after long separations, with limited or no contact over the course of trafficking. An additional complexity was when family members were involved and complicit in the individual’s trafficking, making reintegration complicated and potentially unsafe.

A family having their evening meal in a small village near in West Java. Photo; Peter Biro.
Different reactions from different family members. Family members reacted differently to an individual’s return from trafficking and over the course of reintegration. Some respondents found home to be both supportive and unsupportive, positive and negative. While finding support from one family member, they faced problems and recrimination from others.

4.3 Vulnerability & resilience in the community
An important contributor to reintegration success was community support. In some situations, the community setting was a constructive and supportive setting; in other cases, victims were exposed to discrimination, exclusion, vulnerability and structural inequality.

The neighbors are the same [as in the past]. They never mocked me. No one did. (Man trafficked for labor)

[The neighbors] came over and greeted me [when I came home]. If people came over I told them my story. They said it was okay, the most important thing is that you came home safely and healthy. “We can get money fortune somewhere else”, they said. People came, I told them my story and they gave me support. That’s what happened... There were no [negative reactions]. They were nice, Alhamdulillah [thank God]. (Woman trafficked for domestic work)

Supportive & protective community setting. For many trafficked persons the community environment to which they returned was a positive and welcoming one. This was particularly the case for persons trafficked for labor, who often described receiving support and empathy upon their return home without money and often in a bad condition. In some instances, it was victims themselves who created tension by avoiding people due to shame and embarrassment about their failures. Some trafficking victims who did not have problems in the community attributed this success to the fact that they had not disclosed the exploitation they had faced, which seemingly prevented stigma or discrimination and allowed for a positive community setting.

Negative & unsupportive community setting. Some trafficked persons returned home to a less than positive community environment, facing gossip at having failed to migrate successfully. Shame was especially pronounced in situations when they knew others in their communities and social network who had migrated successfully. Some trafficked persons returned home stressed, anxious, depressed and generally unwell. Their behavior and reactions as a consequence were the source of gossip and criticism among neighbors and friends. In other cases, community gossip and censure related to “misdeeds” that trafficked persons were believed to have committed while away – for example, speculation of involvement in prostitution, adultery (when women were raped), having carelessly spent earnings while abroad, having committed a crime (when detained as an irregular migrant) and so on. Women trafficked into prostitution faced particular challenges in the community, particularly if people knew about their trafficking. In some cases, negative attitudes were linked to the individual’s exclusion before trafficking. A number of

“...the first time I came home, I just only met my wife because my family was indifferent. They knew that I came from the prison [abroad]. Only my wife still accepted me [...] even my own biological parents did not want to accept me at all. I did not know what the problem was. I visited them but they talked about different things. And other relatives did not comfort me. They stayed away from me” (Man trafficked for fishing returning home to a supportive wife but unsupportive relatives)

“The relationship with the community is not so good. I was a little bit intimidated by how they treated me. They teased me because I went abroad and did not bring money home. They said I was stupid.... That’s why honestly I don’t like to be in the village” (Man trafficked for fishing)

“...sometimes people said things to me. When I was still crying a lot, they said I was half crazy. I prayed. What if the same thing happened to them?... I let them insult me”. (Woman trafficked for domestic work)

“They called me a widow and discriminated against me as an ex-prostitute. (Woman trafficked for sexual exploitation)”
respondents were very vulnerable and socially ostracized generally which also came into play during reintegration.

A group of women stand outside their houses in a village in West Java. Photo: Peter Biro.

Some were badmouthing, but some were not. Some neighbors understood me. Some said what happened to me was just a bad luck because I went far away and did not succeed like the others. I told myself to just listen to them. But not all of them were like that. Some said I did something wrong there. I don’t understand why people talked like that about bad things that happened to other people. People’s destiny is in the hands of the Almighty. But some of my neighbors also think like that. Even the bad destiny is in the hands of God. (Woman trafficked for domestic work)

Different reactions from different community members. In many communities, reactions to and treatment of trafficked persons during reintegration differed from person to person. Trafficked persons described receiving support and understanding from some persons within their communities but not from others. That being said, it was generally possible to find someone (or some people) who were supportive in the community setting.

4.4 Vulnerability & resilience over time
Reintegration is often considered a long-term but relatively linear process, with trafficked persons passing, progressively, through stages that cumulatively result in recovery and reintegration. However, in practice, reintegration is intensely complex, impacted by a range of individual factors, as well as by the broader social and economic environment. It takes place over months and years and trafficked persons face a range of different (but interrelated) issues and obstacles that work against sustainable and successful reintegration. Over the course of reintegration trafficked persons experience “ups” and “downs”, successes and setbacks.
Diagram #4. Critical periods along the pathway to reintegration

Vulnerability and resilience often changed quite substantially over time, at different stages of recovery and reintegration. Critical periods along the pathway of recovery included exit/escape from trafficking, during the return process, upon the return home and at various intervals over the course of reintegration, sometimes up to many years.

**Improvements over time.** Many respondents faced problems immediately upon their return. These included economic issues, lack of employment, interpersonal tensions and conflict, psychological issues, being physically and emotionally unwell and so on. But, in many cases, these tensions and problems gave way and were addressed and trafficked persons described improvements in their lives and relationships over time.

At first my family still very much cared about me. But now they seem very reluctant to give out their money to me. ... now if I asked for their favor they seem very reluctant. Even my father said I have to get some work”. (Man trafficked for fishing)

**Deterioration over time.** Not all trafficked persons could rely on the passage of time translating into improvements. Some victims returned home to their families and were initially able to cope mentally and physically, but the situation deteriorated over time.

“I did not really go out at that time for about ten days. People were talking bad about it. They thought I did a really bad thing. [...] People talked, that hurt me. [...] I do not think people are still gossiping about me now. [...] It's been two years”. (Woman trafficked for domestic work)

**“Ups” and “downs” over time.** Interviewing respondents over time confirmed the often non-linear process of reintegration, revealing many “ups” and “downs”, “successes” and “failures” in their lives over time. Often issues and crises emerged which had the potential to derail reintegration success. Crises were particularly “risky” when individuals lacked any formal assistance or lacked a social safety net (in their families or communities).

“Tara”, trafficked for domestic work, was severely injured and scarred, having being tortured by her employers. She worked as a farmer but was struggling to support her teenage daughter. After some time, she remarried, with a man whom she loved and who treated her and her daughter well. They were all living together in their new house from which they were running a small shop. Her relationship with the community was also improved. However, several months later she faced a new crisis with her husband. She had learned that she was pregnant just prior to her husband’s departure for work in another province and had not told him about her pregnancy because she wanted to surprise him. However, when he came home for a visit, he accused her of being unfaithful and that the child was not his. He left again and had not been in touch since. She was devastated by his behavior and stressed by her situation as a pregnant woman living on her own. She was extremely depressed and uncertain of what to do. Moreover, she was unable to concentrate on her shop and the business was at risk of collapsing, leaving her without resources to support her family.
4.5 Issues & needs borne of vulnerability & resilience
Understanding vulnerability and resilience in trafficked persons' lives is a critical underpinning in the design of effective and appropriate reintegration policies and programs. Some issues and needs were a direct function of trafficking exploitation; others were linked to underlying social and economic vulnerabilities that preceded or followed on from trafficking. Some assistance needs were informed by vulnerability and resilience within the family and community and by changes (“ups” and “downs”) that took place in trafficked persons' lives over time. Indonesian trafficking victims articulated issues faced and assistance needs including:

- A place to live
- Health situation and physical well-being
- Psychological issues and mental and emotional well-being
- Financial and economic issues
- Education, life skills and professional training opportunities
- Protection, safety and security
- Legal status and identity
- Legal issues and proceedings
- Family issues and needs
5. A place to live

A safe and affordable place to live was an essential foundation for recovery in the immediate aftermath of trafficking and toward reintegration in the longer-term. And yet a place to live was something that many trafficked persons lacked – both before and after trafficking.

Diagram #6. Housing and accommodation needs over time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before trafficking</th>
<th>As a result of trafficking</th>
<th>During reintegration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Needing a place to live factored into many victims' decision to migrate.</td>
<td>Returning home without money or in debt inhibited victims' access to a safe and affordable place to live. Some trafficked persons had nowhere to live upon their return from trafficking.</td>
<td>Some trafficked persons had access to a safe and affordable place to live over time. Others, however, continued to face problems with housing and accommodation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.1 Housing & accommodation before trafficking
Needing “a place to live” was a primary driver in many victims’ decision to migrate. This included building a new home, buying land for a future home or repairing an existing home in need of repair or upkeep. For some this was about the physical act of having a home; for others it was about living independently and having greater control over their lives.

“[A]ll I knew was that if I was successful after working in Malaysia, I would have money so that I can buy a house for my family”. (Woman trafficked for domestic work)

5.2 Housing & accommodation needs as a result of trafficking
Most trafficking victims remitted or returned home with little or no money and were unable to build or renovate a home. Many lived in inadequate or substandard conditions, while others were obliged to live with family members, often with many people crowded into a small living space. Some trafficking victims had no place to live, having used their land or house as collateral when migrating or to cover family living expenses while trafficked.

“[A]fter trafficking] everything was heavy but the most hurtful was that I was cast out by my father. I did not know where to stay. I was sent from one place to another by my own parents. They did not seem to care at all. With my difficult condition, my stepmother, my father, nobody wanted to take care of me. I did not know if I would be harmed”. (Woman trafficked for sexual exploitation as a child)

Others did not have a place to live after trafficking because their families did not accept them home. Some trafficking victims required temporary accommodation immediately after return or exit as they could not return home or needed support before returning home. Others needed temporary accommodation while pursuing a legal case, filing a claim or dealing with other immediate issues and needs. There are limited options for accommodation or shelter for trafficking victims.

5.3 Housing & accommodation during reintegration
Some trafficked persons, over time, found or created a place to live, which contributed enormously to well-being for the individual and his/her family. However, many trafficking victims continued to face problems with housing. Long-term housing support or rental subsidies are not foreseen in the assistance for trafficking victims or exploited migrant workers. Some respondents moved to the capital Jakarta or other cities because they were unable to find regular employment in their home villages. This meant paying for housing both in Jakarta and for families at home. Some trafficked persons faced problems, discrimination and violence in their home environments, which interfered with and undermined reintegration. Some problems were within the family and the home itself, including domestic violence, psychological abuse and family conflict. Discrimination and stigma in the community led some victims to feel unsafe and uncomfortable; some left their home communities as a result.

“I was living there [in the past] but the house still belonged to my in-laws. It was not under my ownership. The house was not mine. Now the house belongs to me. […] It’s a very, very different feeling. When I was living with my in-laws, sometimes I felt uncomfortable and not that free. Now, by having our own residence, things are much more comfortable”. (Man trafficked for forced labor)
6. Health situation & physical well-being

Trafficked persons, regardless of the form of trafficking, described a raft of health issues and medical needs. Many health problems were a direct result of trafficking. Other health issues were pre-existing or had arisen over the course of reintegration.

**Diagram #7. Health and well-being needs over time**

**6.1 Health situation before trafficking**

Some trafficking victims had health problems before they migrated which led to (or at least contributed to) their decision to migrate for work in some cases. Some existing health problems were exacerbated by trafficking.

“Before trafficking

Health problems led to or contributed to the decision to migrate for work in some cases. Some existing health problems were exacerbated by trafficking.

6.2 Health issues as a result of trafficking**

Trafficking victims commonly developed health problems while trafficked. Many victims described arriving home unhealthy and in poor condition, often to the shock and dismay of family members. Health problems were caused by different factors including poor living conditions; inadequate food and water; dangerous and hazardous working conditions; violence and abuse; and lack of medical care while trafficked.

“After trafficking

Trafficking often resulted in severe health problems, including a range of illness or injuries. Trafficking victims often did not receive medical care while exploited.

“During return

Some health issues arose during escape or return. Escape and return was sometimes fraught with risk and exposure to violence.

“During reintegration

For some victims, health problems that arose as a consequence of trafficking went untreated and worsened over time. Others developed new health issues following their return from trafficking.

“During my work in the factory, I always got sick, usually lost consciousness. The doctor diagnosed that I had a liver infection. He said that I must have surgery. I knew that the cost was 90 million IDR [8,182USD]. I couldn’t afford that…”. (Woman trafficked for domestic work)

“When she returned from [the Middle East], she was sick. At that time from the airport she was being carried by the security guard. Even I, when she returned home, [thought]: “who is that person?” No, [I did not recognize her] because she lost a lot of her weight. She looked so different. [I thought], “Who is this person?” The difference was a lot. She was skinny, even more, she was scrawny”. (Family member of a woman trafficked for domestic work)

“I was so skinny when I returned. My parents cried. […] Yes, my parents and wife cried after I was back from [abroad], super skinny”. (Man trafficked for forced labor)

“They hit me with a hot iron if I did not want to [serve clients]. […] The bodyguards put it in the stove first. They said if I did not want to serve more, this is the torture. […] …they did it to my hand. […] The place was so strict. They tortured us if we did not want to serve clients”. (Woman trafficked for sexual exploitation as a girl)
6.3 Health issues during escape & return

In some instances, health issues arose directly before trafficked persons’ return home – e.g. when individuals were arrested and detained as irregular migrants or for crimes committed while trafficked (e.g. illegal fishing, prostitution). Trafficked persons who were held in detention centers reported substandard living conditions, including inadequate or poor quality food as well as verbal abuse, threats and intimidation by guards and authorities. Some were also physically or sexually abused. The return process itself was fraught with risk; some trafficked persons were exposed to violence during this period.

“I was being chased by ten men, maybe they wanted to rape me. I escaped from them. I kept running... I almost got raped by a man who was working in the jungle, collecting palm oil... He took me to his house and tied my hands. He tried to rape me... (Woman trafficked for domestic work, following her escape from her “employers”)

“We were in detention for more than two months. We didn’t eat well. They fed us porridge and gave us rice once a day. We had to queue to get food. Sometimes inmates fought for food. The warden electrocuted us if we were not in order... The dining hall was so dirty, it ruined our appetite. We just ate a little, just to survive. [...] It was unpleasant”. (Man trafficked for fishing, detained in the destination country)

6.4 Health issues during reintegration

Many trafficking victims reported health problems over the course of reintegration. Some health problems arose as a consequence of trafficking and went untreated or unresolved. Some trafficking victims also developed and faced new health issues. Some illnesses were debilitating and prevented individuals from being able to work or run businesses. Some injuries or illnesses were long-term and continued for months and even years after trafficking.

“The doctor] said that even if they operated on my eyes, they would not be cured because I need an eye donor. I just surrendered. It would be so long to wait for an eye donor, so I decided to go home. [...] Today we have more debt and we put the house for mortgage just for food”. (Woman trafficked for domestic work, who was blinded by her employer)
7. Psychological issues & mental & emotional well-being

Some psychological and emotional issues preceded trafficking, others were a direct consequence of trafficking, still others emerged during reintegration. Most victims experienced the cumulative effect of multiple violations and traumas.

Diagram #8. Psychological and mental health issues over time

7.1 Psychological issues & mental well-being before trafficking

Prior to migration/trafficking many victims described being mentally or emotionally unwell – e.g. feeling stressed, anxious and even depressed. This was often a function of economic problems in the household and family. In some cases, pre-trafficking stress was linked to other issues, including personal health issues, sick family members and/or the death of loved ones.

“...feeling mentally and emotionally unwell prior to trafficking, commonly due to financial issues or family problems.”

“...feeling mentally or emotionally unwell – e.g. feeling stressed, anxious and even depressed.”

7.2 Psychological issues & being mentally unwell as a result of trafficking

Most respondents suffered psychological violence while trafficked, including insults, threats, intimidation, verbal abuse, imprisonment, symbolic abuse, withholding of food or other basic necessities, enforced sleep deprivation and so on. This was coupled with other violations, including physical and sexual violence, restricted freedom, lack of pay and so on. All respondents described some level of mental and/or emotional distress as a consequence of trafficking, including being abused and violated, witnessing the abuse of others, suffering harsh living and working conditions, and enduring prolonged psychological stress.

“He was fierce, bad and he used to beat me. Then I divorced him. I went there (migrated abroad) because my heart hurt”. (Woman trafficked for domestic work)

“There I was also imprisoned, not allowed to go outside. If went out with the employer, I was not allowed to talk with Indonesians. I had to be quiet. I was very depressed. I was not allowed to call my family. The food was also not provided properly. My clothes were so improper”. (Woman trafficked for domestic work)

“[The senior crew used] all kinds of dirty language with us. Animals, bad words in Chinese, all harsh language”. (Man trafficked for fishing)

“...feeling mentally and emotionally unwell as a result of trafficking, including depression and trauma.”

Some victims were psychologically impacted during escape from trafficking, detention in the destination country and/or during the process of returning home.

“...trafficking negatively and severely impacted victims mental and psychological well-being. In some cases, victims had psychological problems as a result of trafficking including depression and trauma.”

During return

During reintegration

Trafficked persons often struggled to regain their sense of mental and emotional well-being. Many faced psychological issues over the course of reintegration. Some issues also arose after trafficking while reinserting into the family and community.

“...feeling mentally and emotionally unwell during return home.”

“...psychologically impacted during the process of returning home.”

“...victims had psychological problems as a result of trafficking including depression and trauma.”

“...trafficked persons often struggled to regain their sense of mental and emotional well-being.”
conditions, being separated from their loved ones, being unpaid for their work and being ashamed about what had happened to them.

7.3 Psychological issues during escape & return

Some trafficked persons faced frightening and dangerous escapes and returns. Some trafficking victims also navigated psychologically stressful and taxing situations after escape, including being threatened and brutalized by employment agency staff and detained for long periods of time and then deported.

7.4 Psychological issues during reintegration

Many trafficking victims described suffering serious and debilitating mental health issues at various stages of their post-trafficking lives. Much had happened while they were trafficked, including illness, poverty and even death in the family. Facing these changes and losses was mentally and emotionally taxing. Mental health and well-being of trafficked persons did change over the course of life after trafficking – sometimes improving, sometimes deteriorating. Respondents expressed the need for emotional and psychological support to come to terms with trafficking exploitation. Some victims also described needing support in managing issues faced in their lives after trafficking and as part of reintegration. Emotional support was a critical need among many trafficking victims. While some were able to rely on emotional support of family or friends, others faced criticism, blame, distrust and rejection.

“We really very much regretted being there. Why were we detained like this? What was our fault?... When we got there, we wanted go home. Why was it like this?” (Man trafficked for fishing who was held in detention for illegal migrants)

Sometimes I was stable but sometimes I was afraid to face the morning. I just cannot stand to remember what happened while I stayed in [the Middle East]. I also think a lot how can we fulfill our daily needs, how can my family eat? (crying). [...] When I first arrived home, I just feel pain and sick. After I stayed alone in the home, then I started to be very afraid. How can I face tomorrow?” (Woman trafficked for domestic work, ten months after returning home)

“The challenge was when I faced my family. I had low self-esteem when I was at family gatherings. I was ashamed because I had a lot of debt, especially to my wife’s family... [...] It became a burden on my mind. I was thinking and thinking. Then I was down because I thought about my debt and my wife left. I was weak. I could not do anything. I had no spirit”. (Man trafficked for labor, several years after returning home)
8. Financial & economic issues

Economic and financial concerns were paramount in almost all interviews with trafficked persons, not only immediately upon return but also in the longer-term. In some cases, trafficked persons’ economic situations improved over time. In other cases, the situation deteriorated over the course of reintegration.

A small business in a trafficking-affected village in West Java. Photo: Peter Biro.

Diagram #9. Financial and economic issues over time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before trafficking</th>
<th>As a result of trafficking</th>
<th>During reintegration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Most trafficked persons faced financial and economic issues before they were trafficked.</td>
<td>Victims' financial and economic situation worsened as a result of not being paid and migration-related debt. Sometimes victims families went into debt to cover living costs when the victim was unable to remit money.</td>
<td>Returning home without wages as a result of trafficking or with migration-related debt exacerbated often pre-existing financial and economic issues. New economic problems also arose after trafficking over the course of reintegration.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**8.1 Economic issues prior to trafficking**

Most trafficked persons faced financial and economic issues before they migrated. Some economic issues created vulnerability to trafficking — e.g. when an individual was unemployed and/or had debt. Some trafficked persons were employed but did not earn enough to be able to live and/or support their family. Some were employed but wanted to be able to earn more, to realize their dreams and ambitions. Because most trafficked persons remitted or returned home with little to no money, pre-existing economic and financial problems were compounded by trafficking experiences and migration-related debt.

**8.2 Economic problems as a result of trafficking**

Most trafficked persons migrated for work through formal recruitment/placement agencies, which meant incurring debt for recruitment fees and travel costs. Some individuals incurred debt to family or friends; others borrowed money from moneylenders or institutions. Some debt was a consequence of trafficking victims having to pay their own travel home after trafficking.

"Debts. Trapped in debts. We departed with leaving debts. [I was indebted to a] relative but it does not matter. When you owe someone, you have to repay, even if it is to a relative, particularly, those who already have a family". (Man trafficked for fishing)

"...it was very difficult. We ate in a tray, with just five spoons. We were a family of seven, so we had to limit the rice... You can imagine how we lived... Sometimes we went to school without pocket money because there was nothing". (Woman trafficked for sexual exploitation as a girl)

"I had a lot of debt here... How could I pay that if I waited for my husband’s income? He has small income...it was not enough. We had debt to pay - for school and, at that time, rice was expensive... It was hard to make money so I dared myself to go [abroad] to pay the debt". (Woman trafficked for domestic work)

Being in debt was a source of considerable stress for many respondents. Debt often had very real and serious implications for trafficked persons and their families including losing homes or land, individuals undertaking risky re-migration and going into further debt.

**8.3 Economic issues during reintegration**

Economic problems also arose after trafficking, leading to (or adding on to the existing) economic problems and pressures. Families of trafficked persons, in many instances, assumed responsibility for their loved ones. Trafficked persons described feelings of shame, discomfort and embarrassment about returning home without money and feared being blamed and rejected by their families. Some trafficked persons faced serious recriminations from family members for their perceived failure, as well within the wider social environment.

"[The biggest challenge] was to face the family... to explain to my family that I returned home without bringing any money". (Man trafficked for fishing)

While some trafficked persons had access to loans or grants to start a business, they often lacked the skills needed to successfully design and run a business. In some situations, failed businesses amplified victims’ economic problems, including indebtedness. Economic success was informed and influenced by the generally poor economic climate in victims’ home communities. Many faced difficulty in finding work in their home communities even migrating to other districts, provinces and countries for work. In other cases, victims’ family members migrated for work, to repay debt and/or earn money to support their family. Even those who were able to find work struggled to earn enough money to meet their economic needs and commitments.
9. Education, life skills & professional training opportunities

Children at play in a village in West Java. Photo: Peter Biro.

Diagram #10. Education, life skills and professional training needs over time

Before trafficking

Many trafficked persons had limited education and/or professional training prior to trafficking. Some victims also lacked life skills, especially those trafficked as children.

As a result of trafficking

Some trafficked persons did not have access to education, training or life skills precisely because they were trafficked. Access to education and professional skills development was limited while trafficked.

During reintegration

Many trafficked persons needed some form of educational assistance (including basic literacy/numeracy and equivalency certificates) or professional training to be able to find a job or set up a small business. Many also demonstrated the need for life skills.
9.1 Education, training & life skills before trafficking

Many trafficked persons had limited education. Some lacked even the most basic literacy and numeracy. Some had attended school but were unable to complete their education due to economic problems. Lack of education was a barrier to economic opportunities, which, in turn, intersected with migration and trafficking risk. Many respondents lacked professional or vocational skills, which generally led them to pursue work as migrant workers. That being said, some respondents had higher levels of education and professional skills.

9.2 Lack of education, training & life skills as a result of trafficking

Some trafficked persons did not have access to education, training or life skills because they were trafficked. A number of girls were taken out of school by parents who forced them into prostitution and they lacked the opportunity to develop healthy life skills. Trafficking also generally involved work in unskilled work, which meant not developing professional skills.

9.3 Issues of education, training & life skills during reintegration

Many trafficked persons needed education or professional training to find a job or set up a small business. Some needed to continue their education (or obtain an equivalency certificate) to be able to apply for jobs, but faced administrative and practical barriers including the cost of the program and fear that they would not pass the exam. Other trafficked persons needed professional or vocational training to be able to find work or find a job in another field. While some vocational training is available from the state, it is targeted at young people. Other vocational training programs were not adequate to build professional skills and capacity. Some training programs were also “identifying” – e.g. the training certificate was from an institution that was recognizably assisting trafficking victims. Some victims also faced personal or practical barriers in attending school or training courses – e.g. needing to work or care for family members. Training that was offered as part of a shelter program or involved a shelter stay was unsuitable for many trafficking victims – e.g. parents with dependent children or individuals who were not comfortable to stay in a shelter.
10. Protection, safety & security

Trafficked persons faced safety and security issues in the very immediate aftermath of trafficking (during exit, escape and return) and over the course of reintegration. Some safety and security concerns were from brokers, recruitment agencies, exploiters and “employers”. Some victims faced safety and security issues in their family and community settings.

A policewoman outside a unit tasked with investigating crimes against women and children in West Java. Photo: Peter Biro.

Diagram #11. Protection and security needs over time

**During exit, escape and return**

Trafficked persons may face risks (from traffickers, from officials or from other individuals they encounter) during their exit, escape or return from trafficking.

**During reintegration**

Following trafficking, trafficked persons may face issues of safety and security, not only due to threats from traffickers, but also in the family and community settings. Risks are not only related to trafficking; some trafficked persons face issues of safety and security due to other vulnerabilities in their lives.
10.1 Risks during exit, escape & return

Exit and escape from trafficking were, in many instances, very risky and unsafe. Some women trafficked as domestic workers were brutalized by agency staff including suffering physical assault and rape. Trafficked persons were often detained abroad and, in some cases, held in detention centers where they faced various issues including overcrowding, sexual harassment or assault, physical violence and so on. Some trafficking victims were collected at the airport and held at the recruitment company in Indonesia for some days after arrival. The process of return itself was also often fraught with risk including extortion, violence and the risk of re-trafficking.

“During my escape, I felt that all men will catch me and kill me. All I wanted was just to go home to Indonesia. But at that time I did not know where to run to. I did not know where to go for help.” (Woman trafficked for domestic work)

“We faced sexual abuse because there were 6,000 people from 16 countries. There were conflicts when we were about to eat, it was certain. It was so sad in prison; the prison here was nothing compared to that.” (Man trafficked for fishing who was held in a detention center for irregular migrants)

10.2 Risks during reintegration

Trafficked persons faced a raft of risks and safety issues over the course of reintegration – from brokers, recruiters and agencies involved in their trafficking as well as within their family and community situations over the course of reintegration. Some trafficked persons faced threats and intimidation from brokers and recruitment companies after they returned home. Trafficked persons largely returned to live in their home villages where access to protection was limited and generally only available to persons who agreed to act as victim/witnesses. Even when traffickers were arrested and jailed, some victims faced threats and risks.

Some trafficked persons faced safety issues in their family and community settings. When family was complicit in trafficking there were more subtle pressures for victims to not disclose and to not pursue legal cases. A number of respondents suffered domestic violence – generally at the hands of husbands/boyfriends – at various stages of reintegration.

Some trafficked persons faced risks and safety issues within their communities. This was particularly common among women and included harassment, threats, intimidation, bullying and attempted rape by neighbors and others in the community. In some instances, victims faced safety and security issues because of mistreatment and violations by authorities. A number of respondents spoke about complicity in recruitment for migration/trafficking as well as after return, which undermined trafficked persons’ feelings of safety and security.

Some victims suffered violence at the hands of authorities including harassment, extortion, violence and rape. In addition, some trafficked persons faced different types of power abuses by authorities responsible for assisting them.
11. Legal status & identity
Having legal status, including identity and registration documents, was necessary to access assistance as well as undertake practical tasks like applying for a job, opening a bank account and applying for a bank loan or mortgage. Some trafficked persons did not have documents before being trafficked. Others lost or had documents confiscated while they were trafficked or faced issues with their documents during reintegration.

A man and boy register for medical services at a local health clinic in West Java. Photo: Peter Biro.

Diagram #12. Issues with legal status over time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before trafficking</th>
<th>As a result of trafficking</th>
<th>During reintegration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Some trafficked persons lacked legal status including identity documents prior to trafficking.</td>
<td>Some trafficked persons lacked legal status as a direct result of trafficking - e.g. when recruiters or &quot;employers&quot; held, confiscated or destroyed their identity documents.</td>
<td>Some trafficked persons lacked documents after trafficking because they were destroyed or lost while trafficked. Others had documents expire while they were trafficked or after their return.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11.1 Civil & administrative issues before trafficking
Some trafficked persons and their families lacked documents before trafficking, which led to their general vulnerability to trafficking and also limited their ability to access assistance and rights afterward.

11.2 Civil & administrative issues as a result of trafficking
Some civil and administrative issues were a direct consequence of trafficking including documents being held by recruitment agencies during migration and/or documents being lost, destroyed or confiscated by traffickers/“employers” while the individual was trafficked. Some trafficked persons had their documents confiscated by recruitment agencies after return when they registered a complaint about their exploitation.

11.3 Civil & administrative issues during reintegration
Lack of identity documents impeded victims’ ability to access services. Many victims lacked documents either before or as a consequence of trafficking; others’ documents expired necessitating renewal. Children who were born of a mother’s trafficking situation lacked identity documents upon their return to Indonesia. Issuing or renewing documents was often complicated and involved unclear administrative procedures, high costs and logistical issues.

Critical documents in Indonesia

**Personal Identity Card** (Kartu Tanda Penduduk or KTP) is obligatory for everyone from 17 years of age. This card must be carried at all times and can be used to apply for other documents, government assistance and when applying for a job.

**Birth certificate** (Akte Kelahiran or AK) should be issued for each child at birth. It is essential for issuing other documents, entering school and university and applying for a Police Reference Letter (Surat Ketrangan Catatan Kepolisian or SKCK).

**Family card** (Kartu Keluarga or KK) includes all family members who are living at the same address and can be used for applying for other documents and for accessing assistance or public services (e.g. healthcare, education)

**School certificate** indicates an individual’s educational attainment.

**Marriage certificate** certifies a marriage and is issued according to religion – from the Office of Religious Affairs (Kantor Urusan Agama or KUA) for Muslims and from the Civil Registry Office (Dinas Kependudukan or Kantor dan Catatan Sipil) for other religions.
12. Legal issues & proceedings
Most legal issues were a consequence of having been trafficked – some arose while still abroad, some after return to Indonesia and some legal issues arose over the course of reintegration.

A police investigator at a special unit dealing with crimes against women and children in West Java. Photo: Peter Biro.

Diagram #13. Legal issues over time

At escape or exit
Some trafficked persons faced legal problems at escape or exit including being detained and/or deported or charged for crimes committed while trafficked.

As a result of trafficking
Trafficked persons described needing legal assistance as a direct consequence of having been trafficked, including assistance with wage claims, insurance claims and criminal cases against traffickers.

During reintegration
During reintegration, some trafficked persons brought claims against traffickers or participated in criminal justice proceedings. Involvement in the legal process interfered with or delayed reintegration in some instances.
12.1 Legal issues at escape or exit
Many trafficked persons faced legal problems as an immediate consequence of trafficking – being detained and deported as irregular migrants or charged for crimes committed while trafficked (e.g. prostitution). They generally lacked legal representation at any stage of their interactions with authorities and trafficked persons seldom received any support or guidance from Embassy staff in navigating this situation. In some cases, this meant spending long periods of time in detention centers and having deportation notifications in their passports that inhibited future migration. Even individuals who were recognized as trafficked were not typically afforded legal assistance. In addition, no respondents had had access to legal assistance in making claims for unpaid wages from employers and agencies abroad.

12.2 Legal issues as a result of trafficking
Trafficked persons faced a range of legal issues as a direct consequence of having been trafficked. While some issues emerged abroad, others were faced once in Indonesia, including:

**Wage claims.** Many trafficked persons described needing legal support in negotiating with a broker or recruitment agency after return, to claim their unpaid wages or to write off their unfair debts. Wage and compensation claims took quite some time to resolve. Many victims were pressured by agencies or brokers to dissuade wage claims. Trafficked persons were often obliged to sign statements not to pursue legal action in exchange for a payment after return.

"...the company that recruited me, that company only closed down and changed its name and they are still recruiting. There will be victims later, if this is ignored. Probably your children and grandchildren will be victims if they aren’t stopped now". (Man trafficked for forced labor)

**Insurance claims.** While migrant workers sent abroad by recruitment agencies must be insured, it was not always clear whether migrant workers/trafficking victims were officially registered for medical insurance by the agency. Some described how they had paid for insurance as part of the recruitment process but did not receive any related documents or cards. Further, migrant workers faced challenges in making claims, such as lack of information about rights and entitlements under insurance policies and administrative requirements that were difficult to realize in practice. Agencies and/or their insurance companies commonly denied insurance claims of trafficked persons, often for unclear or seemingly illegitimate reasons.

**Criminal justice proceedings.** Many trafficked persons expressed frustration and dissatisfaction with criminal justice proceedings. Involvement in the criminal justice process was time consuming and involved complicated legal procedures, which were taxing to navigate. Most trafficked persons who lodged a criminal complaint reported being unsuccessful. Some trafficking victims reported facing interference with the criminal justice process, being pressured by companies to withdraw the case and also, in some cases, the involvement of individual law enforcement officers. Others were pushed to bring criminal charges when they were interested only in compensation from the recruitment company and payment of wages.

“...the company that recruited me, that company only closed down and changed its name and they are still recruiting. There will be victims later, if this is ignored. Probably your children and grandchildren will be victims if they aren’t stopped now". (Man trafficked for forced labor)

"My salary for a month was deducted for taking care of tickets, insurance, Kartu Tanda Penduduk [Personal Identity Card], this and that... and where was the proof of insurance? I got sick and I was not treated. [...] Nothing was given to me even after I was sent home. No money, no insurance card, not [work and] identity documents. I paid for all of that but nothing was given to me". (Man trafficked for forced labor)

"As long as I am handling this case, it has been six times that I went back and forth from Jakarta to [my home province]. Just imagine the transportation cost in one trip. One million is gone. I might be here two days or three days, but one million would be gone. [The money went] for my costs here – food and minimum for transportation cost back and forth, let say 500,000 IDR [45USD] back and forth". (Man trafficked for fishing)
12.3 Legal issues during reintegration

When legal cases were on-going for long periods of time, victims lived in “limbo”, unable to move forward with their lives. Victims were unable to find or keep work because their cases required providing statements or giving testimony. Costs for victims’ involvement in the legal process (e.g. travel costs, lost income) were borne by victims who were generally unable to afford these costs or who went into debt to do so. Uncertainty and the long time frame also negatively impacted victims and their families. Some victims needed legal support and assistance for other issues (e.g. divorce, child custody, payment of alimony or child support, land ownership/rights) but few respondents had access to this type of legal support.

My concern is that when the court calls my friends, they cannot come and it will postpone the process. [...] At the signing of the documents bearing the case, everybody should be present. The problem is money [for transportation]. [...] I also face the same problem [...] so transport fares become a constraint sometimes. (Man trafficked for labor)

I have learned from other friends that it’s a very long process...First the process is long. Second it doesn’t mean it’s right. Lots of cases were like that. At the end we were duped. We had to pay additional expenses. And our burden just adds on. Mentally, it’s exhausting. We have to further share our experience. That’s what happens to those who report. [...] It’s not easy to report things like this. Also for me personally the burden is very heavy. (Man trafficked for labor)

Female police officer in West Java, with Women and Children’s Protection Unit (UPPA). Photo: Peter Biro.
13. Family issues & needs

Victims’ family members, including children, spouses, parents, siblings and other relatives, also had critical assistance needs. Some family assistance needs preceded trafficking, others were a consequence of trafficking, still others arose over the course of reintegration.

A woman and her children in a village in West Java. Photo: Peter Biro.

Diagram #14. Family issues and needs over time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before trafficking</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Many trafficked persons migrated in order to support and care for their families.</td>
<td>Trafficking had a detrimental effect on the physical and mental well-being of victims’ family members. Family members were often &quot;secondary victims&quot; of trafficking.</td>
<td>Much assistance needed to support reintegration was linked to or directly associated with the needs and well-being of victims’ family members.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
13.1 Family issues & needs prior to trafficking
Many trafficking victims migrated to support their families, including for basic needs, children's education and medical care for a sick family member. In some cases, a particular event or crisis triggered migration – e.g. a medical emergency. Some trafficked persons migrated to avoid family problems including domestic violence, neglect and sexual abuse.

“"The main issue was our economic situation. We lacked money. I wanted to help my husband to increase our income at that time". (Woman trafficked for domestic work)

“For me, [the most challenging issue was] economic. I was departing [migrating] because I wanted to seek money for my parents’ medication”. (Man trafficked for fishing)

“My son was hospitalized... Since I had to pay for the hospital fees, I owed money to the moneylender. [...] I had to pay for the hospital fees. Since I did not have money to pay that, then I sold my house”. (Woman trafficked for domestic work)

“I did not want to do it but I had to. So I could get money for mom and her medication... She has heart disease... I did not like it and I wanted to go home. The madam did not let me though. She said my contract with her stated that I had to stay working for at least five months”. (Woman trafficked for prostitution)

13.2 Family issues as a result of trafficking
Most trafficked persons were unable to remit or return with money, which detrimentally affected the well-being of their families. Many trafficked persons faced blame and censure from family members, including from children who felt neglected by the absent/migrant parent, spouses who felt let down by failures, parents who were disappointed with their children for not returning with money.

“I left my family and they suffered. [They were] thin, lacked food, they ate whatever they could. My wife ate bad rice, corn rice”. (Man trafficked on fishing boat)

“My wife was severely in debt. Just think, I returned home without bringing any money”. (Man trafficked for labor)

“[When my mother came home sick] I was sad, I felt fed up. I was feeling sad, who was not feel sad to find your mother in her condition like that?” (Son of woman trafficked as a domestic worker)

13.3 Family issues during reintegration
Being unable to work or being in debt meant that victims’ family members also often continued to face difficulties over the course of reintegration. Assistance is generally only available to trafficking victims, not their family members, although some assistance is available as part of general social assistance programs. Family tension and conflict were commonplace and, in some cases, rose to the level of violence and abuse within the family.

“Currently the hardest challenge is the school fees for my children... I often have difficulty to get some sleep because I thought about money for my children’s school. That’s why I often get a big headache”. (Woman trafficked for domestic work with an unemployed husband)

“I want to have my own place to reside. This is a must. [...] I would have to rent a house. I have a wife and child and cannot just sleep on the street”. (Man trafficked for fishing who is unable to support his wife and child)

“...my husband is sick.... [My challenge is] for my husband's treatment. I’m thinking of that, [money] for my husband’s treatment. For sure, I want to find work again. Firstly, my husband’s treatment and for my children, for her school. [...] At the moment, he is injected, once a week... sometimes 35,000 IDR [3USD] sometimes 40,000 IDR [3.5USD]. He is injected using antibiotic, to decrease the pain. Otherwise... he cannot tolerate the pain. It’s painful”. (Woman trafficked for domestic work with an ailing husband)
14. Conclusion & recommendations

Trafficked persons experienced multi-layered vulnerabilities and resiliencies at various stages of life – before trafficking, as a consequence of trafficking and during recovery and reintegration. Family and community settings, comprised of complex and often contradictory relationships, also influenced and impacted trafficked persons’ lives in important ways, as well as differently over time. Vulnerability and resilience changed and fluctuated over time and in response to different factors and dynamics. Reintegration was neither a simple nor linear process but instead involved “ups” and “downs”, “successes” and “failures” along the way and over time.

Assistance and services can play a vital role in being able to recover and reintegrate after trafficking. However, this requires that assistance be well-designed and appropriate for the needs of trafficked persons. Disentangling when assistance needs are a direct result of trafficking and when these needs are linked to pre-existing vulnerabilities or post-trafficking life challenges allows for the design of appropriate and effective reintegration policies and programs. This approach also situates human trafficking in a wider context of socioeconomic vulnerability and, in so doing, pinpoints when and how trafficking involves distinct, specific needs and responses and when trafficking victims’ needs might be addressed within the existing social protection framework in the country.

Understanding pre-existing vulnerabilities and structural inequalities is also an important tool in preventing trafficking and re-trafficking. The availability of services can prevent trafficking from taking place from the outset; individuals with access to education, medical care, employment and so on may not need to migrate. Access to services also prevents re-trafficking of persons who face challenges over time and who, without access to support, re-migrate to meet their needs or those of their family members. And yet too often the victims interviewed for this study did not have access to assistance and support, including over time. Assistance is needed for all trafficked persons – men and women, children and adults and victims of all forms of trafficking – and requires on-going care and case management.

Reintegration of trafficked persons is a profoundly complex process and can be both facilitated and complicated by individual, family, social and economic factors as well as the quality of reintegration programs and policies and the skills of the professionals tasked with this work. Improving the reintegration response in Indonesia requires efforts from a number of different organizations and institutions including the government (at all levels), civil society, international organizations (IOs) and donors. The following recommendations can contribute to an improved assistance and reintegration response for trafficked persons in Indonesia.

**Recommendations on the provision of reintegration services**

- Offer assistance to meet all needs and address all vulnerabilities, not only those caused by trafficking.
- Ensure that assistance programs and policies provide for short- and long-term services.
- Respond to assistance needs of all trafficked persons.
- Offer tailored, comprehensive services, over time.
- Recognize and take into account the needs of trafficking victims’ family members as part of an assistance response.
- Include the family and community environments in all reintegration work.
- Increase identification of trafficking victims.
Recommendations on capacity-building and quality of care

- Enhance service providers’ capacity to work with all types of trafficking victims.
- Train social workers on how to support reintegration of trafficking victims.
- Provide training in sensitization and anti-discrimination.
- Develop and implement professional codes of conduct and ethical guidelines/standards.

Recommendations on prevention and awareness-raising

- Improve dissemination of information about services available to trafficking victims, exploited migrant workers and the general public.
- Employ a “protection as prevention” approach.

Monitoring, evaluation and research

- Increase analysis and understanding of reintegration.
- Increase knowledge base on victims’ experiences of failed reintegration and re-trafficking.
- Monitor and evaluate all assistance programs and policies.
- Engage with trafficked persons in the design, implementation and evaluation of programs and policies.

Recommendations on resources and budget allocation

- Allocate adequate resources for reintegration work.
- Ensure adequate staffing for reintegration programs.
- Allocate funds and human resources to village-level reintegration efforts.