Going Home. Challenges in the Reintegration of Trafficking Victims in Indonesia

A Summary Report

2016

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Cover photo: A former migrant worker in her home village in West Java.

Photographs in this report illustrate various aspects of daily life in Indonesia. Unless stated otherwise, individuals in these photographs are not trafficking victims.
Foreword from Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection

May peace be upon you and best wishes to us all.

First of all, let us praise and thank God Almighty. Because of God’s Consent, the book, Going Home: Challenges in the Reintegration of Trafficking Victims in Indonesia, can be completed by the research team and authors to assist trafficking victims and to increase effective prevention and control of trafficking.

We realize that trafficking victims are mostly women and girls, including those, who live in rural and remote locations and live in deprivation with inadequate education level. Hence they need assistance from various stakeholders, especially community, religious, and traditional leaders as well as humanitarian volunteers and activists.

Therefore, I, as the Minister of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection, believe that this book, Going Home: Challenges in the Reintegration of Trafficking Victims in Indonesia, is very important in improving access for victims of trafficking to nearby service agencies.

The book, Going Home, is expected to add to the quantity and quality of references on assistance provision to trafficking victims, which can be used either by the victims or stakeholders and communities, who care about fulfilling the victims’ rights. Hopefully the book, Going Home, can be valuable in providing information to prevent and control trafficking.

Once again, I would like to thank the NEXUS Institute for completing the study, Going Home: Challenges in the Reintegration of Trafficking Victims in Indonesia. I hope strategies aimed at eliminating human trafficking will be better implemented.

Yohana S. Yembise
Minister of Women Empowerment and Child Protection
Republic of Indonesia
Foreword from the Ministry of Social Affairs

First of all, I welcome the idea of publishing a book of research findings on controlling human trafficking in Indonesia conducted by NEXUS Institute. The research findings laid out in this book: *Going Home. Challenges in the Reintegration of Trafficking Victims in Indonesia* portray trafficking polarization in Indonesia. The findings can be a reference in assisting the government to support human trafficking victims. Human trafficking in Indonesia is an important issue that demands attention from all sectors of our society. Data shows a surge in the number of trafficking cases in Indonesia. A staggering statistic, released by UNICEF in Jakarta, was that every year approximately 40,000 – 70,000 Indonesians are trafficked for sexual exploitation to Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, and Australia. Moreover, a research agency in Malaysia released another alarming figure, showing that 6,705 Indonesian women were trafficked for sexual exploitation to Malaysia.

The United States Department of State in 2010 stated that Indonesia is a major source country of human trafficking; it is also a transit and destination country for woman, children, and men, who are subject to human trafficking, particularly 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, falsification of identity and age, 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. Trafficking is an up-stream issue, which cannot be solved without a comprehensive approach. At the up-stream, the issue is how to lower Indonesia’s poverty rate, which has been the main contributing factor of trafficking. Whereas at the down-stream, the issue is how to assist trafficking victims to reintegrate into their family and communities.

The Ministry of Social Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia is mandated to provide social welfare services to vulnerable persons, including trafficking victims. Child labor, forced labor, involuntary servitude, child sexual exploitation, forced labor migration, as well as other violence are among the forms of human trafficking and related exploitation addressed by the Ministry of Social Affairs. Presidential Regulation No. 69/2008 establishing the Task Force for the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking, or better known as the anti-trafficking task force, has placed the Ministry of Social Affairs as the chairman of the social rehabilitation sub-cluster, in which programs for repatriation and social reintegration for victims are included.

I hope NEXUS Institute’s research findings can strengthen future outcomes, particularly related to:

1. Strengthening the Task Force for the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking, in terms of revamping and updating data, human resources, infrastructure, and synergy in action and regulations, as well as strategic partnerships with stakeholders in the country and abroad;
2. Improving the achievements of the Task Force for the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking through the expansion of outreach partnerships and optimization of the potential of media (written and/or visual, social media, and other information and communication technology), as well as the optimization of regional government’s involvement in tackling human trafficking;
3. Increase cooperation in regulatory and activity strategies in the context of territorial, regional, and international levels.

Finally, I would like to give the highest appreciation for the publication of NEXUS Institute’s research findings. I hope these findings can inspire and motivate not only the staff of the Ministry of Social Affairs, but also all stakeholders, to provide better social welfare services to trafficking victims. I would also like to say congratulations and wish you success.

Khofifah Indar Parawansa
Minister of Social Affairs
Preface from NEXUS Institute

I am pleased to present Going Home, the first in a series of studies by the NEXUS Institute that details the uncertain and precarious path toward recovery faced by many victims of human trafficking in Indonesia. As described in this summary of the study, for many individuals the ordeal of being trapped in modern slavery and under conditions of severe exploitation is too often followed by a daunting personal struggle to put their lives back together. Some have the support of their families, but others face this struggle alone. These men and women shared their experiences with us and, in so doing, reveal stories of hope, determination, perseverance, courage, and resilience. This summary report documents their experiences and introduces what support is available for reintegration of victims of human trafficking in Indonesia, and the constraints and obstacles victims face in accessing that support.

While there has been important progress globally in efforts to end modern slavery, recognition of the pivotal role played by reintegration support as a component of a country’s comprehensive efforts to end contemporary slavery has lagged behind. Certainly reintegration support is key in the recovery of victims after trafficking exploitation. In addition, strengthening reintegration helps prevent human trafficking in ways that are distinct from other prevention activities. Former victims of trafficking -- especially those who were unidentified or unassisted -- are among the most vulnerable to being enslaved again, perpetuating a cycle that can be most effectively broken with adequate policies and practices providing reintegration support. Consequently a country’s prevention strategy is not complete without including meaningful reintegration support.

Supporting trafficking victims on their road to recovery is also the right thing to do. The imperative for countries to support longer-term recovery – in contrast to providing short-term, emergency care – is found in international law, as well as in global and regional directives, declarations, action plans, and guidance issued by the international community for over a decade. The clear international consensus is most recently reaffirmed in the letter and spirit of the Association of South East Nations’ (ASEAN) Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. This multi-lateral agreement, echoing current international law and policy, requires each country to use its best efforts to assist in the reintegration of victims of trafficking in persons.

This report focuses a lens on Indonesia. However, victims of human trafficking from many different countries in many different regions of the world face the same challenges as they try to recover and reintegration after their exploitation. And they have shared stories similar to the ones recounted here with NEXUS. As such, while we all continue to work toward an end to modern day slavery, it is also necessary to work with those who have already been victimized. This includes helping to reduce, through reintegration services, the hardship and hurdles that trafficking victims face in the aftermath of their servitude as they work to put their lives back together.

We hope that you find this report, along with the other reports in this series, to be informative and helpful in understanding the critical issue of reintegration and the practical steps that are available to enhance the provision of reintegration support to victims of human trafficking – men, women and children – in all of its forms.

We invite you to follow our work at www.NEXUSInstitute.net and @NEXUSInstitute.

Stephen Warnath
Founder, President & CEO
NEXUS Institute
Acknowledgements

Many individuals and institutions contributed to this research study and this summary report. 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) and so our thanks begin here. This paper is the first in a research series produced on different aspects of the reintegration needs and experiences of Indonesian trafficking victims and aims to contribute to an enhanced reintegration response in the country. We are thankful for J/TIP’s support of the project and dedication to furthering the assistance and reintegration of trafficked persons globally.

Thanks are also due to our partners in 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 with us their experiences of exploitation as well as the successes and challenges they have faced after trafficking. We would also like to thank their family members who helped us to understand life after trafficking, not only for trafficked persons, but also for their families.

We also thank all of the professionals working on 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 Tunanetra Sosial (Directorate of Social Rehabilitation for the Socially Disadvantaged); 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 Bina Remaja (Youth Center); Panti Sosial Karya Wanita (Social Homes for Women); LK3 (Lembaga Konsultasi Kesejahteraan Keluarga or Family Welfare Consultation) including LK3 Kesuma in Bogor and LK3 Dinos 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 and discussing issues and challenges around reintegration efforts in the country over the duration of the project. 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); PBMI (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); SBBK (Solidaritas Buruh Migran Karawang or Migrant Workers Solidarity of Karawang); SP (Solidaritas Perempuan or Women’s Solidarity for Human Rights); SPLN (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: Yayasan Bandungwangi Jakarta; Yayasan Bahtera Bandung; Institut Perempuan Bandung; FWBMI Cirebon; WCC Balqis Cirebon; Yayasan Kusuma Bongas Indramayu; Jalin CIPANNAS Indramayu; Dinsosnakерtrans Kabupaten Bogor; TKS Kiawi Bogor; SP; PBM; SPILN; SBMK; SBMC; IOM; SBMI DPN; SBMI Cianjur, SBMI Cirebon, SBMI Banyuwangi and SBMI Sukabumi.

Thanks 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. Thanks also to photographer, Peter Biro, whose compelling photographs illustrate victims’ lives after trafficking and during reintegration in Indonesia.

At NEXUS, Pattarin Wimolpitayarat, Research Assistant, was of great assistance in cleaning and coding the transcripts as well as a range of other supportive tasks. Sheila Berman provided administrative and moral support throughout the project. Finally, our sincere gratitude 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 within this research series. We have all benefited from his commitment to an enhanced understanding of human trafficking through sound empirical research and analysis.

Rebecca Surtees, Laura S. Johnson, Thaufiek Zulbahary and Suarni Daeng Caya
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**Trafficking in Indonesia**

In Indonesia, with over 32 million people living below the poverty line, men, women and children are trafficked and exploited for a broad range of purposes, including sexual exploitation and forced labor. Each year, thousands of Indonesians find themselves trafficked into brothels, factories, construction sites, plantations, fishing boats and for domestic work. They are trafficked within the country or exploited abroad, with many ending up as far away as the Middle East, Africa and Latin America.

Despite existing legislation and support programs, many trafficking victims in this vast island nation do not receive the assistance and support that they need to recover from their experiences and reintegrate into their families and communities. Moreover, those who do receive assistance do not always get help that is suited to their needs or adequately supports their efforts to reintegrate. This is because there are some critical challenges in the current response in Indonesia, including that many trafficked persons are unidentified; reintegration is not clearly defined or understood; most assistance is “one-off” support; assistance programs are only short-term; victims face barriers in accessing services; lack of information about reintegration assistance; lack of assistance to trafficked men; lack of case management; and an uneven geographic distribution of services.

**About the research**

This study is based upon the most in-depth research involving interviews with trafficking victims thus far conducted in Indonesia. The NEXUS Institute has, over the course of two years, interviewed 75 victims (male and female) and their family members, and 123 anti-trafficking professionals and service providers in seven districts in Indonesia’s West Java region. This study is part of the first longitudinal research project on the reintegration of trafficking victims in Indonesia, funded by the United States Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP). Overall, the project aims to enhance the evidence base about how trafficked persons recover and reintegrate in Indonesia and, in so doing, to provide government, civil society and donors, with information and recommendations for how to improve and enhance the reintegration response for victims of trafficking in the country.

Trafficing victims interviewed for the study originated primarily from various districts in West Java and most had returned to live in their areas of origin after trafficking. However, some individuals were integrating in Jakarta and others had moved to new villages/communities in the province or district after their return. Select interviews were also conducted in Central Java and South Sulawesi.

These individuals were trafficked for sexual exploitation (n=15), as well as for different forms of labor exploitation (n=60), including construction (n=2), domestic work (n=31), fishing (n=15), factory work (n=4), work on plantations (n=6) and other forms of labor (n=2). Some trafficked persons also suffered multiple forms of exploitation – most commonly this involved women trafficked for labor who were also sexually abused or exploited.

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1 The research team conducted interviews with 75 trafficking victims between October 2014 and August 2015 (29 male victims and 46 female victims) for this report. Our research work continues in Indonesia. Interviews with additional respondents and repeat interviews are ongoing and more than 100 trafficked persons have been interviewed thus far.
Table #1. Forms of trafficking exploitation for the 75 male and female respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form of trafficking</th>
<th>Male (n=29)</th>
<th>Female (n=46)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td># of persons</td>
<td># of persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Domestic work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm oil plantation</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sexual exploitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Factory</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other labor</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trafficked persons were exploited within Indonesia (n=14) as well as abroad (n=58). Some (n=3) were trafficked first within the country and subsequently abroad. Cases within Indonesia typically involved rural-urban migration within a province but it also sometimes involved more than one province. Those trafficked abroad were exploited in 17 different destination countries. Many were trafficked in the Middle East (n=22) – Bahrain, Jordan, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, UAE – and in Asia (n=23) – Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan (Province of China). Some (n=15) were trafficked in less common destinations such as Argentina, Ghana, Mauritius, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay. Some trafficked persons were exploited in more than one destination.

Map #1. Forms of exploitation and destination countries for respondents

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*This is as of August 30, 2015, however research is on-going in Indonesia, with more than 100 trafficked persons interviewed as of April 2016.*
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 – 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. Reintegration takes place at different levels – at an individual, personal level; within the trafficked person’s family environment; within the wider community; and also within the overarching formal society.

Diagram #1. Successful reintegration

The specifics of reintegration vary for each individual, depending upon their individual needs, interests, opportunities and situations. Some victims reintegrate into their communities of origin, while others integrate in a new community. Others still may stay on in the country of exploitation/trafficking. NEXUS’ research focuses on trafficking victims who have returned to Indonesia and who are living either in their home communities or in a new community in Indonesia.

Assistance Needs

Trafficked persons may need various forms of assistance and services as they reintegrate, such as housing, 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.

Meaningful reintegration that effectively responds to these needs can be 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.

Reintegration assistance most commonly refers to the provision of “formal assistance” (i.e. assistance offered by government institutions, NGOs, international organizations, religious organizations and community groups), which is different from “informal assistance” (i.e. support or assistance received from neighbors, family and community). That being said, both
formal assistance and informal support can play an important role in the recovery and reintegration of trafficked persons.

A woman and her family in their home community in West Java. Photo: Peter Biro.

The range of forms that trafficking takes in Indonesia means that Indonesian trafficking victims are exploited for sexual exploitation and different forms of forced labor. Their distinct experiences of exploitation inform the types and amount of services they may require and be interested in, the time they will need to recover following exploitation and so on. As a result, not all trafficked persons will require all of the reintegration services listed above. Some require many and even all of the services listed at some stage of reintegration. Others require only one or two services and are able to draw on their personal, family and community resources to support their reintegration. And not all trafficked persons will necessarily want or need all services that are offered or are available. What services are required (if any) will depend on the specific situation of each individual trafficking victim.

Available Assistance

Indonesia’s laws and regulations establish various rights and entitlements to assistance that can be critical to the reintegration of trafficked persons. Trafficking victims are eligible for assistance specifically designed for trafficking victims and may also be eligible for assistance that is available to migrant workers and/or social assistance, including to socially and economically vulnerable persons.

Assistance for trafficking victims in anti-trafficking law
A number of laws and policies in Indonesia establish the eligibility of trafficking victims for a range of services and support. Indonesia’s Anti-Trafficking Law, Law 21/2007, provides for various forms of assistance, such as temporary shelter, medical assistance, psychological support and some forms of legal assistance. The National Action Plan and other government regulations and guidelines serve to develop and expand the forms of assistance to be made
available to trafficked persons. Further, some regional regulations may provide assistance for trafficked persons at the local level (in their communities).

*Diagram #2. Assistance guaranteed in Law 21/2007, Indonesia’s Anti-Trafficking Law*

Under Article 51, trafficking victims are “entitled to receive medical and social rehabilitation, return assistance and social reintegration from the government if such victim suffers physical and psychological hardship as a result of the criminal act of trafficking in persons”. Article 52 requires national and provincial governments to establish shelters and trauma centers to provide medical and social rehabilitation, return assistance and social reintegration.

To enact Article 46 of the anti-trafficking law, the *Regulation on Procedures and Mechanism of Recovery Services for Witnesses and/or Victims of Trafficking*, Number 9/2008, provides victims of and witnesses to trafficking with free health and social rehabilitation, return, social reintegration and legal assistance from an Integrated Service Center (*Pusat Pelayanan Terpadu Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Anak* or P2TP2A), which operate at both the national and local levels. In 2014, the Ministry of Women’s Empowerment and Child Protection (MoWECP) managed 247 Integrated Service Centers throughout Indonesia, most of which were operated by provincial governments.

**Assistance for trafficking victims in laws protecting migrant workers**

Indonesian laws that provide protections for migrant workers also provide protection to some victims of trafficking. Trafficked persons who are also exploited migrant workers are eligible to access services and support under the laws and regulations protecting migrant workers (*Tenaga Kerja Indonesia* or TKI). For example, the *Law On the Placement and Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers Abroad*, Law 39/2004, requires that migrant workers be provided with medical care as well as some other forms of protection, while the Ministry of Social Affairs *Regulation Regarding Repatriation of Migrant Workers and Problematic Indonesian Labor*, Number 22/2013, establishes services that should be provided to exploited or trafficked migrant workers like temporary shelter, medical care, psychological counseling and safe return to their home regions. Additional regulations and guidelines (including the Standard Operating Procedures for the RPTC - which provides services to migrant men and women) further develop and strengthen the framework for assistance to migrant workers (which can included trafficking victims).
Law 39/2004 does not establish services that should be provided to returned migrant workers. Instead, the law requires private recruitment agencies – PPTKIS (Pelaksana Penempatan Tenaga Kerja Indonesia Swasta) or PT (the short form of PPTKIS) – to be responsible for the migrant worker’s return to Indonesia, as well as for any needed medical services during their return. Law 39/2004 also stipulates that migrant workers sent abroad by recruitment agencies must be insured. Private recruitment agencies typically facilitate this process, linking migrant workers with insurance companies but migrant workers themselves pay for insurance as part of their recruitment fees. The policy insures the migrant worker and his/her family in the event of failed recruitment, unpaid wages, early termination of contract, contractual deception, physical abuse, sexual harassment and assault, legal proceedings, being stranded, illness, industrial accident and death. The entitlements of migrant workers under Indonesia’s law on the placement and protection of migrant workers are detailed in the diagram below.

Diagram #3. Forms of assistance guaranteed in Law 39/2004

Social assistance, including for vulnerable persons

A third source of potential care and support for some victims of trafficking is found in Indonesia’s general social welfare laws. Indonesian trafficking victims should be able to access assistance via the general rights and entitlements established in Indonesia’s laws and regulations for its citizens, particularly those for socially vulnerable persons, of which the most significant is Law 11/2009 on social welfare. Trafficking victims who are women and child victims of violence can also access assistance via laws intended specifically to protect those categories of individuals. There are further laws, regulations and guidelines that provide various forms of social assistance to Indonesian citizens, including to vulnerable persons. This social assistance includes medical assistance, education, legal assistance and support, economic opportunities and housing options, all of which may be accessible to trafficked persons.

Each of these three areas of Indonesian law – the anti-trafficking law, the laws and regulations to protect migrant workers, and the general social assistance laws – provide potential sources of support for victims of trafficking. Together they provide a fairly broad spectrum of assistance, support and protections for victims of trafficking in Indonesia as they seek to recover and reintegrate after trafficking exploitation.
Despite entitlements available under Indonesian law, many trafficking victims receive little or no assistance upon their return. Almost half of the trafficked persons in this study were unassisted, which meant not receiving the support or assistance that they are entitled to under Indonesian law.

The inability of trafficking victims to be able to access services for which they are eligible leads to untreated physical and psychological conditions that perpetuate the personal toll that they suffer as a result of being trafficked. One woman, who was trafficked as a domestic worker to the Middle East, described how she had been unable to overcome her trauma. Her personal plight, which continued for years after being trafficked, illustrates the long-term, deleterious impact of being unassisted and, in this case, the specific impact of not receiving the mental health support she desperately needed to help her recover:

> When I went home, it was so sad and unsuccessful because I didn't bring money home. My daughter thought that I would bring some money. I cried and my tears dropped when I saw my daughter and my husband. I was mentally depressed...I am afraid it will happen again. When I slept and woke up, then I remembered what happened in Saudi Arabia. Until now, maybe it was five or six years ago but it is still on my mind, not being removed from my life. I was traumatized.
Nearly half of the trafficked persons in this study were unassisted, like this woman in this district of West Java. Photo: Peter Biro.

Many other Indonesian trafficking victims were “under-assisted” – i.e. they received some forms of assistance, but not the full range of services they required (and are entitled to) to move on after trafficking and reintegrate into their families and communities.

There is a raft of reasons that Indonesian trafficking victims are unassisted or under-assisted, including one or a combination of the following: that trafficked persons are unidentified; reintegration is not clearly defined or understood; most assistance is “one-off”; assistance is short-term; victims face barriers in accessing services; lack of information about assistance; lack of assistance to trafficked men; lack of case management and tailored reintegration support; and uneven geographic provision of assistance.

Challenges in the reintegration response in Indonesia

- Trafficked persons are unidentified
- Reintegration is not clearly defined or understood
- Most assistance is “one-off”
- Assistance is short-term
- Victims face barriers in accessing services
- Lack of information about assistance
- Lack of assistance to trafficked men
- Lack of case management and tailored reintegration support
- Uneven provision of assistance due to decentralization and geographic distribution
**Trafficked persons are unidentified**

Being unassisted was a consequence of being unidentified. Many trafficked Indonesian migrant workers were not recognized as trafficking victims in the destination country and were detained and subsequently deported as illegal migrants. In some cases, trafficking victims remained unidentified because their traffickers got them quickly out of the country, most often when they felt at risk of imminent discovery and prosecution. This form of return of victims back to Indonesia meant that trafficked persons did not pass through channels either abroad or at home that would have facilitated their identification as trafficking victims. Others were able to leave their trafficking situations only when released by their employers/exploiters – e.g. when they were deemed to have completed their work contracts. In such instances, trafficking victims were also most commonly concerned with getting home and did not seek out support. They often traveled on valid immigration documents and crossed formal border crossings and may not have manifested visible signs of their exploitation. And yet, their experiences of exploitation abroad rose to the level of human trafficking.

Failed identification also happened at home; many trafficked persons were not screened or recognized as trafficking victims upon their return to Indonesia. None of the individuals interviewed for this study described being screened as a potential trafficking victim when entering Indonesia in spite of often visible signals that this might be the case. Some returning migrants workers were visibly ill or injured (sometimes seriously) and were still not screened as potentially trafficked upon arrival. One woman, trafficked in the UAE, was suddenly sent home by her “employers”. She had a visible and still bleeding wound and several other visible scars when she arrived back in Indonesia and yet she was not screened by airport authorities. Another trafficked domestic worker who returned from Bahrain was so visibly sick that the flight attendant on the airplane asked about her condition, saying: “What’s wrong with you? Did your employer torture you?” Still this woman was not identified as a trafficking victim by the authorities. One woman, trafficked as a domestic worker to Qatar, tried to explain that she was a trafficking victim upon arrival at the airport in Indonesia, but was classified as an “unsuccessful migrant worker”.

Many returning migrants did not know about trafficking or did not recognize their exploitation as trafficking. One woman had been home for five years and had never been identified as a trafficking victim. It was only when she participated in community discussions about trafficking some years after her return that she understood that she had been trafficked. As a consequence, she did not know that she had been (and indeed still was) entitled to assistance as a trafficked person, nor was she aware of what assistance might be available to her.

This is likely to be particularly common among victims of labor trafficking, given that many Indonesians (including within civil society and the government) continue to associate trafficking solely with trafficking for sexual exploitation and the trafficking of children. The observation of one trafficked domestic worker is illustrative: “I thought that trafficking it’s only women trafficked as prostitutes. So right now I understand that [my situation as a domestic worker] was also a trafficking situation”. This is also an issue for trafficked men who, until very recently, were not generally understood to be at risk of trafficking and potential victims of this crime.
Reintegration is not clearly defined or understood
The Indonesian anti-trafficking law does not define reintegration but instead refers to “rehabilitation”. It states that a trafficking victim is “entitled to receive medical and social rehabilitation, return assistance, and social reintegration”, with the accompanying Elucidation of the Law defining “social reintegration” as “the reunification of a victim of the criminal act of trafficking in persons with his/her family or a foster family which can provide protection to and meet the needs of the victim”. That is, reintegration in the Indonesian context and in its normative framework is essentially about return to one’s family, although reintegration is much more than that.

Lack of clarity around what constitutes reintegration and the common conflation of reintegration with return is manifested in the programming and policies of both government and civil society. Interactions with service providers indicated that many had a limited understanding of what reintegration is, with many focusing on return or the pursuit of a legal case or compensation.

That being said, there is increasing understanding of reintegration among policy makers and service providers in Indonesia. In drafting guidelines for the implementation of a reintegration plan for trafficked women in early 2015, the Ministry of Social Affairs (through its Social Rehabilitation Directorate) employed a broad and nuanced understanding of the issue, defining reintegration as “recovery and economic and social inclusion after the experience of trafficking” and highlighting the importance of empowerment, self-reliance, resilience and self-sufficiency.
**Most assistance is “one-off”**

Most assistance that trafficked persons reported receiving was “one-off” – the provision of one type of assistance with limited or no follow-up. This typically included transportation home and some financial assistance to deal with emergency needs. And yet most trafficking victims described a range of issues and needs during reintegration, which were coterminous and mutually reinforcing.

Economic assistance was a prioritized form of assistance, which was generally offered as a one-off form of assistance by government and NGOs—e.g. small grants, conditional cash transfers, capital to start a business and so on—and seldom coupled with complimentary support like vocational training or skills in small business development, which trafficked persons also reported needing.

Economic assistance was often only successful when supplemented by other forms of support (whether for the victim and/or his/her family). In some cases, this meant counseling, allowing the victim to recover and stabilize and then be more able to successfully find and keep a job or run a small business. One woman who was in urgent need of a job (she was unemployed and her husband worked only casually) nonetheless said her greatest need was counseling, to deal with her trauma.

**Assistance is short-term**

Indonesian trafficking victims commonly return home in very difficult circumstances, having suffered physical and psychological violence and endured brutal and inhumane living and working conditions. They often face economic problems, including debt, and some return to a difficult family and community environment where they face blame, discrimination or even stigma.

Reintegration is, as a consequence, a long-term process and many trafficked persons require services and support over a period of some time. Moreover, some trafficked persons face “setbacks” and “failures” during their reintegration and may require ongoing support or a resumption of services to address later problems. The specific time that victims need to reintegrate varies, but is commonly considered to be a multi-year process.

By contrast, assistance currently available to trafficking victims in Indonesia is typically quite short-term, designed to meet immediate and urgent needs and not oriented toward longer-term reintegration. Moreover, there is limited follow-up or referral for services once victims return home.

One woman, trafficked to UAE for domestic work, was provided with emergency assistance for two weeks after her arrival in Indonesia, including food, accommodation and education on trafficking and was promised longer-term help (e.g.)
job placement or vocational training) once home. However, she did not get any further help once she returned home, nor was she contacted by the social worker. She described how she was struggling to survive without the longer-term assistance she had been promised: “The problem is I want to work but I do not have any money or capital...I do not work.”

Both NGOs and international organizations described substantial limitations in their ability to reach and support trafficked persons in terms of providing longer-term assistance needed for meaningful reintegration.

To some extent, lack of reintegration assistance is an issue of resources. Funding for long-term reintegration support and services is limited. Indonesian government funding is primarily channeled to the Integrated Service Centers, which are focused on short-term care. And not all provinces have prioritized assistance to trafficking victims in their budgets, not least long-term reintegration services. NGOs and international organizations also report an overall lack of funding from the government and a lack of donor interest in funding anti-trafficking assistance in the country, and certainly lack of investment in the high costs and long-term nature of reintegration work. And, thus far, Indonesia has received relatively less attention and support than a number of other countries in the region from international anti-trafficking donor organizations to address human trafficking generally and reintegration services specifically.

*We recognize that we are very weak on reintegration and this is where we need to start putting our attention. We cannot follow cases when they go home and we don’t have much to offer them anyway.*

- NGO service provider

*A man and boy register for services at a local health clinic. Photo: Peter Biro.*
Victims face barriers in accessing services

The legal and regulatory framework in Indonesia, as described above, affords trafficking victims eligibility to various forms of assistance and support. Trafficked persons can, in many circumstances, also access other assistance as returned migrant workers and socially vulnerable persons. However, these rights and services are not always available or accessible in practice due to administrative requirements (such as documents that trafficked persons may lack), bureaucratic hurdles, the inability to make insurance claims, structural barriers, misinformation among officials and assistance organizations, personal and individual barriers (including feeling shame or embarrassment about asking for assistance, a lack of confidence in approaching authorities or service providers, pessimism about the likelihood of receiving help, mistrust of authorities and so on) and practical issues (such as lack of resources to contact service providers).

In some cases these barriers are a function of administrative requirements. For example, accessing and registering for state services requires presenting identity documents. Some trafficked persons returned home without documents – having had them taken by their employers while abroad or having been destroyed or lost while trafficked. Preparing new identity documents is not only cost-prohibitive, but is also often a time consuming and complicated process which requires a birth certificate, family card and a letter from the head of the rukun tetangga (RT) or neighborhood and also the head of village (kepala desa). It is even more expensive and complicated for persons who have integrated into a new community, particularly Jakarta. Some victims felt both confused and intimidated by the procedures.

If it gets complicated and there’s a law involved, I don’t want to. I don’t like complicated things like that. I don’t want to involve with the law.

- Woman, trafficked for domestic work, who described reticence in accessing assistance if it meant facing administrative and legal barriers.

...she asked me, how much capital do you need? At least 10 million IDR [910USD], but I was too embarrassed to tell her the amount.

- Man, trafficked for fishing, who wanted to open a business upon his return, but was embarrassed to ask the service provider for support.

I wanted to sue my employer to pay my salary. But I did not tell this to [the service provider]. I was [ashamed] and afraid at that time. I was afraid that it would be problems for me and a long process and more complicated.

- Woman, trafficked for domestic work, on her reluctance to ask for help to claim her unpaid salary.

Some barriers to accessing assistance were structural – i.e. due to lack of information and capacity among government officials responsible for assisting victims. One woman, trafficked for domestic work, described how improvements were needed in terms of the police’s handling of cases, explaining that they did not accept her case when she reported it: “I think the police must understand our condition because when my sister reported to the police, they didn’t accept my case. They said they only took care of torture and thief cases”.

Some barriers were highly personal and individual. Many respondents were reluctant to follow up on referrals for assistance. Some expressed “shyness” and feeling intimidated to contact government officials for help. Others described feeling ashamed of being poor or needing help or about having been exploited.
Some respondents wondered how they should represent themselves to the authorities in asking for help. One woman, in urgent need of assistance, contacted one member of the research team in the middle of the night to ask for guidance in contacting the authorities, asking what to say in explaining who she was and where she got the contact information.

Still others lacked confidence in their ability to access services and were pessimistic about the likelihood of receiving help. One man, trafficked for labor in Malaysia, said that initially he had tried to apply for some funding to start a small business, but that he eventually gave up: “there is the possibility that since we are small people, our application wouldn’t be granted. That was what we thought. So we stopped”. For others there was mistrust of the law enforcement authorities whom they would need to approach to access their rights.

There were also practical issues associated with accessing services. Some respondents lacked the resources to contact services providers by phone or to travel to the offices of the relevant authorities. One man, trafficked for labor exploitation in Singapore and Malaysia, said simply that he could not look for help because he lacked money: “I didn’t have money. [...] Yes, we need money for transportation to go to the police”.

Lack of information about assistance

Many trafficked persons in Indonesia do not know about the available services whether for trafficked victims, migrant workers or socially vulnerable persons. Overall, trafficked persons interviewed for this study, including those who had received some assistance, had very little information about their rights as trafficking victims and how to access the services to which they were entitled. Most respondents who were unassisted reported that they lacked any information about assistance options and where to access it.

Trafficked persons spoke not only of their own lack of information about reintegration assistance, but lack of information among migrant workers generally. One man, a victim of labor trafficking on a palm oil plantation, spoke of his friend’s wife who is currently in a potential trafficking situation abroad and who is unable to return home and discussed how her friends and relatives at home do not know how to help her: “[My] friend told me that his wife wants to come home but is not allowed. We are confused where to report this”.

Not only does lack of information contribute to perpetuating trafficking situations and lead many trafficked persons to believe that they have to pay or go into further debt in order to escape their exploitative situations, but also, in some cases, it may lead victims to believe they need to pay for the services that they need (and to which they are entitled by law) in Indonesia.

Lack of assistance to trafficked men

Human trafficking, from and within Indonesia, affects men, women and children for various forms of exploitation. Participants in this study included not only women, but also men trafficked for fishing, work on palm oil plantations, as cleaners, for construction and factory
work. And, like their female counterparts, they described many issues that they did their best to cope with, often alone without support, after trafficking, including suffering severe physical injuries, psychological trauma, economic crises, problems in family relations and so on.

Within Indonesia, anti-trafficking services are more readily available to trafficked women. Indeed the overall framework for responding to human trafficking in Indonesia is underpinned by the assumption that trafficking victims are most commonly women and children. The Integrated Service Centers (*Pusat Pelayanan Terpadu Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Anak* or P2TP2A) were originally designed “for the empowerment of women and children” and the 456 Indonesian National Police service units (operated in police stations around Indonesia) are also for women and children. The cost of assistance provided to male trafficking victims is not typically covered by P2TP2A.

There is also inconsistency between different policies and regulations in terms of services available to male trafficking victims. For example, West Java’s *Regulation On Prevention and Handling of Victims of Trafficking in West Java* (Number 3, Year 2008) includes trafficked men. However, the *Governor Decree of West Java Province* (Number 63, Year 2014), which recently established *Minimum Standards for*
Integrated Services for Victims of Trafficking and Violence against Women and Children, is focused specifically on women and children.

Thus, as is the case in many countries, the overall assistance framework is weighted heavily toward women and children so that men are excluded from eligibility for many services. Indeed, many men interviewed for this study received no formal assistance whatsoever – whether as a trafficking victims, exploited migrants or vulnerable persons – and those who were assisted did not receive long-term or comprehensive assistance.

That being said, some services can be accessed by male trafficking victims. The RPTC (House Protection for Trauma Center) in Jakarta provides services to men and women, as does the RTPC in Bandung and one recently established in the district of Sukabumi.

Some assistance to men is available through NGOs working in the communities to assist returned migrant workers who have faced problems. Some trafficked men have been assisted by IOM and its partner NGOs. In addition, some organizations working to assist fishers generally have also assisted fishers who ended up trafficked. While men trafficked for fishing were more likely to have received some assistance upon their return to Indonesia, this consisted primarily of legal assistance in pursuing a case against the recruitment agency. Moreover, as noted above, these organizations have limited resources for assistance, which means that services are primarily one-off support or fairly short-term assistance like conditional cash transfers, a rice subsidy, or a small grant to start a small business.

Lack of assistance to male trafficking victims had a negative impact on their physical and mental well-being and undermined their ability to recover after trafficking. A number of men were considering migrating again – thereby putting themselves at potentially heightened risk of being re-trafficked – in the hopes of being able to earn money, support their families and pay their debt.

Lack of case management and tailored reintegration support
Each trafficked person has a unique experience while exploited and also returns to a highly specific situation within his or her family and community. This means that reintegration assistance needs to be tailored to each individual situation and set of needs. This requires case management by professional social workers and support staff including working with trafficked persons in developing a plan for reintegration, monitoring and assessing progress.

I cried as I knew my wife’s condition, lying down, thin and dried, with only bones, I cried. It was just dark. I can only feel the darkness, regret and extraordinary pain, regret and revenge. [...] My wife was sick and my father died [...] [I felt] disappointment, I was raging, I was regretting, I was pessimistic. Well, because, excuse me...the one who always gave the spirit usually were the one by your side, when [my wife died]... everything was down.

- Man, trafficked for labor, who returned home to a dying wife and spoke about being traumatized by her loss.

I just want one thing, I want to be able to pay my debt, I imagined that I went abroad to be able to pay my debt and to have capital to [have a small business] but I got nothing...it is hard. I am jobless for a month already. I did not give any income to my wife. I told [a service provider staff] last night, crying, my wife was evicted by her relative because she stayed there for a month just eating and sleeping, while here, I never give her any money...Well, until I rent a house, my wife is applying for a job, so that we can rent a house...she is patient for now, maybe for one month, but in the future, I feel uneasy to her family.

- Man, trafficked for fishing, who spoke of the burden of his debt, as well as the impact his trafficking experience had on his family relationships.
over time and refining reintegration plans and goals over time.

Case management plays an important role in anticipating and addressing issues and problems faced by trafficked persons over the course of reintegration. And the government is making efforts to improve case management in the country. For example, in 2014, the Ministry of Social Affairs worked to improve the competence of social workers by providing training and capacity building to social workers. However, trafficked persons reported that caseworkers seldom conducted individual needs assessments or worked with victims to develop a reintegration plan.

Organizations and institutions tended to offer one-off or short-term assistance, with little tailoring of assistance to victims’ individual needs, situations, interests or capacities. As one service provider described regarding the lack of tailored and individualized assistance: “The [organizations and institutions] support training for working, for example, in a salon but the fact is that not all victims have an interest in this [work]... this not what she wants or needs in her life”.

Moreover, individual case management was generally weak to non-existent. Often service providers did not follow beneficiaries once they left a shelter program and returned home. Some trafficked persons who returned home described how social workers and service providers did not follow up with them after their return or follow their progress, sometimes in spite of promising to do so.

An additional issue is that, while there is a tradition of social work in Indonesia, there is nonetheless a lack of professional social workers at the community level to undertake case management work. Professional social workers are not typically found at the sub-district or village level but rather work through voluntary community workers (TKSK or Tenaga Kesejahteraan Sosial Kecamatan) or “social guides” (pendamping). However, these are not professionally educated, trained and licensed social workers and have received only basic social welfare training.

Another issue is the limited number of social workers working on trafficking issues and even fewer are familiar with and trained in the complex issue of reintegration of trafficking victims. Equally, TKSK and social guides have generally not received any orientation in working with victims of trafficking or violence.

One man, trafficked for fishing, when asked what advice he would give to service providers to better support trafficking victims answered:

...Monitoring. That is also very important because people, even me, tend to go with the flow. So if there is intense monitoring, the monitored person will be very careful, not because he’s afraid but it’s more to motivate the person.

After returning from [the shelter], I was jobless and just stayed at home without any activity because I didn’t want to go to Jakarta again to work in the same situation. [...] No, since I returned from [the shelter], no one ever came to visit me.

- Young woman, trafficked for prostitution, who was rescued and assisted in a government shelter for one month. After one month, a social worker accompanied her to her home but had not contacted her since or provided any further assistance.

I suggest [for service providers] not to make false promises or fake hope. We are in difficulty, [they] say that they will help but we have to wait. But it was never realized. If they want to give assistance, they can give it immediately, no matter how much that is. Just don’t give us false promises and say: ‘later and later’.

- Woman, trafficked for domestic work, who described living in “a limbo” while she waited to hear from the social worker about follow-up assistance after her return home.
In some cases, *pendamping* may be former victims who have been employed by the local government or NGOs to support trafficking victims with setting up a business or some other aspect of reintegration. While this means that they are personally knowledgeable about trafficking and also the challenges of reintegration, they may face issues in taking on such work when they are still themselves processing and coming to terms with their own experiences of exploitation and may still be in the process of reintegration themselves.

**Uneven geographic provision of assistance**

Indonesia is a vast archipelago with a decentralized government system. Regional autonomy (or decentralization) can promote good governance including improved delivery of public services for trafficked persons. Being able to access services locally, for example, may increase access given the vastness of the country. It can also help individuals to feel more comfortable in approaching government officials for services.

Nonetheless, there may be negative impacts of government decentralization – for example, when inadequate financial resources or inefficient government administration at the local level impact services available to trafficked persons in their communities or when local institutions do not fulfill obligations to assist trafficked persons. National policies and programs aimed at supporting the reintegration of trafficked persons are implemented at the provincial and district levels, without direct reporting to the national level and without an earmarked budget for this work.

Indonesia’s central government largely funds provincial governments through block grants, which means that provinces have significant discretion in the allocation of funding for assistance to trafficking victims. This means, in practice, that reintegration support is at the discretion of the provincial government, resulting in wide variations in how provincial governments fund victim services and the level of care available through government centers across the country. The provision of reintegration services is uneven across Indonesia, as well as between districts within a province.

Some provincial and district governments have prioritized combatting trafficking and assistance to victims, meaning that trafficked persons may have access to reintegration support in certain areas (or at least some forms of reintegration assistance). For example, in the province of West Java, the regulation *On Prevention and Handling of Victims of Trafficking in West Java (Number 3, Year 2008)* establishes that the local governments must provide some forms of assistance (temporary shelter, legal aid, medical care, psychological support, economic empowerment and education) to victims who originate from West Java Province. Accordingly, some district level governments within West Java have implemented local regulations and programs that support reintegration. The district of Sukabumi has a special regulation on trafficking, which

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**I used to talk about [getting assistance] to people. But since it was far and I needed some funds to get there, then that was a dead end...I don't have a car, so it depends also if people want to go there... So I stopped and discontinued it...it is far.**

- Man, trafficked for labor to Malaysia, who described having to travel a great distance from his home community to seek the assistance he needed and therefore he eventually gave up.

**We reported to the police for an act of trafficking, because they didn't want to pay for our salary. Finally, we made a report to Jakarta, from Jakarta it was bestowed to [another city in another province]. I went back and forth, leaving my family. I didn't work but to take care of my case, to track down my salary.**

- Man, trafficked for fishing, who described the difficulties faced in pursuing a legal case because of the cost in being involved in the legal process, sometimes running up a debt in the process.
establishes a task force involving specific stakeholders in the handling of victims and provides a budget allocation to services for trafficking victims. Currently in West Java province, 18 districts/regencies or cities (of 24) have regulations on the prevention and handling trafficking in persons as well as a task force. That being said, some provinces have not established anti-trafficking taskforces and provide only minimal funding for the protection of trafficking victims. And some district level governments have not regulated or prioritized human trafficking. In this way decentralization can challenge access to reintegration support.

The reality is that there are limited services for trafficked persons available in villages and sub-villages even though an individual’s reintegration most commonly takes place necessarily within the trafficked person’s family and community (in Indonesian villages and sub-villages). While some assistance may be available at the district (or even sub-district) level, there is seldom access to comprehensive reintegration support in every district. And some forms of assistance – like psychological assistance – are only available in major cities and the capital, Jakarta. The distances involved in reaching services are often quite great and costs in reaching them (in terms of both time and money) are prohibitive. Many villages are located literally hours from the closest administrative center, over difficult roads and with limited transportation options. Reaching these services is impeded also by the time involved in traveling, as well as the costs (due to the cost of travel and loss of income when not working. One woman who returned home severely injured from work abroad lives eight hours from the nearest town where she could receive only basic medical care and travel to the district capital was both prohibitively complicated and expensive.
Conclusion and recommendations

Significant investment has been made by the Indonesian government, NGOs and IOs toward supporting and assisting trafficked persons upon their return to Indonesia. And this support has had a positive impact in the reintegration of many trafficked persons. Nonetheless, many trafficking victims did not receive the assistance and support that they needed to recover from their trafficking experiences and to reintegrate into their families and communities. There are some specific gaps and challenges in terms of supporting the reintegration of trafficked persons in Indonesia that, in practice, mean trafficked person are often unassisted and underserved. Without access to long-term services and comprehensive reintegration support, many Indonesian trafficking victims struggle as they seek to recover and move on with their lives after trafficking.

Attention is needed as to how organizations and institutions working on anti-trafficking assistance in the country can make further changes and improvements that will ensure the successful and sustainable reintegration of trafficked persons in Indonesia. Addressing the gaps and issues noted above will constitute a critical starting point in an improved reintegration response in Indonesia and, by implication, have significant and positive impacts in the lives of trafficked persons. To that end, the following recommendations are proposed as ways to begin addressing these gaps and issues and, in so doing, enhance the provision of reintegration support to trafficked persons in the country – including men, women and children and victims of all forms of trafficking exploitation.

Recommendations

- Enhance the identification of trafficked persons
- Develop a policy and programmatic response on reintegration
- Provide comprehensive reintegration assistance to trafficking victims
- Ensure the availability of long-term reintegration assistance
- Eliminate barriers to assistance
- Enhance referrals for reintegration services
- Provide trafficking victims with information about reintegration assistance
- Include trafficked males in all reintegration programs and policies
- Tailor reintegration assistance to each individual
- Enhance case management
- Advocate for the provision of reintegration services across Indonesia