

Conference “From Evidence To Action”

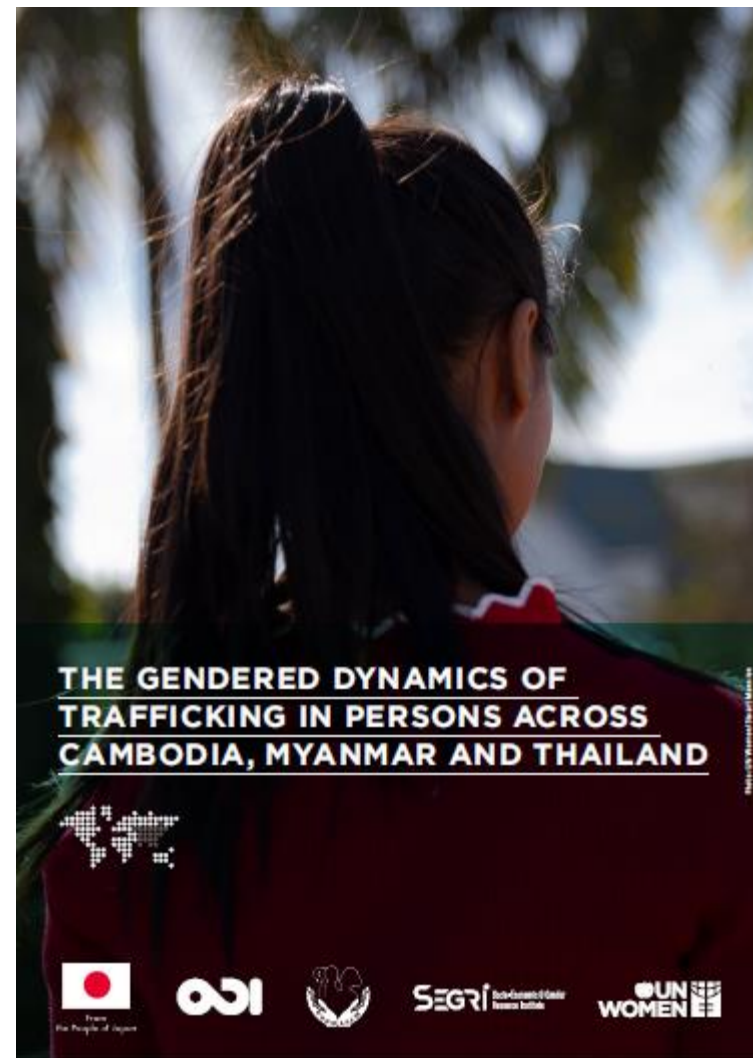
10-12 November

Afternoon session :
The Gender Dynamics of Human Trafficking: a study in
Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand”
15.30-16.30 BKK time.

Hosts:

Gaelle Demolis, *UN Women*
Sara Piazzano, USAID Asia CTIP

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THE GENDERED DYNAMICS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ACROSS CAMBODIA, MYANMAR AND THAILAND

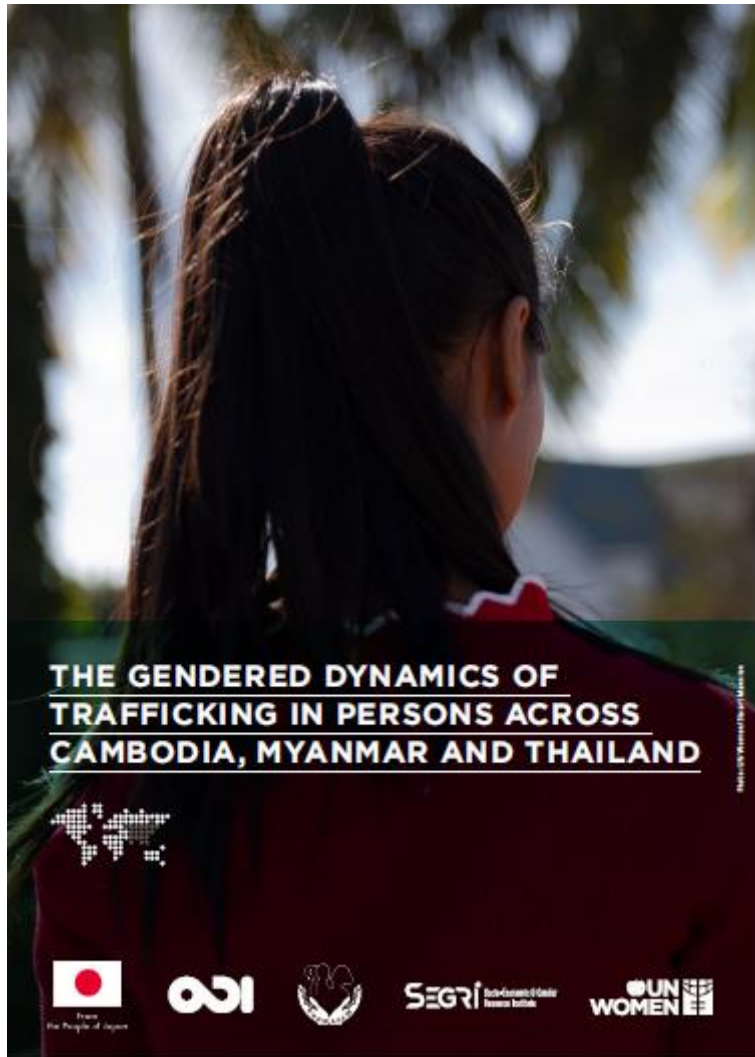
Gaëlle Demolis

UN Women

The research

- Conducted by ODI/SEGRI in Myanmar / LSCW in Cambodia.
- 37 survivors of trafficking
- 7 family members of trafficked persons
- 27 key informants

You can access the research [here](#)



THE GENDERED DYNAMICS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ACROSS CAMBODIA, MYANMAR AND THAILAND

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Gender and push and pull factors

Gender and age

“Men trafficked into the fishing industry are in their twenties, women trafficked into prostitution are younger than 20, at times even 15.”

Gender and education

“Neither me nor any of my five sisters went to school. My mother told me and my sisters that we do not need to go to school as we would only take care the housework. My mother preferred my two brothers to go to school as both would be the master of the family when they married.” (33-year-old survivor from Cambodia)

Gender, poverty and debt

“The whole family only relied on the income from farm, plantation and logging but it was not enough for the family and when the family faced a food shortage my mother borrowed money from other villagers to buy more food for the family and would return it back to them with high interest when we managed to sell crops. It was the usual strategy that my mother used for the survival of the whole family.” (23-year-old woman from Cambodia)

Gender and household decision-making structures

“I made a decision by myself and no one made a decision for me. When I heard about a job in Thailand, I contacted the broker by myself then I made the decision on my own” 25-year-old male survivor from Cambodia)

“ I was only nine years old when I went to Thailand for the first time for babysitting. My father is the one who decided I would go a father wants his daughter to go there, she has to go. Right?” (17-year-old girl from Myanmar)

Gender-based violence

“Some groups of women are vulnerable to trafficking, such as the survivors of domestic violence, rape and abuse. This group of women want to escape from violent situations in the families and the discrimination by the community as they survived rape or abuse.” (UN agency representative, Phnom Penh, Cambodia)

Gender and belonging to an ethnic group

“Karen women can be found in shopping mall stores, fuel stations or restaurants, Rakhine women are in garment factories. [...] The factory mostly hires women [...] They don’t want to hire men due to drug issues, fighting each other, and [because they might strike].” (NGO representative, Myanmar)

Climate change

Natural disasters such as floods and droughts destroy harvests and livelihoods, and this has been particularly prevalent in Cambodia. Before migrating, most respondents, both men and women, were subsistence farmers.



Recommendations

... the need to tackle the identified gendered dynamics of trafficking

- Invest in systematic data collection on the prevalence and characteristics of labour migration with data disaggregated by location, gender, age and ethnicity;
- Tackle gendered inequalities in education, in labour markets and access to social protection
- Enhance access to legal migration pathways
- Support Women Economic Empowerment programmes in non-traditional sectors
- Ensure training /awareness-raising initiatives are gender-responsive and can easily be accessed by women and at convenient times
- Strengthen psycho-social services/ legal support

THE GENDERED DYNAMICS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ACROSS CAMBODIA, MYANMAR AND THAILAND

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UN Women



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