

According to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000), child trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of children for the purpose of exploitation. It is a violation of their rights, their well-being and denies them the opportunity to reach their full potential. While recent research has yielded information on the nature of child trafficking, little is known about its magnitude. The International Labor Organization's 2002 estimation of 1.2 million children being trafficked each year remains the reference (Every Child Counts, New Global estimate on Child Labor).

UNICEF works with development partners, governments and non-governmental organizations on all aspects of anti-trafficking responses – prevention, protection and prosecution – and supports evidence-based research to strengthen interventions. To reduce vulnerabilities that make children susceptible to trafficking, UNICEF assists governments in strengthening laws, policies and services including legislative review and reforms, establishing minimum labor standards, and supporting access to education. UNICEF also works with communities to change norms and practices that exacerbate children's vulnerabilities to trafficking.

Protecting trafficked children requires timely victim identification, placing them in safe environment, providing them with social services, health care, psychosocial support, and reintegration with family and community, if it is proven to be in their best interest. UNICEF assists by supporting training of professionals working with children including social workers, health workers, police and border officials to effectively deal with trafficking. Additionally, UNICEF supports governments in setting standards in dealing with child trafficking such as developing and training responsible personnel on child friendly interviewing techniques.

QUESTIONS : (EXPRESS YOUR IDEA)

1. What is child trafficking in your own opinion?
2. How many children were being trafficked in the year 2002?
3. What did UNICEF do to prevent child trafficking?
4. In your opinion, are those measures done by UNICEF effective?
5. As an individual, what can you do to stop child trafficking?
6. As a medical practitioner, how can you help a victim of child trafficking?
7. Why do we need to protect children from child trafficking?