

SIREN

STRATEGIC INFORMATION RESPONSE NETWORK

United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP): Phase III

BANGKOK, THAILAND

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INTRODUCTION TO SIREN STRATEGIC INFORMATION RESPONSE NETWORK



WHAT IS SIREN?

The Strategic Information Response Network (SIREN) is a new UNIAP-supported initiative intended to deliver high quality, responsive, and up-to-date data and analysis on cutting edge issues within the human trafficking sector. It is aimed at key stakeholders in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) – government and non-government – in order to inform and encourage their attention and action on the target issue.

SIREN aims to convey information to the human counter-trafficking sector in a variety of different forms: briefing reports, maps, data sheets, and discussion forums and debates, to name a few. Research, validation, and analysis will be conducted in the field, by community-based organizations, national and international agencies, and/or UNIAP itself. The goal is to bring real knowledge and context on real priority issues from the grassroots to the national and regional levels, and vice versa.

SIREN: WHAT, WHY, AND FOR WHOM?

What is SIREN... and what is it NOT?

SIREN is not large-scale academic research, nor is it advocacy, nor is it one-off rapid assessment. SIREN is targeted fieldwork, analysis, and group discussion about cutting-edge or gap-filling issues in human counter-trafficking. Issues highlighted are those identified as high priority by stakeholders at the regional, national, and local level, with information from the sources that are closest to the action. SIREN reports, maps, events, and dialogues thus aim to complement existing research and analysis efforts, while synthesizing and analyzing information in a specific and accurate way to drive action or feed into decision-making on interventions.

Why is UNIAP starting SIREN?

UNIAP's Phase III began in late 2006, with a mandate – endorsed by a host of government, non-government, and United Nations agencies – to:

- Facilitate optimal allocation and targeting of anti-trafficking resources by ensuring that those developing and implementing anti-trafficking interventions have access to the latest in information, analysis and lessons learned, and
- To continue playing a catalytic role in the anti-trafficking response by identifying and supporting special projects to address new and emerging issues and opportunities.

Additionally, as Secretariat to COMMIT, the Coordinated Ministerial Initiative Against Human Trafficking, UNIAP is mandated by the COMMIT MoU, Article 29 to:

- Develop procedures for collection and analysis of data and information on trafficking cases and ensuring that anti-trafficking strategies are based on accurate and current research, experience, and analysis.

This is a service-providing function, building on the information-sharing function that UNIAP has held since 2000 – working with government, non-government, and community stakeholders to identify knowledge gaps and ways to improve the knowledge and empirical data informing the counter-trafficking interventions of all agencies.

UNIAP is in a unique position to undertake this initiative, serving as a link between the governments of the GMS and non-government stakeholders in the anti-human trafficking sector. Benefiting from these strong linkages, and with a commitment to making a tangible impact on the crime of human trafficking in the GMS, SIREN is driven at guiding counter-trafficking attention and interventions towards critical areas that have yet to be covered – or at least covered appropriately. SIREN is furthermore a response to the overall need to have more research-based interventions, and to seek accountability and transparency in the sector. Shedding light on areas that need further attention and action is a way of monitoring and evaluating where the collective anti-trafficking response is moving, and where it should be moving.

What are the expected outputs of SIREN – and targeted to whom?

SIREN's aim is to be responsive and reliable: providing a forum for high quality information exchange and multi-source analysis in easily digestible formats, to those who require this information for effective programming, prosecution, or policy formulation. These include:

- Analytical field reports from grassroots organizations;
- Research analyses on emerging critical issues;
- At-a-glance data sheets with validated data from credible sources;
- Intervention maps, heat maps, and other visual tools for multi-agency planning; and,
- Discussion and debate forums to get at the core of urgent and cross-cutting issues.

The target audience, depending on the issue, could thus be community-based organizations; international agencies (government and non-government); donors; policy makers; police, lawyers or others from the criminal justice sector; and/or academics.

The crux of SIREN is the Network – the Strategic Information Response Network from which SIREN derives its name. So whether on paper or at the discussion table, much of SIREN will be driven and informed by the organizations that have credible, up-to-date information and context to share (in a safe and anonymous way, if necessary), coupled with organizations who can assist with maintaining a high level of methodological rigor and corroboration for quality control, coupled with those who can provide other critical perspectives such as policy, law enforcement, or intervention program management.

UNIAP's main objective is to provide the forum, technical assistance, and networking and dissemination mechanisms for organizations and agencies to share what they know, to learn from others, and to connect – to initiate and improve action to combat human trafficking. SIREN products will therefore not always reflect the perspectives or positions of UNIAP.

How do individuals or organizations learn more about or contribute to SIREN?

Are you an individual, student, organization, or agency who would like to explore the possibility of contributing a SIREN product or initiating a discussion or debate forum? Contact UNIAP's Paul Buckley at Paul.Buckley@undp.or.th, to make topical requests or suggestions, or to discuss getting involved with or making a contribution to SIREN.

To learn more about UNIAP, please visit www.no-trafficking.org.

