TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR SPECIAL SERVICE AGREEMENT

POST TITLE: Cross-Border Case Coordinator (Vietnam)
AGENCY/PROJECT NAME: UNDP/UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (UNIAP)
COUNTRY OF ASSIGNMENT: Vietnam

1) GENERAL BACKGROUND

The United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP) was established in June 2000 to facilitate a stronger and more coordinated response to human trafficking, in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) and beyond. UNIAP is managed by a headquarters in Bangkok, with country project offices in the capitals of Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. While UNIAP is a UN inter-agency project, UNIAP receives financial support from its own bilateral and multilateral funding and not from UN agencies, allowing it to retain a neutral position within the UN that serves UN agencies, governments, and NGOs equally. It is the only inter-agency coordinating body on human trafficking of its kind within the United Nations system.

The purpose of UNIAP in Phase III (2006-2010) is to build on and further strengthen the regional response to human trafficking among governments, UN and other development partners working in the anti-trafficking sector, based on (a) improved cooperation within and between partners, (b) effective targeting of resources and expertise and (c) application/dissemination of the latest in lessons learned in and outside of the GMS. The Project comprises interlinking services as coordination, technical assistance, capacity building, issue analysis, and advocacy, in addition to identification of and responses to addressing new and emerging human trafficking issues.

Vietnam is an origin, and to a much less extent transit and destination, country. The main destination countries are China and Cambodia, but there are other destination countries within the GMS as well. Women, children and newborn babies are trafficked for marriage, labor exploitation, sex work and adoption. Wives from Vietnam are in demand, due to both demographic and economic factors, such as China’s “female deficit” and bride prices. Social pressure for marriage and to have children are risk factors for rural women. The use of violence, abduction and anesthetic seems on the rise by increasingly organized networks. The majority of the trafficked women and children come from Vietnam’s northern provinces through unofficial paths or border gates in Lang Son, Quang Ninh and Lao Cai, but also Cao Bang, Ha Giang and Lai Chau. Across the border, Bang Tuong, Dong Hung, Quang Xi, Nam Ninh, Ha Khau are receiving communities. But, destinations for trafficking now extend beyond the border provinces of Yunnan and Guangxi to inland provinces such as Henan, Hebei, Anhui, Jiangsu and Guangdong. According to official estimates, trafficked women into China account for 70% of the total number of trafficked women abroad, but the nature and numbers remain difficult to determine1. In addition, there also have been reports that the China-Vietnam border has seen a nontrivial number of victims of trafficking returning to Vietnam through various channels2. With the high crossing volume back and forth between China and Vietnam, there still a lack of understanding on the process of deporting VoTs from

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China, detaining suspected traffickers at the border gates, and the capacity and limitations of law enforcement officials in dealing with these issues.

As part of the SIREN and Support to Underserved Victims initiatives of UNIAP, the Cross-Border Case Coordinator will be skilled in statistical methodology and field research, so that he/she can document cases and support repatriation coordination and legal support through liaising with Vietnamese anti-human trafficking responders; examine human trafficking flows, broker/trafficker networks, and vulnerability factors driving human trafficking from Vietnam to China; and observe law enforcement’s efforts in dealing with these issues.

2) OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The objective of the Cross-Border Case Coordinator is to reach and assist more exploited people from Vietnam in China, and to document their cases so that justice for their offenders can be pursued.

3) SCOPE OF WORK

1. Design and implement trafficking sentinel surveillance

- Conduct a randomized survey on deportees that get sent back from China, using the UNIAP 2009 Sentinel Surveillance approach as a foundation;
- Provide training and field support to data collectors and field researchers;
- Ensure quality data entry and cleaning, with periodic data-cleaning checks and
- Keep UNIAP/Vietnam and UNIAP/Regional teams apprised of progress and developments.

2. Systematically examine law enforcement officials’ capacity in dealing with deportees, VoTs, and suspected traffickers, and study the coordination progress among different government agencies.

- Design and implement interviews with law enforcement officials to draft a situation assessment on deportees, including victim profiles, criminal profiles, vulnerability factors and their capacity in addressing these problems and
- Work with UNIAP/Vietnam team to develop a strategy for maximizing the benefits from this information.

4) DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT, DUTY STATION AND EXPECTED PLACES OF TRAVEL

The consultant will be contracted for 80 days between July and December 2009, with a home base in Vietnam and frequent travel to border gates in Vietnam’s Northern provinces of Lang Son, Quang Ninh, Lao Cai and other localities.

5) FINAL PRODUCTS

Upon completion of the contract, the consultant will have submitted:

- The Vietnam-China portion of the UNIAP 2009 Sentinel Surveillance analytical report;
- An instrument for the assessment of law enforcement capacity, to supplement the 2009 Sentinel Surveillance instrument used with deportees; and
- A separate report expanding on the practice and needs of law enforcement officials at the border gates, including best practices and recommendations on the current gaps and constraints.
6) PROVISION OF MONITORING AND PROGRESS CONTROLS

The Cross-Border Case Coordinator’s work will be monitored against an agreed monthly timeline, with progress indicators.

7) ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The consultant will be the lead point of contact in this activity and responsible for all deliverables, reporting to the technical chief in the regional office. UNIAP regional and country project offices in Vietnam and China will provide support to the consultant to facilitate meetings required, focus groups as necessary, and to provide available data. UNIAP/Vietnam team will be responsible for assisting the consultant with data analysis and field visits, as well as with obtaining the necessary government permissions in order to carry out the sentinel surveillance and interviews with law enforcement officials at central and provincial level.

8) DEGREE OF EXPERTISE AND QUALIFICATIONS

Essential

- At least 3 years of experience in working on human trafficking issues in Vietnam
- Fluency in Vietnamese and English
- Proven capacity to design and implement qualitative and quantitative surveys, as well as ability to modify methods on the fly in the field
- Excellent skills in research, data collection, data analysis, and report writing
- Working experience in a government, NGO, or UN agency
- Strong analytical skills, with an ability to identify program opportunities and priorities
- Proven experience of interviewing populations that have endured traumatizing ordeals
- Excellent oral and written English skills, with an ability to write quickly and clearly
- Familiarity with Windows-based computer applications

Desirable

- Graduate Degree in a relevant social science discipline
- Mandarin proficiency