victims of human trafficking and viral hepatitis

muhtar cokar – human resource development foundation
...the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by the threat or use of abduction, fraud, deception, coercion, or the abuse of power or by the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation...

Trafficking by numbers

- 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year - U.S. State Department
- In 2008, traffickers made an estimated $31 billion buying and selling humans – UN
- 1019 victims were identified in Turkey between 2004-2009
Determinants of HT in Turkey

- Close to HT routes
- Loose border controls, easily obtained visas
- Huge informal sector including sex work – high demand
- Attractive for irregular migration – human smuggling
- Defined as a crime – Penal code – hard to identify
HRDF

- NGO, population and development
- Operating a shelter since 2004
- Provided support for more than 400 victims
- Health and legal support
  - Psychological trauma
  - Reproductive health problems including STIs
STI services for VOTs in Turkey

- All foreign sex workers is subjected for compulsory control for STIs
  - RPR, Anti-HIV 1+2, Anti-HCV, HBsAg
- Voluntary check-up on demand at the shelter
  - MOH provides free medical services
- 59 victims are referred for STIs
Hepatitis B and C among victims

- HBsAg (+) in 5 victims (8%)
  - Last 18 victims with anti-HBs results
    - 1 HBsAg (+), anti-HBs (-)
    - 12 HBsAg (-), anti-HBs (+) 66% = vaccine?
    - 5 HBsAg (-), anti-HBs (-)

- Anti-HCV + in 6 victims (10%)

- HIV (+) 2 victims
Conclusion

- Hepatitis prevalence is high among VOTs
- Both hepatitis and human trafficking prevention is a priority
- Medical staff face with victims without knowing them, they may help in identification
- Prevention of STI activities should involve irregular migration including VOTs
Double effect of oppressive measures

- Oppressive measures for border control and sex work only helps HT operate underground
- More support for human rights
  - Right to movement
  - Right to work
  - Right for sex workers
  - Right to health
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of visitors to Turkey 2004-2007</th>
<th>Number of trafficked persons 2004-2007</th>
<th>Number of persons involved in prostitution 2004-2007</th>
<th>Ratio of trafficked persons / prostitution (%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
<td>1,554,577</td>
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<td>1,256</td>
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<td>Tunisia</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>20,998,126</strong></td>
<td><strong>885</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,335</strong></td>
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</table>

Source: 2007 Human Trafficking Report MOI, Turkey