

## **Executive Summary**

### **CP TING 2010 Baseline Survey Consolidated Summary Report**

The project to Prevent Trafficking for Labour Exploitation in China (CP TING) began in January 2010 and is scheduled to continue to December 2012. The project goal is to reduce trafficking for labour exploitation particularly among children and young women. To achieve this goal, the project assists in improving the legal policy framework, builds institutional capacity and raises public awareness of the issues, risks and mitigation strategies to prevent trafficking for labour exploitation. The project is being implemented by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in close collaboration with the All-China Women's Federation (ACWF) and is supported by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

From March 2010 to April 2011 a baseline survey was undertaken to determine the extent to which trafficking for labour exploitation is taking place or has taken place in the selected provinces, counties and cities; to explore conditions faced by female migrant workers; and to identify the risks of trafficking for labour exploitation. The study was not designed to determine the number of trafficking cases nor was it designed to include sex-related trafficking in high-risk sectors such as the personal body services industry, organized begging and “black” or illegally operating factories. In China, human trafficking is a crime and the responsible authority for dealing with such cases is the Ministry of Public Security.

Five research instruments were used for the survey. The survey questionnaires used in dominantly sending communities or areas were: Q1 for parents, Q2 for children 12 to 15 years old and young women 16 to 24 who never migrated, Q3 for returned migrants who had worked outside their home county and Q4 for women who worked locally in their county. The fifth questionnaire (Q5) was administered in receiving provinces or cities to migrant women working outside their home county. In addition to the survey instruments, interview protocols and guidelines were prepared to ensure consistency during key informant interviews and focus group discussions.

The research sample consisted of over 6,600 people distributed approximately evenly across the six participating provinces<sup>1</sup>. Respondents at the village-level in sending provinces and from local communities in receiving provinces or cities were randomly selected. In addition to the survey sample, approximately 150 individuals were interviewed as key informants or as participants in focus group discussions. Random sampling was used within the selected geographic locations and respondent categories. The selection of counties and townships in sending provinces and the cities and

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<sup>1</sup> Migrant-sending provinces were: Anhui, Guizhou, Hunan and Yunnan. Migrant-receiving locations were in Fujian, Jiangsu, and Kunming City, Yunnan.

districts in receiving provinces was determined by the provincial research teams in consultation with Provincial Women's Federations. Each location was deemed to have typical social and economic conditions where migration for employment is common.

Conditions and migration patterns in the research sample locations are typical to other locations in China. The survey results are of significant value to better understand the conditions and issues facing female migrant workers throughout the country.

### **Key Findings.**

Based on the international definition of trafficking, there were very few cases of trafficking among respondents. The research indicates that the incidence of trafficking is very low but exploitation of female migrant workers is very high. Key indicators of labour exploitation cited by over 60 percent of respondents included excessive working hours, delayed payment of wages and payment deductions to compensate for damages or errors.

Analysis of risk factors was done on five levels: individuals, households, employers, local and national levels. Individual level analysis included schooling, training, attitudes and social networks; household level covers factors such as household poverty, parent attitudes towards children's education and migration for work, awareness of risks, recruitment channels, employers treatment of migrants including working conditions, salary and work environment. At the local level, economic development, local government policies towards supporting employment, education and vocational schools all play a very important role in reducing trafficking risks. At the national level, government policies, regulations and laws are the main forces to deter trafficking for labour exploitation.

**Children 12 to 15 years old:** Results from the 964 respondents to Q2 revealed that middle school enrolment rate is 98 percent. This high rate of enrolment and retention was also reported by Q1 parent respondents. Interviews and focus group discussions with parents provided some explanation why children drop out of school. The main reasons include: "children are bored and lack motivation to learn," "children play online games spending less time on school subjects" and "family poverty causes children to quit school to migrate for work." The survey revealed that parents were willing to make every effort to support children to stay in school and that a decision to withdraw a child from school was of economic necessity rather than desire. There were no differentiated attitudes towards boys or girls.

**Children 16 to 17 and Young women 18 to 24:** The average level of education attainment was completion of middle school (grade 9). More than 10 percent of migrant respondents have more than 12 years education. Approximately 50 percent of migrants received vocational training. However, the training focused on vocational skills and very little on developing knowledge related to safety, laws, trafficking prevention and health. The survey revealed that first migration is generally at a very early age. Approximately two thirds of all migrant respondents stated they first migrated when they were 17 years or younger. The study revealed that 45 percent of

migrants continue to use traditional channels such as relying on friends, relatives and local people to find a job. Approximately 30 percent rely on enterprise advertisements or direct recruitment. Fifteen percent use vocational schools that frequently include workplace training as a form of job introduction. Approximately 6 percent of respondents used government job placement services.

The majority of female workers migrating out of their home county tend to work in factories, food services and hotels. Locally employed workers have diverse occupations including working in factories, restaurants and hotels, beauty salons, and supermarkets or some operate small businesses. Approximately 60 percent of the respondents reported harsh working conditions including excessive working hours per day, very often less than 4 days off a month and receive a monthly salary of less than RMB 1,200. Approximately 57 percent of migrant worker respondents working away from their home county reported signing a labour contract with their employer. This compares to 40 percent for locally employed workers.

Many similarities exist between the profile of workers migrating out of their county and those locally employed. Both types of migrant workers have very similar background in education, training and awareness of trafficking risks. A higher percentage of in-county migrants have more days off per month. There was little difference in the job search methods used by both groups. Enterprise advertisements posted in public places in nearby villages and towns are quite popular. Locally employed women tend to have a lower wage than females migrating out of their home county.

The study resulted in recommendations for the attention of the government and for action by the CP TING project. The recommendations are further grouped into three broad fields: Improving policy and legal matters; enhancing institutional capacity and strengthening public awareness and services to migrants. The summary recommendations are presented below.

Legal Framework	Institutional Capacity	Awareness and Services
<b>Government-specific recommendations</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• improve existing regulations and laws such as the Labour Law</li> <li>• formulate new regulations and laws to meet emerging trends, such as regulations for student work placement or internship as a required part of their education</li> <li>• enhance industry-driven regulation of businesses in labour-receiving areas</li> <li>• increase economic development of labour-sending areas in central and western parts of China</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop labour market information systems accessible to employment agencies, workers, education and training providers and employers in labour sending and receiving areas</li> <li>• develop capacity to provide enhanced services to migrant women and their children</li> <li>• government in labour receiving areas should improve services for migrant women</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide directives and resources to intensify government efforts to crack down on human trafficking</li> <li>• carry out publicity and advocacy campaigns to raise trafficking prevention awareness</li> <li>• encourage social sectors, like NGOs, to participate in trafficking prevention activities, providing legal aid and psychological counselling</li> </ul>

Legal Framework	Institutional Capacity	Awareness and Services
<b>Government-specific recommendations</b>		
<b>Project-specific recommendations</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• inform relevant government institutions of research findings including recommendations for policy improvement</li> <li>• work with education departments to integrate safe migration and trafficking prevention information into curricula for students in middle and high schools, vocational and secondary technical schools</li> <li>• conduct further research on trafficking for labour exploitation in China</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cooperate with government in labour receiving areas to gain experience and explore ways to help migrants integrate into local communities</li> <li>• work with agriculture and poverty alleviation departments to improve the effectiveness of labour migration training</li> <li>• improve the capacity of staff from public security, law enforcement and labour inspection bureaus</li> <li>• cooperate with employers' associations to gain experience and explore ways to regulate the use of labour in businesses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• intensify efforts in trafficking prevention publicity and advocacy with creative approaches like using social networking media</li> <li>• cooperate with government departments and NGOs to further develop social support systems</li> <li>• strengthen the operating capacity of migrant women's homes,</li> <li>• produce and distribute information to migrant workers on trafficking prevention, labour rights and labour law including better understanding of labour contracts</li> </ul>