Background

Human trafficking is a grave violation of human rights. It is also a crime, involving fraud, deception, sexual exploitation, forced labor and organ trafficking.

Smuggling of migrants is also a crime, involving the facilitation of illegal entry of a person into a state of which that person is not a national or resident, for financial or other benefits.

Both human trafficking and smuggling of migrants are global transnational problems. They present origin, transit and destination countries with serious challenges. For origin and transit countries, they hinder development, challenge the rule of law and threaten the livelihood of millions of people. For receiving countries, they impose huge economic, political and security challenges.

In Africa and the Middle East, the twin challenge of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants is of particular gravity and urgency. Conflicts, state collapse, protracted instability, and the erosion of the rule of law present traffickers and smugglers with opportunities that they have been exploiting. Poverty, unemployment, and the lack of economic opportunity increase the propensity of crises-affected populations to accept risky survival strategies.

Despite their best efforts, many countries continue to face difficulties in addressing the twin challenge of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants. Some lack the necessary resources to address the vulnerabilities of target communities and to provide protection for trafficking victims. Most lack the requisite technical and human capacity to effectively respond to trafficking and smuggling of migrants.

Training

CCCPA’s trainings on “Combating Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants” target mid-career officials, with direct responsibilities for combating these crimes. The trainings adopt a unique integrated multidimensional approach which brings together
civilian, police and military professionals. Other beneficiaries of CCCPA trainings include officials from regional and sub-regional organizations, including the African Union (AU), the League of Arab States (LAS), and African Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs). Trainings can also be tailored for the specific needs of peacekeeping missions.

Based on highly interactive, case-based, and peer learning tools, CCCPA trainings cover the following modules:

- International and Regional Instruments, Frameworks and Arrangements: including international conventions and protocols, the Ouagadougou Action Plan, the “Khartoum Process” and the “Rabat Process."
- Prevention Measures, including those undertaken by all sectors of the government and civil society to combat human trafficking & smuggling of migrants on the international, national, and community levels.
- Prosecution including:
  - Identification of Victims
  - Case investigation
  - Crime Scene Investigation
  - International Cooperation in Investigating Transnational Crimes
- Protection of Vulnerable Groups: Women and Children (Unaccompanied Minors)
- Experiences from African States in Combating Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants:
  - The Egyptian Experience: Challenges, Lessons Learned and Best Practices
  - Other African Experiences: Challenges, Lessons Learned and Best Practices
- Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants in Conflict Situations and the Legal Obligations for Peacekeeping Forces.

For the conduct of these trainings, CCCPA partners with the Egyptian Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Defense and Justice, as well as the Egyptian National Coordination Committee for Combating and Preventing Illegal Migration and Trafficking in Persons.

Research

CCCPA’s research interests focus on the inter-linkages between large movements of people and various challenges to peace and security, with a particular focus on Africa and the Arab world.

Specifically, CCCPA is interested in exploring the following linkages:

- Migration and Conflict.
- Migration and Terrorism.
- Migration and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

Current Status and Next Steps

From January 2011 to date, CCCPA held 28 trainings on human trafficking and smuggling of migrants. More than 580 trainees (15.5% of which were female) from 35 African countries attended these trainings.

CCCPA is currently in the process of updating its training manual to meet the increasing demand and to take stock of new developments, including the outcomes of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), United Nations (UN) Summit for Refugees and Migrants, the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and UN Security Council Resolution 2331 (2016) on Trafficking in Persons in Armed Conflict and Post Conflict Situations.

Following the completion of the new manual, CCCPA will scale up its training activities. Future training activities will specifically target officials from North, East and West Africa.

CCCPA

Founded in 1994 by the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and re-charted in June 2017 by a Prime Ministerial Decree, the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding, is an Egyptian public agency specialized in training, capacity building and research in the fields of peace and security. It is the successor of the Cairo Regional Center for Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa (CCCPA).