Data Management: information sharing and awareness-raising.

The importance of data collection and sharing in combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling cannot be over-stated.

Comprehensive data on the forms, modalities and geographical location of the crimes, on prosecutions, convictions and sentencing, disaggregated data on victims, and the assistance provided, among other key facts, remain essential for the development of **evidence-based law and policy**. When the scale and the nature of the crimes remain unknown, it becomes difficult to generate the political will necessary to prioritize efforts to combat trafficking and smuggling, including assignation of the national budget. Data on the specific contours of migrant smuggling and human trafficking within a national context should form the basis of awareness-raising campaigns that reflect local reality.

Building and maintaining proper **case management systems** require an investment, but they are essential for tracking and monitoring interventions. Effective inter-agency information sharing should be mutually beneficial for each entity involved, and entail two-way flows of information, rather than an extractive approach. Developing a partnership or network-based approach to data collection and management using standardized templates and mechanisms to ensure confidentiality and data protection often require memoranda of understanding or other very concrete arrangements. Similar methods and considerations can be applied to data collection and information sharing at the regional level.

Sensitizing the general public to the phenomena of migrant smuggling and human trafficking serves not only as prevention, but also as a means of identification, as the general public and victims are informed about where to report the crimes and seek attention. Geographically targeted programs using diverse media, including TV and radio spots or shows, mobile apps, as well as theatre and puppet shows, seminars and lectures at universities and schools, through the use of music and short videos, have all been used to sensitize diverse audiences about human trafficking and migrant smuggling in countries around the world.

Increased awareness among professionals and the general public is often a direct function of the **existence of reliable national data and information sharing**. Such reliable national data remains lacking in many participating ACP States, constituting a significant barrier to law enforcement efforts, as well as victim identification and assistance.

This session will provide an opportunity for participants to share experiences regarding efforts to discuss model data collection and case management systems and lessons learned in their development. Discussion will also cover implementing awareness-raising activities specific to their national context, and the diverse array of partnerships with civil society, necessary to bring them to successful fruition.

Participants will be invited to reflect on the following questions:

Which agency or agencies should take the lead in developing a nationalized data collection system?

Are the necessary data protection measures in place at the national level?

Does an inter-agency partnership model exist with respect to anti-trafficking and migrant smuggling stakeholders as a building block for the development of case management and data collection system?

Has there been effective cooperation and coordination between civil society actors and government agencies in developing national or local awareness-raising campaigns?

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The aim of this session will be to elucidate best practices on data collection and case management, drawing the links between how these foster improved investigations, policymaking and victim assistance and effective awareness-raising prevention campaigns.