

Did you know that . . .

In 2006, around three-fourths of trafficked victims served in EV were women?

In 2006, around 139 or 75.1% of the 185 trafficked victims served in Eastern Visayas by the DSWD were women. This poses a major concern since persons are being trafficked domestically from poor rural areas to major urban centers in the country, especially Metro Manila.

Victims are provided with the following services by the DSWD: counseling, orientation on Republic Act 9208, provision of transport assistance, food items, hot meals and clothing, referral to City/Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officers for monitoring and provision of other support services, and assistance in filing a case against their trafficker.

Trafficking in persons is a global problem. In May 26, 2003, RA 9208 or the “Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003”, meant to protect persons especially women and children from sexual exploitation and forced labor in the country and abroad, was signed into law.

Table 1. NUMBER OF TRAFFICKED VICTIMS SERVED IN REGION VIII BY PLACE OF ORIGIN AND SEX: 2005-2006

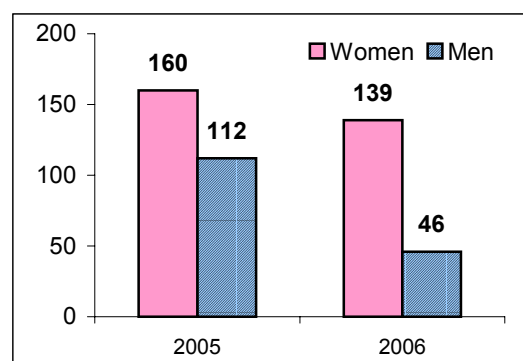
| Place of Origin | 2005 | | | 2006 | | |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| | Both Sexes | Women | Men | Both Sexes | Women | Men |
| TOTAL | 272 | 160 | 112 | 185 | 139 | 46 |
| Region VIII | 108 | 84 | 24 | 132 | 111 | 21 |
| Leyte | 12 | 12 | - | 11 | - | 8 |
| Biliran | 1 | 1 | - | 5 | - | - |
| Southern Leyte | 23 | 11 | 12 | - | - | - |
| Samar | 13 | 13 | - | 55 | 49 | 6 |
| Eastern Samar | 3 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | - |
| Northern Samar | 56 | 45 | 11 | 57 | 50 | 7 |
| Other Regions | 164 | 76 | 88 | 53 | 28 | 25 |

Source: Department of Social Welfare and Development, Region VIII

Reports also showed that the number of trafficked victims served in Eastern Visayas declined significantly by 32.0%, from 272 in 2005 to only 185 in 2006. Victims from Region 8 increased by 22.2%, from 108 in 2005 to 132 in 2006. On the other hand, victims originating from other regions mostly from Regions 10 and 11, comprising 60.3% of trafficked victims in 2005, dropped by more than two-thirds or 67.7%, from 164 in 2005 to 53 in 2006.

The drop may be attributed to the government’s intensified anti-trafficking efforts as well as the visibility of the interception points in the region’s major ports.

Figure 1. TRAFFICKED VICTIMS SERVED IN REGION VIII BY SEX: 2005-2006



Source: Department of Social Welfare & Development 8

The victims were intercepted from the ports of Allen, Northern Samar, and Liloan, Southern Leyte through the staff and volunteers of the Alliance of Networks for Assistance to Strandedes (ANGKAS). There were also victims captured in Matnog, Sorsogon through the Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc.. With the situation, DSWD Region 8 was identified as pilot area for implementation of RA 9208 funded by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Among our provinces, Northern Samar had the most number of trafficked victims in 2006 at 57, followed by Samar at 55. Trafficked victims originating from other regions came next at 53.

More than half or 54.6% of the total trafficked victims in the region in 2006 were children ranging from 13-17 years old.

Trafficking in Persons also known as “human trafficking” is a form of modern-day slavery wherein traffickers often prey on individuals who are poor, frequently unemployed or under-employed, predominantly women and children who are often lured with false promises of good jobs and better lives, but then forced to work under brutal and inhuman conditions and are exploited for sexual purposes.

Women’s Month 2007 Theme: “CEDAW ng Bayan: Kabuhayan ng Kababaihan!”

For your inquiries and other information needs, visit or call the:

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