

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING AFTER NATURAL DISASTERS

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## **ABSTRACT:**

Human trafficking is the exploitation of human beings, both men and women and children and adults, through sexual or manual labor for profit. Since the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, human trafficking has been suspected of occurring amongst disaster victims during the response and recovery period however little research has been conducted to formally document cases or how victims are especially vulnerable post-disaster. In 2006, USAID conducted a literature review concluding that “more research needs to be done to determine how the vulnerability of women and children increases during disasters and to document best practices in methods for protecting these vulnerable populations and preventing them from being exploited.”<sup>1</sup> This paper will conduct a second systematic review of literature and information developed since 2006, on human trafficking post natural disasters. Nations are investing millions of dollars on rumors of human trafficking without much documented evidence to support methodology of disbursement of funds and how to best utilize those funds to assist the largest number of individuals post disaster during the response and recovery period. This paper identifies gaps in research and provides recommendations on future research to fill void of information still occurring eight years after the 2006 USAID report.

## **KEYWORDS:**

human trafficking, slavery, natural disasters, recovery

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<sup>1</sup>p.6, USAID, Literature Review: Trafficking in Humanitarian Emergencies. (July 2006)