

**Australian  
Aid**



**ASEAN-Australia  
Counter Trafficking**

# ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2022



## Document information

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# ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2022



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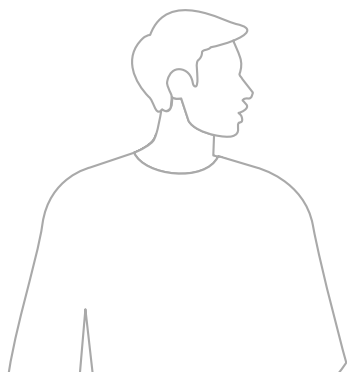
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# Foreword

**We are pleased to present the ASEAN–Australia Counter Trafficking Program (ASEAN–ACT) 2022 Annual Progress Report.**

2022 marked four years of ASEAN–ACT contributing to effective ASEAN Member State justice systems that provide just punishment of traffickers and protect the rights of victims of trafficking. The program is implementing projects in Cambodia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, while establishing programming in Indonesia. The program is also working with a range of ASEAN sectoral bodies and organs on region-wide activities.

This report provides an overview of the program’s work in 2022 – it shares stories and evidence of success at the regional level, and by country. It also shares updates on our partnerships with nine non-government organisations, which commenced in 2021 and continued in 2022.

The ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) is now in its fifth year of operation. Much has been learned and achieved since it commenced in 2017. The Program’s support to the review of the Bohol TIP Work Plan 2017–2020 was significant. The report from this review, completed in 2022 and available on [ASEAN’s website](#), contributed to the development of the successor Bohol TIP Work Plan 2.0, which will be finalised in 2023.

The program implemented 36 multi-year projects in six countries, supporting 397 activities, including: training police, prosecutors and judges; integrating victim-sensitive court principles; and facilitating cross-border cooperation on trafficking in persons cases. Through the 111 capacity development activities supported, the program trained 3,909 state and non-state counter-trafficking in persons actors, 55% of whom are women. See the ‘**Progress by country**’ section of this report for country-level achievements in 2022.

To promote knowledge exchange, share good practice and facilitate policy dialogue, the program conducted five webinars in 2022 and reached 1,620 online participants (78% women). The program also completed 10 research reports to contribute to the evidence base for rights-based and inclusive policy reform.



Image: Workshop on GEDSI, Victim Rights, and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) with Cambodian counter-trafficking agencies (October 2022).

ASEAN-ACT has established governance mechanisms for working together through our National Program Steering Committees in five partner countries, and our Regional Program Steering Committee (RPSC) with membership from all ASEAN Member States. The RPSC is co-chaired by the Australian Mission to ASEAN and the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) through the Philippines, which provides the SOMTC Voluntary Lead Shepherd on Trafficking in Persons (TIP).

On behalf of the RPSC, we thank all our government and non-government partners, ASEAN sectoral bodies, the ASEAN Secretariat, and all our stakeholders for your hard work throughout 2022 in working towards our shared goal in countering trafficking in persons.

**Hon. Oscar F. Valenzuela**  
SOMTC Voluntary Lead Shepherd on TIP  
Co-chair, Regional Program Steering Committee

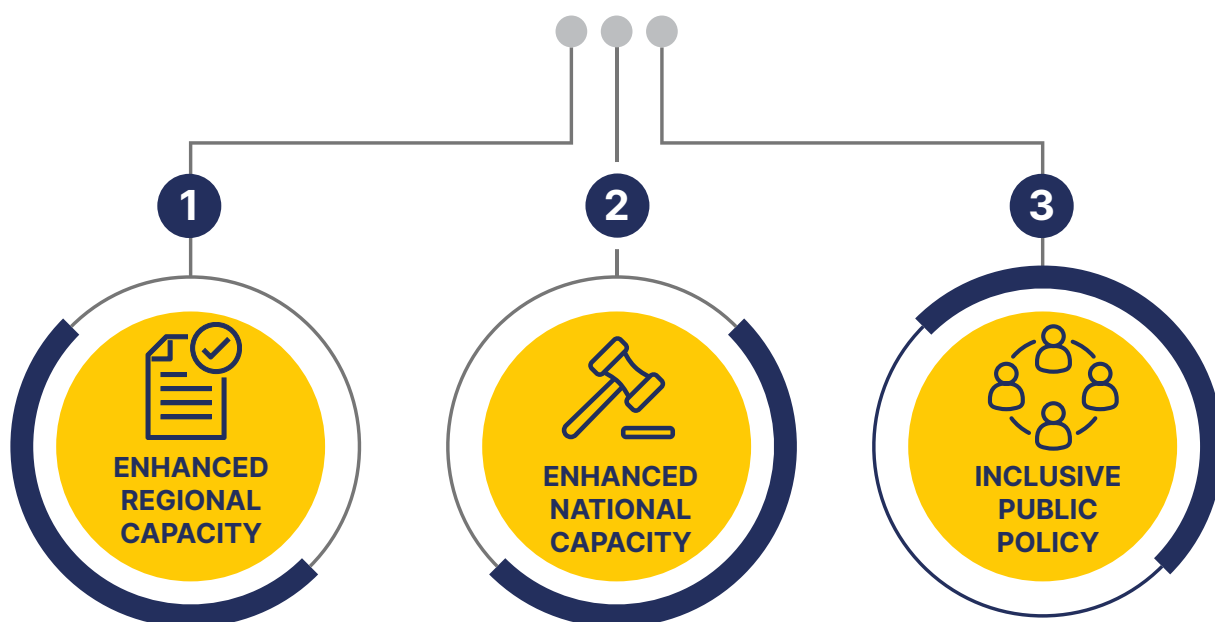
**H.E. Will Nankervis**  
Australian Ambassador to ASEAN  
Co-chair, Regional Program Steering Committee

# Goal



**ASEAN Member States have effective justice systems that provide just punishment of traffickers and protect the human rights of victims of trafficking in persons.**

ASEAN–Australia Counter Trafficking (ASEAN-ACT) is contributing to this goal by focusing on three end-of-program outcomes (EOPOs):



ASEAN's planning, monitoring and reporting of ACTIP implementation is increasingly effective and advances the protection of victim rights

ASEAN member state justice and related state agencies are increasingly capable of implementing their ACTIP obligations, in particular those that uphold victim rights

ASEAN member state justice and related state agencies' policies and practices are influenced by relevant stakeholders and better aligned with the ACTIP, especially in connection to victim rights obligations

# 1 About ASEAN-ACT

---

**ASEAN–Australia Counter Trafficking (ASEAN-ACT) is a 10-year program that continues Australia’s cooperation with partners in the ASEAN region to counter trafficking in persons.**

**Program value: A\$80 million from 2018 to 2028**

## Target ASEAN Member States

- Cambodia
- Indonesia (under establishment)
- Lao PDR
- Myanmar (activities on hold)
- Philippines
- Thailand
- Vietnam

## Key partners

- ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime
- ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC)
- ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)
- ASEAN and ASEAN Secretariat
- Law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, judges and key social welfare agencies in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam
- Relevant national committees or task forces on anti-trafficking in persons in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Overseas Development Institute (ODI)
- Partnerships with nine non-government organisations



**36** multi-year national projects in six countries



**3** projects with a principal focus on victim rights and on gender equality, disability and social inclusion



**7** regional projects supporting ASEAN's ACTIP implementation



**5** projects focusing on inclusive public policy





Image: Australian Ambassador to ASEAN, Mr. Will Nankervis, and Australian Embassy Second Secretary, Ms. Elizabeth Adler, met with Mme. Bounleau Chanthaphomma, Director General for Counselling and Protection for Women and Children to learn more about Lao Women's Union support and assistance to trafficked victims (March 2022).

# ASEAN-ACT's theory of change





BROADER GOAL



END-OF-PROGRAM  
OUTCOMES  
(year 10)



INTERMEDIATE  
OUTCOMES



IMMEDIATE  
OUTCOMES

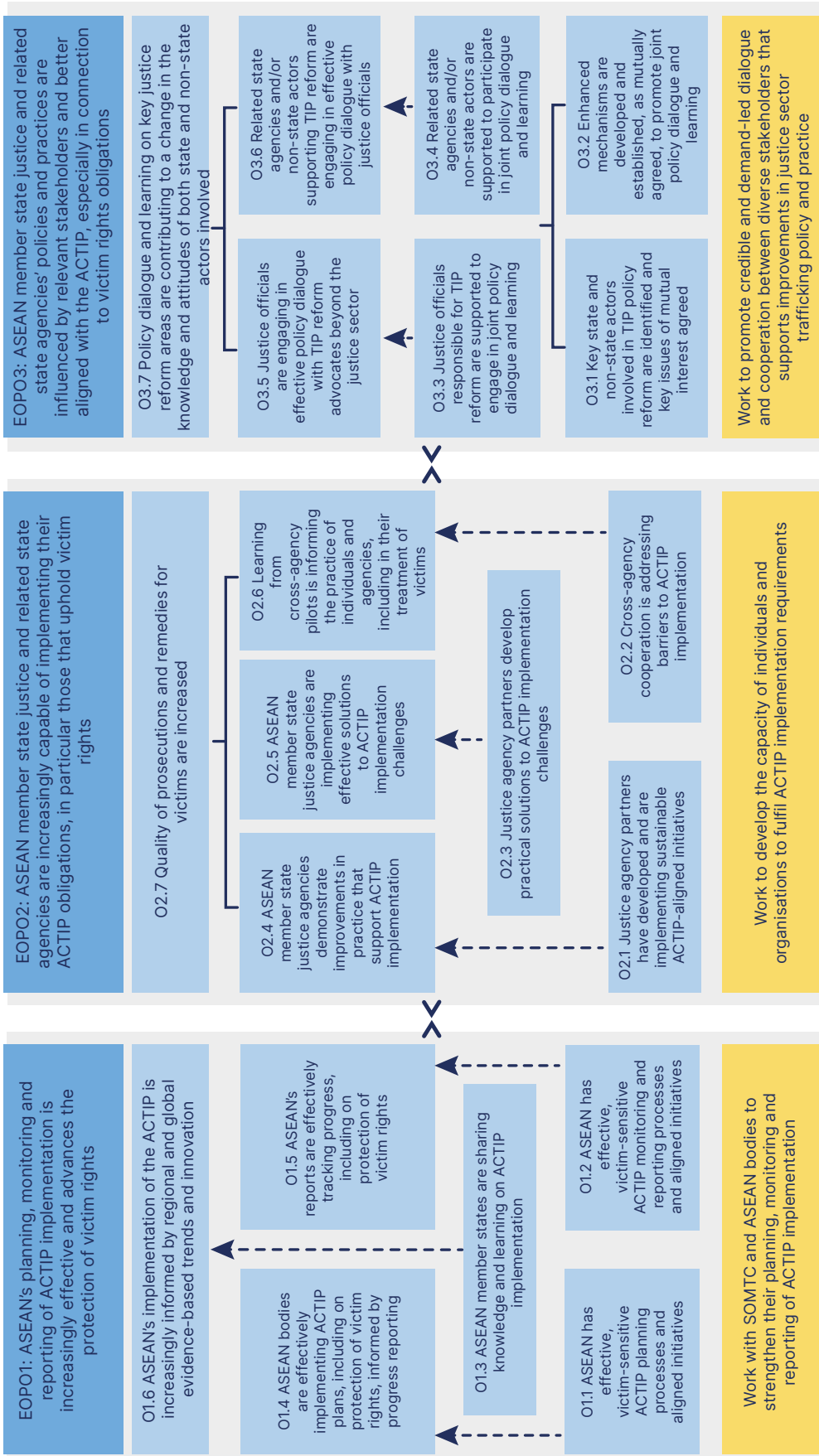


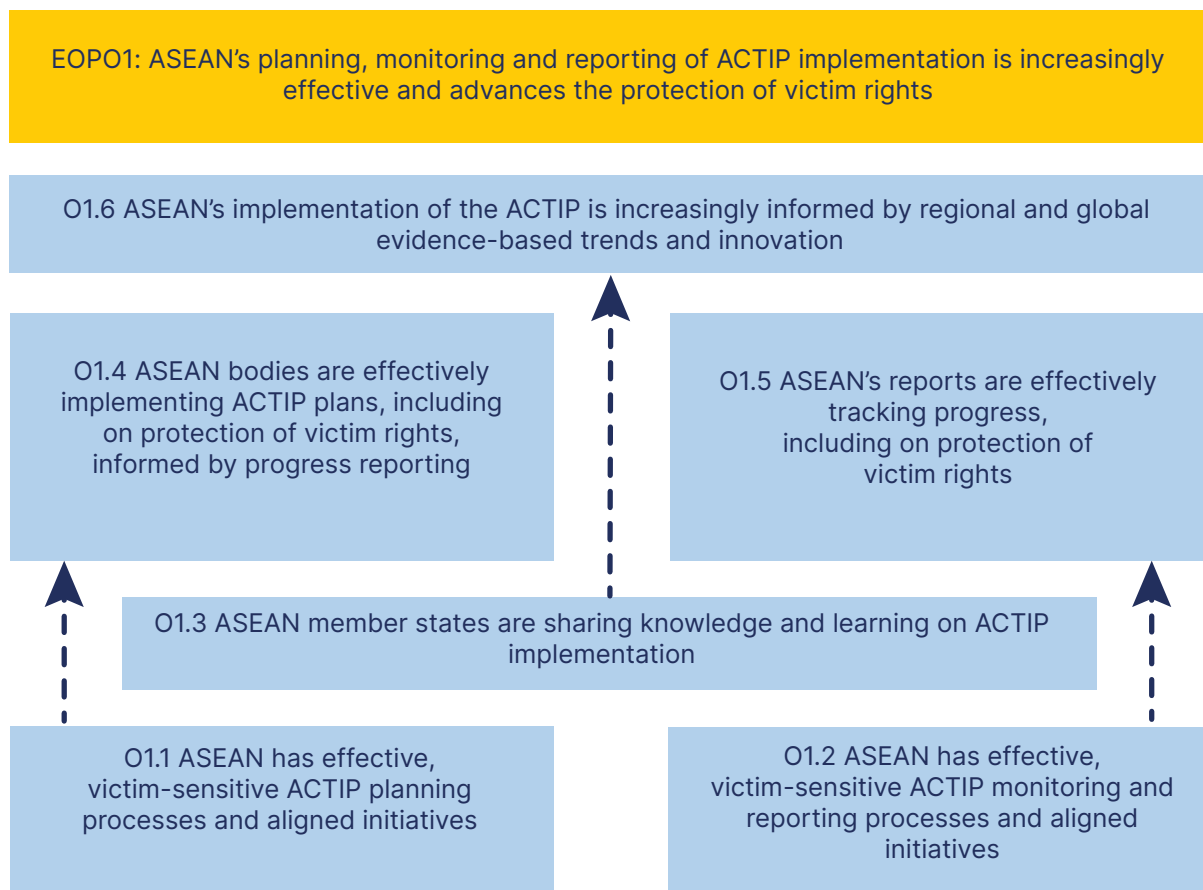
PROJECT  
CLUSTERS



FOUNDATIONAL  
ACTIVITIES

## ASEAN member states have effective justice systems that provide just punishment of traffickers and protect the human rights of victims



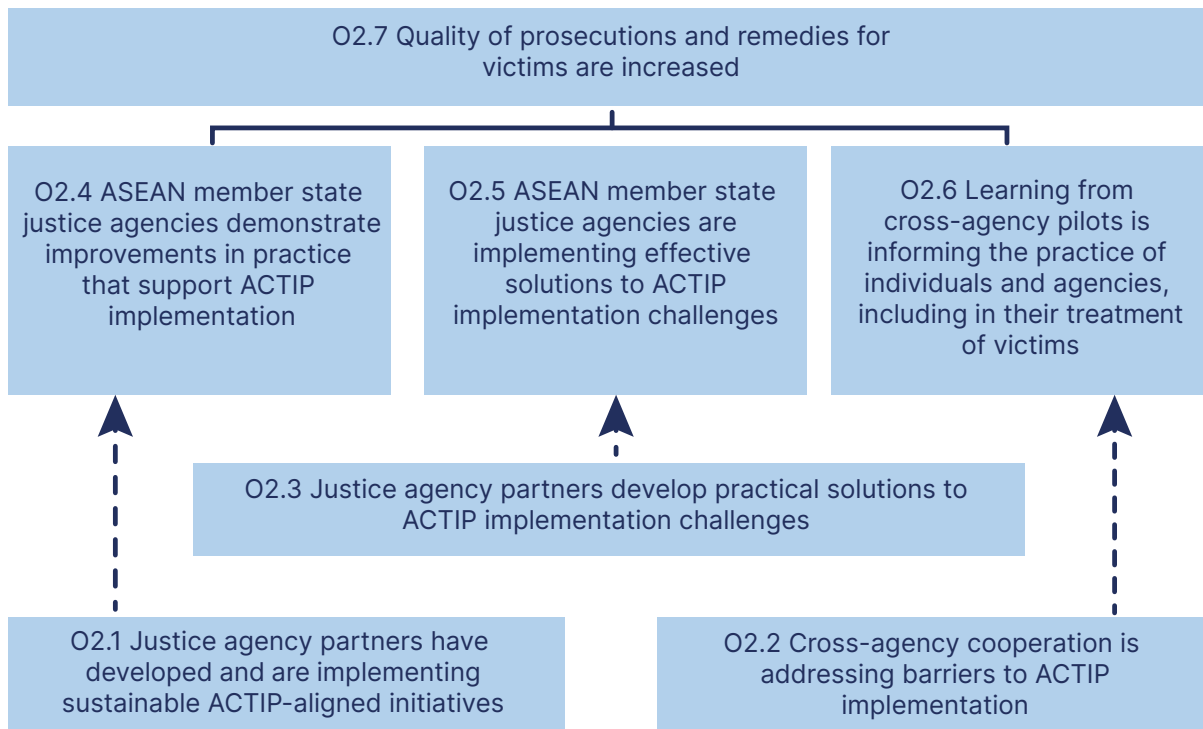


**End-of-program outcome 1 (EOP01) – ASEAN's planning, monitoring and reporting of ACTIP implementation is increasingly effective and advances the protection of victim rights**



ASEAN-ACT is working with the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and other ASEAN sectoral bodies and organs to strengthen victim-sensitive planning, monitoring and reporting processes (outcomes 1.1 and 1.2). The sharing of knowledge and learning on ACTIP implementation by ASEAN Member States (outcome 1.3) helps to ensure that implementation is informed by regional and global evidence-based trends and innovation (outcome 1.6).

**EOP02: ASEAN member state justice and related state agencies are increasingly capable of implementing their ACTIP obligations, in particular those that uphold victim rights**

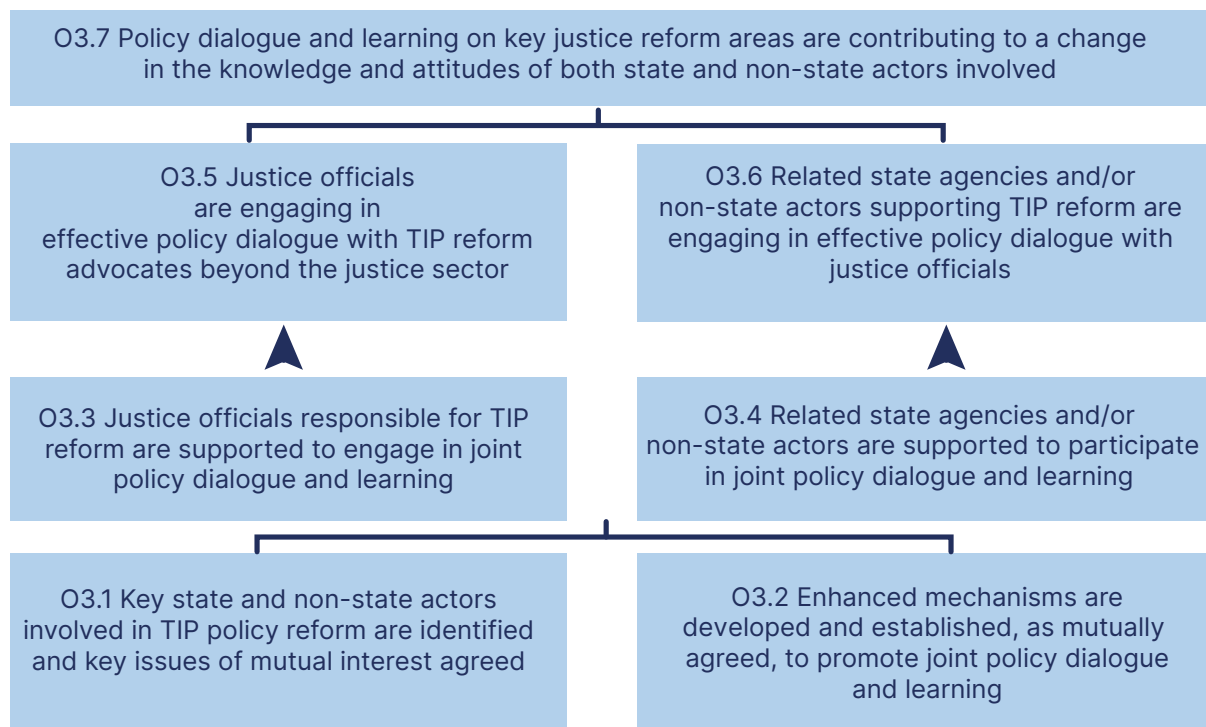


**End-of-program outcome 2 (EOP02) – ASEAN member state justice and related state agencies are increasingly capable of implementing their ACTIP obligations, in particular those that uphold victim rights**



ASEAN-ACT is working with national partners to strengthen their capacity to fulfil ACTIP implementation requirements. Our work supports justice agency partners in developing and implementing sustainable ACTIP-aligned initiatives (outcomes 2.1 and 2.4), and practical solutions to ACTIP implementation challenges (outcomes 2.3 and 2.5). Through ASEAN-ACT's support, cross-agency cooperation is addressing barriers to ACTIP implementation (outcome 2.2) to inform the practice of individuals and agencies, including in their treatment of victims of trafficking in persons (outcome 2.6).

**EPO3: ASEAN member state justice and related state agencies' policies and practices are influenced by relevant stakeholders and better aligned with the ACTIP, especially in connection to victim rights obligations**



**End-of-program outcome 3 (EPO3) – ASEAN member state justice and related state agencies' policies and practices are influenced by stakeholders and better aligned with the ACTIP, especially in connection to victim rights obligations**



ASEAN-ACT is promoting inclusive and demand-led dialogue and cooperation between diverse stakeholders to support improvements in justice sector counter-trafficking policy and practice. As part of this process, we are identifying and supporting key state and non-state actors involved in TIP policy reform and key issues of mutual interest (outcomes 3.1, 3.3 and 3.4). ASEAN-ACT is also developing and establishing enhanced mechanisms to promote joint policy dialogue and learning (outcomes 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4), which over time will contribute to change in knowledge and attitudes, and influence policies and practices across the justice sector (outcomes 3.5 and 3.6).





Image: Learning activity in the Philippines with frontline social workers for the development of a toolkit focused on the recovery and reintegration program of trafficked persons (October 2022).

# ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP)





Image: Textile factory, Photo by Dong Nhat Huy/Shutterstock.com

# Key points about the ACTIP

- The first legally binding regional agreement on trafficking for ASEAN, making Southeast Asia the second region in the world (after Europe) to put in place legally binding rules to counter human trafficking
- Adopted in November 2015 – entered into force among the first six ratifying states parties in March 2017, and subsequently ratified by all remaining ASEAN Member States (most recently by Brunei in 2020)
- Affirms the key principles and rules set out in the major international treaty on human trafficking, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and its ‘parent’ treaty, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
- Extends those rules in certain key respects, especially around victim protection and support
- Places a legal obligation on ASEAN Member States to comply with the ACTIP’s provisions

## Definition of trafficking in persons in the UN Trafficking Protocol and the ACTIP

THREE KEY MATERIAL ELEMENTS OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS	<b>All three</b> elements must be present for a situation of trafficking in adults	<b>Two</b> elements – action and purpose – must be present for a situation of trafficking in children (persons aged under 18 years)
1. <b>An action:</b> <i>What traffickers do</i>	Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons	
2. <b>By means of:</b> <i>How they do it</i>	Threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or position of vulnerability, giving or receiving payments or benefits to achieve consent of a person having control over another person	Not required as a constituent element of trafficking in children
3. <b>For the purpose of:</b> <i>Why they do it</i>	Exploitation (including, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others, or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs)	



## Objectives of the ACTIP and the key obligations of states parties

The objectives of the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons are to:	
Prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially against women and children, and to ensure just and effective punishment for traffickers	Article 1
Protect and assist the victims of trafficking in persons, with full respect for their human rights	
Promote cooperation among states parties in order to meet these objectives	
The key obligations of states parties to the ACTIP are:	
<b>Criminalise trafficking in persons</b> , as defined in the convention, and provide for higher penalties in certain cases, including where the offence involves a vulnerable victim or serious injury or death, or where the offence is committed by a public official	Article 5
<b>Criminalise corruption and obstruction of justice</b> associated with trafficking in persons, such as the giving or receiving of bribes, or the intimidation of witnesses and public officials	Articles 8 and 9
<b>Establish national guidelines or procedures for proper victim identification</b> , and respect the decisions of other states parties with regard to victim identification	Article 14(1), (2)
Consider <b>allowing victims to remain in their territory</b> , whether permanently or temporarily, taking into account humanitarian and compassionate factors	Article 14(4)
Provide for <b>physical safety</b> of victims within their territory	Article 14(5)
Protect victim <b>privacy and identity</b> to the extent possible under domestic law	Article 14(6)
Consider <b>not holding victims liable</b> for committing unlawful acts directly related to their trafficking	Article 14(7)
<b>Not unreasonably hold victims in detention or prison</b>	Article 14(8)
<b>Provide care and support</b> to victims, including housing; counselling and information; medical, psychological and material assistance; and employment, education and training; and allocate appropriate funds for the care and support of victims	Article 14(10), (14)
Ensure the law provides for the possibility of victims obtaining <b>compensation</b> for damage suffered	Article 14(13)
<b>Verify nationality</b> of victim, <b>issue necessary documentation</b> and <b>accept return</b> without delay, and undertake return with due regard for <b>safety of victim and status of legal proceedings</b> (applies to states parties that are the victim's country of origin)	Article 14(11), Article 15
Establish <b>repatriation programs</b> and assist in <b>reintegration</b> of victims (applies to states parties that are either the victim's country of origin or destination)	
Ensure <b>law enforcement and prosecution authorities</b> are <b>equipped with appropriate skills and knowledge</b> , including in relation to victim protection, and provide training for this purpose	Article 16(1), (6)
Cooperate in encouraging <b>victim-witnesses to voluntarily return to the country of destination to testify</b> or otherwise cooperate	Article 16(5)
<b>Protect victim-witnesses from intimidation</b> and harassment and punish such conduct	Article 16(7)
Afford each other the widest measure of <b>mutual legal assistance</b> in accordance with the ASEAN Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters	Article 18
Establish all trafficking in persons offences as <b>extraditable offences</b> under national law and through bilateral treaties, and cooperate in extradition requests	Article 19
<b>Cooperate with each other in order to enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement action</b> , including through exchange of information and responding to enquiries and requests for assistance; and cooperate further for <b>purposes of confiscation of proceeds</b> of trafficking in persons crimes	Article 20

# Performance highlights from 2022

**397**

activities supported,  
including training

**3,909**

state and non-state  
counter-trafficking in  
persons actors  
participated in training  
(55% women)

**111**

capacity  
development  
activities



10

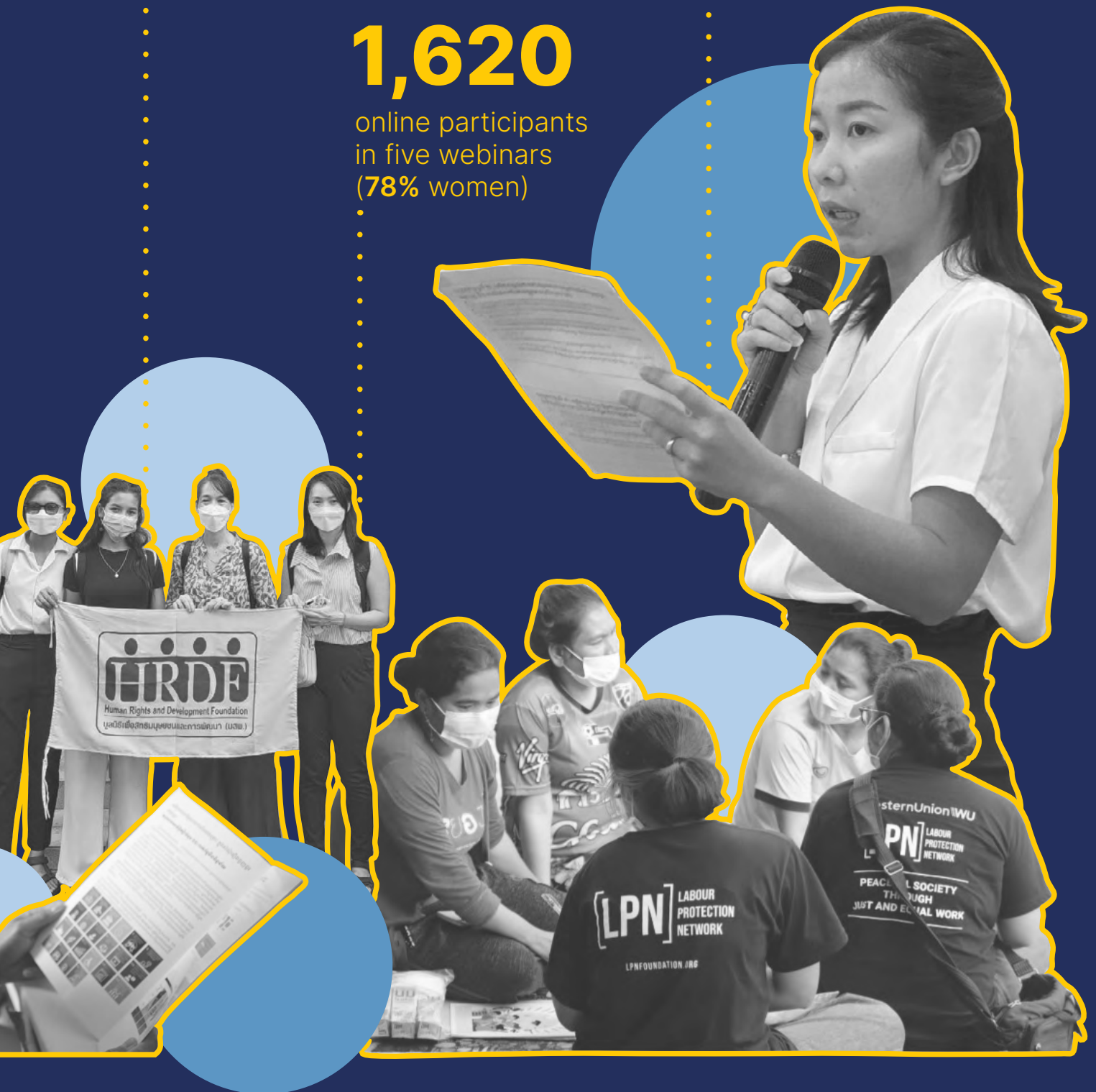
research  
reports  
completed

9,363

total participants  
at our events  
(54% women)

1,620

online participants  
in five webinars  
(78% women)





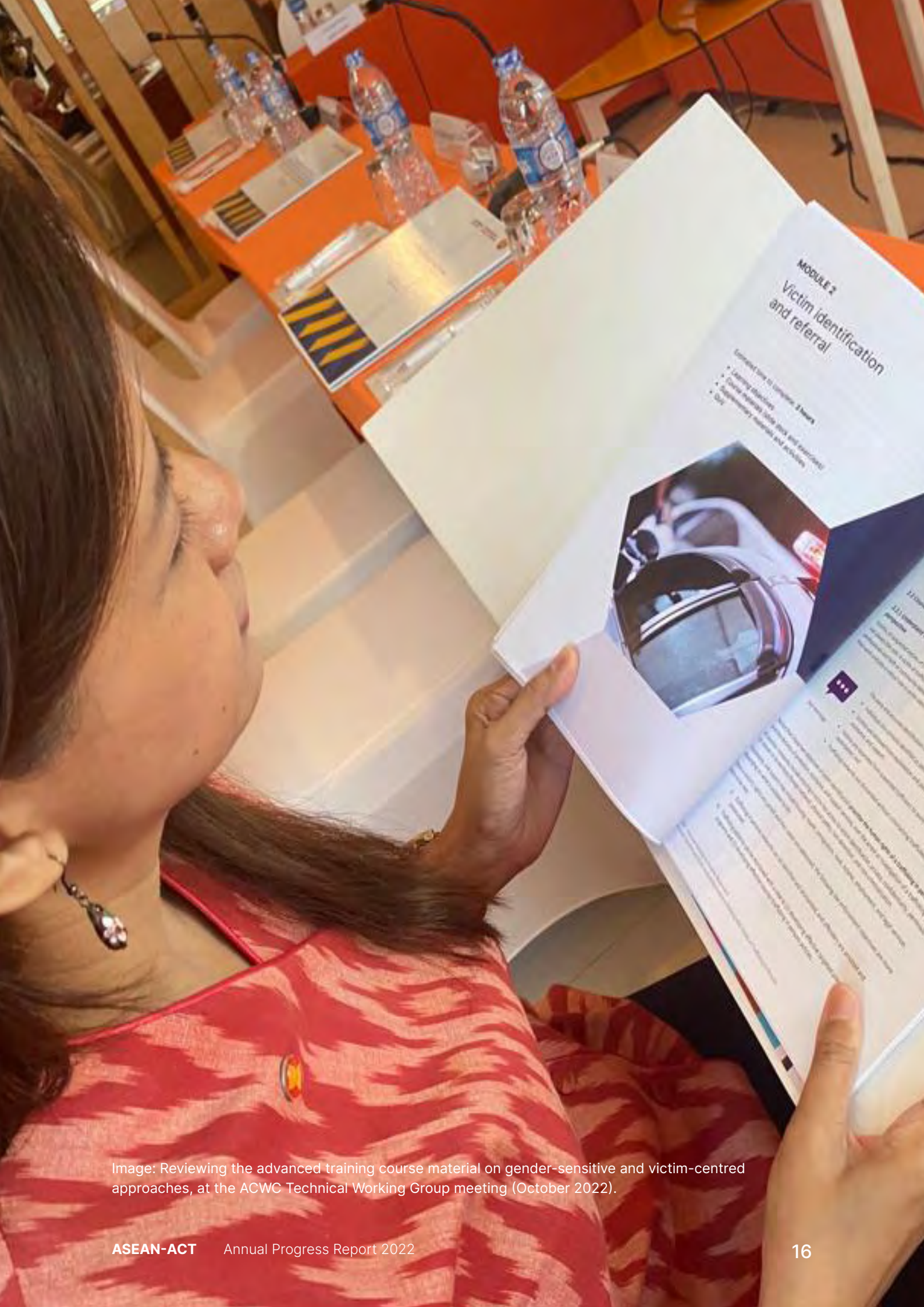


Image: Reviewing the advanced training course material on gender-sensitive and victim-centred approaches, at the ACWC Technical Working Group meeting (October 2022).

# 2 Regional progress

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## **EOP01:**

ASEAN's planning, monitoring and reporting of ACTIP implementation is increasingly effective and advances the protection of victim rights

# ASEAN region



**7** regional projects in 2022, supporting ASEAN's ACTIP implementation



**3** projects with a principal focus on victim rights and on gender equality, disability and social inclusion

## 2022 projects

- A101 – Bohol TIP Work Plan, with Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC)
- A102 – Lead Shepherd support initiative, with SOMTC
- A103 – ACTIP implementation support, with SOMTC
- A104 – ASEAN sectoral bodies cooperation
- A105 – ASEAN knowledge exchange
- A199 – Effectiveness and governance
- A208 – ASEAN Member States transnational investigative cooperation
- R101 – Regional ACTIP implementation using victim-centred and gender-responsive approaches
- R206 – Policy dialogue on victim rights and gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) for national ACTIP implementation
- R304 – Building an evidence base for GEDSI reform

## Key partners

- ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime
- ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children
- ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights
- ASEAN Secretariat
- Council of ASEAN Chief Justices
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



# ASEAN Cross-Sectoral Meeting

on the Multi-Sectoral Work Plan  
Against Trafficking in Persons  
2022 - 2027

10-11 August 2022



Image: SOMTC officials in the Philippines attend the consultation meeting to progress the next five-year ASEAN trafficking in persons work plan, supported by ASEAN-ACT (August 2022).

In 2022, ASEAN-ACT continued to work with the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and ASEAN sectoral bodies to support implementation of the ACTIP.

## Key achievements

- The SOMTC endorsed ad referendum the report on the review of the Bohol TIP Work Plan (BWP) 2017–2020, and the report was published on the ASEAN website – [project A101; outcomes 1.1 and 1.2](#)
- The SOMTC confirmed the development of the successor Bohol TIP Work Plan (BWP 2.0), and the draft was finalised and submitted to the SOMTC – [project A101; outcomes 1.1 and 1.2](#)
- The SOMTC confirmed the inclusion of a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework in the BWP 2.0 – [project A101; outcomes 1.1 and 1.2](#)
- The SOMTC confirmed the establishment of a focal point system of national ACTIP representatives and its terms of reference – [project A103; outcomes 1.1 and 1.2](#)
- The ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) finalised two manuals: on a community policing approach, and on human rights-based, gender-sensitive and child-friendly approaches to handling TIP cases for frontline officers – [project A104; outcomes 1.1 and 1.3](#)
- The Council of ASEAN Chief Justices accepted our concept note on judicial knowledge exchange, with a pilot to be implemented with the Philippine and Indonesian supreme courts in 2023 – [project A105; outcomes 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3](#)
- AICHR Indonesia and AICHR Malaysia hosted the AICHR Consultation on Human Rights and Countering Trafficking in Persons in ASEAN, in September 2022 – [project A104; outcomes 1.1 and 1.3](#)
- The ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) finalised the ASEAN Do No Harm Guide for Frontline Responders – [project R101; outcomes 1.1 and 1.3](#)
- The ACWC and ASEAN-ACT shared knowledge and lessons learned through national workshops on shelter practices in Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines and Vietnam – [project R101; outcomes 1.1 and 1.3](#)
- The ACWC and ASEAN-ACT engaged a consultancy team to support the development of an M&E system for the ACWC – [project R101; outcomes 1.1 and 1.3](#)

- ASEAN-ACT and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime launched the international legal cooperation project in April 2022, with consultations and country visits held during the year – [project A208; EOPO1 and EOPO2](#)
- ASEAN-ACT facilitated knowledge sharing and learning through its resource portal, which serves as a hub for counter-trafficking in persons policymakers, practitioners, NGOs and the private sector – [project A199; outcome 1.3](#)
- In collaboration with key partners from ASEAN Member States as speakers, we conducted five webinars in 2022 – [project A199; outcome 1.3](#)

### Review of Bohol TIP Work Plan

**Context:** The Bohol TIP Work Plan (BWP) 2017–2020 is a cross-sectoral work plan that guides ASEAN's implementation of the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP). The Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) developed the work plan to guide regional activities to counter trafficking in persons, consistent with the four pillars of the ACTIP.<sup>1</sup> In 2020, the SOMTC asked ASEAN-ACT to support the review of the BWP to assess the success of the plan and document lessons for the next regional work plan.

**Achievement:** The review of the BWP started in 2021, and we supported a series of consultation meetings and workshops. With technical and facilitation support from a team of consultants engaged by ASEAN-ACT, the review report was drafted and submitted to the SOMTC and endorsed at referendum on 5 July 2022. The [final report](#) is now published on ASEAN's website. The report also informed the development of a successor work plan – supporting ASEAN's planning process. In March 2022, the

SOMTC reached a consensus to develop the successor work plan (BWP 2.0) – a BWP with improvements. The draft BWP 2.0 is now finalised and has been submitted to the SOMTC.

### Webinar series

**Context:** Our government counterparts have enthusiastically participated as speakers and presenters in our webinars. In response to positive feedback received since we started the webinar series in July 2020, we continued the series in 2022.

**Achievement:** Of the five webinars conducted in 2022, we had speakers from government agencies in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as international experts from Hong Kong, Australia and the United Kingdom. These government representatives and experts shared their knowledge, good practice and learning on trafficking in the fisheries sector, and how human trafficking data can advance victim rights and improve justice outcomes. A total of 1,620 participants (78% female, 21% male and 0.5% other) attended the five webinars. Feedback collected after the five webinars indicated that 96% of respondents believed they learned something new, and 97% were satisfied with the event.

### Partnership with the ACWC

**Context:** In partnership with the ACWC (project R101), we are building the capacity of frontline responders in victim-centred and gender-sensitive approaches in counter-trafficking in persons.

**Achievement:** The [ASEAN Do No Harm Guide for Frontline Responders](#) was finalised in December 2022 and launched on 11 January 2023. The e-learning basic training module and in-person advanced training module were finalised and submitted to the ACWC for review and

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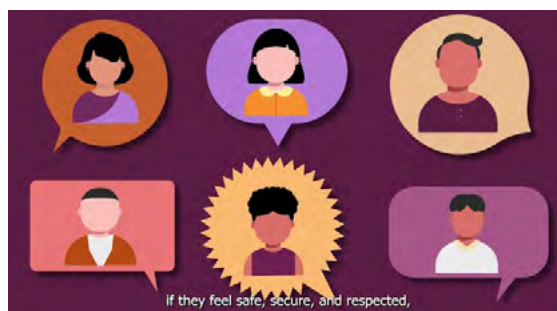
<sup>1</sup> The four pillars are prevention of trafficking in persons; protection of victims; law enforcement and prosecution of TIP crimes; and regional and international cooperation and coordination.



endorsement in December 2022. The final report on the study of child protection in the justice system was also submitted to the ACWC for review and endorsement. Another activity within the same project is the development of a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system for the implementation of victim-centred and gender-sensitive approaches in counter-trafficking in persons efforts. We identified a preferred M&E specialist team to facilitate the process and support the development of the M&E system, commencing in January 2023.

### Awareness and application of GEDSI and victim rights

**Achievement:** We used the increased focus on vulnerable groups during the COVID-19 pandemic to advocate for greater protection of the rights of TIP victims and groups most vulnerable to human trafficking. In the aftermath of the pandemic, we are continuing to use videos on our website and resource portal to promote awareness:



[Introduction to Victim-Sensitive Courts](#)  
[\[full version – English subtitles\]](#)



[Interview with Judge Jarimjit, Office of the President of the Supreme Court in Thailand](#)



[Interview with Lao Women's Union Director-General Mme Bounleua Chanthaphomma](#)



Image: Participants actively engaged in the first GEDSI, VR and MEL workshop organised by the Lao Women's Union and ASEAN-ACT for government counter-trafficking partners (June 2022).

# Nexus between disability and human trafficking

## Context

It is broadly understood that people with disability are among those vulnerable to human trafficking. However, there is limited information on the nexus between disability and human trafficking. In Southeast Asia, official data and information on access to services and protection for people with disability are limited or, in most cases, non-existent. The limited evidence that exists suggests that people with disability who are excluded and do not have community support are vulnerable to trafficking in persons.

## Achievements

By sharing information, regional practitioners, national government representatives, non-government organisations, advocates and community groups across the ASEAN region learned and heard about the inter-relationship between disability and trafficking in persons (immediate outcome 1.3). In recognition of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December), we organised a webinar on 1 December 2022 – [‘Disability is not a barrier: discrimination is – promoting the rights of persons with disabilities in combatting human trafficking’](#). A total of 204 online participants (163 female, 40 male and 1 other) heard from Ms Saowalak Thongkuay, Co-Founder and Steering Committee Member of the ASEAN Disability Forum (Thailand); Judge Bambang Hery Mulyono, Head of Agency for Judicial Training, Education, Research and Development, Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia; and Nguyen Thi Lan Anh, Founder and Director of the Action to the Community Development Institute, and Vietnam Federation on Disability board member.

During the webinar, a poll revealed that 56% of webinar participants believed that law and policies on disability must be prioritised to ensure that people with disability effectively access justice. When asked about what hinders the protection of people with disability in the justice system, of 204 online participants, 38% responded ‘lack of understanding of the intersectionality of disability, particularly human trafficking’, 18% picked ‘weak legal framework on disability’, 17% selected ‘lack of meaningful participation of persons with disability in accessing justice’, and 16% selected ‘no adequate measure to ensure persons with disabilities access justice’.

“

Indonesia’s court facilities for people with disabilities include disabled parking, instruction in braille, accessible toilets, accessible courtroom entrances, disability-friendly staff and mobility assistance.”

”

*Judge Bambang Hery Mulyono,  
Head of Agency for Judicial Training, Education,  
Research and Development,  
Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia*

“

Vietnam has not recorded on its official information system any cases of people with disabilities being trafficked. However, people with disabilities have a higher risk of being trafficked, such as those with intellectual disability, hearing and speech impairments.

”

*Ms Nguyen Thi Lan Anh, Vietnam Federation on Disability*







Image: Participants at the strategic communications workshop in Vietnam took part in an activity to better understand the impact of negative and positive campaign images (July 2022).

# 3 Progress by country

---

## **EOPO2:**

ASEAN member state justice and related state agencies are increasingly capable of implementing their ACTIP obligations, in particular those that uphold victim rights



# Highlights from 2022 – partner countries



**Cambodia**



**Indonesia**



**Lao PDR**



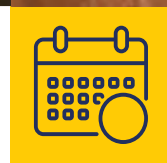
**18**

capacity  
development  
events supported



**435**

court cases  
reviewed as part  
of a decision  
analysis of  
trafficking in  
persons cases



**18**

knowledge  
sharing and  
learning events  
supported



**Philippines**



**79%**

of the 1,269 justice officials and stakeholders who received training across the country were women



**Thailand**



**2**

committees to be established for the new Counter-Trafficking in Persons Centre of Excellence, following endorsement from the national Anti-Trafficking in Persons Committee

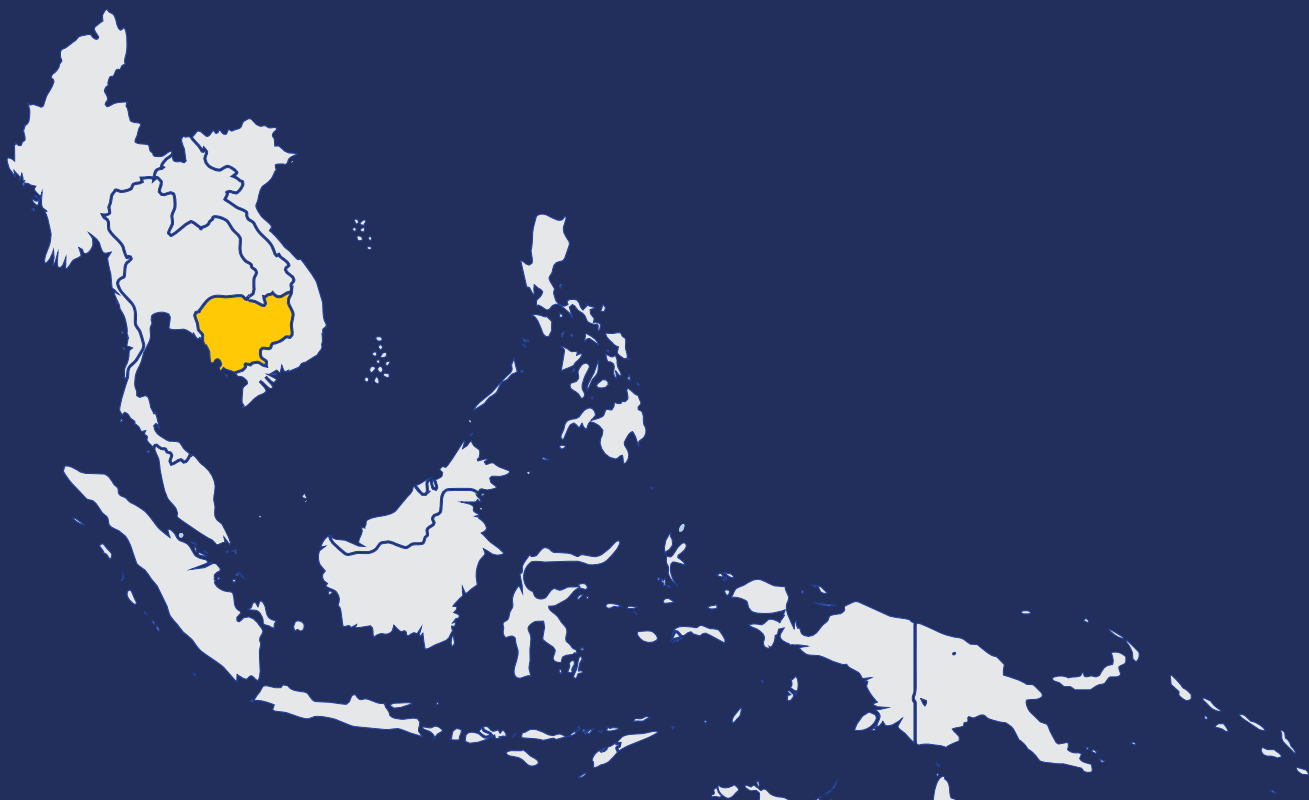


**Vietnam**



**27**

trainers (12 women) completed the training-of-trainers trafficking in persons course for judges



# Cambodia



## 7 approved projects in 2022

### 2022 projects

- C202 – Transnational investigative cooperation, with Cambodian National Police (CNP)
- C203 – TIP investigation, including TIP cybercrime, with the CNP
- C204 – TIP prosecution and victim-centred approach, with the Ministry of Justice
- C205 – TIP adjudication, including victim-sensitive courts, with the judiciary
- C206 – Implementing victim-sensitive approaches, with the National Committee for Counter Trafficking
- C207 – Improving victim protection and shelter practices, with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation
- C299 – National effectiveness and governance

### Key partners in 2022 program implementation

- National Committee for Counter Trafficking
- Ministry of Justice
- Cambodian National Police, Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation
- Legal Support for Children and Women





**54** events in Cambodia, with 1,829 participants (35% women)



**18** capacity development events conducted in Cambodia



**594** people trained (33% women)

In 2022, we continued to support partners implement Cambodia's ACTIP obligations.

#### Key achievements

- The Anti-Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection Department of the Cambodian National Police (CNP) conducted face-to-face meetings with the Royal Thai Police and Thai Department of Special Investigation on transnational investigative cooperation, and discussed the issue of online scamming and trafficking – [project C202; outcomes 2.2 and 2.3](#)
- The CNP held technical workshops to review and revise the standard operating procedures for the Specialist Unit on Anti-Human Trafficking – [project C203; outcomes 2.1 and 2.3](#)
- The Ministry of Justice held a workshop on anti-money laundering in the context of TIP cases, for prosecutors and investigating judges – [project C204; outcomes 2.1 and 2.3](#)
- The judiciary, Ministry of Justice and National Committee for Counter Trafficking (NCCT) sponsored a workshop on victim-sensitive courts and counter-trafficking in persons datasets, and discussed the development of victim-sensitive court guidelines – [project C205; outcomes 2.1 and 2.3](#)
- The NCCT conducted workshops to review and revise the guidelines on victim identification – [project C299; outcomes 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3](#)
- The Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation held two training events for frontline officials, on policy and minimum standards of protection for TIP victims – [project C207; outcomes 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3](#)
- The NCCT hosted a workshop covering victim rights; gender equality, disability and social inclusion; and monitoring, evaluation and learning – [project C299; outcomes 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3](#)

#### CASE STUDY:

### Informing the practice of agencies through cross-agency cooperation

**Context:** The National Strategic Plan for Counter Trafficking in Persons 2019–2023 guides Cambodia's counter-trafficking in persons efforts. In March 2022, the government released the final report of the mid-term evaluation of the national strategic plan, conducted by an independent evaluator. The mid-term review presented key recommendations to update the current strategic plan and inform the successor plan.

**Achievement:** Cross-agency cooperation is informing the practice of agencies and supporting the development of Cambodia's national action plan on counter-trafficking. Through co-funding with the United States Agency for International Development, Winrock International and the International Organization for Migration, we supported the NCCT and provided technical advice in conducting a workshop to update the National Strategic Plan for Counter Trafficking in Persons 2019–2023 and inform the successor plan. The workshop, held in November 2022, gathered inputs from relevant stakeholders, such as national agencies, subnational institutions, international organisations and non-government organisations (NGOs). A total of 189 participants (100 female and 89 male) discussed the recommendations from the mid-term review of the national strategic plan, current challenges and emerging trends in human trafficking. Key group discussions were related to strengthening the prevention of trafficking in persons, prevention and control of migration, and promoting victim protection and service delivery.

**Linkages:** The NCCT worked with national agencies, subnational institutions, international organisations and NGOs in conducting this workshop.



# Indonesia



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## 3 approved projects in 2022

### 2022 projects

- I202 – Support national plan of action implementation and TIP coordination
- I204 – TIP adjudication including victim-sensitive courts, with the Supreme Court
- I299 – National effectiveness and governance

### Key partners in 2022 program implementation

- Anti-Trafficking in Persons Task Force
  - Witness and Victim Protection Agency
  - Supreme Court's Women and Children Working Group
  - Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection
  - Australia Indonesia Partnership for Justice Phase 2
  - ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children – Indonesia
-



**11** events in Indonesia,  
with **726** participants  
(**61%** women)



**4** capacity development  
events conducted in  
Indonesia



**305** people trained  
(**59%** women)

In 2022, the bilateral memorandum of subsidiary arrangement between Indonesia and Australia was pending. However, we continued to support partners implement Indonesia's ACTIP obligations through our regional activities.

### Key achievements

- The Supreme Court cooperated with ASEAN-ACT, the Australia Indonesia Partnership for Justice Phase 2 and an Indonesian civil society organisation in conducting a decision analysis of Indonesia's TIP court cases – [project I204](#); [outcomes 2.1 and 2.3](#)
- ASEAN-ACT supported the Witness and Victim Protection Agency (LPSK), Australian Department of Home Affairs and Australian Border Force in a follow-up workshop to discuss and review the outcome of the capacity development assessment workshop held in November 2021 – [project I299](#); [outcomes 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3](#)
- The ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) held two technical working group meetings in Jakarta – [project R101](#); [outcomes under EOPO1 and EOPO2](#)
- The ACWC co-hosted a workshop on shelter practices with the Ministry of Social Affairs – [project R101](#); [outcomes under EOPO1 and EOPO2](#)
- The LPSK and the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection met with Australia's Ambassador for People Smuggling and Human Trafficking, Ms Lucienne Manton, during her official visit to Jakarta – [project I299](#); [outcomes 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3](#)

### CASE STUDY:

## TIP decision analysis

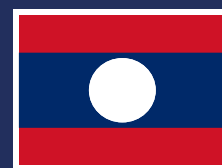
**Context:** In partnership with the Indonesia Judicial Research Society, we supported the Supreme Court of Indonesia in reviewing 2019, 2020 and 2021 trafficking in persons (TIP) court decisions. The objectives of the research were to inform the development and refinement of policies and procedures that contribute to better court experiences and outcomes for TIP victims; provide a source of information in identifying training needs of judges; and establish an evidence base and narrative to assist courts and TIP coordinating agencies with reporting on TIP cases.

**Achievement:** From late 2021 to 2022, a total of 435 decisions were analysed, of which 239 were considered as TIP cases. A [summary of the analysis and key findings from the research](#) were developed and presented to the Supreme Court's Women and Children Working Group in August 2022. Based on the presentation, the Supreme Court decided to take actions on key research findings, in partnership with ASEAN-ACT. Key actions include developing a model decision template to address some of the key findings and developing an information booklet in a format for judges, including an explanatory note, a checklist and a process map. During the second half of 2022, from lessons and experience gained in Indonesia, we started conducting a similar TIP decision analysis in the Philippines for the period 2019 to 2022.

**Linkages:** This initiative was conducted in partnership with the Supreme Court of Indonesia, the Indonesia Judicial Research Society and the Australia Indonesia Partnership for Justice Phase 2.



# Lao PDR



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## 5 approved projects in 2022

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### 2022 projects

- L201 – TIP victim identification and investigation, with the Anti-Human Trafficking Department
- L204 – TIP adjudication, including victim-sensitive courts, with the People's Supreme Court
- L206 – Cross-agency CTIP cooperation, with the Lao Women's Union
- L207 – TIP prosecution and victim-centred approach, with the Office of the Supreme People's Prosecutor
- L299 – National effectiveness and governance

### Key partners in 2022 program implementation

- National Committee on Anti-Trafficking in Persons
- Anti-Human Trafficking Department, Ministry of Public Security
- Ministry of Justice
- People's Supreme Court
- Office of the Supreme People's Prosecutor
- Judicial Research and Training Institute
- Public Prosecutor Training Institute
- Lao Women's Union
- Village Focus International





**32** events in Lao PDR, with **665** participants (**45%** women)



**16** capacity development events conducted in Lao PDR



**312** people trained (**38%** women)

In 2022, we continued to support partners implement Lao PDR's ACTIP obligations.

### Key achievements

- The Anti-Human Trafficking Department in the Ministry of Public Security held the first workshop on the use of electronic evidence and collecting digital evidence for TIP cases – [project L201](#); [outcomes 2.1 and 2.3](#)
- The People's Supreme Court established a technical working group and held workshops to develop victim-sensitive court guidelines – [project L204](#); [outcomes 2.1 and 2.3](#)
- The Lao Women's Union hosted a four-day workshop on GEDSI, victim rights, and monitoring and reporting – on the final day, participants discussed the application of the concepts and learnings from the first three days in their implementation of Lao PDR's national plan of action against TIP – [project L206](#); [outcomes 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3](#)
- The Australian Ambassador to ASEAN, Mr Will Nankervis, visited the Center for Counseling and Protection of Women and Children, Central Lao Women's Union, on 29 March 2022 – [project L206](#); [outcomes 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3](#)
- The Office of the Supreme People's Prosecutor conducted a training on prosecution of TIP cases for provincial prosecutors in southern provinces in May 2022, and used trainers who completed that training-of-trainers course in 2021 – [project L207](#); [outcomes 2.1 and 2.3](#)
- We conducted training on the use and application of Zoom for videoconferencing, for 21 counterparts (12 women), including how to use Zoom in their daily work – [project L299](#); [outcomes 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3](#)

### CASE STUDY:

## Victim-sensitive courts

**Context:** In 2021, ASEAN-ACT supported the People's Supreme Court to conduct a victim-sensitive court workshop for judges. In addition to hearing about victim-sensitive court principles, the workshop enabled Lao PDR judges to learn from good practices in other ASEAN Member States.

**Achievement:** A technical working group of Lao PDR judges was established, building on interest after the victim-sensitive court workshop, to develop guidelines for victim-sensitive courts. Led and drafted by the Lao PDR judges, the final draft of the victim-sensitive court guidelines was submitted to the Council of Judges in early 2022. The guidelines were accepted in principle by the Council of Judges in April 2022, and the President of the People's Supreme Court requested engagement with four agencies (foreign affairs, justice, prosecutor and police) to ensure that the victim-sensitive court principles are also applied across the criminal justice system. Further consultations were conducted during the second half of 2022, and final guidelines will be resubmitted to the Council of Judges during the first half of 2023.

**Linkages:** The People's Supreme Court worked with judges at various levels and consulted with foreign affairs, police, prosecutors and justice agencies in finalising the victim-sensitive court guidelines.



# Philippines



## 9 approved projects in 2022

### 2022 projects

- P201 – Enforcement of local laws and regulations on CTIP, with the Department of the Interior and Local Government
- P202 – TIP prosecution and victim-centred approach, with the Department of Justice
- P203 – TIP victim identification and investigation, with the National Bureau of Investigation
- P204 – TIP adjudication, including victim-sensitive courts, with the Supreme Court
- P206 – Transnational investigative cooperation, with the Philippine National Police (PNP)
- P209 – TIP victim identification and support, with the PNP
- P210 – Strategic plan implementation and monitoring, and TIP coordination, with the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT)
- P299 – National effectiveness and governance
- P305 – CTIP in government supply chains, with the IACAT

### Key partners in 2022 program implementation

- Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking
- Department of the Interior and Local Government
- Department of Social Welfare and Development
- Philippine Judicial Academy
- National Bureau of Investigation
- National Prosecution Service, Department of Justice
- Project Management Office of the Supreme Court
- Philippine National Police (PNP)
- Women and Children Protection Center, PNP
- Blas F. Ople Policy Center and Training Institute



# 133

events in the Philippines, with 3,545 participants (68% women)



# 37

capacity development events conducted in the Philippines



# 1,269

people trained, (79% women)

In 2022, we continued to support partners implement Philippines' ACTIP obligations.

### Key achievements

- The Department of the Interior and Local Government completed three manuals – an anti-trafficking roadshow manual, an ordinance writing guide, and an operations manual for the Local Committees on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Children – [project P201](#); [outcomes 2.1 and 2.3](#)
- The Department of Justice's National Prosecution Service completed materials for training on the online sexual abuse and exploitation of children dimension of TIP (STOP-TIP), and held two training workshops in 2022 – [project P202](#); [outcomes 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3](#)
- The Supreme Court and the Philippine Judicial Academy completed the revision of the competency enhancement training course on TIP – [project P204](#); [outcome 2.1](#)
- The Philippine National Police established a new relationship with the Royal Thai Police on transnational investigative cooperation, with the first bilateral meeting held in July 2022 – [project P206](#); [outcomes 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3](#)
- The Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking developed the monitoring, evaluation, reporting and learning framework for the national strategic plan – [project P210](#); [outcomes 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3](#)
- The Department of Social Welfare and Development conducted two focus groups to inform the development of a toolkit for the recovery and reintegration program for TIP victims – [projects P299 and R206](#); [outcomes 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3](#)

### CASE STUDY:

## Development of fourth National Strategic Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons

**Context:** We are supporting the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) to build capacity in strategic planning, implementation, monitoring and TIP coordination (project P210). In 2022, technical support was provided through a consultant monitoring and evaluation specialist, to facilitate the development of the Philippines' fourth National Strategic Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons. We supported the review of the third National Strategic Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons (2017–2021), and informed the development of the fourth strategic plan.

**Achievement:** The IACAT-led review of the third national strategic action plan and the development of the fourth national strategic action plan reflect a major shift in the IACAT's planning process. Between May and June 2022, 10 sectoral consultation workshops were conducted – an extensive and inclusive consultation process to seek input into the development of the national plan from government agencies, the private sector and non-government organisations (NGOs). The IACAT adopted aspects of the problem-driven iterative adaptation approach, which its members learned during the policy engagement planning that we conducted in the Philippines in 2021. On 20 December 2022, the completed new strategic plan was presented to and approved by the IACAT.

**Linkages:** The IACAT worked with government agencies, the private sector and NGOs.

### TIP basic course at the NBI Academy

**Achievement:** We are working with the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) towards building the capacity of investigators on trafficking in persons (TIP) cases (project P203). We supported the development of the NBI basic course for TIP investigators. Two manuals were completed – a trainers manual and a participants manual – and the TIP basic course was included in the NBI Academy's onboarding course for new agents. A pool of TIP agent-trainers was organised and the trainers received accreditation from the NBI Academy. On 25 November 2022, the NBI Basic TIP Investigation Course was officially launched. The first delivery of the course also took place in November 2022.

### Competency enhancement training

**Achievement:** The Philippine Judicial Academy's competency enhancement training (CET) and advanced CET program on TIP for judges, prosecutors, law enforcers and social workers was reviewed by a technical working group, supported by ASEAN-ACT. The technical working group's meetings, between February and September 2022, focused on updating and revision of the CET course on TIP. The revision is now complete and two courses were held in September and December 2022 using the revised CET. In December 2022, the technical working group began updating and revising the advanced CET course on TIP, for release in 2023.

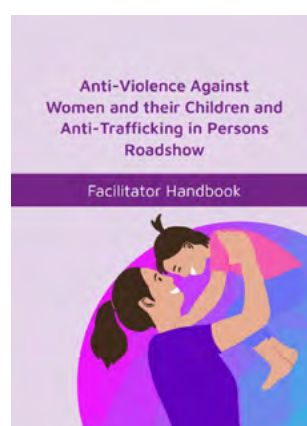
### TIP courses for prosecutors

**Achievement:** We supported the National Prosecution Service in the Department of Justice (project P202) in the development and delivery of two courses – the Basic E-learning Access to Training on Investigation and Prosecution of TIP Cases (BEAT-TIP), and training on the online sexual abuse and exploitation of children dimension of trafficking in persons (STOP-TIP). Both courses were accredited by the Supreme Court as part of mandatory continuing legal education for lawyers in the Philippines. Continuing legal education is required of members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines. With the accreditation of the BEAT-TIP and STOP-TIP courses, prosecutors who participated in these courses will earn 22 hours to count towards mandatory continuing legal education. These two courses are the

first courses of the National Prosecution Service to be accredited by the Supreme Court of the Philippines.

### Anti-trafficking in persons ordinance

**Achievement:** We supported the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) in developing three manuals – the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children and Anti-Trafficking in Persons Roadshow; Operationalization Manual for Local Committees on Anti-Trafficking in Persons and Violence Against Women and Their Children; and the Manual on Drafting Anti-Trafficking in Persons Ordinance. DILG prioritised the field testing and delivery of the ordinance manual. It partnered with the IACAT in conducting a pilot test and capacity-building workshop on one of the DILG manuals – the Manual on Drafting of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Ordinance. The workshop took place in November 2022. The manuals will be formally launched in 2023.



Department of the Interior and  
Local Government manuals





Image: Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) participants at a workshop to develop the recovery and reintegration toolkit for frontline social workers in the Philippines, supported by ASEAN-ACT (October 2022).





# Thailand



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## 6 approved projects in 2022

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### 2022 projects

- T201 – TIP adjudication, including victim-sensitive courts, with the Court of Justice
- T202 – TIP prosecution and victim-centred approach, with the Office of the Attorney General
- T203 – Transnational investigative cooperation, with the Royal Thai Police and Department of Special Investigation
- T206 – Cross-agency CTIP cooperation
- T208 – Victim protection and support, with the Division of Anti-Trafficking in Persons, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
- T299 – National effectiveness and governance

### Key partners in 2022 program implementation

- Department of Special Investigation, Ministry of Justice
  - Department of Trafficking in Persons Litigation, Office of the Attorney General
  - Court of Justice
  - Ministry of Social Development and Human Security
  - Ministry of Labour
  - Royal Thai Police
  - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
  - International Justice Mission
  - Social Responsibility Law Office
  - Human Rights and Development Foundation
  - Verité Southeast Asia
  - Labour Protection Network
-



**68** events in Thailand,  
with **1,472**  
participants  
(**44%** women)



**15** capacity  
development  
events conducted  
in Thailand



**852**  
people trained  
(**43%** women)

In 2022, we continued to support partners implement Thailand's ACTIP obligations.

### Key achievements

- We partnered with International Justice Mission on a seminar for judges on trauma-informed care – [project T201](#); [outcomes 2.1 and 2.3](#)
- We supported the study on court decisions in relation to the nexus and distinction between forced labour and labour trafficking, as stipulated in the 2019 emergency decree amending the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act. The draft report was submitted in November 2022, and is currently under review – [project T206](#); [outcome 2.3](#)
- The Department of Trafficking in Persons Litigation (DTIPL), in the Office of the Attorney General, and ASEAN-ACT engaged a lead consultant and a Thai consultant to develop training-of-trainers materials for training prosecutors in counter-trafficking in persons – the module and materials are currently under review by the DTIPL – [project T202](#); [outcomes 2.1 and 2.2](#)
- The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security conducted a workshop on freedom of movement for TIP victims in May 2022, to discuss findings and recommendations from the shelter practices study commissioned by ASEAN-ACT, and learnings from regional good practices – [project T202](#); [outcome 2.3](#)
- We participated in our partners' events to mark Thailand's National Anti-Human Trafficking Day on 5 June 2022 – [project T299](#); [outcomes 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3](#)

### CASE STUDY:

## CTIP Centre of Excellence

**Context:** The government of Thailand created a national subcommittee on capacity development for government officials working on prevention and suppression of trafficking in persons. The subcommittee sought ASEAN-ACT's support and collaboration in developing a capacity development plan and setting up a Counter-Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) Centre of Excellence.

**Achievement:** On 2 November 2022, Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Hon Penny Wong, and Thailand's Minister of Justice, Somsak Thepsuthin, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the CTIP Centre of Excellence at Government House, Bangkok. The signing was witnessed by Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister, General Prawit Wongsuwan, and high-level delegations from both countries. The MoU commits Australia and Thailand to partner in establishing a new training facility for Thai law enforcement, prosecutors, and labour and immigration officials with a role in countering human trafficking. In 2022, we commissioned a scoping study to assess the adequacy of current training provided to CTIP actors at both the national and provincial levels, and to make recommendations for the design and operationalisation of the CTIP Centre of Excellence. We received the draft report of the scoping study on 15 November 2022, and presented it to the National Program Steering Committee in December 2022. The CTIP Centre of Excellence Joint Steering Committee and Joint Executive Committee were established in December 2022, and ASEAN-ACT sits on both committees.

**Linkages:** We partnered with the Ministry of Justice and worked with the National Coordinating and Monitoring of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Performance Committee.

## Department of Special Investigation planning process

**Achievement:** In March 2022, we supported the Department of Special Investigation's (DSI's) annual planning process. The Bureau of Human Trafficking Crime at DSI has an internal annual work plan for counter-trafficking in persons. DSI agreed to trial the problem-driven iterative adaptation approach that we used in the Philippines in 2021. During the workshop, participants identified solutions to problems, leading to an action plan for DSI. DSI organised a follow-up meeting in May 2022 to discuss progress in integrating solutions identified in the planning workshop into DSI's action plan. Our support is contributing to practice change in counter-trafficking efforts (project T203).

## Transnational investigative cooperation

**Achievement:** The issue of transnational investigative cooperation is being addressed through police-to-police cooperation between countries (projects T203 and A208). The Royal Thai Police (RTP) had been working with the Myanmar Police Force (MPF) since ASEAN-ACT's predecessor program.<sup>2</sup> The Department of Special Investigation (DSI) also worked with the MPF on specific TIP cases. Cooperation with the MPF has been on hold since February 2020. However, the experience and lessons from the cooperation with the MPF are being used in DSI's and the RTP's new cooperation with the Cambodian National Police (CNP). Introductory meetings with the CNP were held in August and November 2021. This was followed by online meetings in September 2022. Successful face-to-face meetings were held during the year, between DSI and the CNP (3 November 2022), and between the RTP and the CNP (4 November 2022). This is leading to information exchange and knowledge sharing between law enforcement agencies in Thailand and Cambodia on

surrogacy and online child exploitation offences. In July 2022, we supported a bilateral meeting between agencies in Thailand and the Philippines. The meeting was broader than law enforcement, and included foreign affairs, labour, immigration, justice, and victim protection and services. The meeting contributed to awareness raising among agencies, and closer cooperation and commitment to support rescued and returned victims.

## Reflection and recovery period for TIP victims

**Achievement:** Through our project with the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS) (project T208), we supported a study on a reflection and recovery period for victims of trafficking, which examined policies and practices in Thailand and other jurisdictions. The findings were presented to the government, including a proposed roadmap for implementing the recommendations. The national referral mechanism plan, which encompasses the reflection and recovery period for victims, was endorsed by the Deputy Prime Minister on 8 April 2022. National subcommittee meetings were held in 2022 to progress the implementation of the national referral mechanism plan. The process included an MSDHS workshop (October 2022) on the implementation of a reflection and recovery period, including sharing of knowledge and experience from Australia, the Philippines and ASEAN.

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<sup>2</sup> The Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP), 2013–2018.





**Bilateral Meeting on Counter Trafficking in Persons  
between Royal Thai Police  
and Cambodian National Police 2022**

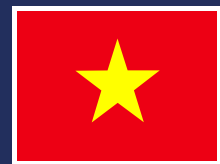
4 November 2022

Thailand's Department of Special Investigation, Royal Thai Police

Image: Bilateral meeting with Thailand's Department of Special Investigation, Royal Thai Police and Cambodian National Police to discuss trafficking in persons cases and trends in Sa Kaeo on the eastern border of Thailand (November 2022).



# Vietnam



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## 6 approved projects in 2022

### 2022 projects

- V201 – Victim identification and protection, with the Ministry of Public Security
- V203 – TIP adjudication, with the Supreme People's Court
- V204 – TIP prosecution and victim-centred approach, with the Supreme People's Procuracy
- V205 – National plan of action implementation, with the Criminal Police Department of the Ministry of Public Security
- V206 – Cross-agency CTIP cooperation
- V299 – National effectiveness and governance

### Key partners in 2022 program implementation

- Ministry of Public Security
  - Supreme People's Court
  - Supreme People's Procuracy
  - People's Police Academy
  - Vietnam Court Academy
  - Hanoi Procuratorate University
  - Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
  - Vietnam Women's Union
  - Ministry of Foreign Affairs
  - Blue Dragon Children's Foundation
-



**33** events in Vietnam, with 877 participants (51% women)



**15** capacity development events conducted in Vietnam



**473** people trained (50% women)

In 2022, we continued to support partners implement Vietnam's ACTIP obligations.

### Key achievements

- The People's Police College No. 1 finalised and endorsed the TIP training materials for commune police – [project V201](#); [outcome 2.1](#)
- The Supreme People's Court endorsed the TIP training materials for judges and court staff – [project V203](#); [outcomes 2.1 and 2.2](#)
- The Supreme People's Court organised a training-of-trainers course on TIP for judges in March 2022 – [project V203](#); [outcomes 2.1 and 2.2](#)
- The Supreme People's Procuracy completed and endorsed a guide on TIP prosecution for in-service prosecutors – [project V204](#); [outcomes 2.1 and 2.2](#)
- The Hanoi Procuratorate University conducted a training-of-trainers course on counter-trafficking in persons in January 2022 – [project V204](#); [outcomes 2.1 and 2.2](#)
- The Supreme People's Procuracy conducted a training on visualisation and using mind-mapping in prosecution of TIP cases, for the first time, in August 2022 – [project V204](#); [outcomes 2.1 and 2.2](#)
- We collaborated with the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs in conducting training for labour sector staff on a victim-centred approach and trauma-informed care for the protection of TIP victims – [project V206](#); [outcomes 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3](#)
- We commissioned research on domestic trafficking in persons, to be completed in early 2023 – [project V201](#); [outcome 2.1](#)

### CASE STUDY:

## Supporting bilateral police cooperation to rescue victims of trafficking

**Context:** Informal cooperation between law enforcement agencies can take the form of information sharing and coordination. A recent criminal trend is the emergence of scam operations in special economic zones in the Mekong subregion, where migrant workers, including Vietnamese nationals, have become victims.

**Achievement:** In July 2022, the Police Department of Ho Chi Minh City investigated a trafficking case and arrested a number of traffickers. Testimony includes information on five Vietnamese victims who travelled to Ho Chi Minh City to find work and were recruited to work in Dong Nai province, but were instead taken to the Cambodian border. They ended up working in a scam operation in Cambodia. The police officer in charge of the case is a regular participant and speaker at ASEAN-ACT training activities. The officer contacted ASEAN-ACT and requested assistance to rescue the victims. Through our office in Cambodia, the case was reported to the Cambodian TIP authorities, and we also provided contact information of police officers in both countries. We also connected the police officer with senior officials at the Department of Foreign Relations in the Vietnam Ministry of Public Security, and the ministry's representative in Cambodia. Technical support was provided to help the police officer with online investigation techniques. In collaboration with other agencies and Cambodian officials, all victims were rescued and returned home safely.

**Linkages:** Cooperation involved the Department of Foreign Relations in the Ministry of Public Security, the Vietnamese embassy in Cambodia, representatives of the Vietnam Ministry of Public Security in Cambodia, the Police Department of Ho Chi Minh City, and the Cambodian National Police.

## Gender-sensitive and victim-centred approaches

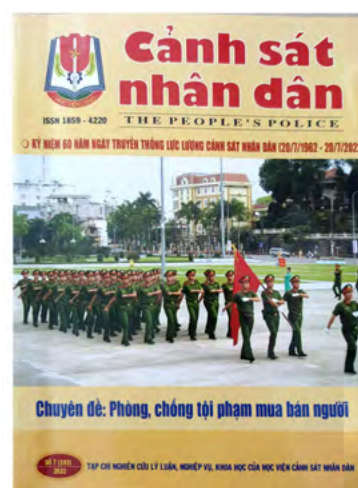
**Achievement:** Through our support in implementing multi-year projects with government partners in Vietnam, gender-sensitive and victim-centred approaches were integrated into TIP-related training courses for law enforcement, prosecutors and the judiciary. Examples include training for law enforcement officers at the commune level (April 2022), training of prosecutors in TIP hotspots (March 2022), and training of justice agencies and judges in provinces (April 2022). Gender equality, disability and social inclusion was also one of the key topics in the training on victim protection for labour sector staff (April 2022). After attending our various training courses and completing the training-of-trainers course, Ms Nguyen Thi Tam, Deputy Director of General Affairs at the Supreme People's Court, is now delivering training sessions for judges and court staff. Her sessions focus on victim psychology, including victim-centred and gender-sensitive approaches when working with TIP victims.

## Vietnam TIP Journal

**Achievement:** On 30 July 2022, the Ministry of Public Security released the Trafficking in Persons Journal for law enforcement as part of Vietnam's National Day against Trafficking in Persons (project V201). A total of 500 copies were printed and distributed to Ministry of Public Security agencies at the national and provincial levels and in justice sector training institutions. The publication of the journal builds on the success of earlier TIP journals supported by ASEAN-ACT in 2020 and 2021. The journal was authored by officials from the People's Police Academy and experts from other justice agencies. The journal was also available online, including in libraries of training institutions. A survey (in November 2022) of those who read the journal (356 responses) indicated that 96% confirmed that the journal helped them to better understand issues around TIP law enforcement, 97% used the journal as a reference, and 95% found the contents of the journal to be relevant to their work.

## Handbook on mutual legal assistance

**Achievement:** On 3 June 2022, the leaders of the Supreme People's Procuracy endorsed a new handbook on mutual legal assistance. The International Relations Department of the Supreme People's Procuracy is the central authority for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, including TIP cases. For some time, standard operating procedures or guidelines on mutual legal assistance were not in place. Under our project with the Supreme People's Procuracy (project V204), we supported the development of a handbook on mutual legal assistance. The handbook provides guidance and examples, and explains procedures in visual format, to help investigators and prosecutors when dealing with TIP cases under a request for mutual legal assistance. The handbook will contribute to better documentation of cases and greater consistency in case handling, and will enable the International Relations Department to be efficient and timely in responding to requests from foreign agencies, and in making its own requests for assistance.



[Vietnam Trafficking in Persons Journal 2022 – People's Police Academy](#)





Image: Local law enforcement officer at a training course organised by the Vietnam People's Police Academy, supported by ASEAN-ACT (April 2022).

## Knowledge to practice – digital evidence in TIP cases

### Context

The use of online platforms and social media to recruit and exploit vulnerable people is increasing, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic. Perpetrators recruit victims by offering fake or misleading job opportunities, leading to forced labour or sexual exploitation. Investigators and prosecutors are finding it difficult to keep up with these trends. They need knowledge and skills in digital-based investigation and handling of trafficking in persons (TIP) cases that involve an online element.

In response to these challenges and to support the Vietnam Ministry of Public Security's priorities, we supported two workshops on digital evidence in collaboration with the ministry. The first workshop, held on 7–8 October 2021, was on 'Digital Evidence in Trafficking in Persons Cases – International and Vietnamese Experience Sharing'. Fourteen experts from Vietnam and nine international speakers from Australia, INTERPOL, Malaysia, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime shared their knowledge and experience in detecting, tracking, gathering, preserving, collating and using digital evidence during investigation, prosecution and adjudication of TIP cases. The second and third workshops were held in November 2021 and March 2022, and focused on Vietnamese practices and practical experiences in the field. Justice agency representatives from across Vietnam attended the workshops.

### Achievements

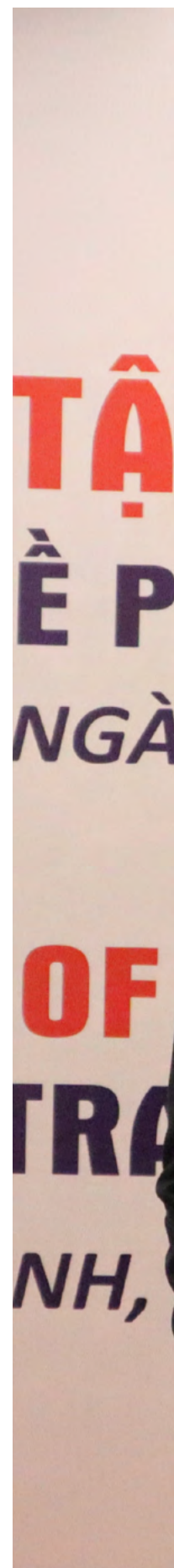
Mr Nguyen Van Vuong is a young officer from the Investigation Agency of the

Vietnam Supreme People's Procuracy. He put into practice what he learned from the two workshops he attended – the digital evidence workshops in October and November 2021.

Equipped with new knowledge from the first workshop, Mr Nguyen wrote an article for the Supreme People's Court magazine highlighting corruption, titled 'Digital evidence in corruption cases'.

After attending the second workshop in November 2021, Mr Nguyen reported the results of the workshop and what he learned to his department's leaders. He proposed to create and issue a stakeholder mapping on digital evidence examination. His suggestion was accepted and the stakeholder mapping was created and disseminated. The mapping helps the Investigation Agency and other agencies within and outside the Supreme People's Procuracy to contact, collaborate with and seek support from each other.

The stakeholder mapping initiated by Mr Nguyen is helping to enhance collaboration between different units under the Ministry of Public Security and the Investigation Agency of the Supreme People's Procuracy in handling criminal cases, including trafficking in persons. Mr Nguyen also shared what he learned from the training with other investigators and officers in his department. In acknowledgement of Mr Nguyen's ability and interest, he was invited to attend the training-of-trainers course for prosecutors and speakers held in January 2022. We recognised his potential as a peer educator, mentor and trainer on topics related to digital evidence and evidence examination of TIP cases. He also delivered a pilot presentation during the training-of-trainers course.







“ The workshops and training-of-trainers course organised by ASEAN-ACT created valuable opportunities for me to meet and learn from experts on collecting, analysing, using and examining evidence and digital evidence. They also answered my questions and guided me to overcome some challenges and difficulties in handling digital evidence, especially in digital examination. After learning from the workshops and training, I can develop new ideas and improve my own skills and knowledge related to collection, assessment and use of evidence in general, and digital evidence in particular. ”

*Mr Nguyen Van Vuong,  
Supreme People's Procuracy*





Image: LPN co-founder, Ms. Patima Tungpuchayakul at a migrant centre in Samut Sakhon, Thailand (September 2022).



# 4 Inclusive public policy

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## **EOPO3:**

ASEAN member state justice and related state agencies' policies and practices are influenced by relevant stakeholders and better aligned with the ACTIP, especially in connection to victim rights obligations

# Highlights from 2022

## – NGO partners



**Legal Support  
for Children and  
Women, Cambodia**

**71**

TIP victims (24 female) received support through legal aid and referral services



**Village Focus  
International,  
Lao PDR**

**83**

CSO representatives and lawyers (48 women) received training on assisting victims of trafficking and on labour migration



**Blas F. Ople  
Policy Center and  
Training Institute,  
Philippines**

**82**

representatives (49 women) from the migrant workers sector were supported to participate in the development of the new national strategic action plan against trafficking in persons



**Human  
Rights and  
Development  
Foundation,  
Thailand**

**183**

agriculture migrant workers attended nine awareness-raising events to identify vulnerabilities of migrant workers to trafficking



Labour  
Protection  
Network,  
Thailand

579

migrant workers, referred by migrant networks, received assistance to support handling of their cases



Social  
Responsibility  
Law Office,  
Thailand

10

NGOs were consulted, along with seven government agencies, during workshops on drafting policy briefs on victim identification in forced labour and migrant workers' access to compensation as victims of crime



Verité  
Southeast Asia,  
Thailand

7

business stakeholders from the manufacturing, hospitality, construction and agriculture sectors informed research on recruitment of migrant workers residing in Thailand



Blue Dragon  
Children's  
Foundation,  
Vietnam

46

human traffickers were convicted for a combined 443.25 years in prison, as a result of legal representation for 24 victims of trafficking



Migrant  
Forum  
in Asia

5

countries where research is underway to better understand vulnerabilities to human trafficking among migrant workers



### Policy agenda

What is the agenda around the specific policy priority?



### Policy rhetoric

What is discussed around the specific counter-trafficking policy priority?



### Policy process

How is policy made and who is engaged?



### Policy content

What do counter-trafficking policies cover in substance?



### Policy implementation

How are policies implemented, and what mechanisms are needed to support implementation?

Throughout 2022, ASEAN-ACT supported state agencies, non-state stakeholders and other actors to promote demand-led dialogue and cooperation to counter trafficking in persons.

### Key achievements

In 2022, key achievements towards achieving EOPO3 included national policy engagement plans, a grants program for NGOs, an applied political economy analysis, and private sector engagement.

### Policy engagement plan

**Context:** The development of a national policy engagement plan is a consultative process that brings together stakeholders from diverse government and non-government agencies in policy dialogue and learning. We use a problem-driven iterative adaptation approach to guide workshop participants – working in mixed sectoral groups – from the problem-driven analysis through to solutions in their initial iterations.

**Achievement:** By December 2022, three policy engagement plans were developed – in the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The result is ongoing policy dialogue between government and non-government actors in the three countries.

### Grants program

**Context:** In June 2021, we initiated a grants program to promote joint policy dialogue and learning. Through the grants program,

we are providing support to nine non-government organisations (NGOs) selected as partners based on their counter-trafficking approach, experience, expertise and alignment with ASEAN-ACT principles and strategies. Activities identified as part of our NGO partnerships to promote policy dialogue and learning includes research, policy advocacy, establishing NGO networks and supporting development of inter-agency cooperation.

**Achievement:** In 2022, we continued our partnerships with nine NGOs in five target countries – Cambodia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. We present the key achievements from these partnerships on pages 54–62.

### Applied political economy analysis

**Context:** In 2021, we initiated a partnership with the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) to conduct an applied political economy analysis. The objective of this partnership is to better understand structural vulnerabilities to trafficking for labour exploitation in Southeast Asia.

**Achievement:** Phase 1 of the research commenced during the second half of 2021, covering Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam. Phase 2 will involve studies in the other ASEAN Member States. This research will provide a clear understanding of the current situation of labour trafficking in Southeast Asia, to inform ASEAN-ACT and partners' programming. Four country reports and four thematic briefs have



now been drafted and are being finalised for dissemination. ODI published the [first thematic brief](#) on 18 December 2022, on the occasion of International Migrants Day.

### Private sector engagement

**Context:** In 2022, we continued to engage with the private sector in Thailand on trafficking in persons and forced labour.

**Achievement:** We played a role in gathering NGO inputs to Thailand's National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. Under this action plan, we supported training to business at the Business and Human Rights Academy on trafficking, forced labour, and human rights due diligence – in collaboration with the Global Compact Network Thailand. In December 2022, at the 6th Dialogue on Business and Human Rights, we facilitated a panel discussion for Thai businesses on the role of the private sector in promoting non-state-based grievance mechanisms to address exploitation of migrant workers. This is an important step towards developing human rights due diligence, ensuring that workers can make complaints about labour violations they experience, whether to the state or to their employers.



Image: ASEAN-ACT Policy Dialogue and Partnerships Director, Paul Buckley, shared with partners from Global Compact Network Thailand and local business representatives on how to mitigate risks of human trafficking and forced labor in business operations and supply chains (August 2022).

# Legal Support for Children and Women

71

TIP victims (24 female) received support through legal aid and referral services

**Legal Support for Children and Women (LSCW)** is a Cambodian non-government organisation that was initially established to build the capacity of lawyers and organisational staff to provide legal aid. LSCW is providing free legal advice to Cambodian women and children who are victims of crime, including human trafficking.

In June 2021, ASEAN-ACT commenced a partnership with LSCW. The partnership is focused on providing legal assistance to victims of trafficking, and using lessons learned in victim identification to inform policy dialogue.

## Key achievements

- Established the Forum on Migrant Labour and Human Trafficking, with NGOs – [EOPO2](#) and [EOPO3](#)
- Organised six meetings of the Forum on Migrant Labour and Human Trafficking, with terms of reference and an action plan (2022–2025) confirmed by forum members – [EOPO2](#) and [EOPO3](#)
- Conducted two capacity-building workshops on case management and a referral system for TIP victims, attended by the Provincial Committee for Counter

Trafficking in two target provinces – [outcomes 3.2](#) and [3.4](#)

- Organised a meeting of the Forum on Migrant Labour and Human Trafficking to provide input and present suggestions and recommendations during the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training's consultative workshop on strengthening policies and legal frameworks on labour migration in the fishing industry – [outcomes 3.2](#) and [3.4](#)
- Supported a review of victim identification policy in Cambodia, including policy engagement with civil society organisations – [outcomes 3.2](#) and [3.4](#)
- Facilitated cooperation and networking meetings between members of provincial committees for counter-trafficking and NGOs, focusing on case referral and electronic communication for information sharing and referral support – [outcomes 3.2](#) and [3.4](#)
- Provided legal aid support to 71 TIP victim-survivors (24 female). These survivors were also referred to relevant services – [EOPO2](#) and [EOPO3](#)

# Village Focus International

83

CSO representatives and lawyers (48 women) received training on assisting victims of trafficking and on labour migration

Founded in Lao PDR in 2000, **Village Focus International (VFI)** is an international non-government organisation that seeks to address challenges faced by rural communities. VFI works across multiple provinces and operates two shelters that support victims of trafficking. It also manages a border transit centre for trafficking survivors and an agricultural training facility for local farmers.

In June 2021, ASEAN-ACT commenced a partnership with VFI. The partnership is focused on improving victim identification and assistance at local levels, and developing the capacity of government and NGOs to respond to trafficking in persons.

## Key achievements

- Conducted six training events in Vientiane, Champasak province and Bokeo province, with a total of 83 participants (48 women) consisting of civil society organisation (CSO) representatives and lawyers. Topics included labour migration and human trafficking, supporting TIP victims, pre-identification guidelines for CSOs, and protecting and assisting TIP victims during legal proceedings – [EOP02](#) and [EOP03](#)
- Established an informal network of NGOs, a key output in 2021. During the reporting period, organised five meetings of this network of CSOs and international organisations. The meetings and trainings were used to provide linkages between CSOs, private lawyers and justice agencies. Network members confirmed their commitment to this collaboration, even after the partnership with ASEAN-ACT concludes, and decided to meet every three months with a rotation of meeting host – [EOP02](#) and [EOP03](#)
- Completed a TIP victim identification manual for CSOs and distributed 100 copies. The manual was presented during training with NGOs. Members of the network participated in the development of the victim identification manual – [EOP02](#) and [EOP03](#)

# Blas F. Ople Policy Center and Training Institute

82

representatives (49 women) from the migrant workers sector were supported to participate in the development of the new national strategic action plan against trafficking in persons

**The Blas F. Ople Policy Center and Training Institute (Ople Center)** is a non-profit organisation in the Philippines that advocates for migrant workers' rights and welfare, provides assistance to overseas Filipino workers, and contributes to counter-trafficking efforts and capacity building.

In June 2021, ASEAN-ACT commenced a partnership with the Ople Center. The partnership is focused on policy dialogue and advocacy for migrant worker protection within a new policy framework and government agency – the Department of Migrant Workers. Through this partnership, the Ople Center formed the Coalition Against Trafficking of Overseas Filipino Workers (CAT-OFW).

## Key achievements

- Successfully lobbied for the inclusion of provisions in the law that strengthen the anti-trafficking mandate of the new Department of Migrant Workers – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- Formed a five-point policy agenda on addressing trafficking of migrant workers, and focused on the CAT-OFW's advocacy work and policy dialogue. The policy agenda was discussed with the Department of Migrant Workers and the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (IACAT) – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- Completed an analysis for amendments to the Philippines' Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, and presented the analysis to the Chief Legislative Officer. It was agreed that the CAT-OFW's amendments would be included in the next period of amendments in the Congress – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- Engaged in the development of implementing rules and regulations for the new Department of Migrant Workers – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- Supported the IACAT in facilitating consultations with 82 representatives (49 women) from the migrant workers sector on the development of the fourth National Strategic Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- The participation of women leaders in the CAT-OFW, as well as equal consultation with victim-survivors of trafficking, benefited the coalition's advocacy work. Women leaders have a strong voice in the coalition, and they include representatives of overseas workers and their families - [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)



# Human Rights and Development Foundation

183

agriculture migrant workers attended nine awareness-raising events to identify vulnerabilities of migrant workers to trafficking

Founded in 2000, the **Human Rights and Development Foundation (HRDF)** aims to support development that promotes and protects human rights, and promotes the sustainable use of natural resources in Thailand. It was established as a foundation by human rights academics and a human rights lawyer.

In June 2021, ASEAN-ACT commenced a partnership with HRDF. The partnership is focused on research, legal support and advocacy on trafficking in persons in Thailand's agriculture sector.

## Key achievements

- Conducted nine outreach and awareness-raising events, attended by 183 agriculture migrant workers, and through these events identified vulnerabilities of migrant workers – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- Conducted research on working conditions of migrant workers in Thailand's agriculture sector. The nine outreach events also informed the research, the results of which will be used for policy engagement and dialogue in improving working conditions for migrant workers in Thailand's agriculture sector – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)

- Proposed to the Ministry of Labour to educate agriculture sector workers on issues concerning trafficking in persons and child labour, through the ministry's Migrant Worker Assistance Centres – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- Participated in policy dialogue with the government on vulnerabilities of migrant workers, informed by lessons gathered through interaction with migrant workers – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- Launched a thought-provoking *#WhoMadeMyFlower* campaign to dig deeper into the flower farm supply chain and increase awareness on migrant worker rights and working conditions in the agriculture sector – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)

# Social Responsibility Law Office

10

**NGOs were consulted, along with seven government agencies, during workshops on drafting policy briefs on victim identification in forced labour and migrant workers' access to compensation as victims of crime**

## **Social Responsibility Law Office (SR Law)**

is a non-government organisation with extensive experience working on cases of labour exploitation and human rights violations in Thailand. It aims to support victims of trafficking to seek redress.

In July 2021, ASEAN-ACT commenced a partnership with SR Law. The partnership is focused on policy dialogue and documenting lessons learned in victim identification, labour exploitation and trafficking in persons, and increasing access to justice for TIP victims. The partnership aims to contribute to addressing the lack of clarity in policies and practices around forced labour and trafficking in persons, and the need for advocacy on TIP victims' rights to compensation.

## **Key achievements**

- Conducted consultation workshops on drafting policy briefs on victim identification in forced labour and migrant workers' access to compensation as victims of crime. The consultation workshops involved representatives from seven government agencies and 10 NGOs – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- Completed two policy briefs on

addressing trafficking in persons in labour exploitation, and migrant workers' access to compensation as victims of crime – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)

- Pursued policy dialogue on victim identification and compensation in Thailand, resulting in change to allow irregular migrants equal access to compensation when they are victims of crimes such as human trafficking – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- From SR Law's policy brief on victim identification in forced labour, the Ministry of Labour used part of the policy brief in the development of standard operating procedures for screening and identifying forced labour and labour trafficking victims – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- From SR Law's policy brief on migrant workers' access to compensation, the Thai government, through the Rights and Liberties Protection Department of the Ministry of Justice, changed its policy that previously discriminated against irregular migrant workers, denying their access to compensation if they were victims of trafficking or related crimes – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)  
*See story on page 64.*

# Labour Protection Network

579

migrant workers, referred by migrant networks, received assistance to support handling of their cases

**Labour Protection Network (LPN)** is a non-government organisation that aims to improve the lives of migrant labourers in Thailand by addressing the injustice brought on by discrimination and inequality. LPN focuses on three service areas: raids, rescue and victim assistance; migrant education; and labour rights promotion, advocacy and media.

In September 2021, ASEAN-ACT commenced a partnership with LPN, targeting the special economic zones in Sa Kaeo, Rayong and Trat provinces. The partnership is focused on supporting migrant workers to advocate for their own rights, identifying vulnerabilities of migrant workers to trafficking, and facilitating consultations with authorities and other stakeholders to address these vulnerabilities.

## Key achievements

- Documented vulnerabilities of migrant workers in special economic zones, and convened multi-stakeholder consultations to address these vulnerabilities – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)

- Conducted training workshops for 392 migrant workers (231 female) in three provinces, on labour law, labour protection and welfare – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- Assisted 579 workers (276 female) who were referred by migrant networks to support handling of cases – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- Established networks between NGOs, schools and local authorities in three target provinces, to enhance collaboration and dialogue for the protection and support of migrant workers – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- Conducted 18 outreach activities and reached 1,000 adult migrant workers with 1,000 migrant children (indirect beneficiaries) – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)

# Verité Southeast Asia



**business stakeholders  
from the manufacturing,  
hospitality, construction  
and agriculture sectors  
informed research on  
recruitment of migrant  
workers residing in  
Thailand**

**Verité Southeast Asia (VSEA)** is a labour rights organisation with a mission to ensure that people worldwide, especially in Southeast Asia, work under safe, fair and legal conditions. VSEA is an independent non-profit organisation with regional headquarters in the Philippines and a network of local consultants across the region, including in Thailand.

In June 2021, ASEAN-ACT commenced a partnership with VSEA. The partnership is focused on conducting research on in-country recruitment of foreign migrant workers and examining the associated risks of trafficking in persons among this group in Thailand. From this research, VSEA will produce a report on vulnerabilities to trafficking in persons, with policy recommendations for government, business and other key stakeholders.

## Key achievements

- Continued research on in-country recruitment of foreign workers and associated risks of trafficking in persons. A draft research report is expected

during the first half of 2023 – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)

- Conducted interviews with seven business stakeholders from various sectors, such as manufacturing, hospitality, construction and agriculture – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- Interviewed representatives from 11 government agencies and 23 Thai civil society organisations (CSOs) – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- Engaged with an Australian CSO representative – a lead researcher for LGBTQI+ migrant workers in Southeast Asia – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- Interviewed nearly 100 migrant workers from three countries working in different sectors – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)



# Blue Dragon Children's Foundation

46

human traffickers were convicted for a combined 443.25 years in prison, as a result of legal representation for 24 victims of trafficking

**Blue Dragon Children's Foundation (Blue Dragon)** is a non-government organisation that started in Vietnam in 2003. Blue Dragon's services are holistic, including rescue and crisis care for young people in immediate danger, provision of shelter, legal advocacy, and long-term support to return to school and training. Learnings from individual cases inform Blue Dragon's work on law reform, policy development and training programs.

In July 2021, ASEAN-ACT commenced a partnership with Blue Dragon. The partnership is focused on a review of lessons learned on victim identification, policy engagement with the government, assistance in TIP cases, and development of interagency collaboration at the provincial level in Dien Bien and Ha Giang provinces.

## Key achievements

- Completed a draft research report on challenges and gaps in victim identification and verification in Vietnam. A summary version of the report will be provided to the government for advocacy and input to policy dialogues, leading to a review of Vietnam's TIP law – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- Organised an interagency coordination mechanism in Ha Giang and Dien Bien provinces in Vietnam. In Ha Giang province, regular coordination meetings now take place between agencies and NGOs responsible for implementing the national referral mechanism for victim identification and support – [EOP02 and EOP03](#)
- Facilitated an interagency collaboration meeting in May 2022, to allow Dien Bien provincial authorities to learn from Ha Giang, and to implement stronger counter-trafficking in persons (CTIP) efforts. As a result, Dien Bien provincial authorities are more motivated to implement CTIP measures and confirmed collaboration with Blue Dragon to establish a community-based 'early warning system' prevention model – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- Represented 24 victims of trafficking (14 women, 9 girls and 1 boy), resulting in the conviction of 46 traffickers for a combined 443.25 years in prison – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)

# Migrant Forum in Asia

5

**countries where research is underway to better understand vulnerabilities to human trafficking among migrant workers**

**Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA)** is a regional network of non-government organisations, associations and trade unions of migrant workers, and individual advocates in Asia, who are committed to protect and promote the rights and welfare of migrant workers.

In July 2021, ASEAN-ACT commenced a partnership with MFA. The partnership is focused on conducting a multi-country study to better understand the impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerability to human trafficking among migrant workers.

## Key achievements

- Conducted research through research partners in five target countries (Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand) – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- Completed initial survey results and findings, from survey participants in the five target countries – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- Conducted in-depth interviews of 30 respondents per country. Of the 30 respondents in Indonesia, 11 were selected for a focus group discussion, while in Malaysia, five respondents were selected for a focus group discussion – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- Contributed to and participated in forums, policy dialogues and consultations on the protection of migrant workers – for example, the drafting of the ASEAN guidelines on the protection of migrant workers in crisis situations – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- Improved primary data collection skills among partner research organisations, gained through this research – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)
- Organised a multi-stakeholder conference on 2–4 October 2022 on access to justice for migrant workers, held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. A highlight of the conference was the statement by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, which was read at the conference, endorsing MFA's call for the international community to develop necessary mechanisms to ensure that migrant workers' rights are protected and upheld – [outcomes 3.2 and 3.4](#)



Image: Vocational training at the Pathumthani Welfare Protection Centre for Victims of Trafficking in Persons in Thailand (April 2022).





## STORY

# Access to compensation for non-Thai TIP victims

### Context

In July 2021, ASEAN-ACT commenced a partnership with Social Responsibility Law Office (SR Law), Thailand. The partnership addresses the lack of clarity in policies and practices around forced labour and trafficking in persons, and the need for advocacy on TIP victims' right to compensation. Through research and analysis of court rulings, and consultation workshops, the key outputs of the partnership are policy briefs on victim identification in forced labour and migrant workers' access to compensation in criminal cases. Research and analysis of court rulings were conducted in 2021. Two consultation workshops were held in February 2022 to validate and review two draft policy briefs. Participants in both workshops were from government agencies and non-government organisations.

### Achievements

SR Law developed two policy briefs through this partnership, following consultations and policy dialogue. SR Law's policy brief and consultation on compensation policy in Thailand has resulted in a change to allow irregular migrants' equal access to compensation when they are





*In its report to ASEAN-ACT, SR Law commented that:*

After the presentation of policy recommendations, many of the participants from both government and non-government organisations agreed with the policy recommendations and circulated them within their organisation, to advocate for policy change and policy shift on victim identification for labour trafficking, and compensation for irregular migrants.

Image: Khun Sorrakrai Sornsri and Khun Siriwan Wongkietpaisam of SR Law in Thailand, partnering with ASEAN-ACT to improve victim identification and justice for victims of human trafficking for labour exploitation.

victims of crimes such as human trafficking – access that had been previously denied. The Thai government, through the Rights and Liberties Protection Department of the Ministry of Justice, changed its policy that previously discriminated against irregular migrant workers, denying their access to compensation if they were victims of trafficking or related crimes. Due to this change in policy, the government granted compensation to 13 injured persons equivalent to A\$96,500. The committee on victim compensation also agreed to revise the guidelines, applying the non-discrimination principle when providing compensation to injured persons.

In February 2022, SR Law held a consultation on the policy brief on victim identification in cases of trafficking for forced labour, with counter-trafficking stakeholders from government and non-government agencies.

Government agencies responded positively to the analysis and recommendations. The Ministry of Labour used the policy brief to inform its standard operating procedures for screening and identifying forced labour and trafficking victims. The ministry also used the policy brief in training labour officials. This is an important outcome given the crucial role that labour inspectors play in screening and identifying victims of trafficking for labour exploitation.





เกิดปัญหานี้ขึ้น?	เพราะเหตุใด จึงเกิดปัญหานี้ขึ้น?
เกิดปัญหานี้ขึ้น?	เพราะเหตุใด จึงเกิดปัญหานี้ขึ้น?
เกิดปัญหานี้ขึ้น?	เพราะเหตุใด จึงเกิดปัญหานี้ขึ้น?

Image: Thailand's Department of Special Investigation (DSI) conducted a workshop to develop an internal workplan using a problem-driven initiative adaptation approach and an inclusive approach to counter trafficking (March 2022).

# 5 Selected indicator results

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This section provides results in 2022 for a selection of ASEAN-ACT's output indicators, including the number and type of activities supported, the number of people trained, the level of satisfaction with capacity development events, and feedback on ASEAN-ACT's webinar series.

**Table 1** Number and type of activities supported by ASEAN-ACT, 2022

Country/region	Capacity development	Meetings	Other	ASEAN-ACT staff events	Total number of activities supported in 2022
Cambodia	18	18	17	1	54
Indonesia	4	5	1	1	11
Lao PDR	16	10	5	1	32
Malaysia	–	1	–	–	1
Philippines	37	56	39	1	133
Thailand	15	34	17	2	68
Vietnam	15	11	6	1	33
ASEAN/regional	6	37	13	9	65
<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>397</b>

Source: ASEAN-ACT activity data collection, 2022.

**Table 2** Number of capacity development events supported by ASEAN-ACT, 2019 to 2022

Country/region	2022	2021	2020	2019
Cambodia	18	20	2	–
Indonesia	4	2	–	–
Lao PDR	16	17	1	–
Malaysia	–	–	–	1
Philippines	37	32	5	6
Thailand	15	13	9	4
Vietnam	15	16	7	5
ASEAN/regional	6	10	5	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>16</b>

Note: This table reflects the number of capacity development events conducted by ASEAN-ACT under country or regional programs, including webinars.

Source: ASEAN-ACT activity data collection, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

**Table 3** Number of people trained, by country of origin and gender, 2022

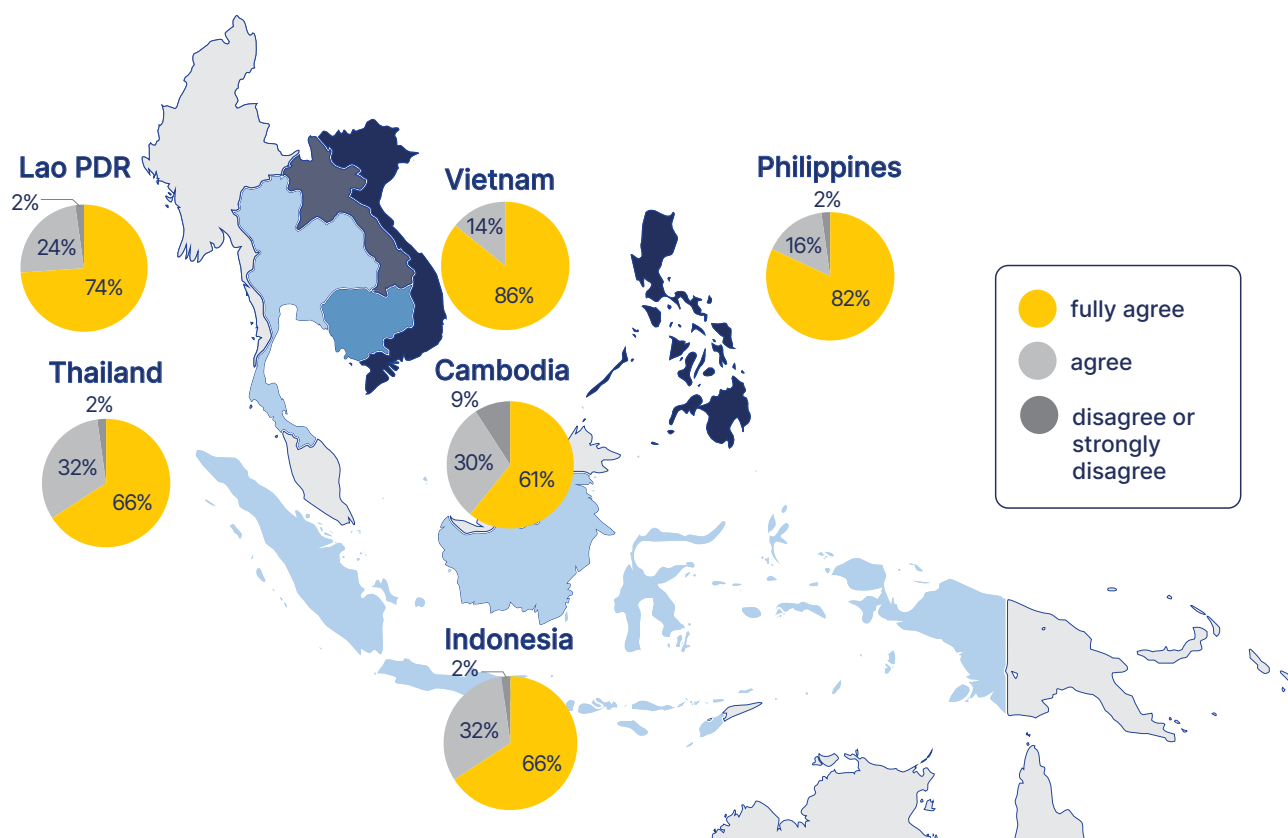
Country/region	Female	Male	Other	Total	% female
Brunei Darussalam	5	3	–	8	62%
Cambodia	196	398	–	594	33%
Indonesia	180	125	–	305	59%
Lao PDR	118	193	1	312	38%
Malaysia	8	3	–	11	72%
Myanmar	19	5	–	24	79%
Philippines	1,005	261	3	1,269	79%
Singapore	13	15	–	28	46%
Thailand	363	485	4	852	43%
Vietnam	238	235	–	473	50%
ASEAN/regional	23	9	1	33	70%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,168</b>	<b>1,732</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3,909</b>	<b>55%</b>
Percentage	55.46%	44.31%	0.23%	100%	

Note: Excludes ASEAN-ACT and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australian embassy) staff. A person who attended more than one training event was counted once only within the reporting period.

Sources: ASEAN-ACT activity data collection, and participant data collection, 2022.



**Figure 1** Participants' overall satisfaction with ASEAN-ACT capacity development events in 2022



Note: Indicates percentages of respondents who fully agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the statement that they were satisfied overall with the capacity development event.

Source: ASEAN-ACT annual survey of partners results database, 2022.

**Figure 2** Summary of participant feedback collected after webinars in 2022

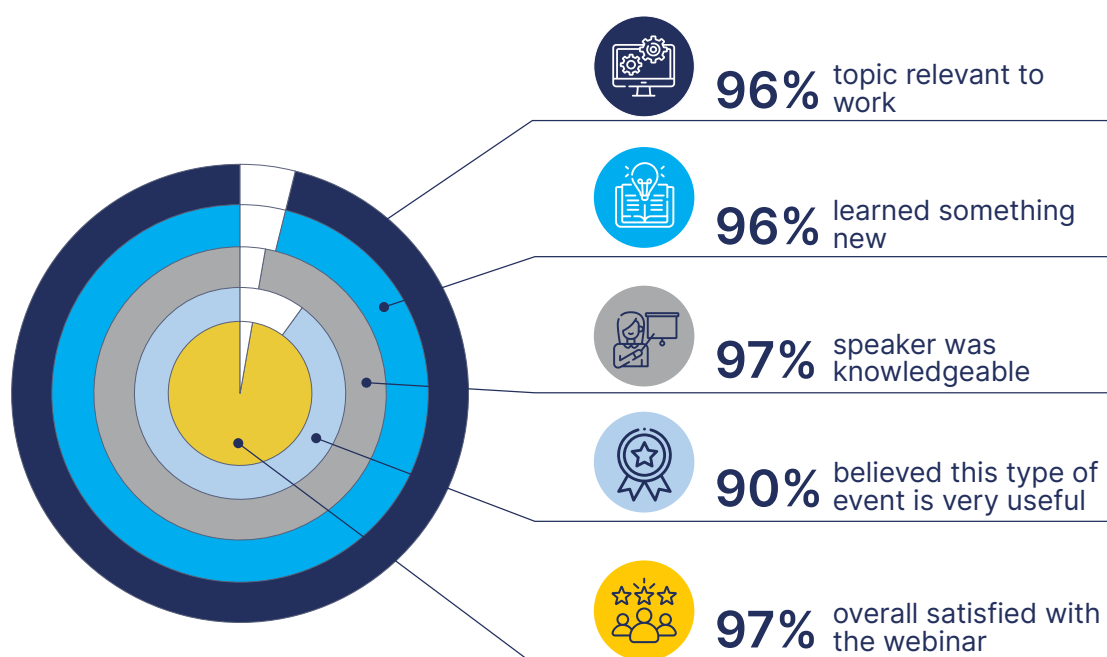




Image: Cambodian police officer reviews the Victim Sensitive Courts Handbook at the workshop to strengthen collection of trafficking data, led by NCCT and supported by ASEAN-ACT (September 2022).

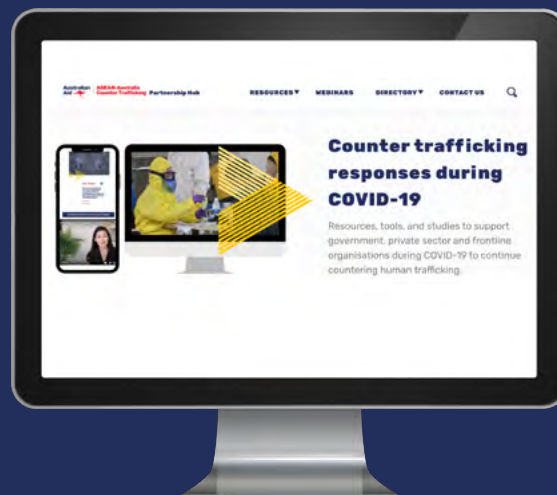
# Abbreviations and acronyms

ACTIP	ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children
ACWC	ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children
AICHR	ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASEAN-ACT	ASEAN–Australia Counter Trafficking
BWP	Bohol TIP Work Plan
CAT-OFW	Coalition Against Trafficking of Overseas Filipino Workers
CET	competency enhancement training
CNP	Cambodian National Police
CSO	civil society organisation
CTIP	counter-trafficking in persons
DILG	Department of the Interior and Local Government (Philippines)
DSI	Department of Special Investigation (Ministry of Justice, Thailand)
DTIPL	Department of Trafficking in Persons Litigation (Office of the Attorney General, Thailand)
EOPD	end-of-program outcome
GEDSI	gender equality, disability and social inclusion
HRDF	Human Rights and Development Foundation (Thailand)
IACAT	Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking (Philippines)
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
LPN	Labour Protection Network (Thailand)

LPSK	Witness and Victim Protection Agency (Indonesia)
LSCW	Legal Support for Children and Women (Cambodia)
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
MFA	Migrant Forum in Asia
MPF	Myanmar Police Force
MSDHS	Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (Thailand)
NBI	National Bureau of Investigation (Philippines)
NCCT	National Committee for Counter Trafficking (Cambodia)
NGO	non-government organisation
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
PNP	Philippine National Police
RPSC	Regional Program Steering Committee
RTP	Royal Thai Police
SOMTC	Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime
SR Law	Social Responsibility Law Office (Thailand)
TIP	trafficking in persons
VFI	Village Focus International (Lao PDR)
VSEA	Verité Southeast Asia







## Contact

Visit our website [aseanact.org](https://aseanact.org), and access the portal [aseanactpartnershiphub.com](https://aseanactpartnershiphub.com) to download further resources to support counter-trafficking responses.

For further information, please contact [info@aseanact.org](mailto:info@aseanact.org).