

EVALUATION BRIEF

INDEPENDENT PROJECT EVALUATION

TRACK4TIP - TRANSFORMING ALERTS INTO CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSES TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS – GLOT59

Region: Latin American and Caribbean Region in 9 countries.

Duration: October 2019 to September 2024

Donor: Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons of the US Department of State (US J/TIP)

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Full report:
https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/evaluation/reports_year_2024.htm

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

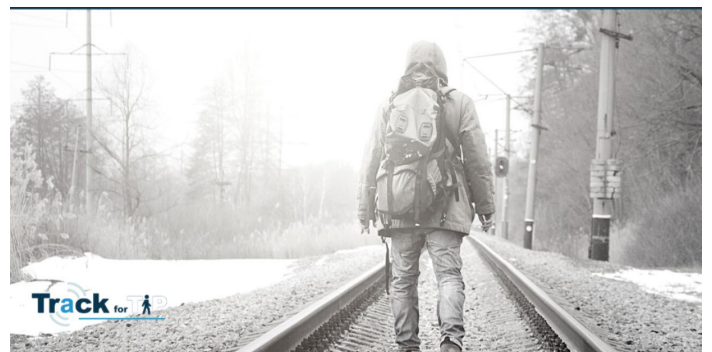
TRACK4TIP has been implemented in 2 phases by UNODC's Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section (HTMSS) and funded by US J/TIP. Phase 1 (with USD 3,120,000) started in October 2019 and finished in March 2023 and Phase 2 (with additional USD 1,000,000) started in April 2023 and finished in September 2024. In Phase 1 the project took place in 8 countries (Aruba, Brazil, Colombia, Curaçao, Dominican Rep., Ecuador, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago) and in Phase 2 it added Panama and discontinued Curaçao activities. The project aims to improve and increase the regional and national criminal justice response to human trafficking cases among migration flows within beneficiary countries, with special focus on Venezuelan migrants, through 3 specific objectives.

MAIN FINDINGS

The intervention was relevant to partner countries by enhancing their capacities to better meet the needs of Venezuelan migrants Victims of Trafficking (VoTs). Despite important challenges as the COVID-19

pandemic, changes of government and political instability in some beneficiary countries, the project delivered most of its outputs and outcomes in a timely and efficient manner. TRACK4TIP achieved most of expected products, outcomes, and objectives, even if adjustments were needed to adapt the intervention to the realities of each beneficiary country. This "adaptive-management approach" became one of its major factors of success. The most challenging outcomes and results were the lack of engagement in one beneficiary country and the impossibility of the constitution of a Regional Task Force. T4T has effectively contributed to enhance the regional and national criminal justice response to TIP among migration flows within beneficiary countries and has managed to generate public policy on TIP related to migrant flows, positioning the issue in the public agenda in most countries intervened. This contribution was mainly achieved by strengthening capacities, sensitizing relevant actors, and enhancing collaboration between beneficiary countries and institutions. It is highly probable that many of T4T's products and results will remain, but one major limiting factor to sustainability is the high rotation of public officials in beneficiary institutions.

The intervention protected the rights of vulnerable groups such as migrant populations and VoTs, promoting a victim and trauma-centred approach, and through respecting human rights, promoting gender equality and including other vulnerable or marginalised groups. Nevertheless, persons with disabilities, the elderly and some indigenous populations speaking different languages were not sufficiently incorporated. T4T helped empower potential VoTs, by providing them with tools to better understand TIP crimes, risks, vulnerabilities and safe access to assistance or justice.



Source: Image from <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/es/human-trafficking/track4tip/overview.html>

LESSONS LEARNED

One lesson learned is that preliminary analysis of the national context is necessary for a project's success. It was also learned that the design of regional projects needs to be realistic, and that the premises upon which goals are based need to be reassessed at the design phase –i.e., addressing the region as a whole underestimated substantive differences between countries. Another lesson learned is that working with beneficiary institutions from the very beginning, in defining their needs and priorities, is the best way to ensure engagement, interest, appropriation and sustainability.

GOOD PRACTICES

The ERI between Peru and Ecuador as the first cross-border mechanism for an expedient collaboration between prosecutors and civil servants from neighbouring countries, stands out as a good practice. The interagency collaboration achieved in Peru in between UNODC, ILO and IOM on TIP related to migrant flows, that allowed collaborative activities on various fronts, must be highlighted. The adaptive-management approach of TRACK4TIP should be emphasized as a good practice that increased the flexibility of the project to the needs and priorities of each partner country without sacrificing its overall objective and goals. The alliance with AERODOM airport national authorities was a good practice as it constituted a good example of collaboration and partnership between public and private sectors. Finally, the Guide for the Detection of Cases of Trafficking in Persons for the Purposes of Forced Labour in Colombia, as the first of its kind in the region represented a good practice, that is already being replicated elsewhere.

METHODOLOGY

This independent evaluation was developed following the norms and standards of the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) and abiding to UNEG's ethical guidelines and code of conduct. The Independent Evaluation Section (IES) of UNODC supervised all evaluation's deliverables and the evaluation team followed all IES' guidelines and templates. Transversal issues such as Gender Equality, Human Rights, Disability Inclusion and Inclusion of vulnerable groups (considering the "do no harm" principle) were addressed. Tools were designed to ensure that all actor's participation was voluntary and guaranteeing all information provided remained anonymous. Based on a Theory of Change (ToC) approach, impact was causally inferred based on the implicit ToC of the intervention, as reconstructed. Furthermore, a mixed methods methodology was used to gather and analyse data from primary and secondary sources. Qualitative information was obtained from documentary review, semi-structured interviews and one focus group. Quantitative information was obtained from project indicators, reports, and other documents. Findings and sources were compared and triangulated to assess their consistency and to ensure reliability. This information was managed using excel matrixes and QDA Miner Lite software to avoid biases and arrive to findings that led to recommendations, good practices and lessons learned.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended to include gender and inclusion indicators in the design of interventions and to do more to include certain specific vulnerable groups that are not always considered, as the senior population, LGBTIQ+ individuals, persons with disabilities and indigenous populations speaking other languages.
2. It is recommended to assist field offices to get more funds for human resources, especially to help POs on administrative procedures and on operation.
3. It is recommended to reorient efforts towards trainer of trainers' models for transferring knowledge and capacities, whenever this is possible, in agreement with beneficiary counterparts.



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