



Tool 2.13 Developing inter-agency coordination mechanisms

Overview

This tool provides examples of inter-agency collaboration mechanisms.

Inter-agency collaboration is a prerequisite for the success of any national or local strategy to prevent and combat trafficking in persons. Coordination mechanisms should be competent to elaborate and implement anti-trafficking policies, monitor their implementation, coordinate the actions of all relevant actors at the national level and facilitate international cooperation. Their role should not be restricted to the prosecution of offenders, but should also encompass the development and coordination of measures to assist and protect victims of human trafficking.

Successful cooperation mechanisms are based on a clear delineation of the respective roles of the various agencies involved. While developing such coordination mechanisms, it is very important to clarify very precisely the role of each of the key agencies involved in implementing a comprehensive national or local strategy.

Recommended resource

Crime Reduction Toolkit

Multi-agency coordination or management groups need to ensure that the specific roles and responsibilities of the various agencies are agreed upon and understood by all involved. Equally, the issues of leadership and accountability need to be addressed from the outset.

For a concrete example, one may consult the lists of the specific roles and responsibilities of various agencies developed in the United Kingdom to support the development of local frameworks. It is clear that local situations will determine what can be done and who is best positioned to do it. The toolkit developed in the United Kingdom offers a series of checklists which present some of the contributions that various agencies and groups may be able to make. These (or similar checklists) can be reviewed and used to assist in making decisions on who actually does what locally. The scale and nature of the local problem, the mandate of the organizations, existing expertise and the resources available will influence such decisions.



These lists are contained in the toolkit developed by the United Kingdom Home Office, available at:
www.crimereduction.gov.uk/toolkits/tp05.htm

Promising practice

National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters

(Nigeria)

The Nigerian National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters is the focal point of the Government of Nigeria in the fight against human trafficking. The agency was established by law and its mandate includes investigating and prosecuting offenders, counselling and assisting the rehabilitation of trafficked victims, public education, coordinating law reform relating to human trafficking and improving the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies' efforts to suppress human trafficking.

The Agency has established partnerships at the community, state, national and international levels. The Agency consists of a Board of Directors, an Executive Secretary, five divisions and two units, mainly composed of staff on secondment from various other units involved in efforts to combat human trafficking drawn from the police, the Immigration Service, the Ministry of Information, the Attorney General's Office and the Departments of Women Affairs and Social Welfare, as well as from the media. The Agency carries out joint operations with police and immigration units working to combat human trafficking. It also promotes national consultation for the development of a national action plan against human trafficking. In addition, the Agency is also providing liaison functions between Government agencies and non-governmental and community-based organizations involved in victim rehabilitation and community awareness-raising initiatives.



Information on the Nigerian National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters can be obtained at:

www.naptip.gov.ng

Interdepartmental Working Group on Trafficking in Persons

(Canada)

The federal Interdepartmental Working Group on Trafficking in Persons is co-chaired by the Departments of Justice and Foreign Affairs and is composed of the following participating departments and agencies:

- Canada Border Services Agency
- Canadian Heritage
- Canadian International Development Agency
- Canadian Security Intelligence Service
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- Department of Justice Canada

- Foreign Affairs Canada
- Health Canada
- Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
- Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- Passport Office
- Privy Council Office
- Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada
- Royal Canadian Mounted Police
- Social Development Canada
- Statistics Canada
- Status of Women Canada

The Interdepartmental Working Group on Trafficking in Persons is tasked with coordinating federal activities to address trafficking, including the development, promotion and implementation of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy, in keeping with Canada's international commitments.



For more information about the Interdepartmental Working Group, visit:

<http://canada.justice.gc.ca/en/fs/ht/iwgtip.html>

Inter-agency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (United States)

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 called for the creation of the President's Inter-agency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons to coordinate anti-trafficking efforts among various United States Federal Government agencies. The United States Department of Health and Human Services is designated as the agency responsible for helping victims of human trafficking to become eligible to receive benefits and services, which are critical to helping them regain their dignity and become self-sufficient. The main departments involved in assisting victims of human trafficking are:

Department of Health and Human Services

The Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for certifying victims of human trafficking once they are identified. This certification allows victims to receive federally-funded benefits and services to the same extent as refugees.

Department of Justice

The Department of Justice investigates cases of trafficking and prosecutes the traffickers. The Department has also contributed to the construction of a network of providers of ser-

vices to victims of trafficking through its grant programmes and facilitates the complaint process for persons wanting to report a case of trafficking.

Department of Labor

The Department of Labor offers programmes such as job-search, job-placement assistance and job-counselling services as well as educational and training services and referrals to supportive services such as transportation, childcare and housing, through its “One-stop career center system”, which victims can access after certification by the Department of Health and Human Services. The Wage and Hour Division also investigates complaints of labour law violations and is an important partner in the detection of trafficking victims.

Department of State

The Department of State is responsible for coordinating international anti-trafficking programmes and efforts.

Department of Homeland Security

Within the Department of Homeland Security, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services investigate cases of trafficking and are an important partner in victim identification. The United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement awards the T visa and continued-presence status, which make a victim eligible for certification by the Department of Health and Human Services.



More information about the Task Force is available at:
www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking

Trafficking in Persons and Worker Exploitation Task Force

(United States)

The Government of the United States has established the Trafficking in Persons and Worker Exploitation Task Force to prevent worker exploitation and to investigate and prosecute cases, many of which are the result of trafficking. The Task Force is chaired by the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights and the Solicitor of Labor. There are 15 regional task forces working under the Task Force throughout the United States. The Task Force operates a toll-free complaint line and offers foreign language translation services.



More information about the Worker Exploitation Task Force is available at:
www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/tpwetf.htm

United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre (United Kingdom)

The United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre is a multi-agency centre that provides a central point for the development of expertise and operational coordination in relation to the trafficking of human beings, working together with other agencies in the United Kingdom and abroad.

The Centre plays a key role in coordinating work across stakeholders and delivers a diverse set of programmes, including targeted campaigns to prevent and reduce the trafficking of human beings. The Centre also conducts research, develops training packages for United Kingdom law enforcement partners, disseminates good practice and works to deliver improved knowledge and understanding of the way criminal enterprises associated with human trafficking operate. The Centre continuously develops police and law enforcement expertise and provides operational coordination in relation to trafficking, complementing the work of the Serious Organised Crime Agency. The Centre promotes the development of a victim-centred human rights-based approach to trafficking. It works with non-governmental organizations and other partners to improve the standard of victim care and protection and raise understanding of the complexities involved in dealing with the welfare of victims of trafficking in both the criminal justice and the wider protection environment.



More information about the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre is available at:
www.ukhtc.org

Human Smuggling and Human Trafficking Center (United States)

The Human Smuggling and Human Trafficking Center was established under section 7202 of the Intelligence Report and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. The Center is an inter-agency initiative aimed at disseminating information and preparing strategic assessments. It brings together the law enforcement, intelligence and diplomatic communities to work together to take action against criminals who move people around the world for profit or exploitation, or in support of terrorism. The Center aims to increase the integration and overall effectiveness of the enforcement and other response efforts of the Government of the United States and also works with other Governments. The Center provides a mechanism for bringing federal agency representatives from the policy, law enforcement, intelligence and diplomatic areas to work together on a full-time basis to achieve increased effectiveness and to convert intelligence into effective law enforcement and other action.



More information about the Human Smuggling and Human Trafficking Center is available at:
www.state.gov/p/inl/c14079.htm

Operational Anti-Trafficking in Persons Centre (Colombia)

Colombia has an inter-institutional committee composed of 14 national public institutions working together against trafficking in persons. Furthermore, in every law enforcement agency there is a specialized unit against trafficking and in every welfare and human rights institution there is a division addressing trafficking in persons.

This integrated approach demonstrates the political and institutional will of Colombia, which ratified the Trafficking in Persons Protocol in 2003. UNODC supports and advises the Government of Colombia with regard to various aspects of trafficking. Recently, an Operational Anti-Trafficking in Persons Centre (COAT) was designed under a UNODC project, to coordinate investigation, prosecution and victim assistance as part of the national anti-trafficking strategy of Colombia.

United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Subregion

UNIAP was established in June 2000 to facilitate a stronger and more coordinated response to human trafficking in the countries of that subregion (Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam). At a regional level, UNIAP brings together the six Governments of the subregion, United Nations agencies, international organizations and international non-governmental organizations. The UNIAP Regional Office is based in Bangkok. It manages the country programmes with guidance provided by an intergovernmental project steering committee that meets annually. The Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Thailand is the principal project representative.



More information on the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Subregion is available at:
www.no-trafficking.org