

COMMIT 4th Sub-Regional Plan of Action  
(COMMIT SPA IV 2015 - 2018)

COMMIT

COORDINATED MEKONG MINISTERIAL INITIATIVE AGAINST TRAFFICKING





# COORDINATED MEKONG MINISTERIAL INITIATIVE AGAINST TRAFFICKING

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## BACKGROUND : THE COMMIT PROCESS

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The [Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking \(COMMIT\)](#) represents a Government-led process incorporating the six countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam) in a formal alliance to combat human trafficking. The COMMIT Process was initiated in 2004 to create a sustained and effective system of cross-border cooperation and collaboration to combat human trafficking. Anti-trafficking activities implemented in support of COMMIT are designed and implemented through innovative partnerships between numerous GMS government ministries and development partners. The approach is a consultative and collaborative one that involves civil society, victim support agencies, international organisations, and trafficked persons, including children and youth.

The objectives of the COMMIT Process are:

- To promote and strengthen systems and arrangements of inter-country and regional cooperation against human trafficking;
- To establish a holistic regional response, covering all aspects of the trafficking problem and ensuring that concern for the victim is at the center of all interventions;
- To identify and adapt successful models in one country to others as appropriate; and
- To enhance national capacities to address human trafficking in order to facilitate each country's engagement at the regional level, building on existing strengths in each country.

## COMMIT Memorandum of Understanding

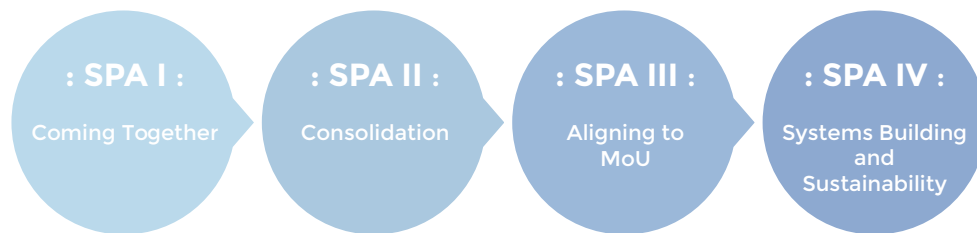
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At the first Inter-Ministerial Meeting (IMM 1) in October 2004, the COMMIT Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by six GMS Ministers. It contains five sections, with a total of 34 articles, addressing: Policy and cooperation; Legal frameworks, law enforcement and justice; Protection, recovery and reintegration; Preventive measures; and Mechanisms for implementing, monitoring and evaluation.

Section V of the COMMIT MoU established the infrastructure and procedures for the COMMIT Process, including:

- [Article 28](#): Developing an initial Sub-Regional Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons, 2005-2007 and undertaking all necessary efforts to fully implement this plan
- [Article 31](#): Reviewing the implementation of the Plan of Action and adopting a new Sub-Regional Plan of Action through a GMS Ministerial meeting in late 2007
- [Article 32](#): Creating a national task force to collaborate with the COMMIT Secretariat (United Nations Inter-Agency Project Against Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region) and other partners
- [Article 33](#): Inviting government funding agencies, as well as relevant United Nations and other inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to provide financial, material, and technical assistance to support GMS countries in their anti-trafficking efforts, including the implementation of this MoU and the forthcoming Plan of Action.

The MoU called for a Sub-regional Plan of Action (SPA) to be developed and implemented to operationalize the MoU. The first SPA (SPA I) was implemented from 2005–2007 and subsequently SPA II (2008–2010) and SPA III (2011–2013) were agreed, progressing anti-trafficking work in the region to meet the commitments of the MoU. The MoU therefore provides the basis for the COMMIT collaboration and a vision for where the region should be in its anti-trafficking collaboration, while the SPAs have laid the path to bring this vision into practice.



The evolution of the COMMIT Strategic Plans of Action

## Development of COMMIT Sub-regional Plan of Action IV (2015–2018)

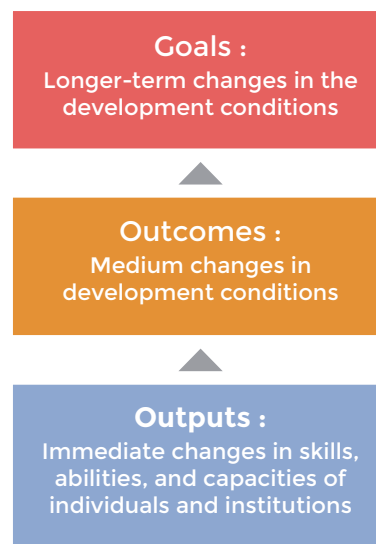
Through deliberations at regional COMMIT Taskforce meetings, the COMMIT Governments decided that it would be most effective in their anti-trafficking coordination to develop and implement a fourth Sub-regional Plan of Action (SPA IV). SPA IV was therefore developed through a series of discussions and will guide the COMMIT Process over a four year period, 2015–2018. A consultative process in formulating the SPA IV has encompassed several steps, including:

- A review of the COMMIT MoU and SPA III to determine which goals have been achieved and where there remain gaps in the implementation;
- A regional consultation on a zero draft of SPA IV with regional anti-trafficking organisations in 2014;
- Outcomes from a strategic visioning process on anti-trafficking in the region in 2013, consulting government, UN agencies, international organisations and civil society in the six countries; and
- The evaluation of the COMMIT Process in 2013.

These processes have demonstrated that the COMMIT Process has contributed to considerable developments in a range of areas, and particularly in the area of Policy and Cooperation. It was also found that more could be achieved through bringing anti-trafficking efforts together through greater cooperation and coordination that would improve their overall effectiveness. The results of the SPA IV are therefore more focused on strengthening the COMMIT MoU beyond policy, as well as on a systems-building approach which will ensure effectiveness and sustainability. A zero draft of the SPA IV was developed on the basis of these analyses. Consultations were conducted in all COMMIT countries and agreement was reached on the final framework by the end of 2014. The official adoption of the SPA IV occurred at the COMMIT Senior Officials Meeting 10/Inter-Ministerial Meeting 4 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 29 April 2015.

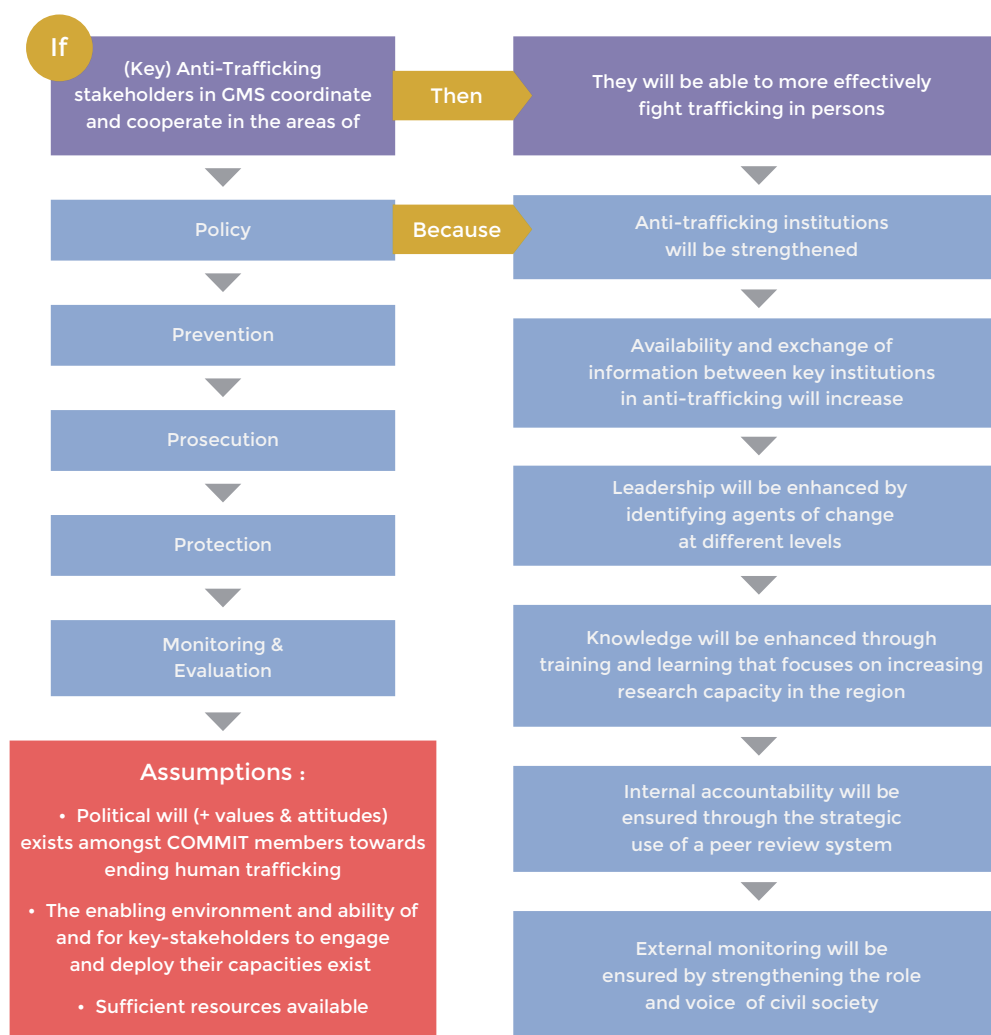
## STRUCTURE OF THE SPA IV

**SPA IV** is based on identification of goals that are achievable through the COMMIT Process and those that are required for a robust anti-trafficking framework in the Greater Mekong Sub-region. The structure is based upon a results-based framework and the recognition that change towards these goals is a process rather than an event. It therefore identifies the longer-term goals that are sought and the outcomes that may be derived from concrete activities. The output of activities is the level which actors have the greatest control over, and these contribute to the changes as described in the outcomes and goals. In brief, these can be understood as depicted in the figure on the right:



This development will support the COMMIT Process in undertaking an approach oriented to 'managing for results'. Each year, annual workplans will be developed based on SPA IV and its related M&E framework that will ensure tracking of progress towards achieving the results in SPA IV. The COMMIT governments will report back to each other on the progress made at the regional COMMIT Taskforces meetings and the annual Senior Officials Meeting.

The underpinning theory of change for the COMMIT can be understood through the figure below:



# Principles of the **COMMIT** Sub-regional Plan of Action IV

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The preamble of the COMMIT MoU emphasizes the absolute commitment by the six governments to proactively combat human trafficking, protect the rights of trafficked persons, and put in place the structures for sustained anti-trafficking efforts. It states that the representatives of the six governments are:

**Deeply concerned** over the suffering caused by the trafficking in persons within the Greater Mekong Sub-Region and from the Greater Mekong Sub-Region States to other regions of the world;

**Asserting** that it is completely unacceptable that human beings are traded, bought, sold, abducted, placed, and maintained in exploitative situations, thus being denied their most fundamental and inalienable rights;

**Recognizing** that poverty, lack of access to education, and inequalities, including lack of equal opportunity, make persons vulnerable to trafficking;

**Further recognizing** the link between trafficking and the growing demand for exploitative labour and exploitative sexual services;

**Acknowledging** that trafficking is intensified by discriminatory attitudes, practices and policies based on gender, age, nationality, ethnicity and social grouping;

**Emphasizing** that children and women who become victims of trafficking are particularly vulnerable, and need special measures to ensure their protection and well-being;

**Concerned** by the involvement of both community members and organised criminal groups in trafficking in persons;

**Recognizing** the need for a strengthened criminal justice response to trafficking in order to secure justice for victims of trafficking and end impunity for traffickers and others who derive benefits from this crime;

**Acknowledging** the importance of effective and proportionate penalties for traffickers, including provision for freezing and confiscating their assets, and for the proceeds to be used for the benefit of victims of trafficking;

**Recognizing** the important contribution that survivors of trafficking can, on a strictly voluntary basis, make to developing, implementing, and evaluating anti-trafficking interventions, and in securing the prosecution of traffickers;

**Acknowledging** the important role played by victim support agencies in the areas of prevention, protection, prosecution, rescue, repatriation, recovery and reintegration, as well as in supporting a strengthened criminal justice response;

**Recognizing** that each Government hereby undertakes to take steps, individually and through international assistance and co-operation, to the maximum of its available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the commitments recognized in this MoU by all appropriate means;

**Recalling** the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, particularly Article 4, which states that 'No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms';

**Commending** those Greater Mekong Sub-region States which have ratified and/or acceded to the key international legal instruments concerning trafficking and related exploitation including the:

- United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children<sup>1</sup>;
- United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and its Optional Protocols on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict;
- ILO Forced Labour Conventions (29 & 105)
- ILO Convention (182) Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour;

And encourages those States which have not yet done so, to accede to these instruments at the earliest possible time;

**Reaffirming** the importance of the United Nations Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking contained in the report of the UNHCHR (2002) to the United Nations Economic and Social Council;

**Reaffirming** existing regional initiatives and commitments to combat trafficking in persons;

**Welcoming** the pioneering Memorandum of Understanding between Thailand and Cambodia on Bilateral Cooperation for Eliminating Trafficking in Children and Women and Assisting Victims of Trafficking (2003) and efforts to develop similar bilateral anti-trafficking arrangements within the Greater Mekong Sub-region;

**Welcoming** the importance of bilateral agreements, such as the Memoranda of Understanding on Cooperation in the Employment of Workers between Thailand and Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar respectively, in promoting safe, orderly, well-regulated migration as this serves to reduce demand for illegal migration services which provide opportunity for traffickers;

**Intending** fully that this MoU reflects the continuing political will of our Governments to cooperate to combat trafficking in persons; and

**Calling upon** all countries outside the GMS to join our countries in the fight against human trafficking.

In 2014, a related development in international legal instruments has seen the adoption of a Protocol to the ILO Forced Labour Convention 29. The COMMIT governments therefore welcome the adoption of the Protocol to the ILO Forced Labour Convention 29 of 1930, and Recommendation No. 203 on Supplementary Measures for the Effective Suppression of Forced Labour at the 103rd session of the International Labour Conference and encourage members to ratify and implement the Protocol.

The SPA IV reiterates the commitments made under the COMMIT MoU and the spirit explicit in the preamble of the agreement.

It acknowledges that a rights-based and gender and child sensitive approach is integral to all interventions.

The SPA IV demonstrates government ownership and leadership of anti-trafficking efforts. It connects activities from the sub-regional level to the national and local level.

All activities detailed under SPA IV will be conducted in accordance with the specific contexts and domestic laws in each country.

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<sup>1</sup> The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children is referred to as the 'Human Trafficking Protocol' in the remainder of the document.



## POLICY AND COOPERATION :

Relevant COMMIT MoU articles:

- **Article 1:** Encouraging the use of the definition of trafficking contained in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children supplementing the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organised Crime
- **Article 2:** Developing national plans of action against trafficking in persons in all its forms
- **Article 3:** Establishing and strengthening a national, multi-sectoral committee on trafficking in persons with a mandate to coordinate the implementation of the National Plan of Action and other trafficking interventions
- **Article 4:** Creating mechanisms to strengthen regional cooperation and information exchange, and designating a national focal point on combating trafficking
- **Article 5:** Improving regional cooperation against trafficking, in particular through bilateral and multilateral agreements
- **Article 6:** Strengthening cooperation between Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations in combating trafficking in persons
- **Article 14:** Promoting bilateral or multilateral agreements among the GMS countries to assist each other in the judicial process

## AREA I. POLICY AND COOPERATION

**Goal 1 :** Legislation and policy responses comply with international standards

<b>Outcome 1.1 :</b> Legal frameworks and policies protect the rights of all trafficked persons	
<p><b>Output 1.1.1 :</b> Gaps in national legislation and policies on anti-trafficking in persons identified and revised as compared to the Human Trafficking Protocol and other relevant international standards</p>	<p><b>Indicators :</b> # of relevant national laws and policies revised, to align with international standards, including the Human Trafficking Protocol</p>
<p><b>Indicative activities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify policy gaps and responses through multi-sectoral national consultations</li> <li>- Draft and revise legislation to address legal and policy gaps as appropriate</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Output 1.1.2 :</b> Stakeholders trained on legislation and policies on trafficking in persons</p>	<p># of stakeholders trained on policies and laws relevant to trafficking in persons</p>
<p><b>Indicative activities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide training on relevant legislation and policies to relevant stakeholders</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Output 1.1.3 :</b> NPAs continued to be implemented or newly developed, monitored and reviewed</p>	<p># of activities implemented to achieve the NPAs</p>

<p><b>Indicative activities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop National Plan of Action (NPA) on combating human trafficking for the next period</li> <li>- Implement, monitor and review the NPA on human trafficking</li> </ul>	
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**Outcome 1.2 : Mechanisms for bilateral/multilateral cooperation to combat human trafficking strengthened and sustained**

<p><b>Output 1.2.1 :</b> Bilateral/multilateral MoUs or agreements on human trafficking signed, operationalized and reviewed</p>	<p><b>Indicators :</b></p> <p># of new or revised bilateral/multilateral MoUs or agreements on human trafficking in COMMIT countries with an implementation plan or mechanism</p>
<p><b>Indicative activities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop bilateral/multilateral agreements to combat trafficking</li> <li>- Evaluate and further the implementation of bilateral agreements on trafficking in persons</li> <li>- Review and revise the COMMIT MoU</li> <li>- Hold Senior Officials Meetings and Inter-Ministerial Meetings to review COMMIT progress and agree future plans</li> </ul>	

**Outcome 1.3 : Cooperation with non-COMMIT countries and regional bodies strengthened**

<p><b>Output 1.3.1 :</b> Bilateral/multilateral MoUs or agreements on human trafficking between COMMIT countries and other relevant countries signed, implemented and revised</p>	<p><b>Indicators :</b></p> <p># of new or revised bilateral/multilateral MoUs or agreements on human trafficking between COMMIT and other governments with an implementation plan or mechanism</p>
<p><b>Indicative activities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Invite national ASEAN representatives dealing with human trafficking to national and regional COMMIT meetings</li> <li>- Develop agreements to combat human trafficking with ASEAN countries</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Output 1.3.2 :</b> Information-sharing on human trafficking between ASEAN and COMMIT regularized, where appropriate</p>	<p># of meetings between officials involved in COMMIT and those involved in human trafficking-related affairs in ASEAN at the national or regional level</p>
<p><b>Indicative activities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct workshops between ASEAN and COMMIT on topics specific to combating trafficking in persons</li> </ul>	

**Outcome 1.4 : Policy and programming under COMMIT are based on relevant research and other data analysis**

<p><b>Output 1.4.1 :</b> Relevant research reports, data systems and analysis on trafficking in persons developed and utilised for governments' decision-making</p>	<p><b>Indicators :</b></p> <p># of research reports published upon endorsement by COMMIT countries</p> <p>Research and data analysis is utilised in COMMIT policy and programming development</p> <p># of COMMIT countries with a central-level, integrated human trafficking database</p>
<p><b>Indicative activities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commission research into new and emerging trafficking trends and related issues</li> <li>- Conduct policy dialogues and consultations on the findings of trafficking research</li> <li>- Develop a database for consolidation of trafficking research findings</li> <li>- Develop joint research on anti-trafficking to inform policy and programmes</li> </ul>	

## PREVENTION :

Relevant COMMIT MoU articles:

- **Article 22:** Adopting measures to reduce vulnerability including: supporting poverty reduction programs; increasing economic opportunities; ensuring access to quality education and skill training; and providing necessary personal legal documentation, including birth registration
- **Article 23:** Supporting the development of community protection and surveillance networks for early identification and intervention for those at risk
- **Article 24:** Raising public awareness at all levels, including through both public information campaigns and advocacy, both of the dangers and negative impacts of trafficking, and of assistance available to victims
- **Article 25:** Applying national labour laws to protect the rights of all workers based on the principles of non-discrimination and equality
- **Article 26:** Encouraging destination countries, including those from outside the Greater Mekong Sub-region, to effectively enforce relevant national laws in order to reduce acceptance of exploitation of persons that fuels the continuing demand for the labour of trafficked persons, and to suppress the crime of trafficking in women and children through mutual cooperation
- **Article 27:** Increasing cooperation with the private sector, especially the tourism and entertainment industries, to take an active role in the fight against trafficking

## AREA II. PREVENTION

**Goal 2 :** Vulnerability to trafficking in persons reduced

<b>Outcome 2.1 :</b> Prevention interventions address identified vulnerabilities to trafficking in persons	
<b>Output 2.1.1 :</b> Identification of vulnerability factors and emerging trends, and mapping of vulnerable groups and hotspot areas for human trafficking conducted	<b>Indicators :</b>  # of trafficking interventions referencing data analysis, research findings and assessments on vulnerabilities including target groups and hotspot areas
<b>Indicative activities :</b> - Conduct research and/or other assessments to identify vulnerability factors	
<b>Output 2.1.2 :</b> Interventions developed and implemented based on identified vulnerabilities	
<b>Indicative activities :</b> - Develop trafficking prevention interventions tailored to different types of human trafficking - Analyse trafficking patterns and trends for planning and implementation of trafficking prevention activities - Evaluate the impact of trafficking prevention activities	

<b>Outcome 2.2</b> : Behaviour change communications adopted in prevention for interventions for different target groups	
<b>Output 2.2.1</b> : Regional behaviour change strategy tailored to different target groups developed, operationalised and reviewed	<b>Indicators :</b> # of stakeholders trained on behaviour change communications strategy  # of trafficking prevention interventions in COMMIT countries utilizing a behaviour change approach
<b>Indicative activities :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop a tailored regional human trafficking behaviour change strategy</li> <li>- Develop a human trafficking behaviour change strategy Training-of-Trainers curriculum</li> <li>- Conduct trainings for volunteers in communities, including youth, at high-risk of human trafficking and maintain their contact details in a trainer database</li> <li>- Implement targeted behaviour change campaigns to prevent human trafficking, including incorporation into school curriculums</li> <li>- Evaluate the effectiveness of behaviour change campaigns</li> </ul>	

<b>Outcome 2.3</b> : Migrant workers recruitment systems strengthened to protect those vulnerable to trafficking in persons	
<b>Output 2.3.1</b> : Guidelines on migrant recruitment policies including their monitoring operationalized	<b>Indicators :</b> # of COMMIT countries with recruitment policies and practices in line with agreed guidelines
<b>Indicative activities :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review existing migrant worker recruitment policies and practices, identifying weaknesses and best practices</li> <li>- Develop or revise guidelines for migrant worker recruitment policies and practices including their monitoring</li> <li>- Develop legal procedures for applying guidelines at national level</li> <li>- Conduct trainings for relevant stakeholders on their roles under the guidelines</li> <li>- Monitor and evaluate the operations of the migrant worker recruitment guidelines and practices</li> </ul>	
<b>Output 2.3.2</b> : Formalized mechanisms for workers to report exploitation and seek assistance including monitoring procedures operationalized	# of COMMIT countries with complaints mechanisms in place for workers to report exploitation and seek assistance  # of workers using the mechanisms in each of the COMMIT countries
<b>Indicative activities :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct regional and national workshops to agree on formalized mechanisms to report exploitation and seek assistance</li> <li>- Operationalize formalized mechanisms for workers to report exploitation and seek assistance at national level</li> <li>- Monitor and review formalized mechanisms for workers to report exploitation and seek assistance at national level</li> <li>- Establish labour attaché offices in relevant embassies and/or establish overseas migrant labour management units, as appropriate</li> </ul>	
<b>Output 2.3.3</b> : Workplaces employing migrant workers vulnerable to human trafficking are monitored and inspected by appropriately trained officials, with cases identified and addressed	
<b>Indicative activities :</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop and operationalize regional common standards for labour inspectors and multidisciplinary teams for labour inspections</li> <li>- Develop a regional training curriculum for labour inspectors and multidisciplinary teams including tools/standards for victim identification</li> </ul>	

- Organize capacity building for labour inspectors and multidisciplinary teams to strengthen their monitoring, victim identification and referral skills
- Operationalize and review pro-active monitoring procedures for recruiters, transporters and employers in key locations and industries affected by human trafficking

### Goal 3 : Communities and other stakeholders are actively involved in trafficking prevention activities

**Outcome 3.1 :** Community advocacy groups established and active in key vulnerable source and destination areas, and networked where required

**Output 3.1.1 :** Operations and monitoring of community advocacy groups in anti-human trafficking interventions strengthened

**Indicative activities :**

- Establish guidelines for the development of community advocacy groups, tailored to their roles in source, transit or destination areas
- Provide national funding, relevant materials and/or other support to the establishment and operation of community advocacy groups
- Evaluate and improve the effectiveness of community advocacy groups
- Document and share good practices and lessons learned for the operations of community advocacy groups in the region
- Develop and support linkages between community groups across countries, especially those dealing with the same trafficking patterns
- Support the work of the COMMIT Youth Forum and its linkages to related platforms, such as the ASEAN Children Forum
- Establish national youth network to report on human trafficking
- Develop ways to support youth representatives in joining the COMMIT Process

**Indicators :**

# of human trafficking cases in COMMIT countries referred to authorities by groups and individuals working at the community level

**Outcome 3.2 :** Media actors are engaged to reveal and report accurately on human trafficking cases and related news in accordance with domestic law including protection of privacy of victims and ethical reporting principles

**Output 3.2.1 :** Information-sharing on human trafficking cases with media actors for their reporting enhanced

**Indicative activities :**

- Organize regular dialogues with journalists to share information on human trafficking for their reporting
- Develop further information-sharing channels and protocols on human trafficking cases with media

**Indicators :**

# of accurate media reports on human trafficking cases that protect the privacy of victims

**Output 3.2.2 :** Media actors are supported to reveal human trafficking cases and to promote awareness

**Indicative activities :**

- Organize training workshops for journalists to raise their awareness and understanding of human trafficking including ethical reporting standards
- Strengthen the role of the media to reveal and advocate against human trafficking

# of human trafficking cases dealt with by governments as a result of media reporting



## PROTECTION :

Relevant COMMIT MoU articles:

- **Article 8:** Adopting appropriate guidelines and providing training for relevant officials to permit the rapid and accurate identification of trafficked persons and to improve the investigation, prosecution, and judicial process
- **Article 10:** Making available to trafficked persons legal assistance and information in a language they understand
- **Article 15:** Promoting greater gender and child sensitivity in all areas of work dealing with victims of trafficking
- **Article 16:** Ensuring that persons identified as victims of trafficking are not held in detention by law enforcement authorities
- **Article 17:** Providing all victims of trafficking with shelter, and appropriate physical, psycho-social, legal, educational, and health care assistance
- **Article 18:** Adopting policies and mechanisms to protect and support those who have been victims of trafficking
- **Article 19:** Strengthening the capacity of the embassies and consulates to ensure that they can more effectively assist trafficked persons
- **Article 20:** Ensuring cross-border cooperation in the safe return of trafficked persons, including support to ensure their well-being
- **Article 21:** Working together to facilitate the successful recovery and reintegration of trafficked persons and to prevent them from being re-trafficked

## AREA III. PROTECTION

**Goal 4 :** Trafficked persons identified, protected and provided with appropriate rights-based support

### Outcome 4.1 : Victims of trafficking are identified

**Output 4.1.1 :** Standardized regional identification procedures, based on commonly agreed indicators of potential trafficking cases, agreed, implemented and reviewed

**Indicative activities :**

- Develop and agree indicators of exploitation and abuse related to human trafficking, in consultation with relevant stakeholders
- Disseminate indicators of human trafficking and provide training to relevant government officials and frontline responders, including civil society

**Indicators :**

# of victims of trafficking that are properly identified and protected, according to the agreed indicators

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agree procedures to ensure developed indicators of human trafficking are implemented</li> <li>- Train relevant officials and responders in interviewing potential victims of trafficking</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Output 4.1.2 :</b> 24-hour national reporting hotlines are operationalised and linked to other COMMIT countries, when appropriate</p>	
<p><b>Indicative activities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish and operate a 24-hour reporting and assistance hotline</li> <li>- Train hotline staff to ensure appropriate referral and support</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Outcome 4.2 :</b> Victims of trafficking in persons receive appropriate protection and rights-based assistance</p>	
<p><b>Output 4.2.1 :</b> National referral mechanisms to support victims of trafficking operationalized</p>	<p><b>Indicators :</b></p> <p># of victims whose needs have been assessed and protected through the national referral mechanism</p> <p># of service providers who use the minimum standards of residential care for victims of trafficking</p> <p># of trafficking victims repatriated to their home country</p>
<p><b>Indicative activities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop and agree rights-based assistance framework and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure comprehensive support to victims of trafficking, with specific measures for children</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Output 4.2.2 :</b> Victims of trafficking, particularly children, receive protection and assistance both in country of destination and in their country of origin</p>	
<p><b>Indicative activities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide comprehensive support to victims of trafficking in accordance with assistance framework and SOPs developed</li> <li>- Develop and implement checklist on range of assistance needs required for referral mechanism and specialised providers</li> <li>- Develop directory of available appropriate service providers for victims of trafficking, and update on a regular basis</li> <li>- Provide child- and gender-sensitive training for service providers in referral mechanisms, both government and non-government</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Output 4.2.3 :</b> Minimum standards on residential care for victims of trafficking operationalized and monitored</p>	
<p><b>Indicative activities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop, agree and implement standards on residential care for victims of trafficking, engaging residents feedback</li> <li>- Provide training and support to shelter staff and service providers in comprehensive standards of care for victims of trafficking, and their own protection</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Output 4.2.4 :</b> Regional guidelines for the repatriation of victims of trafficking developed and operationalised</p>	
<p><b>Indicative activities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop, agree and implement regional guidelines for the repatriation of victims</li> </ul>	



## Goal 5 : Victims of trafficking in persons are successfully (re)integrated

<b>Outcome 5.1</b> : Victims of trafficking receive appropriate support in their (re)integration	
<p><b>Output 5.1.1</b> : Long-term comprehensive support to all victims of trafficking, based on individual (re)integration plans according to agreed guidelines, developed and implemented</p>	<p><b>Indicators</b> :</p> <p># of trafficking victims who are assisted through individual (re)integration plans</p>
<p><b>Indicative activities</b> :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop and agree on guidelines on support for (re)integration of trafficked persons</li> <li>- Establish and/or maintain a regional and national referral network of trusted (re)integration services</li> <li>- Develop and implement individualised long-term support and monitoring plans</li> <li>- Conduct long-term data collection in cases to determine effectiveness of assistance</li> <li>- Develop compensation mechanisms for victims of trafficking irrespective of their potential involvement in investigations and prosecutions</li> <li>- Engage the private sector for training and employment of trafficked persons</li> </ul>	

## PROSECUTION :

Relevant COMMIT MoU articles:

- **Article 7:** Adopting and enforcing, as quickly as possible, appropriate legislation against trafficking in persons
- **Article 8:** Adopting appropriate guidelines and providing training for relevant officials to permit the rapid and accurate identification of trafficked persons and to improve the investigation, prosecution and judicial process
- **Article 9:** Investigating, arresting, prosecuting, and punishing perpetrators of trafficking in accordance with national law
- **Article 11:** Developing realistic and effective cooperation in the criminal justice system to remove impunity for traffickers and provide justice for victims
- **Article 12:** Strengthening cross-border cooperation in law enforcement among the six GMS countries to combat trafficking through criminal justice process
- **Article 13:** Providing the necessary personnel and budgetary support for trafficking response capacities within national law enforcement authorities

## AREA IV. PROSECUTION

**Goal 6 : Mechanisms for criminal justice cooperation in transnational human trafficking cases operationalized**

<b>Outcome 6.1 : Criminal justice cooperation on human trafficking cases strengthened</b>	
<p><b>Output 6.1.1 :</b> Information sharing mechanism on human trafficking cases through focal point in each country established and operationalised</p> <p><b>Indicative activities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organize a regional meeting to establish focal points and agree on strategy/protocols</li> <li>- Appoint focal points in anti-trafficking law enforcement at national level</li> <li>- Organize meetings between anti-trafficking focal points to share information, follow up and report back on cases</li> </ul>	<p><b>Indicators :</b></p> <p># of cross-border human trafficking cases referred by COMMIT criminal justice focal points between COMMIT countries (information sharing, victims, suspects and/or evidence)</p>
<p><b>Output 6.1.2 :</b> Bi-lateral intelligence-sharing protocols in COMMIT for cooperation between law enforcement and criminal justice focal points in each country signed and operationalized</p>	

<p><b>Indicative activities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organize workshops to develop and agree on intelligence-sharing protocols</li> <li>- Operationalize protocols to share intelligence through agreed channels</li> <li>- Organize trainings for relevant focal point staff to ensure smooth bi-lateral intelligence-sharing</li> <li>- Develop regional cross-border collaboration, including bilateral and tri-lateral cooperation</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Output 6.1.3 :</b> COMMIT guiding principles on criminal justice cooperation agreed, operationalized and reviewed</p>	
<p><b>Indicative activities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agree on COMMIT guiding principles on criminal justice cooperation</li> <li>- Implement COMMIT guiding principles on criminal justice cooperation</li> </ul>	

## Goal 7 : Victims of trafficking are provided with access to justice

<p><b>Outcome 7.1 :</b> Prosecutions use a victim-centred approach and ensure the rights of victims</p>	
<p><b>Output 7.1.1 :</b> Victims participate in criminal justice proceedings related to their human trafficking cases based on informed, voluntary consent</p>	<p><b>Indicators :</b></p>
<p><b>Indicative activities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop checklist to ensure safety and security for victims during criminal justice proceedings</li> <li>- Provide all necessary information to victims in their native language to assist them in participating in the criminal justice proceedings</li> <li>- Conduct tailored trainings for relevant professions on victim protection during criminal justice proceedings</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Output 7.1.2 :</b> Legal counselling provided to victims during the trial process</p>	
<p><b>Indicative activities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide legal and psycho-social support to victims during criminal justice proceedings</li> </ul>	<p># of victims provided with information about their rights during trial process</p>
<p><b>Output 7.1.3 :</b> Mechanism for victim compensation or support established</p>	<p># of trafficking victims provided with compensation/support through the mechanism</p>
<p><b>Indicative activities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish and make accessible a victim support/assistance fund including assistance claim forms and guidelines for victim assistance</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Outcome 7.2 :</b> Effectiveness in prosecution processes strengthened</p>	
<p><b>Output 7.2.1 :</b> The public has understanding of the criminal justice system and access to information on investigations, prosecutions and convictions in human trafficking-related cases</p>	<p><b>Indicators :</b></p> <p>Annual statistics on human trafficking-related investigations, prosecutions and convictions are published</p>

<p><b>Indicative activities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase people's access to information on investigation/prosecution procedures and processes on human trafficking as well as case outcomes through media channels</li> <li>- Carry out awareness raising activities at the grassroots level to ensure people understand investigation/prosecution procedures and processes in human trafficking cases</li> <li>- Strengthen grassroots level monitoring of the operations of investigation/prosecution procedures and processes in human trafficking cases</li> <li>- Conduct capacity building for criminal justice actors on how to ensure transparency in the investigation and prosecution processes for human trafficking cases</li> <li>- Organize exchange visits domestically and internationally to share experiences and good practice on increasing transparency in criminal justice proceedings</li> </ul>	<p># of criminal justice actors trained in international cooperation and cross-border anti-trafficking investigative techniques and skills</p>
<p><b>Output 7.2.2 :</b> Criminal justice actors trained in international cooperation and cross-border anti-trafficking investigative techniques and skills</p>	
<p><b>Indicative activities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organize transnational training workshops tailored to relevant professions on special investigation techniques for cross-border human trafficking cases</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Output 7.2.3 :</b> Pro-active investigations and evidence-gathering beyond victims' testimonies strengthened</p>	
<p><b>Indicative activities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Offer alternative means of providing testimony to trafficking victims in criminal justice proceedings on human trafficking cases</li> </ul>	

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION :

Relevant COMMIT MoU articles:

- **Article 29:** Developing procedures for the collection and analysis of data and information on trafficking cases and ensuring that anti-trafficking strategies are based on accurate and current research
- **Article 30:** Establishing a monitoring system for the implementation of the Plan of Action to evaluate the status quo and the progress of each country in implementing the commitments covered in this MoU including at the minimum, annual Senior Officials meetings.

## AREA V. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

**Goal 8 : Procedures for monitoring and evaluating progress towards goals from SPA IV in place**

<b>Outcome 8.1 : Internal standardised reporting based on an established M&amp;E Framework</b>	
<p><b>Output 8.1.1 :</b> Standardized SPA IV reporting framework developed and implemented</p> <p><b>Indicative activities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop and implement a common M&amp;E framework and related monitoring tools for SPA IV, with clear parameters of COMMIT</li> <li>- Establish and train national and regional M&amp;E taskforces for counter trafficking</li> <li>- Report on SPA IV implementation according to an agreed framework</li> </ul>	<p><b>Indicators :</b></p> <p># of COMMIT countries reporting back based on standardized SPA IV reporting framework in a timely manner</p>
<b>Outcome 8.2 : Relevant stakeholders engaged in implementation of SPA IV</b>	
<p><b>Output 8.2.1 :</b> All sectors of society engaged in the implementation of SPA IV</p> <p><b>Indicative activities :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engage survivors of trafficking and vulnerable persons to provide feedback on plans and policies through ethical and rights-based channels</li> <li>- Invite civil society actors and youth representatives to SOM/IMM and/ or other COMMIT Taskforce meetings, as appropriate</li> <li>- Consult with civil society actors to contribute to planning and policy development, as well as monitoring and reporting</li> </ul>	<p><b>Indicators :</b></p> <p># of activities with engagement of relevant stakeholders</p>



## COORDINATED MEKONG MINISTERIAL INITIATIVE AGAINST TRAFFICKING

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