

In 2014 and 2015, UN-ACT has ...

... helped strengthen the COMMIT Process to become sustainable and self-reliant

- 1) The six COMMIT member governments - Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam - reported a total of 5,420 victims referred and supported through national and transnational referral mechanisms as part of the COMMIT Process over 2014-2015, with UN-ACT as Secretariat*. This indicates improved victim identification and referral mechanisms in the GMS, as well as a more systematic collection and tracking of data.
- 2) The six governments are implementing the 4th COMMIT Sub-regional Plan of Action (SPA IV: 2014-2018) on Trafficking in Persons, supported by UN-ACT. Using the SPA IV results framework, the governments are building systems for counter-trafficking with measurable indicators and targets to monitor their progress in policy, victim protection, criminal justice and trafficking prevention.
- 3) 12 improvements to anti-trafficking policies have been made in all six COMMIT countries, including the approval of Laos' first specific Anti-Human Trafficking Law and the revision of Viet Nam's Penal Code to include trafficking of men as a crime.
- 4) Government financial contributions to COMMIT activities now make up 50% of the COMMIT work plan budget, with the Government of China funding over 90% of its 2015 COMMIT work plan.

... facilitated increased regional cooperation between COMMIT countries and other actors to counter human trafficking

- 5) The first official cooperation between COMMIT and ASEAN took place to develop and agree on common indicators of human trafficking. This is expected to result in increased identification of victims of trafficking and more effective cross-border cooperation for protection and criminal justice responses.
- 6) 727 trafficking survivors were repatriated from Indonesia to Myanmar, Cambodia, Thailand and Lao PDR through collaboration between governments, civil society, media and the UN, with delegates from the Governments of Myanmar and Thailand visiting Indonesia to identify and assist victims.
- 7) Viet Nam signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Malaysia related to human trafficking, and discussions for bilateral cooperation between Cambodia and Malaysia are underway. These agreements will increase the effectiveness of cross-border efforts against human trafficking with a key destination country outside COMMIT.

... enhanced access to evidence-based research to inform policy and programming

- 8) Chinese authorities have been revising procedures for the registration of marriages with foreign nationals informed by research into forced marriage trends between Cambodia and China, conducted by UN-ACT, and advocacy in partnership with China's Ministry of Public Security.
- 9) Research documenting trends in vulnerabilities to human trafficking between Lao PDR and Cambodia as source countries, and Thailand as a destination, were disseminated as part of UN-ACT's research strategy to inform programming and policy decision-making.

... assisted civil society and other non-state actors to more effectively contribute to anti-human trafficking efforts

- 10) UN-ACT's coordination services resulted in the establishment of the COMMIT Youth Forum, a formal body for youth engagement in COMMIT's human trafficking prevention efforts; and the Civil Society Platform to COMMIT, which provides opportunities for CSOs to inform decision-making and participate in the implementation and monitoring of SPA IV.
- 11) Despite concerns of shrinking civil society space in GMS countries, CSO participation in national and regional COMMIT Taskforce meetings has increased over this period. Cambodia, China, Lao PDR and Myanmar also reported an overall increase in the number of cases referred between government agencies and CSOs.
- 12) The Labour Rights Promotion Network, with the assistance of UN-ACT, played an influential role in 2014-2015, in supporting victims and bringing global attention to the cases of hundreds of trafficked persons on Indonesian islands.



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*The United Nations Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT) is a regional, UNDP-managed anti-human trafficking project with offices across the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS: Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam). Working to counter human trafficking comprehensively, UN-ACT aims at building the capacities of governmental agencies, civil society actors and academic institutions, and seeks to facilitate a coordinated approach to anti-human trafficking between relevant stakeholders including UN agencies. Key to UN-ACT's work is its support to the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT), a Government-led, multi-stakeholder process between the GMS countries based on a 2004 MoU and specifically established to counter human trafficking in the sub-region.