

CAPACITY BUILDING AND PUBLIC AWARENESS ON COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

Dissemination report | Technical Assistance
Intervention Saint Lucia

Author: Ofélia Ferreira da Silva | Editing: ACP-EU Migration Action



This Action is funded by the European Union



Introduction

THE ACP EU MIGRATION ACTION PROGRAM

The ACP-EU Migration Action was developed in the framework of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) – European Union (EU) Dialogue on Migration and Development. The Dialogue has become an important process to discuss migration issues among the 79 ACP Member States and the 28 EU Member States. The ACP-EU members decided to focus their attention and cooperation efforts on the topics of visas, remittances, readmission, trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants. The objective of the Action is to **support activities in areas of strategic interest to the ACP-EU Dialogue on Migration through three interlinked components (see on the left).**

DISSEMINATION REPORT ‘CAPACITY BUILDING AND PUBLIC AWARENESS ON COUNTER-TRAFFICKING’

This dissemination report represents a short, hand-out version of the full Technical Assistance Intervention report that was completed under the ACP-EU Migration Action Program, following a request by the Saint Lucia Ministry of Home Affairs, Justice and National Security. The full report is authored by Ms. Ofélia Ferreira da Silva. The contents of this report are the sole responsibility of the authors and cannot be taken to reflect the views of the ACP Secretariat and its Member States governments, the European Commission or the International Organization for Migration.

Background to the Technical Assistance (TA)

Saint Lucia is a small island developing state with a population estimated in 189,000 people for 2018. To increase its capacities to develop and implement public policies to combat human trafficking, in 2010, the government of St. Lucia enacted the national Counter-Trafficking Act. In 2013, it ratified the Palermo Protocol - the supplemental protocol to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC).

A National Task Force (NTF) was established in Saint Lucia to coordinate the National Framework for Combating Trafficking in Persons, to collect and share data among government agencies, to engage in cooperation with foreign countries and civil society organizations, and to provide training for law enforcement agents.

To support the ongoing efforts on counter trafficking in human beings in Saint Lucia, the ACP-EU Migration Action Technical Assistance intervention on Capacity Building and Public Awareness on Counter-Trafficking began in 2017 by accessing knowledge, practices and suggestions from national stakeholders, along with an extensive desk review on the global knowledge of human trafficking. This was done in order to design and run a workshop on how to combat human trafficking that would respond to the needs of the key audience: police and immigration officers, state prosecutors, civil society representatives and other national stakeholders.



Map of Saint Lucia

Learning from the Baseline Assessment

One of the Action's trademarks is the Baseline Assessment (BA) that was undertaken before the TA. It provided an overview of the state of affairs on the specific subject of the request and was a first testing ground for the collaboration between the Action and the requesting entity. Key points from the BA were:

DEFINING THB

THB should be incorporated into standardized training for all key counter-THB stakeholder agencies, to equip staff with the tools to effectively address the challenge and apprise them of their role in the national counter-THB response. Any training initiative should commence with a **trafficking in human beings (THB) definitional clarification** as a number of stakeholders have reportedly been exposed to training however they remain unclear of the definition and intricacies of THB.

LEGALIZATION + SENSITIZATION

Legislatively, efforts should be made to modify existing **laws that contradict the Counter-Trafficking Act** such as the definition of a child under the Labour Code and the Criminal Code. Also, sensitization on the core elements of the Counter-Trafficking Act, 2010 is critically needed amongst all stakeholders and should be integrated into public **sensitization** material since many practitioners and the NSAs did not seem to be familiar with major aspects on this legislation.

DATA

There is a need to harmonize THB data amongst the key agencies and develop a **database** that could safely and securely house all TIP related data. The creation of a database, however, must be accompanied by requisite training for users.

COOPERATION

Cooperation and information sharing amongst major stakeholders is generally missing and therefore efforts to finalize the National Plan of Action (NAP). **Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and Standard Operating procedures (SOPs)** should be accelerated to promote and support these types of engagements.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Public awareness **campaigns** are integral to the success of counter-trafficking initiatives as there was a view that THB is an underreported activity due to the public's unawareness.

TRAIN THE TRAINER

Train the trainer sessions are crucial for the **transferability and sustainability of THB awareness** and trainings at the organizational level, especially given the frequent re-allocation of staff amongst Ministries and a high turnover within Units. Trainees should also be urged to champion counter-THB sensitization and trainings in their organizations.

Activities

Workshop

During the workshop, **36 participants** engaged in lively exercises, case studies, good practices, reading material, audiovisual presentations and group work.

Focus in understanding what is human trafficking; the Palermo Protocol; the Counter-Trafficking Act 2010; the human trafficking crime 3 elements: (the activity + the means + the purpose) ; the consent issue; the particularity of child cases of THB; the difference between human trafficking and smuggling of migrants; the 3P response approach (prevention, protection and prosecution); victim identification and protection; the importance of data management; and the collaborative and networking approach.

>> See Box I

Manual

A manual was produced. Its contents included:

- +Extensive review of the current knowledge about human trafficking

- + Additional research material and communications pieces for further research, desk review and inspiration

- + Educational card with alerts on key signs to increase awareness among public agents about potential cases and how to contact the National Task Force (see page 11)

Box I

Defining THB...

ACT

- Recruitment
- Transportation
- Transfer
- Harboring
- Receipt of persons



MEANS

- Threat
- Use of force
- Other forms of coercion
- Abduction
- Fraud
- Deception
- Abuse of power
- Abuse of position of vulnerability
- Giving/receiving payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person



PURPOSE

- Exploitation of the prostitution of others
- Other forms of sexual exploitation
- Forced labour
- Forced services
- Slavery/practices similar to slavery
- Servitude
- Removal of organs
- Others

... and combating THB

PREVENTION

The lessons learned progressively have shown that more is required than campaigning to inform public opinions and raise public awareness. It is key to address the root causes, reaching vulnerable groups, running recurrent activities to raise awareness and to educate people, and ensuring links with labour laws and inspection protocols.



PROTECTION

Instead of a one-time action, protecting victims of human trafficking is a consistent and multidisciplinary course of actions, through a national referral system with a range of different stakeholders, with the participation of leaders and experts from the government, non-governmental sector, private sector, local grass-root communities etc., in a cooperative environment, with roles and responsibilities clearly defined.



PROSECUTION

The State must investigate and prosecute persons who practice THB and related offenses, those participating in the activities, and those helping them, while respecting and restoring the human rights and needs of the victims. Avoiding and preventing secondary victimization should be explicitly pursued by police, investigators, immigration officers, prosecutors, and judges. Investigation and prosecution of traffickers should not rely entirely on the victim's capacity and willingness to testify. It is key to balance what is known as the mix of a proactive and a reactive investigation.

Activities (II)

Data Management

Recommendations for the development of a Data Management System for THB cases were provided, focusing on data management with a victim's protection approach, encompassing: the indicators and the data to be gathered; the combination of data collected by public agents through a screening form, and from external audiences through a Hotline and an Online form; the data flowchart engaging different stakeholders towards the National Task Force leadership; the issue of confidentiality and the victim's consent; the human resources required and their specific roles in data management; and the basic protocols and practices to operate the data management system.

Public Awareness

Messages, channels, target audiences and approaches to a public awareness campaign were assessed through focus group with key experts, public agencies technical teams and public school students;

Suggested objectives for a public awareness campaign in Saint Lucia about human trafficking were developed: (i) To make human trafficking better known by specific groups of audiences according to how each one relates to the subject, as potential victims, as public servants, as supporters or as influential people in society; (ii) to engage audiences in adopting self-protection measures and in reporting cases; (iii) to show how Saint Lucia as a country is effectively facing the crime at a national level; (iv) To put human trafficking as a national concern on the agenda of social movements, government agencies and public opinion makers.

>> See Box II

Box II

Public Awareness on THB: strategy

	CONTENT/APPROACH	CHANNELS/DELIVERY
	<p>Strong on basics, repeatedly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is human trafficking?• What are the signs?• What to do for self-protection?• Who is there to support?	<p>Through the most common and popular channels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Portal• Press• Social Media• TV
	<p>Bring it to a deeper level of understanding and engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Debates with experts• School visits• Awards for youth creative production• Meetings with journalists• Launch of the data management system• Events with health workers and educators as a part of their professional development• President statement in video• Engage private companies and announce broadly their adhesion• Choose a cultural iconic champion as an ambassador for the cause	<p>Diversify the channels and ways the subject is presented by opening opportunities to a more interactive engagement with different audiences. It is less one-way delivery of content and increasing the interaction.</p>
	<p>Reinforce the basics, facing negative outcomes and showing good results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Launch of research or data analysis• Show results of services and programs to combat human trafficking and to protect victims• Make leaders who act positively to combat human trafficking in different areas more visible to set them as examples to be followed by others• Ensure the governmental agencies are active on combating human trafficking and make their achievement highly visible to external audiences• Connect the combat of human trafficking with key community dates and events (e.g., a national week to combat human trafficking, having an annual training of some professional categories as part of it)	<p>Ensure renewal of media positioning, governmental agencies websites updates, social media presence, and human trafficking portal with new information, data, testimonies and visuals (it should produce some strong reason to a public communication in a frequency of no more than bimonthly)</p>

Results

Outreach

The following public agencies, institutions and organizations have being reached by the TA:

Minister of Home Affairs and National Security ● Customs & Excise ● Police and Immigration ● Ministry of Justice and Labour Department ● Department of External Affairs ● Ministry of Health and Department of Human Services ● Department of Education and Gender Relations ● NGOs: Uptown, Girls Garden and Saint Lucia Crisis Centre ● Government Information Technology Services ● The Voice News ● Financial Investigations Authority ● National Human Trafficking Taskforce Members.

Impact

Increased knowledge by public agents about what is human trafficking, what is smuggling of migrants, and the national and international normative

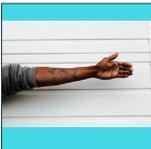
Support the continuity of knowledge amongst public agents through the Manual with practical guidance on what to do to combat human trafficking and how to do it

Mapping of key audiences that should be engaged in a public awareness plan of action, along with the main important messages that most likely will connect with their vision and values

Structure of indicators/criteria to monitor human trafficking situation in the country, along with measures and resources needed to manage information through a consistent system of data gathering under the responsibility of National Task Force leadership

Improved knowledge of public agencies roles to combat human trafficking

Clarity regarding victim identification and what to do when noticing a potential case



Signs of Human Trafficking

AND WHAT TO DO

When combined, the signs may indicate a possible situation of human trafficking.

The signs do not necessarily mean there is a case of human trafficking but can serve as alerts for further investigation of human trafficking.

Observe if the person...

- Is not allowed to move freely
- Is unpaid or paid very little
- Is not in control of his/her own identification documents
- Is not allowed to speak with others by themselves and a third party insists on being present and/or translating
- Works excessively long or unusual hours, without breaks
- Owes debts that allegedly he/she must pay before leaving
- Was recruited or transported based in false promises
- Show signs of being subjected to psychological and physical violence, sexual abuse, torture, confinement, restriction of food
- Appears to work for a family in their home, where he/she also lives but not eating along with them, with no proper sleeping place, never leaves the house “unsupervised” and may be accused of crime if they try to
- Stays or lives in a place with high level security measures in order to keep him/her isolated or hidden (wires, fences, walls, cameras, closed windows, bars, bodyguards or surveillance)
- Is not able to provide his/her address and is not familiar with his/ her whereabouts
- Has no personal possessions or control of his/her own money
- Is prohibited to access medical care
- Shows inconsistencies in his/her story
- Is working in the commercial sex industry without his/her free will and he/she has a pimp/manager
- Shows loss of sense of time
- Appears to be strongly fearful, anxious, paranoid, depressed or submissive

One of the bookmarks that was made as part of the public awareness campaign in Saint Lucia

homeaffairs@gosl.gov.lc

Ministry of Home Affairs

(1758)4683600

National Task Force
against Human Trafficking

4563858/56

Major Crimes
Police Unit



Department of Home Affairs and
National Security - Government of
Saint Lucia



Lessons learnt: Technical Assistance approach

“The importance of kickoff meetings with representatives of key audiences as a mean to identify perceptions and gaps in knowledge.

The rapid assessment allowed the TA intervention to access a more comprehensive package of information and knowledge as the participants were national professionals well experienced on the culture and values of Saint Lucia, besides knowing deeply the functioning of the government agencies. All feedback captured through the interviews guided the design of the content and methodology of each product delivered in this intervention.

The desk review about the current knowledge on human trafficking allowed the TA to customize the products to the audiences perceptions and needs expressed through the rapid assessment.

This approach resulted in a more effective way of connecting with the audiences, instead of delivering a standard model for the workshop, manual, campaign or data management system.

The adoption of a combination of hands on, case studies, audio-visual pieces and free-talk sessions during the workshop ensured the necessary engagement from the participants, providing an interactive session for them to express their doubts and

to acknowledge each others roles in combating human trafficking. This approach is key to not only acquire new knowledge but also to strength bonds among technical teams, specially in relation to sensitive matters.

The empowerment of key national stakeholders who have the role and mandate to combat human trafficking in all products and approaches, emphasizing the message of continuity of the initiatives to combat human trafficking, placing the TA intervention as part of a continuum of measures adopted by Saint Lucia government and not just one more event in time.

The strategic relevance of listening to representatives of key groups especially those among potential victims or those related to them in order to understand their vision as they will feed the products, their contents and messages. Strongly noted were the valuable input provided both by the focus group of young students from an urban public school in Saint Lucia, and the assessment session with social protection experts from non governmental organizations

Lessons learnt: Follow-up recommendations to combat THB

Strengthened institutions to combat human trafficking will be based on consistent work that will be done in the coming years in Saint Lucia. For that, it is recommended that existing challenges are faced, to progressively add value to the 2017 ACP-EU Migration Action Technical Assistance:

1 The design and implementation of an action plan and routine activities by the National Task Force to combat human trafficking is necessary to install counter THB within the State agencies and to express to external audiences the correct implementation of recommendations made and the knowledge acquired by national stakeholders, with adequate human resources and institutional conditions.

2 The establishment and consistent running of a national annual training on human trafficking to reach public agents, thus scaling up capacity development regarding the problem and how to face it.

3 The development of a step-by-step strategy to effectively implement a system to manage information about human trafficking.

4 Effective use should be made of public TV and Radio in Saint Lucia to educate the population about human trafficking, using the recommendations provided for the public awareness activities.

4 Awareness and expertise in the judicial system should be increased in the country to deal with human trafficking from a victims protection perspective, by accessing experiences and good practices from other countries with similar legal frame and culture.

5 Legal, social protection and health workers' understanding of re-victimization and how to prevent it.

6 The message that human trafficking is a national reality should be further emphasized among all stakeholders and the general population, also stressing that it is not a modern myth, that is not only a foreigners problem, that it is not only a border phenomenon, nor only a sexual exploitation problem.



www.acpeumigrationaction.iom.int