



# Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund

**START-UP FUND FOR SAFE, ORDERLY  
AND REGULAR MIGRATION**

Operations Manual Annex C: Templates

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*Revision: February 2023*

## Annual / Final Report Template

### Migration MPTF Annual / Final Report

PROJECT INFORMATION	
<b>Joint Programme Title:</b>	Access, Support and, Coordination (ASC) Programme: A Collaborative Approach to Support Survivors of Human Trafficking
<b>Country(ies)/Region (or indicate if a global initiative):</b>	Trinidad and Tobago
<b>Project Identification Number:</b>	00127692
<b>Start and Planned End Dates</b>	Start: 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2021    End: 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
<b>Convening Agent (Lead PUNO):</b>	International Organization for Migration (IOM) Trinidad and Tobago
<b>PUNO(s) (PUNOs):</b>	United Nations Children’s Fund Office for the Eastern Caribbean Area (UNICEF ECA) United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
<b>Key Partners:</b> <i>(include Implementing Partner)</i>	Ministry of National Security (MNS) Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) Ministry of Labour (MoL) Children’s Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (CATT) Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago (FPATT) Heroes Foundation Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society (TTRCS) Archdiocesan Ministry for Migrants and Refugees (AMMR) Families in Action (FIA)
<b>Project Period (Start – End Dates):</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2021 to 28 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
<b>Reporting Period:</b>	01 <sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2022
<b>Total Approved Migration MPTF Budget: (breakdown by PUNO)</b>	<i>IOM: USD 1,500,000</i> <i>UNICEF: USD 1,000,000</i> <i>UNFPA: USD 100,000</i> <i>Total: USD 2,600,000</i>

<p><b>Total Funds Received To Date:</b> <i>(breakdown by PUNO)</i></p>	<p><i>IOM: USD 1,050,000</i> <i>UNICEF: USD 700,000</i> <i>UNFPA: USD 100,000</i> <i>Total: USD 1,850,000</i></p>
<p><b>Report Submission Date:</b></p>	<p><i>31<sup>st</sup> March 2023</i></p>
<p><b>Report Prepared by:</b> <i>(Name, title, email)</i></p>	<p>Jewel Ali, Head of Office and Project Manager, IOM <a href="mailto:jali@iom.int">jali@iom.int</a> Candice Wallace, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF, <a href="mailto:cwallace@unicef.org">cwallace@unicef.org</a> Aurora Noguera-Ramkissoon, Assistant Representative, <a href="mailto:noguera-ramkissoon@unfpa.org">noguera-ramkissoon@unfpa.org</a></p>

## Executive Summary

This joint Access, Support and Coordination (ASC) Programme focuses on strengthening the capacities of national and community-based partners (access), caring for and empowering survivors (support) and coordinating efforts (coordination) in response to the needs of survivors of trafficking (SoTs) in Trinidad and Tobago. The primary objective of the 3-year programme is for survivors of trafficking to have access to comprehensive and integrated, survivor centred specialised services and support through coordinated efforts by national protection systems and community-based organisations with support from the United Nations (UN).

Over the reporting period 01<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, partnering UN organizations (PUNOs), continued the implementation of several key activities under the ASC Programme, inclusive of the formalizing of implementing partnership agreements (IPAs) with civil society organizations (CSOs) to provide support to survivors of trafficking and unaccompanied and separated children. More specifically, IPAs were established with a non-governmental organization (NGO), Families in Action (FIA), to provide vocational skills training (VST) and mental health and psychosocial support for SoTs. The VST Programme was launched on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, with a total of twenty (20) participants actively participating in the course. The provision of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to survivors of trafficking commenced in May 2022 and during the period, a total of one hundred and forty-one (141) counselling sessions were accessed by thirty-three (33) SoTs.

In 2022, twenty-two (22) SoTs were newly identified and assessed to determine their eligibility for assistance. Additionally, a total of sixty-eight (68) SoTs were provided with direct assistance while 32 SoTs received short-term accommodation. Transition Plans were also completed for thirty-nine (39) beneficiaries with three (3) SoTs having successfully transitioned to self-sufficiency.

*A Situational Assessment on Assistance Efforts to Survivors of Human Trafficking* was completed (under this ASC Programme) and a presentation of the key findings was delivered to Government, members of the Diplomatic Corps and CSO stakeholders on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Capacity building sessions on Trafficking in Persons, Victim Care and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) were also conducted with national and civil society actors during the period of review. A total of 345 persons at risk of trafficking were also exposed to comprehensive life skills through 17 workshop sessions and 93 calls were received for mobile and tele-counselling services to address issues on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)

Regarding support for unaccompanied and separated children, (UASC) the child protection working group comprising over 20 Government, UN and CSOs worked collaboratively to provide comprehensive services to trafficked and abused children through the ASC programme. 2,111 children and caregivers were provided with mental health and psychosocial support. Over 4,970 women and children were reached with gender-based violence risk mitigation through 12 community outreaches. 3,103 people were reached with awareness activities and community mobilisation interventions on prevention of sexual exploitation

and abuse (PSEA), and 84 unaccompanied and separated children were provided with case management including family reunification and alternative care.

During the period, a dedicated bi-lingual case management officer was also embedded within the national system. Further integration was achieved in national foster care mechanisms for unaccompanied and separated children. Adopting a hybrid approach, virtual child friendly spaces (CFSs) continued to support children at home, 14 physical CFSs were functional benefitting over 1,700 children with intersectoral programming; and 13 roving CFSs have been held to reach underserved populations. Referral pathways and Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for alternative care of unaccompanied and separated children and CFSs were updated, a programme document for cash-based interventions for child headed households and unaccompanied children was drafted and support was provided to children from CFSs and unaccompanied and trafficked children's enrolment into the DAWERE education programme.

While significant achievements have been noted throughout the period, challenges still exist, and are impacting the implementation of key activities such as the piloting of an interagency case management system and the convening of the Joint Programme Steering Committee. Additionally, to date, there continue to be delays with obtaining approval from the Cabinet of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago despite many efforts to follow up with various Ministries and direct interventions by PUNOs with relevant Ministers and other senior executive members.

## Annual (or End-of Project) Progress

### 1. Summary and Context

Trinidad and Tobago is regarded as an attractive destination for migratory flows primarily because of its oil and gas resources, its high levels of foreign investment and an expanding tourism industry. As such, it is considered as a country of source, transit, and destination for victims of human trafficking as well as a destination for smuggled migrants. This was further corroborated by the findings of the 2022 *Situational Assessment (SA) on Assistance Efforts to Survivors of Human Trafficking* which classified the island as both a destination and transit country, given Trinidad and Tobago's proximity to the South American mainland (specifically Venezuela) as well as its porous borders and vulnerable unofficial entry points. The assessment also identified the country as a source country for trafficking in persons and referred to cases of missing persons, particularly young, local girls.

While women and girls continue to be the primary victims of trafficking, the 2022 SA reported the existence of male survivors. Demographic data further revealed that SoTs in Trinidad and Tobago were predominantly single, female Venezuelans who were generally in the 20-29 age range. The study also reconfirmed that the urgent needs of survivors of trafficking include, shelter, medical/health care, psychological support, education, training, legal assistance, protection/safety, employment, translation, information, re-integration, freedom, and documentation.

Despite the efforts of both national and civil society actors, there continue to be major challenges in the provision of support services to SoTs, including, shortage of professional staff, unclear and unstructured referral mechanisms, victim safety concerns, victims' lack of trust in authorities and inadequate placement facilities for both adult and child survivors. It should be noted however that during the reporting period the Government officially opened a facility to house vulnerable minor migrants (including victims of trafficking) in December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022.<sup>1</sup> Other key challenges impacting children were the absence of alternative care mechanisms for children along with language and cultural barriers which have led to further disadvantages including lack of access to educational support and increased psychological distress to the population.

In light of the aforementioned, there continues to be a compelling need to urgently strengthen the technical capacity of national authorities and community-based systems. Accordingly, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) developed a joint programme, 'Access, Support and Coordination (ASC)' which focuses on capacitating national and community-based partners (access), caring for and empowering survivors (support) and coordinating efforts (coordination), in response to the needs of survivors of human trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago. The joint programme seeks to build on the comparative advantage of each organization, recognizing the inter-section between child protection, gender-based violence and human trafficking responses and the need to strengthen modalities for cooperation to address the issue.

It should be noted, in June 2022, Trinidad and Tobago was ranked on the Tier 2 Watchlist for the second consecutive year on the TIP Report of the United States Department of State, as the country did not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons. This continues to endorse the need for programmes such as the ASC which seeks to strengthen the local capacity of governmental and civil society agencies to effectively support VoTs. While the aforementioned have positively impacted and endorsed the need for the ASC programme, Cabinet approval from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago remains outstanding despite many attempts by the lead agency to follow up. Without the necessary approvals and endorsement from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, project implementation of several activities continues to be negatively impacted. However, as the process continues to face unexpected delays, roll-out of activities with existing partners has commenced and remains in an attempt to secure the success of the programme. Follow-up with the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, the Ministry of National Security, as well as the Office of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs is ongoing and PUNOs are making every effort to support the relevant Ministry by providing timely updates and clarification on queries made by the Cabinet. In spite of delays, it should be noted that several Government ministries including the Ministry of National Security have reached out to PUNOs to assist with addressing the current Tier 2 Watchlist status of the country.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.guardian.co.tt/news/home-for-migrant-girls-opened-6.2.1593180.9e30c2af27>

## 2. Results

The ASC Programme is designed as a multi-stakeholder, demand-driven initiative that encourages cooperation and synergies with government agencies, builds capacity, addresses the protection needs of survivors of trafficking and results in the sustainable (re-)integration of survivors. The primary objective of the programme is for survivors of trafficking to have access to comprehensive and integrated, survivor centred specialised services and support through coordinated efforts by national protection systems and community-based organisations with support from the United Nations. The objective of the ASC Programme encompasses three (3) main outcomes which are further developed into 5 key outputs.

**Outcome 1** states that National and Community-Based Protection Systems demonstrate improved knowledge to screen, identify, assist and re/integrate survivors of trafficking and unaccompanied and separated children.

Results of Outcome 1 would be realised following the completion of the Training Needs Assessment and Training plan for government agencies and civil society organisations.

Outcome 1 contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 5.2,<sup>2</sup> 8.7,<sup>3</sup> and 16.2<sup>4</sup> as the improved knowledge of the Government and Community Actors can lead to the early detection and identification of victims of trafficking and also other related offences against women and girls, thereby resulting in a reduction in physical, sexual or psychological violence. The realisation of the outputs in this outcome, specifically training sessions held, led to increased capacities to assist and re/integrate survivors of trafficking and UASC held and therefore also contribute to SDG 3.7<sup>5</sup> as assistance measures will increase the access to health-care services and other trauma-informed care for trafficking survivors.

This outcome also applies measures from Objectives 7 (address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration) and 10 (prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration) of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), given the development of a national and community-based protection system which strengthens the capacity of public officials, law enforcement and community actors to identify signs of trafficking in persons and lead to action on protection and assistance for migrants who have become victims of trafficking.

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<sup>2</sup> SDG 5.2 - Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

<sup>3</sup> SDG 8.7 - Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

<sup>4</sup> SDG 16.2 - End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

<sup>5</sup> SDG 3.7 - By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.

Outcome 1 will be actioned by two outputs:

**Output 1.1.** Government actors trained to screen, identify, assist and re/integrate survivors of trafficking and UASC

Over the reporting period, under outcome 1 and output 1.1., activity 1.1.1 (Conduct TiP training needs assessment (TNA) for government agencies and develop training plan inclusive of survivors' input) began implementation, however, the initial consultant was only able to accomplish the drafting of the data collection instrument. As such, a new consultant was retained to continue implementation of the TiP TNA in quarter 2 of 2023. Notably given the scope of the activity, the implementation would now be completed in two phases, data gathering and analysis to ascertain the relevant training needs of each stakeholder and the development of a training plan which would be completed by a separate consultant.

Despite challenges with the completion of the training needs assessment, capacity building initiatives commenced during the period with twenty-two (22) Police Officers receiving training in Victim Care on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022. This session was conducted jointly with another UN agency as part of the “Track for TiP Approaches with Migrant Victims” workshop. A joint training was conducted with UN agencies for forty-one (41) members of the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard and Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force on 2nd September 2022. The training highlighted the rights of migrants and took a deep dive into the skills for providing psychological first aid, the identification and treatment of cases involving children and communicating with survivors of gender-based violence. Frontline workers from the Children’s Authority, Counter Trafficking Unit and civil society were also trained in Spanish for special purposes geared towards reducing language barriers in addressing the needs of the population. Additionally, in November 2022, a one-day training session was also conducted with 111 Police Officers on Protecting Vulnerable Children.

It should be noted that once completed, the training plan would clearly identify all additional training needs of stakeholders thus indicating the key areas for capacity development for government and community-based organizations for the next nine (9) months. This will directly contribute to achieving both Output 1.1 and 1.2 under Outcome 1.

Additionally, on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022, PUNOs hosted forty-five (45) partners at a networking event Connect to Protect: An Afternoon to Renew Relationships at the Hilton Trinidad. This event brought together key government stakeholders and Partnering UN Agencies with the aim of renewing relationships among the various agencies working to combat Trafficking in Persons in Trinidad and Tobago. Representatives of the agencies in attendance included the Children’s Authority; Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs; the Counter Trafficking Unit, Immigration Division and International Affairs Unit of the Ministry of National Security; the Community Oriented Policing Section, the Victim and Witness Support and the Gender Based Violence Units of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service, Office of the Prime Minister; Ministry of Labour; Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, TT Coast Guard, UNICEF, and UNFPA. The event was held on the eve of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons 2022, which is commemorated on July 30th annually.



**Output 1.2.** Community actors trained to screen, identify, assist and re/integrate survivors of trafficking and UASC.

Capacity building sessions were conducted with seventy-six (76) individuals from civil-society organizations on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), Introduction to Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Referrals. A public sensitization session was also conducted on Trafficking in July 2022 in support of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, where the Project Officer and Case Manager participated in a television interview<sup>6</sup> focusing on “Connecting to End Human Trafficking.” Social Media Posts of the interview received over seven hundred and eighty-five (785) views online. Additionally, on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022, both officers along with a representative from the local NGO, Families in Action (FIA), participated in a radio series “Morning Rumble” and discussed “How the Public Can Help End Human Trafficking.”



**Figure 1: Freedom 106.5 fm Morning Rumble flyer for how the public can help end Human Trafficking**



**Figure 2: Project Officer (Manager for the HER CTIP Project) Mr. Zeke Beharry (Right) Case Coordinator Mrs. Tinstia Haynes being interviewed by (Right) CCN TV6 broadcaster Mr. Fazeer Mohammed on the Television Program, Morning Edition for the World Day against trafficking in Person 2022.**

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/IOMPportofSpain/videos/2051641118372432/>

[https://www.tv6tnt.com/news/morning\\_edition/morning-edition-25th-july-2022/article\\_0939ab22-0c13-11ed-bc2f-2b696e50fdc1.html](https://www.tv6tnt.com/news/morning_edition/morning-edition-25th-july-2022/article_0939ab22-0c13-11ed-bc2f-2b696e50fdc1.html)

During the reporting period, community -based child protection committees were established throughout Trinidad and trained to support the identification and referral of children at risk including those unaccompanied and separated. These committees serve as an active network at local levels with direct link with the case management officer who provides direct services or makes referrals to comprehensive services based on the child protection referral pathway. 22 facilitators and volunteers at child-friendly spaces (CFS) were also trained in the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation in line with the CFS standard operating procedures.

Adopting a hybrid approach, virtual CFSs continued to support children at home, 14 physical CFSs were functional benefitting over 1,700 children with intersectoral programming; and 13 roving CFSs have been held to reach underserved populations.

Through a partnership with AMMR, CFSs continue to be a risk mitigation measure and key intervention in the early identification and referral of trafficked and UASC.



***Figure 3: Roving Child Friendly Spaces***

As part of the strategy to increase access to comprehensive services over 4,970 women and children were reached with gender-based violence risk mitigation through 12 community outreaches. These community outreaches although targeting the wider population would have yielded results for UASC and trafficked women. Additionally, 3,103 people were reached with awareness activities and community mobilisation interventions on PSEA thereby reducing the risks of further exploitation.

**Outcome 2** seeks to increase collaboration among government, CSOs (Civil Society Organizations) and UN agencies to effectively coordinate, mitigate risks, identify solutions, and tackle xenophobia, discrimination, and exploitation.

While activities have commenced relating to Outcome 2, the JPSC has not yet been established to support coordination efforts for victim care.

Outcome 2 contributes to SDG Targets 3.7, 5.6, 8.7 and 8.8.<sup>7</sup> The assessment and recommendations from the research efforts, such as a Situational Analysis on Assistance Efforts to Survivors of Human Trafficking, has the potential to contribute to universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and provide value information to inform programming and policies for the elimination of all forms of violence and eradication of forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking in conjunction with the promotion of safe working spaces. Moreover, the actions planned for coordination efforts for victim care would lead to the promotion of secure working environment for all. Through communication campaigns and joint advocacy, contributions are made to promote the rule of law and build awareness leading to behavioural change that can contribute to a reduction abuse and exploitation, thereby contributing to SDG Targets 16.2 and 16.3.<sup>8</sup>

The research conducted under this outcome contributes to GCM Objective 1, specifically, the collection and utilization of accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies. Through such research and associated communication campaigns to increase public awareness on xenophobia, discrimination and exploitation, contributions are made to GCM objective 17 on eliminating discrimination.

The outputs under outcome 2 are:

**Output 2.1** Knowledge products to support evidence- based programming and coordination developed.

In February 2022, a Situational Assessment on Assistance Efforts to Survivors of Human Trafficking was commenced under the ASC Programme to explore the effectiveness of national structures in providing support for SoTs and, more pointedly, assess the support systems for Victims of Trafficking (VoTs) in

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<sup>7</sup> SDG 3.7 - By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.

SDG 5.6 - Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

SDG 8.7 - Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

SDG 8.8 - Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.

<sup>8</sup> SDG 16.2 - End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

SDG 16.3 - Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

Trinidad and Tobago. Data was collected through semi-structured interviews with 30 key stakeholders from government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international organizations and 15 VoTs. Findings were submitted to key government partners for review and were officially presented on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to forty-five (45) officials from various government agencies and civil society organizations. The Situational Assessment would be officially published in quarter 2 of 2023. Further, the information gathered on victim care would help guide the development of a resource map while the training needs identified would also contribute to the creation of training plan for key stakeholders.



**Figure 4 (left): Photo of Case Manager Presenting on an Overview of the ASC Programme**



**Output 2.2.** Awareness on xenophobia, discrimination and exploitation, enhanced through joint advocacy.

The Communication Plan for the project has been revised given the lifting of Covid restrictions. As a result, more in-person activities are being implemented as opposed to the initial proposal of virtual.

**Outcome 3** states that Government, CSOs and UN agencies provide increased mental health and psychosocial support, direct assistance, services options for empowerment of survivors of trafficking and those at risk, including supporting their participation in trafficking prevention and response.

During the reporting period, a total 87.5% of beneficiaries reported being satisfied with the quality of service they received for Mental Health and Psychosocial support. Additionally, 91.7% of participants enrolled in the vocational skills training and empowerment programme either completely agreed or agreed that the classes were important for their needs and development.

Outcome 3 contributes to the targets 8.7 under SDG 8 on Decent Work and Economic Growth given the output which seeks to reduce the vulnerabilities of survivors of trafficking by providing support which encourage entrepreneurship and job creation which are measures to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking through livelihood and vocational training. The provision and access to other services, such as mental health and psychosocial support and options for empowerment, including comprehensive sexuality education contribute to SDG targets 5.6 as it relates to ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education.

Outcome 3 has 1 key output.

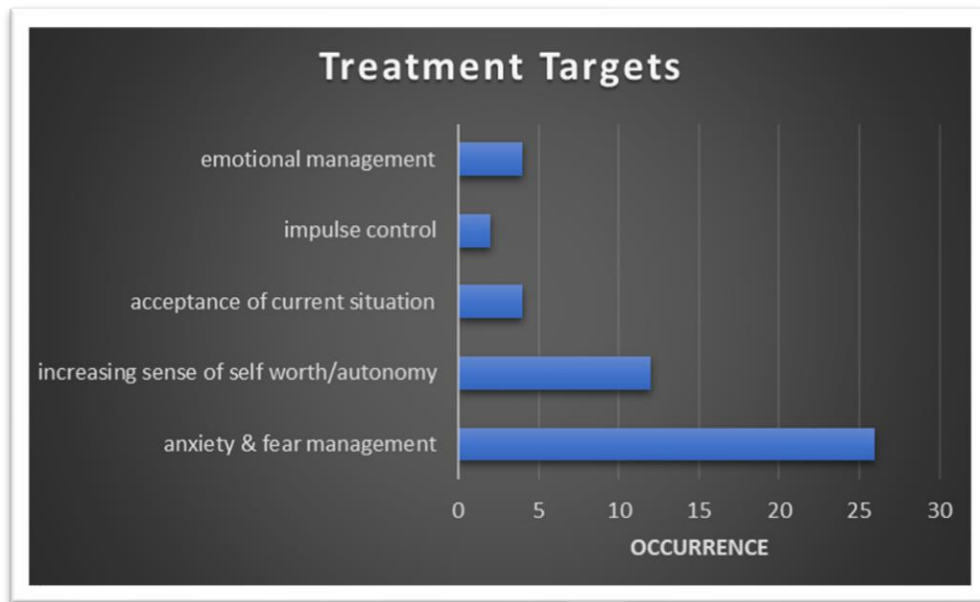
**Output 3.1.** Survivors of trafficking and UASC have increased access to comprehensive services including SRH, MHPSS services, accommodation, direct assistance, livelihood and vocational trainings.

Notably, steps towards the implementation of all activities under Output 3.1 are ongoing with the exception of Activity 3.1.3. - Configure and roll-out MigApp (bi-lingual) to include reporting of trafficking in persons and provide general tips, indicators and for online screening and identification of VoTs. It was reported that the MigApp has been discontinued and therefore steps are being taken to discuss alternative options with the Ministry of National Security.

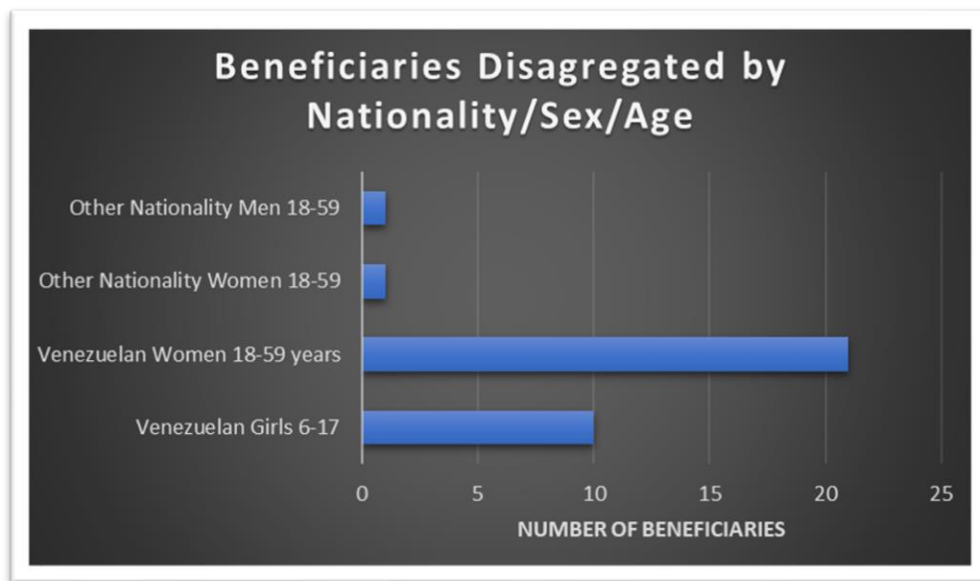
During the reporting period, a total of twenty-two (22) new SoTs were screened and assessed following referrals from both government and civil society organizations. Additionally, following the finalization of the transition plans, thirty-nine (39) SoTs were re-assessed, and goals identified to support their progress towards self-sufficiency.

In May 2022, a formal implementing partnership agreement (IPA) was completed with NGO, Families in Action (FIA), to provide Mental Health and Psychosocial Support for SoTs. The overall objective of this activity is to contribute to the comprehensive care and recovery of survivors, through improved support for their mental and emotional well-being. As of 31<sup>st</sup>December 2022, thirty-three (33) beneficiaries accessed over one hundred and forty (140) counselling sessions facilitated by FIA. All thirty-three (33)

beneficiaries have evolving treatment plans, which were jointly completed with the survivor and the psychologist. With co-occurring presenting issues, these plans generally have multiple components. The most prevalent goal of treatment is ‘anxiety & fear management’ which has been identified as a target for twenty-six (26) - or 78.8% - of the thirty-three (33) beneficiaries. The second most prevalent target is ‘increasing sense of self-worth/autonomy’ which appears in twelve (12) – or 36.3% - of treatment plans.



*Figure 5: Showing the Treatment Targets of SoTs receiving MHPSS in 2022*



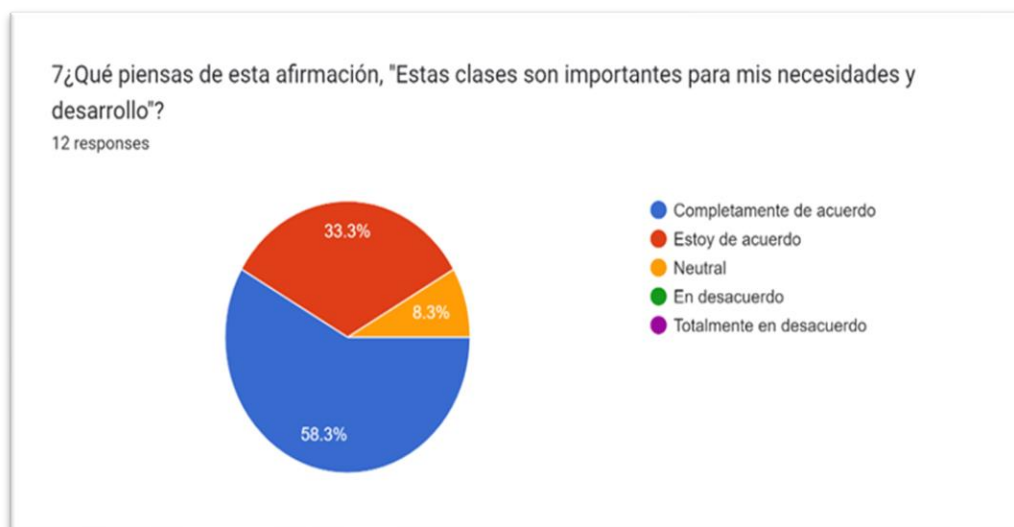
*Figure 6: Showing Demographics of SoTs Accessing MHPSS in 2022*

Regarding client feedback, twenty-four (24) of the thirty-three (33) SoTs completed feedback forms with 87.5% of respondents reporting satisfaction with the quality of service received.

While the activity is projected to reach the established target within the stipulated timeframe, there continue to be challenges with beneficiaries' compliance with scheduled appointments which has resulted in a significant number of “no-shows”.

An IPA was also completed with FIA to provide Vocational Skills Training (VST) to SoTs. The Vocation Skills Training Programme for SoTs, engenders a holistic understanding of the needs of the VoTs and promotes skills building for learning marketable skills, as well as opportunities for language learning and confidence building to compete for jobs or create a sustainable self-employment initiative in Trinidad and Tobago. SoTs’ development is guided along 3 skills components (20 English as a Second Language classes, 10 Cosmetology Arts- Nail Technician classes and 10 Micro-entrepreneurship modules) and 3 integrated psychosocial components (access to counselling services for trauma recovery, 6 empowerment engagements and 2 coaching opportunities).

Following the activity’s launch in November 2022, a total of 20 beneficiaries were enrolled in the first cohort. During this period, a total of 6 English Language sessions, 3 Vocational Skills Training sessions and 2 Empowerment engagements were completed. Like the MHPSS, the VST was also impacted by low attendance, particularly in the month of December. This can be attributed to the Christmas season and the changes in working hours of some participants as they reported having a clash of schedules. Despite these challenges, feedback from the participants revealed that 91.7% of the participants either completely agreed or agreed that the classes were important for their needs and development.



**Figure 7: Showing Participants Responses on “What is your thought on the following statement, “These classes are important for my needs and development”.**

One testimonial from one of the participants of the VST Programme is documented below:

Participant #3-Inglés: Bueno para mi ha sido una oportunidad muy buena ya que nos ha ayudado bastante, tanto para aprender y cómo comunicarse. El inglés es muy importante aquí en este país ya que vendría siendo nuestra segunda lengua.

Empoderamiento: Me gusta mucho este tema porque es un proceso mediante el cual podemos fortalecer nuestras capacidades, confianza, visión ya que nos ha ayudado mucho a impulsar cambios positivos.

Tecnología de Uñas: De todos este es mi favorito, digo que es mi favorito porque me ha ayudado a aprender sobre las uñas acrílicas y siento que lograré mi propósito, lo mío es la repostería pero también me llama mucho la atención esto de uñas, ya que por algo se empieza esto me ayudará mucho para poder ser independientes y poder trabajar ahorrar hasta poder tener nuestro negocio propio.

English: Well, for me it has been a very good opportunity since it has helped us a lot, with respect to learning and how to communicate. English is very important here in this country so it would become our second language.

Empowerment: I really like this component because it is a process through which we can strengthen our capacities, confidence, and vision, and it has helped us a lot to promote positive changes in our lives.

Nail Technology: Of all the components this is my favourite, I say that it is my favourite because it has helped me learn about acrylic nails and I feel that I will achieve my purpose. My skill is baking but nail art also captures my attention, because when I start this, it will really help me to be independent and to work and save until we can have our own business.

During the reporting period, the existing IPA with the Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago continued as they worked to enhance the well-being, resilience and protection for migrants, including those who are vulnerable to violence, exploitation and abuse, by building their capacity in life skills comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) in support of independent living. Over the past year, one cohort of three hundred and forty-five (345) persons were trained in CSE life skills through FPATT over seventeen (17) sessions. Additionally, FPATT also operated a bilingual GBV hotline to triage clients who required GBV and SRH related services, including psychological support. A total of ninety-three (93) calls were received from beneficiaries who were referred or transferred for additional GBV and SRH related services.

Regarding direct assistance, in 2022, a total of sixty-eight (68) SoTs were provided with support. These services included the provision of food, NFI (non-food items), information kits and Case Management support. While the project envisioned short to medium term support, many SoTs remain unemployed which has negatively impacted their ability to adequately meet their needs. As such, forty-five SoTs received ten (10) continuous months of assistance under the programme. Additionally, one SoT was provided with medical care and assistance with the purchasing of medication to treat physical health concerns. With regard to Case Management, all 68 SoTs would have been supported with the services of



a Migrant Protection Assistant to ensure access to direct assistance. This officer also followed up on SoTs' progress towards the goals outlined in their Transition Plans. By 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, a total of 11 SoTs were still finalizing goals to complete their transition plans, while three (3) SoTs successfully transitioned to self-sufficiency.

With respect to accommodation, a total of 32 SoTs received assistance for 2022. Similar to direct assistance, over 60% of SoTs received more than 12 months accommodation since the implementation of the ASC programme. Although this was primarily due to SoTs' inability to meet their basic needs as result of inconsistent or no employment, the provision of a national shelter specifically for SoTs can help address some of the challenges with securing proper accommodation. It should be noted that in December 2022, a local NGO contacted one of the PUNOs and offered a building to be utilized as a shelter for identified survivors of trafficking. As such, engagements have ensued with the Government, NGO and PUNO to determine the feasibility of the space to be utilized as a shelter.

Given that national child protection systems are overwhelmed with limited capacity to identify and respond to the rising needs of trafficked, unaccompanied and separated children, there are now two dedicated case management officers to support trafficked and UASC's access to comprehensive services. One case management officer has been embedded within the Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (CATT), to strengthen national capacity to address the needs of the population brought to their attention. While the other sits within CCSJ/AMMR to support community level interventions. Both work collectively to provide protection and assistance to trafficked and UASC, including seeking to establish family and community-based alternative care arrangements, direct assistance, MHPSS and referrals to education and vocational training. Referral pathways and Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs) for alternative care of unaccompanied and separated children and CFSs were updated, a programme document for cash-based interventions for child headed households and unaccompanied children was drafted and support was provided to children from CFSs and unaccompanied and trafficked children's enrolment into the DAWERE education programme.

As part of the CFSs, children are provided with intersectoral programming including MHPSS, education, child protection, life-saving messages and integration. Altogether 2,111 children and caregivers were provided with direct mental health and psychosocial support through group and individual sessions, and art therapy. Additionally, 84 unaccompanied and separated children were provided with case management including family reunification and alternative care.

Under the ASC Programme, support was provided in establishing two teenage corners to facilitate children's access to vocational, education and entertainment materials and tools in Spanish. One was established within the office of the CTU, while the other was established within the new migrant home for trafficked girls. Ongoing discussions are being held to ensure adoption and adherence to international alternative care standards and to ensure best interest principles are upheld in the care and integration of these children.



The Heroes Foundation continues to develop digitised psychosocial programming that will benefit both host and migrant populations with the aim of supporting integration and the development of social and emotional life skills and learning to children. The development and design of the programme curriculum were informed through feedback and consultations with host and migrant children and families to establish their needs and interests, and to mobilize their support for the co-delivery of the programme.

Results Reporting Framework						
INDICATORS	Baseline	Results achieved for the reporting period (only provide data for the specified year)			Cumulative Results <i>Note: For Y1 report, this will be the same; For Y2 report, it will be Y1+Y2; and for Y3 report, it will be Y1+Y2+Y3</i>	Notes
		Y1	Y2	Y3		
OUTCOME 1						
National and community-based protection systems demonstrate improved knowledge to screen, identify, assist and re/integrate survivors of trafficking and UASC.						
Indicator 1a % of government actors showing improved knowledge in post questionnaire	0	0	0		0	
Indicator 1b % of community-based actors showing improved knowledge in post questionnaire	0	0	0		0	

Indicator 1c						
% of beneficiaries stating their needs were met from government agencies	0	0	0		0	
OUTPUT 1.1						
Government actors trained to screen, identify, assist and re/integrate survivors of trafficking and UASC						
Indicator 1.1a						
Number of government actors trained to:						
a) Screen and identify survivors of trafficking and UASC	0	0	219		219	
b) Assist and re/integrate survivors of trafficking and UASC						
Disaggregated by: Sex and Age						
Indicator 1.1b	0	0	0		0	

# of users trained and registered on inter-agency case-management system						
OUTPUT 1.2						
Community actors trained to screen, identify, assist and re/integrate survivors of trafficking and UASC						
<p>Indicator 1.2a</p> <p>Number of community actors trained to:</p> <p>a. Screen and identify survivors of trafficking and UASC</p> <p>b. Assist and re/integrate survivors of trafficking and UASC</p> <p>Disaggregated by: Geographic location (Regional Corporations), sex and age</p>	0	0	98		98	
<p>Indicator 1.2b</p> <p>Number of persons in targeted communities who benefit from</p>	0	0	3888		3888	

survivors of trafficking sensitization.						
Indicator 1.2c  # of children, adolescent, and women received GBV response services, including risk mitigation interventions and prevention.  Disaggregated by: Geographic location (Regional Corporations), sex and age	0	0	4970		4970	
<p><b>OUTCOME 2</b></p> <p>Increased collaboration among government, CSOs and UN Agencies to effectively coordinate, mitigate risks, identify solutions and tackle xenophobia, discrimination and exploitation.</p>						
Indicator 2a  Existence of an in/formal system for sharing information and coordination system	0	0	0		0	

Indicator 2b  % of stakeholder feedback reporting improved coordination in programme implementation and service delivery	0	0	0		0	
OUTPUT 2.1  Knowledge products to support evidence-based programming and coordination developed						
Indicator 2.1a  Number of knowledge products developed to support evidence-based programming and coordination of access to services.	0	0	2		2	
OUTPUT 2.2  Awareness on xenophobia, discrimination and exploitation, enhanced through joint advocacy.						
Indicator 2.2a	0	0	0		0	

# of people reached with messages against xenophobia and discrimination						
<p><b>OUTCOME 3</b></p> <p>Government, CSOs and UN Agencies provide increased mental health and psychosocial support, direct assistance, services options for empowerment of survivors of trafficking and those at risk, including supporting their participation in trafficking prevention and response.</p>						
<p><i>Indicator 3a</i></p> <p>% of identified survivors of trafficking who report increased access to at least 1 of the specialised services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. SRH</li> <li>ii. MHPSS services</li> <li>iii. Accommodation</li> <li>iv. Direct Assistance</li> </ul> <p>Disaggregated by: Geographical regions (Regional Corporations), sex and age</p>	0	0	0		0	
<i>Indicator 3b</i>	0	0	87.5%		87.5%	



<p>% of identified survivors of trafficking who report satisfaction in the quality of service received in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. SRH</li> <li>ii. MHPSS services</li> <li>iii. Accommodation</li> <li>iv. Direct Assistance</li> </ul> <p>Disaggregated by: Geographical regions (Regional Corporations), sex and age</p>						
<p><i>Indicator 3c</i></p> <p><i>% of survivors who report feeling empowered in participating in trafficking prevention and response.</i></p>	0	0	91.7%		91.7%	
<p style="text-align: center;">OUTPUT 3.1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Survivors of trafficking and UASC have increased access to comprehensive services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SRH</li> <li>• MHPSS services</li> <li>• Accommodation</li> </ul>						

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct Assistance</li> <li>• Livelihood and vocational trainings</li> </ul>						
<p>Indicator 3.1a</p> <p>Number of women, men, boys and girls accessing psychosocial support.</p> <p>Disaggregated by: Geographical regions (Regional Corporations), sex and age.</p>	0	0	2144		2144 (1056 males, 1055 females)	
<p>Indicator 3.1b</p> <p>Number of VoTs receiving direct assistance.</p> <p>Disaggregated by: Geographical regions (Regional Corporations), sex and age</p>	0	0	68		68 (67 females, 1 male)	
<p>Indicator 3.1c</p> <p>Number of survivors benefiting from at least one of the following services:</p>	0	0	438		438	

<p>1. sexual and reproductive health services 2. education 3. life skills development</p> <p>Disaggregated by: Geographical regions (Regional Corporations), sex and age</p>						
<p>Indicator 3.1d</p> <p>Number of UASC and VoTs accessing alternative care and short/medium term accommodation.</p> <p>Disaggregated by: Geographical regions (Regional Corporations), sex and age.</p>	0	28	88		116 (94 females, 22 males)	<p><b>It should be noted that 28 SoTs from y1 continued to receive support in y2.</b></p>
<p>Indicator 3.1e</p> <p>Number of VoTs participating in livelihood, vocational and empowerment programmes.</p>	0	0	20		20 (20 females)	

Disaggregated by: Geographical regions (Regional Corporations), sex and age						
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### 3. Partnerships

The ASC Programme utilizes a whole-of-society approach which includes partnerships with Government stakeholders, Civil Society Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations. Over the reporting period, the following partnerships were forged and continued to be strengthened:

The Ministry of National Security, more specifically, the Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU), which is the government agency charged with screening and identifying victims of trafficking as well as ensuring that SoTs have access to comprehensive victim care. During the reporting period the CTU continued to support with the implementation of key activities under the ASC Programme. This Agency has been an active participant in the case management process by ensuring that SoTs obtain the relevant documentation to safely access employment in Trinidad and Tobago. The CTU also continues to refer SoTs for support including food, and accommodation assistance, non-food items, MHPSS, medical support and case management. Additionally, the CTU, as a unit within the Ministry of National Security, IOM's main interlocutor with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, continues to follow up on the progress of the cabinet approval and provides updates on any outstanding interventions required by the PUNOs. The CTU has also been actively engaged in the establishment of a shelter for adult SoTs and has committed to partnering with PUNOs to execute awareness initiatives in 2023.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) was identified as the main implementing government partner for the ASC Programme. As a signatory on the ASC's Joint Programme Document, the agency was tasked with submitting the Programme to Cabinet for Government approval which was completed in November 2021, however, final approval for the programme is still pending. Despite these advancements by the Ministry, several inter-ministerial restructurings have resulted in the placement of senior officials who appear to be unaware of the Ministry's role in victim care. This has negatively impacted the implementation of activities specifically designated for the MSDFS including the piloting of the case management system and both the establishment and envisaged co-chairing of the Joint Programme Steering Committee (JPSC).

The Ministry of Labour (MOL) is charged with the responsibility of promoting decent work which includes but is not limited to monitoring the workplace environment and enforcing local labour laws. This ministry continues to be a key partner in ASC Programme and have been very instrumental in the role of capacity building initiatives. The organization also provides insight into the role of the ministry as it relates to victim care and is willing to ensure that all front-line officers have strengthened capacity to identify victims of trafficking.

Office of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs (AGLA) has also been an instrumental partner in the roll out of initiatives under the ASC Programme. More pointedly, the Ministry has continued to follow up on the progress of the cabinet approval and has provided support in reviewing the situational analysis to ensure findings are in line with the local legislation. It is anticipated that continued collaboration would be ongoing with the Ministry in the following years of implementation especially as it relates to capacity building.

The Children’s Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (CATT), the leading child protection agency within the country aimed at strengthening the child protection framework for unaccompanied, separated and trafficked children has also been a key partner of the ASC Programme. During the period of review, the CATT continued to receive support with Case Management and other interventions to support UASC.

Programme agreements have been finalised with five civil society organisations:

The Catholic Commission for Social Justice (Archdiocese Ministry for Migrants and Refugees), who continues to provide direct services to the migrant population including safe spaces, mental health and psychosocial support, alternative care for unaccompanied and separated children and gender-based violence prevention through community outreaches involving migrant volunteers and stakeholders.

The Heroes Foundation who provides psychosocial programming to both host and migrant populations with the aim of supporting integration and the development of social and emotional life skills and learning to children. The development and design of the programme curriculum were informed through feedback and consultations with host and migrant children and families to establish their needs and interests, and to mobilize their support for the co-delivery of the programme.

The Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society (TTRCS) is an auxiliary in the humanitarian field to the Government of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago. As a non-profit humanitarian organization, the TTRCS focuses our resources on providing communities with disaster preparedness and quality health programmes designed to empower the most vulnerable in our society. Under the ASC Programme, the TTRCS will support the roll-out of a cash-intervention to support unaccompanied children and child-headed households.

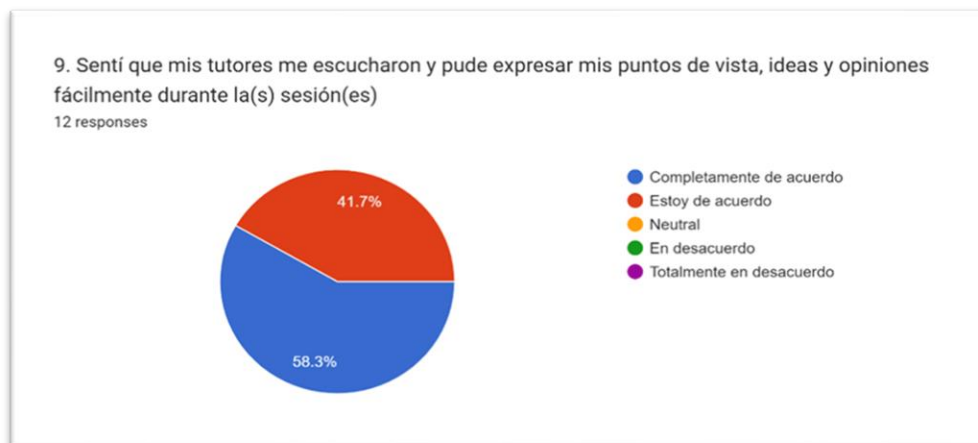
The Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago (FPATT) has continued to provide sexual and reproductive health and life skills education, counselling, medical and GBV services to both victims and potential victims of trafficking.

In 2022, the Families in Action (FIA) commenced implementation of two main activities under the ASC Programme. FIA currently provides Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services to SoTs and conducts a Vocational Skills Training Programme with built in components on empowerment, micro-entrepreneurship and English as a Second Language.

<b>Implementation Agreements</b>			
<b>Name &amp; Type of Partner</b>	<b>Type of implementation agreement (please specify if any MOU or agreement was formally entered)</b>	<b>Relevant outcome and/or output; PUNO counterpart</b>	<b>Financial value (if any)</b>
<b>Local government and/or related entities</b>			
Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago	Basic Cooperation Agreement	Output 1.1 UNICEF	68,667.00
<b>Non-governmental stakeholders</b>			
Families in Action	Implementing Partnership Agreement	Output 3.1 IOM	129,550.00
Catholic Commission for Social Justice/Archdiocesan Ministry for Migrants and Refugees	Programme Cooperation Agreement	Output 1.2, 3.1 UNICEF	490,963.00
Heroes Foundation	Programme Cooperation Agreement	Output 3.1 UNICEF	55,630.00
Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society	Programme Cooperation Agreement	Output 3.1 UNICEF	23,324.00
Family Planning Association Trinidad and Tobago	Implementing Partnership Agreement	Output 3.1 FPATT	72,637.94

#### 4. Cross-Cutting Issues

This joint programme reflects the human rights obligations contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in accordance with Trinidad and Tobago’s ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. While the joint programme addresses the sustainability of actions through institutional capacity development and partnerships, it also ensures that targeted beneficiaries are directly involved in the decision making and implementation process. As part of the situational analysis, a total of fifteen (15) SoTs were interviewed to ensure that the perspectives of the target population were included in the study. Additionally, in the completion of the individualized needs assessments, transition plans and treatment plans for SoTs, all beneficiaries are given the opportunity to identify their needs and goals as well as indicate the type of support they require. Further, the beneficiary's perspective, views and feedback are also of paramount importance in the vocational training sessions to ensure that such activities are meeting the needs and expectations of the target population. It should be noted that feedback from the participants revealed that 100% either completely agreed or agreed that they felt that their tutors listened, and they were able to express their views, ideas and opinions easily during the sessions.



**Figure 8: Showing Participants Responses on “I felt like my tutors listened to me and I could have expressed my point of views, ideas and opinions easily during the sessions.**

With regard to gender responsiveness, the issue of human trafficking is highly gendered as the primary victims are usually women and girls. The ASC programme seeks to equip vulnerable populations with the necessary information needed to migrate safely and access assistance where necessary. This is mainstreamed into protection initiatives as newly identified victims are provided with information kits which include brochures on human and labour rights, covid-19 guidelines, tips on disaster preparedness and emergency resources available in Trinidad and Tobago. Another aim of the programme is to establish life-skills training to build the capacity of women and adolescents and



increase their opportunities for integration into host communities as training strategically focus on topics such as language exchange, communication, negotiation skills, wellness, self-care and self-esteem, gender, sex, sexuality and STDs, trauma, money management and budgeting.

Achieving equitable and improved prevention of and response to violence, exploitation and harmful practices is central to realizing the rights of every child, as set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols. The ASC Programme supports strengthening systems for gender-equitable learning outcomes, personal empowerment and employability targeting the most vulnerable and marginalised. Child friendly spaces, alternative care and psychosocial support programmes are integral initiatives where age-appropriate and child sensitive approaches are utilised understanding the unique needs and circumstances of boys, girls and children with disabilities, as well as learning styles, capacities, socioeconomic and age differences. Children participate in programme design and play a dynamic role in encouraging their peers and wider communities to become active social agents in programme implementation and sustainability.

## **5. Constraints, Adjustments, Lessons and Good Practices**

One of the risks highlighted in the Joint Programme document was the wavering political commitment that exists in Trinidad and Tobago on migration issues. This does not only occur when there is a change in government but also when there is a reshuffle of high-level officials such as ministers, permanent secretaries and chief technical officers among government ministries. During the drafting of the ASC project proposal, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) agreed to be the lead government partner in the roll out of the programme. This was further confirmed by the then Permanent Secretary's endorsement of the final project proposal document on 29th April 2021. However, following the Permanent Secretary's endorsement, she was reassigned to another ministry which resulted in a delay in the drafting of the Note for Cabinet as well as the formalization of a partnership to implement relevant activities under the joint programme. Additionally, official requests for courtesy calls to both the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services as well as the Ministry of National Security were submitted in March 2022, however, no meetings have been forthcoming. Despite these delays, PUNOs continue to follow up with other government partners such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Office of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs for updates on the progress of the note. Continued attempts to formally engage with both government ministries will continue into 2023. It is also anticipated that relevant Ambassadors would also be engaged to help advocate for the approval of the note in order to officially launch the ASC Programme.

Another key role of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services in the joint programme is the co-chairing of the Joint Programme Steering Committee whose primary function is to ensure a comprehensive approach, to monitor programme implementation and to address any bottlenecks to ensure effective coordination among national agencies responsible for victim care according to the TiP Act (2011). Given the pending status of the cabinet's approval, the JPSC has not yet convened,

consequently negatively impacting the monitoring of the ASC Programme as outlined in the proposal. As a result, a revised monitoring framework is now being considered to ensure the success of the project.

The piloting of a Case Management System as well as the establishment of a national shelter for adult SoTs are two activities that were also envisaged to be completed in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services. However, given the existence of some challenges with engaging the Ministry, implementation of the two activities have not yet commenced. In consideration of the project timeline and the fact that one year and six months of implementation time has already elapsed, alternatives such as the merging of the case management system with the existing GBV database and partnering with the CTU to establish the shelter are now being considered. Notably, with the delay in identifying and operationalizing a national shelter, individual accommodation arrangements continue for SoTs. While this ensures that SoTs have access to safe housing, the cost of securing individual rental accommodation for each SoT is exorbitant and reduces budget allocations designated for the shelter. This issue, is also further perpetuated by SoTs' unemployment which limits their ability to meet their basic needs and transition to self-sufficiency, thus requiring long term support from the programme. In spite of the lifting of Covid 19 restrictions, employment continues to be a challenge for many SoTs as some are without documentation which permit their legal access to work. Ongoing discussions are being conducted with the CTU to explore the possibility of these SoTs receiving short-term permits to help support their transition to independence. Additionally, the CTU has also been instrumental in supporting SoTs' attempts to obtain employment by conducting checks at various establishments to ensure there is reduced risk of victimization and exploitation.

During the implementation of key activities to support victim care, specifically in areas of Vocational Skills Training and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support there has been an observed challenge with non-attendance by SoTs. For both activities, following the first few months of implementation, there has been a noticeable decline in attendance at scheduled sessions. This absenteeism is noted even after SoTs have given confirmations of their attendance as recent as the day before or morning of the session. To address this challenge, the implementing partner and PUNO have decided to take a joint approach to follow up with the relevant beneficiaries and request information on the factors that may be inhibiting their attendance and determine workable solutions for both parties. Regarding MHPSS, the approach has been slightly different as the effectiveness of these sessions are also based on the beneficiary's willingness to participate. As such, follow up intervention also includes the reassurance that clients have the right to self-determination and can decide they no longer want to participate at any point in the process. The beneficiaries are also informed that they are free to re-join the sessions whenever they believe it becomes necessary.

Another constraint encountered in the implementation of the MHPSS was the SoTs' misunderstanding of the counsellor's role. As previously stated, it has been noted that a significant number of SoTs have been experiencing challenges meeting their basic needs which has contributed to a high level of

anxiety being reported. In some cases, SoTs have spent a large part of their counselling sessions seeking more general case management, inclusive of support to secure moneys for housing, work permits, food, etc as opposed to therapeutic intervention to treat with their trauma. To combat such occurrences, the Bilingual Project Officer was asked to send a general message to all current clients to re-iterate the role of the counsellor. Additionally, the PUNO has also requested that all queries of this nature be forwarded so further follow up and intervention can be actioned to support the SoTs.

In 2022, there were internal changes to one of the PUNO's financial processes which protracted the timeline for the procurement of goods. This negatively impacted the delivery of food assistance to SoTs and resulted in delays with distributions. To effectively address this situation, the procurement process is now being completed every two months as opposed to monthly. This ensures there is always an additional month's worth of vouchers on hand as well as sufficient time for the procurement process to be successfully completed.

A core element in the ASC Programme is the use of existing technology platforms to provide information and support to SoTs and USAC. One such platform was the MigApp which was developed by IOM to provide up to date and reliable information about and for migrants, enabling direct access to services, a safe space to experience sharing and benefits for migrant empowerment. Unfortunately, since implementation of the ASC, the MigApp has been discontinued as the organization looks towards another platform with more enhanced services and greater reach. As such, discussions have already begun with the relevant technological experts on a suitable alternative to be implemented in Trinidad and Tobago.

Notably over the past year, there were also several lessons learnt as it relates to project implementation and partnerships. One key lesson includes the verification of consultants prior to finalization of a contractual agreement for services in order to ensure that the consultant can adequately meet the comprehensive scope as outlined in the terms of reference. In the implementation of the TNA, the initial consultant was only able to accomplish the drafting of the data collection instrument. As such, a new consultant was retained to continue implementation of the TiP TNA in quarter 2 of 2023. Notably given the scope of the activity, the implementation would now be completed in two phases, data gathering and analysis to ascertain the relevant training needs of each stakeholder and the development of a training plan which would be completed by a separate consultant. It should be noted that this would also require an increased budget and the possible reallocation of funds.

During the reporting period, there were several good practices noted, these included the procurement of vouchers at least one month in advance of distributions, the procurement of additional vouchers for newly identified SoTs and the joint follow ups conducted by both implementing partners and PUNOs to identify challenges which negatively impacted beneficiaries' attendance to scheduled appointments and classes. Another good practice was the instituting of monthly "check-ins" with implementing partners. This allowed both organizations to identify and

address issues in a timely manner and ensured the successful implementation of the relevant activities.

In order to mainstream psychosocial support (PSS) for migrant children within the broader prevention measures, a plan to digitise a psychosocial programme was established with the Heroes Foundation. Building on the experience of the Heroes Foundation, the PSS curriculum will be digitized for use within the Child Friendly Spaces. This will include 250 lessons which will cover 3 years of programming for children aged 5-11 years old, available in English and Spanish and supported on the Heroes Connect Platform. Both the migrant and host population children will be able to access to these programmes, track their progress and receive a digital certificate for completing each course. Facilitators across different CFSs will be trained to utilize and adapt the curriculum as necessary for a hybrid approach and in promoting online safety. Further, the method in which CFSs operate have also shifted to a hybrid approach which involves online, face-to-face and roving modalities of service provision. This innovative approach has resulted in more children benefitting from the services, especially those in hard-to-reach areas.

As the joint programme moves past the one year and six-month mark, a closer relationship with the Counter Trafficking Unit has ensued in preparation for the national handover of activities. Although it was initially envisioned that the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, as the legislated body to provide victim care, would be the primary partner for this initiative, internal challenges continue to create barriers for project implementation. Despite this, the capacity of the Counter Trafficking Unit within the Ministry of National Security is already being strengthened in case management to ensure that victims have access to services at the national level.

### Conclusion and Next Steps

To date, positive strides continue to be made towards the implementation of activities under the ASC Programme. While several unanticipated delays continue to impact the implementation of a few activities, PUNOs remain in contact with government focal points to address any queries concerning the joint programme. For ongoing activities, it is projected that implementation would continue especially as it relates to victim care and unaccompanied and separated children. During 2023, the primary focus of the ASC Programme would be the completion of the Training Needs Assessment, the Resource Map and Referral Pathway as well as more robust capacity building initiatives with both government and civil society organizations. Additionally, greater emphasis would also be placed on awareness raising, as a walk against trafficking is being planned to commemorate “World Day Against Trafficking in Persons” on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The rollout of Community Outreaches and the COMBI strategy to address discrimination and xenophobia are also in the process of being implemented in the next reporting period.

**ANNEX**

**ANNEX A**

**Connect to Protect Networking Event**



**Figure A1: Save the Date for Networking Event**



**Figure A3: IOM POS's Head of Office, Ms. Jewel, Chief Immigration Officer, Ms. Charmaine Gandhi-Andrews and Deputy Director, Counter Trafficking Unit, Ms. Kimoy Thomas.**

**Figure A2: Officials from the Office of the Prime Minister and Gender Based Violence Unit of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service.**



**FigureA4: Officials of the Counter Trafficking Unit, Ministry of Social Development, UNICEF and IOM**

**ANNEX B**

**Capacity Building**



***Figure A5: Joint Capacity Building initiative conducted with forty-one (41) members of the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard and Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force***

**ANNEX C**

**Child Friendly Spaces**

**Figures A6, A7, A8, A9 – Photos of Child Friendly Spaces in Trinidad and Tobago**





**ANNEX D**

**Community Outreach – Carapichaima Trinidad**

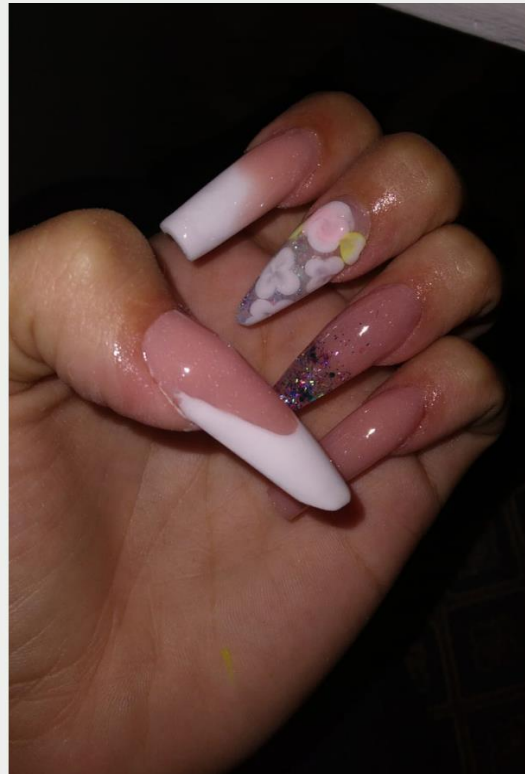
**Figures A10, A11, A12, A13, A14 – Photos of staff, volunteers, and beneficiaries at community outreach.**

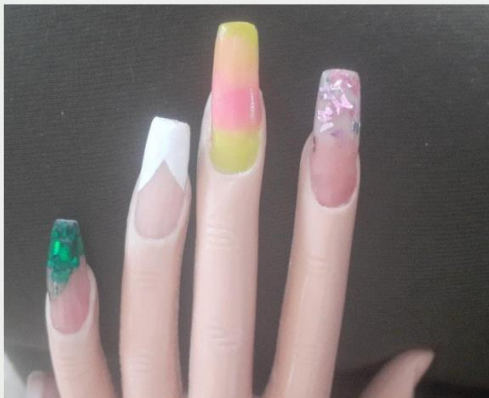
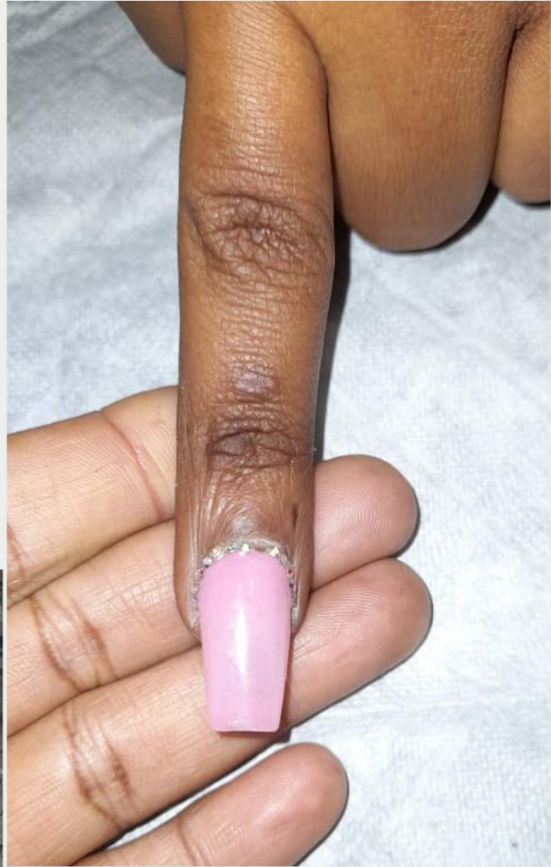


**ANNEX E**

**Vocational Skills Training**

**Figure A15, A16, A17, A18, A19, A20, A21, A22, A23 – Photos of Nail Art Completed by Participants of Cohort 1**





## ANNEX F

### Vocational Skills Training - Beneficiary Testimonials.

**Participant #1** Para mi ha sido una experiencia maravillosa el poder aprender y saber cómo preparar una uña y montar una uña, saber manipular los materiales para así beneficiarme de mi aprendizaje y obtener ganancias a la hora de un buen trabajo.

La sección de inglés y empoderamiento ha sido una experiencia linda ya que hemos tenido la oportunidad de aprender un poco más el inglés y darle buena pronunciación a palabras que no sabías decirlas y lo más bonito es que es gratuito y lo aprovecho al máximo.

*For me it has been a wonderful experience to learn how to prepare and assemble nails, to learn how to use the materials and benefit from what was taught and earn money by getting a good job in the future.*

*The English and Empowerment components have been a nice experience for me since we were given the opportunity to learn a little more English and practice proper pronunciation of words that I did not know how to say. The most beautiful thing is that it is free and I make the most of it.*

**Participant #2-** Con respecto a las clases de inglés, me gustan mucho. Me siento cómoda, además me gusta la manera de enseñar de la profesora aunque a veces no entiendo pero después ya agarro la onda. Las clases de empoderamiento me gustan mucho. El razonamiento que hace el tutor es muy bueno y las clases son dinámicas.

Las clases de uñas me encantan mucho mucho. Es la primera vez que hago esto y me encantan. Mi experiencia con las clases es muy buena, me gusta que me ayudaran para un futuro y en cualquier parte que yo esté esto me ayudará mucho. De verdad que me siento muy agradecida y también les doy las gracias por tomarme en cuenta para este programa. Deseo que sigan así. Excelente trabajo. Amo mis clases; a veces no me siento bien de salud o estoy un poco ocupada pero trato de no perderme las clases. Estoy feliz de tener buenos tutores como lo son ustedes. Gracias, Jehova los bendiga siempre.

*Regarding the English classes, I really like them. I feel comfortable, and I also like the teacher's approach when teaching. Sometimes I don't understand at first, but then I get the hang of it. I really like the empowerment classes too. The tutor has very good reasoning and the classes are dynamic.*

*I love the nail technology classes very much. This is my first time doing this and I love it. My experience with the classes is very good, I like that they help me for the future so that wherever I am this will serve me well. Honestly, I feel very grateful, and I would also like to thank you for considering me for this program. I want everything to continue just like this. Excellent work. I love my classes; sometimes I don't feel well or I'm a little busy, but I try not to miss the classes. I am happy to have good tutors like you all. Thank you, Jehovah bless you always.*

**ANNEX G**

**Situational Analysis**

**Figures A24, A25, A26 – Participants at the Presentation of Findings for Situational Analysis**



**Figure A24: Her Excellency Ute König, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany delivering her opening remarks.**



**Figure A25 (above): Charmaine Gandhi-Andrews giving feedback on the report findings.**



**Figure A26 (left): Mr. Richard Lynch, Deputy Director, International Affairs Unit bringing remarks on behalf of the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds, Minister of National Security**

## ANNEX H

### Situational Analysis – Draft Executive Summary

#### Executive Summary

The significant evolution of human trafficking, over time, has been propelled by an increasing demand for victims, who are vulnerable to “push” factors, which thrust them into situations of exploitation and abuse. The huge profits generated from these schemes are also well documented, although the true magnitude of operations remains unknown. Therefore, cognizant of the escalating global threat of human trafficking, addressing this phenomenon has been integrated into the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development under different goals and targets.

In 2011, the Government of the twin-island Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, similarly, having grappled with emerging trends of Trafficking in Persons (TiP), developed national anti-trafficking legislation and associated mechanisms, to manage counter-trafficking activities. However, since its inception, very little research efforts have been undertaken to systematically explore the effectiveness of these structures and, more pointedly, assess support systems for Victims of Trafficking (VoTs) in Trinidad and Tobago, as noted within the ASC Programme.

Therefore, in response to this gap, the International Organization for Migration Port of Spain (IOM POS) Mission’s research team employed qualitative methods to:

- a. Identify the current situation of TiP in Trinidad and Tobago;
- b. Indicate key systems and structures that support assistance efforts to VoTs;
- c. Examine the main strengths and gaps of existing assistance services to VoTs;
- d. Understand the needs of both the stakeholders who assist VoTs and the VoTs themselves; and
- e. Propose recommendations for improving assistance efforts to VoTs.

From February to March 2022, data was collected through semi-structured interviews with 30 key stakeholders from government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international organizations (see Appendix A) and 13 VoTs.

Accordingly, the use of standardized data analytical methods produced the following key findings:

- Human trafficking is a formidable matter for Trinidad and Tobago.
- Trinidad and Tobago is primarily a destination and transit country for human trafficking and may be a source country.
- Main methods of recruitment primarily include social media, such as WhatsApp and Facebook.
  - Secondary methods include newspaper advertisements.
- Human trafficking schemes are intricately organized, networked, criminal enterprises, with comprising experienced operatives in both Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago.
- Irregular entry points, via sea, have expanded beyond the traditional southern and southwestern peninsular options to include any unmanned area along the island’s coastline.
- Sexual exploitation emerged as the most prevalent form of exploitation. Labour exploitation was also identified to a lesser degree.
- The COVID-19 pandemic heightened migrants’ vulnerability to trafficking as it resulted in some cases of:

- Declined income and loss of livelihood;
- Decreased access to shelters;
- Increased health issues along with reduced health care options; and
- Limited assistance options inclusive of mental health services.
- Prevention efforts were generally viewed as inadequate.
- The TIP legislation is 'good', however, its efficacy relied on proper execution and enforcement.
- Institutional arrangements require enhancement.
  - Key policies not yet developed such as the migration, anti-smuggling, and labour migration policies,
  - Absence of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the treatment of VoTs; and
  - Ad hoc approach to investigations and prosecution.
- Urgent victim needs include shelter, medical/health care, psychological support, education and training, legal assistance, protection/safety, employment, translation/interpretation services, information, re-integration, freedom, and documentation.
- Major challenges to the provision of services include shortage of professional staff, unclear and unstructured referral mechanisms, victims' safety concerns, victims' lack of trust in authorities, inadequate placement facilities for children, and absence of:
  - Legal guardianship systems for children;
  - Identification documents for some VoTs; and
  - Standard Operating Procedures for assisting VoTs.

The main recommendations, towards improving assistance efforts for VoTs in Trinidad and Tobago, included:

- Review, update, and bolster the TIP Act.
- Develop and/or finalise migration, labour migration and anti-smuggling policies.
- Create a specific policy for victims of trafficking.
- Approve, fund, and implement the anti-trafficking National Action Plan for 2021-2023<sup>1</sup>.
- Increase proactive victim identification and screening within vulnerable communities.
- Intensify TIP investigations, prosecutions, and convictions of traffickers including complicit officials and staff.
- Enhance the capacity of law enforcement and prosecuting authorities to identify and prosecute the crime.
  - Explore an integrated database between/among key stakeholder agencies to facilitate the rapid identification of known traffickers and smugglers.
  - Address indicated training needs of service providers and key stakeholders.
- Strengthen interagency relationships to support identification, screening, and referral processes, outreach to victims, and address supply chain issues.
- Develop a comprehensive National Trafficking Victim Service Provider Referral List.
- Create and implement SOPs and shared terminologies for collaborating agencies and define agencies' core roles and responsibilities to victims and to the partnerships.
  - Formalize interagency human-trafficking support network.

<sup>1</sup> The anti-trafficking National Action Plan was approved subsequent to the data collection and reporting phases of the project. The period of this Plan was extended to 2023.

- Pursue and sustain prevention efforts that are focused on both the demand side of trafficking in persons i.e., demand for sex, forced labour, and free labour, as well as the supply side, which relates to effective border management.
- Ensure safety needs of victims are protected and that they are not criminalized.
- Extend access to education and decent employment to VoTs.
- Provide adequate housing for VoTs.
- Increase the availability of bilingual services to VoTs.
- Collect, analyze and use TiP data to inform TiP activities.
- Conduct studies in the prevalence of trafficking and victim attrition levels.
- Heighten public sensitization on TiP.
- Reinforce victims' trust in local systems.
- Improve public confidence in authorities to improve TiP reporting.

The report also recognized upcoming TiP initiatives, which would complement existing efforts. Nonetheless, it concludes that despite the efforts of service providers and the availability of VoT support services in Trinidad and Tobago there is room for improvement and growth particularly in the areas of policy development, harmonization of legislation, strengthened capacity for stakeholders and expansion of some services.

This Situational Analysis is being conducted as an activity under the ASC Programme, which is funded by the Migration Multi Partner Trust Fund (MPTF).



**ANNEX H**

**Press Release on Presentation of Findings for Situational Analysis**

[IOM POS: Human traffickers mainly using FB, WhatsApp to lure victims | Loop Trinidad & Tobago \(loopnews.com\)](#)

**ANNEX I**

**Child Sensitivity Marker Self-Assessment Matrix**

Self-Assessment Questions	Answer	Justification / Additional Info
<p>1. Has a <b>child rights impact assessment</b> been conducted to identify potential positive and negative impacts of the project on children, whether intended or unintended?</p>	Yes	<p>The Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) as a model has been tested and used widely by UNICEF is a protection initiative to support child rights.</p>
<p>2. Do PUNOs and implementing partners have <b>safeguarding</b> policies and practices in place, and will all staff and non-staff personnel working with children receive training on safeguarding prior to commencement of joint programme implementation?</p>	Yes	<p>Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse sessions are conducted with all partners and key stakeholders of the joint programme. There is also the Child Protection Referral Pathway and the CFS Standard Operating Procedures.</p>
<p>3. Please provide an estimated percentage of the <b>programme budget</b> allocated towards advancing children's rights and meeting children's needs. If not 100%, explain your rationale/the formula you used for reaching this percentage.</p>	38.46%	<p>1,000,000 USD of the total budget is for child based programming.</p>

<p>4. Do you have a plan to establish and maintain a <b>meaningful consultation process</b> with children throughout the duration of the Joint Programme, including the evaluation phase?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>CFS Focus Group discussions are conducted on a quarterly basis.</p>
<p>5. Does the joint programme include <b>capacity-building</b> for children on their rights?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This is included as part of the curriculum at CFS(s)</p>
<p>6. Will all staff and non-staff personnel of PUNOs and implementing partners working with children in the joint programme be trained <b>on engaging with children and on children’s rights and needs</b>, including on children’s participation, prior to commencement of joint programme implementation?</p>	<p>Yes / No</p>	<p>Yes, capacity building on child sensitive approaches is a component of the joint programme.</p>
<p>7. For any joint programme expected results (outcomes, outputs) that involve children, will all data collected be disaggregated by age, sex, and where possible by other identities, e.g. migration status, disability, LGBTQ+, taking into account data protection principles?</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>The data would only be disaggregated by sex and age.</p>
<p>8. Please choose one of the following below or choose N/A if not applicable.</p> <p><b>A:</b> Achieving impact for children by addressing the specific needs and challenges faced by children affected by migration is the <b>overall/primary objective</b> of the joint programme. <b>All outcomes and outputs</b> contribute towards, and all indicators measure change in terms of children’s rights and needs.</p> <p><b>B:</b> Achieving impact for children by addressing the specific needs and challenges faced by children affected by migration is a <b>significant component</b> of the joint programme. <b>At least one outcome</b> contributes towards, and related output-level indicator(s) measure change in terms of children’s rights and needs.</p> <p><b>C:</b> Achieving impact for children by addressing the specific needs and challenges faced by children affected by migration is a <b>minor component</b> of the joint programme. <b>At least one output</b> contributes towards, and related indicator(s) measure change in terms of children’s rights and needs.</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>The primary objective of the joint programme is to ensure increased accessibility of survivors of trafficking (both adults and minors) to receive comprehensive and integrated survivor centred specialized services through improved and strengthened national</p>

		protection systems including community-based organizations.
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