

Migration MPTF • Annual Report

PROJECT INFORMATION	
Joint Programme Title:	Costa Rica: Strengthening Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Agencies' Capacity to Coordinate and Exchange Information to Investigate and Prosecute Human Trafficking and the Smuggling of Migrants
Country(ies)/Region (or indicate if a global initiative):	Costa Rica
Project Identification Number:	00140115
Start and Planned End Dates	16 March 2023- 15 September 2024
Convening Agent (Lead PUNO):	IOM
PUNO(s) (PUNOs):	UNODC, UNW
Key Partners: (include Implementing Partner)	The National Coalition against the Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in persons (CONATT)- Special Technical Commission, General Directorate of Immigration and Migration, which serves as president of CONATT (overseen by the Ministry of Public Security); local government, health services providers, financial services providers, etc.
Project Period (Start – End Dates):	16 March 2023- 15 September 2024
Reporting Period:	16 March to 31 December 2023
Total Approved Migration MPTF Budget: (breakdown by PUNO)	<i>IOM: USD 924,617</i> <i>UNODC: USD 758,486</i> <i>UN Women: USD 616,897</i> <i>Total: Total: USD 2,300,000</i>
Total Funds Received to Date: (breakdown by PUNO)	<i>IOM: USD 647,232.00</i> <i>UNODC: USD 530,940</i> <i>UN Women: USD 431,828</i> <i>Total: USD 1,610,000</i>
Report Submission Date:	March 31, 2024
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Executive Summary: Throughout the reporting period from March to December 2023, based on the results framework, the joint program (JP) has achieved significant progress, especially in establishing planning and coordination mechanisms with the Government for implementation, as well as some progress at the output level. Notably, the Specialized Technical Commission, created by the National Coalition for Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling (CONATT), has been instrumental for the monitoring of the JP implementation. Additionally, the establishment of the health and protection cluster working groups for Migrants Attention Center in the South (EMISUR), the Costa Rica-Panama Permanent Commission for Protection and Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants (COPPAMI), and engagement with local governments in border communities mark noteworthy achievements. However, after a careful review of implementation progress, the PUNOs and Government counterpart CONATT have recognized the necessity to extend the time frame of the programme to achieve the expected results. The joint program's contributions and key results progress to fulfilling its objective and can be summarized as follows:

Outcome 1. By the end of project implementation, criminal Justice Institutions in target communities exchange information, coordinate investigations, and prosecute organized crimes, with a gender and human rights perspective, using the capacities, mechanisms and tools installed through this project.

- The **needs-based assessment for the collection and exchange of data in the process of investigating and prosecuting the crimes of trafficking in persons (TiP) and smuggling of migrants (SoM)** was completed after consulting with at least 20 key stakeholders from a variety of different government entities and decision-makers involved in investigative and judicial process. They also validated the assessment findings and recommendations made (See Annex 1).
- Support was provided to the Judicial Investigation Police for the dissemination of **TiP/SoM information materials (1000 flyers)** in Northern and Southern border communities (Los Chiles, Sixaola, Paso Canoas, Peñas Blancas, Tablillas).¹

Outcome 2. By the end of project implementation, migrants have access to health and financial services that are sensitive to and work to address their unique needs, thereby reducing the risk of migrants becoming victims of trafficking or smuggling.

- The diagnostic assessment and stakeholder mapping of existing money transfer service providers and products in migration-affected communities is in progress. The information collection stage has been completed. The stage of consolidating findings to design a strategy to raise awareness among financial service providers and design informative materials for migrants is in progress.

The project also conducted **two training sessions:**

- **35 staff from financial services provider AIRPAK, consisting of 20 women and 15 men**, aimed at addressing access barriers to financial services for migrants such as the lack of information, particularly for the most vulnerable.
- **31 health care providers, comprising 15 women and 16 men**, aimed at improving the cultural sensitivity of health services and raise health-care personnel's awareness on human trafficking and migrant smuggling, amplifying the vital role that health care personnel can play in identifying and helping victims.

¹ See Note Press: <https://costarica.iom.int/es/news/naciones-unidas-y-el-gobierno-de-costa-rica-avanzan-en-lucha-contra-la-trata-de-personas-y-el-trafico-ilicito>

Annual Progress

1. Summary and Context

The JP was presented to Costa Rican authorities, including members of the CONATT, on May 25, 2023, to discuss and align its main goals, outputs, and outcomes with existing national strategies. CONATT approved the joint programme unanimously. On June 6th, 2023, the JP was officially launched and presented to main national Government counterparts, diplomatic representatives of donor countries, and other UN agencies.² While the kick-off was originally scheduled for March 16th, 2023, the launch was delayed due to important changes of high-profile Government officials including the Director of the DGME, which required the project to be re-validated by the Government of Costa Rica. Subsequently, the creation of the new Special Technical Commission by CONATT and the designation of its authority to follow up on the JP's implementation also contributed to delays. Despite the six-month gap caused by these combined factors, the Joint Programme has taken steps to mitigate delays by creating synergies for strategic collaboration efforts with Government counterparts and other implementing partners to ensure alignment with the original workplan by the first quarter 2024. This has contributed to more agile decision-making and therefore greater progress in the implementation of the work plan.

The Special Technical Commission was established as the first coordination space that includes representatives from all four working groups within the Coalition, including: a) Information, Analysis, and Investigation, b) Prevention of GBV, c) Attention to survivors of GBV, and d) Access to Justice. The most vital institutions with decision-making responsibilities in the comprehensive tackling of trafficking in persons (TiP) and smuggling of migrants (SoM), as well as protection of survivors and dependents, are also represented in the Commission: Women's Institute (INAMU); Children's Authority (PANI); Specialized TiP/ SoM Attorney General's Office (FACTRA); Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ); Intelligence Division (DIS); Immigration and Foreigners' Authority (DGME); Public Security Ministry (MSP); among other key national counter TiP and SoM stakeholders. This cooperative space, which meets bimonthly, reviews, and validates JP work plans and has facilitated information exchange between member institutions. Although it allows for necessary consensus on implementation decisions, it does carry a hindering bureaucratic burden that led to delays in the implementation of activities. This has been overcome through agreements to establish ad hoc working groups that accompany the implementation of actions in an agile way and then communicate them bimonthly to the Commission.

The implementation strategy was adapted to support the country's national security strategy and in response to the migration emergency declared by the Government in September 2023. As a result, the strategy focuses on managing the migrants in transit situation in Costa Rica.

2. Results

Below are more details on progress related to project outcomes and outputs. Progress is reported in the outputs where actual advances were achieved. For further updates on progress, please see the Framework Results table.

Outcome 1. By the end of project implementation, criminal Justice Institutions in target communities exchange information, coordinate investigations, and prosecute organized crimes, with a gender and human rights perspective, using the capacities, mechanisms and tools installed through this project.

² <https://costarica.un.org/es/248406-bolet%C3%ADn-informativo-programa-conjunto-costa-rica-contra-la-trata-de-personas-y-el-tr%C3%A1fico>

Based on the implementation of activities during the reporting period, the JP has finalized the establishment of a base line for designing the action plan for next activities. The PUNOs and CONATT, defined the actions on the training processes and tools to improve the capacities of the institutions; based on the findings of the diagnosis of data and exchange of information on the crimes of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.

Output 1.1 The capacity of Costa Rica’s police and prosecutors to collect, manage, exchange, and analyze data related to human trafficking has been strengthened, and techniques to mainstream gender have been incorporated in the investigation of these crimes.

- An assessment of existing data and information exchange processes was conducted and validated in consultation with key stakeholders from a variety of different government entities, decision-makers involved in investigative and judicial processes, including the Judicial Investigation Agency, INTERPOL, the Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants Specialized Prosecution Office (FACTRA), Intelligence and Data Analysis units of Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTSS) and other key stakeholders. The assessment’s preliminary findings and a list of actionable recommendations were shared with key government stakeholders and decision-makers to develop concrete activities to strengthen the data management and information exchange capacities of the various agencies which comprise CONATT³. The main needs identified as a result of the assessment include 1) the creation and maintenance of a database that organizes and stores statistical information on trafficking in persons, 2) specialized training on trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, detection of the crime and protection of migrants, 3) training on data collection and analysis including gender considerations, 4) development of indicators for detection of TiP/SoM possible cases with a gender perspective, and 5) protocols for planning, collection, analysis and exchange of data taking into account gender considerations.

Based on the recommendations of the study, a roadmap was developed to establish a dashboard to process and manage data from the CONATT which will strengthen information exchange protocols and the overall coordination between police and prosecution during the investigation and judicialization process. In addition, the need to develop at least **two new protocols** was identified : 1) a protocol for the National Women's Institute (INAMU) to incorporate data on human trafficking into the unified gender-based violence reporting system (SUMEVIG); and 2) a protocol for operators of the 9- 1-1 emergency line to refer cases to the 1 – 1 – 7- 6 police intelligence line, which collects information to investigate possible cases of human trafficking or smuggling of migrants.

- The JP also provided technical support for the digitalization of the legally binding agreements of the ordinary and extraordinary sessions of **11** CONATT meetings (five of the Special Technical Committee, three for the Immediate Response Team for TiP reported cases- Immediate Response Team (ERI as per Spanish acronym), and three for the Attention to Victims Commission). The represented institutions prioritized full transparency to ensure governability and the functioning of governing bodies. Therefore, the transcription of meetings is vital for providing probative, reliable, and legitimate evidence of the institutions' work. Through this assistance, a more efficient management of reported human trafficking cases has been achieved, as well as a post-pandemic reactivation and resolution of backlogged session agreements.

³ <https://costarica.iom.int/es/news/naciones-unidas-y-el-gobierno-de-costarica-avanzan-en-lucha-contra-la-trata-de-personas-y-el-trafico-ilicito>

Output 1.4 A commission or working group on gender and access to justice has been established to provide technical review and guidance for Costa Rican institutions that investigate and prosecute human trafficking, the smuggling of migrants, and other transnational crimes.

- A diagnostic study is currently in progress to identify institutional and gender barriers to accessing justice for victims of trafficking to develop an action plan aimed at increasing the capacities of justice operators to ensure access with a gender and human rights perspective. The design of a diagnostic study was discussed with the deputy prosecutor for trafficking in persons, the magistrate who heads the sub-commission on trafficking in the judiciary, and the international cooperation office of the judiciary. In addition, consultation meetings are held with representatives of the judiciary to determine training actions, development of materials or other needs identified where the program can contribute.

Output 1.1.6 IOM, UNODC and UN Women provide simulation-style ‘train the trainers’ training for police officers to better identify victims of trafficking and migrants who have been smuggled, developing and disseminating informational materials to be placed in border points.

- **1000 TiP and SoM** awareness-raising and information materials (flyers) were printed and distributed in border

communities: Juan Santamaría Airport in Alajuela, two borders, the northern border (Peñas Blancas) and southern border (Paso Canoas) and the province of San José; allowing the JP to provide strategic support to Operation Turquesa V⁴. Throughout the five-day operation, INTERPOL set up an Operational Coordination Unit in Costa Rica and asked for the JP support. Informational materials produced by the Joint Programme were distributed by Costa Rica’s Judicial Agency of Investigation (OIJ) in southern and northern border communities. In Costa Rica



Source: @OIJ 2023 Operation Turquesa Border Points

participated in the Operation Turquesa V the Border Police, the Public Force Police, the San José Municipal Police, the Professional Migration Police, the Air Surveillance Service, and the Tourist Police. The authorities identified two potential victims of human trafficking and arrested five people linked to cases of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual and labor exploitation, as well as cybercrime. As a result of the operation, OIJ initiated two investigations for the crime of trafficking in persons.

- This contribution was particularly important in aligning with the new the National Public Security Policy and strategically positioning counter-trafficking and smuggling information in key points in southern and northern border communities, where there is high prevalence of both transnational crimes. (Annex 7. Operacion

⁴ An INTERPOL-coordinated operation SoM and TIP across the Americas carried out from November 27 - December 1, 2023, and supported by partners such as UNODC and IOM. The operation resulted in 257 arrests, the rescue of 163 potential victims and the detection of 12,000 irregular migrants from 69 different countries. See: <https://www.interpol.int/es/Noticias-y-acontecimientos/Noticias/2023/Americas-detencion-de-257-sospechosos-de-trafico-de-migrantes-y-trata-de-personas>

Turquesa Informational Material on TIP Distribution). The National Public Security Policy: Costa Rica Segura Plus 2023-2030, is structured in four Strategic Axes; the first of these deals with the prevention of risk factors that affect the field of public insecurity; the second axis 11 develops the institutional police activity that at the local and national level confronts common crime; while the third axis focuses on measures to address drug trafficking and organized crime from the Specialized Police Units, under a joint and combined work approach; In turn, the fourth axis is structured around the protection and defense measures of our National Security.

Outcome 2. By the end of project implementation, migrants have access to health and financial services that are sensitive to and work to address their unique needs, thereby reducing the risk of migrants becoming victims of trafficking or smuggling.

As a result of the diagnostic currently being undertaken on financial services available to migrants, the JP has been able to help to advocate for improved services to migrants. For example, Airpak Offices in EMISUR posted an information board with a detailed list of requirements for migrants to receive remittances in Costa Rica and provide information to avoid fraud and increased transfer costs due to the use of intermediaries to collect remittances. In parallel, JP developed initial awareness-raising session on TdP and SoM with financial and health care provider in border areas.

Output 2.1 Existing money transfer and other financial service providers have the knowledge and tools to provide safe and inclusive financial services to migrants; and migrants in transit (especially women) are equipped with knowledge to access financial services which are safe and reliable.

- The diagnostic assessment on migrants' access to financial services, which includes a quantitative analysis, and mapping of existing money transfer and financial service providers and products in communities with large numbers of migrants in transit, is in the final stage of collection and systematization. This assessment includes an analysis of the gender barriers to access, and risks faced by women in transferring, receiving, and making use of remittances. As part of this process, **four IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Reports on migrants' access to and use of financial services**⁵ were conducted to inform the diagnostic assessment and stakeholder mapping. A gender and human rights approach were central to this analysis and was incorporated in both the questionnaire and analysis of results. (See Annex 4. Video 5 Facts on Financial Services for Migrants).
- In November 2023, a training session was held for Airpak personnel (a company in charge of financial services and remittances sent and received in Costa Rica) to raise awareness of how financial services can be involved in, or could help prevent TIP and SoM, as well as promote financial inclusion with gender considerations. The workshop was attended by **35** people from different positions within the company of whom 20 were women and 15 were men. The session was well received by participants who were able to reinforce their understanding on basic concepts like human trafficking, the smuggling of migrants and understanding financial inclusion considering gender considerations. Emphasis was placed on reducing access barriers to safe financial services to decrease economic vulnerability and, in turn, the risk of migrants becoming victims of exploitation. A fruitful brainstorming resulted in interesting proposals for relevant corporate responsibility actions (See Annex 5. Session Systematization Report). Working with the private sector for the coordination of JP activities has proven key in ensuring corporate responsibility actions are properly executed. Meetings with headquarter offices of remittance and money transfer services providers such as Western Union and AirPak also further advanced the drafting of the diagnostic assessment. This activity also instructed financial service providers on how to ensure their services are culturally sensitive, that information is presented with

⁵ See: [PowerPoint Presentation \(iom.int\)](https://iom.int)

gender-sensitivity and in several languages at vital points of migrant access, such as the Southern Migratory Station (EMISUR) and at Airpak offices along the routes of people in-transit through Costa Rica.

Output 2.3 Healthcare providers in communities with large populations of migrants, or migrants in transit, are equipped with the tools and training to identify victims of trafficking and provide care appropriate to their needs.

- **One health center** (Los Chiles Hospital, northern border community) was included in a TiP/SoM training session for healthcare providers, providing key insights into the vital role healthcare personnel play in timely identification of possible cases, as along with useful tips on basic principles like non-revictimization and action without doing harm. These principles are key to ensure a human rights and gender-sensitive approach when dealing with potential human trafficking survivors. The training, held on November 23-24, 2023, also focused on improving cultural sensitivity of health services for migrants



@IOM 2023, Awareness-raising session Hospital Los Chiles

in transit and strengthening the capacity of current health services to identify and refer victims of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants. This workshop formed part of the Program’s support to institutional activities for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. It was delivered to **31 participants (15 women and 16 men) and** included the distribution of flyers and brochures to the medical personnel in the Chiles’ Hospital (north border) as part of JP’s support at the request of CONATT's Prevention Commission, which is represented in the Specialized Technical Commission.

- IOM provided strategic support to the national migratory emergency response by liaising with the Health and Protection working clusters within EMISUR. This ensured that TiP/SoM-related issues were vital to daily operations of the Migrants Attention Center in the South (EMISUR) and supported the development of internal referral systems for all agencies and implementing partners on site. As a result of this technical support in liaising working clusters, particularly the Health and Protection clusters, referral routes and guides were developed to identify and manage vulnerable groups, providing an overall enhanced protection network of basic services, thus reducing the exposure of vulnerable migrants to further risk. Referral routes, SoPs for the identification and classification of vulnerable groups, as well as feedback mechanisms so that migrants in transit can express their views on EMISUR’s services will be validated with government counterparts for inclusion in the Operational Manual of this temporary migrants' attention center.
- The development of a training methodological guide, based on IOM’s Migrant Health Division’s (MHD) Guide for Direct Assistance to TiP survivors for Health Care Personnel is currently in progress for the future implementation of training sessions and capacity development actions. This effort is being carried out in coordination with the Prevention of Violence Commission of the CCSS, as aiming to include the training modules into the suite of trainings of the CCSS. Additionally, a health services assessment is also in progress to better understand the current capacity of health service providers to identify and refer victims of TiP and people partaking in SoM, and to provide health services that are sensitive to their needs.

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 By the end of project implementation, criminal Justice Institutions in target communities exchange information, coordinate investigations, and prosecute organized crimes, with a gender and human rights perspective, using the capacities, mechanisms and tools installed through this project.						
Indicator 1a The number of police and report regularly exchanging information to coordinate investigations of organized crime.	6	0	0		0	Progress will be included in the next reporting period
Indicator 1b the percent of police officers and prosecutors reporting that they incorporate a gender and human rights perspective in the investigation of organized	80%	0	0		0	Progress will be included in the next reporting period.
OUTPUT 1.1 The capacity of Costa prosecutors to collect, manage, exchange, and analyse data related to human trafficking has been strengthened, and techniques to mainstream gender have been incorporated in the investigation of these crimes.						
Indicator 1.1a Number of police jurisdictions and prosecutors that have adopted new or improved protocols regarding the collection, management, exchange, and analysis of data with gender-sensitive techniques, and with particular attention to women and girls.	6	0			0	Activities for this indicator will be implemented from February to May 2024, three protocols will be updated.

Indicator 1.1b Number of personnel working for the police or prosecutor's office that are trained in the collection, management, exchange, and analysis of data with gender-sensitive techniques.	80	0		0	Activities for this indicator will be implemented June to August 2024
Indicator 1.1c Percent of police and prosecutors receiving training that demonstrate an increased understanding of collection, management, exchange, and analysis of data techniques with a gender-sensitive approach.	80 %	0		0	Activities for this indicator will be implemented from February to May 2024.
OUTPUT 1.2 Forums are established to exchange best practices on the investigation and prosecution of trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants.					
Indicator 1.2a Number of police and prosecutors' offices that have adopted mechanisms to facilitate data management and exchange information with a gender-sensitive approach.	6	0		0	Activities for this indicator will be implemented from April to June 2024.
OUTPUT 1.3 Working Groups of police, prosecutors and judges are created to review and analyze cases of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants.					
Indicator 1.3a Number of police and prosecutors regularly participating in case prioritization working sessions and analysis of data with gender-sensitive techniques.	25	0		0	Activities for this indicator will be implemented from April to June 2024.
OUTPUT 1.4 A commission or working group on gender and access to justice has been established to provide technical review and guidance for Costa Rican institutions that investigate and prosecute human trafficking, the smuggling of migrants, and other transnational crimes.					
Indicator 1.4a the function and membership of the commission or working group has been defined and adopted by police and prosecutors.	Yes	No		No	This will be developed through drafting and validation of SoPs with clear description of functions and members' profile, working guidelines and training sessions in coordination with FACTRA and OIJ, planned for period between April-June 2024.

OUTCOME 2. By the end of project implementation, migrants have access to health and financial services that are sensitive to and work to address their unique needs, thereby reducing the risk of migrants becoming victims of trafficking or smuggling.						
Indicator 2a the number of money transfer service providers that offer access to services that are sensitive to the unique needs of migrants in transit (especially migrant women).	2	0			0	Awareness-raising session was kicked-off with Airpak, with an introductory training session. Further activities for this indicator will be implemented from April to June 2024, where pre and post surveys will be applied to measure efficacy.
Indicator 2b Number of health care providers that offer services sensitive to migrants' needs.	60	31			0	31 health care personnel from Hospital de Los Chiles, northern border community, in coordination with Prevention Commission CONATT, CCSS. Further training sessions will be implemented from April to August 2024.
Indicator 2C. # of stakeholders that report having confidence in applying skills reducing trafficking and/or smuggling of migrants	50	0			0	Activities will be implemented from February to August 2024.
OUTPUT 2.1 Existing money transfer and other financial service providers have the knowledge and tools to provide safe and inclusive financial services to migrants; and migrants in transit (especially women) are equipped with knowledge to access financial services which safe and reliable.						
Indicator 2.1a A diagnostic assessment and stakeholder mapping of existing money transfer service providers and products in migration-affected communities is available.	yes	No			No	Quantitative research was completed, and qualitative part in progress to complete a mixed methods final assessment report in April 2024.
Indicator 2.1b Percent of money-transfer service provider staff receiving training that demonstrate an increased understanding of the unique financial needs of migrants, the risks they experience, and how to promote gender inclusive practices.	80%	0			0	Awareness-raising session was kicked-off with Airpak, with an introductory training session delivered to 35 staff (20 women and 15 men)

Indicator 2.1c Number of migrants reached during the project implementation period with information on navigating financial (specifically money transfer) services and products, personal finance management, promoting economic autonomy, and financial risk prevention for migrants	5000	0		0	Communication campaign planned for April to August 2024.
Indicator 2.1d A guide with indicators for identifying financial transaction (specifically money transfers) related to trafficking in persons are available.	yes	No		No	Activities for this indicator will be implemented in June 2024, this includes the Red Flags indicators, guide and training sessions.
Indicator 2.1e Percent of money-transfer service provider personnel receiving training that demonstrate an increased understanding of how to identify financial transactions related to trafficking in persons.	80%	0%		0%	Activities for this indicator will be implemented in June 2024, this includes the Red Flags indicators, guide and training sessions.
Indicator 2.1f A review of money-transfer services and products available to migrants in the region and which identifies best practices that could be adapted to the Costa Rican context (with a focus on access for migrant women) is available.	Yes	No		No	Will be implemented from February to May 2024.
OUTPUT 2.2 Strategies established collaboratively with health providers at the local level to improve the sensitivity of health services to the needs of migrants.					
Indicator 2.2a Number of health centers that have participated in the development of, and adopted, strategies, to improve the sensitivity of their services to the needs of migrants.	6	1		1	31 health care personnel from Hospital de Los Chiles northern border community, in coordination with Prevention Commission CONATT, CCSS. Further awareness-raising sessions will be developed from April to August 2024.
OUTPUT 2.3 Health care providers in communities with large populations of migrants, or migrants in transit, are equipped with the tools and training to identify victims of trafficking and provide care appropriate to their needs.					

Indicator 2.3a Number of healthcare providers that report having the tools necessary to identify victims of trafficking and provide care appropriate to their needs.	80%	0%			0%	Activities will be implemented February to June 2024.
Indicator 2.3b Number of healthcare providers that received training to identify victims of trafficking and provide care appropriate to their needs.	60	31			31	31 health care personnel (15 women and 16 men) from Hospital de Los Chiles, northern border community, in coordination with Prevention Commission CONATT, CCSS. Further training sessions will be implemented from April to August 2024, where pre and post evaluation forms.
Indicator 2.3c Percent of healthcare providers receiving training that demonstrate an increased ability to identify victims of trafficking and increased understanding of how to provide care appropriate to their needs.	80%	0%			0%	For next training sessions planned from February to August 2024, pre and and post training evaluation forms will be applied for better measurement of indicator.
OUTPUT 2.4 Reporting and referral mechanisms for cases of human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants are established amongst health and other social service providers and law enforcement to support investigations, criminal prosecutions, and to detect trends in transnational crimes.						
2.4 a Number of health and other social service providers that report using established reporting and referral mechanisms to support the investigation and criminal prosecution and detection of trends in transnational crimes.	80	0			0	Activities for this indicator will be implemented from February to August 2024.

1. Partnerships

Implementation Agreements			
Name & Type of Partner	Type of implementation agreement (please specify if any MOU or agreement was formally entered)	Relevant outcome and/or output; PUNO counterpart	Financial value (if any)
Local government and/or related entities			
Technical Specialized Commission (CONATT) National Coalition for counter-trafficking response	Strengthened coordination platform which allows for timely and effective implementation of the JP's activities. No agreement signed; commission established by Law.	Outcome 1 and 2; IOM-UNODC-UNW	None
<i>Costa Rica and Panama Permanent Commission for Protection and Assistance of Migrants (COPPAMI)</i>	IOM has been supporting COPPAMI for ten years.	Outcome 2. Output 2.3 and 2.4/ IOM-UNODC-UNW	None
Local government Los Chiles and Network migration northern border community	No agreement signed. Joint efforts are being implemented within the human mobility cluster working groups with local authorities and IOM.	Outcome 2. Output 2.3 and 2.4/ IOM-UNODC-UNW	None
Non-governmental stakeholders			
IBCR	Synergies identified to value-added JP data and information exchange activities, in the framework of CONATT's Permanent Commission for Analysis and Information, since IBCR is providing support to the operative plan for the Commission.	Outcome 1/ IOM-UNODC-UNW	None
UNHCR/UNICEF/UNFPA WHO	Articulation of actions in the context of migratory emergency response, no agreement signed.	Outcome 2. Output 2.3 and 2.4/ IOM	None

2. Cross-Cutting Issues

Since the planning stage, the JP has ensured that cross-cutting principles of rights-based, gender-responsive and child sensitive approaches have been mainstreamed throughout the project implementation. This includes the design of data and information collection instruments such as the questionnaires for Financial and Health Services DTM reports to be able to disaggregate results by gender and age. Furthermore, ensuring that capacity development efforts consider the differentiated risks faced by migrant women, gender-diverse migrants and migrant children related to TIP and SoM.

Additionally, all project products are reviewed by the three participating agencies committed to ensure that a gender and human rights approach is mainstreamed. The JP has also lobbied with financial services providers (Airpak) at EMISUR to provide adequate and accurate information to migrants regarding access to financial services. Likewise, the JP managed to raise awareness on

the inclusion of financial services for women and health services in host communities and for migrants in-transit. The JP also succeeded in ensuring health care personnel include migrants women (in transit and/or in communities) in health fairs and care outreach actions such as PAP tests. These actions contribute to objectives 3, 7, 9, 10, 11, 15, 17, and 23 of the Global Compact on Migration and SDGs 3, 5, 8, 16 and 17.

3. Constraints, Adjustments, Lessons, and Good Practices

Constraints

- Slow re-activation of counter trafficking programs post-COVID and bureaucratic constraints delayed the Governments' designation of the program's counterpart for several months, resulting in a standby period of three to five months where little progress was achieved. Changes of government personnel in June 2023, particularly the new director of the DGME, further delayed project commencement.
- The Minister of Security selected the CONATT to be the government counterpart of the Joint Programme, which then appointed a Special Technical Commission by mandate of law. This process took considerable time to be formalized as per national legal and political mandates.

Adjustments

- The Joint Programme's coordination team led by IOM carried out a comprehensive and detailed re-adjustment of the implementation strategy, paired with stronger communication and visibility efforts. These actions translated into a more solid institutional approach and support.
- At the request of the government, and as agreed with other PUNOs and the Office of the Resident Coordinator, the JP will request a six-month no-cost extension. The government counterpart has indicated that they will send a letter requesting the no-cost extension, to be shared along with the official request from the programme.

Lessons and good practices

- A good practice was that, at the request of some CONATT counterparts, JP implemented some actions in response to specific needs justified by the context, while at the same time JP developing the assessment stage.
- Using data collection instruments already developed by IOM's DTM proved to be a good practice.
- Identifying similar projects within the PUNOs related to TiP and SoM to ensure synergies and avoid duplication, for example with IOM Costa Rica's Western Hemisphere Program (funded by the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migrants of the Government of the United States). The JP reviewed similar programs within each agency and reviewed planning to ensure complementarity. For example, IOM reviewed internally the actions of other programs so as not to duplicate training processes with the same counterparts and even geographical coverage. UNODC, for its part, reports on regional processes that can add to or complement the JP's actions.
- Submitting a bi-monthly flash update to government counterparts for the timely validation of work plans for the following quarter resulted in a fast-tracking planning mechanism.
- Identifying relevant regional initiatives that can be studied and applied to the JP, such as the Data Excellence Center initiative developed by UNODC Mexico for the processing of information regarding TiP cases.

- Pushing for a more active engagement with the diplomatic representatives of donors to the Migration Multi-Trust Fund in the implementation of JP's activities.

Maintaining a strong alliance with CONATT for continuity and the incorporation of JP's processes within institutional processes.

Visibility and communication

- **Posts on social media to raise awareness of TiP and SoM received 82,392 online views in November 2023 and 146,312 views in December 2023** (Annex 8. Reports on social media monthly postings TiP SoM).
- At the international level, the JP was invited to the first **Inter-governmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees'** Network on Children and Youth (NCY) meeting to present the joint programme, including its context, scope, focus, and opportunities for regional replicability. This high-profile event was co-chaired by the governments of Norway and the United States and attended by international human rights experts specializing in the protection of children and young people. This space proved to be a key platform to exchange first-hand information on good practices and lessons learned regarding human trafficking, particularly of children and adolescents, allowing the JP to drive from a current, global approach on counter-trafficking actions and incorporate fresh ideas into the activities to be developed. (Annex 9. Meeting Summary NCY).
- At the 13th Session of the working groups on TiP and SoM on October 2-6 at the UNODC headquarters in Vienna, a delegate from the CONATT was invited to participate as a panelist to share the Costa Rican experience in combatting migrant smuggling during an interactive session with other countries. During the interventions, the Costa Rican delegate expressed gratitude to the JP supporting national efforts on TiP and SOM.

Conclusion and Next Steps

During the reporting period leading up to December 31st, PUNOs managed to establish efficient implementation mechanisms, Government validation, and a solid work plan, with an updated approach to activities aligned to the current context. As mentioned in the constraints section, there have been significant delays in the Joint Programme's implementation. Therefore, after a careful review of implementation progress, PUNOs and government counterpart CONATT have identified the need to extend the time frame of the programme in order to achieve expected results.

Moving forward, Joint Programme's implementation for the first quarter 2024 includes the following activities:

- A training of trainers' program for police agencies and prosecutors at national and local levels to support more efficient and collaborative coordination to identify, investigate, and prosecute human trafficking and smuggling of migrants' cases with a focus on integrating gender and human rights considerations. The bi-modal training program consists of a virtual section of three Zoom webinars on February 2, 6 and 19, as well as two mandatory and two optional TiP and SoM e-learning trainings already available via IOM's E-Campus online platform, and an in-person master class (simulated trial) where 70 officials from southern and northern police and prosecution offices and delegations will travel to San Jose from March 4-8 2024 to participate.

- A regional exchange on best practices regarding data collection, information exchange and overall coordination for investigating and prosecuting cases involving trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants will take place February 19-20, 2024, in San Jose for 50 relevant government officials.
- On January 26, 2024, the first working session for consultations with national institutions to develop guidelines related to joint investigations of transnational crimes will be held with the Joint Programme's team and relevant government authorities.
- A dashboard for consolidation of information collected through the Immediate Response Team (ERI) will be developed for CONATT's usage, based on the findings of the needs-based assessment for the collection and exchange of data in the process of investigating and prosecuting the crimes of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. This dashboard will be developed with the technical support of the Center for Data Excellence from UNODC Mexico and based on the International Classification Standard for administrative data on Trafficking in Persons (ICS-TIP)
- Planning with CONATT to train the personnel who attend the 9 - 1 -1 Emergency Line and the 1 -1 -7- 6 Police Intelligence Line as part of the support to the National Security strategy led by the Ministry of Security. In addition, generating a reference protocol between these two lines. It should be noted that Line 1 -1- 7- 6 is in the process of expanding the registry not only to incidents linked to drug trafficking, but also to other crimes including human trafficking and migrant smuggling.
- Technical assistance will be provided to CONATT, to Women's Institute, for the strengthening of data collection protocol to include TiP and SoM information in the Unified Gender Statistics Measuring System (SUMEVIG as per Spanish acronym).
- Financial, health care services, and access to justice assessments will be completed and included in the action plan, for further implementation of training and awareness-raising sessions for health and financial services providers, and dissemination of TiP and SoM information materials in border communities.
- JP will be developing a Guide on Suspicious Transactions in Money Transfers that could be related to TiP and SoM and delivery a Training Workshop for financial services providers and policy and prosecutions.
- The programme will support the Directorate of Border Police and Public Force in reinforcing the Peace Border Program implemented by the Ministry of Public Security in border areas. In April, it is expected to have an initial training on border management with a focus on the prevention of the crimes of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants in the southern zone. Additionally, a planning session will support the implementation of activities under the government's Peace Border program.
- Develop, in coordination with the National Distance University (UNED as per Spanish acronym), a specialized course on the approach to trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, with emphasis on the generation and exchange of data. In this same regard, the Leveraging Data for the TIP Response course in E-Campus will be translated into Spanish to be included in the specialized course to be developed.
- The JP will provide technical assistance to referral mechanisms, including the protocol for attention and referral to survivors of TiP/SoM, TiP/SoM referral routes within EMISUR, and TiP and SoM referral SoPs for Social Work areas in hospitals and health centers. Additionally, awareness-raising actions will be carried out for health care personnel in synergy with Ministry of Health and Social Security Authority.

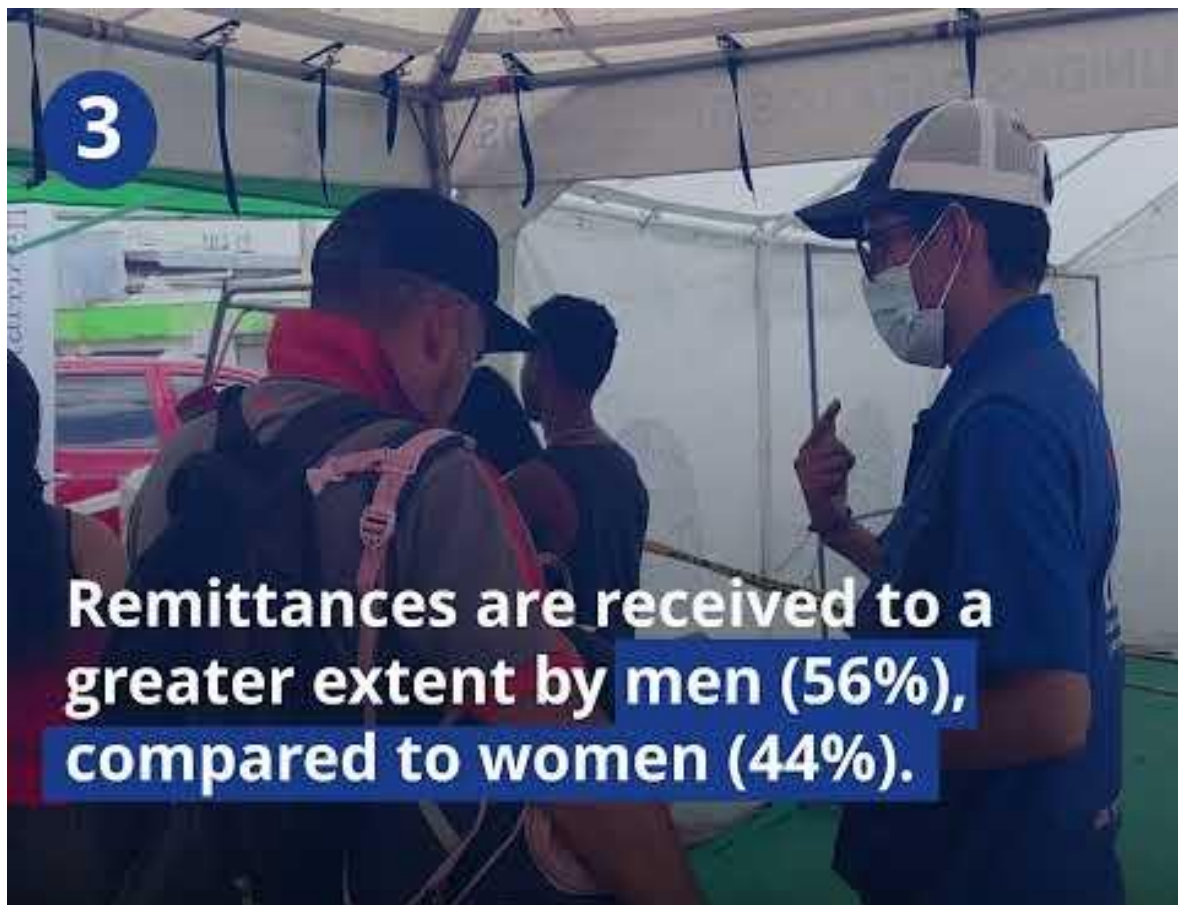
ANNEX

- *Stories from the Field:*



Annex list Key Programme Deliverables

- Annex 1. Info Sheet on data and information assessment
- Annex 2. DTM Reports focused on financial services: 2a, 2b, 2c, y2d
- Annex 3. DTM reports focused on health services: 4a. y 4b.
- Annex 4. Video **Five Facts on Access to Financial Services for Migrants in Transit**



- Annex 5. Report Awareness-raising session Financial Services Airpak
- Annex 6. Report Awareness-raising session Health Care providers Hospital Los Chiles
- Annex 7. Operation Turquesa Material Distribution Report

Annex list Communications and Visibility

- Annex 8. Reports on social media metrics for monthly postings on TiP and SoM
- PRESS Releases:
 - <https://costarica.un.org/es/248406-bolet%C3%ADn-informativo-programa-conjunto-costa-rica-contr-la-trata-de-personas-y-el-tr%C3%A1fico>
 - <https://costarica.iom.int/es/news/naciones-unidas-y-el-gobierno-de-costa-rica-avanzan-en-lucha-contr-la-trata-de-personas-y-el-trafico-ilicito>