

• Migration MMPTF • Annual Report

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- 16 June 2025
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- 16 June 2025
Reporting Period:	16 March 2023 to 31 December 2024
Total Approved Migration MPTF Budget: (breakdown by PUNO)	<i>IOM: USD 924,617</i>
Total Funds Received to Date: (breakdown by PUNO)	<i>IOM: USD 924,617</i>
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Summary: The Joint Programme (JP) in Costa Rica has made notable progress in achieving overall results in strengthening Costa Rica's capacity to combat human trafficking (TiP) and migrant smuggling (SoM). Indicators show 83% progress in Outcome one and 84% in Outcome two.

The **Migration MPTF Annual Report** outlines several key milestones achieved in the joint program aimed at strengthening Costa Rica's capacity to combat human trafficking (TiP) and migrant smuggling (SoM). Here are the highlights:

- **Enhanced Data Management and Capacity Building:** The JP supported to the Costa Rica government in the adoption of at least **3 mechanisms** for the registration of data and exchange of information on the crimes of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants: a) The 9-1-1 Emergency System and other key actors now have, for the first time in Costa Rica, **a unique code to report suspected cases of trafficking in persons**. This code is the only one in the country that allows 100% traceability of cases where human trafficking is suspected, making investigation and prosecution more efficient. b) The National Institute for Women (INAMU) developed a new protocol to integrate Trafficking in Persons (TiP) indicators into Costa Rica's **Unified System of Statistical Measurement of Gender Violence (SUMEVIG)**, and c) The CONATT's Permanent Commission and nine law enforcement agencies from the Immediate Response Team (ERI) have developed a crucial **data exchange dashboard to consolidate information for CONATT's use**. This dashboard was developed based on the International Classification Standard for administrative data on Trafficking in Persons (ICS-TIP, UNODC&IOM).
- Over **188** officials were trained on integrating gender and human rights perspectives into data collections and analysis, who incremented their knowledge in 73%.
- **Improved Working Groups:** 49 officials participated in case prioritization sessions and gender-sensitive data analysis. The JP supports the establish of the Liaison groups of police and prosecutors meeting to define a roadmap for the investigation of SoM and registration of **cases 3 meetings** were held with territorial liaison groups between the prosecutor's office and the police to improve the investigation of cases of trafficking in persons
- **Access to Justice:** The JP has organized and implemented specific actions through the Committee on Criminal Matters and its Subcommittee on Trafficking in Persons. These actions are part of a comprehensive gender and human rights approach to access to justice, resulting from **a preliminary action plan coordinated with various judicial and governmental bodies**. Key measures include the development of a last version of the Diagnosis of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants in Costa Rica, which highlights barriers and limitations in the justice system and provides recommendations for improvement. Moreover, **a specialized course focusing** on human trafficking and migrant smuggling with a gender perspective has been incorporated into the permanent curriculum of the Judicial Academy.
- **Health Services Sensitivity:** A "Train-the-Trainers" program was launched to teach healthcare providers about gender-sensitive care for migrants and how to management the cases of SoM and TiP. During the Y1 and Y2, at least **163** health care providers were trained around all the country (North, Brunca and Atlantica). This action was complementing with awarenesses' community action relate to health with emphasis in women.
- **Reporting and Referral Mechanisms:** The inter-institutional Technical Committees of CONATT were reactivated. CONATT has a Guideline on International Cooperation for Counter-Trafficking and Smuggling. In addition, the Costa Rican Immediate Response Team (ERI), and the Panamanian Case Identification Unit (UIA) signed a technical agreement to *improve binational* coordination for the care of survivors of human trafficking.
- **Raising awareness in the private sector to promote access to financial services for migrants:** At least 3 remittance agencies have joined the JP's efforts to promote access to financial services safely; this through the sensitization and training of at least 211 personnel of these agencies (Airpak, Teledolar, Western Union). An awareness campaign was designed "Secure Remittances" that include ferias and workshops in alliance with three remittances agencies: Airpak, Teledolar, Western Union.
- **Raising Awareness in Border Communities:** The JP The "Borders of Peace" initiative integrated TiP and SoM prevention into border operations led by Border Police in northern and southern borders, involving **355** children and adolescents. The JP supported regional operations such as **INTERPOL's Operation Turquesa V** and **Operations Liberterra II and Itzel V** in collaboration with the Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ). These efforts have strengthened national strategies against trafficking and smuggling, aligning with national security priorities and focusing on high-risk border areas (7,500 information materials was delivered in border area).

Annual Progress

1. Summary and Context

The establishment and successful operation of the Specialized Technical Commission (STC), created by the National Coalition for Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling (CONATT), (Y1: 2023) have proven to be a model for effective collaboration, and its approach has been replicated in other cooperation programs. The STC has conducted 10 ordinary sessions and two extraordinary sessions to date, contributing to the ongoing progress and implementation of JP activities. Furthermore, JP has consistently submitted progress reports to CONATT's plenary sessions, ensuring all relevant decision-makers are kept informed and engaged in the process. Thanks to the effective collaboration between PUNOs and the STC, the six-month gap in implementation was resolved, leading to significant progress in activity execution. This structured and collaborative effort has significantly enhanced the coordination and execution of initiatives aimed at combating trafficking in persons (TiP) and the smuggling of migrants (SoM), while also ensuring protection and support for survivors.

The STC was established as the primary coordinating body, comprising representatives from all four working groups within the Coalition: a) Information, Analysis, and Investigation; b) Prevention of Violence and GBV; c) Support for Violence and GBV Survivors; and d) Access to Justice. This working group includes key institutions with decision-making roles in combating trafficking in persons (TiP), smuggling of migrants (SoM), and protecting survivors, such as INAMU, PANI, FACTRA, OIJ, DIS, DGME, and MSP. It also involves civil society actors like NGOs (Caritas, IBCR) and academic institutions. The CTE meets bi-monthly to review and validate JP work plans and facilitate information exchange. While the committee's role in ensuring consensus and alignment with the National Security Policy was crucial, the bureaucratic processes did cause some delays. To address this, ad hoc working groups were established to implement actions more efficiently, with updates provided to the Commission every two months.

Figure 1. Structure of JP Steering Committee

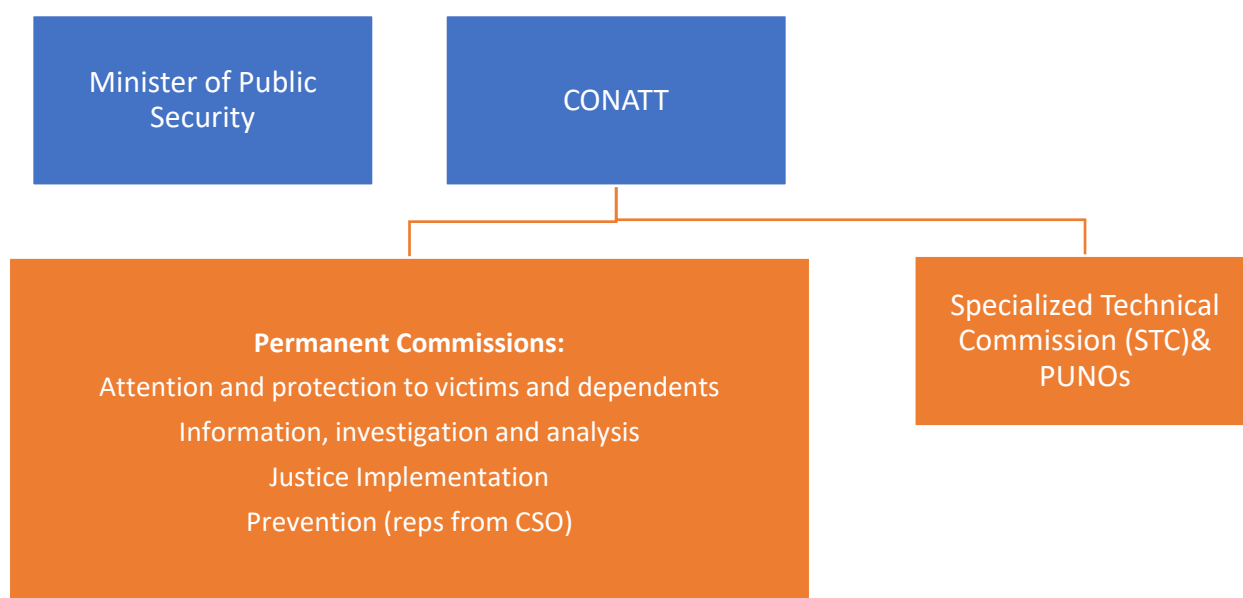


Table 1. Structure of the National Coalition against Trafficking Persons and Smuggling of Migrants of Costa Rica (CONATT)

Government agencies and work areas	Working on Permanent Commissions of CONATT			
	Attention	Prevention	Justice Prosecution	Information, analysis, and investigations
Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS)	X	X		
National Commission Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation			X	
National Council of Disabled Persons	X			
National Intelligence and Security Directorate				X
General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME)	X	X	X	X
General Directorate of Transit		X		
Attorney General's Office			X	X
Costa Rican Institute of Tourism		X		
Mixed Institute of Social Assistance	X	X		
National Learning Institute	X	X		
National Institute for Women	X	X	X	
Institute on Alcoholism and Drug Addiction	X	X		
Ministry of Public Education		X		
Ministry of the Interior and Police		X		X
Ministry of Justice and Peace		X		
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship	X			X
Ministry of Health	X	X		
Ministry of Public Security	X	X		X
Ministry of Labor and Social Security	X	X		
Victim Assistance and Protection Office	X			
Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ)			X	X
National Child Welfare Board	X	X	X	

Source: Own elaboration, based on the National Policy Against Human Trafficking 2020-2030 of Costa Rica

Results

Below are more details on progress related to project outcomes and outputs. 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.



284 officials trained in total



135 women trained

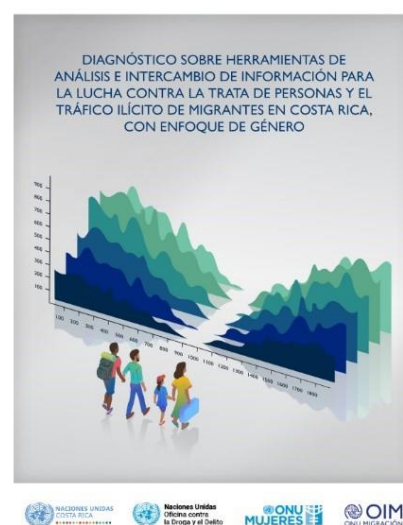


149 men trained

The JP has made significant progress based on baseline studies and the subsequent action plan. Working with PUNOs and CONATT, efforts have focused on improving knowledge, provide tools, and mechanisms to facilitate data management and exchange information with a gender-sensitive approach. During the Year 1 and Year 2, a total of **11** police jurisdictions and prosecutors among other government entities that have adopted mechanisms to facilitate data management and exchange information with a gender-sensitive approach. During the Year 2 the JP support to the Costa Rica Government for established at least **3** mechanisms to facilitate data management and exchange information with a gender-sensitive approach. At the end of the Project PUNOS will be implement a final survey to support the impact under this Outcome. The following section provides a more detailed progress report on each output.

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.

- The JP developed an assessment on existing tools for analysis and exchange of information regarding SoM in Costa Rica¹. The preliminary findings of the assessment, along with a list of actionable recommendations, were also shared with more than 30 government stakeholders, providing valuable insights for the development of concrete activities aimed at strengthening the data management and information exchange capacities across the agencies that make up CONATT² (See Annex 1)
- Development and improvement of mechanisms and protocols for data management with gender sensitive techniques:
 1. **The Costa Rican 9-1-1 Emergency System:** The system now uses code 460 to record incidents of human trafficking, previously categorized under sexual crimes. This initiative was required by the Comptroller of the Republic of Costa Rica to the Emergency System for almost 8 years and thanks to the support of the JP that it was finally possible to specify the tools and technical procedures to have this code.
 - i) A new protocol has been developed, validated, and approved for 9-1-1 emergency line operators to refer cases to the **1-1-7-6** police intelligence line, which collects information for investigating TiP/SoM cases. ii) Development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) with a flowchart for managing TiP/SoM calls and analysing real incident cases. iii) A total of 155 operators (79 women and 76 men) from the 9-1-1 and 1176 lines were trained on the protocol and basic TiP/SoM concepts, with a focus on gender and human rights. As a result, emergency and police intelligence line operators strengthened their capacity to handle potential TiP/SoM situations,



¹ This document was validated through consultations with key stakeholders from various government entities and decision-makers involved in investigative and judicial processes providing valuable insights for informed decision making within the institutions, including the Judicial Investigation Agency, INTERPOL, the Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants Specialized Prosecution Office (FACTRA), the Intelligence and Data Analysis units of the Ministry of Public Security, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTSS), among others.

² <https://costarica.iom.int/es/news/naciones-unidas-y-el-gobierno-de-costarica-avanzan-en-lucha-contrala-trata-de-personas-y-el-trafico-ilicito>

and the protocol has been integrated into institutional processes, ensuring the sustainability of knowledge transfer. (Annex 2. Flowchart, Single Registry Sheet and Instructive form)

2. **The National Institute for Women (INAMU)** developed a new protocol with the support of the JP to integrate Trafficking in Persons (TiP) indicators into Costa Rica's **Unified System of Statistical Measurement of Gender Violence (SUMEVIG)**. This effort involved key state institutions, including the Immediate Response Team (ERI) from CONATT, the Judiciary, the National Census and Statistics Institute, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice and Peace, the 9-1-1 Emergency Line, and others.
3. Additionally, the JP provided **technical support for the digitalization of legally binding** agreements from 22 CONATT Commission Sessions, which has streamlined governance processes and resolved backlogged agreements. This support has led to more efficient management of human trafficking cases and improved decision-making, contributing to better inter-institutional coordination. The digitalized records ensure greater transparency, credibility, and legally valid documentation of the institutions' work, resulting in more effective follow-up on TiP cases.
4. As part of these processes, the Joint Program (JP) has trained at least **188 officials (91 men and 97 women)** from institutions that are part of CONATT. Additionally, these data-focused training processes also contribute to enhancing knowledge and tools for investigating, prosecuting, and adjudicating cases of trafficking in persons (TiP) and migrant smuggling (SoM), as well as for protecting survivors of these crimes.
5. As part of the efforts for training officials on the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of TiP and SoM cases, the JP implemented the Specialized Training Program for the Investigation and Prosecution of Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling Crimes in Costa Rica, in which **76 representatives from CONATT** member institutions participated. The Program included training through both online (webinars and training modules via E-Campus) and in person activities (Mock Trial).

Output 1.2 Forums are established to exchange best practices on the investigation and prosecution of trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants.

- A total of 51 officials (32 women and 19 men) from 11 key law enforcement and prosecutors' offices participated in technical sessions and regional exchanges. This forum served as platforms for national and regional exchange on best practices for information systems used to collect and exchange data on human trafficking and smuggling of migrant's cases.



©IOM. April 2024. Training sessions with Costa Rican police corps on border management with a gender and human rights perspective.

These events utilized regional expertise to develop a data collection and exchange tool tailored to the Costa Rican context, with experts from Argentina, Ecuador, Guatemala, Panama, and UN agencies collaborating with local government institutions to share valuable insights on best practices for coordinated investigation and prosecution of these cases. The institutions represented include the Directorate of Migration and Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Deputy Prosecutor's Office Against Human Trafficking and the Illicit Smuggling of Migrants, Directorate of Intelligence and Security, Costa Rican Social Security Fund, Ministry of Labor and Social

Security, Office for Attention and Protection of Victims of Crimes, International Bureau for Children's Rights, Judicial Investigation Agency, National Child Welfare Agency, and State Distance University.

- At least **10 institutions** that integrate the CONATT's Permanent Commission and the Immediate Response Team (ERI) have developed a crucial **data exchange dashboard to consolidate information for CONATT's use** with assistance from the JP for data assessment and technical requirements. This dashboard is based on the International Classification Standard for administrative data on Trafficking in Persons (ICS-TIP, UNODC&IOM). Supported by the UNODC Mexico Data Excellence Center, the dashboard has been approved by Costa Rica's Directorate General of Migration (DGME) and is set to be fully operational by April 2025.
- In addition, the Technical Institutional Committees (CTI) before CONATT held a session facilitated by the JP, where institutions and newly appointed representatives received an overview of the CTI's roles and responsibilities in identifying and referring victims of human trafficking, as mandated by Law 9095. Best practices from long-standing CTIs were shared to inspire other institutions in improving their work. These collaborative efforts have significantly strengthened reporting and referral mechanisms for victims of TiP and SoM in Costa Rica, with a strong emphasis on gender and human rights.

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.

- A **roadmap for coordination between prosecutors and the police in cases of migrant smuggling (SoM)** has been developed for effective case management while providing care and protection for victims. A guide for the use and understanding of the roadmap has also been developed in coordination with the Territorial Liaison Groups between the prosecutor's office, the police and the judicial investigation body, agreeing on the methodology for investigating cases of migrant smuggling. At least 49 (25 male, 24 women) staff participated in the sessions for the development of these guides in the jurisdictions of Limon, Corredores and Libera. In March 2025, the final version of the developed roadmap will be socialized. This collaborative effort also resulted in the development and adoption of a coordinated investigation roadmap and flowchart for Trafficking in Persons (TiP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SoM) cases. Additionally, a comprehensive **Guideline on International Cooperation for Counter-Trafficking and Smuggling** was validated and adopted by **eight** key representatives from DGME, the Specialized Prosecutor's Office for TiP/SoM (FACTRA), the Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ), the Office for Victim Assistance, the Professional Migration Police (PPM), the Public Prosecutor's Office, ILANUD, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the National Child Welfare Board, providing national authorities with a solid, evidence-based framework for improving inter-institutional coordination, standardizing processes, optimizing resources, enhancing international cooperation, and strengthening victim protection systems. (Annex 3: International Cooperation Guide.) The first technical exchange session between the Immediate Response Team (ERI) of CONATT Costa Rica and the Unit for Identification and Attention of Victims (UIA) of Panama, was implemented to identify synergies and improve binational coordination in the identification and assistance of human trafficking victims, as well as reinforcing transborder protection mechanisms. The event was attended by **33 (20 women and 13 men) officials**, including staff from the Ministry of Security, National Migration Service, Ombudsman Office of Panama, Attorney General's Office of the Nation, National Secretariat for Children, Adolescents, and Family, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labor of Panama, Ministry of Women, Public Prosecutor's Office of Panama, IOM Panama,



Professional Migration Police of Costa Rica, Ministry of Public Security, Attorney General's Office of Costa Rica, Judicial Investigation Department, General Directorate of Migration and Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Labor and Social Security, National Women's Institute, and National Children's Patronage (Annex 4. Letter of Intention Signed).

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.

- Through the Committee on Criminal Matters and its Subcommittee on Trafficking in Persons, specific actions have been organized and implemented as part of a comprehensive gender and human rights approach to access to justice. These actions are the result of a preliminary action plan, which was the outcome of a series of coordinations with the judiciary, the Deputy Public Prosecutor's Office against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, the Judicial School, the Office for Cooperation and International Affairs and the Office for the Attention and Protection of Victims. As a result of the Action Plan, the following measures have been developed and implemented.



- Development of a last version of the Diagnosis of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants in Costa Rica: Challenges to Resolve in Access to Justice (see Annex 10) which has been validated and is currently being reviewed by government partners. This assessment provides support on the barriers and limitations of the justice system in providing access to justice for victims of trafficking in persons and smuggled migrants, and finds that sexist and xenophobic attitudes, as well as a stereotype of the ideal victim, are currently prevalent in the Costa Rican justice system, limiting access to justice and promoting impunity for the crime. The diagnosis is groundbreaking and represents a fundamental contribution to contextualizing and providing recommendations for strengthening the capacity and coordination of personnel assigned to Costa Rican institutions that investigate, prosecute and provide protection in response to these crimes.

In cooperation with the Judicial Academy, a specialized course on trafficking in human beings and smuggling of migrants with a gender perspective was developed in a train-the-trainer (ToT) modality and integrated into the permanent curriculum of the Judicial Academy. Twenty-four judicial officials (14 women and 10 men) attended the course, including judges, prosecutors and police officers, improving their capacity to respond to the crimes of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. This training emphasized the need to incorporate gender and human rights perspectives in justice, focusing on trafficking and migrant smuggling crimes. It aims to analyze these crimes through an intersectional and gender lens, ensuring access to justice for victims affected by these crimes. The JP is currently working on a series of updates and modifications to the methodology so that it can be applied by a group of high-level judges trained to facilitate it in the coming years.

- Currently, efforts are underway to create key advisory documents, including a Compendium of Jurisprudence on Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants, to guide the interpretation and application of related legislation in Costa Rica. Additionally, a guide has been developed with judiciary professionals to help the judiciary system respond effectively and humanely to cases of these crimes. A Pocket Guide for Judges on the

Approach of Trafficking was also created to provide clear and concise information on key aspects of human trafficking cases.

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.



428 Officials trained in total



253 women trained



175 men trained

Building upon the baseline studies conducted under this outcome and the subsequent action plans developed, the JP has made significant progress in advancing key activities. In collaboration with private sector and government counterparts, as well as civil society organizations, efforts have been focused on strengthening services provided to migrants (remittances and health) and tools to enhance the capacities of the relevant institutions for a more efficient management of Tip and SoM situations.

During reporting period, a total of 2 remittances and financial services agencies (Airpak and Teledolar) have implemented action plans and knowledge acquired during capacity building exercises developed by the JP, and as a result, have improved their access to services that are sensitive to the unique needs of migrants in transit, especially migrant women.

Likewise, a total of **163 health care providers (110 women and 53 men)** have strengthened their capacities and tools because of the JP efforts and are better equipped to provide services that are sensitive to migrants' needs, from a gender and human rights perspective.

In addition, during the reporting period, the JP has been working with partners who are confident in applying the skills gained to reduce trafficking and/or smuggling of migrants. These stakeholders include the 22 government institutions part of CONATT, civil society organizations such as IBCR, Caritas, HIAS, Hands for Health, Cadena, Fundacion Rahab and Fundacion Mujer, as well as other UN agencies like UNCHR, UNICEF. Likewise, it includes 25 financial companies and remittances agencies, as well as government institutions including, but not limited to, Banco Lafisse, Interamerican Development Bank, Western Union, Airpak, Teledolar, General Superintendence of Financial Enterprises (SUGEF) among others. The following section provides a more detailed progress report on each output:

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.

Development of the diagnostic assessment on migrants' access to financial services, including a quantitative analysis and mapping of existing money transfer and financial service providers in communities with high

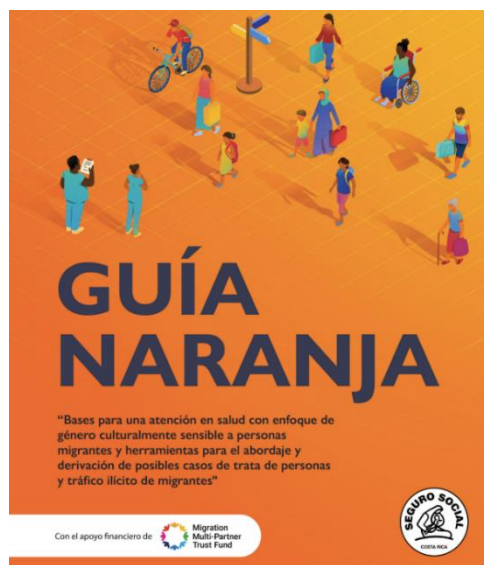
migrant populations. This diagnostic is now ready for design and diagramming in Q1 2025. This assessment also includes an analysis of gender barriers to financial service access and the risks faced by women in transferring, receiving, and using remittances. To inform the assessment, four IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Reports on migrants' access to and use of financial services were conducted. A gender and human rights approach was central to this analysis and was incorporated into both the questionnaire design and results analysis. Based on the findings and recommendations from this diagnostic, an action plan has been developed to engage the private sector (remittance agencies), and key insights have been integrated into the communication campaign strategy. (See Annex 5 Mapping of existing money transfer service providers Final Draft).

- The "Remesas Seguras" (Secure Remittances) communication campaign strategy has been developed with a gender and human rights focus (See Annex 6. Banners, and flyers designed). Its objective is to inform to migrants in Costa Rica about safe access to financial services, particularly remittances, to help prevent gender-specific vulnerabilities.
- Workshops were conducted with remittance agencies, including Airpak and Teledolar, to raise awareness on how financial services can help prevent Trafficking in Persons (TiP) and the Smuggling of Migrants (SoM), while promoting financial inclusion with a gender-sensitive approach. A total of **138 staff members (80 women and 58 men)** from various positions in remittance companies attended these workshops, demonstrating an **85.7%** increase in understanding of the unique financial needs of migrants, the risks they face, and how to foster gender-inclusive practices. Participants reinforced their understanding of key concepts such as human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and financial inclusion with gender considerations. The workshops emphasized reducing access barriers to safe financial services, which helps mitigate economic vulnerability and, in turn, lowers the risk of exploitation for migrants.
- A symposium on "Financial Inclusion of Migrant Persons with a Gender Approach to Reduce Risks Associated with Human Trafficking and the Illicit Trafficking of Migrant Persons" was held with 46 representatives (27 women, 19 men) from 25 institutions. The event aimed to strengthen the capacity of service providers to offer culturally sensitive services for migrants in transit and host communities. Participants included representatives from financial institutions (e.g., Western Union, Banco LAFISE), government agencies (e.g., DGME, SUGEF), NGOs (e.g., IBCR, Rahab Foundation), and embassies (e.g., Canada, EU, Mexico). The symposium highlighted the importance of including migrants in the local financial system, ensuring their access to secure financial services with a focus on gender and human rights.



- **A guide with indicators for identifying financial transaction** (specifically money transfers) related to trafficking in persons has been developed, aimed at strengthening the knowledge of personnel involved in the prevention and prosecution of human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, specifically in identifying economic-financial indicators, to generate investigations and seize assets connected to these crimes. (Annex 7. Guide for suspicious transactions).
- As a result of this Guide, 73 officers (44 men and 29 women) were trained through the **Workshop on Indicators of Transactions, Operations, and Any Economic-Financial Manifestations Originating from Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling Crimes and Their Legal Treatment**, which demonstrated an 85.41% knowledge increase.

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.



- The JP achieved the development of a specialized Training of Trainers (ToT) program, titled "Orange Guide: Basis for Gender-Sensitive and Culturally Appropriate Health Care for Migrant Persons and Tools for Healthcare Personnel in Addressing and Referring Potential Cases of Human Trafficking and Illicit Migrant Smuggling" (see Annex 8). The program reached at least 163 healthcare providers; and it focuses on two main thematic areas:

- Culturally sensitive care** for migrant populations in transit to reduce vulnerabilities and mitigate risks (Module 1)
- Identification and management** of human trafficking survivors in health services, an essential area for capacity building given the high volume of people served and the critical role healthcare providers play in early intervention. (Module 2 and 3).

The target beneficiaries of this ToT are staff from the Costa Rican Health and Social Security Authority (CCSS), including general and

specialized medical personnel, nursing, psychological, social work, administrative, customer service, and support staff (REDES). The training is based on IOM's Migrant Health Division's (MHD) Guide for Direct Assistance to TiP survivors, IOM's Manual on Protection and Assistance for Vulnerable Migrants, CONATT's Comprehensive Care Model for Survivors of Human Trafficking, and CCSS's Protocol for Comprehensive Care of Human Trafficking Victims in Health Services. Additionally, a comprehensive toolkit was developed, including didactic exercises, a methodological guide, and resources for trainers. Key materials include an abbreviated version of CCSS's Protocol for Victim Care in Health Services, a Practical Guide for Implementing a Gender Perspective in Health Services, and considerations for addressing children and adolescents who are victims of human trafficking. This training initiative was coordinated with CCSS's Technical Institutional Commission (CTI) and integrated into their ongoing capacity-building platform, ensuring long-term sustainability. (Annex 8a to 8j Orange Guide and toolkit).

- A total of 11 key hospitals across three regional health divisions in Costa Rica participated in the development and adoption of strategies to enhance the sensitivity of their services to the needs of migrants. These hospitals include:

- **Northern Region:** Hospital San Carlos, Hospital Los Chiles, Hospital San Rafael de Alajuela, and Hospital Carlos Luis Valverde Vega (San Ramón).
- **Southern Region:** Ciudad Neily Hospital, Golfito Hospital Manuel Mora Valverde, Hospital Tomas Casas Casajus (Osa), Hospital Fernando Escalante Pradilla (Pérez Celedón), and San Vito Hospital.
- **Atlantic Region:** Hospital Tony Facio Castro (Limón) and Guápiles Hospital.

These hospitals have successfully implemented practical recommendations to improve the user experience and make health services more responsive to gender and human mobility needs.

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.



©IOM. Golfito 2024. Training with healthcare providers led by te CCSS.

- The JP implemented the ToT **“Orange Guide: Basis for Gender-Sensitive and Culturally Appropriate Health Care for Migrant Persons and Tools for Healthcare Personnel in Addressing and Referring Potential Cases of Human Trafficking and Illicit Migrant Smuggling”** where **228 health care personnel (159 women and 69)** participated and demonstrated a **93.23 % increased ability** to identify victims of trafficking and increased understanding of how to provide care appropriate to their needs. Participants enhanced their knowledge and skills in providing culturally sensitive health services and in detecting, managing, and referral of potential cases

of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. They are applying these tools to their daily practice and developing strategies for each healthcare center involved in the workshops. The JP completed the diagnostic study on the provision of Gender-Sensitive and Human Mobility Health Services in Costa Rica, and the Mechanisms for Identifying and Managing Cases of Human Trafficking and Illicit Migrant Smuggling in the Healthcare Sector, laying the baseline inputs for the development of tools to address identified gaps and opportunities for improvement. Key findings of this diagnostic study include **Robust Regulatory Framework:** There is a solid regulatory framework in the CCSS (Costa Rican Social Security Fund) that aims for gender equality and the implementation of a gender-sensitive perspective, respectful of Human Rights. **Institutional Commitment:** The institutional effort to implement policies related to gender equity and human rights within the health system is recognized. **Opportunities for Mutual Enrichment:** There is an opportunity to incorporate an



©UNW. December, 2024. raise awareness initiatives “We Care for Each Other”, Los Chiles.

intercultural approach into healthcare services, which can enrich both healthcare staff and the migrant population. (See Annex 9. Final Draft).

Additionally, The JP carried out to raise awareness initiatives as “We Care for Each Other” "to prevent violence against women, human trafficking and migrant smuggling in south and north border areas (Paso Canoas and Los Chiles): to inform and sensitize migrant women in the region. During this activity, 99 women participated and had access to essential information on the prevention of gender-based violence, human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

Output 2.4 Develop mechanisms through which health and other social service providers can report or refer identified cases of human trafficking or smuggling to relevant law enforcement agencies.

A total of **207 officials (139 women, 68 men)**, from key institutions, including the Ministry of Health, CCSS, and COPPAMI participated in capacity building sessions focused on improving their skills in using established reporting and referral mechanisms. The sessions also emphasized the robust understanding of existing protocols and tools developed by CCSS (2019) for care, and referral of TiP and SoM cases, with a strong focus on gender and age sensitivity to address the unique vulnerabilities of women (often survivors of gender-based violence) and children.

Technical sessions were conducted within the framework of the Costa Rica-Panama Binational Permanent Commission for the Protection of Migrants (COPPAMI), engaging institutions from both countries for strengthening the cross-border response to Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling crimes, from a gender and human rights-based approach: **Panama:** National Migration Service, Panamanian Red Cross, Ministry of Health, National Border Service (SENAFRONT), National System for Civil Protection (SINAPROC), School of Psychology (UNACHI) at the northern border of Panama. **Costa Rica:** General Directorate for Migration (DGME), Professional Migration Police (PPM), Ministry of Health, Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ), Ministry of Economy and Planning (MIDEPLAN). Furthermore, a forum was held with key government agencies involved in the National Coalition Against Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants (CONATT) to reflect on achievements and current challenges. The event focused on improving Costa Rica's coordination, referral, and reporting mechanisms, while emphasizing the importance of gender-sensitive protection for victims of Trafficking in Persons (TiP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SoM).

Awareness, prevention and community engagement of the JP relevant to Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants.



©IOM. July 2024. Awareness material distributed during INTERPOL's Operation Turquesa V.

- The Joint Programme supported regional operations against TiP and SoM such as:
 - **INTERPOL's Operation Turquesa V**, in collaboration with the Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ). As a result:
 - Two potential trafficking victims were identified.
 - Five individuals linked to smuggling and cybercrime were arrested.
 - Two investigations were launched.
 - 1,000 informational brochures were distributed at key border points.

- **Operations Liberterra II and Itzel V**, facilitating the distribution of **5,000** awareness materials. These efforts have strengthened national strategies against trafficking and smuggling, aligning with national security priorities and focusing on high-risk border areas.
- Additionally, the JP supported the Border Police, through the "Fronteras de Paz" (Peace Borders) Program, through the donation of educational materials on trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling in Upala (northern border region) and Paso Canoas (southern border region), with the participation of 213 children and adolescents.
- Completed the distribution of 1,500 informational booklets on Trafficking in Persons, Migrant Smuggling, and the "Blue Heart Campaign", including contact information for reporting cases, during activities such as the Costa Rica-Panama Transboundary Binational Walk to commemorate International Day Against Trafficking in Persons, with the participation of CONATT's Prevention Commission. Furthermore, 142 children and adolescents received bags with educational materials to raise awareness about trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling as part of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons activities in the southern border region.



© IOM, September 2024. Educational material to raise awareness on TiP and SoM, placed in North and South Borders.

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.						A post survey will be applied to the institutions with which the data exchange mechanisms have been improved by the end of March 2025.
Indicator 1a. the number of police and prosecutors that report regularly exchanging information to coordinate investigations of organized crime.	6	0			0	A post survey will be applied to the institutions with which the data exchange mechanisms have been improved by the end of March 2025.
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	A post survey will be applied to the institutions with which the data exchange mechanisms have been improved by the end of March 2025.
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	11		11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Instituto Nacional de la Mujer (INAMU - SUMEVIG) 2. Sistema de Emergencia 9-1-1 (Código Único) 3. MSP - Línea de investigación 1-1-7-6 4. Fiscalía Especializada de Trata (FACTRA), 5. Organismo de Investigación Judicial (OIJ), 6. Patronato Nacional de la Infancia (PANI), 7. Policía Profesional de Migración (PPM), 8. Fuerza Pública, 9. Ministerio de Gobernación y Policía, 10. Ministerio de Trabajo y Seguridad Social, 11. Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería.
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	188	0	188	<p>Y2: 91 men and 97 women trained. Personnel from institutions such as 9-1-1 Emergency Systems, 1-1-7-6 and prosecutor's offices.</p> <p>Y3: The JP will be implementing the Specialized training implements developed by Universidad Estatal a Distancia (UNED); it will finish in May 2025.</p>
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	73%		73%	
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	10	0	10	<p>Institutions part of CONATT's Immediate Response Team (ERI) and the Permanent Commission of Information, Investigation and Analysis.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Institute for Women (INAMU - SUMEVIG) 2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship (MREC) 3. Ministry of Justice and Peace (MJP)

						<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Specialized Prosecutor's Office for Trafficking (FACTRA), 5. Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ), 6. National Children's Trust (PANI), 7. Professional Migration Police (PPM), 8. Ministry of the Interior and Police, 9. Ministry of Labour and Social Security, 10. Directorate-General for Migration and Aliens (DGME)
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	49		49	<p>Commission of Information, Investigation and Analysis/ Liaison groups of police and prosecutors meeting to define a roadmap for the investigation of SoM and registration of cases 3 meetings were held with territorial liaison groups between the prosecutor's office and the police to improve the investigation of cases of trafficking in persons (49 officials)</p> <p>This number corresponds to the number of people that the institutions met during four sessions to work on a Cooperation Guide and the binational technical session between the ERI of Costa Rica and the UIA of Panama, where a guide for the attention of cases was signed.</p> <p>As a complement to this indicator, 76 people were trained who participated in the Specialized Program for Investigation, Prosecution and Prosecution, which included bimodal sessions and a practical exercise in mock trial.</p>
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	Yes		Yes	An action plan is currently being developed in collaboration with the authorities which includes the creation of a special commission on trafficking in human beings and the planning of measures to enable the long-term implementation of the current Programme.
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	1	2		2	Airpak (Y1 and Y2), Tele dólar (Y2).
Indicator 2b Number of health care providers that offer services sensitive to migrants' needs.	60	31	132		163	The ToT "Orange Guide: Basis for Gender-Sensitive and Culturally Appropriate Health Care for Migrant Persons and Tools for Healthcare Personnel in Addressing and Referring Potential Cases of Human Trafficking and Illicit Migrant Smuggling (three implementations of the ToT on the Southern, Northern and Atlantic regions)
Indicator 2C. # of stakeholders that report having confidence in applying skills reducing trafficking and/or smuggling of migrants	50	0	0		0	A post survey will be applied to the institutions with which the data exchange mechanisms have been improved by the end of March 2025.
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	Yes	Yes	Currently on design and layout stage (See Annex 5)
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	85.70%	85.70%	The JP trained to staff of Western Union, Teledolar and Airpack
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	0	Financial Services Fairs will be implemented between February and March 2025 with local partners in border area and central (GAM). Including distribution a digital guideline plan. From January to March 2025, the activities within this communication strategy under the "Safe Remittances" campaign are being prioritized. During Years 1 and 2, awareness-raising and information actions were implemented at the community level and provided data on the crimes of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. Guidelines have also been made on social networks with a reach of more than 5,000 people (see Annex 11).
Indicator 2.1d A guide with indicators for identifying financial transaction (specifically money transfers) related to trafficking in persons are available.	yes	No	yes	Yes	Yes
Indicator 2.1e Percent of money-transfer service provider personnel receiving training that demonstrate an increased understanding of	80%	0%	85.41%	85.41%	A total of 138 people (80 women and 58 men) trained with this Guide showed an 85.41% improvement in identifying financial transactions related to human trafficking.

how to identify financial transactions related to trafficking in persons.						
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	Yes		Yes	Currently on design and layout stage.
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	9		10	The goal corresponds to the 10 main hospitals from regions Atlantica, Brunca South and North. The actions under this output included 17 Health Areas from the Ministry of Health and the participation of 5 NGOs and UN Agencies.
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	31	132		163	The ToT “Orange Guide: Basis for Gender-Sensitive and Culturally Appropriate Health Care for Migrant Persons and Tools for Healthcare Personnel in Addressing and Referring Potential Cases of Human Trafficking and Illicit Migrant Smuggling (three implementations of the ToT on the Southern, Northern and Atlantic regions)
Indicator 2.3b Number of healthcare providers that received training to identify victims of trafficking and provide care appropriate to their needs.	60	31	132		163	The ToT “Orange Guide: Basis for Gender-Sensitive and Culturally Appropriate Health Care for Migrant Persons and Tools for Healthcare Personnel in Addressing and Referring Potential Cases of Human Trafficking and Illicit Migrant

						Smuggling (three implementations of the ToT on the Southern, Northern and Atlantic regions)
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%	81.70 %		81.70%	The ToT “Orange Guide: Basis for Gender-Sensitive and Culturally Appropriate Health Care for Migrant Persons and Tools for Healthcare Personnel in Addressing and Referring Potential Cases of Human Trafficking and Illicit Migrant Smuggling (three implementations of the ToT on the Southern, Northern and Atlantic regions)
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.						
Indicator 2.4 several 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	31	152		183	This data includes the ToT and training sessions for COPPAMI and Health Group in the south border area.

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>Judicial Power</i>	No agreement signed. Joint efforts are being implemented within the Supreme Court's Criminal Commission.	Outcome 1. Output 1.4.	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
State Distance University (UNED - FUNDEPREDI)	Implementation Agreement was signed (IP)	Outcome 1 Output 1.1.	USD 40.000
Non-governmental stakeholders			
International Bureau for Children's Rights (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
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)	Partner Agreement implemented (PA).	Outcome 2. Output 2.1 and 2.3	USD 33.060

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 contributed to strengthening the Border Police program Borders of Peace, including the adaptation of didactic materials from the pedagogical toolkit developed by IOM LAC Regional Office, including awareness-raising and prevention actions against human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants. A total of 113 children and adolescents have participated in these activities, to date in Upala, Los Chiles a northern border region, and Paso Canoas a southern border region. Likewise, **142 children** received totem bags and educational materials to raise awareness about human trafficking and the illicit trafficking of migrants as part of the activities for World Day Against Human Trafficking on the southern border.



© IOM, July 2024. CONATT Prevention Commission at Binational Walk Costa Rica-Panama

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

- In addition to the initial challenges of delayed implementation and coordination time with the coordinating committee (March to September 2023), during the rest of the program's implementation there have been no major challenges in terms of the pace of implementation and coordination with counterparts and partners. However, given the delay in the initial stage of the program, it was necessary to request an extension of time and adjustment in the budget from the PUNOS from the donor.

Adjustments

- To overcome the delay time, the PUNOS in coordination with the Streeting Committee requested MMPTF for a Non-Cost Extents (NCE) and Budget Revision to ensure the implementation of the activities plan and the completion of the final evaluation. With the approved of this request, The PUNOS and stakeholders established a work plan to finalize the actions on March and initiate the final evaluation at the beginning of April.

Lessons and good practices

- The coordination mechanism of the JP, through a Special Technical Commission (CTE), has set a precedent for CONATT to replicate this mechanism with other specific projects, as established by national regulations. This has allowed the actions and results achieved to have greater impact and sustainability, aligning with the priorities, policies, and strategic plans in the fight against the smuggling of migrants and human trafficking.
- During the planning and definition of methodological strategies, the tools, methodologies and technical experience of the PUNOs have been used as a basis, which has allowed quality results and optimization of resources: Using data collection instruments already developed by IOM's DTM, technical assistance was provided by the Data Excellence Center initiative developed by UNODC Mexico for the processing of information regarding TiP cases; IOM methodologies for community awarenesses and the approach to human trafficking by health personnel, technical assistance from gender experts in the review of products and reports, technical and thematic documents by UN Women.,
- 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 JP's actions.
- 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.

Visibility and communication

- A national forum was organized on August 26th, 2024, to commemorate the 11th anniversary of **Law No. 9095 on Combating Trafficking in Persons and the Creation of the National Coalition against Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons (CONATT)**, as well as the National Policy against Trafficking in Persons. During the event, discussions were held on the country's main challenges and opportunities in the fight against trafficking in persons (TIP) and migrant smuggling (MS). The forum was attended by 120 participants, including members of public institutions, non-governmental and international organizations, and representatives of the diplomatic corps.

- Participation of Costa Rica's Director General of Migration and Foreigners, in the **II Regional Forum of Pioneering Countries of the Americas: Good Practices for Implementation of the GCM** in El Salvador, from September 26 to 29, focused on best practices for implementing the Global Compact for Migration. The forum was aimed at improving migration policies, strengthen Member State coordination, and enhance the benefits of migration.
- 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 . Social Media Guidelines on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Basics. The PUNOS implemented a post on social media on international day against human trafficking, it reached 48,884 online views in July to August 2024 (Annex 11 Reporting Reach Metrics in social media)



© IOM, September 2024. Educational material to raise awareness on TiP and SoM, placed in North and South Borders.

- 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.
- 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 panellist 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, 2024, 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. At the closing of December 2024, an estimated

Moving forward, Joint Programme's implementation for the first quarter 2025 includes the following activities:

- By Q1 2025, 100 officials have been enrolled in the next round of training, scheduled for February-March 2025, further enhancing their ability to conduct human rights-based investigations and train others in the effective use of databases for transnational crime data analysis.
- Based on the recommendations of the assessment of the existing data and information exchange processes, the Permanent Commission of Information and Analysis of CONATT requested the support of the JP to generate technical working groups between police forces and the prosecutor's office and generate a record sheet that standardizes basic information between the institutions. These sessions will be held in the months of February and March 2025.
- By Q1 2025, the establishment or strengthening of Data Analysis and Processing Units integrating a gender perspective will be advanced through the Meeting of Prosecutors' Liaison Groups and Police Forces, focused on the dissemination of the TIM Roadmap and a session on fraudulent documents.
- By Q1 2025, a Training of Trainers (ToT) program on databases and systems for collecting, analysing, and processing transnational crime data will be implemented, emphasizing the critical integration of a gender and human rights perspective in these processes.
- A simulation-based Training of Trainers (ToT) program will be conducted to strengthen the capacities of institutions within CONATT, with a focus on personnel responsible for assisting trafficking victims and managing identification and case handling processes. This initiative will be carried out through the replication of a simulated exercise in the South Border of Costa Rica.
- The "Human Trafficking Cases Data Dashboard – GTT-ERI" will be launched in Costa Rica as a key tool for exchanging best practices in the investigation and prosecution of trafficking and smuggling crimes. This initiative will be complemented by training sessions on the effective use of the dashboard and efforts to strengthen and advocate for its adoption among key stakeholders and users.
- Consultation processes with national institutions will be carried out to inform guidelines on joint investigations of transnational crimes, with the first CORETT meeting scheduled for 2025.
- Work sessions on case prioritization will be conducted with law enforcement agencies and justice institutions to identify cases, using the platform and the Guide as coordination tools. Additionally, the Ordinary Session of the Central American and Caribbean Council will take place in San José, Costa Rica, focusing on international cooperation in human trafficking and migrant smuggling, hosted at the Judicial School of Costa Rica.
- A set of specialized resources will be developed and delivered to support judicial authorities in handling human trafficking and migrant smuggling cases. These include the Guide for Addressing Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Cases from the Judiciary, a pocket guide for judges, and a reference document compiling relevant case law for judges and other legal professionals.
- The campaign will raise awareness of the importance of securely accessing financial and remittance services. It will disseminate clear information about available channels for safe remittance transfers and provide financial education spaces in migrant communities, with a focus on women, particularly heads of households. The campaign will run from February to April 2025 and will utilize digital and radio platforms to share key messages, as well as community interventions that offer financial education and advisory services for the target population. Community interventions will be carried out to raise awareness and provide

financial education in support of the Fronteras de Paz program. These efforts will include a communication campaign on financial services and the design and execution of a mural symbolizing the fight against human trafficking and migrant smuggling in the northern zone, in coordination with the Border Police and the Municipality of Upala.

- Financial service providers will receive specialized training to identify transactions potentially linked to human trafficking and migrant smuggling. This will be achieved through training sessions on the Red Flags Guide, specifically designed for remittance agencies.
- A mapping of regional best practices in migrant access to financial services will be conducted, leading to the development of a guide to facilitate replication in the Costa Rican context. This initiative will be implemented through the launch of the regional best practices mapping via a webinar.
- Health and informational sessions will be conducted to prevent gender-based violence, human trafficking, and migrant smuggling. These efforts will include a health fair in the northern zone, as well as the "we care ourselves" raise awareness in both the northern. Additionally, awareness-raising activities will be carried out in partnership with HIAS.
- On 5 March, HIAS and financial service providers Teledolar, Monis and Payser will hold an activity as part of the "Safe Remittances" campaign to inform the migrant community about the importance of safe remittances and the risks associated with unregulated transactions. The event aims to raise awareness and educate the migrant community on best practices for sending remittances safely and minimising the risks involved.
- During March 2025, a side event will be held in Chile, during the II Regional Forum to implement GCM, featuring the participation of the Vice Chancellor and the Vice Minister of Governance, who will present the results of the Joint Program. A panel with representatives from Ecuador, Panama, and Costa Rica will feature the Costa Rican representatives presenting key results of the Joint Program.
- A **closing event** for the Joint Program will be held on the 22nd of May to present key achievements, outcomes, and lessons learned from its implementation.
- **Final Evaluation:** The project will undergo an external evaluation to assess its impact, effectiveness, and implementation. The external evaluation will start in mid-March and run through June. The contracting of the consulting firm is in the final stages.

ANNEX

- *Stories from the Field:* Here can be found some examples of experiences of the stakeholders.





Annex list Key Programme Deliverables

- [Annex 1. Data and information assessment](#)
- [Annex 2a. Flowchart](#)
- [Annex 2a. Instructive form](#)
- [Annex 2b. Single Registry Sheet](#)
- [Annex 3. International Cooperation Guide.pdf](#)
- [Annex 4. Letter of Intention Signed.pdf](#) Costa Rica & Panama
- [Annex 5. Mapping of existing money transfer service providers Final Draft](#)
- [Annex 6a. Communication Campaign Banner Secure Remittances](#)
- [Annex 6b. Communication Campaign flyer 1 Secure Remittances](#)
- [Annex 6c. Communication Campaign flyer 2 Secure Remittances](#)
- [Annex 6d. Communication Campaign poster Secure Remittances](#)
- [Annex 7. Guide for suspicious transactions.pdf](#)
- [Annex 8a. Orange Guide](#)
- [Annex 8b. Health Care Cards](#)
- [Annex 8c. Case Study Cards](#)
- [Annex 8d. Trivia](#)
- [Annex 8e. Medical Booklet](#)
- [Annex 8f. Practical Considerations Sheet](#)
- [Annex 8g. Brief Practical Guide](#)
- [Annex 8h. Pocket Protocol](#)
- [Annex 8i. Simulation Cards](#)
- [Annex 8j. Orange Cards](#)
- [Annex 9. Final Draft Health Services.pdf](#)

Annex list Communications and Visibility

- [Annex 11. Reporting Reach Metrics in social media.pdf](#)
- [Annex 12. Excel PRESS Releases](#) In the excel link, you can find the press releases and visibility publications in social networks, of the events developed under the Joint Program.