



10-year program (2018-2028)  
\$A80 million

**31**

multi-year projects in five countries

**6**

regional projects supporting ASEAN's ACTIP implementation

**3**

projects with direct focus on victim rights and gender equality and social inclusion

**3**

projects focusing on inclusive public policy

Our key partners:

- ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children
- ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights
- ASEAN Secretariat
- ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime
- Civil society organisations
- Overseas Development Institute
- Police, prosecutors, judges and social welfare agencies
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

AUSTRALIA HAS PARTNERED WITH ASEAN MEMBER STATES OVER THE PAST 17 YEARS TO SUPPORT COUNTER-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS AND CONTINUES THIS THROUGH THE [ASEAN-AUSTRALIA COUNTER TRAFFICKING PROGRAM \(ASEAN-ACT\)](#).

**Trafficking in persons has no borders and occurs in many different sectors - its negative impacts are spread across the ASEAN region.**

ASEAN-ACT works with government and non-government organisations in ASEAN member states to enhance their capacity to punish traffickers justly, while protecting and supporting victims.

The partnership supports ASEAN member states to implement and report on their obligations under the [ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children \(ACTIP\)](#).

ASEAN-ACT has national-level programming in Cambodia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam. We are establishing programming in Indonesia, and it is currently on hold in Myanmar.

ASEAN-ACT's Regional Program Steering Committee (RPSC) is the regional governance mechanism of the program, with representatives across all ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat. The RPSC is co-chaired by the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

ASEAN-ACT works through three interrelated pathways:

### 1 Enhancing regional-level capacity

We support and work with ASEAN to strengthen its planning, monitoring and reporting of the ACTIP, particularly with respect to the protection of victims.

### 2 Enhancing national-level capacity

We support and work with national justice agencies to develop their capacity to fulfil their ACTIP obligations, in particular those that uphold and advance victim rights.

### 3 Developing inclusive public policy and dialogue

We promote and facilitate dialogue between government, civil society and the private sector to ensure a broad and diverse range of voices, including victims/survivors contribute to counter trafficking law, policy and practice.



## JUSTICE OUTCOMES

ASEAN-ACT facilitates justice sector cooperation and provides technical support to strengthen criminal justice responses to trafficking in persons in the region. Recent achievements have included:

- Built regional and national capacities in justice sector agencies' responses to counter human trafficking, including training 2,037 people in 2020, and 1,212 (Jan-Jun 2021). These totals include state and non-state counter-trafficking actors trained from all 10 ASEAN member states.
- Informed development of policies and procedures to reduce vulnerability to trafficking in persons.
- Coordinated transnational meetings to strengthen cross-border cooperation for trafficking in persons investigations and interventions.

## RESPONSE TO COVID-19

COVID-19 has exacerbated existing vulnerabilities to trafficking and created new ones. Further, budgets and resources for trafficking responses have been reduced and law enforcement has been diverted to support the emergency response. ASEAN-ACT has supported our partners to adapt and continue counter trafficking efforts through virtual training, bilateral meetings, workshops and seminars. Recent initiatives include:

- Provided personal protective equipment to frontline responders to ensure their safety when detecting, investigating trafficking or supporting victims.
- Published a [policy paper](#) on vulnerability, trafficking in persons, and COVID-19.
- Developed a [portal](#) with vital resources and tools to support government, private sector, and civil society during COVID-19.

## PARTNERSHIPS

ASEAN-ACT pursues partnerships with a broad and diverse range of regional and national actors, in recognition that effective counter trafficking responses require multi-sectoral, collaborative approaches.

In July 2021, we launched a [grants program](#) with the purpose of partnering with organisations that directly support and advocate for the rights of trafficked victims and contribute valuable evidence to inform policy reform. In this initial phase, we have partnered with:

- Blue Dragon Foundation (Vietnam)
- Human Rights and Development Foundation (Thailand)
- Labour Protection Network (Thailand)
- Legal Support for Children and Women (Cambodia)
- Migrant Forum Asia (Philippines)
- Ople Center (Philippines)
- Social Responsibility Law (Thailand)
- Verité Southeast Asia (Thailand)
- Village Focus International (Lao PDR)

## VICTIM RIGHTS, EQUALITY & INCLUSION OUTCOMES

ASEAN-ACT is working with partners to support groups most vulnerable to trafficking, and reduce barriers to accessing protection and support. Recent achievements have included:

- Facilitated victim sensitive trainings for judges and prosecutors, and supported government agencies with the inclusion of gender equality and victim rights in national action plans and in guidelines.
- Collected trafficking-in-persons datasets and developed [victim sensitive court indicators](#) to strengthen data collection and promote evidence-based policy.
- Supported a study examining [shelter practices](#) and the freedom of movement for victims or presumed victims of trafficking, and offered recommendations for law, policy and practice to ASEAN member states.

## KNOWLEDGE-SHARING & LEARNING OUTCOMES

ASEAN Member States, with support from ASEAN-ACT, are sharing knowledge and learning on ACTIP implementation. Recent achievements have included:

- Series of [webinars](#) on justice system adaptive responses for ASEAN policy-makers and practitioners, with topics ranging from victim compensation to women as change agents in the counter-trafficking sector.
- Commissioned studies to enhance understanding of counter trafficking issues, including examining the political economy of trafficking, application of non-punishment principle in ASEAN and trafficking in the fisheries sector.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Visit our website for more details about our work with partners in the region.

To download resources and tools on counter-trafficking in persons in the ASEAN region, visit our portal: [aseanactpartnershiphub.com](https://aseanactpartnershiphub.com)

 [aseanact.org](https://aseanact.org)

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