



ASEAN-ACT is a

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



54 events in Cambodia, with
1,829 participants
(35% female, 65% male)



18 capacity development events
conducted in Cambodia
594 people trained
(33% female, 67% male)

ASEAN-ACT's focal point in Cambodia is the Director General of Prosecution and Criminal Affairs, Ministry of Justice.

Other **key partners:**

- Cambodian National Police
- Legal Support for Children and Women
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation
- National Committee to Counter Trafficking Royal Academy for Judicial Professions

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THROUGH THE **ASEAN-AUSTRALIA COUNTER TRAFFICKING PROGRAM (ASEAN-ACT)**, AUSTRALIA CONTINUES 19+ YEARS SUPPORTING COUNTER TRAFFICKING IN THE REGION.

WE SUPPORT ASEAN MEMBER STATES TO STRENGTHEN JUSTICE RESPONSES TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING, WHILE ADVANCING THE RIGHTS AND PROTECTION OF VICTIMS.

Trafficking in persons has no borders and occurs in many different sectors - its negative impacts are spread across Southeast Asia.

Economic downturn across the region as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with an increase in online activity, has placed more people at risk of being recruited into false or misleading employment opportunities.

Citizens of ASEAN Member States are finding themselves in exploitative conditions that they cannot escape from and the dynamics between countries of origin and countries of destination are changing.

In response to these emerging trends and ongoing vulnerabilities to trafficking in persons, ASEAN-ACT works with government and non-government organisations across ASEAN Member States to increase cooperation, strengthen capacity, facilitate dialogue between policymakers and practitioners, and identify innovative ways to prevent and address trafficking in persons.

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, and Vietnam. We are establishing programming in Indonesia, and our projects are currently on hold in Myanmar.

ASEAN-ACT's Regional Program Steering Committee (RPSC) is the regional governance mechanism of the program, with members drawn from all 10 ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat.

The RPSC is co-chaired by the Lead Shepherd on Trafficking in Persons from the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and a senior Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) representative.



ASEAN-ACT works through three interrelated pathways:



Enhancing regional-level capacity

We support and partner with the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) and other ASEAN bodies to strengthen victim-sensitive planning, monitoring and reporting processes.

Enhancing national-level capacity

We work with national partners to strengthen their capacity to implement the ACTIP, in particular those that uphold victim rights and advance gender equality, disability and social inclusion.

Developing inclusive public policy and dialogue

We promote and facilitate dialogue and cooperation between government, civil society and the private sector to support improvements in counter-trafficking policies and practices.

JUSTICE OUTCOMES

ASEAN-ACT facilitates justice sector cooperation and provides technical support to strengthen criminal justice responses to trafficking in persons in Cambodia. Recent achievements with our partners include:

- National Committee for Counter Trafficking reviewed the guidelines on victim identification, with inputs from NGOs
- Ministry of Justice trained 22 prosecutors and investigating judges (7 women and 15 men) on anti-money laundering in trafficking in persons cases
- Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation conducted two training events for frontline officials on policy and minimum standards to protecting victims of trafficking in persons
- Two workshops reviewed and revised the Standard Operating Procedures for Specialist Units of the Anti-Human Trafficking of the Cambodian National Police.

PARTNERSHIPS

ASEAN-ACT has established partnerships with regional and national actors, as effective counter trafficking responses require multi-sectoral approaches. Highlights with our partners include:

- Legal Support for Children and Women (LSCW) is providing legal assistance to victims of trafficking and sharing lessons learned in victim identification to inform policy dialogue.
- LSCW through our partnership mobilised Cambodian NGOs to respond collectively to the emerging human trafficking trends in Cambodia.
- LSCW has also trained NGO representatives on victim identification, case management and referral system.

VICTIM RIGHTS, AND GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL 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:

- Presented key findings of a capacity needs assessment of the protection of child rights in the justice system response to trafficking in persons for Cambodia
- Supported partner government agencies to prioritise victim rights and gender equality and social inclusion in implementing the national action plans against trafficking
- Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation trained 119 frontline officials (34 women and 85 men) on policy and minimum standards on the protection of trafficking in persons victims.

Example of good practice in cross-agency cooperation

ASEAN-ACT supported the National Committee for Counter Trafficking (NCCT) to conduct two training events on the forms and procedures for victim identification, including the concept of victim-sensitive principles.

As a result of this training, NCCT initiated a review of the guidelines on victim identification for the provision of appropriate support to trafficked victims. Inputs from prosecutors, judges, and law enforcers were gathered through a series of workshops in early 2022.

NGOs were also consulted through the NGO technical working group and the Forum on Migrant Labour and Human Trafficking.

As well as discussions between NGOs and relevant provincial committees were held.

The consultations between government agencies and civil society on an important initiative such as the victim identification guidelines is an example of good practice in cross-agency cooperation.