



ASEAN-ACT is a  
**10-year program (2018-2028)**  
**\$A80 million**



**33** events in Vietnam, with  
**877** participants  
(51% female, 49% male,  
0.46% other)



**15** capacity development events  
conducted in Vietnam  
**473** people trained  
(50% female, 50% male)

ASEAN-ACT's key focal point in Vietnam is the Ministry of Public Security.

Other key partners:

- Blue Dragon Children's Foundation
- Supreme People's Court
- Supreme People's Procuracy
- Ministry of Public Security
- Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs
- Vietnam Women Union
- Hanoi Procuratorate University

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

 [@AusAmbASEAN](https://twitter.com/AusAmbASEAN)

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 are 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 Vietnam. Recent achievements with our partners include:

- Ministry of Public Security conducted training-of-trainers on Trafficking in Persons for law for 22 trainers (4 female and 18 male) from four police training institutions.
- Supreme People's Court completed the handbook on victim protection for judges and court staff.
- Hanoi Procuratorate University (HPU) conducted training-of-trainers on CTIP, with 16 participants (9 female and 7 male). HPU also endorsed the TIP training materials for prosecutor students.
- Supreme People's Procuracy completed and endorsed the handbook on mutual legal assistance for handling Trafficking in Persons cases.
- Supported training on digital evidence in trafficking in persons cases for law enforcers, prosecutors and courts at southern area, with 37 participants (6 female and 31 male).

## 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:

- Blue Dragon Children's Foundation is informing developments in counter-trafficking policy, including the review of Vietnam's Trafficking in Persons legislation. Blue Dragon is also conducting analysis of victim identification in Trafficking in Persons cases, supporting multidisciplinary cooperation at the provincial level, and providing case assistance to trafficking in persons victims.
- Through our partnership, Blue Dragon represented 17 female victims in 10 trafficking cases, resulting in the convictions of 28 traffickers.

## 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:

- Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs conducted a training on victim-centred approach and trauma-informed care for 34 (10 female and 24 male) labour sector staff from various districts, People's Police College, People's Police University, Labour Department, Provincial Social Work Centers and Social Protection Centers.
- Presented key findings of a capacity needs assessment of the protection of child rights in the justice system response to trafficking in persons for Vietnam.

## Handbook on mutual legal assistance on handling of Trafficking in Persons cases

The International Relations Department of the Supreme People's Procuracy is the central authority for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, including trafficking in persons cases.

In 2021, the Department requested ASEAN-ACT to support the development of a handbook to outline and guide mutual legal assistance.

A technical drafting team was established, followed by a desk review to outline the guide.

Following several workshops and meetings with key central agencies and provincial representatives, the final handbook was endorsed by leaders of the Supreme People's Procuracy in June 2022.

The handbook provides examples and explanations on procedures to guide investigators and prosecutors when dealing with Trafficking in Persons cases, under a request for mutual legal assistance.

The handbook will contribute to better documentation and consistency in handling trafficking in persons cases.