



REPUBLIC OF FIJI NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

2021 - 2026



**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, NATIONAL
SECURITY & POLICING IN
COLLABORATION WITH THE EUROPEAN
UNION AND THE INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION**



Foreword

by the Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing

The Republic of Fiji's National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking 2021-2026 (HTNAP) is aligned with the Republic of Fiji's National Human Trafficking Strategy 2021-2026 (HT Strategy), which provide the overarching National Human Trafficking Policy Framework (HT Framework). The HTNAP sets annual term targets to achieve the strategic objectives outlined in the HT Strategy which have been formulated alongised the four pronged pillars of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Convention) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, (Trafficking Protocol) - "Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership".



The HTNAP builds on existing response mechanisms and commitments by relevant agencies, and maintains mandated functions with responsible agencies with a greater emphasis on partnership, which is translated in the cross-cutting objectives and activities of the HTNAP.

The launch of the HTNAP demonstrates the Fijian Government's determination to combat and eliminate human trafficking. I believe that as we implement the activities outlined in the HTNAP and address the strategic priorities from the HT Strategy, we will achieve our goals to eliminate human trafficking in Fiji and across the region.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Inia B. Seruiratu".

Honourable Inia B. Seruiratu

Minister for Defence, National Security and Policing

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Acknowledgments

The HTNAP encompasses a whole of Government and whole of society approach and responsibility. The development of the HTNAP represents the combined efforts of government departments and the advocacy and support of non-government agencies (NGO's), civil society organizations (CSO's), faith-based organizations (FBO's), and regional and international agencies.

The Ministry of Defence and National Security (Ministry) coordinated the development of the HTNAP on behalf of the inter-agency and working groups on human trafficking. The Ministry would like to thank the Government departments, NGOs, technical partners, bilateral partners and individuals who contributed tirelessly and comprehensively in the national consultations and workshop on Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation held at the Naviti Resort in December 2019. The outcomes from this national workshop and subsequent technical input from working groups and through interagency partnerships have resulted in the development of Fiji's HT Strategy and HTNAP.

The Ministry would like to acknowledge the assistance of the European Union (EU) whom through the International Organization for Migration (IOM) was able to revise this HTNAP. Furthermore, we would like to acknowledge the financial and technical support that has been continuously offered by the IOM office in Fiji that has enabled the Ministry to consolidate all efforts that has been narrated into this HTNAP.

The Ministry further appreciates the contributions of international and regional partners and their continued support in the fight against human trafficking in Fiji and across the Pacific.

Introduction

Trafficking in Persons (TIP) is 'the act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harboring and receiving a person through the use of force, coercion or other means for the purpose of exploiting them for economic gain'¹. It is a crime that not only involves the movement across international borders but also within a country; furthermore it violates a persons' human rights where individuals are forced into sexual servitude, debt bondage and other crimes for the benefit of traffickers. According to the International Labour Organization, (ILO), this type of crime is the second largest illegal trade generating over 150 billion a year and has estimated that 20.9 million people around the globe are victims to forced labour and sexual exploitation.

Statistics has shown that women and children are the most vulnerable and exploited group around the world. The United Nations Office in Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018 revealed that 23% of victims are children whilst 49% are adult women. However, this data does not fully demonstrate the extent of the crime as it is under-reported by members of the public, and is also difficult to detect the signs of a person being trafficked. There are many reasons that cause a person to being trafficked however, research has found that the sex industry as well as the demand for commercial sex, the situations of social exclusion and poverty, the lack of equal opportunities suffered by women and girls and the promise of receiving better job opportunity are the main contributing factors.

The US Department of State conducts an annual assessment and produces a 'Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report' (US TIP Report). The US TIP Report classifies countries according to the standards of compliance to combatting trafficking in persons under three categories:

- ❖ Tier 1 category countries are countries that have full compliance with the minimum standards of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA).
- ❖ Tier 2 countries are those that have shown and proved significant efforts to comply with TVPA.
- ❖ Tier 2 Watch List countries are countries whose governments do not fully comply with the TVPA's minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards and;
- ❖ Tier 3 countries are those countries that failed to show indication of any efforts to comply with the TVPA.

Fiji is currently on the Tier 2 watch list with the threat of being downgraded to Tier 3 in the absence of an updated HTNAP and our ability to address prioritized recommendations highlighted in the US TIP Report. All relevant stakeholders (Government and non-government) have positively combined efforts to develop and subsequently implement this HTNAP.

1 United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Trafficking/TiP/Pages/Index.aspx>

What is Trafficking in Persons?

Under Article 3(a) of the Trafficking Protocol, TIP has three elements:

- the act – that is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons;
- by means – that is the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person; and
- the purpose of exploitation includes the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

TIP in Fiji

TIP is a global phenomenon with its symptoms being identified within our borders. Fiji is a transit and receiving country given its geographical location within the South Pacific basin.

As the regional hub in the Pacific, Fiji plays an important role as an origin, transit and destination country in the context of international migration. According to the annual US TIP Reports, Fiji is a source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labour. Geographically, Fiji has an extensive porous border with a huge maritime space that makes it vulnerable for trafficking in persons as a transit and destination country for men, women and children.

Fiji's Legislative Responses to Human Trafficking

Fiji's legislative response to human trafficking is solid, robust and sufficient to hold traffickers accountable and includes four specific indictable offences to address human trafficking. Chapter 2 of the Fijian Constitution outlines the Bill of Rights that is afforded to all Fijians which enforces their freedom from all forms of human trafficking.

This is further reinforced through sound legislation such as:

- ❖ Immigration Act 2003
- ❖ Crimes Act 2009
- ❖ Employment Relations Act 2007
- ❖ Online Safety Act 2019
- ❖ Police Act 1965
- ❖ Adoption Act 2020
- ❖ Juveniles Act 1973
- ❖ Child Welfare Act 2010

Fiji's National Human Trafficking Framework

On the 11th of March 2020, Fiji's National Security and Defence Council (NSDC) endorsed the Framework which provides the supporting coordinating mechanism to achieve HT Strategy and to execute the HTNAP in Fiji. The Framework as depicted in Figure. 1 has been categorized into 3 operational platforms of "Prevention, Protection and Prosecution" with an overarching principle of "Partnership" to fully strengthen the linkages between the operational platforms. The framework will also include a case management mechanism that is assisted by civil service organisations (CSO's). The 3 governing bodies of the Framework comprises of:

1. National Security and Defence Council;
2. The Coordination Steering Committee of Permanent Secretaries (Coordination Steering Committee); and
3. The Interagency National Trafficking Committee (Interagency Committee) which is comprised of technical working groups including senior Government officials and assisted by international partners and CSO's.

The Interagency Committee will provide a step by step guide on referral procedures for action once a potential human trafficking case has been identified. The Interagency Committee will consist of the relevant stakeholders as outlined and has the flexibility for the inclusion of additional relevant agencies/ organizations as required.

Depending on the nature of the case identified, the relevant stakeholders from the Interagency Committee will form a case management group (CMG). The CMG will work with the appointed case management coordinator to oversee the progress of individual cases from apprehension to conviction for the offenders, and the necessary support provided to victims with the assistance of CSO's.

The CMG will then provide a report with recommendations for actions to be taken. This report on the escalation of the event will be forwarded to the Coordination Steering Committee. This will then be consigned to the Council for its decision.

National Framework for Anti-Human Trafficking

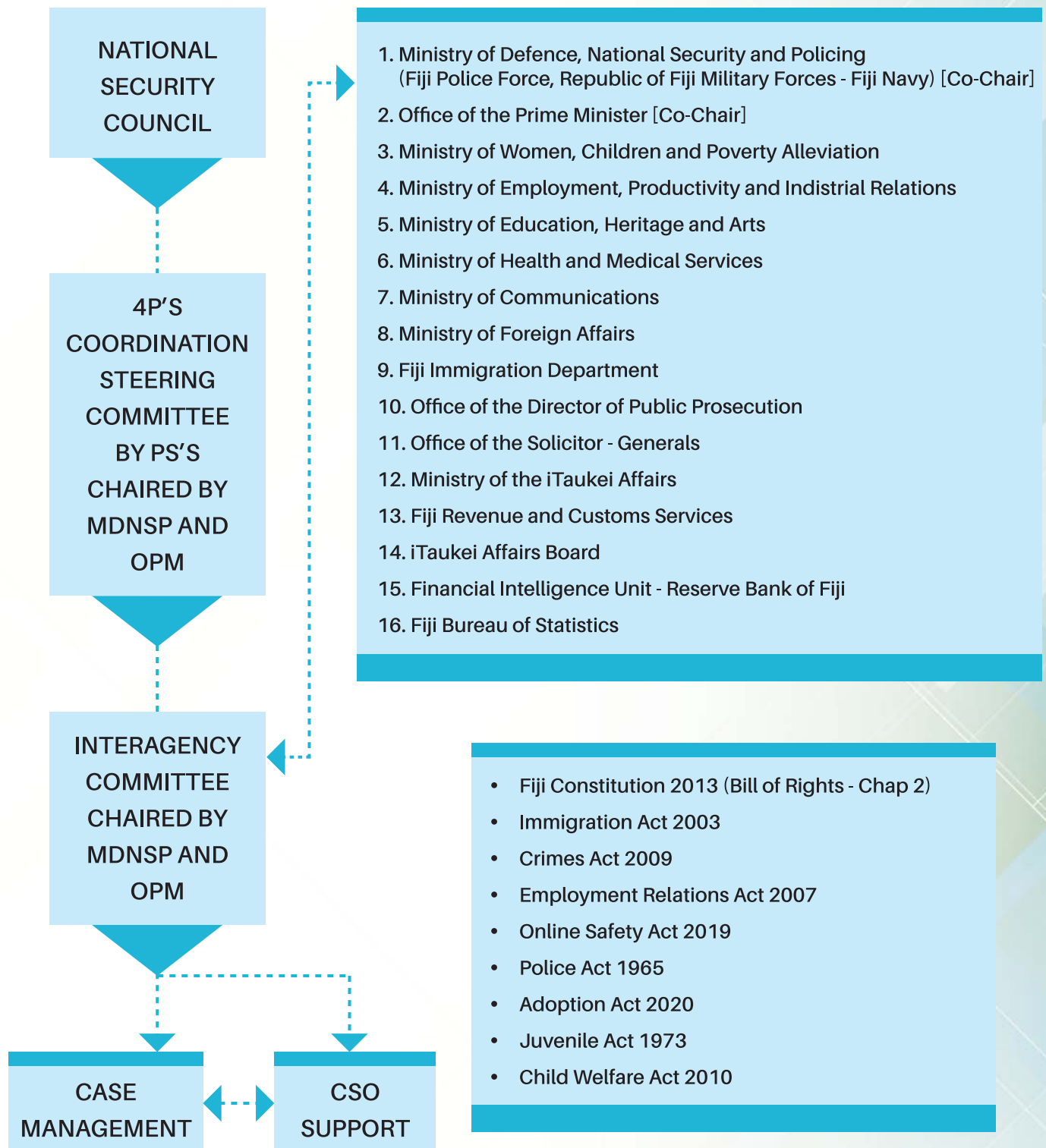


Figure 1: National Human Trafficking Framework

The National Action Plan

To ensure that response efforts across all relevant Government Ministries and Departments will benefit from high level strategic guidance and to heighten public awareness of TIP, the Fijian Government has established the Coordination Steering Committee. The Coordination Steering Committee is co-chaired by the Permanent Secretary for the Office of the Prime Minister and the Permanent Secretary for Defence and National Security to implement this HTNAP in line with the HT Strategy and existing and ongoing efforts in combatting TIP and to introduce new initiatives for victim identification, enhanced investigation and enforcement, provision of victim protection and support services. Details of these measures are set out in this HTNAP under the section on Fiji's National Response.

The timeframe for the implementation of the activities on the HTNAP toward achieving the specific objectives, has been set as Short, Medium or Long-term.

- Short-term actions will aim to be completed within 1 year (12 months) of implementation of the HTNAP and will be reported on in the first 12 months' annual plan.
- Medium-term actions will be completed within 1 to 3 years of implementation of the HTNAP.
- Long-term actions take a longer time to complete and will target completion between 3 to 5 years.

These include actions for example, where a case of trafficking is identified and is being investigated and prosecuted by Government agencies.

The HTNAP will be monitored regularly by the Coordination Steering Committee and the Interagency Committee and new actions and timeframes will be proposed to achieve the specific objectives or other emerging priorities.



FIJI'S NATIONAL RESPONSE

The objectives of the HTNAP are to:

- I. Strengthen existing mechanisms to combat trafficking in persons through a coordinated and holistic approach ;
- II. Protection of victims of trafficking and exploitation and the provision of adequate relief and redress; and
- III. Suppression of criminal networks and successful prosecution of traffickers

In line with internationally accepted best practices outlined in the Trafficking Protocol, Fiji will adopt a '4-pronged' approach response under the 4 Pillars (the 4P's):

- The PREVENTION of human trafficking;
- The PROTECTION of victims;
- The PROSECUTION of offenders; and
- Working in cohesive PARTNERSHIP with both domestic and international partners

In addition, the HTNAP will support comprehensive and robust data collection on human trafficking in Fiji to address the data and information gaps on the issue.

The following pages outline the key objectives and activities that will be progressed under this HTNAP which is aligned with the HT Strategy. The Interagency Committee will be responsible for the execution of the activities outlined in this HTNAP.

PREVENTION

The Fijian Government is committed to support a wide range and evidence-based prevention strategy focusing on awareness raising and research activities that ultimately prevent all forms of Trafficking in Persons.

Prevention Targets in the National Action Plan

Specific Objectives	Indicators	Actions	Timetable	Partners	Agency Responsible	Measure
Specific Objective 1.1 Equip government officials in operational roles with the competency to identify and manage suspected people trafficking activity through specialized training and technical assistance in partnership with relevant development partners.	Number of specialised trainings conducted	1.1.1 Identify Core Training required for different stakeholders according to respective mandated legislation with the technical assistance of relevant international partners.	July 31st 2021	FPF, FID, FRCS, BAF & MEPIR IOM Bali Process UNODC Bilateral Partners Multi-lateral Partners	MDNS/OPM	3 Specialized trainings identified and conducted for each enforcement agencies.
		1.1.2 Train operational staff on people trafficking indicators and appropriate referral and responses.	July 31st 2021	FPF, FID, FRCS, BAF & MHMS	MDNS/OPM	Evaluation of the effectiveness of training materials and provision of capacity building opportunities for operational level enforcement officers.
Specific Objective 1.2 Increase targeted messaging and awareness on labour and sex trafficking to the public via social media and mainstream media.	5 advocacy & awareness platforms are developed & messages relayed through various formal & informal media	1.2.1 Develop a communication strategy that employs both social media and mainstream	Short term - By mid 2021	Ministry of Communications, FPF, FID, FRCS, Fisheries & MHMS, MOE, MWCPA, Min. of Employment, MOD, iTaukei Affairs Board, Fiji Corrections, CSOs IOM Bali Process UNODC Bilateral Partners Multi-lateral Partners	MDNS	Increase understanding across communities
		1.2.2 Implement the Communication Strategy	Short term - By mid-2021	FPF, FID, FRCS, BAF, MHMS, CSOs, Ministry of Communications	All relevant stakeholders	Evaluation of the effectiveness of training materials and provision

Specific Objective 1.3 Improve understanding of the nature of people trafficking through research on trafficking issues of relevance to Fiji and improve and enhancing of intelligence gathering amongst key stakeholders.	3 research studies on human trafficking conducted		1.3.1 Identify research priorities for human trafficking issues of relevance to Fiji	Short term - By mid-2021	MDNS FID, MEPIR, MWCPA, FBOS, FRCS, NGO's & FBO's USP, SPC, IOM Bali Process UNODC Bilateral Partners Multi-lateral Partners	MDNS - National Fusion Centre	Review of the relevance of national human trafficking research priorities proposed
			1.3.2 Provide technical and administrative support for human trafficking research studies implemented by local, regional and international agencies	Long term - By end 2026	MDNS FID, MEPIR, MWCPA, FRCS, NGO's & FBO's USP, SPC, IOM Bali Process UNODC Bilateral Partners Multi-lateral Partners	MDNS - National Fusion Centre	Peer review of research studies undertaken
	2 initiatives undertaken for analysis and sharing of human trafficking intelligence with partners		1.3.3 Develop collection plan and collate and analyse and disseminate information on human trafficking activities	Short term - By end 2021	FID, FIU, FRCS and FPF	MDNS	Use of intelligence related to people trafficking Better information sharing.
			1.3.4 Engage with countries in the region for intelligence sharing related to people trafficking	Long term - By end 2026	IOM, INTERPOL, Fusion center, ILO, UNODC, PIDC, PIFS, SPC, RSO Bali process	MDNS	Engagement increases the flow of valuable intelligence related to people trafficking
	5 initiatives implemented to strengthen boarder security management		1.4.1 Strengthen fraud detection in trade and industry, immigration, labor and employment applications to detect people trafficking	Long term - By end 2026	FID, FIU, FRCS, MEPIR, Transnational Crime Unit, Bilateral Partners, Multi-lateral Partners	FID, FIU, FRCS, MEPIR, Transnational Crime Unit,	Traffickers are unable to fraudulently secure a Fiji visa for their potential victims
Specific Objective 1.4 Strengthen border securities and permit policies, including issuance of visa electronically to prevent migrant workers being trafficked in and out of Fiji as well as persons trafficked within the country.							

		1.4.2 Develop and implement profiles and risk alerts	Medium term - By end 2023	FID, FIU, FRCS, MEPIR, MSAF, Transnational Crime Unit, Bilateral Partners, Multi-lateral Partners	FID, FIU, FRCS, MEPIR, Transnational Crime Unit,	Human trafficking risk profiles developed and evaluation of effectiveness of risk alerts
		1.4.3 Conduct training for border agency operational staff to strengthen onshore border security to detect people trafficking activity at air and sea ports	Medium term - By end 2023	FID, FIU, FRCS and FPF HTU and Transnational Crime Unit Bilateral MSAF Partners Multi-lateral Partners	All relevant stakeholders	Increase in reports from border staff about suspected trafficking activity
Specific Objective 1.5 Improve the knowledge of all professionals and representatives of the NGOs and CSOs sector in Fiji who are in touch with victims of trafficking in human beings in terms of the identification, referral and protection of victims and criminal prosecution of offenders.	2 trainings conducted with representatives of the NGOs and CSOs sector in Fiji in terms of the identification, referral and protection of victims and criminal prosecution of offenders.	1.5.1 Conduct trainings for CSOs on victims identification and referral process	Short term - By end 2021	FPF, FID, MEPIR, MDSN, MWCPA, CSOs IOM Homes of Hope	All relevant stakeholders	Resources developed by CSOs
Specific Objective 1.6 Improve the knowledge of key stakeholders on the risks and consequences of child pornography and other forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of children by information and communication technologies and intelligence.	5 trainings conducted on information & communication technologies & intelligence in relation to child sexual exploitation	1.6.1 Implement awareness and training initiatives on child pornography and other forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of children by information and communication technologies.	Long term - By end 2026	FPF, FID, MEPIR, MDSN, MWCPA, CSOs IOM Homes of Hope	All relevant stakeholders	Resources developed by CSOs
Specific Objective 1.7 Increase resilience of vulnerable groups by supporting projects for the empowerment of vulnerable groups in partnership with NGOs and CSOs.	5 projects implemented for the empowerment of vulnerable groups	1.7.1 Develop concept notes and secure funding to implement	Long term - By end 2026	MWCPA CSOs IOM Homes of Hope	All relevant stakeholders	Evaluation of project outcomes and impact

<p>Specific Objective 1.8 Improve the data collection system by developing a centralized national human trafficking data base for key stakeholders in Fiji, and reporting on data annually, and to implement research studies to identify trends in trafficking in human beings through trans-border crimes.</p>	1 centralized national data base established	1.8.1 Develop and pilot model database	Medium term - By end 2022	MDNS FID, MEPIR, MWCPA, FBOS, FPF IOM Bali Process UNODC Bilateral Partners Multi-lateral Partners	All relevant stakeholders	Review of usefulness of data analysis from the database
	1 national report on human trafficking published	1.8.2 Develop and launch one national human trafficking report	Medium term - By end 2022	MDNS FID, MEPIR, MWCPA, FBOS, FPF IOM Bali Process UNODC Bilateral Partners Multi-lateral Partners	All relevant stakeholders	Report published and shared widely
	3 initiatives to counter IFFs developed		Long term - By end 2026		All relevant stakeholders	
<p>Specific Objective 1.9 Strengthen national inter-agency coordination mechanism to counter IFFs. For effective response, government needs to develop institutional mechanisms that give clear responsibility and facilitate straight forward coordination and collaboration between agencies both on the level of policy design and implementation.</p>						

PROTECTION

The Fijian Government will endeavor to assist all victims of human trafficking by ensuring that appropriate relief and support services are made available through the support of international partners and the CSO support group.

Protection

Victims of people trafficking will require government protection. Protection of victims of trafficking has two focal points: ensuring their physical safety and upholding their human rights.

Traffickers exploit people's desire to make better life for themselves in a foreign country. Victims of trafficking may be deceived into believing that they are entering a new country legitimately for a lucrative job and make more money than they can back home. Upon arrival, however, they find that they are forced to work in an occupation and environment not of their choosing or not on terms that they agreed to. Victims suffer significantly through human rights abuses. Women and children in particular are targeted for sexual exploitation, and in many cases suffer from both labour and sexual exploitation. There is also an emerging trend of trafficking for forced labor in construction, agriculture and other industries.

The vulnerable become victims of traffickers. Once trafficked, the victims are even more vulnerable as they have often been stripped of their documentation, faced with threats to their person, and too often humiliated by law enforcement agencies when they are classified "criminals" or "violators" of migration laws. As "illegal immigrants", trafficking victims are detained or deported.

This HTNAP will require the Coordination Steering Committee to review existing visa categories and provide recommendations to Government on new initiatives that ensures that victims are able to access justice and redress services. In Fiji, the Interagency Committee will also link and support the National Coordinating Committee on Children and related national committees, including the Task Force on Child Protection, which is composed of prosecutors designated by the ODPP's office to address the cases of abuse, exploitation, and discrimination committed against women and children. Key actions under protection also involve:

(a) Case Management Coordinator

The establishment of a Case Management Coordinator (CMC) as per the Framework will streamline the monitoring and coordination of required activities and support services for the end to end processing of a human trafficking Case. The formal establishment of the Case Management Coordinator will ensure that the required support services are provided to the victims through the support of the CSO group and that the perpetrator is processed from investigation, prosecution until conviction.

(b) Addressing Identity Fraud

Trafficking comes in many forms seeking to circumvent legal processes within borders through deceptive methods such as, providing fraud documents for victims of trafficking. The Fiji Revenue and Customs Service (FRCS) is responsible for scrutinizing passports when processing inward and outward clearance of passengers. The Fiji Immigration Department (FID) continuously provides training to FRCS in areas of document examination. The introduction of e-Passports has further enhanced security against identity fraud at the borders. The FID's installation of e-gates at our ports of entry will further enhance our security and limit the ability for perpetrators of human trafficking to pass through with fraudulent identities without detection.

(c) Repatriation Assistance for Victims of Trafficking

Fiji has experienced that most victims of trafficking prefer immediate return to their home country. The FID will facilitate their travel with the assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to liaise with their respective foreign embassies in Fiji.

(d) Reviewing Immigration Status

The FID will develop and provide permits for victims to remain in Fiji to participate in the criminal justice process against alleged traffickers. The FID is to consider reintegration into the local community or relocation of victims to a 3rd country through the assistance of IOM and other international or regional partners if it finds that there is a serious risk or threat to the safety of the victims to be returned to their home country.

(e) Health Services for Victims of Trafficking

Victims upon identification are to be given immediate medical attention as they may have encountered physical and mental health problems during the process of their being trafficked. Fiji has an obligation to provide and support victims of trafficking in terms of medical assistance without any barrier of discrimination or further abuse. All citizens of Fiji, tourists and foreigners working in Fiji should have access to health services around the country. The CMC will work with partners in the provision of required health services in line with Government resources, legislation and policies. Non-government organizations may provide assistance through counseling for those victims who suffered traumatic conditions or are mentally disturbed through the course of being trafficked.

(f) Housing Support and Other Services for Victims of Trafficking

Providing housing assistance or temporary accommodations for victims of trafficking is a responsibility of the government. The CMC will coordinate with the Social Welfare department and the CSO support group to identify proper housing support for victims.

The Case Management Group with the CMC is to coordinate the provision of support that needs to be allocated to a victim after the identification process has been completed. The composition of the case management group will be determined on a case by case basis depending on the nature of the case and the support services required and will be provided through community-based providers with the assistance of the CSO Support group.

Victims of trafficking are unlikely to have financial resources and such conditions might leave them at risk of engaging in other illegal activities in order to sustain themselves. As such, victims of trafficking will also need to have access to work and earn income and to other services to help them find suitable and sustainable employment to provide financial independence. Support services provided is to be in line with Government resources, legislation and policies.

(g) Trafficking Victim's Physical Safety

The Fiji Police will protect victims of trafficking from threats, threats against their families or any attempt by traffickers to injure or destroy the victim.

Protection Targets in the HTNAP

Specific Objectives	Indicators	Actions	Timetable	Partners	Agency Responsible	Measure
Specific Objective 2.1 Formal appointment of a Case Management Coordinator (CMC) as the designated personnel to streamline the monitoring and coordination of required activities and ensure that the required support services are provided to the Victims with support of the CSO group and that the perpetrator is processed from investigation, prosecution until conviction.	1 CMC is appointed	<p>2.1.1 Submit budget and job specifications for Case Management Coordinator position for approval</p> <p>2.1.2 Case Management Coordinator is appointed</p>	Short term - By end 2021	MDNS FPF HTU FID MEPIR	MDNS	CMC is an established sustainable fully-funded position in the MDNS
	2 human trafficking cases successfully managed by the CMC	<p>2.1.3 Identify 2 cases for CMC to manage</p> <p>2.1.4 CMC to profile and report on the two cases to interagency national trafficking committee</p>	Medium term - By end 2022	MDNS FPF HTU FID MEPIR	MDNS	Evaluation of cases successfully managed
Specific Objective 2.2 Enhance integrity and technology of travel documents, data capturing and bio metric capabilities for travelers at borders including E-Gates and improvements of integrated Border Management System (IBMS).	2 e-Gates initiatives established and in use	<p>2.2.1 Install e-Gates at all Ports of entry.</p>	Long term - By end 2023	FID	FID	Analysis of fraud occurrences Fijian passports and identity documents are difficult to use fraudulently
Specific Objective 2.3 Key stakeholders to provide repatriation assistance for Victims of trafficking.	1 repatriation request received, and assistance rendered	<p>2.3.1 Organise and facilitate the repatriation of victims</p>	Long term - By end 2026	MDNS FID IOM Other partners	MDNS	Evaluation of cases

Specific Objective 2.4 Key stakeholders to develop policies for victims of people trafficking in persons that provide for alternative options to enable victims to remain in country rather than to return to their country of origin.	1 policy developed for victims of trafficking of human beings	2.4.1 Develop a policy for victims of human trafficking to address their immigration status suitable for their needs	Long term - By end 2026	MDNS FID MEPIR HTU IOM CSOs- Homes of Hope, MSP etc. Other partners	MDNS FID	More victims are able to remain in country under revised visa status/ exemption
Specific Objective 2.5 Provide immediate medical attention for victims of trafficking as victims might have encountered physical and mental health problems during the process of their being trafficked.	2 initiatives providing medical services for the victims of trafficking	2.5.1 Identify victims and secure their access to publicly- funded health services 2.5.2 Coordinate outreach medical/ health clinics to 'hot spot' trafficking areas	Long term - By end 2026	MHMS, MDNS FID MEPIR HTU IOM CSOs- Homes of Hope, MSP etc. Other partners	MHMS, MDNS FID CMC	More victims are able to access health services
Specific Objective 2.6 CMC to coordinate with government key stakeholders and relevant CSOs & NGOs in providing financial assistance, housing assistance or temporary accommodations for victims of trafficking.	2 situations of financial assistance, housing assistance or temporary accommodations are provided for victims of trafficking in partnership and coordination with key stakeholders	2.6.1 Develop information registry on safe houses for trafficking victims 2.6.2 Identify trafficking victims for housing assistance and facilitate access of victims to safe houses	Long term - By end 2026	MDNS FID MWCPA CSOs- Homes of Hope, MSP etc. International partners	CMC	More victims are able to access safe housing services
		2.6.3 CMC to convene Case Management Group that ensures that required social services are provided by publicly funded services where necessary and to be supported by NGOs	Long term - By end 2026	MDNS FID MWCPA CSOs- Homes of Hope, MSP etc. International partners	CMC	Report on services accessed by victims of trafficking and case outcomes

			2.6.4 Amend Special Needs Grants Ministerial Welfare Programme to provide financial assistance to victims of trafficking	Long term - By end 2026	MWCPA - Social Welfare	MWCPA	Reporting on financial assistance accessed by victims of trafficking
Specific Objective 2.7 Key stakeholders to provide appropriate protection to victims of trafficking from all forms of threats such as threats against their families or any attempt by traffickers to injure or harm the victim.	1 referral mechanism in place and protection provided to victims of trafficking in coordination and partnership with stakeholders.	2.7.1 Facilitate access for victims who are seeking compensation to appropriate services and agencies	2.7.1 Facilitate access for victims who are seeking compensation to appropriate services and agencies	Long term - By end 2026	FID, MoJ, MWCPA, ACC, Legal Aid	CMC	Evaluation of case outcomes of victims who have had access to compensation for damage suffered
			2.7.2 Assess the potential danger to the victim (and to their family back home) and provide appropriate protection	Long term - By end 2026	FPF, MWCPA, FID, MDNS	CMC	Report on case outcomes on safety of victims

PROSECUTION

The Fijian Government will build on current efforts to bring traffickers to justice and to strengthen the criminal justice system's responses to this crime.

Prosecution

The Fijian Government is committed to combatting criminal organizations that employ this heinous crime within and through our nation. Fiji has a comprehensive legal framework which facilitates the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases. However, enhancing investigation capabilities is central in the successful prosecution of offenders. Key actions under prosecution strategy include:

(a) Prosecution of Traffickers

Fiji has comprehensive laws and has put in place enforcement measures to prosecute people traffickers. Traffickers will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

The Immigration Act 2003 includes anti-trafficking provisions (Part 5 Section 17- 37) and definitions of law are based on the United Nations definitions of people trafficking as outlined in Articles 3 and 4 of the Trafficking Protocol. Trafficking of people carries a maximum penalty of F\$750,000-00 or 20 years imprisonment. Additionally, Part 12 of the Crimes Act 2009 criminalises trafficking in persons and children and the current law has been tested in court in November 2010 resulting in a successful imprisonment.

(b) Support for Victims during the Criminal Justice Process

Trafficking crimes or suspected activities of trafficking can be reported to the FID or the Fiji Police by any individual, agency or government agency. The Fiji Police will thoroughly investigate cases reported once verified by ODPP. The court may order reparation to compensate victims of trafficking in cases whereby the trafficker has exploited the victim and breached Fijian laws. The Fijian Government will allocate funds through relevant Ministries to compensate and assist victim's rehabilitation.

Prosecution Targets in the National Action Plan

Specific Objectives	Indicators	Actions	Timetable	Partners	Agency Responsible	Measure
Specific Objective 3.1 Enhance investigation capabilities to prosecute human trafficking offenders successfully and assist victims of trafficking on their participation in the criminal justice process.	2 initiatives conducted to strengthen capacity to investigate human trafficking	3.1.2 Conduct two training workshops on investigating trafficking cases for enforcement agencies	Short term - By end 2021	All relevant agencies	MDNS	Evaluation of investigation process and outcomes
Specific Objective 3.2 Ensure that victims in the prosecution process have access to trauma informed care appropriate support and access to information on victims' rights in variety of languages.	3 support services provided to victims of human trafficking	3.2.1 Train prosecutors on victim-friendly interviewing techniques 3.2.2 Support victims to make witness statements and participate safely in the criminal justice process	Medium term - By end 2022 Long term - By end 2026	All relevant agencies All relevant agencies	FPF, ODPP, FID ODPP, FPF	Evaluation of investigation process and outcomes Feedback from victims and advisers
		3.2.3 Produce and distribute pamphlets in a variety of languages and establish and operate a free information line	Medium term - By end 2022	All relevant agencies	FPF, ITC	Evaluation of information services
		3.2.4 Build a network of interpreters and advisers to assist victims of trafficking	Long term - By end 2025	All relevant agencies	MWCPA, FPF	Feedback from victims and advisers
Specific Objective 3.3 Mobilise enforcement agencies to proactively prosecute human trafficking cases and prevent all forms of human trafficking.	3 coordinated approaches by enforcement agencies established & in operation & joint procedures developed	3.3.1 Develop a protocol identifying the roles of agencies in input to human trafficking investigations	Medium term - By end 2022	All relevant agencies	MDNS	Protocols and procedures clarify roles of agencies

Specific Objective 3.4 Continue with the harmonization of provisions of the national legislation in the area of combating of trafficking in human beings with the regional and international obligations and standards.	At least 1 legal provisions harmonized	3.4.1 Conduct a legislative review to identify gaps in the legislation with regards to human trafficking	Long term - By end 2024	SGO Other national and international partners such as UNODC, IOM, ILO	MOJ	Feedback from victims and advisers
Specific Objective 3.5 Ensure the operationalization of joint investigations teams and joint training activities amongst Inter-Agency Committee service responders such as the Fiji Revenue & Customs Services, Fijian Immigration Department, Fiji Police, Biosecurity Authority of Fiji, Ministry of Employment and Industrial Relations and the Ministry of Defence.	2 joint training services conducted and joint investigations teams operationalized amongst IAC service responders such as the FRCS, FID, FPF, Biosecurity and MDNS	3.5.1 Conduct workshop to develop a joint/ standard investigation form 3.5.2 Develop one standard procedure for conducting inter-agency human trafficking investigations	Long term - By end 2024	All relevant agencies MDNS, FPF, FID, ODPP, MEPIR, MWCPA	MDNS	Feedback from victims and advisers
Specific Objective 3.6 Strengthen capacities in the judiciary in order to have an efficient criminal prosecution and more effective identification and confiscation of proceeds originating from criminal offences.	3 activities to strengthen capacities in the judiciary in order to have an efficient criminal prosecution	3.6.1 Conduct literature review to develop case profiles 3.6.2 Conduct training workshops with legal officers	Long term - By end 2024	All relevant agencies MDNS, MOJ ODPP	MOJ, ODPP	Effectiveness of agencies in joint investigations
						Number of cases with successful prosecutions

PARTNERSHIP

The Fijian Government will strengthen its relationships with relevant Government and Non-Government stakeholders, both domestic and international to facilitate the ongoing development of effective policies and tools for a coordinated approach towards eradicating Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children.

Partnership

Partnership is a key pillar of the HTNAP, as maintaining and developing strong partnerships both within and outside Government is crucial to the success of the Framework and the HTNAP. The Fijian Government understands that TIP cannot be tackled by Government agencies alone and that we must work closely with the civil society, all sectors of the community, foreign State partners, regional and international organization and bodies. This includes:

(a) International Engagement on Trafficking in Person Issues

The United States of America produces the US TIP Report for each country yearly, based on reports received from non- government organizations and agents in each country. The US TIP Report reflects on the countries responses and commitment to trafficking issues. The US Government currently has categorized Fiji as a Tier 2 watch-list country. Fiji also engages in bilateral and regional forums where trafficking issues are discussed. These international forums include:

- The Bali Process
- The Pacific Immigration Directors Conference (PIDC)
- The International Organization for Migration.
- The United Nations Refugee Convention 1952 (UNHCR)
- The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

As a responsible member of the international community, Fiji continually needs to report periodically on its anti-trafficking campaigns to the United Nations and US Department of State.

(b) International Assistance to Eradicate Causes of TIP

Fijis participation in the Bali Process since its inception, has strengthened its cooperation on trafficking issues between participating countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Fiji needs to collaborate with other regional countries in information sharing on illegal movement of people and strengthening relationships with counterparts with other migration related agencies.

(c) Enhanced Partnership with Domestic Stakeholders

Fiji has a lot to gain from increased interagency collaboration across Government and non-government agencies. The continued conduct of periodical committee meetings ensures that we continually review and improve response efforts and is also indicates a united front to criminal networks.

Partnership Targets in the National Action Plan

Specific Objectives	Indicators	Actions	Timetable	Partners	Agency Responsible	Measure
Specific Objective 4.1 Strengthen the domestic co-operation and coordination of relevant stakeholders and organisations in combating human trafficking.	1 MoUs or MOAs signed with relevant stakeholder and coordination meetings and initiatives implemented to strengthen coordination between relevant stakeholders	4.1.1 Continue to hold periodical committee meetings and involvement of NGO's, CSO's and FBO's.	Long term - On-going	All relevant partners	MDNS	Committee meeting reports.
		4.1.2 Develop MOU or TOR for the Inter-Agency Human Trafficking Committee	Short term - By end 2021	All relevant partners	MDNS	Signed MOUs
Specific Objective 4.2 Build strategic partnerships and the co-operation with the civil and private sector.	3 partnerships formed with civil society organizations and the private sector	4.2.1 Include CSO representatives on the technical working group/ Inter-Agency Human Trafficking Committee	Short term - By end 2021	All relevant partners	MDNS MWCPA MEPIR FID FPF HTU	TOR for the Inter-Agency Human Trafficking Committee
Specific Objective 4.3 Strengthen strategic partnerships at the regional and international level in areas to reduce push factors that leads to people trafficking to Fiji and seek assistance for anti- trafficking projects.	3 partnerships formed with partners at regional and international level	4.3.1 Continue to provide administrative and technical assistance for anti-trafficking projects in Fiji	Long term - On-going	All relevant partners IOM, UNODC, ILO, Others	MDNS MOFA	Reporting by agencies on technical assistance, regional meetings and other engagement activities.
Specific Objective 4.4 Ensure that Fiji engages continually through its participation in international and regional forums on people trafficking issues.	2 international and regional forums attended and reports submitted	4.4.1 Present Fiji's trafficking update at international human trafficking and related forums	Long term - On-going	All relevant partners PIDC Ball Process MOFA MDNS IOM, UNODC, ILO, Others	MDNS MOFA	Fiji's trafficking status has improved

<p>Specific Objective 4.5 Improve coherence and ensure coordinated actions aligned to international norms and standards and establish peer review mechanisms, multilateral cooperation initiatives and information exchange mechanisms. Furthermore, strengthening of partnership and cooperation with countries which are key sources and destinations of IFFs and also identifying key development assistance policies can support measures to counter IFFs.</p>	<p>1 technical cooperation initiative on human trafficking or IFF developed</p>	<p>4.5.1 Develop a concept note for a national project to counter human trafficking or IFF and submit for funding</p>	<p>Long term - By end 2024</p>	<p>FIU Reserve Bank, FPF, MDNS, FRCS</p>	<p>FIU Reserve Bank, FPF, MDNS, FRCS</p>	<p>Project funded</p>
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DATA COLLECTION

The Fijian Government is committed to supporting sound, reliable and consistent collection of data on human trafficking to improve the effectiveness of responses to combat human trafficking and related other crimes.

Data Collection On Trafficking In Persons

In order to design efficient and targeted responses to human trafficking, it is essential to have sound, reliable and regularly collected information and data. A sound evidence base can facilitate strategic as well as operational responses across the Government as well as civil society entities. Regular preparation and dissemination of human trafficking data and information can also help build awareness of this crime and ensure proper resource allocation.

At present, different entities are collecting relevant data in Fiji, such as the Fiji Police, Immigration, child services, labour inspectors and a range of CSO's. These data collections generally reflect the mandates and priorities of the different agencies, and are not undertaken for research purposes. There is no centralized data collection function specific to trafficking in persons.

Recognizing the importance of being able to produce sound national data, the national task force established a data working group, to be led by the Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation. In close collaboration with the Ministry, this working group will lead efforts to:

- Define a set of core trafficking indicators most appropriate in the Fijian context, for which data should be collected;
- Draw up the reporting responsibilities by agency for each indicator;
- Clarify the roles of CSO's in the data collection efforts (particularly relevant for data related to victims); and
- Outline how the data will be analyzed, disseminated and used.

The aim of the data working group is to establish a regular data collection exercise on trafficking in persons with clearly delineated data reporting relationships, feeding into a centralized database with transparent ownership and data entry procedures. Once established, the production of an annual or biennial national report on trafficking in persons that presents basic analyses of the collected data will be considered.

ABBREVIATIONS

CMC	Case Management Coordinator
DISMAC	National Disaster Management Office
FID	Fiji Immigration Department
DPP	Director of Public Prosecutions
FRCS	Fiji Revenue and Customs Services
FIU	Financial Intelligence Unit
FPF	Fiji Police Force
GA	Government Agencies
GWEN	Government / Workers/ Employers/NGO's
HTU	Human Trafficking Unit
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NPA	National Plan of Action
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
MHMS	Ministry of Health and Medical Services
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MDNS	Ministry of Defence, National Security and Policing
MWCPA	Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation
PIDC	Pacific Immigration Directors Conference
PLO	Primary Line Officers
RSD	Refugee Status Determination
SCF	Save the Children Fiji
TIP	Trafficking in Person
TVPA	Trafficking Victims Protection Act
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee
UNICEF	United Nations International Children Educational Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USA	United States of America

