



End Trafficking

in Persons Programme

Summary Report

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report presents the main findings from an evaluation carried out in five of the six countries participating in World Vision's End Trafficking in Persons (ETIP) Project: Cambodia, Laos PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. It was designed and coordinated by World Vision Australia and the World Vision East Asia Regional Office. National-level assessments were carried out by project staff in each country as well as by a consultant.

We are very grateful for the invaluable contributions of Emma Pritchard and Rachael Murphy from World Vision Australia. We would also like to acknowledge the contribution of the Regional team including, John Whan Yoon, Amy Collins, Chigusa Ikeuchi and Stefan Stoyanov, as well as the country teams.

OVERVIEW

The Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) is made up of six countries connected by the Mekong River. Migration for work between these countries is common and on the increase.¹ While formal channels of migration do exist they are relatively new, and evidence suggests that most of the victims of labour trafficking use irregular migration channels to migrate. While the full scale of human trafficking is difficult to ascertain due to the illegal and often undetected nature of the crime, in 2013 the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)² estimated that half a million people were smuggled into Thailand annually for labour, and it similarly estimated that roughly 26,400 of these people were falling victim to trafficking.





Cambodia

- Area of transit, origin and destination for trafficking (internally and across border); migration mainly due to poverty and country's challenging history; victims mostly children (begging and street selling) and women (sex work).³
- New law in 2008 on the Suppression of Human Trafficking and Exploitation; now listed as 'Tier 2' by US Department of State (meaning government is not meeting the Trafficking Victim's Protection Act's [TVPA] minimum standards but is making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance).



Laos PDR

- Second largest source of registered migrants in Thailand (almost 1 million in 2013) because of cultural, linguistic and social similarities. Female victims exploited in sex trade; men and boys frequently victims of forced labour, especially in fishing and construction industries.
- Also receives migrants from other countries such as China, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia (totalling over 17,000 in 2013).⁴
- On Tier 2 Watch List (meaning government not fully complying with the minimum standards of the TVPA, making efforts to do so but number of trafficking victims still increasing and/or there is a failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking).



Myanmar

- Is the largest migration source in the region, with an estimated 10 per cent of the population migrating internationally,⁵ due mainly to economic stagnation and displacement through conflict.⁶
- Internal migration also common. A recent International Labour Organization survey of over 7,000 migrant workers in Myanmar found 26 per cent in a situation of forced labour and 14 per cent in a situation of trafficking for forced labour.⁷
- The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law was promulgated in 2005, and the country is now in the second five-year plan of action. However, still on Tier 2 Watch List.



Thailand

- Major destination country for migrants (both legal and illegal) – 98 per cent from China, Laos PDR, Myanmar and Cambodia, with over half (1,892,480) from Myanmar alone. Overall numbers tripled since 2000.⁸
- Migrants exploited in many industries, including fishing, construction, agriculture and sex work. Migrants cross borders both at official check-points and through informal routes.⁹
- On Tier 2 Watch List.



Vietnam

- More of a source than destination country, with migration mainly through labour export companies in construction, fishing, agriculture, mining and logging sectors.¹⁰
- Women and children reportedly sold to brothels on the borders of China, Laos PDR and Cambodia.¹¹ Also reports of victims being trafficked into forced marriages in China and children into street begging.¹²
- New anti-trafficking law in 2012; 413 people convicted of trafficking in 2014. Listed as Tier 2 by US Department of State.¹³

1 Asia-Pacific RCM Thematic Working Group on International Migration including Human Trafficking, *Asia-Pacific Migration Report 2015: Migrants' Contributions to Development* (2015). Available at: <http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/SDD%20AP%20Migration%20Report%20report%20v6-1-E.pdf>.

2 UNODC, *Transnational Organized Crime in East Asia and the Pacific: A Threat Assessment* (April 2013). Available at: http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/Studies/TOCTA_EAP_web.pdf.

3 Strategic Information Response Network, *SIREN Human Trafficking Data Sheet* (2008). Available at: http://www.asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/C7_Strategic-Info-Resp-Net-Human-Traf-Data-Sheet-2008.pdf.

4 UNICEF, *Lao People's Democratic Republic: Migration Profiles* (2013). Available at: <http://esa.un.org/migmigprofiles/indicators/files/LaoPDR.pdf>.

5 International Organisation for Migration (IOM), *10 Years of IOM in Myanmar* (2015). Available at: <https://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/country/docs/myanmar/IOM-10-Years-in-Myanmar.pdf>.

6 UNODC (2013).

7 International Labour Organization, *Internal Labour Migration in Myanmar: Building an evidence-base on patterns in migration, human trafficking and forced labour* (2015). Available at: http://www.ilo.org/yanon/whatwedo/publications/WCMS_440076/lang-en/index.htm.

8 UNICEF, *Thailand: Migration Profiles* (2013). Available at: <http://esa.un.org/migmigprofiles/indicators/files/Thailand.pdf>.

9 UNODC (2013).

10 United Nations Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT). Available at: <http://un-act.org/countries/vietnam/>.

11 Ibid.

12 Ibid.

13 US Department of State, *Trafficking in Persons Report* (June 2017). Available at: <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/271339.pdf>.



THE ETIP PROGRAMME

In 2011, World Vision began a new five-year anti-trafficking programme, 'End Trafficking in Persons' (ETIP), across the six countries of the GMS region. ETIP had a budget of about US\$14 million and was funded primarily by the Australian Government (approximately 50 per cent), with support from other World Vision support offices including Canada, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. The programme built on key learnings from earlier anti-trafficking projects that World Vision led in the region prior to 2011, which included the Mekong Delta Regional Trafficking Strategy Phase 2, the Regional Advocacy Anti-Child Trafficking Project and individual country projects such as the Assistance, Support and Protection Project. The aim of ETIP was to bring together such cross-border initiatives to provide a more strategic and cohesive approach to tackling the issue of unsafe migration and trafficking in the region.

The programme was also informed by an extensive regional study on the knowledge, attitudes and practices related to trafficking in persons, conducted by World Vision in communities in Cambodia, Laos PDR, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand, with a specific focus on the vulnerability of migrant populations to trafficking.¹⁴ This study, which involved close to 10,000 respondents completing questionnaires developed by World Vision, provided a lot of the baseline data used to inform the final evaluation of the ETIP programme.

The overall goal of the programme was to contribute to the mitigation of the human trafficking problem in this region by a) protecting more people from the threat of trafficking; b) ensuring that survivors are provided with appropriate protection services leading to integration back into society; and c) advocating for government policies to provide greater protection to the victims and the vulnerable. The project fell into three distinct but interdependent 'pillars':

- **Prevention Pillar Project** – to reduce the risk factors that contribute to human trafficking at the individual, community and structural levels and to increase the protective factors and resilience of the most vulnerable families and individuals to prevent trafficking.
- **Protection Pillar Project** – to strengthen the protection services to victims of trafficking in the GMS, and to promote the (re)integration of victims of trafficking.
- **Policy Pillar Project** – to effectively advocate for a positive policy environment that increases the protection and well-being of trafficking victims and those vulnerable to trafficking.

¹⁴ World Vision, The Vulnerability Report: Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (2014). Available at: <http://wvi.org/publications/47816>.



PROGRAMME EVALUATION

Objectives

This evaluation report seeks to communicate the changes the programme has made and to assess the overall effectiveness of the programmatic approach. The evaluation was framed by the following objectives:

- **Evaluation Objective 1:** To understand the strengths and weaknesses of the programme's main prevention interventions and measure changes in risk of human trafficking among children and youth in vulnerable source communities. This assessment was supported by an innovative 'Risk of Trafficking Score' for children and youth that was developed by World Vision Australia.
- **Evaluation Objective 2:** To assess the progress made towards strengthening protection services and improving the support for trafficking survivors reintegrating into the community.
- **Evaluation Objective 3:** To assess how, and to what extent, the programme has influenced new and existing policies related to human trafficking.
- **Evaluation Objective 4:** To assess how effective the multi-pillar and multi-country approach of the ETIP programme was.



Methodology

The evaluation was designed by a Senior Evaluation Advisor at World Vision Australia (WVA), with an external evaluator hired to carry out evaluation work at the regional level. Each ETIP country hired an evaluation consultant to complete a national evaluation using a common framework and set of tools designed by WVA. Broadly, the protection and policy sections, as well as elements of the prevention section of this regional evaluation report, are informed by the national evaluation reports and data collected by national consultants. While each national consultant conducted analysis of prevention data at a national level, separate analysis was completed at the regional level, exploring changes against key indicators designed to measure change in attitudes, behaviours and risk of trafficking from baseline research completed in 2013.

Additionally, for this evaluation report, qualitative research was conducted with regional staff and members of the programme advisory committee to inform evaluation objective 4.

In total, the national evaluations saw **2,297** children/youth and **2,297** of their mothers/female caregivers surveyed in source countries and **605** host community members in Thailand. A total of **218** key informant interviews were completed with key project stakeholders, and focus groups were conducted with children/youth club members (**90** groups), parents (**55** groups), migrant workers (**5** groups) and survivor beneficiaries (**4** groups).

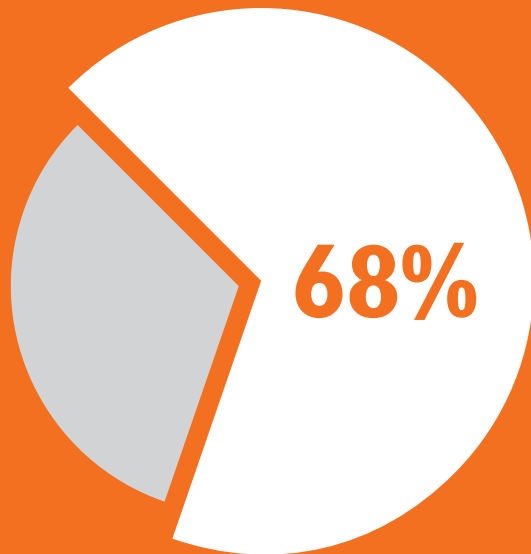
THE FINDINGS

PREVENTION FINDINGS



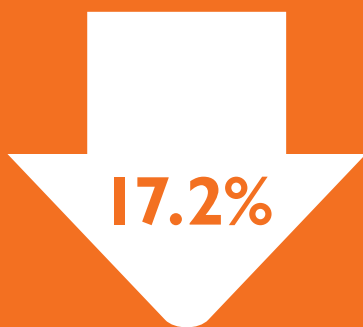
243,200 community members reached through awareness-raising activities and events

118 CPA groups established or supported through the programme to strengthen community protections systems and ensure that communities are safe from trafficking



68% of CPA groups effective and functioning at end of programme

12,306 young people attended the **206** children/youth clubs set up by ETIP



17.2% reduction in those considered 'high risk' to trafficking from 2013 to 2016 (using ETIP's Risk Score)

74.4% of host community members in Thailand have positive attitudes and beliefs towards migrant workers – a **13.2%** increase from the baseline





CHILDREN AND YOUTH CLUBS

A total of 206 youth clubs, attended by over 12,000 young people, were set up as part of the programme (38 in Myanmar, 62 in Laos PDR, 17 in Vietnam, 19 in Thailand and 59 in Cambodia). A suite of educational materials was developed by the regional team in collaboration with the national offices for the benefit of the club members. These included the *Smart Navigator Toolkit*¹⁵ and *Voice Up for Change*,¹⁶ along with a series of supplementary materials including stories, films and decision-making activities. Child/youth clubs in all countries were reported as a key strength of the programme and an important way of disseminating knowledge about human trafficking and general life skills.

Household surveys conducted in Laos PDR and Myanmar appear to confirm this link between youth club participation and knowledge of human trafficking, and club members were reported to have applied this knowledge when approached by strangers in the community.

In Thailand and Laos PDR, interviewees also reported improved engagement and motivation in education as a result of attendance at youth clubs.

Knowledge and awareness of human trafficking also appears to have had a positive effect on the attitudes and behaviour of those migrating for work, as indicated by these findings:

- all countries saw an increase in those who consulted with a potentially helpful person before migrating
- all countries saw an increase in those who contacted home on a regular basis (once a month or more)
- all countries saw an increase in those who secured a job before leaving home.

¹⁵ <http://wvi.org/end-trafficking-persons/publication/smart-navigator-toolkit-english-part>.

¹⁶ <http://wvi.org/end-trafficking-persons/publication/voice-change-toolkit>.

‘I learnt new things; my world became bigger than in the past. Some topics that I hadn’t heard before. Like migration/travelling, child labour, child rights, and protection for women. I learnt how to use my time wisely.’

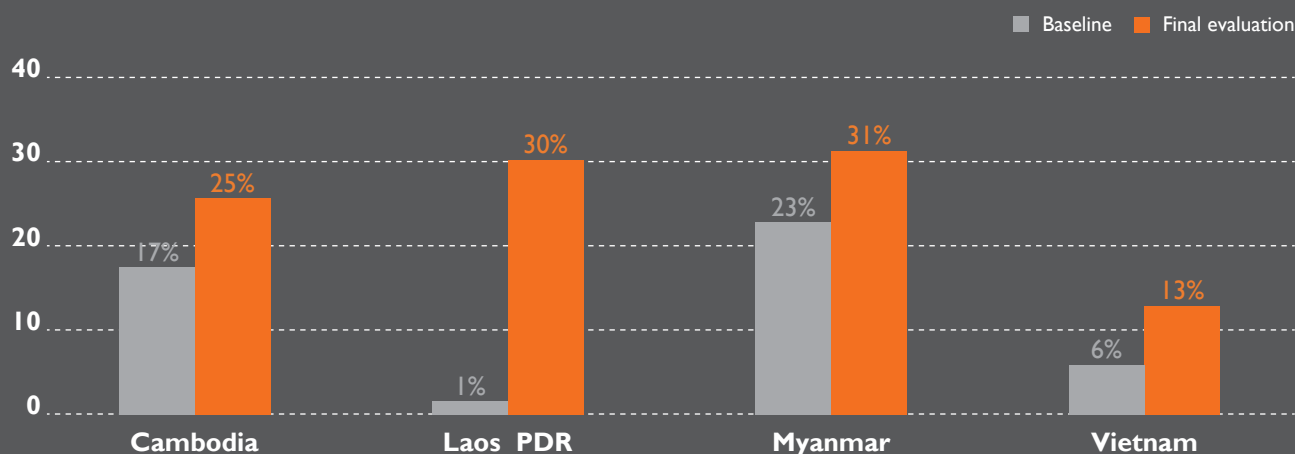
‘For me, before joining [the youth club], I went to school but skipped class, now I go to school and I don’t skip classes.’

— Youth club members, Thailand

‘One day in the village, I was approached by someone who offered me to go to Thailand, but I refused to go and did not allow the person to contact me. I was able to refuse the offer by someone because I have learnt from children club. If I was not with children club, I might believe the person and go to Thailand.’

— Youth club member, Laos PDR

Figure 1: Percentage of migrant children/youth who have positive attitudes and behaviours to create a protective environment for themselves



CHILD PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY (CPA) GROUPS

Overall, 118 CPA groups were established or supported through the ETIP programme, and 68 per cent of these groups were reported to be effectively functioning as agents of prevention by completing two or more of the following activities:

- Distributing Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) material and conducting awareness raising activities
- Supporting children and youth by volunteering to lead groups to teach resilience and valuable life skills to protect them from trafficking
- Establishing or strengthening reporting systems
- Providing direct assistance to vulnerable families and migrants in source, transit and destination countries.

Factors that contributed to the success of the prevention activities delivered by CPA groups included the following:

Training

Training provided to communities and children by the ETIP programme in areas such as the awareness of human trafficking and safe migration, reporting and referral guidance, home visitation guidance, as well as delivering and managing youth club activities was reported to be an important contributing factor to the success of CPA group activities and individual capacity building.

Direct assistance

ETIP provided funds for resources such as gas, food and water, which helped facilitate participation in activities. In Thailand, CPA groups reported that they intended to continue activities following the closure of ETIP but that activities were likely to be reduced because funding was no longer available.

Prior knowledge of communities

In Thailand, which had the highest percentage of groups effectively functioning (100 per cent), World Vision's prior knowledge of the communities in which it works was identified as one of the key reasons for the groups' success.

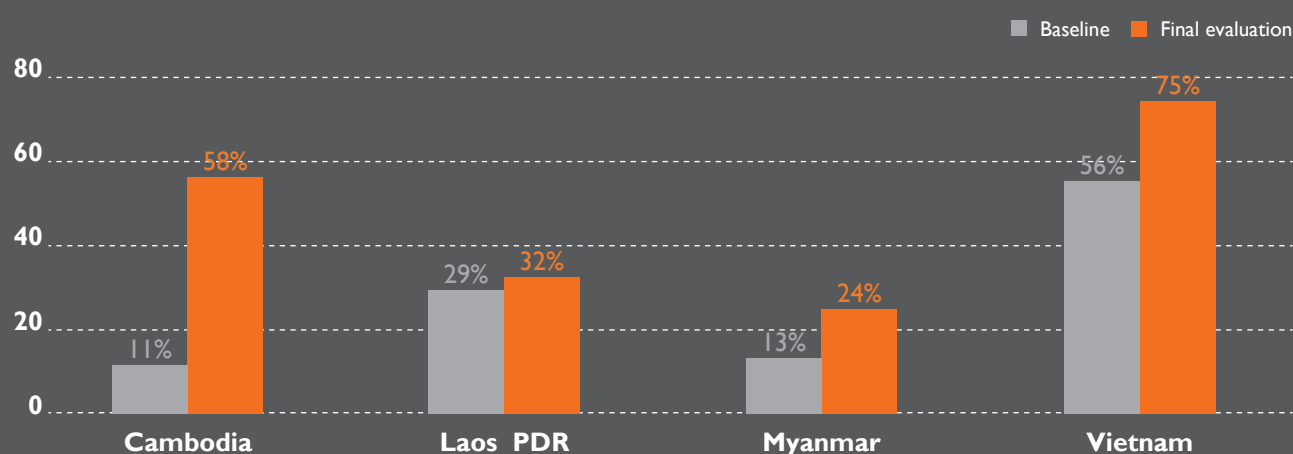
Other reported factors that contributed to the success of CPA groups included 'regular community visits', using pictures rather than text in training sessions and having government participation in activities.

Challenges to effective prevention activities reported by CPA members and staff generally centred around the capacity, resources, time and motivation of group members.

'In the beginning providing training was difficult because many were illiterate, so we changed to the pictures. It was easier to show what they have to do. ... When we got materials, brochures and educational posters [from World Vision], that helped a lot to deliver information.'

– CPA leader, Thailand

Figure 2: Mother's positive attitudes and behaviours to create a protective environment for children



BEHAVIOUR CHANGE COMMUNICATION (BCC)

Awareness-raising activities delivered through ETIP reached over 240,000 community members across the region, providing them with information about human trafficking and safe migration. 'Interactive events' such as theatre productions and film/movie screenings were reported to be more effective than mediums such as radio shows and loud-speaker announcements in communities. Materials such as leaflets, flip books and stickers that included BCC messages were disseminated to people at these events by children/youth and CPA members. In Thailand, a 'host' country with a high migrant population, CPA groups reported that having materials in the migrants' languages was beneficial.

A number of statistically significant changes in knowledge, attitudes and behaviours towards migration and trafficking were noted in the evaluation findings. These include the following:

- 74.4 per cent of host community members in Thailand have positive attitudes and beliefs towards migrant workers, a 13.2 per cent increase from the baseline.
- There was a 12.6 per cent increase in migrant children's/youths' self-protective attitudes and behaviours from the baseline to the final evaluation, and a 9.7 per cent increase among non-migrant children/youth. These included more migrant and non-migrant children completing secondary education or higher; joining children's clubs and adopting safe migration practices.
- The programme saw a 21.9 per cent increase in mothers' positive attitudes and behaviours to create a protective environment for children.
- Those who knew someone who had migrated before were more likely to know of two or more safe migration practices.

- All countries (except Vietnam) saw an increase in the percentage of children/youth who had ever heard of human trafficking (biggest increase was in Laos PDR: 50.1 per cent).
- All countries (except Cambodia) saw a decrease in the percentages that had migrated for work from the baseline to the final evaluation.

In the later stages of the programme, ETIP worked with an external organisation, I7 Triggers,¹⁷ to develop an evidence-based BCC strategy focused on safe migration. This really focused on the ways in which the programme can bring about explicit behaviour change for those seeking to migrate for work, and this was implemented in Cambodia, Laos PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam in 2015.

¹⁷ <http://www.i7triggers.com/>.

Figure 3: Regional risk of trafficking scores

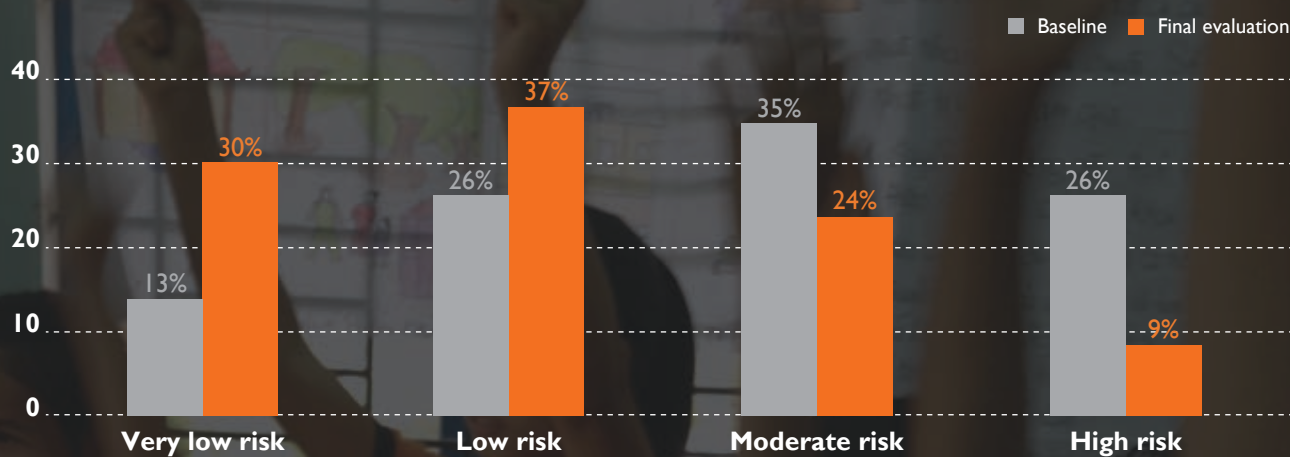
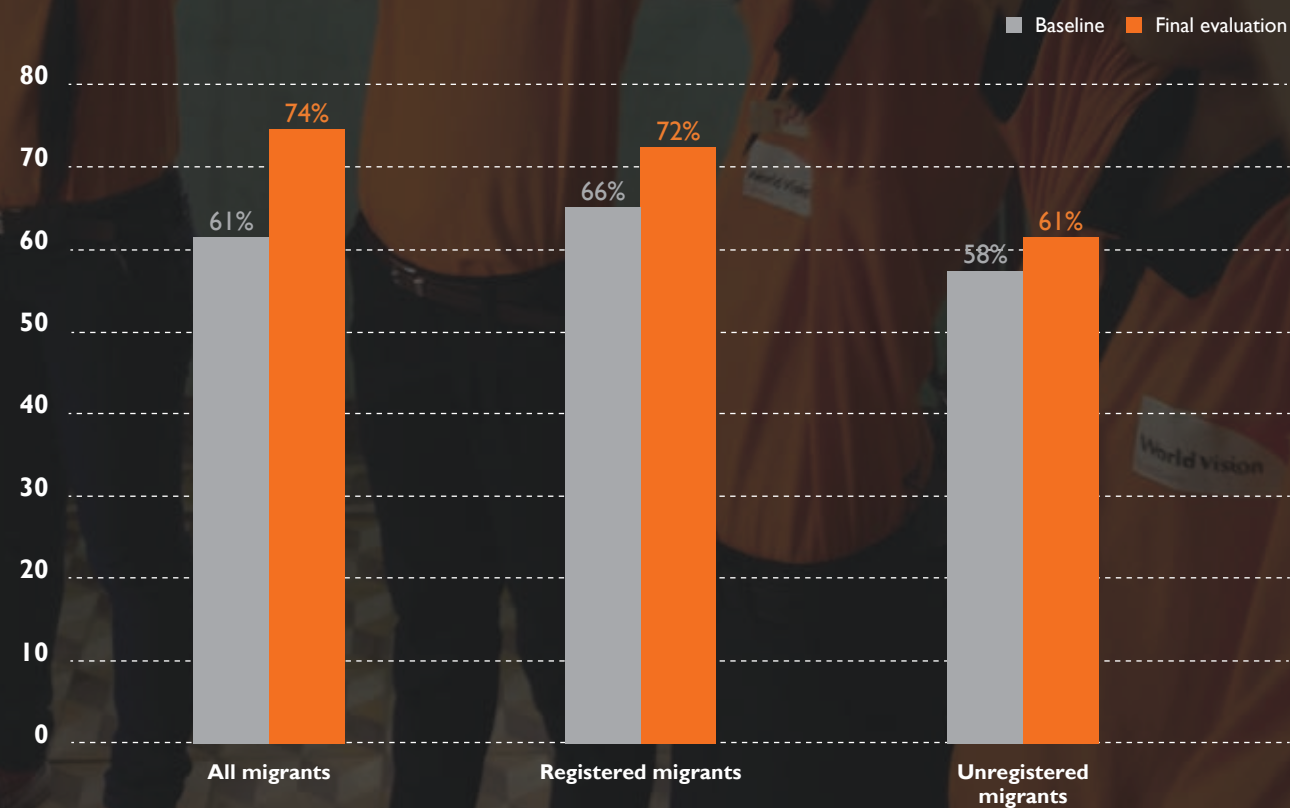


Figure 4: Percentage of host community members (in Thailand) holding positive attitudes towards migrant workers



RISK OF TRAFFICKING

ETIP's risk score

A cumulative risk model was developed by ETIP using a combination of statistical analysis of baseline data and expert knowledge to produce a risk score for each child/youth to estimate his/her risk of being trafficked. The model is based on World Vision's understanding that a) overall risk (or vulnerability) increases with the number of risk indicators present and b) protective indicators mitigate risk indicators (and vice versa). This project sees risk as resulting from the presence of internal and external vulnerabilities and threats and the extent to which internal and external assets and protective factors mitigate them.

The model includes a selection of internal indicators (knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of the child/youth) and external indicators (circumstance, environment, and mother's knowledge and attitudes), which can be either vulnerabilities/threats on the one hand or assets/protective factors on the other. Thus, indicators are given a negative score if they pose a threat to the child/youth, or a positive score if they are considered protective. The scores for each indicator are added together to obtain a risk score that falls into one of the following categories: very low risk, low risk, medium risk or high risk.

Using ETIP's risk score model, an overall decrease of 17.2 per cent was seen in the proportion of children/youth considered at high risk of trafficking from the baseline to the final evaluation across four source countries (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos PDR and Myanmar). Laos PDR saw the largest decrease in those considered at risk, at 39.5 per cent, followed by Cambodia at 16 per cent, Myanmar at 13.7 per cent, with a slight increase seen in Vietnam of 2.5 per cent (though the percentage considered high risk in Vietnam at the baseline was significantly lower than the other countries at 6.8 per cent).

From the 20 variables used to make up the risk score, the biggest changes in all the countries pointed to an increased knowledge and awareness of safe migration and human trafficking. More specifically, these statistically significant increases related to a) a child's knowledge of protective practices if travelling for work and b) the protective advice a mother would give to a child who is migrating for work. However, increases were also seen in mothers reporting household debt – a key 'push' factor involved in decisions to migrate.

Reports from CPA groups confirmed the feeling in communities that risk had been reduced because more people were aware of trafficking and safe migration practices. One CPA group in Laos PDR estimated that there had been a 60 per cent decline in migration and trafficking risks since the ETIP programme was implemented. This was a result of villagers being more aware of the issues surrounding human trafficking and migration and also because they were looking for work domestically instead of going to Thailand. This change in behaviour was supported by household survey findings, which noted a decline in the proportion of children/youth that had migrated for work from the baseline to the final evaluation (19 per cent to 10 per cent).

There were, however, still concerns reported in Thailand and Cambodia about risk within communities. Mothers/female caregivers in Thailand were particularly concerned about children who were not in school migrating internally for work, and in Cambodia concerns were raised about continued migration without suitable documentation.



PROTECTION FINDINGS

Re-integration of survivors

Overall, eight types of assistance were monitored for survivors: housing and accommodation, medical, psychological/emotional, education and training, economic, legal, security, and family and community. Some of the assistance was provided directly by ETIP, while other survivors, whose needs fell outside the scope of the programme, were referred to suitable agencies. In 2015, a common case management system¹⁸ was developed at the regional level for use within World Vision and among other agencies and was implemented in Cambodia and Vietnam.

Four hundred and twenty-one survivors were provided with reintegration assistance through the ETIP programme, with additional survivors receiving transportation costs, translation services and meals to assist with their repatriation. Among those survivors were 302 people supported with meals and transport costs within Myanmar, and 147 people given rescue and repatriation support in Thailand.

Below are some of the key findings regarding ETIP's work with the reintegration of survivors:

- Seventy-six per cent of the cases supported by ETIP were considered to be successful, in that survivors continued the programme until the end and did not re-migrate for work or move out of the service area. One hundred per cent of cases in Vietnam were considered to be reintegrated successfully, 72 per cent in Cambodia, 80 per cent in Laos PDR and 77 per cent in Myanmar.
- Regarding cases that were closed in Laos PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam when clients had become self-sufficient, 35 per cent were considered successfully reintegrated and 65 per cent


moderately reintegrated.¹⁹ When a case was 'closed', the client and staff together gave survivors a ranking in terms of how secure they felt in each of the assistance areas, including safety, education, economic status, legal status, medical/physical health, mental/emotional health, and social and accommodation support.

- Economic assistance was the area where clients felt least secure at case closure, with only 1 per cent feeling 'strong' in this area, and 74 per cent feeling 'fine'.²⁰ However, it may also be a harder area to address in the short term, especially given the limited budget that could be allocated to survivors in this area. It might be that it takes longer for the effects of business and livestock support to be fully established.
- Safety was the area in which the most clients felt 'strong' (29 per cent) with 69 per cent feeling 'fine'. This was closely followed by mental health and legal status.
- The most commonly reported useful form of assistance given to survivors was economic support. This was provided directly by the programme (as opposed to ETIP referring to other organisations) and was given in a variety of forms including household assets, business grants and livestock support. However, it was reported in several countries that the budget per person was often restrictive, given that economic reintegration can be a long process and keeping in mind that this is one of the main 'push' factors for people migrating.

¹⁹ No case was assessed as 'weakly reintegrated' because in these cases support continued until the victim rated higher in each of the areas.

²⁰ When a case was 'closed', the client and staff together gave survivors a ranking in terms of how secure they felt in each of the assistance areas, using the rankings 'strong', 'fine', 'weak' or 'very weak'. A score was assigned to each of these categories (4 to 1, respectively) and a total overall 'reintegration score' was calculated.

¹⁸ <http://wvi.org/end-trafficking-persons/publication/case-management-system-manual>.



‘From the beginning, World Vision [was] trying to connect different agencies within the MDT. For me, World Vision is the glue that holds the government agencies together. The agencies know their roles and responsibilities – like mine is to provide care and assistance – but I couldn’t understand what other agencies did. But I do now.’

– MDT member

- In Cambodia, the psychological/emotional support needs of victims were identified as an area which was harder to address through the project, but one that was important to survivors, as some reported suicidal feelings and an inability to deal with their mental recovery. Although not originally intended, ETIP often had to address these issues directly due to a lack of appropriate referral services.
- Interpreters were highlighted as a key strength in the services offered for victim protection in Thailand. This was a gap filled by ETIP, with the government unable to access them due to their limited budget, and it led to more interpreters on call and a wider range of languages available.
- In Myanmar, partners reported that the assistance that ETIP provided in terms of meals and transportation, including transportation for legal or administrative processes as well as returning to their places of origin, was important.
- Survivor gatherings/retreats, self-help groups and voice-raising events were also organised and supported in all source countries. This included victim retreats in Cambodia (in which government members attended), annual survivor gatherings in Laos PDR and Myanmar, and a number of ‘self-help’ groups in Vietnam.

Multi-disciplinary team (MDT) functioning (Thailand only)

In Thailand, the ETIP programme gave support to MDTs in the form of meeting facilitation, financial support, trainings, workshops, victim screening and translation services, and were reported to be both ‘the glue’ and the go-to agency when it came to the coordination of services.

In several countries, there was evidence that ETIP, with networks between different agencies and knowledge of referral mechanisms and resources, contributed to better coordination among victim service providers.

ETIP also provided valuable resources in the form of translators, a key gap that was not fulfilled successfully by the government. An overreliance on these interpreters by MDTs and the government was noted, which poses a problem now that the programme has finished.

MDTs were also said to improve accountability for work, encourage people to work harder and serve as a mechanism for reducing corruption.

Several challenges were identified by MDT members, such as the distance the teams were from trafficking hotspots, high workloads, the differences in approaches taken by the different agencies involved and the high turnover of MDT staff.

‘I am pleased with what World Vision [is] doing and [its] coordination of other agencies. When I am asked to contact other NGOs in the area, I always think about World Vision first.’

– Government official, Thailand

‘World Vision interpreters have knowledge about human trafficking [and are used] because the trafficking victims feel more comfortable talking to the NGO than the government.’

– MDT member, Thailand

POLICY FINDINGS

Barriers and enablers to successful policy and advocacy work

ETIP, often in partnership with other organisations, influenced or provided support to 17 bi-lateral and national policies, laws and national action plans. In at least six of the examples, recommendations or evidence provided was integrated into policy, law or action plans.

Factors influencing the success of ETIP's policy and advocacy work included the following:

- Working with other organisations, particularly those well respected by governments. This appeared to be an effective way in which to bring about change. As an example, in Vietnam, all four of the laws/codes/policies that ETIP contributed to were jointly conducted with organisations such as IOM and UNACT.
- The profile and reputation of the programme and organisation as being an international NGO and regional programme. For example, it was noted in Vietnam that the government was open to hearing and learning lessons from other countries and ETIP could provide evidence and knowledge of this.
- Cross-pillar communications. ETIP's knowledge of protection and prevention work, and the work it has done in those areas, was also noted as a contributing factor to the success of their policy work.

There were also, however, some barriers to the policy work and these included the following:

- In Thailand, a conflict of interest was reported between protection and policy work. Good relationships with the government contributed to the success of protection work, especially with MDTs, in which ETIP was well respected. However, an advocacy partner reported that ETIP/WV was sometimes cautious when speaking to the government because they were afraid of damaging these relationships.
- The government's priorities are also a key barrier to success (equally can be an enabler if they are aligned). For example, when Thailand was downgraded to Tier 3 in the US Department of State's TIP Report in 2015, the government (according to partners) became focused on the fishing industry, as the profile of this issue had been raised by the international community. However, there are other challenges in the exploitation of migrants, such as factory work, which are, for the most part, not addressed.
- The time it takes to bring about change in terms of policy was also noted as a barrier to achievement, with five years being considered a short amount of time to bring about tangible change.

Children, youth and survivor participation in policymaking

A number of spaces were created throughout the programme to enable children/youth and survivors to engage in meaningful dialogue with the government about the issues surrounding human trafficking. These included annual survivor gatherings, survivor camps/retreats, community debate activities, and national and regional COMMIT²¹ youth forums.

At the COMMIT forums, progress was reported regarding how much the youth are listened to in these spaces.


In some countries, youth participation has been reported as a challenge. This is the case in Myanmar, where older people are considered to have more wisdom and therefore feel they should make the decisions. However, at an annual gathering in Myanmar, survivors were encouraged to put forward recommendations to government officials about the length of stays in processing centres following repatriation, as these were considered too long. Following this, the period in which survivors stayed in centres was reduced from a month to a few days.

Similarly, in Cambodia, recommendations developed at national COMMIT youth forums were put forward at a regional event, and three of these were incorporated into the government's plan of action. ETIP Cambodia also used debate as a tool to enable interactions between children/youth and local authorities. These events were organised three times over the programme and were reported by staff to be a good awareness-raising activity.

Other examples of children and young people's engagement in advocacy activities included attendance and involvement in national youth forums and participation in events such as National Human Trafficking Day in Myanmar, where survivors were encouraged to make recommendations to the government.

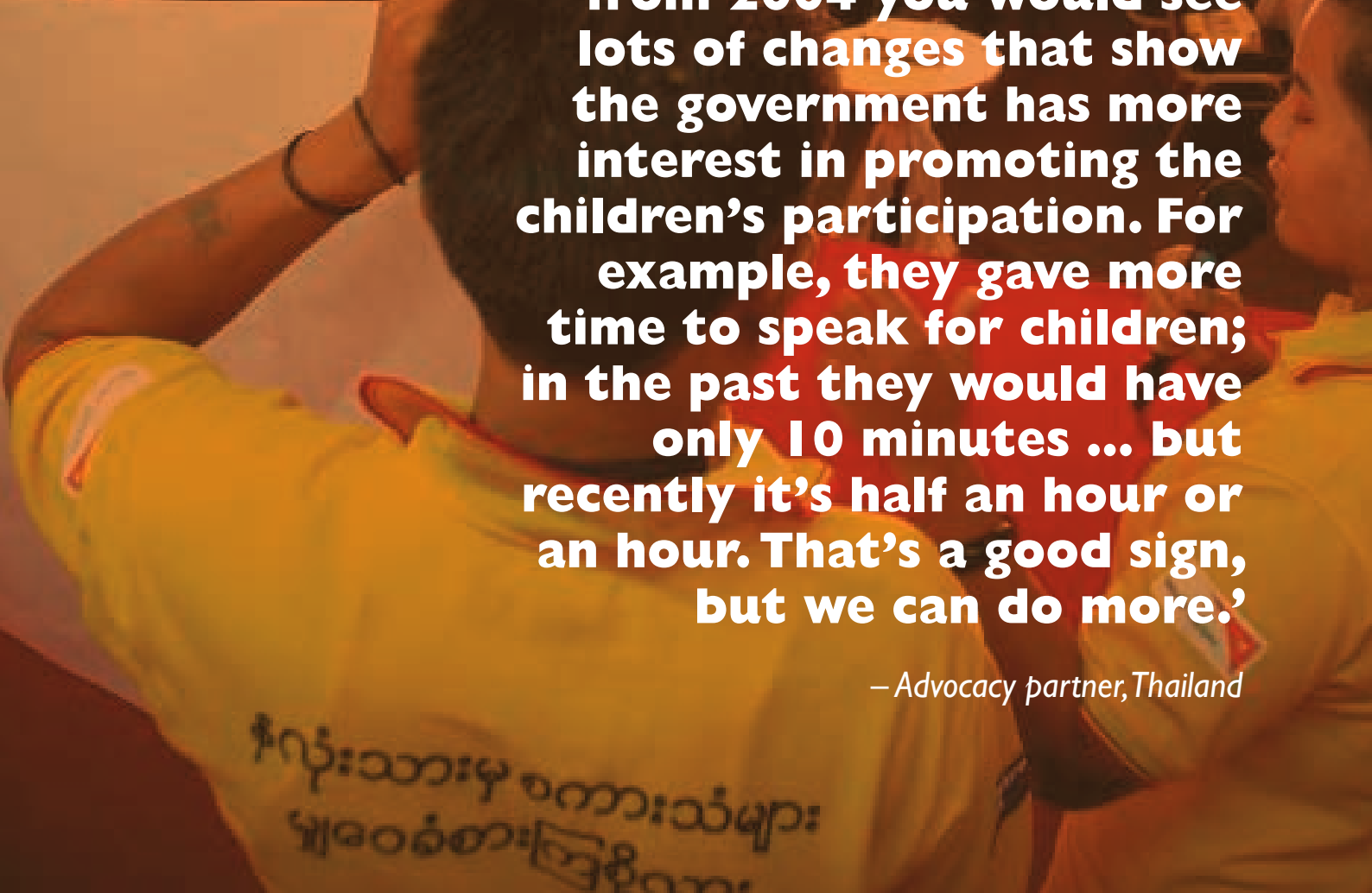
The *Voice Up for Change* toolkit was developed by the regional team and used by national office teams in 2015. This toolkit provides guidance for training children/young people on conducting local advocacy activities, and there were reports from all countries of children/young people getting involved in local awareness-raising events using this as a resource.

21 COMMIT is the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking, an initiative among the six countries in the GMS region which committed the governments to develop a response to human trafficking meeting international standards, highlighting the need for multi-lateral, bilateral and government-NGO cooperation to fight human trafficking.



‘The government didn’t recognise trafficking as an issue in Myanmar in the past, but now it is seen as a national responsibility [the government] and coordinates with us [ETIP] to tackle it. Returnees are provided with national registration cards and all the arrangements for easier processes are done.’

– ETIP staff member, Myanmar



‘If you see the progress from 2004 you would see lots of changes that show the government has more interest in promoting the children’s participation. For example, they gave more time to speak for children; in the past they would have only 10 minutes ... but recently it’s half an hour or an hour. That’s a good sign, but we can do more.’

– Advocacy partner, Thailand

PROGRAMME FINDINGS

The overall **regional and multi-country** aspect of the ETIP programme contributed to greater success, which was particularly evident in the protection and prevention work of the programme. The importance of the interaction between the policy and protection teams was widely reported. This often occurred at survivor gatherings and camps, where policy staff would learn about the experiences of victims, which they could in turn use for policy work. It was also reported that it was important for the policy team to update the prevention team on any key policy or legislation changes so that they could in turn use this to inform their messaging to communities. It was mostly reported that interaction between the prevention and protection pillar teams came around the development of BCC messaging, as victims' stories were used to inform the messaging.

Trafficking is an issue that crosses borders, and the programme therefore was framed in a manner to respond to this by having a regional structure. For repatriation and the protection elements of the programme, it is vital to work across countries. Additionally a regional presence contributed to the success of the policy pillar and a stronger reputation for World Vision. It was reported by national offices that cases were discussed between them and at bi-lateral meetings between countries, and one country reported that memorandums of understanding between countries were developed, which would not have happened if there was not a regional element to the programme.

The advantage of the regional presence had a number of positive effects, not least the position that the organisation had in influencing policy decisions and government commitments, particularly through the COMMIT process. Another advantage of the regional presence was that, nationally, it was felt that governments listened better as they were able to see examples of ETIP's successful work in other countries or had greater confidence in World Vision's work because of the reputation it had in the field. This led to governments being more willing to work with World Vision and the ETIP project.



CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following key recommendations are made in recognition that the ETIP programme has now come to a close and the next iteration of the programme, titled 'End Violence against Children in East Asia', is likely to have a broader focus.

Recommendations for prevention work

1. **Child/youth clubs** have been a key strength of the prevention pillar. They have been effective in raising awareness of human trafficking and safe migration and for improving participants' personal development; and they have seen added benefits, such as improved engagement in school.
 - While the topic of focus at child/youth clubs in the future is likely to be different, given a change in programme focus, it is recommended that World Vision continue its work in this area and build on the success of this programme. The continuation of current clubs should be promoted, particularly through integrating with Area Development Programme work.



- Future child/youth club programming should focus on the engagement and retention of vulnerable children. Outreach work, the use of translators and/or facilitators from ethnic minority backgrounds and partnering with organisations that work with vulnerable groups could help this process. Collecting monitoring data on children and following up where there are any drop-outs would help identify barriers preventing vulnerable children from attending.

2. Awareness-raising (BCC) work in communities has been effective in increasing knowledge and awareness of human trafficking and in improving the protective attitudes and behaviours of children/youth and mothers. Targeting all members of the community was particularly important with anti-trafficking work, as it was found that those who knew someone who had migrated before were more likely to know of two or more safe migration practices.

- A 'multi-faceted' approach, using a range of activities and materials, and targeting different community members, should be continued with any future awareness-raising work. Alternative methods, such as the use of technology, should also be considered where appropriate.
- The general methodology and process by which the behaviour change communication strategies were developed by 17 Triggers should be shared within World Vision so this can be used and applied where other behaviour change work is happening.

3. Risk of trafficking. The programme, assessed through a risk score measurement, has been effective in reducing the risk of trafficking within communities. This was supported by interviews with key stakeholders in communities. However, there were still concerns, particularly in Thailand and Cambodia, about the risk within areas or with specific groups. For example, in Thailand there was a concern that children who were not in school would end up working,

The risk score assessment also identified that there had been an increase in families reporting household debt across the programme.

- A broader approach should be considered to address some of the 'push' factors associated with trafficking, such as poverty, household economic security and education.
- Needs assessments within communities should be conducted for future work to ensure that the communities most 'at risk' are targeted.

Recommendations for protection work

1. ETIP's support of **MDT** work in Thailand has been particularly successful in supporting MDTs to function effectively, and MDT members reported the importance of having these teams to ensure greater accountability. However, some MDT members reported a concern about the gap left by ETIP following the phase-out of these activities.
 - Careful transition planning or continuation work should be considered in supporting MDT functioning in Thailand – particularly in the areas in which ETIP has provided direct support, for example, through translators, where there is likely to be a gap following the phase-out of activities.
2. **Reintegration assistance.** The economic support provided by the programme in the form of business grants, livestock or household assets was widely reported by staff, partners and survivors to be useful in terms of reintegration, particularly as money was often a trigger for migration in the first place.
 - WV should continue to provide training and financial planning where livelihood support is given in the form of livestock and business grants, and should work with clients to ensure the viability of business ideas.

- WV/partners and donors should consider a gap that could now exist in the provision of reintegration support to adults, particularly men, in the absence of ETIP and in places where the next programme is likely to focus on children.

3. Working with partners. ETIP worked successfully with a number of organisations to enhance protection work, ensuring that survivors were provided with the different areas of assistance that they needed. However, there were occasions where there were gaps in the provision of services.

- Stakeholder analysis and partnership mapping should be conducted with future work so that any gaps in services can be identified and solutions sought.

4. Protection data. The programmatic structure sought to ensure that links were made between prevention and protection work; specifically, the new case management system had a mechanism by which this information could be shared. However, it was reported that it was completed in an ad hoc manner, and there is a lot of potential learning to be gained from survivors.

- For future work on protection services, whether specific to trafficking or otherwise, an improved system for using and reviewing data could be used to help inform practice internally and to share with other organisations. Monitoring systems could also be enhanced through seeking alternative and tangible ways to measure progress, for example, monitoring household income.

Recommendations for policy work

1. Policy and influence. ETIP worked effectively with partner organisations to contribute to policy activities at national and regional levels. Both formal primary research and informal evidence gained from direct work 'in the field' were similarly reported as key enablers in policy work and were useful tools for providing substance and evidence to this area of work.

- When conducting policy/advocacy work in the future, WV should seek to establish, or continue, partnerships with other NGOs to be able to widen the impact of the messages heard.
- The completion of external research or the internal use of evidence from direct work with beneficiaries should be utilised for policy work. This might be by externally commissioning various pieces of research or by establishing effective monitoring systems and mechanisms for this data to be used to inform policy recommendations.

2. Child/youth and survivor participation. The programme provided a number of spaces by which children/youth and survivors at a provincial level were able to engage in advocacy and awareness-raising activities, and

opportunities were given for these groups to engage in dialogue with local government officials.

- When involving survivors and/or children/youth in policy and advocacy work, WV should ensure that explicit and tangible recommendations are made relating to the needs of victims or to ways in which involvement in trafficking in the first place can be prevented.

Recommendations for management and coordination structures

1. The overall regional and multi-country aspect of the ETIP programme contributed to greater success, which was particularly evident in the protection and prevention work of the programme; and this structure was important, given that trafficking is an issue that crosses borders. This was a new way of working for World Vision, however, and thus there were also a number of challenges.

- Any future regional programming should allow for greater autonomy for countries, enabling them to contextualise work to suit their situation and take greater ownership and accountability for work. Key functions identified by the regional team that should be considered for any regional programme going forward: regional advocacy, facilitating cross-country interaction for repatriation (needed only if trafficking work is taking place), routine collection of data for donors and support offices, technical support and facilitating information sharing. A 'lighter' regional staffing model would be recommended, with more autonomy given to national offices for the day-to-day running of the programme.
- Information exchange between countries, especially through meetings, was a useful way for countries to learn from each other and could be considered by WV as a practice in other areas of its work.
- The regional structure was reported to be useful in policy work, where internal influencing of governments was a challenge, as the programme was able to put pressure on governments from the region/other countries.

2. The cross-pillar model demonstrated that there were mutual benefits for each pillar in this approach.

- Where protection, prevention and policy work is being conducted in the future, WV should consider this model. Improvements through ensuring systemised mechanisms for sharing information could help support this further (or even having a dedicated member of staff for knowledge sharing and information exchange could be useful), and having an overall programme manager to facilitate exchange is important.



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