



WHAT IS A BASELINE ASSESSMENT (BA)?

One of the ACP-EU Migration Actions' trademarks is the Baseline Assessment (BA) that is undertaken before every Technical Assistance Intervention. They provide an overview of the state of affairs on the specific subject of the request and are a first testing ground for the the collaboration between the Action and the requesting entity.

BACKGROUND

Saint Lucia is a Small Island Developing State that is aspiring towards effectively combating Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) in all of its forms. The island appeared in the US State Department Trafficking in Persons Report for the first time in 2011 and has since fluctuated between Tier two and Tier two Watch List, the latter being its current status. Internationally it is signatory to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and party to its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, whilst domestically it has enacted the Counter-Trafficking Act (No.7 of 2010), which ultimately criminalizes THB in Saint Lucia. Moreover, a National Task Force for the prevention of trafficking was established.

Reasons for the request

The Government of St. Lucia, cognizant of the challenges encountered in detecting and prosecuting traffickers, assisting victims of trafficking and preventing trafficking, is eager to augment countertrafficking efforts in these areas.

The request of the Government of St. Lucia, through the Home Affairs Department, for technical support in the field of capacity building and public awareness on counter-trafficking, identified a need for continued and advanced training of law enforcement officers and effective investigations to protect victims and inform judicial

proceedings for the prosecution of traffickers. There is also a need for improved information sharing amongst key counter-trafficking stakeholders and an evident gap in the area of public sensitization on trafficking in persons, which should be pursued.

This intervention seeks to assist with i. the training of law enforcement and state prosecutors on counter-trafficking measures, ii. the incorporation of counter-trafficking into standardized training, iii. the development of a victim support mechanism database and iv. the creation of a public awareness campaign on counter-trafficking.

LEARNING FROM THE BASELINE ASSESSMENT

DEFINING THB

THB should be incorporated into standardized training for all key counter-THB stakeholder agencies, to equip staff with the tools to effectively address the challenge and apprise them of their role in the national counter-THB response. Any training initiative should commence with a **trafficking in human beings (THB) definitional clarification** as a number of stakeholders have reportedly been exposed to training however they remain unclear of the definition and intricacies of THB.

LEGISLATION + SENSITIZATION

Legislatively, efforts should be made to modify existing laws that contradict the Counter-Trafficking Act such as the definition of a child under the Labour Code and the Criminal Code.

Also, sensitization on the core elements of the Counter-Trafficking Act, 2010 is critically needed amongst all stakeholders and should be integrated into public sensitization material since many practitioners and the NSAs did not seem to be familiar with major aspects on this legislation.

COOPERATION

Cooperation and information sharing amongst major Counter-TIP stakeholders is generally missing and therefore efforts to finalize the National Plan of Action (NAP), Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and Standard Operating procedures (SOPs) should be accelerated to promote and support these types of engagements

TRAIN THE TRAINER

Train the trainer sessions are crucial for the transferability and sustainability of THB awareness and trainings at the organizational level, especially given the frequent re-allocation of staff amongst Ministries and a high turnover within Units. Trainees should also be urged to champion counter-THB sensitization and trainings in their respective organizations.

DATA ON THB

There is a noticeable need to harmonize THB data amongst the key counter-TIP agencies and develop a database that could safely and securely house all TIP related data. The creation of a database, however, must be accompanied by requisite training for users.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Public awareness campaigns are integral to the success of counter-trafficking initiatives as there was a view that TIP is an underreported activity due to the public's unawareness.

INDICATORS

The baseline assessment will provide a reference to compare the results achieved through the technical assistance intervention. The BA report provides indicators against which to measure this.

Component	Purpose	Indicator	Baseline
Institutional framework	Counter-THB stakeholders, inclusive of the National Task Force, firstly need to be sensitized on THB and then trained based on their designated roles.	Existence of institutional capacity to address THB.	Need to strengthen existing institutional capacity to address THB amongst counter-THB
	Key counter-THB agencies should be equipped with the tools to effectively combat THB and apprised of their role in the national counter-THB response	Existence of a CT component in standardized trainings	N/A
	Counter-THB training materials should be included in standardized trainings and developed in accordance with international best practices	Existence of CT training material based on best practices	N/A
	Awareness on THB should be enhanced amongst all sectors of the society (Gov't agencies, NGOs, business, media, schools, health care facilities, etc.)	Existence of improved public awareness campaigns	Need to strengthen existing public awareness campaigns
Research/Data Collected	Efforts to secure, harmonise and appropriately store information on THB and on Victims of Trafficking (VOTs). A user-friendly database, in accordance with intl. best practices would boost counter-THB response and activities and reporting. Training should also be provided on information management.	Existence of improved VOTs information management	Need to strengthen existing management of VOTs information