



SAMOA

Pacific



Proposal to Improve the Capacity and Coordination of the National Border Committee of Samoa

June 2016 →

Requesting Entity

Ministry of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Immigration Division

Background

The Pacific is a highly vulnerable region to trafficking and smuggling practices. Countries targeted for trafficking usually are developing countries with poor economic and social systems, a rather high rate of poverty, under-resourced judiciary systems and government agencies and often inadequate legislations. For a small and isolated country (by physical size, small population and scarce resources), a single smuggling case involving a

smuggler could exert influence and alter the balance of the national security equilibrium. Samoa recognizes the linkage between the issues of security and border management and trafficking in human beings (THB) and smuggling of migrants. Hence, the government of Samoa has put in place legislative frameworks and policy structures in different agencies that are involved in border management, in an effort to protect its borders. As such, the

National Border Committee (NBC) was established in 2004 with the objective of bringing together all the border security agencies as to have a coordinated approach in managing border security issues. However, to date, the NBC lacks policy guidelines, established standard operating procedures and members are not trained in trafficking in human beings policing.

Objective

The specific objective of the intervention is to train law enforcement officers, including members of the National Border Committee, to identify victims of trafficking, successfully investigate human trafficking cases, prosecute human traffickers and improve the coordination and efficiency of the National Border Committee. More generally, the intervention will contribute to improve the national security of Samoa.

Activities

Development of standard operating procedures (SOPs) detailing the activities and responsibilities of each member of the NBC – taking into account aspects on protection of the victims and the private sector and civil society organizations;

Delivery of THB training to law enforcement and border agencies and to health care workers and labor inspectors, among others.

Expected results

Having the SOPs in place will enable the NBC to a more coordinated approach and improved efficiency when dealing with cases of THB, smuggling and other border security related issues;

Synergies with the work carried out by the Samoan transnational crime unit (TCU) which is linked to the Pacific Transnational Crime Coordination Centre (PTCCC), based in Samoa.