



**National Strategic Action Plan
to
Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking
(2026-2030)**

Adopted by the Government of Sri Lanka



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to
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(2026-2030)**

MEMBER INSTITUTIONS OF THE NATIONAL ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

- Ministry of Defence
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Employment and Tourism
- Ministry of Labour
- Ministry of Health and Mass Media
- Ministry of Women and Child Affairs
- Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Councils and Local Government
- Ministry of Justice and National Integration
- Ministry of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs
- Attorney General's Department
- Department of Labour
- Department of Social Services
- Department of Immigration and Emigration
- Department of Probation and Child Care Services
- Sri Lanka Customs
- National Child Protection Authority
- National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses
- Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment
- Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption
- Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka
- The Bureau for the Prevention of Abuse of Children and Women
- Human Trafficking, Smuggling and Maritime Crimes Investigation Unit
- Computer Crime Investigation Division
- The Central Crime Investigation Bureau

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LOGO OF THE NATIONAL ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

The official logo of the National Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (NAHTTF) is designed to establish a strong and recognisable identity that reflects the Task Force's mandate to combat trafficking in persons. It serves to create a powerful symbolic association that remains memorable to

the public, reflect the core purpose of the Task Force in fighting trafficking in persons, effectively reach both local and international audiences, and foster a unique and distinguished identity for the Task Force at national and global levels.

MEANING

Main symbols/ Signs

In line with the core idea stated under the preamble, respective symbols/ signs denotes following:



Shapes/ Colours

In line with the core idea stated under the preamble, the meaning of the shapes/ colours of the logo are as under:

- Colours**
-  Blue - Trust, Security and Peace
 -  Orange - Energy, Enthusiasm and Creativity
 -  Green - Hope for better future
 -  Red - Fight against crime

Shapes



Circle shape
Reach
Unity/ Friendship



Curve shape of Hands
Affection, Sympathy, Positivity

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT



Human trafficking is among the gravest violations of human rights. It strips individuals of their dignity, freedom, and agency, and undermines the values of justice, compassion, and equality on which our society stands. This crime targets the vulnerable, exploiting both hardship and hope, and threatens the very fabric of a humane and peaceful nation. Sri Lanka remains steadfast in its commitment to eradicate this injustice and to ensure that every person is free from exploitation in all its forms.

In alignment with our national vision, “A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life,” the Government of Sri Lanka is dedicated to building a safe, just, and inclusive society where the rule of law prevails and the rights of every citizen are protected. Our pursuit of sustainable national development is anchored in social harmony, fairness, and respect for human dignity principles that form the strongest foundation for our collective response to human trafficking.

The National Strategic Action Plan to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking 2026–2030 reflects our renewed resolve. It advances our efforts across

prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnership, reinforcing progress from previous Action Plans while guiding future action. This Plan represents the unified commitment of government agencies, law enforcement, civil society, academia, the private sector, and international partners. It recognises the evolving nature of trafficking, including the expansion of exploitation through digital means, and responds with forward-looking strategies and strengthened institutional coordination.

Sri Lanka remains dedicated to fulfilling its obligations under the Palermo Protocol and other international commitments. Above all, our national response places survivors at the center ensuring a rights-based, gender-sensitive, and victim-focused approach at every stage.

Let us reaffirm our shared responsibility to protect the vulnerable, uphold justice, and preserve the dignity of all people. Together, we can build a society where freedom, equality, and human dignity truly flourish a Sri Lanka where every citizen can live “A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life.”

His Excellency Anura Kumara Dissanayake
President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Minister of Defence

December 2025

FOREWORD



The Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) recognises that trafficking in persons constitutes one of the gravest violations of the fundamental values of our society, the respect for human rights, equality, and human dignity. Acknowledging that women and children are particularly vulnerable, and that men too increasingly fall prey to trafficking, the Government is steadfast in its determination to eradicate this complex and evolving crime in all its forms.

Guided by the national vision “A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life,” the GoSL aspires to build a prosperous, just, and inclusive society in which every individual can live in safety, dignity, and freedom. This vision forms the foundation of the country’s overarching policy framework to promote equality, strengthen the rule of law, and ensure the protection and well-being of all citizens. Its holistic approach addressing poverty, inequality, unsafe migration, and gender disparities reinforces national efforts to prevent human trafficking and reduce the vulnerabilities that enable exploitation.

The National Strategic Action Plan (NSAP) to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking 2026–2030 builds upon the accomplishments and lessons learned from the previous Action Plans of 2015–2019 and 2021–2025. Developed through an inclusive and participatory process, this Plan reflects the collective commitment of all stakeholders represented in the National Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (NAHTTF). The formulation process involved comprehensive internal reviews, desk studies of national legislation, regional and international

frameworks, and consultations with government institutions, civil society organisations, academia, the private sector, and development partners. This consultative approach has ensured that the Plan is comprehensive, practical, and responsive to the emerging trends and challenges of the next five years.

The GoSL remains unwavering in its commitment to counter human trafficking through the four foundational pillars of Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Partnership. In this regard, Sri Lanka’s legal and policy framework continues to be guided by the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol), ratified in 2015, and the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 16 of 2006, which defines human trafficking in alignment with the Protocol. The endorsement of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on the Identification, Protection, and Referral of Victims of Trafficking in 2015 further strengthened a coordinated national response to this crime.

The NSAP 2026–2030 has been developed in conformity with the aspirations of the Palermo Protocol of 2000, the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 16 of 2006, and other relevant legislation. It serves as a strategic framework for the implementation of actions aimed at combating human trafficking in Sri Lanka. The Plan outlines strategies to strengthen prevention mechanisms, enhance victim protection and reintegration, ensure effective prosecution of offenders, and foster strong partnerships between

government and non-government actors. It also includes robust mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation, and performance measurement to ensure transparency and accountability in implementation.

Human trafficking is not a static phenomenon. The increasing use of digital technologies and online platforms has created new avenues for exploitation, including online recruitment, social media grooming, and cyber-enabled sexual and gender-based violence. Traffickers now exploit encrypted communication and digital anonymity to evade detection. As such, this Action Plan recognises the critical need to integrate cyber enabled trafficking prevention strategies, digital literacy, and the use of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) to identify, disrupt, and prevent trafficking activities in the digital space.

The GoSL also underscores the importance of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, bringing together law enforcement, social services, civil society organisations, the private sector, technology companies, academia, and international partners.

This collaborative approach is essential to achieving meaningful and lasting progress in the fight against trafficking in persons. The work conducted within communities from awareness raising and victim identification to reintegration remains central to this collective effort.

I take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to all members of the National Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, Coordinating Committee of the NAHTTF, partner ministries, law enforcement agencies, civil society organisations, and development partners for their invaluable contributions to this Plan. I also wish to express my gratitude to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for its continued partnership, technical support, and advocacy in strengthening Sri Lanka's capacity to prevent and combat human trafficking.

This National Strategic Action Plan reflects Sri Lanka's enduring commitment to safeguarding human dignity, promoting justice, and ensuring a society free from exploitation, a nation where every citizen can truly experience "A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life."

Air Vice Marshal Sampath Thuyacontha (retd)

WWV, RWP and two Bars, RSP and Bar, USP, MMSc (Strat Stu-China),
MSc (Def Stu) in Mgt, Msc (Def & Strat Stu), fndu (China), psc

Secretary

Ministry of Defence

Chairman of the National Anti- Human Trafficking Task Force

December 2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acronyms and Abbreviations	9 - 10
Introduction	11 - 12
National Context and Response to Human Trafficking	13
Legal and Policy Framework & SOPs	14 - 19
Formulation of the National Action Plan	20 - 21
Regional and Global Policy Initiatives	22 - 23
GoSL Manifesto: “A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life”	23
Budget	23
Vision, Goal and Objectives of the National Action Plan	23 - 24
Strategy for Prevention	25 - 39
Strategy for Protection...	40 - 46
Strategy for Prosecution	47 - 55
Strategy for Partnership	56 - 59
Monitoring and Evaluation	60

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

AG	.....	Attorney General
AI	.....	Artificial Intelligence
BPACW	.....	Bureau for the Prevention of Abuse of Children & Women
BSU	.....	Border Surveillance Unit
CID	.....	Criminal Investigations Department
CSO	.....	Civil Society Organisation
CSGBV	.....	Cyber Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
DIE	.....	Department of Immigration and Emigration
DoL	.....	Department of Labour
DPCCS	.....	Department of Probation and Child Care Services
DSS	.....	Department of Social Services
FEDO	.....	Foreign Employment Development Officer
MoFA,FE&T	.....	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Foreign Employment and Tourism
GCM	.....	Global Compact on Migration
GoSL	.....	Government of Sri Lanka
HTSMCIU	.....	Human Trafficking, Smuggling Investigations and Maritime Crime Investigations Unit
ILO	.....	International Labour Organization
IOM	.....	International Organization for Migration
JMO	.....	Judicial Medical Officer
KPI	.....	Key Performance Indicators
LEAs	.....	Law Enforcement Agencies
MoD	.....	Ministry of Defence
M&E	.....	Monitoring and Evaluation
VoT	.....	Victim of Trafficking
MiGOF	.....	Migration Governance Framework
Moj & NI	.....	Ministry of Justice and National Integration

MoH & MM	.....	Ministry of Health & Mass Media
MoPA, PC & LG	.....	Ministry of Public Administration, Provincial Council and Local Governments
MoPS & PA	.....	Ministry of Public Security and Parliamentary Affairs
MoRD, SS & CE	.....	Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment
MoWCA	.....	Ministry of Women and Child Affairs
NAHTTF	.....	National Anti-Human Trafficking Task force
NAPVCW	.....	National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses
NCPA	.....	National Child Protection Authority
NGO	.....	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRM	.....	National Referral Mechanism
NTT	.....	National Training Team
NSAP	.....	National Strategic Action Plan
OSINT	.....	Open-Source Intelligence
RAC	.....	Risk Assessment Centre
SAARC	.....	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SGBV	.....	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SDGs	.....	Sustainable Development Goals
SLBFE	.....	Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment
SLC	.....	Sri Lanka Customs
SOP	.....	Standard Operating Procedure
TIP	.....	Trafficking in Persons

INTRODUCTION

Human trafficking remains one of the most serious and pervasive violations of human rights, affecting men, women, and children across the world. It is a transnational and multidimensional crime that exploits human vulnerability for profit and manifests in many forms, including forced labour, sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, organ removal, forced begging, and emerging patterns of technology-facilitated exploitation. As a State Party to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (2000), Sri Lanka reaffirms its unwavering commitment to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and to protect and assist victims with full respect for their rights and dignity.

Building upon the achievements and lessons learned from the previous National Strategic Action Plans (2015–2019 and 2021–2025), this National Strategic Action Plan to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking (2026–2030) seeks to strengthen and sustain a coordinated, victim-centered, and evidence-based approach to counter trafficking. The Plan aligns with Sri Lanka’s international obligations and national priorities, emphasising prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnerships, the four pillars of the “4Ps” framework that underpin global counter-trafficking efforts.

As the nature of trafficking evolves, Sri Lanka faces emerging and complex challenges. The increasing use of digital technologies, social media, and artificial intelligence has created new avenues for recruitment, exploitation, and coercion. Cybercrime-related trafficking, online sexual and gender-based violence, and trafficking for forced criminality demand innovative and technology-driven responses. The adoption of the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime (2024) provides a renewed opportunity for Sri Lanka to enhance international cooperation, strengthen cyber-investigative capacities, and build robust mechanisms for data sharing and electronic evidence management.

Persistent socio-economic vulnerabilities such as poverty, unemployment, indebtedness, and irregular migration continue to expose individuals and communities to exploitation and abuse. These conditions not only increase susceptibility to trafficking but also generate broader negative impacts on the country’s social and economic fabric. They contribute to the loss of productive labour, weaken human capital development, discourage lawful migration, and strain national resources in areas such as law enforcement, social protection, and justice. Over time, these factors can impede sustainable economic growth, exacerbate inequality, and undermine public trust in institutions. Addressing these systemic drivers is therefore essential to ensuring national resilience, stability, and long-term development.

The National Strategic Action Plan (2026–2030) also recognises the importance of strengthening institutional coordination, capacity-building, and accountability mechanisms. Establishing a National Training Team (NTT), ensuring the effective implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and developing a centralised national trafficking database are key priorities for improving victim identification, case management, and evidence-based policymaking. Strengthening these systems will enhance inter-agency cooperation, promote consistency in victim protection, and improve data collection for informed decision-making.

Equally important is the enhancement of victim assistance and protection services. Ensuring timely access to justice, psychosocial support, medical care, shelter, and reintegration opportunities remains central to a victim-centered approach. The Plan underscores the need for survivor empowerment, emphasising their role not only as beneficiaries of support but also as active contributors to policy development and advocacy.

In line with Sri Lanka’s international commitments, this Plan integrates the principles of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 8.7 on the eradication of forced labour, modern slavery, and human trafficking, and aligns with the Global Compact for Migration (GCM). These frameworks reinforce Sri Lanka’s commitment to uphold human rights, promote safe and orderly migration, and ensure justice and protection for victims, while

strengthening cooperation among States to combat transnational organised crime. Anchored in the Government’s vision articulated in the national manifesto “A Beautiful Life, A Thriving Nation,” this Plan embodies Sri Lanka’s dedication to fostering a society where every individual can live with dignity, security, and opportunity free from exploitation and fear, and empowered to contribute meaningfully to the nation’s progress.

Through this National Strategic Action Plan (2026–2030), the Government of Sri Lanka reiterates its determination to eradicate human trafficking in all its forms, safeguard victims and vulnerable groups, and ensure that technological progress serves as a tool for protection rather than exploitation. The Plan calls for a comprehensive “whole-of-government, whole-of-society” approach that mobilises all stakeholders, government institutions, civil society, the private sector, international partners, and local communities in collective action.

By strengthening partnerships, improving coordination and capacity, enhancing monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, and institutionalising accountability, Sri Lanka aims to build a resilient, inclusive, and trafficking-free society. The implementation of this plan will not only contribute to protecting the rights and dignity of individuals but also support the country’s broader vision of sustainable peace, security, and development.

NATIONAL CONTEXT AND RESPONSE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking in Sri Lanka is a serious and complex issue that involves the exploitation of men, women, and children. As a source, transit, and destination country, Sri Lanka faces challenges in combating human trafficking due to factors such as poverty, lack of awareness, and gaps in law enforcement. Labour migration has been central to Sri Lanka's development since the 1970s, and the dynamics of migration continue to evolve with emerging trends in local, regional, and global labour markets. Sri Lankan men and women migrate primarily as domestic workers, garment factory workers, and construction workers. Migrants, who use irregular channels, often due to lack of skills or financial means, are particularly vulnerable to exploitation.

Within the country, individuals can be deceived by false promises of employment or better opportunities, leading to situations of sexual exploitation, forced labour, cyber-enabled trafficking and etc. Foreign nationals have also been trafficked into Sri Lanka for sexual exploitation in certain occasions. The socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the country's economic crisis has increased the vulnerability of low-income groups to human trafficking, including online-enabled sexual and labour exploitation. Traffickers maintain control over victims through coercion, threats, confinement, abuse of power, or preying on vulnerabilities, and victims often suffer physical, sexual, financial, emotional, and psychological abuse, with potentially lifelong consequences.

The Government of Sri Lanka has adopted a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, and victim-centered approach to address human trafficking. The National Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (NAHTTF), established in 2010 under the Ministry of Justice and transferred the chairmanship of the Task Force to Ministry of Defence in 2021, coordinates the response across relevant government ministries, departments, and institutions, in collaboration with international organisations

and non-governmental stakeholders. The Task Force facilitates information sharing, strengthens coordination, and implements programmes to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute offenders.

Key measures include the enactment of the Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act, No. 10 of 2023, the establishment of Special Anti-Trafficking Units within the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) and the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), and the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for identification, referral, and protection of victims. Awareness-raising campaigns, capacity building of frontline officers, and district-level anti-trafficking forums have been implemented to enhance the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), which this plan explicitly aims to strengthen and institutionalise, ensuring systematic victim identification, referral, and protection through NRM.

The Government's response to human trafficking is predicated on the four pillars outlined in the National Action Plan: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Partnership (4Ps). These pillars guide all interventions, from preventive measures and victim assistance to strengthening legal frameworks, prosecuting offenders, and fostering collaboration between government and non-government stakeholders.

Despite these efforts, comprehensive data on victims remains limited, as many do not report crimes due to fear, social stigma, or lack of interest to cooperate with law enforcement. Trafficking trends continue to evolve, including the increasing use of digital platforms, social media grooming, and online recruitment by traffickers. The Government recognises the need for continuous adaptation of strategies, integration of technology-based solutions, and ongoing research to inform policies and interventions.

LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK AND STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

International and Regional Legal Framework

Sri Lanka ratified the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) in September 2006. The supplementary protocol to the UNTOC, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol), was ratified in June 2015.

Sri Lanka has also ratified the SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution.

Additionally, Sri Lanka has become a party to a number of conventions to eliminate forced labour and slavery, and to protect the rights of migrant workers and children. Among the most notable instruments are the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and members of their families, the Slavery Convention, core conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) including those on minimum age for employment (C138), worst forms of child labour (C182), Forced Labour Convention (C29), Abolition of Forced Labour Convention (C105), Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention (P29), the 1930 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Inter-Country Adoption, and the SAARC Convention on Child Welfare.

National Legal Framework

Legal Provisions Dealing with Human Trafficking

Human Trafficking as a concept was introduced to Sri Lankan law for the first time in 1995 with the enactment of the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No.22. The definition of trafficking in Section 360C of the Penal Code underwent further changes with the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 16 of 2006. These changes brought the provisions in the Penal Code more in line with the UN Palermo Protocol.

Section 360C (1) of the Penal Code (Amendment) Act No. 16 of 2006 criminalises human trafficking as follows.

Whoever;

(a) Buys, sells or barter or instigates another person to buy, sell or barter any person or does anything to promote, facilitate or induce the buying, selling or bartering of any person for money or other consideration;

(b) Recruits, transports, transfers, harbours or receives any person or does any other act by the use of threat, force, fraud, deception or inducement or by exploiting the vulnerability of another for the purpose of securing forced or compulsory labour or services, slavery, servitude, the removal of organs, prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation or any other act which constitutes an offence under any law;

(c) Recruits, transports, transfers, harbours or receives a child or does any other act whether with or without the consent of such child for the purpose of securing forced or compulsory labour or services, slavery, servitude or the removal of organs, prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, or any other act which constitutes an offence under any law, shall be guilty of the offence of trafficking.

The prescribed penalty for trafficking is imprisonment of no less than two and no more than twenty years, which can be combined with a fine.

For a trafficking offence involving a child. [Section 360C. (1)(c)], defined as a person less than 18 years of age, the minimum penalty of imprisonment is enhanced to three years and maximum penalty to 20 years [Section 360C. (2) and (3)].

Other Relevant Legal Provisions

The following is not an exhaustive list of legislation but are notable and are of significance within the context.

Penal Code

Section 360A of the Penal Code criminalises procurement for prostitution and sexual abuse. In addition, the Act No. 16 of 2006 amended the Penal Code offences in relation to debt bondage, serfdom, forced or compulsory labour, slavery, recruitment of children for use in armed conflicts (Section 358A); illicit forms of adoption (Section 360D); and the solicitation of a child for sexual abuse (Section 360E). The 2006 Amendment also requires computer service providers to take necessary steps to prevent child sexual abuse (Section 286B) and impose a general duty to inform the police when premises are knowingly being used for child sexual abuse (Section 286C). The 2006 Amendment applies to offences committed in whole or partly in Sri Lanka (Section 2). or induce the buying, selling or bartering of any person for money or other consideration;

The Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act No. 10 of 2023

The Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses Act, No. 10 of 2023, was enacted to strengthen the legal framework for safeguarding the rights and well-being of victims and witnesses involved in criminal proceedings including human trafficking. This Act replaces the previous legislation, Act No. 4 of 2015, aiming to address gaps and enhance protection based on international standards.

Prior to this legislation, victims and witnesses in Sri Lanka often faced challenges such as intimidation, harassment, and inadequate support during legal processes. These issues deterred individuals from coming forward, thereby hindering justice and perpetuating a culture of impunity. The new Act seeks to rectify these shortcomings by providing comprehensive rights and protections, ensuring that victims and witnesses can participate in the justice system without fear.

Key Protection Rights:

- **Establishment of Dedicated Bodies:** The Act establishes the National Authority for the Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses, responsible for formulating policies and overseeing the implementation of protection measures. It also creates the Victims of Crime and Witnesses Assistance and Protection Division, tasked with providing necessary assistance and protection services.
- **Rights and Entitlements:** Victims are granted the right to fair treatment, access to information regarding assistance and legal remedies, and the ability to participate in proceedings affecting them. Witnesses receive protection against intimidation and harm, ensuring their safety and encouraging truthful testimonies.
- **Compensation Mechanisms:** The Act introduces provisions for courts to order offenders to pay compensation to victims. In support, a Victims of Crime and Witnesses Assistance and Protection Fund has been established to provide financial support, including interim awards in exceptional circumstances.
- **Use of Technology in Testimonies:** To protect individuals who may face threats, the Act allows for testimonies to be given through contemporaneous audio-visual linkage, including from undisclosed locations, thereby minimising risks associated with physical court appearances.

- **Offences and Penalties:** The Act criminalises actions such as intimidation, causing harm, or offering inducements to victims or witnesses, with specified penalties to deter such conduct.

By implementing these measures, the Act aims to create a safer and more supportive environment for victims and witnesses, thereby strengthening the overall effectiveness and integrity of the criminal justice system in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) Act

The Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) Act, No. 21 of 1985, inter alia makes provision to take action against unauthorised recruitment practices. A few notable provisions are as follows:

- Section 40 of the SLBFE Act No. 21 of 1985 as amended by Act No 04 of 1994 and Act No.56 of 2009 states that, the contract of employment between the employer abroad and the person recruited for employment by such employer shall, before it is signed by such employer or his agent and such person, be read and explained in a language that the employee understands. At the time of any violation of the conditions there on, SLBFE will take action with the assistance of the Sri Lanka Mission in the destination country.
- Section 44 of the SLBFE Act No. 21 of 1985 as amended by Act No 04 of 1994 and Act No.56 of 2009 states that when an incident is reported to the SLBFE by or on behalf of any person recruited for employment outside Sri Lanka in relation to the contract of employment of the person not having been observed by the employer or the licensee having failed to take possible steps to ensure that those terms and conditions are observed by the employer, an officer authorised by the SLBFE shall, after an inquiry, make an award directing the licensee

to pay such person such sum of money as may be determined by the authorised officer of the SLBFE.

- Section 63 of the SLBFE Act No. 21 of 1985 as amended by Act No 04 of 1994 and Act No.56 of 2009 states that, any person who forges or alters any document required for, or relating to, the emigration of any person for the purpose of employment or has, in his possession or under his control any instrument or article which may be used for the purpose of such forgery or alteration; or by means of intoxication, coercion, fraud or wilful misrepresentation, causes or induces, or attempts to cause or induce, any person to emigrate, or enter into any agreement to emigrate or leave any place with a view to emigrating for the purpose of employment shall be guilty of an offence under the SLBFE Act, and shall on conviction after summary trial by a Magistrate be liable to a fine and to imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding two years.
- Persons other than the licensed agents who are engaged in foreign employment recruitments are liable for a fine and imprisonment of either description for a period not exceeding four years. (Section 62 of the SLBFE Act as amended)
- Persons other than the licensed agents who receive money for themselves and on behalf of another for recruitment are liable for a fine and for imprisonment for a period of two years. The Magistrate shall in addition order the offender to refund the fee or money which is the subject of the offence, to the person from whom the offender receive such fee or money.

The Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) Act, No. 21 of 1985, is undergoing amendments to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the foreign employment sector, aligning it with current international labour market trends.

Immigrants and Emigrants Act No. 20 of 1948 and Subsequent Amendments

According to Section 45 A of the above Act, the facilitation of an individual to enter into Sri Lanka knowing that the entry of such person is violating the provisions of the Act, conceals or harbours a person knowing that person has entered into Sri Lanka or is remaining in Sri Lanka violating the provisions of the Act or employs such a person is an offence punishable with imprisonment. Section 45 C further states that organising one or more persons to leave Sri Lanka in contravention of any of the provisions of the above Act is an offence. To 'organise' according to the Act, means the recruitment of a person knowingly making false promises of employment in a foreign country with an intention of inducing persons to leave Sri Lanka, obtaining monetary benefits for such purpose, the transportation of persons by sea, land or any other manner without obtaining valid travel documents, receiving and harbouring persons whether in Sri Lanka or in a foreign country.

These provisions will enable timely prevention and detection of potential situations of trafficking in persons.

Prevention of Money Laundering Act No. 5 of 2006

The offence of Money Laundering is defined under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act No. 5 of 2006 as receiving, possessing, concealing, investing, disposing or bringing into Sri Lanka, transferring out of Sri Lanka or engaging in any other manner in any transaction, in relation to any property derived or realised directly or indirectly from "unlawful activity" or proceeds of "unlawful activity". Human Trafficking is explicitly listed under "unlawful activities" in the Act. Any income derived from it will result in freezing of accounts, forfeiture and sentencing.

Prevention of Crimes (Amendment) Act, No. 29 of 2017

The Parliament of Sri Lanka enacted the Prevention of Crimes (Amendment) Act, No. 29 of 2017 making human trafficking a finger-printable offence. Making human trafficking a finger- printable offence will not only expedite the process of accurately identifying offenders but will also contribute to maintaining accurate records on human trafficking in the database established at the Criminal Records Division of the Police.

Other Legal Provisions and Policy Frameworks

The Government of Sri Lanka has taken several initiatives focusing on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and abuse as well as child labour within the framework of child rights. These initiatives include reforms to laws addressing discrimination against women and children as well as education for children. Further, several policy instruments have been formulated to protect the rights of migrant workers.

- Constitutional provisions: Articles 11 (freedom from torture and cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment) and Article 27 (the directive principles of State Policy) of the Constitution of Sri Lanka indicate the right to freedom from exploitation. Notably, Article 12(4) authorises affirmative action for the advancement of women and children. Moreover, directive principles of state policy provide for the elimination of economic and social disparity and exploitation (Article 27.7). These principles also require the state to promote the special interests of children and youth and protect them against discrimination and exploitation (Article 27.13). The Constitution also provides for in camera judicial proceedings in relation to sexual matters (Article 106.2(b)) and Article 17 provides the

right to a constitutional remedy for violations of fundamental rights. Under Article 27 (13) of the Constitution on Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Duties, the state pledges to promote with special care the interest of children and youth so as to ensure their full development, physical, mental, moral, religious and social and to protect them from exploitation and discrimination.

- Notable reforms to laws include the amendments to the Penal Code by the inclusion of new offences, establishing more severe penalties and providing compensation for victims of offences of sexual violence against women and children; The Penal Code amendments of 1995 and 1998 criminalise violence against women and children and enhanced the penalty in relation to the existing offences.
- In terms of labour laws, Sri Lanka abolished slavery in 1844 by enacting the abolition of Slavery Ordinance prohibiting forced labour.
- The Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act as amended in 1999 and in 2003, prohibit the employment of children less than 14 years of age and provides for employer compensation to victims whose

rights are violated. Hazardous occupations Regulations formulated under this Act restrict persons under 18 years of age from engaging in hazardous occupations.

- The Government of Sri Lanka by regulations to the Education Ordinance in 1997, made education and attendance at school compulsory for every Sri Lankan child aged between 5 and 14 years. Notable changes were made to these regulations in 2016 raising the age for compulsory school attendance from 14 to 16 years.
- The Brothels Ordinance and the Vagrants Ordinance criminalise many acts in what is considered prostitution and vagrancy. The brothels Ordinance of 1889 provides for the suppression of brothels. Any person who keeps or manages the management of a brothel commits an offence. The Act also makes it an offence if a landlord knowingly rents the premises for the running of the brothel where there is “habitual prostitution.” Similarly, a tenant or occupier who runs a brothel commits an offence.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Other National Action Plans

The development of SOPs on the identification, protection and referral of victims of human trafficking demonstrates Government's strong commitment to improve the identification and protection of victims. The development of the SOPs was a result of a consultative process led by the Ministry of Justice with NAHTTF members with technical support from IOM. SOPs received the approval from the Cabinet of Ministers and was officially launched in March 2015.

In line with the above SOPs endorsed by the Cabinet of Ministers, institution-specific SOPs have been developed. The State Ministry of Women and Child Development (SMWCD), in 2021, developed a guidance note on SOPs with a focus on child trafficking. Further, the Department of Immigration and Emigration has also developed SOPs.

FORMULATION OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN (2026–2030)

The National Strategic Action Plan (NSAP) to Monitor and Combat Human Trafficking (2026–2030) builds upon the foundations laid by the previous action plans (2015–2019 and 2021–2025). Lessons learned from past implementation include challenges such as underreporting of cases due to victims' reluctance to come forward, limited awareness regarding human trafficking, and gaps in the identification, referral, and protection of victims. The revised NSAP aims to address these challenges through increased awareness, targeted capacity building, enhanced public outreach, research and technology-driven tools, and improved access to quality services for victims, strengthened multi-stakeholder cooperation, and expeditious investigations leading to prosecutions.

The formulation of the 2026-2030 NSAP was guided by a participatory and consultative methodology involving key government ministries, departments, civil society organisations (CSOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), international organisations and thematic experts. Key activities included:

- An internal review of the NSAP 2021–2025.
- A desk review of national legislation, as well as regional and international conventions and declarations related to human trafficking, labour migration, cybercrime, and the protection of victims.
- An analysis of emerging trafficking trends, including technology-facilitated exploitation, cybercrime, and cyber sexual and gender-based violence.
- Consultations, cluster meetings, and a two-day workshop with members of the National Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force, facilitated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with an international thematic expert.
- Individual consultations with civil society experts, UN agencies, and regional specialists, conducted by the IOM, with feedback consolidated and submitted to the NAHTTF as recommendations.
- A national consultation workshop conducted by the IOM with civil society organisations (CSOs) and other non-government stakeholders to gather ground-level insights, with feedback consolidated and submitted to the NAHTTF as recommendations.
- A review and validation of the draft NSAP by the Coordination Committee of the NAHTTF, which scrutinised the Plan and validated it in consultation with all NAHTTF stakeholder institutions.

These consultations and validation processes enabled in-depth discussions on the challenges of combating human trafficking, the evolving role of technology in both facilitating and preventing trafficking, and the strategic measures required to strengthen Sri Lanka's counter-trafficking framework, aligned with the "4Ps" approach: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Partnership.

REGIONAL AND GLOBAL POLICY INITIATIVES

The GoSL is an active member of key regional consultative processes such as the Colombo Process (established in 2003), the Abu Dhabi Dialogue (established in 2008), and the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime (established in 2002). Sri Lanka chaired the inaugural meeting of the Colombo Process in 2003 and served again as Chair from 2014 to 2017. Sri Lankan officials have also contributed to regional anti-trafficking initiatives through active involvement with the Bali Process Regional Support Office (RSO). The proposed recommendations support the Forward Work Plan 2024–2026, which outlines the Working Group’s key priorities and activities in line with the 2023 Adelaide Strategy for Cooperation and the Working Group’s Terms of Reference. In June 2024, Sri Lanka hosted the Second Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Human Trafficking, further demonstrating its regional leadership and commitment.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Among the global targets to be achieved by 2030, several make explicit reference to trafficking in persons. SDG target 5.2 calls for eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, including trafficking and exploitation. SDG target 8.7 mandates immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking. Within SDG 16, target 16.2 calls for ending child trafficking by 2030. The presence of trafficking-related targets across multiple SDGs highlights the multifaceted nature of the issue spanning criminal justice, human rights, gender, migration, and labour dimensions. In addition, SDG target 10.7 urges Member States to facilitate “orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people” through well-managed migration policies.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) introduced the Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF) in 2015. MiGOF provides a clear structure for States to assess and strengthen migration governance. In 2021, Sri Lanka completed its second MiGOF profile, identifying strengths and areas for improvement across the six Migration Governance Indicator (MGI) domains: migrants’ rights, whole-of-government approach, partnerships, socioeconomic well-being of migrants, mobility dimensions of crises, and safe and orderly migration.

Roadmap for the Alliance of SDG 8.7

SDG 8.7 calls for the eradication of forced labour, modern slavery, human trafficking, and child labour by 2030. Sri Lanka reaffirmed its commitment to achieving this target by becoming a Pathfinder Country in September 2019, pledging to accelerate national action. This led to the development of a comprehensive Roadmap built on four strategic pillars: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Partnership. Key actions include legislative reforms, awareness initiatives, capacity building, and strengthened coordination among stakeholders.

Global Compact on Migration (GCM)

Sri Lanka has adopted both a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to implementing the Global Compact on Migration (GCM), institutionalising participation from government entities and civil society. This Action Plan adopts a human rights-based approach, focusing on preventing and combating human trafficking, addressing vulnerabilities, strengthening border management, enhancing services for victims, and promoting international cooperation. These measures help ensure access to accurate

and current information while supporting progress in GCM implementation. The GCM aligns with SDG target 10.7 on safe, orderly, and regular migration and reinforces related targets 5.2, 8.7, and 16.2 on trafficking. It provides a non-binding cooperative

framework with 23 objectives and corresponding actions for improving migration governance at local, national, regional, and global levels.

GoSL MANIFESTO: “A THRIVING NATION, A BEAUTIFUL LIFE”

Under the manifesto “A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life,” the Government of Sri Lanka reaffirms its commitment to strong regional and global collaboration to end human trafficking and create safer future for all. By actively contributing to regional mechanisms such as the Colombo Process, Abu Dhabi Dialogue, Bali Process and BIMSTEC, and by aligning national efforts with global frameworks including the SDGs, MiGOF, the Alliance 8.7 Roadmap and the GCM, Sri Lanka

positions itself as a responsible and forward-looking partner in promoting orderly migration, protecting vulnerable communities, and advancing human rights. These integrated regional and global policy initiatives strengthen national capacities, enhance cross-border cooperation, and reinforce the pillars of prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership laying the foundation for a safer, more equitable society where every individual can thrive and enjoy a beautiful life.

BUDGET

The implementation of the National Strategic Action Plan (NSAP) 2026 - 2030 will be primarily funded through general annual budgetary allocations provided by the Treasury to the member institutions of the National Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (NAHTTF). These allocations will support anti-trafficking activities within the mandate of each institution.

In addition, supplementary funding will be pursued from national and international sources, including bilateral and multilateral development partners, international organisations, and civil society stakeholders, as appropriate. This multi-source funding approach ensures the sustainability and flexibility of the NSAP while enabling institutions to respond effectively to emerging human trafficking challenges.

VISION, GOAL, AND OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

Vision

A Sri Lanka free from human trafficking, where all individuals are protected from exploitation through coordinated, victim-centered, and rights-based interventions.

Goal

To strengthen national capacity and collaboration to prevent human trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute offenders effectively, while adapting to emerging threats and vulnerabilities.

Objectives

The Government of Sri Lanka's response to human trafficking is predicated on four pillars: Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Partnership (the 4Ps):

Prevention:

Strengthening awareness and reducing vulnerabilities through coordinated awareness and capacity building to address root causes and mitigate trafficking risks.

Strengthen awareness and capacity among all relevant state and non-state stakeholders on Trafficking in Persons and on the referral mechanisms, ultimately contributing to the reduction of levels of vulnerability that lead to trafficking.

Strengthen efforts for the effective implementation of interventions and strategies to address human trafficking.

Protection:

Ensuring comprehensive, victim-centered support through timely, rights-based assistance and enhanced capacity for victim identification, referral, and reintegration.

Strengthen assistance to and protection of victims of human trafficking based on a holistic, victim-centered approach.

Strengthen the institutional capacity of relevant stakeholders to provide effective protection and assistance to Victims of Trafficking.

Prosecution:

Strengthening legal and institutional responses by improving law enforcement and judicial capacity to effectively investigate and prosecute trafficking offences.

Strengthen the capacity of relevant stakeholders for effective identification, investigation and prosecution of cases of Human Trafficking.

Strengthening the capacity of law enforcement and implementing strategies to respond to Human trafficking.

Strengthen the legal framework to respond to the emerging trends.

Partnership:

Fostering collaboration and shared responsibility through coordination among government, civil society, private sector, international partners, and regional forums for a unified response.

Strengthen the coordination and partnership with government, non-government organisations, private sector, international non-government organisations and regional forums to support a comprehensive response to human trafficking.

PREVENTION

The prevention objectives and activities aim for a stronger role for both government and civil society in raising awareness and sensitising stakeholders at all levels. They address evolving trends in human trafficking, particularly the role of technology in recruitment and exploitation, while enhancing institutional capacity, cooperation, and legislative measures. Further this pillar focused on reducing vulnerabilities by engaging the private sector and improving cyber literacy and data collection.

Key actions include establishing national training resources, strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships, leveraging technology to combat cyber enabled trafficking, and enhancing border management. Additionally, addressing root causes through private sector collaboration and conducting research will inform policy and intervention strategies.

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
1. Strengthen awareness and capacity among all relevant state and non-state stakeholders on Trafficking in Persons and on the referral mechanisms, ultimately contributing to the reduction of levels of vulnerability that lead to trafficking	<p>1.(a). Relevant government officers have enhanced their capacities to effectively identify and refer victims of human trafficking both at national and local levels</p> <p>SDGs: 8.7 and 16.6 GCM: 10 and 11</p> <p>Government Manifestation: “A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life”</p>	<p>1. Continue the mapping of officers who could be potential first respondents to trafficking and training for identified officers in each institution and conduct training/ awareness sessions</p>	No. of training/ Awareness conducted for identified officers	2026-2030	MoFA, FE&T MoWCA MoH&MM MoPA PC & LD, Moj & NI DIE, DoL DPCCS SL Customs NCPA, BPACW SLBFE SL Police/ CID
		<p>2. Conduct a comprehensive annual review and update of multi- sectoral anti-human trafficking resource kits to ensure alignment with evolving trafficking trends, national laws, international standards, and stakeholder feedback.</p>	Developing/ updating material by TF members and availability of the resource kits	2026-2030	MoFA, FE&T MoWCA MoH Moj & NI DIE, DoL DPCCS SLBFE, NCPA
		<p>3. NAHTTF member institutions to continue and institutionalise regular trainings on identifying and responding to human trafficking, including the use of SOPs, targeting government officials at national (e.g, labour attachés, diplomatic staff, immigration officers) and district levels (e.g, WDOs, GNs, FEDOs, counselling assistants, child protection officers, labour officers, probation officers, SLBFE officers, judicial medical officers), with a focus on high-risk districts prone to regular and irregular migration and high-traffic travel zones.</p>	No. of trainings conducted (desegregated by institution, gender, district)	Throughout 2026-2030	Chair-NAHTTF and all members

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
		<p>4. Issue updated circulars, directives, and guidelines in line with emerging trends of trafficking in persons (TIP), to relevant local government officials at divisional, district, and provincial levels - including Women Development Officers, Child Protection Officers, Child Rights Promotion Officers, Probation Officers, Foreign Employment Development Officers, and Labour Officers/ Inspectors/ Public Health Officials/ Gramaniadhari to strengthen the screening, identification, and referral of trafficking cases</p>	<p>Circulars/ directive Issued by NAHTTF Members</p>	<p>2026-2030</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF MoFA,FE&T MoH & MM MoWCA MoPA PC & LG MoPS & PA DIE DPCCS DOL SLBFE NCPA SL Police</p>
		<p>5. Refer identified potential trafficking cases from district-level coordination meetings to the relevant TF member institutions at the central level for appropriate follow-up, protection, and prosecution</p>	<p>Relevant local government officers such as WDO, FEDO, increasingly (as a %) refer cases to relevant TF member institution for further action and follow up through the respective line Ministry Cases referred by local levels are recorded and promptly followed up No. of VoTs identified and assisted</p>	<p>2026-2030</p>	<p>MoFA,FE&T MoPA, PC & LG MoWCA DOL DPCCS NCPA</p>

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
		<p>6. Conduct initial and refresher trainings for national hotline operators to strengthen their capacity to accurately categorise potential trafficking cases and refer them to the appropriate Institutions for immediate action</p>	No. of trainings conducted	2026-2030	Chair-NAHTTF MoWCA SLBFE SL Police/ CID NCPA NAPVCW
		<p>7. Conduct specialised training for government officials, including those posted abroad in Sri Lankan missions, on preventing and detecting money laundering/ cyber enabled crimes and other trends linked to human trafficking</p>	No. of programmes conducted	2026-2030	MoFA, FE&T MoPS & PA AG's Department CIABOC DIE SL Police/ BPACW/CID/ CCID
		<p>8. Organise exposure visits and experience-sharing sessions with relevant counterparts, organisations, and Sri Lankan missions abroad, as well as partner countries, to enhance strategies for preventing human trafficking</p>	No. of programmes conducted No. of sessions/ projects	2026-2030	Chair-NAHTTF and all members
		<p>9. Introduce specialised TIP training modules for disaster management sector</p>	Specialised training modules on TIP developed and integrated into training programmes for disaster management personnel and related first respondents	2026	Chair-NAHTTF MoD MoH & MM

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
		10. Conduct Training programmes for all Grama Niladhari officers through AGNs	No. of Grama Niladhari officers trained	2026-2027	MoPA, PC & LG
	1.(b). Community members/ general public make informed decisions to prevent trafficking as a result of awareness raising/ on the basis of available information	11. Educate aspirant Sri Lankan migrant workers on their rights, entitlements, and services provided by SLBFE and Sri Lankan missions abroad during pre-departure orientation sessions	No. of training programmes conducted No. of aspirant migrant workers sensitised	Throughout 2026-2030	MoFA, FE&T DIE SLBFE
	SDG 8.7, 10.7, 17.16 GCM 3, 7, 10 Government Manifestation: “A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life” 01.1 A Civilized Citizen & 02.1 Safer Society	12. Conduct awareness sessions among community members, community-based organisations (CBOS), NGOs, and Youth at district level on human trafficking and safe and regular migration	No. of awareness sessions conducted (desegregated by district, institution, gender) No. of community members sensitised	2026-2030	Chair-NAHTTF & all members
		13. Establish and strengthen School Child Protection Committees (SCPCs) and conduct regular awareness sessions on child trafficking for school children through these committees	No. of awareness sessions conducted (desegregated by district, school, gender) No. of students sensitised	2026-2030	NCPA
		14. Continue conducting awareness sessions on child trafficking for parents, adolescents and the public, with a focus on high-risk and vulnerable communities.	No. of awareness sessions conducted (desegregated by district, and gender)	2026-2030	DPCCS NCPA SL Police/ BPACW

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
		<p>15. Conduct assessments to identify high-risk areas vulnerable to human trafficking based on emerging trends</p>	<p>No. of assessments conducted</p> <p>No. of hotspots identified</p> <p>No. of identified trends</p>	<p>2026-2030</p> <p>Annual</p>	<p>MoFA, FE&T</p> <p>MoPS & PA</p> <p>MoWCA</p> <p>DOL</p> <p>DIE</p> <p>SLBFE</p> <p>NCPA</p> <p>SL Police/ CCID</p>
		<p>16. Integrate human trafficking awareness into existing training programmes and conduct targeted awareness sessions for tourism service providers</p>	<p>Annual risk assessment statement</p> <p>No. of awareness sessions conducted</p>	<p>Throughout 2026-2030</p>	<p>MoFA, FE&T/ (SLTDA)</p> <p>MoPS & PA</p> <p>DIE</p> <p>NCPA</p> <p>SL Police</p> <p>Tourist Police</p>
		<p>17. Develop and implement a focused communication strategy and public information campaign addressing emerging trends in human trafficking, targeting specific vulnerable groups and forms of exploitation through island-wide digital media platforms.</p>	<p>Communication/ awareness strategy developed and in place</p> <p>No. of campaigns conducted</p>	<p>2026-2030</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF and all members</p>
		<p>18. Develop and implement mass media campaigns to disseminate anti-human trafficking messages through newspapers, TV, radio, billboards, and other visibility platforms</p>	<p>No. of campaigns conducted</p>	<p>2026-2030</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF and all members</p>

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
		<p>19. Develop and regularly update anti-human trafficking awareness materials such as leaflets, posters, and banners incorporating emerging trafficking trends</p> <p>20. Continue developing and updating pre-departure information booklets for Sri Lankans intending to travel abroad for employment, including relevant information and contact numbers, and disseminate them widely through pre-departure orientation centers, recruitment agencies, Sri Lanka Missions abroad, and community organisations.</p> <p>21. Implement a national awareness campaign against child sex tourism and pornography</p> <p>22. Reach out to the general public on child labour through awareness seminars, school-based education programmes, social and cultural (including religious) events, dissemination of leaflets and posters, and media platforms such as TV, radio, drama, and social media.</p>	<p>No. of Types/ amount of materials Location and types of programmes/ events during which the material were disseminated</p> <p>Information booklets developed and disseminated</p> <p>No. of campaigns/events conducted annually (desegregated by district/ target areas if any)</p> <p>No. of programmes/ events conducted annually (desegregated by district)</p> <p>No. of media initiatives implemented (TV/ Radio programmes/ drama etc.)</p>	<p>2026-2030</p> <p>2026-2030</p> <p>2026-2030</p> <p>Annually 2026-2030</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF and all members</p> <p>Chair-NAHTTF DIE SLBFE</p> <p>DIE NCPA SLTDA SL Police/ BPACW/ CCID</p> <p>MoH&MM DOL NCPA</p>

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
		<p>23. Conduct sensitisation sessions for media personnel and journalists on human trafficking and its various forms, including ethical reporting of trafficking cases</p> <p>24. Conduct panel discussions and public events at national and local levels, focusing on emerging trends in human trafficking, to engage NGOs, CSOs, INGOs, and the general public in awareness-raising, advocacy, and public dialogue</p>	<p>No. of programmes held</p> <p>No. of journalists sensitised</p> <p>No. of Events held (Disaggregated by district)</p>	<p>2026-2030</p> <p>2026-2030</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF MoH & MM</p> <p>Chair-NAHTTF and all members</p>
		<p>25. Conduct awareness-raising initiatives on the prevention and identification of child labour, targeting communities, schools, employers, and frontline service providers</p>	<p>No. of programmes conducted at divisional/district level</p>	<p>2026-2030</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF DOL NCPA</p>
	<p>1.(c). Relevant government officials and civil society organisations are equipped to address the current trends in human trafficking</p> <p>SDG 8.7, 16.6, 17.17 GCM 10, 16</p> <p>Government Manifestation: “A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life”</p> <p>04.2 An Efficient Public Service</p>	<p>26. Establish/ train/ employ a national training team (NTT) on countering TIP</p>	<p>NTT established</p> <p>No. of NTT members utilised to conduct training programmes</p> <p>No. of training sessions conducted by the NTT members</p> <p>Assessment conducted</p>	<p>2026-2030</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF and all members</p>

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
		27. Conduct an assessment with a view to setting-up secure, AI-enhanced online platforms, chatbots and mobile apps related to Anti Human Trafficking	Developed and implemented No. of Apps developed No. of online platforms developed	2026-2030 2027-2028	Chair-NAHTTF and all members
		28. Establish 24/7-supported virtual helplines	No. of Virtual helplines established No of. recorded referrals	2028 2030	Chair-NAHTTF and all members
		29. Drawing on best practices conduct an assessment to strengthen prevention measures in the tourism sector including a campaign to address the issue of child sex tourism and related CSGBV.	Assessment conducted No. of recommendations implemented	2026 2027-2030	MoFA,FE&T/SLTDA NCPA

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
	<p>1.(d). The public, the technology & private sector are sensitised and responsive to current issues in trafficking and CSGBV. SDG 8.7, 16.2, 17.17 GCM 10, 12, 23</p> <p>Government Manifestation: “A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life”</p> <p>03.5 A Digital State: An International Partnership</p>	<p>30. Sensitise technology companies (and the media) on trafficking issues and trends and host events for the private sector to assess how their businesses could contribute and should comply with legislation and regulations related to TIP and counter trafficking efforts</p> <p>31. Develop and implement social media prevention campaigns to sensitise the general public on cyber related trafficking, use of AI, CSGBV, safe migration and the referral mechanism. Media prevention campaigns to sensitise the general public on cyber related trafficking, use of AI, CSGBV, safe migration and the referral mechanism.</p> <p>32. Develop an awareness campaign on the harmful impact of the commercial sex industry, including child sex tourism and CSGBV.</p> <p>33. Develop and broadcast awareness programmes on domestic TIP cases</p>	<p>No. of tech companies reached</p> <p>Campaign developed/ implemented</p> <p>Campaign developed/ launched</p> <p>Programmes developed/ Telecasted</p>	<p>2026-2030</p> <p>2026-2030</p> <p>2026-2030</p> <p>2026-2030</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF</p> <p>Chair-NAHTTF and all members</p> <p>MoFA,FE&T/ SLTDA MoWCA BPACW</p> <p>Chair-NAHTTF and all members</p>

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
	<p>1.(e). Increased awareness and ability of differently abled individuals to identify and report TIP risks, ensuring no one is left behind in prevention efforts</p> <p>SDG 10.2, 5.2, 16.2 GCM 7, 16</p> <p>Government Manifestation: “A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life”</p> <p>02.7 An Unimpaired Social Life</p>	<p>34. Conduct targeted awareness programmes for differently abled individuals on TIP prevention and protection mechanisms</p>	<p>No. of programmes conducted</p> <p>No. of resource materials developed (braille, Sign Language)</p>	2026-2030	MoH & MM MoRD, SS & CE DSS MoPS & PA SL Police
<p>2. Strengthen efforts for the effective implementation of interventions and strategies to address human trafficking</p>	<p>2.(a). TF members have strategies and tools to make appropriate interventions to address human trafficking.</p> <p>SDG 16.6, 8.7, 16.3 GCM 10, 11</p> <p>Government Manifestation: “A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life”</p> <p>04.4 Public Security Assuring People Friendly Service</p>	<p>35. Conduct reactive and proactive intelligence analysis of internet-based suspicious activities and websites, particularly those operating from foreign countries, to identify and prevent online-facilitated human trafficking</p>	<p>Intelligence analysis effectively conducted via relevant entities/ action taken on suspicious activities</p>	2026-2030	MoD MoFA, FE&T/ Missions abroad DIE, SL Police/ BPACW/ HTSMCID/CCID
		<p>36. Issue directives, from time to time based on emerging trafficking trends, to strengthen the identification and screening of potential trafficking cases.</p>	<p>No of Directives/ guidelines issued</p>	2026-2030	Chair-NAHTTF and all members

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
		<p>37. Organise trend-based discussion forums and symposiums among NAHTTF member institutions to share experiences, identify emerging trafficking trends, and implement agreed-upon actions, including policy changes and the launch of relevant operational missions.</p>	<p>No. of forums held/ Actions taken</p>	<p>2026-2030</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF and all members</p>
		<p>38. Conduct Task Force meetings at regular intervals (monthly meetings) to coordinate measures/actions</p>	<p>TF meetings regularly convened by Chair NAHTTF and attended by TF members Minutes are recorded.</p>	<p>Monthly meetings</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF and all members</p>
		<p>39. Strengthen data collection and analysis by NAHTTF member institutions through maintaining accurate and updated databases on human trafficking incidents, and generating periodic reports to support evidence-based decision-making and coordinated response.</p>	<p>TF members maintain their annual records on human trafficking TF members share trafficking related data with the Chair NAHTTF</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF and all members</p>
		<p>40. Establish/ Update a centralised data management system to track, monitor, and analyse TIP cases and trends</p>	<p>Developed a data management system for TIP cases No. of stakeholders with access permission No. of cases and trends identified</p>	<p>2026-2030</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF and all members</p>

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
		<p>41. Conduct rapid assessments and research on emerging trends, root causes of human trafficking, and factors contributing to low levels of victim identification and prosecution, to inform evidence-based policy-making and the design of effective prevention and response measures</p> <p>42. Conduct legal aid and awareness clinics to support migrant workers, their families, and victims of human trafficking by providing information on their rights, available support services, and legal remedies</p> <p>43. Regular and close monitoring of the operations of licensed foreign employment agencies.</p>	<p>No. of assessments/researches conducted</p> <p>No. of Interventions and policy level decisions made/ action taken, based on the findings/recommendations emanating from research/assessments.</p> <p>No. of legal aid clinics conducted (Disaggregated by district and No. of individuals advised)</p> <p>Action taken against unauthorised recruitment practices:</p>	<p>2026-2030</p> <p>2026-2030 Throughout</p> <p>Throughout 2026-2030</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF and all members</p> <p>MOJ & NI/ Legal Aid Commission</p> <p>MoFA, FE&T SLBFE</p>

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
		<p>44. Blacklist, suspend and cancel licenses of the recruitment agents who commit malpractices.</p>	<p>No. of cases instituted under the SLBFE Act for identified offences per year</p> <p>No. of agencies blacklisted/ whose licenses have been cancelled per year due to malpractices</p>	Throughout 2026-2030	MoFA, FE&T SLBFE
		<p>45. Carry out targeted surveillance operations in the tourism sector to prevent and detect cases of commercial sexual exploitation, in coordination with relevant law enforcement and regulatory bodies.</p>	<p>No. of surveillance operations carried out</p> <p>No. of TIP cases reported</p>	Throughout 2026-2030	MoFA, FE&T/ SLTDA DIE SL Police/ BPACW/ CID/ CCID
		<p>46. Conduct regular inspections to identify and address hazardous child labour practices, implementing timely preventive and remedial measures in coordination with relevant authorities and community stakeholders</p>	<p>No. of inspections carried out per year (Annual data) /Actions taken</p>	Throughout 2026-2030	MoL DoL DPCCS SL Police/ BPACW
		<p>47. Develop strategies and implement targeted actions to address TIP cases arising in the tourism sector</p>	<p>No. of Strategies developed</p> <p>No. of Sub sectors addressed</p>	2026-2030	MoFA, FE&T/ SLTDA DIE SL Police/ Tourist Police

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
	<p>2. (b). Improved strategies and policies based on current data and evolving trafficking trends</p> <p>SDG 17.18, 16.6, 8.7</p> <p>GCM 1, 10</p> <p>Government Manifestation: “A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life”</p> <p>03.6 Research & Development Approach, Scientific Solutions for Society</p>	<p>48. Utilise Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) to support identification of trafficking operations, fake advertisements, operational needs, and awareness initiatives</p> <p>49. Conduct research to identify gaps in TIP prevention and issue policy directives accordingly</p> <p>50. Verify and standardise existing training syllabuses on TIP</p> <p>51. Conduct an assessment to increase understanding of current vulnerability factors that contribute to human trafficking in sectors such as irregular migration, Health, Child and women, labour, Climate, Disaster, Cyber and any other emerging sectors</p>	<p>Dedicated OSINT cells established</p> <p>No. of human trafficking-related cases or leads identified using OSINT tools</p> <p>No. of gap Identified</p> <p>No. of Policy directives issued</p> <p>No. of existing TIP training syllabuses reviewed, verified, and standardised</p> <p>No. of assessments conducted</p>	<p>2026-2030</p> <p>2026-2030</p> <p>2026-2030</p> <p>2026-2030</p>	<p>MoD DIE SLBFE SL Police/ BPACW/ CCID</p> <p>Chair-NAHTTF and all members</p> <p>Chair-NAHTTF AG's Department</p> <p>Chair-NAHTTF and all members</p>

PROTECTION

The Protection objectives and activities focus on strengthening victim-centered assistance by enhancing institutional capacity and expanding protection mechanisms. Ensuring effective victim protection supports criminal investigations, prosecutions, and the prevention of future trafficking crimes.

Key actions include capacity-building for stakeholders involved in victim identification and support, improving shelter and essential services through the implementation of SOPs, and strengthening protection for Sri Lankans trafficked overseas.

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
3. Strengthen assistance to and protection of victims of human trafficking based on a holistic, victim-centred approach.	3. (a). Provide victims with shelter and other support services such as counselling, psychosocial support, security, medical, re- integration, legal and translation assistance	52. Maintain the effective operation of the existing shelters for VoTs by ensuring trained staff, adequate facility maintenance, and access to specialised services such as medical care, psychosocial support, and legal aid	Victims have access to shelter with adequate services	2026-2030	MoJ & NI MoWCA MoRD, SS & CE/ DSS DIE DPCCS NCPA NAPVCW
	SDG 5.2, 8.7, 16.2 GCM 7, 14, 21 Government Manifestation: “A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life” 02.3 Gender Equality in Social Life & 02.6 Respectable Senior Citizen	53. Establish shelters to provide safe accommodation and specialised support services for male/ female/ Children/ family victims including foreign VoTs, in coordination with relevant government and non-government stakeholders	Dedicated Shelter facilities/ services for Identified male VoTs, Dedicated Shelter facilities/ services for Identified female VoTs Dedicated Shelter facilities/ services for Identified Child VoTs Dedicated Shelter facilities/ services for families of VoTs Dedicated Shelter facilities/ services for Identified foreign VoTs	Throughout 2026-2030	MoWCA, MoPS & PA MoRD, SS & CE/ DSS DPCCS NCPA NAPVCW

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
		<p>54. Assist victims to gain access to support services such as medical, psychosocial, economic reintegration/ livelihood support, interpretation support, logistical support to attend investigations and prosecutions; provide security/ protection to victims; grant compensation through victim assistance fund established by the Victim and Witness Protection Authority.</p> <p>55. Provide documentation and translation support to foreign victims of trafficking</p> <p>56. Establishment of professional translators/ interpreters pool to assist in victim support</p> <p>57. Provide legal counselling and assistance to victims and represent their interests where necessary</p> <p>58. Facilitate smooth repatriation of victims in coordination with embassies, provide documentation assistance where necessary and ensure victims are not arrested or detained for offences traffickers committed during the trafficking process</p>	<p>Identified victims have access to adequate services (desegregated by types of services received)</p> <p>No. of assisted victims of human trafficking</p> <p>No. of foreign victims provided with documentation and translation support</p> <p>No. of translators/ interpreters</p> <p>No. of assisted VoTs</p> <p>No. of victims of human trafficking seeking legal assistance annually</p> <p>No. of victims of human trafficking receiving repatriation assistance (Annual data)</p>	<p>Throughout 2026-2030</p> <p>Throughout 2026-2030</p> <p>Throughout 2026-2030</p> <p>Throughout 2026-2030</p> <p>Throughout 2026-2030</p>	<p>MOH & MM</p> <p>Moj & NI DIE SLBFE NAPVCW</p> <p>MoFA, FE&T (Missions abroad) DIE</p> <p>Chair-NAHTTF MoFA, FE&T</p> <p>Moj & NI</p> <p>Moj & NI/ Legal Aid Commission NAPVCW</p> <p>MoFA, FE&T DIE SLBFE SL Police/ HTSMCID</p>

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
		59. Operate safe shelters/ places of safety for child victims including child victims of trafficking with adequate standards and living conditions	Places of safety are available for child victims at provincial level	Throughout 2026-2030	DPCCS
		60. Design and implement effective re-integration programmes for child victims of trafficking upon conducting 'best interest determination' assessments for children and conducting family tracing where appropriate.	Re-integration programmes designed and implemented No. of child VoTs assisted/ effectively re- integrated (Annual data) Types of services offered	Throughout 2026-2030	MoPA, PC & RD DPCCS SL Police
		61. Ensure effective operation/ maintenance of the shelters attached to Sri Lankan missions abroad and "Sahana Piyasa" welfare centre.	No. of vulnerable Migrants assisted (including VoTs)	Throughout 2026-2030	MoFA, FE&T MoH & MIM SLBFE
		62. Implement special programmes (including reintegration in coordination with the SLBFE reintegration unit) and referrals for trafficked, abused and exploited returnees that need special attention upon their return.	Types of services offered/ assistance provided (Annual data)	Throughout 2026-2030	MoL SLBFE
		63. Develop and implement a National Reintegration Mechanism for VoTs	National Reintegration mechanism developed and officially adopted		Chair-NAHTTF and all members

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
	<p>3. (b). Effectively identify and refer victims to support services in a coordinated manner</p> <p>SDG 16.3, 8.7, 10.7</p> <p>GCM 10, 12</p> <p>Government Manifestation: “A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life”</p> <p>04.3 Rule of Law – Judicial System with Equal Access</p>	<p>64. Establish District-level Anti- Trafficking Forums (DATFs) in identified high-risk districts including areas with high levels of regular/irregular migration and tourist activity to strengthen coordination between local government officials and community members for the identification and referral of trafficking victims to appropriate support services.</p> <p>Continue the functioning of existing DATFs by facilitating regular meetings at least once every three months.</p> <p>65. Conduct a comprehensive assessment to identify and map existing service providers offering assistance to victims of trafficking (VoTs), including shelters, legal aid, health care, psychosocial support, return and reintegration assistance, and skills development. Engage mapped service providers to establish referral pathways and ensure coordinated victim support.</p> <p>66. Develop supplementary guidelines to the existing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), focusing on child trafficking and emerging trafficking trends, including online exploitation, cyber bullying linked to grooming and coercion, forced criminality, and trafficking in emergency contexts.</p>	<p>No. of the forums held (Disaggregated by district)</p> <p>Availability of the assessment</p> <p>SOP guidelines on child trafficking developed and adopted</p>	<p>Throughout 2026-2030 (by 2030 to establish DATFs in all Districts)</p> <p>2026-2030</p> <p>2026 - 2028</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF MoPA, PC & LG</p> <p>Chair-NAHTTF and all members</p> <p>MoWCA DPCCS DIE NCPA BPACW HTSMCID CCID</p>

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
4. Strengthen the institutional capacity of relevant stakeholders to provide effective protection and assistance to Victims of Trafficking in persons	<p>4.(a). Relevant government officials have enhanced their knowledge and services to identify, assist and protect victims</p> <p>SDG 16.6, 5.2, 8.7 GCM 10, 14, 21</p> <p>Government Manifestation: “A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life”</p> <p>04.2 Efficient Public Service</p>	<p>67. Issue circulars to TF member institution staff with a view to institutionalising the SOPs on the identification, referral and protection of victims of human trafficking endorsed by the cabinet of ministers.</p> <p>68. Build the capacity of shelter staff, counselling assistants attached to divisional and district secretariats, Sahana Piyasa, shelters attached to Sri Lankan embassies abroad</p>	<p>Circulars/ Guidelines issued by each TF member institution</p> <p>No. of programmes conducted annually</p> <p>No. of officers trained (Disaggregated by TF member institution)</p>	<p>Through-out 2026-2030</p> <p>2026-2030</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF and all members</p> <p>MoFA,FE&T MoH & MM MoWCA BPACW DIE SLBFE</p>
		<p>69. Identify and train officers attached to overseas embassies, including labour attachés, on victim identification, screening, protection, assistance, and referral procedures. Conduct regular trend- based awareness sessions for these officers to ensure they are informed of emerging trafficking patterns and context-specific risks.</p>	<p>No. of programmes conducted annually</p>	<p>2026-2030</p>	<p>MoFA,FE&T SLBFE</p>

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
		<p>70. Conduct training programmes to child protection service providers and introducing the guidelines on SOPs on child trafficking</p>	<p>No. of trained officers disaggregated by government agency (Labour officers, child rights promotion officers, probation officers)</p> <p>No. of programmes held</p>	<p>2026 - 2030</p>	<p>MoH & MM MoWCA DoL DPCCS NCPA BPACW CCID</p>
		<p>71. Enhance the capacity of officers attached to the Legal Aid Commission and the Victim and Witness Protection Authority on human trafficking, with a focus on emerging trends, new forms of exploitation, and victim-centered approaches</p>	<p>No. of programmes conducted (desegregated by gender, district)</p>	<p>2026-2030</p>	<p>MoJ & NI NAPVCW</p>
	<p>4.(b). General public are sensitized on the available victim protection services, their rights and entitlements</p> <p>SDG 16.3, 10.7, 17.16 GCM 3, 16</p> <p>Government Manifestation: “A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life”</p> <p>01.8 Free Media Industry, Objectively Informed Society</p>	<p>72. Carry out public sensitisation workshops on the existing victim protection mechanism and on the services offered to victims to enhance knowledge on the rights and entitlements and on the victim assistance fund as way of promoting public cooperation with investigators and prosecutors</p>	<p>No. of programmes held (desegregated by gender, district) Target group</p> <p>No. of participants</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>NAPVCW</p>

PROSECUTION

The prosecution objectives and activities aim to enhance the capacity of key stakeholders in identifying, investigating, and prosecuting human trafficking offences. While progress has been made, challenges such as victim reluctance and lack of cooperation, reliance on foreign evidence, and the complexity of transnational cases persist. Victims and witnesses often face trauma and intimidation, further hindering the prosecution process. Strengthening the skills and resources of authorities is essential to overcoming these barriers and ensuring more effective legal action against traffickers.

Key measures include developing advanced investigative techniques, strengthening multi-sector partnerships, and improving intelligence-sharing on cyber enabled trafficking. Enhancing the capacity of law enforcement and prosecutors, adopting best practices in investigations, and fostering cross-border collaboration will also help address emerging trafficking trends, particularly those involving cyber enabled trafficking, forced criminality and CSGBV.

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
5. Strengthen the capacity of relevant stakeholders for effective identification, investigation and prosecution of cases of Human Trafficking	<p>5.(a). Relevant law enforcement and other state officials have enhanced their capacities to effectively identify and investigate human trafficking</p> <p>SDG 16.3, 16.6, 8.7 GCM 10, 11</p> <p>Government Manifestation: “A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life”</p> <p>04.3 Rule of Law, Equal Access</p>	<p>73. Conduct specialised training to enhance the skills, knowledge, and investigative capacity of officers attached to the Human Trafficking, Smuggling, and Maritime Crime Investigation Unit and its branches under the Criminal Investigations Division.</p> <p>74. Conduct targeted training programmes for police officers attached to (a) local police stations, (b) Community Police Units, (c) the Police Training College (including newly recruited officers), (d) the Tourist Police, and (e) the Police Women’s and Children’s Bureau. These trainings will focus on victim identification, referral procedures, and protection mechanisms, with particular emphasis on new and emerging trends in trafficking in Persons.</p> <p>75. Conduct training and refresher programmes for officers of the Department of Immigration and Emigration on TIP; evidence gathering and documentation to support effective investigation and prosecution of human trafficking cases.</p>	<p>No. of programmes conducted annually</p> <p>No. of Personnel participated annually</p> <p>Officers attached to local police stations, BPACW and community police units, newly recruited police officers, tourist police are trained on the topic.</p> <p>No. of training programmes conducted annually</p> <p>No of officers trained</p>	<p>2026-2030</p> <p>Throughout 2026-2030</p> <p>Throughout 2026-2030</p>	<p>AG’s Dept SL Police/ CID/ CCID</p> <p>SL Police BPACW</p> <p>DIE</p>

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
		<p>76. Conduct specialised training for officers attached to the Counter Human Trafficking Unit (CHTU) of the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment (SLBFE) to enhance their capacity to screen, identify, and investigate potential trafficking cases, particularly those linked to foreign employment.</p> <p>77. Conduct specialised training/refresher training for officers of the Special Police Unit attached to the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) to strengthen their capacity to screen and investigate potential child trafficking cases. Trainings will incorporate new and emerging trends, including online exploitation, grooming, and other evolving forms of child trafficking.</p> <p>78. Update the counter-trafficking training module in the curricula of the Police Academy and Police Training College to incorporate emerging trends in human trafficking, including online exploitation, grooming, and other evolving methods of recruitment</p> <p>79. Conduct training/refresher programmes for State Counsels and prosecutors of the Attorney General's Department.</p>	<p>No. of training and refresher programmes conducted annually</p> <p>No. of cases detected</p> <p>No. of training and refresher programmes conducted annually</p> <p>No. of officials trained</p> <p>No. of police officers trained</p> <p>No. of training/ Refresher sessions conducted</p> <p>No. of prosecutors trained</p> <p>No. of training/ refresher programmes conducted</p>	<p>2026-2030</p> <p>2026-2030</p> <p>2026-2030</p> <p>2026-2030</p>	<p>MoFA, FE & T SLBFE</p> <p>NCPA</p> <p>SL Police</p> <p>SL Police</p> <p>AG's Department</p>

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
		<p>80. Conduct training and refresher programmes for Judicial Medical Officers (JMOs) on international best practices, relevant laws, policies, and procedures guiding the prosecution of human trafficking crimes and the protection of victims.</p>	<p>No. of JMOs trained</p> <p>No. of training/ refresher programmes conducted</p>	2026-2030	Chair-NAHTTF MoH & MM
		<p>81. Put measures in place to ensure that human trafficking incidents directly reported and referred to CID/Police are investigated promptly and forwarded to AG's Department for advice and instructions without delay.</p>	<p>No. of human trafficking cases investigated per year and forwarded to AG's department (Under section 360 C of the Penal Code – Disaggregated by the No. of investigations initiated, No. of cases forwarded to AG's department annually and form of exploitation)</p>	Throughout 2026-2030	SL Police/ CID/ HTSMCID
		<p>82. Put measures in place to ensure investigations and prosecutions for human trafficking are promptly advised and progressed without delay.</p>	<p>No. of human trafficking cases indicted/ prosecuted per year (Under section 360 C of the Penal Code - Disaggregated by form of exploitation)</p> <p>No. of convictions per year (Under section 360 C of the Penal Code - Disaggregated by form of exploitation)</p>	Throughout 2026-2030	AG's Department

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
		<p>83. Strengthen the capacities of Judges (Magistrates and High Court Judges) to address human trafficking by conducting trainings using Local/ international experts/thematic specialists</p> <p>84. Conduct an assessment to establish public-private partnerships, including through stronger relationships between law enforcement and the private sector (cyber and tech companies), for the purpose of investigating illicit financial flows.</p> <p>85. In response to trafficking in cyber space, develop a training module for the NTT/Law enforcement officers on prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution of trafficking for forced criminality, cybercrime and CSGBY. Include modules on use of open-source investigation, use and sharing of electronic evidence, social media monitoring and capacity building.</p>	<p>No. of Programmes held</p> <p>No. of Judges (Magistrates and High Court Judges trained desegregated by district/area)</p> <p>Assessment conducted</p> <p>Platform established/ operationalised</p> <p>Modular training Curriculum developed</p> <p>No. of Training programmes conducted</p>	<p>Throughout 2026-2030</p> <p>2026</p> <p>2027-2030</p> <p>2026-2027</p> <p>2027-2030</p>	<p>MOJ & NI/ Judges Training Institute</p> <p>Chair NAHTTF</p> <p>Chair NAHTTF MoPS & PA DIE SL Police/CCID</p>

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
		<p>86. Promote synergy and added value by providing NTT joint training to all law enforcement agencies (LEAS), Tri- forces and CSOs on indicators of trafficking for forced criminality, CSGBV, early identification and best practices in investigation techniques (including collecting and handling electronic evidence and tracking of illicit financial flows linked to trafficking)</p>	<p>No. of training programmes conducted</p>	2027-2030	Chair-NAHTTF CCID
	<p>5.(b). Traffickers' financial networks are disrupted, reducing profitability and operational capacity SDG 16.4, 8.7, 17.16 GCM 10, 23 Government Manifestation: "A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life" 04.8 High Level of National Security, Secured State</p>	<p>87. Strengthen collaboration with the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) to track and disrupt financial flows linked to human trafficking</p>	<p>No. of cases referred to FIU No. of Investigations carried out by the FIU</p>	2027-2030	Chair-NAHTTF

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
6. Strengthening the capacity of law enforcement and Implementing Strategies to respond to Human trafficking	<p>6. (a). NAHTTF members have developed systems, strategies, tools to conduct investigations and prosecutions effectively and expeditiously</p> <p>SDG 16.3, 16.6, 8.7 GCM 10, 11</p> <p>Government Manifestation: “A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life”</p> <p>04.3 Rule of Law</p>	<p>88. Take legal action against the malpractices/ unauthorised recruitment practices and prosecute the offenders.</p>	<p>Offenders are prosecuted for carrying out unauthorised recruitment practices (No. of prosecutions under the SLBFE Act against unauthorised recruitment practices -Disaggregated by offence)</p> <p>No. of surveillance operations carried out (Annual data)</p>	Throughout 2026-2030	MoFA, FE & T SLBFE SL Police/ CID/ CCID
		<p>89. Maintain a database to update/record trafficking crimes reported to CID</p>	<p>Database is maintained and trafficking related data/incidents are continuously updated/recorded on the system</p>	Throughout 2026-2030	SL Police/ CID
		<p>90. Develop a National Referral Mechanism for TIP</p>	<p>NRM Developed NRM Implemented</p>	2026 2027-2030	Chair-NAHTTF and all members
		<p>91. Strict enforcement of child labour laws to protect and safeguard the welfare of children below 18 years by carrying out inspections and taking legal action against the violations</p>	<p>Legal action taken against violations (Disaggregated by No. of incidents/ type of cases/convictions) (Annual data)</p>	Throughout 2026-2030	MoL DOL
		<p>92. Issue/ update directives/ circulars to the local police stations/ Police- women and children desks on the effective screening and identification of victims and charging the perpetrators under section 360 C of the Penal Code for human trafficking</p>	<p>Circulars/ directives issued/ updated</p>	Throughout 2026-2030	MoPS & PA SL Police

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
		<p>93. Conduct public sensitisation on the importance of victim cooperation with investigation and prosecution authorities by regularly developing, updating, and disseminating Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials in line with emerging trends and patterns in trafficking.</p>	IEC material developed and disseminated	Throughout 2026-2030	Chair-NAHTTF NAPVCW
		<p>94. In cooperation with the private sector develop tech tools to monitor TIP cases using indicators of trafficking</p>	Mapping conducted No. of tools developed	2026-2027 2027-2030	Chair-NAHTTF and all members
		<p>95. Establishment of a prosecutorial case management database.</p>	Database is established and cases are recorded for monitoring	2026-2028	Chair-NAHTTF MoJ & NI AG's Department CID
		<p>96. Through the regional forums, explore the potential to work with regional and international partners (e.g. regional task forces, ASEANAPOL, INTERPOL, to conduct joint Trafficking in persons operations including TIP cases in cyber space targeting transnational trafficking networks</p>	No of events participated No. of JTAs	2026-2030	Chair-NAHTTF and all members
		<p>97. Explore the potential for joint training activities (JTAs) with key countries that are systematically engaged in investigating cases of trafficking</p>	No. of events participated No. of JTAs	2026-2030	Chair-NAHTTF and all members

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
7. Strengthen the Legal Framework to respond to the emerging trends	<p>7.(a). Legal framework is in place to respond to the new and emerging trends in trafficking</p> <p>SDG 16.3, 16.2, 8.7</p> <p>GCM 10, 12</p> <p>Government Manifestation: “A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life”</p> <p>03.5 Digital State & 04.3 Rule of Law</p>	<p>98. Develop Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) agreements to enable rapid cross-border cooperation in human trafficking investigations and prosecutions, including the collection of digital evidence and the takedown of trafficking-related online domains.</p> <p>99. Conduct a legal gaps analysis to formulate appropriate legal reforms/ processes to make counter trafficking law and policy consistent with international standards responding to the emerging realities of cyber related human trafficking</p>	<p>No. of MLAs, agreements entered into</p> <p>Assessment and gaps analysis conducted.</p>	<p>2026-2028</p> <p>2026-2028</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF Moj & NI AG's Department</p> <p>Moj & NI MoPS & PA AG's Department SL Police/ CID</p>
		<p>100. Engage technology companies operating digital platforms to identify, prevent, and mitigate human trafficking risks associated with their services and supply chains, including activities arising from end-users or business clients.</p>	<p>Regulations drafted to have technology companies comply with preventive measures</p>	<p>2026-2030</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF</p>
		<p>101. Conduct a review to provide recommendations to increase penalties for traffickers, including enhanced fines and forfeiture of assets derived from trafficking-related activities</p>	<p>Review conducted Recommendations provided</p>	<p>2026-2028</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF Moj & NI AG's Department</p>

PARTNERSHIP

The partnership objectives and activities focus on enhancing coordination at national and international levels to combat human trafficking effectively. Strengthening collaboration among government agencies, CSOs, NGOs, technology companies, and the private sector is crucial.

Key measures include institutionalising cooperation among authorities and civil society, strengthening regional and global partnerships, and engaging with international organisations and foreign governments. Leveraging initiatives such as the Bali Process and utilising diplomatic and legal frameworks will promote coordinated responses, improve prevention and prosecution efforts, and enhance victim support systems.

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
<p>8. Strengthen the coordination and partnership with government, non-government organisations, private sector, international non-government organisations and regional forums to support a comprehensive response to human trafficking</p>	<p>8.(a). Knowledge sharing and cooperation between government authorities and relevant NGOs/ INGOs through increased coordination and a more systematic exchange of information where necessary</p> <p>SDG 17.17, 17.16, 8.7 GCM 23, 10</p>	<p>102. Collaborate with Private sector entities and non-government organisations to address trafficking and to provide services to identified victims.</p>	<p>No. of Collaborations built with identified stakeholders to address / respond to human trafficking at national and local levels (Disaggregated by collaborations built with private sector entities and/or NGOs by TF members) No. of VoTs identified through collaborations</p>	<p>Throughout 2026-2030</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF and all members</p>
<p>Government Manifestation: “A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life” 03.5 International Partnerships</p>		<p>103. Coordinate intelligence on human trafficking and enhance information sharing among relevant government agencies, law enforcement officers, and foreign counterparts through established communication channels.</p>	<p>Trafficking information/ intelligence is shared among relevant stakeholders for timely action</p>	<p>Throughout 2026-2030</p>	<p>Chair and relevant NAHTTF members</p>
		<p>104. Convene civil society/ CSO stakeholder meetings to present and discuss issues of concern pertaining to human trafficking, share best practices for informed decision and policy making of the TF</p>	<p>No. of CSO meetings convened with the participation of key TF members (No. of meetings held annually)</p>	<p>2026-2030</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF with the participation of key NAHTTF members</p>
		<p>105. Undertake joint research activities on human trafficking for informed policy and decision making.</p>	<p>Research activities undertaken through partnerships built Findings are shared through consultations and /or published</p>	<p>Throughout 2026-2030</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF and all members</p>

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
		<p>106. Participation in/ contributing to key international programmes and forums driving innovation to address human trafficking.</p>	<p>Participation/ active representation at migration/ Counter trafficking related forums and exchange visits for government officials</p>	<p>Throughout 2026-2030</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF and all members</p>
		<p>107. Organise international research conferences on Trafficking in Persons (TIP)</p>	<p>No. of international research conferences on TIP organised in collaboration with national and international stakeholders</p>	<p>2026-2030</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF and all members</p>
		<p>108. Continue through the global and regional policy dialogues to enhance cooperation among countries for Trafficking in Persons related activities</p>	<p>No. of activities implemented under the strategic vision of relevant Dialogues</p>	<p>Throughout 2026-2030</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF and all members</p>
		<p>109. Promote effective and coordinated regional responses in prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, victim protection and Victim reintegration by actively engaging in regional forums such as the Bali Process, BIMSTEC, NESA, and other relevant mechanisms addressing trafficking in persons and related transnational crimes</p>	<p>No. of events participated</p>	<p>2026-2030</p>	<p>Chair-NAHTTF and all members</p>

Objective	Focus area	Activity	Indicators	Time Frame	Lead implementing institution (s)
		110. Enter into bilateral agreements with relevant countries and agencies to protect the rights of the VoTs	GoSL and destination countries are working together to prevent irregular migration and trafficking, identify & protect VoTs, support investigations & prosecutions of trafficking Cases Availability of MOUs/ bilateral agreements, MLA agreements	Throughout 2026-2030	Chair-NAHTTF MoFA, FE & T Moj & NI Other relevant members of the NAHTTF
	8.(b). Cooperation has been enhanced between government authorities and civil society SDG 17.17, 10.7, 5.2 GCM 7, 16, 10 Government Manifestation: “A Thriving Nation, A Beautiful Life” 02.1 Safer Society	111. Collaborate with private sector, semi-government, and government entities, as well as NGOs and CSOs, to strengthen efforts in preventing TIP	No. of entities and partnerships	Throughout 2026-2030	Chair-NAHTTF and all members

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

One of the key objectives of implementing this Action Plan is to ensure effective coordination among all stakeholders and to strengthen the accountability of state institutions committed to combating human trafficking. The members of the National Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force (NAHTTF) will function as monitoring bodies within their respective areas of responsibility to ensure the successful implementation of the Action Plan, while the coordinating body of the NAHTTF, led by the Chair, will oversee the overall monitoring and evaluation (M&E) process. Monitoring and periodic evaluation of the specific measures identified by each Task Force member institution will ensure the effective delivery of activities and the realisation of the overall objectives of the Action Plan.

Task Force members will review and monitor the implementation of activities during regular Task Force meetings. They will also share annual updates and progress reports with the Chair of the NAHTTF, which will be used to compile internal annual progress reports.

Periodic reviews and assessments of the Action Plan will be conducted by the Task Force under the leadership of the Chair of the NAHTTF. Targeted actions will be reviewed and modified, as necessary, to strengthen implementation. Monitoring and evaluation measures will assess all actions included in this Plan, and any proposals for improvement or new activities will be considered in response to evolving trafficking trends and emerging countermeasures. Evaluation will be based on an analysis of established indicators, as well as other qualitative and quantitative data.

A final evaluation will be conducted by the Chair of the NAHTTF at the end of the Action Plan period, in consultation with Task Force members and upon review of the annual internal progress reports shared with the Ministry of Defence and the Chair of the National Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force.

