

# Inter-ministerial Coordination

## A framework to regulate reception, protection, and support for victims of trafficking



## Introduction

The USAID-funded Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) project is collaborating with the Ministry of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs (MOLISA), and its Department of Social Vices Prevention (DSVP) to improve services for people who have experienced trafficking. EpiC and the DSVP leveraged funding from USAID to draft and build consensus on a coordination framework (“Framework”) for relevant ministries engaged in victim support. The Framework now guides the four key ministries involved in victim support (MOLISA, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ministry of Public Security) to coordinate care for victims of trafficking proactively and effectively. It serves as a model for similar frameworks that will be created at the provincial level.

## Why The Framework Matters

Prior to the Framework, formal procedures for supporting victims of trafficking were articulated in interrelated and overlapping legal instruments. **This led to confusion and inefficiencies in the victim support process.**



The establishment of an intersectoral coordination framework is an important step to **clarify roles and responsibilities for the involved ministries, therefore improving services for victims of trafficking with diverse needs.**



The national framework **creates a standard that provincial departments can adapt to their needs and context.**

## Completion Process

EpiC and DSVP:

- **Reviewed existing** regulatory framework and guidelines on victim support (*September 2021*)
- **Ran three consultative workshops** with relevant ministries (*November 2021 – January 2022*)
- **Assessed support services and inter-sectoral coordination** in Ha Giang and Quang Ninh provinces (*December 2021*)
- **Developed four drafts** of the Framework to ensure clear, concise, and actionable language (*October 2021 – March 2022*)
- **Sought and integrated feedback** from government and non-government organizations (*March 2022*)
- **Finalized the Framework and obtained approval** from the leaders of the four ministries (*July 2022*)
- **Organized and funded a signing ceremony** featuring two Ministers and four Vice Ministers (*July 2022*)

## Roles of the Four Ministries

### All ministries:

- Amend or create legal documents to align with the Framework
- Lead (in rotation) reviews of effectiveness of regulation implementation
- Direct provincial departments to develop plans and appoint focal staff

### Ministry of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs:

- Organize trainings for ministries on receiving, protecting, and supporting victims
- Direct victim support facilities to receive and provide essential support to victims while ensuring safety and security
- Collaborate with the police and border guards to support victims that self-report

### Ministry of Public Security:

- Provide safety and security for victims returning from abroad or internal trafficking; refer victims
- Lead and collaborate with other Ministries to develop data collection criteria

### Ministry of Defense:

- Apply protective measures for victims returning at borders (land and sea) and their relatives
- Support essential needs and temporary accommodation for victims
- Transfer victims to support establishments

### Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

- Protect citizens trafficked abroad
- Support essential needs and return costs for victims of trafficking abroad
- Coordinate Vietnamese and foreign agencies to verify and arrange return to Vietnam

# What's In the Framework

## Chapter I: General Provisions

*Objective: Provide general information about the scope of the adjustment, principles, and forms of coordination*

**Article 1:** Scope of coordination

**Article 2:** Objectives of coordination

**Article 3:** Principles of coordination

**Article 4:** Forms of coordination



Vice Ministers sign the Framework in Hanoi on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

## Chapter II: Coordinate scope and responsibilities

*Objective: Outline specific actions that require intersectoral coordination and stipulate clear responsibilities and guidance on coordination between relevant ministries in reception, protection, and support for victims of trafficking*

**Article 5:** Develop legal documents, schemes, projects, programs, and plans

**Article 6:** Awareness communication

**Article 7:** Train government officials

**Article 8:** Receive information and documents

**Article 9:** Safety and security for victims of trafficking and their relatives

**Article 10:** Essential needs and travel expenses

**Article 11:** Inspect, review and report on the implementation of the Framework

**Article 12:** Statistics and reports on victim reception, protection, and support

## Chapter III: Organize for implementation

*Objective: Ensure uniform implementation of the regulation by the concerned Ministries*

**Article 13:** Responsibilities of the ministries

**Article 14:** Funding for implementation

**Article 15:** Effect of the regulation



Mr. Đào Ngọc Dung, Minister of MOLISA, provides opening remarks at the Framework signing ceremony.



## What's next

- Ministries have issued a regulation to all 63 provinces guiding the creation of provincial frameworks.
- EpiC and the DSVP will support select provincial departments to outline procedures and roles and responsibilities for each department, agency, and organization involved in victim support. These procedures will largely mirror the national framework, with adjustments based on the needs of the province.
- MOLISA will carry out the effectiveness of national and provincial coordination frameworks.