

Screening toolkit for detection, referral, and support for victims of trafficking



Background

The **USAID-funded Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC) project** is collaborating with the Government of Vietnam, including the Ministry of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs (MOLISA) and its Department of Social Vices Prevention (DSVP), to address national priorities on combating trafficking in persons.

To improve identification of domestic victims of trafficking and those returning to Vietnam from abroad, EpiC has partnered with the DSVP and the International Organization of Migration (IOM) to develop a screening toolkit. The toolkit will be piloted initially in one province, and eventually expanded to additional provinces under the leadership of the DSVP.

Objectives

The screening toolkit is intended to help practitioners detect potential victims of trafficking, assess their needs, offer protection, and refer them to appropriate services based on their preferences. Referral services will include those provided at victim support centers, medical and psychosocial support, and reintegration to avoid re-trafficking.

PROJECT OVERVIEW



Period of performance:

July 2021 to September 2025



Goal: Improve support for victims (or suspected victims) of human trafficking



Geographic focus: 19 provinces/cities

Develop and institutionalize a victim screening tool



Partnership

Collaboration with the DSVP and IOM to design, pilot, and launch the toolkit



Pilot Provinces

Tested first in Hanoi to gauge effectiveness and adjust accordingly



Intended Screening Locales

Points of entry and domestic service provision establishments such as bars, karaoke clubs, restaurants, etc.



End Users

Labor department staff, police, border authorities, and multi-disciplinary taskforces

Fundamental concepts in the toolkit

Person-centered: Interviewers are guided to focus on the needs and preferences of victims while providing appropriate referrals and/or support without judgment.

Trauma-informed: The kit helps screening officials and referral service providers understand and maintain sensitivity to traumatic events that victims have experienced that may impact their motivation to share information and/or access services.

Gender: The kit also supports screening officials to be sensitive to implicit gender differences and biases while building trust and creating a safe space for victims to share their experiences.

Victim screening toolkit components

Screening questionnaire structure and instructions

Parts A & B: Basic information

Personal information about the individual being interviewed (A) and the interviewer (B)

Part C: Information about the guardian*

**For individuals under 18 years of age*

Part D: Current physical and mental health status

Part E: Signs of trafficking

Documentation of process of recruitment, transport, transfer, accommodation, and exploitation

Part F: Preliminary conclusion

Part G: Transfer of victim or alleged victim based on their needs

Sample form of the victim screening questionnaire

Referral process

Provides a list of locally relevant referral services and guidance on the process for accessing and following up.

Services include:

- National, regional, and provincial hotlines
- Provincial centers for social protection run by Departments of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs
- Other centers for victim support run by independent programs, projects, and NGOs

Resource materials on best practices and minimum standards

- Victim-centered approach
- Building trust
- Maintaining confidentiality
- Understanding the effects of trauma
- Gender sensitivity
- Working with individuals under the age of 18

What's next?



Mar 2023

Train pilot users



Mar-Jul 2023

Field test in one province



Jun-Sep 2023

Revise and finalize



Jun - Dec 2024

Roll out in additional provinces

For more information on EpiC Vietnam-supported CTIP initiatives, please access this QR code:

