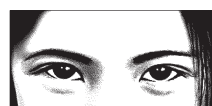




# Combatting trafficking in migrant and displaced children and youth



**Model of Action**  
**Children and youth on the move Program**



**Terre des hommes**  
Helping children worldwide.



**Terre des hommes**

Helping children worldwide.

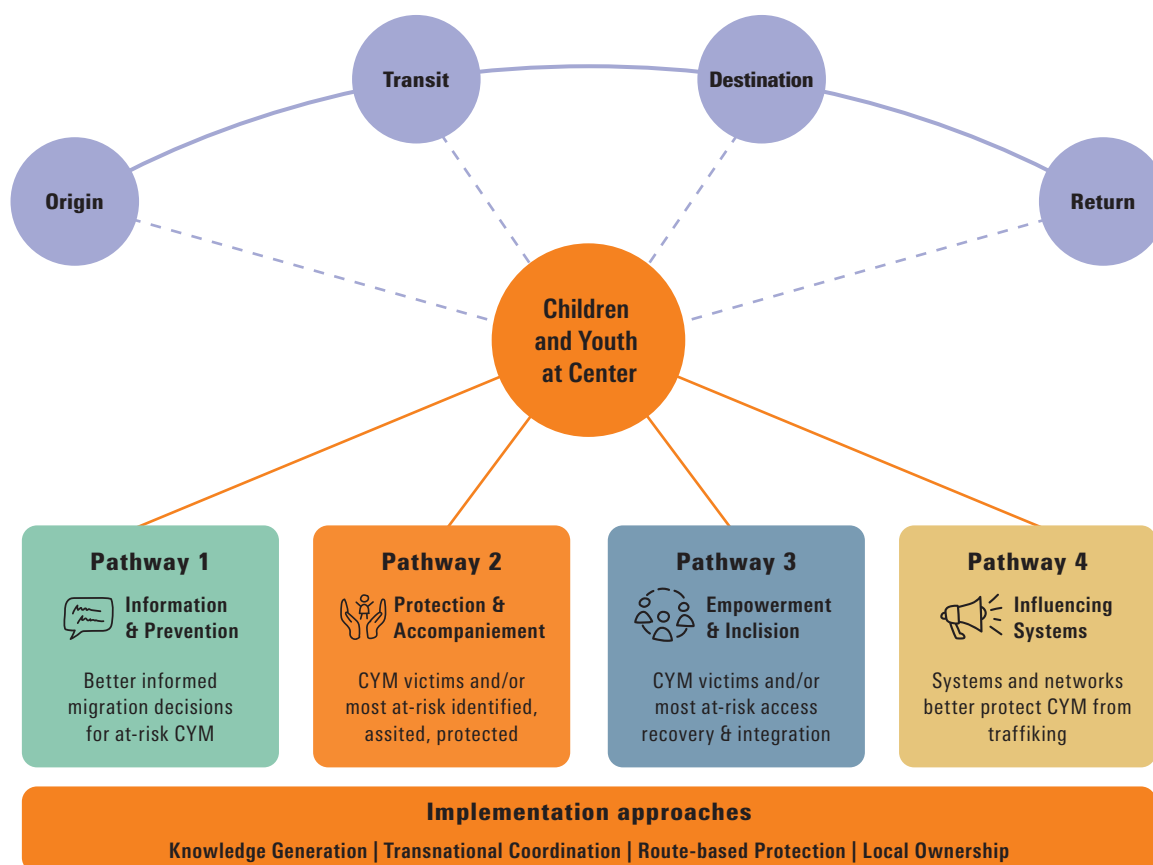
Terre des hommes (Tdh) is the leading Swiss child rights organisation. Since 1960, Tdh has helped build a better future for vulnerable children and their communities, making an impact with innovative and sustainable solutions. Active in more than 30 countries, Tdh works with its own teams and/or local and international partners to improve the daily lives of millions of children and their relatives through programmes on health, access to justice, migration, protection, water and sanitation and emergency relief. Our work is financed by support from private individuals and institutions, with administrative costs kept to a minimum.

# Contents

<b>Snapshot</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1. Why is Tdh CYM program addressing this issue?</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Definition of trafficking</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Overview of general children and youth trafficking patterns</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Trafficking: a violation of the rights of the child</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Vulnerabilities and risks faced by children and youth on the move</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Core CYM program problem statement</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>2. What can Tdh CYM program do once the issue is identified?</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Main stakeholders involved in anti-trafficking efforts</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Anti-trafficking efforts: Introduction to the 4Ps framework</b>	<b>12</b>
Prevention <i>Addressing root causes and building protective environments</i>	<b>12</b>
Protection <i>Survivor-centered support and recovery</i>	<b>13</b>
Prosecution <i>Strengthening accountability and deterrence</i>	<b>13</b>
Partnership <i>Coordinated, multi-stakeholder response</i>	<b>14</b>
<b>Tdh strategic position and specific added value in anti-trafficking efforts</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Integrated anti-trafficking initiatives within Tdh Children and Youth on the Move Theory of Change</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>3. How does Tdh CYM program address the issue?</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>General operational guiding points</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Operationalizing the Model of Action across children and youth migration journeys</b>	<b>21</b>
Implementation in areas of origin <i>Building protective environments</i>	<b>21</b>
Implementation in areas of transit <i>Protection along the journey</i>	<b>23</b>
Implementation in areas of destination <i>Identification, protection and integration</i>	<b>25</b>
Implementation in areas of return <i>Ensuring safe and sustainable reintegration</i>	<b>27</b>
<b>Cross-cutting implementation approaches</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Implementation success factors</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Sustainability and MEAL approaches</b>	<b>31</b>
Sustainability through local ownership	<b>31</b>
Adaptive MEAL for complex interventions	<b>31</b>
Global advocacy framework	<b>32</b>
<b>Implementation tools and resources</b>	<b>33</b>

# Snapshot

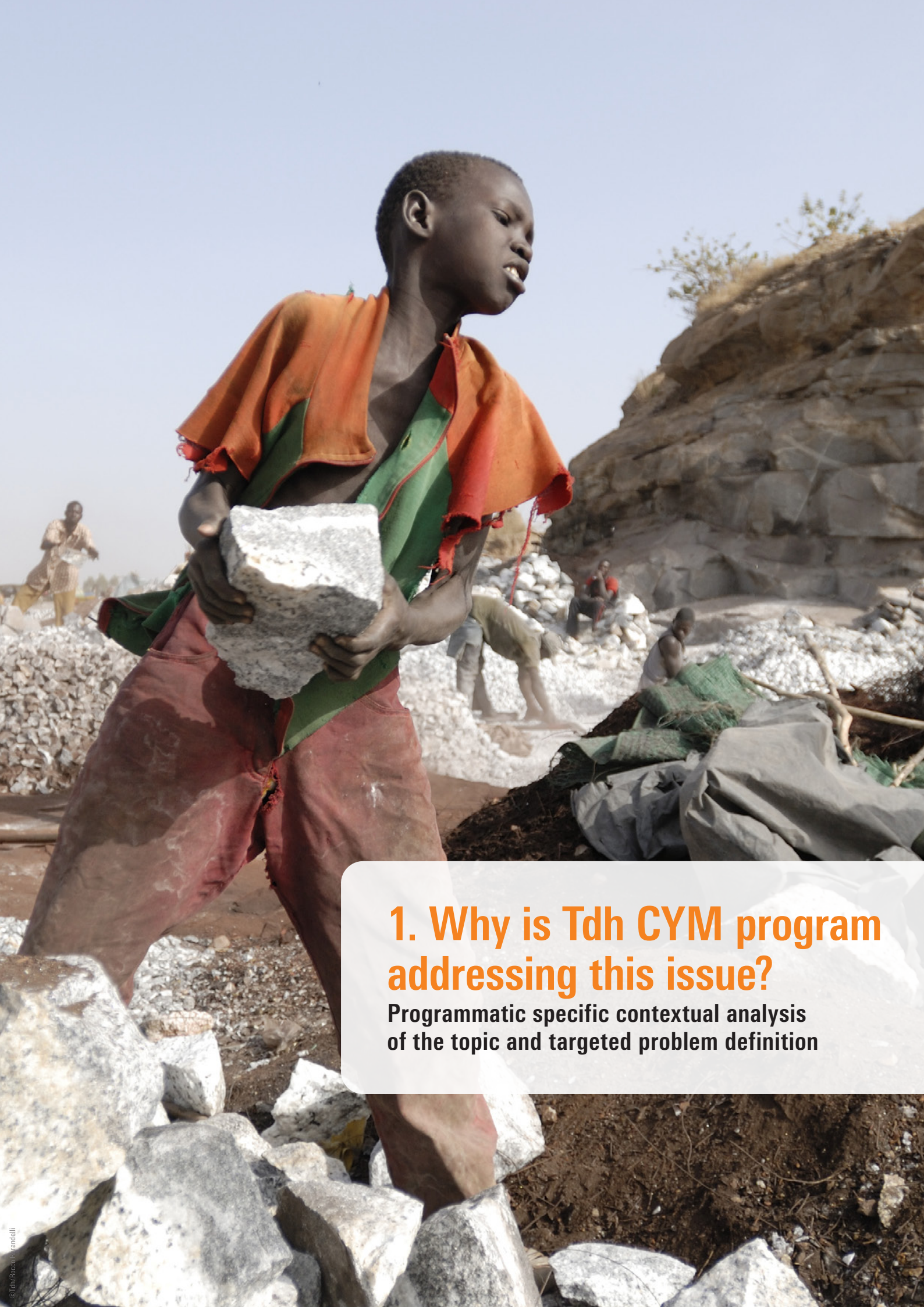
## Combating Trafficking in Migrant and Displaced Children and Youth



## Introduction

This Model of Action (MoA) document outlines Terre des hommes' approach to combating trafficking in human beings, with a specific focus on migrant and displaced children. It serves as both an internal guidance tool for Tdh staff and as an external communication document that showcases Tdh's expertise and strategic positioning in this field.

Terre des hommes has a long history of addressing trafficking within its Migration programming, building on decades of experience working with children and youth on the move most at risk and/or victims of trafficking across multiple regions. In Europe, Tdh has led anti-trafficking efforts the needs of unaccompanied migrant children, street children and strengthening transnational coordination between origin, transit, and destination countries. In Asia, Terre des hommes has combated trafficking since 2008 focusing on commercial sexual exploitation in Bangladesh and cross-border labour and sexual trafficking in Nepal, while pioneering survivor and victims of violence leadership approaches in India.



## 1. Why is Tdh CYM program addressing this issue?

Programmatic specific contextual analysis of the topic and targeted problem definition

# Definition of trafficking

Human trafficking is defined by the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (**Palermo Protocol**) as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”

For **children**, the “**means**” element is not required to establish trafficking - any recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of a child for exploitation constitutes trafficking. This is a critical distinction that recognizes children’s inherent vulnerability and places the focus on the act of exploitation rather than the methods used to facilitate it. While the Protocol focuses on transnational crime, trafficking can occur inside a country or even within a single town. Movement, while often a component, is not a necessary element - the presence of exploitation is the defining factor in child trafficking cases.

## Distinguishing trafficking from smuggling

Migrant smuggling is the illegal transport of people across international borders. While both may involve cross border movements, key differences include:

- **Consent:** Smuggling, even if dangerous, involves consent. Trafficking survivors have either never consented, or their initial consent has been rendered meaningless by coercion, deception, or abuse.
- **Exploitation:** Smuggling ends with the migrants’ arrival at their destination, whereas trafficking involves ongoing exploitation.
- **Transnationality:** Smuggling is always transnational, whereas trafficking may not be.
- **Source of profits:** In smuggling cases, profits derive from transportation or facilitation of illegal entry, while in trafficking cases, profits come from exploitation.

However, smuggled people can become highly vulnerable to trafficking due to illegal status and debts owed to smugglers.

[1] [www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2024/GLOTIP2024\\_BOOK.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2024/GLOTIP2024_BOOK.pdf)

# Overview of general children and youth trafficking patterns

Human trafficking patterns affecting children and youth on the move have transformed significantly in recent years, revealing systematic trends that require comprehensive analysis. The 2024 UNODC Global Report<sup>[2]</sup> documents a 25% increase in detected victims since 2019, with child victims rising by 31%. This surge has been particularly severe for girls, who experienced a 38% increase in detection rates during this period. Children now constitute nearly 38% of all detected trafficking victims worldwide. This statistic represents a fundamental shift in trafficking dynamics that impacts protection strategies. When children lack traditional support systems – as is often the case when migrating – they become particularly vulnerable to exploitation schemes designed specifically to target their inherent vulnerabilities. Trafficking networks demonstrate remarkable adaptability to changing conditions. These networks monitor global developments closely, establishing operations along migration corridors where oversight is minimal. In conflict zones, they target displacement camps and border crossings. Where climate change forces communities to relocate, traffickers position themselves at transition points. In areas with stark economic disparities, they exploit dreams of better opportunities through elaborate deception.

The forms of exploitation have also evolved. Girls continue to face significant risk of sexual exploitation, with 60% of detected girl victims trafficked for this purpose. Meanwhile, boys increasingly encounter forced labour and criminal exploitation. Particularly noteworthy is the rise in trafficking for forced criminality, including online scams and fraud, which has grown from just 1% of cases in 2016 to 8% in 2022 – making it the third most common form of exploitation globally. The growing recognition of boys as trafficking victims represents an important development in the field. Their percentage among identified victims has increased fivefold between 2004-2020, yet protection frameworks, services, and identification procedures remain primarily designed around female victims. This gap in response systems allows many male victims to remain unidentified and unassisted.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Intensifying factors

**Political instability and conflict:** War zones serve as hunting grounds for traffickers targeting vulnerable populations.

**Economic disparities:** Poverty drives vulnerability, with traffickers exploiting people seeking better opportunities.

**Climate change impacts:** Environmental degradation creates new vulnerabilities through displacement, food insecurity and loss of traditional livelihoods.

**Weak governance:** Impunity thrives where rule of law is compromised, and corruption is prevalent.

## Systemic patterns particularly relevant for CYM anti-trafficking programming

Growing restrictions on legal migration channels.

Insufficient victim protection in transit and destination countries for non-nationals and growing victim criminalization for irregular entry/stay.

Social customs that separate children from protective environments in areas of origin.

Harmful gender norms that create specific vulnerabilities.

Several interconnected factors drive these patterns. Restrictive migration policies often unintentionally push vulnerable people toward dangerous irregular routes where protection is minimal. Governance challenges and corruption create environments where trafficking networks operate with limited risk. Social customs that normalize separating children from parents - such as sending children to live with extended family for educational opportunities - can inadvertently create situations where exploitation thrives. For children and youth navigating migration journeys, these patterns create compounding vulnerabilities. Effective intervention requires understanding these evolving dynamics and developing protection mechanisms that address both immediate risks and underlying causes of exploitation.

<sup>[2]</sup> [www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Trafficking-in-Persons-Report-2023\\_Introduction-Additional-Pagesv4\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Trafficking-in-Persons-Report-2023_Introduction-Additional-Pagesv4_FINAL.pdf)

# Trafficking: a violation of the rights of the child

Child trafficking represents a fundamental violation of children's rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). It deprives children of their right to protection, education, health, development, and often their right to family life. The phenomenon is global but manifests in different forms across regions, with legal definitions varying slightly according to national legislations:

- **Sexual exploitation:** Including commercial sexual exploitation and prostitution
- **Forced labour:** Affecting all sectors, with recurrent risks in agriculture, manufacturing, mining, leisure activities, food service, etc.
- **Domestic servitude:** Particularly affecting girls and young women.
- **Criminal activities:** Including forced begging, theft and increasingly involvement in online scams.<sup>[3]</sup>
- **Other forms:** Including for the purpose of organ removals<sup>[4]</sup>, child soldiers and child marriage.<sup>[5]</sup>

Children face specific challenges when trafficked, including severe developmental impacts, psychological trauma, and difficulties in reintegration. Their status as minors creates specific protection needs that differ from adult victims. Their status as minors creates specific protection needs that differ significantly from those of adult victims, requiring specialized intervention approaches tailored to their unique vulnerabilities.

## Vulnerabilities and risks faced by children and youth on the move

Children and youth on the move face heightened vulnerabilities to trafficking due to multiple, overlapping risk factors that traffickers systematically exploit:

### Transnational routes and major trafficking hubs

Major trafficking hubs often coincide with migration bottlenecks where children and youth face extended periods of immobility or uncertainty.

These include:

- Border crossing points, which combine intensive securitization with systemic corruption, creating environments where protection mechanisms fail and human rights violations occur.
- Informal settlements in urban peripheries provide trafficking networks with environments characterized by minimal law enforcement, no state services and significant economic precarity.
- Transit cities where migrants congregate while seeking passage deplete financial resources, pushing vulnerable youth toward high-risk survival strategies.
- Desert and sea crossing routes represent particularly acute risk environments where migrants experience complete dependence on facilitators and absence of protection mechanisms. These lawless transit zones allow trafficking networks to operate with near-total impunity.
- Refugee and IDP camp settings, despite their humanitarian purpose, frequently develop into trafficking recruitment grounds due to limited opportunities and inadequate security oversight.

<sup>[3]</sup> [www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Human-Trafficking-and-Cyber-Scam-Operations.pdf](https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Human-Trafficking-and-Cyber-Scam-Operations.pdf)

<sup>[4]</sup> [www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/24-02934-TIP\\_Factsheet-Forced-Organ-Removal\\_Accessible-8.22.20224.pdf](https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/24-02934-TIP_Factsheet-Forced-Organ-Removal_Accessible-8.22.20224.pdf)

<sup>[5]</sup> [www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/2020/UNODC\\_Interlinkages\\_Trafficking\\_in\\_Persons\\_and\\_Marriage.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/2020/UNODC_Interlinkages_Trafficking_in_Persons_and_Marriage.pdf)

[www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/24-02934-TIP\\_Factsheet-Intersection-of-Forced-Marriage-and-Human-Trafficking\\_Accessible-8.22.20224.pdf](https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/24-02934-TIP_Factsheet-Intersection-of-Forced-Marriage-and-Human-Trafficking_Accessible-8.22.20224.pdf)

## Children and youth on the move vulnerability profile matrix

An intersectional approach is essential to understanding trafficking vulnerability, recognizing how gender, race, ethnicity, disability, and other factors create unique risk profiles requiring tailored responses.

Category	High-risk profiles	Specific needs
Status and documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unaccompanied/separated children (UASC)</li> <li>• Children and youth with irregular migration status</li> <li>• Stateless children and youth</li> <li>• Children and youth whose documentation is held by exploiters/traffickers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal guardianship</li> <li>• Documentation support</li> <li>• Status regularization</li> <li>• Document recovery assistance</li> </ul>
Family situation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UASC</li> <li>• Children and youth who experienced family violence</li> <li>• Children left behind by migrant parents</li> <li>• Children and youth sent to support family through remittances</li> <li>• Children and youth in debt bondage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family tracing</li> <li>• Alternative care</li> <li>• Family reunification assessment</li> <li>• Family mediation services</li> <li>• Debt resolution support</li> </ul>
Social and community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children from marginalized ethnic groups</li> <li>• Children with disabilities</li> <li>• LGBTQI+ children and youth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural mediation</li> <li>• Anti-discrimination measures</li> <li>• Specialized support services</li> </ul>
Prior experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children who experienced previous abuse and/or witnessed violence during migration journey</li> <li>• Children previously trafficked</li> <li>• Children from conflict zones</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MHPSS</li> <li>• Trauma-informed care</li> <li>• Heightened security measures</li> </ul>
Trafficking context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children in residential care institutions</li> <li>• Children in street situations</li> <li>• Children and youth in hidden exploitation schemes (domestic servitude, isolated worksites, under strict surveillance by traffickers, etc.)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• De-institutionalization support</li> <li>• Legal representation</li> <li>• Mobile and pro-active outreach strategies</li> </ul>

## Core CYM program problem statement

Children and youth on the move face high risks of trafficking across their entire migration journey due to vulnerabilities and protection gaps that evolve from origin to transit, destination, and return phases.

- **At origin:** poverty, conflict, and lack of opportunity create push factors;
- **During transit:** protection mechanisms collapse at key junctures where trafficking networks strategically operate.
- **At destination:** irregular status and marginalization increase exploitation risks.
- **During return:** reintegration challenges and stigma may lead to re-trafficking.

Specific vulnerabilities (gender, street-situation, most marginalized groups) further increase the risk of trafficking when traffickers continuously adapt their approaches, including moving into digital spaces. Therefore, it is essential to adopt comprehensive approaches connecting prevention, identification and response efforts, to design interventions able to address the complex trafficking threats faced by children and youth on the move.

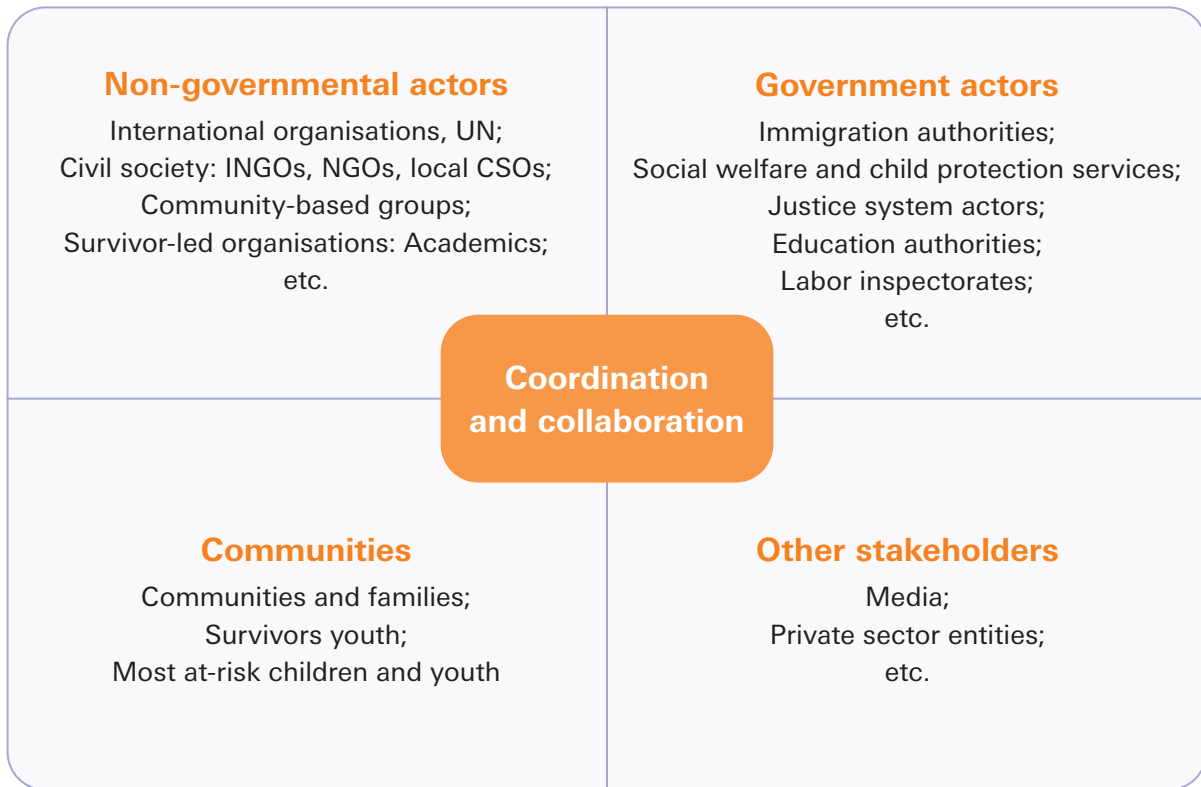


## 2. What can Tdh CYM program do once the issue is identified?

Tdh strategic positioning and strategic approach

# Main stakeholders involved in anti-trafficking efforts

Effective anti-trafficking work requires coordination between a diverse ecosystem of actors. The following generic stakeholder landscape illustrates the interconnected nature of participants in anti-trafficking efforts. Coordination mechanisms like referral networks, joint task forces, and information-sharing platforms are essential for ensuring these diverse stakeholders work together effectively to identify and protect trafficked children, prevent future trafficking cases and prosecute perpetrators.



# Anti-trafficking efforts: Introduction to the 4Ps framework

The globally recognized 4Ps framework – Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Partnerships – provides the foundation for comprehensive anti-trafficking efforts worldwide. This integrated approach acknowledges that no single strategy can effectively address the complex phenomenon of human trafficking, particularly when it affects children and youth in migration contexts. Moreover, this framework places the child at the centre of all interventions, recognizing that effective anti-trafficking responses must be comprehensive, coordinated, and child centred. Each component reinforces the others, creating multiple layers of protection and support for trafficked and at-risk children while addressing the systemic factors that enable trafficking to persist.

## Prevention *Addressing root causes and building protective environments*

Effective prevention encompasses both upstream interventions that address the structural drivers of trafficking and immediate protective measures that reduce vulnerability among at-risk populations. Prevention begins with robust organizational policies and extends to broader social and economic initiatives.

### Key prevention strategies include:

- Awareness-raising campaigns that deliver accurate information about trafficking risks, reporting mechanisms, and safe migration pathways to source, transit, and destination communities.
- Social and behavioural change interventions that challenge harmful norms and practices that increase vulnerability to trafficking.
- Family strengthening initiatives that build protective environments and prevent exploitation of children.
- Economic empowerment programs that address the financial precarity that often drives risky migration decisions enhancing the risks of trafficking.
- Community-based protection mechanisms that identify and respond to trafficking risks before exploitation occurs.
- Policy advocacy for comprehensive national action plans and legal frameworks to counter human trafficking.



## Protection *Survivor-centred support and recovery*

Protection represents the cornerstone of anti-trafficking responses, particularly for child victims. A survivor-centred protection approach prioritizes the best interests of the child while recognizing their agency and specific needs.

### Effective protection measures include:

- Victim and most-at-risk identification protocols that enable first responders – including border officials, law enforcement, and social service providers – to accurately identify trafficking victims, survivors, and children at high risk of trafficking, recognizing the specific vulnerability factors among children and youth on the move.
- National and transnational referral mechanisms that coordinate across jurisdictions to ensure victims, survivors, and those most at risk receive appropriate, timely services regardless of location.
- Comprehensive response services including safe shelter, psychosocial support, medical care, legal assistance, and access to education appropriate for each child's situation.
- Trauma-informed care models that recognize the neurological, psychological, and social impacts of trafficking and avoid re-traumatization during the recovery process.
- Family tracing and assessment to determine if family reunification serves the best interests of child survivors or children most at risk, including evaluation of family capacity and community resources.
- Sustainable reintegration support that addresses the social, economic, and protection needs of survivors and at-risk children returning to communities, with long-term monitoring to prevent re-trafficking.

## Prosecution *Strengthening accountability and deterrence*

The persistently low rates of trafficking prosecutions and convictions worldwide point to significant gaps in legal frameworks, law enforcement capacity, and justice system responses. Effective anti-trafficking prosecution prioritizes survivor wellbeing throughout legal proceedings.

### Key prosecution elements include:

- Comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation with strong criminal penalties proportionate to the severity of trafficking crimes:
  - adopt clear criminal legislation with following the trafficking definitions outlined in international conventions and protocols;
  - legislation & guidelines and capacity building that support distinguishing trafficking offences from other criminal offences involving forms of violence against children (eg. sexual abuse) to avoid hindering prosecutorial efforts;
  - expand and adjust the application of the Barnahus model to accommodate the needs of child victims of trafficking;
  - training and protocols on child-friendly hearing techniques following international best practice (eg. conducting hearings through trained child psychologists, recording of testimonies).
- Trauma-informed training for law enforcement, prosecutors, and judges on victim-centred approaches to trafficking cases.
- Victim-friendly court procedures that prevent re-traumatization during testimony and protect witnesses from intimidation.
- Cross-border cooperation between law enforcement agencies to address the transnational nature of trafficking networks.
- Specialized anti-trafficking units within police forces and prosecution offices that operate in a collaborative manner following clear cooperation agreements.
- Anti-corruption measures that address official complicity in trafficking operations.

## Partnership *Coordinated, multi-stakeholder response*

No single entity can effectively combat trafficking alone. Successful anti-trafficking initiatives depend on strong coordination between diverse stakeholders at local, national, regional, and global levels.

### Effective partnership approaches include:

- Formal coordination mechanisms that bring together government agencies, civil society organizations, international organizations, and private sector actors.
- Survivor leadership and engagement in program design, implementation, and evaluation, with appropriate compensation for their expertise.
- Cross-sector collaboration between child protection, migration, labour, justice, healthcare, education systems, etc.
- Academic and research partnerships that provide evidence-based insights into trafficking patterns, effective interventions, and emerging trends to inform policy and practice.
- Transnational cooperation that facilitates information sharing and joint operations across borders.
- Community involvement in identifying and responding to trafficking situations.
- Public-private partnerships that engage businesses in identifying and addressing trafficking risks in their operations and supply chains.
- Local authorities and police: in case of trafficking, victims are often first identified (even charged) by the police as perpetrators of status offences or as crimes such as offering sexual services as in some case these are punishable under the local legislation. It is therefore key to partner with them and raise awareness.



# Tdh strategic position and specific added value in anti-trafficking efforts

In an anti-trafficking landscape where responses are often siloed and confined by national boundaries or local jurisdictions, Tdh has developed a distinctive approach that addresses the complex, transregional and often transnational nature of child trafficking. Over years of field experience across multiple migration routes, Tdh has cultivated a methodology that bridges critical gaps in the anti-trafficking ecosystem. At the core of this approach is the ability to serve as a “connector” and “facilitator” of protection responses. Where many organizations focus on providing direct services within specific local areas, Tdh excels at bringing together disconnected actors at a centralized level and across borders, creating coherent protection pathways that follow children and youth journeys. This coordination function is paired with deep technical expertise in child protection, empowerment and a profound understanding of migration and forced displacement dynamics. By combining evidence-generation with systems strengthening, Tdh ensures that anti-trafficking responses are both technically sound and operationally feasible within challenging and most complex contexts.

Tdh unique value proposition		
<b>Expertise</b> Child protection Presence along key migration routes Cross-border and trans-national programming experience Digital innovation in protection	<b>Methodology</b> Community-based protection methodologies Protective accompaniment System strengthening methods Strengthening of adaptive capacities of most vulnerable CYM	<b>Approach</b> Rights-based approach Child-centered programming CYM most at risks and survivor-informed interventions Localization and partnership approach

Tdh distinctive contribution to anti-trafficking efforts is built around the following key differentiation approaches:

## Knowledge generation and applied research

Through collaborative research partnerships with academic institutions and technical experts, Tdh generates nuanced understanding of trafficking patterns, perpetrator strategies, and protection gaps along specific migration corridors. By teaming up with researchers and leveraging the expertise of local actors, this evidence-generation directly informs operational responses and advocacy initiatives, creating a continuous feedback loop between knowledge and action.

## Systems facilitation and transnational coordination

Tdh’s “connector” approach addresses the fundamental challenge of fragmentation in anti-trafficking responses. By convening diverse stakeholders, developing cross-border Standard Operating Procedures, facilitating inter-agency coordination platforms, and building transnational referral networks, Tdh creates protection systems that transcend institutional and geographical boundaries. This coordination function ensures that survivors and children and youth most at risk of trafficking receive coherent support throughout their recovery journey.

## Capacity strengthening and sustainable localization

Recognizing that sustainable anti-trafficking responses must be rooted in local expertise, Tdh invests in strengthening national and community-based protection actors through tailored capacity building programs, mentorship approaches, and strategic subgranting mechanisms. The localization strategy goes beyond financial support to include knowledge transfer, technical assistance, and organizational development, ensuring that local partners become independent protection leaders.

## Engagement with private sector

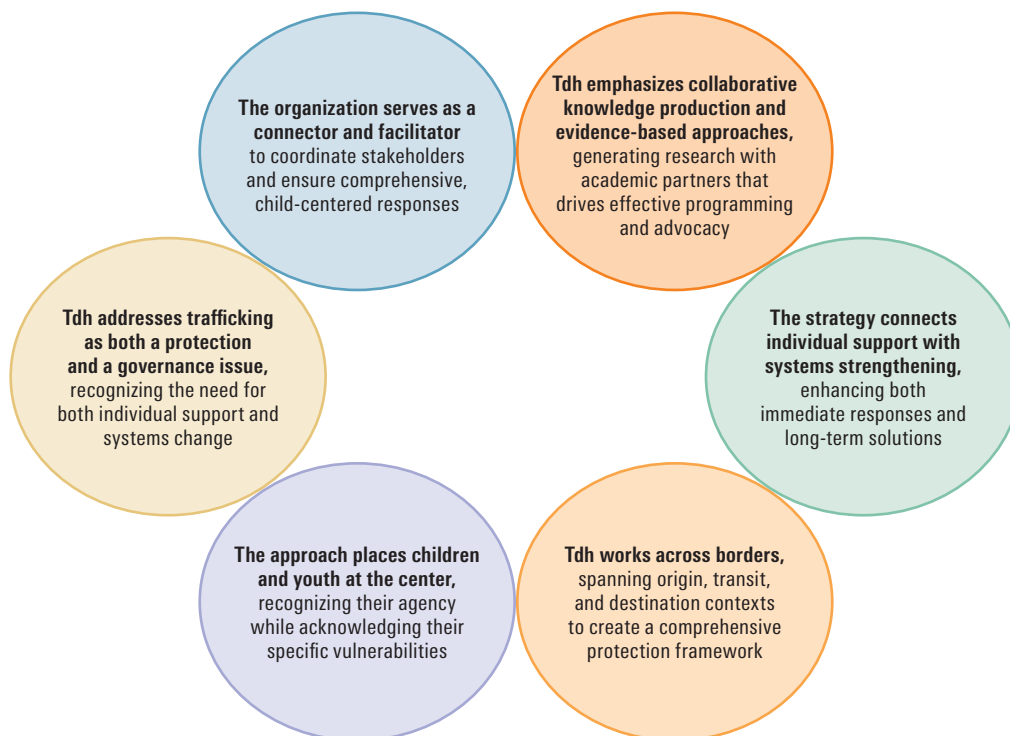
Terre des hommes has developed specialized expertise in Child Rights in Business, which could be integrated into anti-trafficking efforts through:

- Supply chain due diligence and transparency
- Child rights impact assessments
- Community-based monitoring and remediation systems
- Creating safe workplaces for young workers
- Establishing family-friendly workplaces for parent workers
- Capacity building for companies on child protection, including forced labour and exploitation
- Digital innovation for monitoring and documentation
- Strengthening existing local child protection systems

The approach is holistic, multi-sectoral and sustainable, embedded in communities where businesses operate, addressing broader child rights issues in global supply chains.

*More information available with the CP PREX Team working on CRB*

## Key takeaways and Tdh branding messages



# Integrated anti-trafficking initiatives within Tdh Children and Youth on the Move Theory of Change

In response to the previously framed core problematic, CYM program's targeted impact is that children and youth victims and those at risk of trafficking are protected from trafficking, access appropriate services, and realize their full potential within supportive communities and systems all along their migration journey.

CYM Theory of change pathway	Anti-trafficking specific outcomes	Introduction to key activities	Target groups
 <b>Pathway 1</b> CYM and key actors well informed <i>Information and prevention</i>	Migration decisions about children and youth most at risk of trafficking are better informed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Context analysis and evidence collection</li> <li>Knowledge production with children and youth</li> <li>Information sharing across platforms</li> <li>Development of early warning systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children and youth at risk</li> <li>Families and caregivers</li> <li>Communities in high-risk areas</li> <li>Information providers</li> <li>Local authorities</li> </ul>
 <b>Pathway 2</b> CYM, actors of their protection <i>Protection and accompaniment</i>	Trafficking victims and those most at risk are identified, assisted, and protected along migration routes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mapping and access to specialized services</li> <li>Quality protection and recovery services for identified trafficking victims and most at risk children and youth</li> <li>Addressing priority needs of most vulnerable children and youth</li> <li>Cross-border case management and victim-centered assistance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child and youth victims and/or most at risk</li> <li>Frontline service providers</li> <li>Border authorities</li> <li>Case management actors</li> <li>Civil society</li> </ul>
 <b>Pathway 3</b> CYM, actors of their (re)integration <i>Empowerment and inclusion</i>	Trafficking survivors and those most at risk access sustainable recovery and integration pathways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Skills building for transformative action</li> <li>Social inclusion support</li> <li>Access to educational/ socio-economic opportunities</li> <li>Enhancing adaptive capacities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child and youth survivors and/or most at risk</li> <li>Host communities</li> <li>Education providers</li> <li>Employers and trainers</li> <li>Social service systems</li> </ul>
 <b>Pathway 4</b> CYM, actors of advocacy <i>Influencing systems</i>	Systems and network better protection children and youth from trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Child and youth-led advocacy</li> <li>Legal framework improvement</li> <li>Creating inclusive environments</li> <li>Strengthening coordination mechanisms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civil society organizations</li> <li>Policy makers</li> <li>National, regional and global bodies</li> <li>Anti-trafficking networks</li> </ul>

## Route-based programming and continuous protection:

With operational presence along key migration corridors, Tdh implements a route-based protection model that addresses trafficking vulnerabilities at origin, during transit, at destination, and during return. This approach acknowledges that trafficking risks evolve throughout migration journeys and ensures that protection measures adapt accordingly, providing continuous rather than intermittent safety nets for vulnerable children and youth.

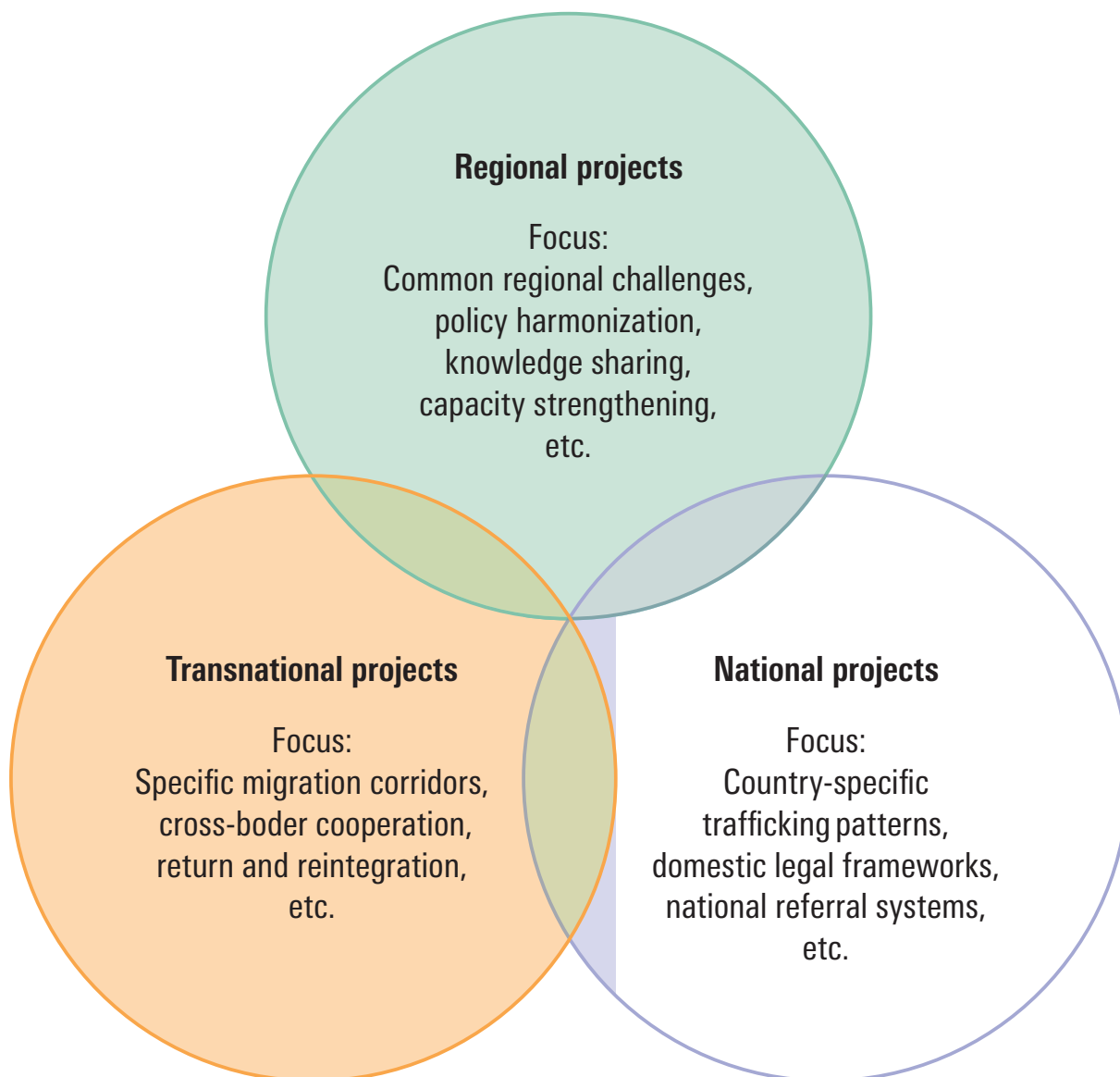


### **3. How does Tdh CYM program address the issue?**

**Operationalization of the Model of Action**

## General operational guiding points

Effective anti-trafficking programming requires comprehensive approaches that address multiple dimensions of the issue simultaneously. Programs should be conceptualized as sets of coordinated projects that may focus on different aspects but contribute to the same overall impact. A variety of implementation framework is possible:



Based on Tdh's extensive experience implementing anti-trafficking interventions across multiple contexts, five key operational principles consistently emerge:

- Systems strengthening over direct service provision: Sustainable impact requires strengthening existing structures rather than creating parallel systems.
- Cross-border coordination is essential: Effective trafficking responses transcend national boundaries just as trafficking networks do.
- MHPSS for resilience and empowerment: Mental health and psychosocial support approaches that build adaptive capacities, strengthen resilience, and empower children and youth as active agents in their own protection.
- Evidence drives programmatic adaptation: Continuous research and learning enables responsive programming in rapidly changing contexts.
- Sustainability through genuine local ownership: Long-term impact requires meaningful transfer of capacity, resources, and leadership.

### Effective coordination between Program & Expertise (PREX)

Anti-trafficking interventions should integrate elements of child protection, migration, access to justice, and innovation where relevant, creating comprehensive responses that address the multiple needs of trafficking victims and those at risk. For example, anti-trafficking programs combine child protection expertise to identify and support victims, migration knowledge to understand movement patterns, access to justice approaches to support legal proceedings, and innovative methodologies to develop adaptive solutions – demonstrating how integrated programming creates more effective responses.



# Operationalizing the Model of Action across children and youth migration journeys

Tdh transforms its strategic positioning into concrete action through operational approaches that align with children and youth migration journeys. Whenever possible, Tdh implements protection measures that address vulnerabilities throughout the complete migration cycle - at origin, during transit, at destination, and during return phases. Even when projects operate at the national level, they are designed with awareness of the broader cross-border dynamics that affect trafficking victims and those at risk.

## Implementation in areas of origin *Building protective environments*

In communities of origin, Tdh's approach focuses on creating environments that protect children from trafficking while addressing the underlying factors that increase vulnerability. Rather than simply trying to prevent movement, these interventions recognize that migration can be a positive choice when undertaken safely.

### Community-based protection systems

Tdh strengthens both formal and informal protection mechanisms within communities, recognizing that sustainable protection requires local ownership. This approach involves cultivating local protection committees where diverse community members take active roles in identifying and responding to protection concerns. By mapping existing resources and protective factors, communities develop a clearer understanding of their strengths and gaps. The development of local leadership creates protection champions who can sustain efforts beyond project timeframes.

In *Bangladesh's Protecting children and young women from commercial sexual exploitation* project, this approach manifested as a comprehensive effort to revitalize protection structures at multiple levels. The project strengthened counter-trafficking committees at the sub-district level while simultaneously building capacity within grassroots child protection committees. This multi-level approach ensured that formal and informal systems worked in complementary ways to identify and respond to trafficking risks.

### Risk-aware communities

Beyond simplistic "awareness raising", Tdh implements targeted approaches that build genuine understanding of trafficking dynamics. Information campaigns are tailored to reflect local trafficking patterns, ensuring relevance and impact. Peer education models engage youth as communicators, leveraging their relationships with peers to share information in accessible ways. Community dialogues create spaces for honest discussions about both the risks and opportunities associated with migration, avoiding simplistic "don't migrate" messaging that fails to acknowledge realities.

The multi-functional centres in Albania exemplify this approach through mobile teams that conduct outreach to rural and marginalized populations. These efforts focus on building context-specific understanding rather than generic messaging, recognizing that effective awareness requires dialogue rather than one-way communication.

### Multi-functional centres in Albania

Tdh helped localities establish multi-functional centres that provide integrated services to at-risk populations, simultaneously addressing multiple dimensions of trafficking prevention and response. These centres serve as community hubs that connect protection actors with children and youth, where communities learn about trafficking risks through engaging MHPSS and empowerment activities rather than passive information receipt. They serve also as coordination centres that connect local authorities with community structures, demonstrating how physical spaces can play multiple functions within anti-trafficking work, creating moreover sustainable structures that communities and local leadership gradually take ownership of as Tdh's direct involvement decreases.

## Addressing root causes

Recognizing that trafficking often stems from structural vulnerabilities, Tdh works to mitigate the drivers that push children and youth into risky migration situations. Family strengthening initiatives support vulnerable households to reduce economic pressures that might otherwise lead to unsafe migration decisions. Economic empowerment activities create local opportunities for youth and families, providing alternatives to risky migration. Social inclusion efforts address discrimination and marginalization that heighten vulnerability to trafficking.

In Romania, this approach was particularly evident in work with Roma communities, where prevention activities focused on social inclusion. The approach recognized specific vulnerabilities while carefully avoiding further stigmatization, demonstrating how addressing root causes requires both technical expertise and cultural sensitivity.

### Origin implementation matrix

Intervention area	Implementation approaches	Success indicators
Community protection	Local committee formation Protection mapping Monitoring systems	Functional committees Cases identified Local responses initiated
Awareness building	Peer education Community dialogues Targeted messaging	Knowledge increase Changed attitudes Reporting mechanisms use
Root cause mitigation	Family support Economic strengthening Social inclusion	Economic stability Reduced risky migration Service access



## Implementation in areas of transit *Protection along the journey*

At key points along migration routes, Tdh focuses on identifying trafficking victims and/or most at risk children and youth, providing immediate protection, and facilitating referrals to appropriate services. These interventions recognize that migration itself isn't inherently harmful, but rather that protection must accompany mobility to ensure children and youth safety.

### Identification at key transit points

Effective identification is the critical first step in protecting trafficking victims and most at-risk children and youth during transit. Tdh deploys mobile identification teams to migration hubs and informal gathering points where vulnerable children and youth on the move may be found. These teams use specialized approaches that build trust while identifying those at highest risk. Complementing these direct efforts, Tdh builds capacity among frontline actors including border officials, police, protection and social service providers, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to identify trafficking victims and most at-risk populations. Child-friendly screening methodologies ensure that identification processes don't further traumatize already vulnerable children.

Nepal's COVID-19 response project exemplified this approach by training local institutional and community-based actors on identification and referral. The training encompassed multi-sectoral frontline services while also engaging children and trafficking survivors themselves, creating a comprehensive identification system.

### Immediate protection measures

Once identified, trafficking victims or most at-risk children and youth require immediate specialized support that addresses urgent needs while preparing for longer-term solutions. Tdh implements emergency response protocols that establish and/or support clear case management procedures for immediate safety assessment and intervention. All first response interactions incorporate trauma-informed approaches designed to avoid re-traumatization during this critical period. Transit shelters and safe spaces are strengthened and provide temporary protection while longer-term solutions are developed.

### Transnational referral mechanisms

The cross-border nature of trafficking necessitates systems that enable coordinated support across national boundaries. Tdh strengthens and implements practical standard operating procedures (SOPs) for cross-border case management, ensuring that children don't fall through the cracks when crossing borders. Information sharing protocols establish secure methods for transferring essential case information while maintaining confidentiality. Coordination platforms create forums where actors from different countries can engage in joint planning for complex cases.

Tdh's distinctive contribution in this area involves connecting places of origin with places of destination through both research and direct linkages between child protection actors. This approach creates channels for information sharing between actors in different locations, enabling more holistic support.

### Cross-border protection in the Balkans

The project developed practical learning tools to support the implementation of existing transnational SOPs for victims and most at risk of trafficking children and youth. The approach combined multiple learning modalities to ensure sustainability: E-learning modules enabled self-paced learning that could continue beyond project timeframe; regional trainings created informal coordination networks that complemented formal mechanisms. Throughout, the focus remained on practical application of the transnational SOPs rather than theoretical knowledge sharing. This integrated approach, recognizing that effective cross-border protection requires both formal system strengthening and the cultivation of informal relationships between frontliners in different countries, helped create more sustainable protection mechanisms for children and youth on the move.

## Transit implementation matrix

Intervention area	Implementation approaches	Success indicators
Identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frontline training</li> <li>Child-friendly screening</li> <li>Mobile teams</li> <li>Community engagement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased identification</li> <li>Reduced misidentification</li> <li>Timely referrals</li> </ul>
Emergency protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First response protocols</li> <li>Safe and protective spaces</li> <li>Immediate needs assessment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safety secured</li> <li>Basic needs met</li> <li>Trauma minimized</li> </ul>
Referral mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cross-border SOPs</li> <li>Information sharing</li> <li>Coordination platforms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cases successfully referred</li> <li>Information effectively shared</li> <li>Reduced delays</li> </ul>



## Implementation in areas of destination *Identification, protection and integration*

Tdh recognizes that many trafficking victims are first identified at destination rather than in transit. Additionally, children and youth who migrated safely may become vulnerable to trafficking due to social exclusion and marginalization in the destination environment.

### Identification and emergency response

Identification efforts at destination are critical as many trafficking situations only become evident after exploitation has begun. Tdh implements targeted outreach to marginalized communities where trafficking victims may be hidden. The organization provides training for destination-country service providers on trafficking indicators specific to exploitation types common in their context.

Coordination with multi-sectoral stakeholders including child protection services, labour inspectors, health providers and education systems is established to identify potential victims and/or most at-risk children and youth. Tdh develops child-friendly reporting mechanisms accessible to migrants with limited local language skills.

For identified victims, immediate emergency support addresses urgent needs while preparing for longer-term interventions. Strengthened temporary shelters provide immediate safety while specialized case management ensures comprehensive assessment and appropriate referrals.

### System strengthening and referrals

Effective protection requires robust systems that can respond to the complex needs of trafficking victims and most at-risk children and youth. This involves mapping of available services and gaps in destination communities, as well as development of formal referral protocols between identification points and specialized services. Capacity building for local authorities and service providers on trafficking-specific protection needs is provided. Cross-sector coordination mechanisms that connect migration, child protection, and justice systems are established. Tdh conducts advocacy for policy changes that enhance protection for foreign nationals who are trafficking victims.

### Trauma-informed support

Trafficking experiences – or heightened vulnerability to these experiences –, often result in significant psychological impacts that require specialized support. Tdh integrates mental health and psychosocial support throughout service provision rather

than treating it as a separate or optional component. Evidence-based methodologies like Problem Management Plus (PM+) provide structured approaches to psychological recovery. Where appropriate, survivor-led support networks create spaces for peer connection with appropriate safeguards to prevent re-traumatization.

In Nepal, this approach included comprehensive training for service providers and caregivers on trauma-informed care, equipping them with the skills to support trafficking survivors' rehabilitation.

### Integration support

For survivors and/or most at-risk children and youth remaining in destination contexts, integration support addresses multiple dimensions of stability and belonging. Legal status resolution helps children and youth access appropriate documentation and

regularize their situation. Educational integration facilitates school enrolment and provides support to help children succeed in new educational environments. Social inclusion efforts address discrimination and build community acceptance of children and youth on the move.

### Skills and livelihoods

Economic independence represents a critical component of sustainable recovery for trafficking survivors and/or most at-risk youth. Tdh provides employability skills building and vocational training aligned with market opportunities to increase employability. Partnerships with private sector employers create employment pathways with supportive conditions that account for youth specific needs. For those interested in entrepreneurship, business development support helps establish small enterprises that can provide sustainable livelihoods.

Bangladesh's Daulatdia project implemented the ENGAGE curriculum with structured sessions for action planning that supported sustainable economic empowerment. Community support groups facilitated collective action that expanded individual opportunities while building supportive networks.

## Destination implementation matrix

Intervention area	Implementation approaches	Success indicators
Identification and emergency response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Targeted outreach to marginalized communities</li> <li>Training for destination-country service providers on trafficking indicators</li> <li>Multi-stakeholder coordination between multi-sectoral services</li> <li>Accessible child-friendly and community led reporting mechanisms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased identification of trafficking victims and most at risk CYM</li> <li>Enhanced capacity of frontline workers</li> <li>Established referral mechanisms</li> <li>Reduced time between identification and service access</li> </ul>
System strengthening and referrals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mapping of available services and gaps in destination areas</li> <li>Development of formal referral protocols</li> <li>Capacity building for local authorities, service providers and communities</li> <li>Cross-sectoral coordination mechanism connecting migration, child protection and justice systems</li> <li>Advocacy for policy changes enhancing protection for foreign nationals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved coordination among stakeholders</li> <li>Increased number of successful referrals</li> <li>Policy changes supporting trafficking victims</li> </ul>
Trauma-informed support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MHPSS throughout service provision</li> <li>PM+ supporting community engagement and mobilization</li> <li>Trauma-informed care training for service providers and caregivers (building on partners' expertise)</li> <li>Survivor led support networks with safeguards against re-traumatization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved psychosocial wellbeing</li> <li>Increased resilience</li> <li>Enhanced coping skills among survivors and most at-risk children and youth</li> </ul>
Integration support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal status resolution assistance</li> <li>Educational integration support</li> <li>Social inclusion initiatives addressing discrimination</li> <li>Community acceptance building activities</li> <li>Multi-dimensional long-term solution and stability support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Legal status secured</li> <li>Educational achievement, including enrolment in schools</li> <li>Community acceptance and self-reported sense of belonging</li> <li>Reduced trafficking risks</li> </ul>
Economic empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employability skills building</li> <li>Support access to vocational training</li> <li>Private sector partnerships creating employment pathways</li> <li>Business development support for entrepreneurs</li> <li>Community support groups for collective economic action</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable income generation</li> <li>Economic independence</li> <li>Career progression pathways</li> <li>Entrepreneurship opportunities</li> <li>Reduced economic vulnerability</li> </ul>

## Implementation in areas of return *Ensuring safe and sustainable reintegration*

For trafficking survivors or most at-risk children and youth returning to communities of origin, Tdh implements approaches that ensure safe and sustainable reintegration. Many of the interventions implemented during this phase mirror those used in destination contexts, the implementation matrix for destination areas can therefore serve as inspiration for return interventions, with adaptations for the return context. The following sections highlight specific considerations and approaches that are particularly relevant or unique to the return phase, emphasizing that return is not simply a physical journey but a complex process of reestablishing place within family and community.

Justice system response (even when child friendly) tend to hinder or disrupt reintegration processes e.g. going to court, giving testimony, having to stay at a physical location for the duration of a trial. All this context might have severe impact on the reintegration and psychological recovery of a child. This dimension should be acknowledged and factored in reintegration processes. This is why it is key to adopt a child-friendly, victim centred, trauma informed justice process (multi-sectoral approach), resulting in less disruption in the reintegration.

### Return in the best interest of the child

Ensuring that return occurs safely and in children's best interests requires careful assessment and coordination. Comprehensive best interest determination evaluates whether return genuinely serves the child's wellbeing rather than assuming that return is always preferable.

Family assessments evaluate the capacity of families to safely receive and support returning children, identifying support needs before return occurs. Coordinated return processes manage information sharing and handovers to ensure continuity of care throughout the return journey.

### India's "Addressing Trafficking through Effective Prevention and Reintegration" project

Implemented a comprehensive approach that recognized systemic gaps in protection. The project acknowledged how India's child protection system primarily focused on response rather than prevention, with insufficient attention to the psychological trauma experienced by trafficking survivors. To address these gaps, the project implemented specialized methodologies including BECOME and COLORS tools that provided structured approaches to reintegration planning. Community resource mapping identified local assets that could support returning survivors, creating sustainable support networks. The youth-led "Seed Initiative" empowered young people to take active roles in their recovery journeys, building agency and resilience. This multi-dimensional approach ensured that reintegration addressed not just physical return but comprehensive recovery across psychological, social, and economic dimensions. By engaging multiple stakeholders and systems, the project created more sustainable support for trafficking survivors.

### Prevention and protection against trafficking of unaccompanied Albanian minors in France

Led by Tdh Albania in collaboration with local authorities, the initiative focuses on improving transnational coordination. The project facilitates information exchange about family and social environments, which is essential for making appropriate return decisions that serve children's best interests. Through study visits and joint training activities, the project builds relationships between professionals across borders, creating sustainable coordination mechanisms that bridge protection gaps between origin and destination countries. By connecting actors along the migration journey, Tdh ensures that protection follows children regardless of national boundaries, with special attention to safe and appropriate returns when in the child's best interest.

### Multi-dimensional reintegration

Reintegration encompasses multiple dimensions that together create stability and wellbeing for returning children and youth. Family reintegration support helps families welcome and care for returning children, addressing potential tensions or challenges. Educational reintegration facilitates school enrolment and provides support to help children succeed despite interruptions to their education. Social reintegration addresses potential stigma and helps rebuild community connections that provide informal support. Economic reintegration creates sustainable livelihood opportunities that reduce vulnerability to re-trafficking.

## Prevention of re-trafficking

Specific measures prevent survivors from being re-trafficked after return to communities of origin. Regular monitoring through continued follow-up helps identify emerging risks before they result in re-trafficking. Targeted protection addresses specific vulnerabilities that might lead to re-trafficking, providing additional support where risks are highest. Community vigilance builds awareness and protection mechanisms at the community level, creating broader protective environments.

### Transit implementation matrix

Intervention area	Implementation approaches	Success indicators
Return in the best interest of the child	Best interest determination Family assessment Coordination case management and handover	Safe returns completed Child wellbeing secured Continuous support maintained
Multi-dimensional reintegration	Multi-dimensional support Family strengthening Community acceptance	Family stability Educational continuation Economic security No stigmatization
Re-trafficking prevention	Monitoring systems Targeted protection Community vigilance	Reduced re-trafficking Early risk identification Community protection activated



# Cross-cutting implementation approaches

Several key approaches span all stages of the migration journey, enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of anti-trafficking work across contexts.

## Evidence generation for adaptive programming

Tdh's evidence generation approach combines participatory research with practitioner expertise, creating a continuous learning cycle that directly informs operations. By engaging affected communities in defining research questions and methods, Tdh ensures that evidence reflects their priorities and experiences. The pairing of academic rigor with practitioner expertise creates research that maintains quality while maintaining relevance to practice. Systematic documentation and application of emerging lessons enables continuous adaptation to changing trafficking dynamics.

The MARIO project exemplified this approach by pairing social workers with researchers, ensuring both research quality and immediate support for identified children. This methodology enabled total immersion for researchers who worked alongside social workers with established connections to children, creating research that maintained ethical standards while generating actionable insights.

## Psychosocial wellbeing as protection

Across all interventions, Tdh integrates approaches that build psychological resilience such as:

- **YouCreate Methodology:** Youth-led creative arts initiatives that build resilience while identifying local risks and solutions
- **Sports for Protection:** Using physical activity as a platform for building life skills and protective peer networks
- **Problem Management Plus (PM+):** Evidence-based intervention to develop coping skills and resilience

In Bangladesh's Daulatdia project, this approach manifested through Sports for Protection sessions using football and handball toolkits. These structured sessions focused on developing key skills through physical activity, combining protection with wellbeing in an engaging format.

## Survivor leadership and participation

Tdh's approach recognizes survivors as experts and leaders rather than passive beneficiaries. Meaningful participation involves survivors in program design, implementation, and evaluation, ensuring that interventions reflect their priorities and perspectives. Capacity building supports the development of survivor-led organizations that can independently advocate and provide services. Leadership pathways create opportunities for survivors to take active roles in anti-trafficking work, transforming their experiences into expertise that benefits others.

Throughout Asia, collaboration with survivor-led organizations has become a distinctive element of Tdh's approach, ensuring that interventions are grounded in lived experience rather than theoretical understanding.

# Implementation success factors

Drawing on lessons from multiple contexts, Tdh has identified critical success factors and strategies that enable effective anti-trafficking interventions. These insights guide implementation across the migration journey, enhancing effectiveness while reducing potential negative impacts.

Key approach	Description	Implementation example
Context specific and evidence-based approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires deep contextual understanding rather than generic solutions</li> <li>• Invests in research before designing interventions</li> <li>• Adapts global best practices to local realities</li> <li>• Uses progressive scaling to create sustainable growth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MARIO project demonstrated measured approach:</li> <li>• Started with accessible populations</li> <li>• Established credibility before expanding</li> <li>• Combined step-by-step logic with evidence-based research</li> </ul>
Comprehensive understanding of trafficking dynamics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognizes diverse manifestations beyond sexual exploitation</li> <li>• Addresses full spectrum of trafficking experiences</li> <li>• Employs gender-responsive approaches</li> <li>• Monitors evolving patterns to maintain relevance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family tracing</li> <li>• Alternative care</li> <li>• Family reunification assessment</li> <li>• Family mediation services</li> <li>• Debt resolution support</li> </ul>
Generic risk identification and mitigation	<p><b>Re-traumatization:</b> Insensitive procedures; multiple interviews requiring survivors to retell experiences; exposure to triggers</p> <p><b>Re-trafficking:</b> Unaddressed root causes; inadequate follow-up; limited economic</p> <p><b>System resistance:</b> Institutional inertia; limited resources; competing priorities</p>	<p><b>Mitigation strategies:</b> Trauma-informed protocols and trained staff; safe physical spaces; multi-dimensional reintegration; long-term monitoring with clear protocols; economic empowerment; evidence-based advocacy; strategic partnerships; incremental change approach</p>



# Sustainability and MEAL approaches

Tdh's approach to sustainability and monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEAL) ensures lasting impact beyond project timeframes, creating changes that continue after direct implementation ends.

## Sustainability through local ownership

Sustainability planning begins at project inception rather than as an afterthought near completion. By embedding activities within existing government and community structures, interventions become integrated into ongoing systems rather than parallel structures. Technical capacity transfer ensures local partners develop the skills and knowledge needed to continue work independently. Financial sustainability planning identifies ongoing funding mechanisms for essential services, reducing dependency on project funding. The Bangladesh Protecting children and young women from commercial sexual exploitation project demonstrated several effective sustainability mechanisms. Comprehensive capacity building focused on diverse stakeholders including children, youth, local grassroots groups, and community leaders, creating broad ownership. Integration with existing structures embedded activities within government frameworks and policies, institutionalizing approaches. Long-term partnerships with stakeholders and promotion of community ownership created lasting commitment to initiatives.



## Adaptive MEAL for complex interventions

Tdh ambitions to implement specialized MEAL approaches that capture both immediate outputs and long-term systemic changes:

- **Outcome harvesting:** Identifying and documenting emergent, unplanned outcomes across complex interventions.
- **Participatory monitoring:** Engaging survivors and communities in defining success and measuring progress.
- **Context-specific indicators:** Developing metrics that reflect the unique dynamics of each context.
- **Contribution analysis:** Assessing how interventions contribute to broader system changes.
- **Learning loops:** Creating regular reflection points to incorporate lessons into ongoing implementation.
- **Mixed-methods approaches:** Combining quantitative metrics with qualitative insights to capture complexity.

## Global advocacy framework

This framework provides strategic guidance for developing advocacy messages focused on children and youth on the move. The key elements presented under each thematic area offer building blocks that should be tailored to specific contexts, audiences, and advocacy objectives. When crafting messages, consider the cultural context, policy environment, and the particular role and influence of your target audience to maximize impact and relevance.

### Route-based approach / Cross-border and transnational coordination

#### **Framing:**

Anti-trafficking efforts (prevention, protection, prosecution) must transcend borders to protect children and youth throughout their entire migration journey.

#### **Key elements:**

- Advocate for integrated protection services across origin, transit, destination, and return locations
- Promote the establishment of coordinated cross-border referral mechanisms
- Support the implementation of transnational human rights based information-sharing protocols
- Encourage the development of adaptive protection strategies that respond to evolving risks throughout migration
- Call for strengthened coordination between child protection, migration and justice systems across borders

### Evidence-based approach

#### **Framing:**

Effective anti-trafficking responses for children and youth must be grounded in rigorous research and continuous learning to adapt to evolving trafficking dynamics.

#### **Key elements:**

- Advocate for dedicated research funding on trafficking in migration contexts
- Promote practitioner-academic partnerships that combine field expertise with research rigor (e.g. Tdh MARIO project methodology)
- Support systems to track and respond to rapidly evolving trafficking dynamics
- Call for evidence-based interventions that measure concrete protection outcomes
- Encourage meaningful involvement of survivors in research design and interpretation

### Localization

#### **Framing:**

Local initiatives, particularly those led by migrants, survivors, and youth, must drive anti-trafficking efforts to ensure sustainable and contextually appropriate responses.

#### **Key elements:**

- Advocate for resources and decision-making authority for local organizations
- Promote dedicated funding streams for survivor-led and youth-led initiatives
- Support integration of anti-trafficking efforts into existing community structures
- Call for simplified funding mechanisms accessible to grassroots organizations
- Support policy development informed by local expertise and lived experience

# Implementation tools and resources

Tdh has developed specialized tools to support effective implementation across the migration journey:

## Prevention and protection tools:

- **YouCreate methodology handbook:** Guide for youth-led creative initiatives that build resilience while identifying protection issues
- **Sports for Protection (F4P/H4P) toolkits:** Structured sessions using physical activity to develop life skills and protective peer networks
- **ENGAGE curriculum:** Structured approach for youth empowerment and action planning
- **Problem Management Plus (PM+):** Evidence-based psychological support methodology with implementation guidelines
- **BECOME and COLORS methodologies:** Structured approaches to reintegration planning addressing multiple dimensions of wellbeing

## System strengthening tools:

- **Stakeholder mapping:** Guides for comprehensive identification of relevant actors across sectors
- **Referral pathway development guides:** Tools for establishing clear procedures to connect victims with appropriate services
- **Cross-border information sharing protocols:** Templates for secure methods of transferring case information while maintaining confidentiality
- **Transnational case management SOPs:** Practical procedures for coordinating support across borders
- **Capacity assessment tools:** Resources for identifying strengths and gaps in protection systems

## Research and MEAL tools:

- **Participatory research methodologies:** Approaches for engaging affected communities in knowledge creation
- **Child-friendly research protocols:** Guidelines ensuring ethical and protective research with children
- **Sustainability assessment matrices:** Tools for evaluating potential for interventions to continue beyond project timeframes
- **Outcome harvesting guides:** Resources for documenting diverse changes resulting from complex interventions
- **Case study documentation templates:** Standardized approaches to capturing lessons from implementation

## Impressum

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This work is dedicated to all children and youth on the move, with the vision that they can grow in protective environments where their rights are respected, their agency is recognized, and their potential for resilience and empowerment is fully realized.

**Every child in the world  
has the right to a childhood.  
It's that simple.**



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