Mid-Term Review of Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP): MANAGEMENT RESPONSE

Initiative Name	Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP)
AidWorks Initiative Number	INK642
Investment Start/End Date	01/07/2013 – 30/06/2018
Total investment value (AUD)	50,000,000
International Service Provider	Cardno Emerging Markets
Country/Region	ASEAN Region (Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam)
Initiative Goal	Reduce the incentives and opportunities for human trafficking through improved criminal justice response in ASEAN.
Initiative Outcomes (program design)	1. Law enforcement agencies improve the effective and ethical investigation of Trafficking in Persons (TIP) cases. 2. Prosecutors improve the effective and ethical prosecution of TIP cases. 3. Judges and court officials improve the fair and timely adjudication of TIP cases. 4. Regional bodies: set and monitor standards relating to the Criminal Justice Response to TIP in the ASEAN region; and facilitate improved cross-border Criminal Justice cooperation on TIP cases in ASEAN region.

Evaluation objective:

The purpose of this Mid-Term Review (MTR) was to review progress against the program design and to assess the continued relevance of AAPTIP's interventions against Australia's foreign policy and development context. The MTR also provided the opportunity to make modifications to AAPTIP to ensure the achievement of outcomes within the program's lifetime.

Evaluation completion date:

The evaluation was undertaken between March and October 2016. Field work was undertaken in Thailand, Philippines and Myanmar.

Evaluation Team:

Agulhas Applied Knowledge was contracted to undertake the evaluation. The team consisted of Dr Marcus Cox (Responsible Director) Mr Shaun Hext (Team Leader) and Dr Eric Scheye (Criminal Justice and Gender Expert).

DFAT's Response to the Evaluation Report

DFAT considers the review to be of acceptable quality and meets the requirements set out in the terms of reference. DFAT's responses to specific recommendations in the report are listed below:

DFAT's Response to Specific Recommendations made in the report

Recommendation	Response	Action	Responsibility
1. Strategy and approach			
Recommendation 1.1: AAPTIP should analyse how trafficking prosecutions could have a strategic impact on trafficking, such as by setting legal precedents, disrupting key criminal networks or helping to shift public attitudes. It should then assess how its capacity building work can be reoriented to support such strategic impact.	Agree	DFAT will request AAPTIP to analyse the strategic impact of trafficking prosecutions and assess the value of reorienting work to support strategic impact.	AAPTIP
Recommendation 1.2: AAPTIP should use its knowledge of trafficking in the region and the capacities and interests of its counterpart institutions to identify particular trafficking issue where a concentration of support could result in real impact within the life of the program.	Partially agree	DFAT will request AAPTIP to focus interventions that generate more direct and immediate results, balanced against interventions seeking longer term change.	AAPTIP
Recommendation 1.3: AAPTIP should use its regular training work to build a stronger understanding of the performance constraints facing its counterpart institutions, including those related to the wider political economy, and make it an explicit function of advisers and national staff to identify opportunities to facilitate or broker solutions.	Agree	DFAT will encourage AAPTIP to take a problem-based approach to address performance constraints, including identifying opportunities in its training.	AAPTIP
Recommendation 1.4: AAPTIP should focus on small number of Transnational Investigative Cooperation initiatives and provide a more complete package of support.	Agree	DFAT will request AAPTIP to focus on Transnational Investigative Cooperation where there is real appetite for support and justification for increasing resources to support package. In identifying such opportunities, DFAT and AAPTIP will	AAPTIP

		consider relevant existing work in the region, such as activities of the Bali Process.	
Recommendation 1.5: AAPTIP should be more active in promoting measures to minimise the risks to victim-witnesses, including by supporting the use of videotaped testimony, advocacy to end the system of compulsory shelters and linking criminal justice agencies to NGOs able to offer additional support and services.	Agree	Addressing risks associated with victim-witnesses has been prioritised in the Master Activity Plan 2016-18. DFAT will ensure AAPTIP monitors this issue to determine appropriateness of resources.	AAPTIP
Recommendation 1.6: AAPTIP should test new approaches (moving beyond training) to challenge entrenched gendered roles and attitudes within the criminal justice sector. For example, a different approach to labour trafficking could lead to greater awareness that men are victims (not only women and children).	Agree	DFAT will encourage AAPTIP to utilise the Flexible Fund to test new approaches to gender in criminal justice.	DFAT and AAPTIP
2. Operations			
Recommendation 2.1: The AAPTIP team should explore the possibilities for moving out of or significantly reducing its presence in some countries, in order to allow higher quality engagement in others.	Partially agree	DFAT is committed to continuing its partnerships with all countries in ASEAN through AAPTIP. Nevertheless, DFAT will continue to ensure the appropriate allocation of resources at the country level.	DFAT and AAPTIP
Recommendation 2.2: The M&E team should reduce its ambition and focus on developing clear intervention logics and a small basket of effectiveness indicators for a limited number of interventions, based on overcoming binding constraints on institutional performance. It might also take forward management of the new research and data collection agenda (see recommendation 3.3).	Agree	DFAT will work with AAPTIP to refocus AAPTIP's M&E, including the Theory of Change (complete) and ensuring appropriate indicators to monitor institutional performance.	DFAT and AAPTIP
Recommendation 2.3: AAPTIP should redevelop the position of Country Program Coordinator to give them more responsibility for identifying and managing strategic	Agree	An assessment of Country Program Coordinator (CPC) function will be	AAPTIP

interventions, and should make greater use of national and regional experts in its team.		undertaken by AAPTIP to ensure that CPCs are tasked with responsibilities that align with their expertise and ability to leverage influence.	
Recommendation 2.4: AAPTIP should undertake a 'red tape' review and suggest to DFAT which administrative and financial controls could be lightened.	Agree	DFAT has requested AAPTIP to undertake a 'red tape' review to address administrative and financial burden (in progress).	AAPTIP
3. Research and advocacy			
Recommendation 3.1: AAPTIP should work with DFAT to formulate an explicit advocacy and influencing agenda, relating to particular countries, institutions or issues, and ensure that advisers use the opportunities created by their relationships to advance that agenda.	Agree	AAPTIP management to work with CPCs to develop advocacy and influencing activities using a problem based approach, in collaboration with DFAT as appropriate (See 1.2 and 2.3).	AAPTIP
Recommendation 3.2: DFAT should consider how it can reinforce the anti-trafficking agenda through its diplomatic engagements.	Agree	DFAT will review its diplomatic engagement in line with Australia's *International Strategy Against Human Trafficking and Slavery* (in progress)	DFAT
Recommendation 3.3: DFAT should work with the AAPTIP team and external stakeholders to identify a program of research and data collection that can make a significant contribution to wider efforts to fight trafficking, as well as to inform future DFAT investments.	Partially agree	DFAT (with possible input from whole of Australian government partners) will work with AAPTIP to identify a small set of discrete/fit for purpose activities to contribute to knowledge and learning, and to inform future investments.	DFAT and AAPTIP