LASER PULSE

EVIDENCE BRIEF 2
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Partnerships and collaboration are essential to the TIP response

A national research study* provides evidence on the nature of trafficking in persons (TIP) in South Africa and identifies where the criminal justice system needs strengthening. A case study methodology was undertaken to review 10 purposefully sampled civil society organisations.

Civil society organisations need to be commended on their efforts to support TIP survivors.

Victims tend to reach out to non-governmental, faith-based and community organisations for help due to a lack of trust in law enforcement, fear of disclosing abuse, and corrupt law enforcement officials. These civil society organisations are primarily the front-line service providers to victims, and identify potential victims, partner with the government to rescue victims, support victim reporting, and enable their healing journey.

Multisectoral approaches are regarded as one of the most effective methods to manage counter-trafficking: all the leading countries on global barometers (along with some who are not) use multisectoral partnering in counter-trafficking efforts.
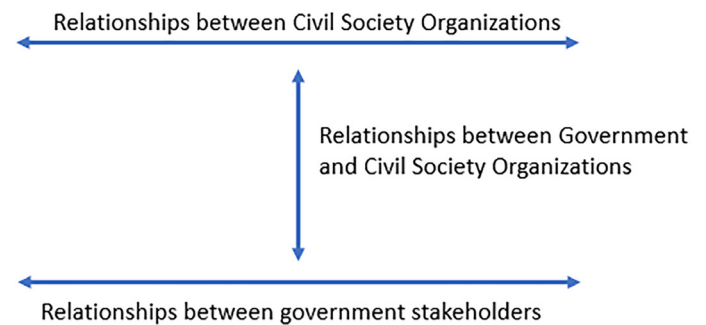
South Africa's Prevention and Combatting of Trafficking in Persons Act (PACOTIP Act) No 7 of 2013 and the TIP National Policy Framework (NPF)(2019) recognise the importance of partnerships. The NPF provides for a multidisciplinary and coordinated response to achieve TIP prosecution, protection, and prevention in South Africa. The NPF aims to rationalise resource use and effectively respond to TIP as a planning tool.

The NPF sets up structures to measure progress and monitor overall implementation, and provides a framework to hold stakeholders accountable for complying with PACOTIP Act mandates.

Although the policy is in place, the research found that it lacks implementation. One area that requires strengthening is partnerships, relationships, and collaboration between government and civil society.

In South Africa, the partnership network consists of three interdependent trajectories and several sub-trajectories, running horizontally and vertically. The graphic below illustrates the relationship between and within goverment and civil society.

Civil society and government collaboration

Relationships between Civil Society Organizations

Relationships between Government and Civil Society Organizations

Relationships between government stakeholders

Based on data, civil society partnerships were analysed through stakeholder mapping and a social network analysis. The findings provide a baseline of the current response from the perspective of civil society, and present insights on the complexity of responding to TIP in South Africa.
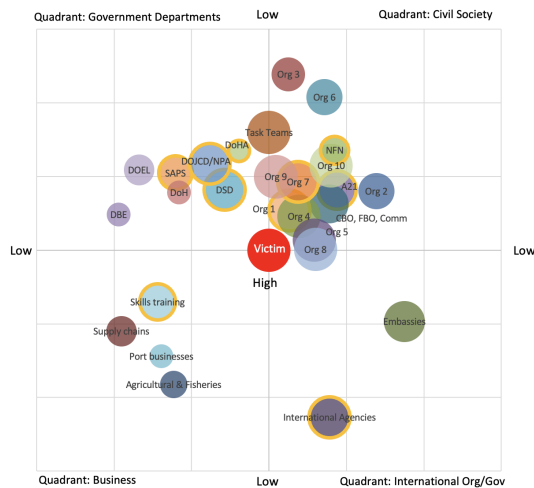
A systems approach and collaboration is critical in the response to TIP in South Africa.

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KNOW THE PROBLEM

Civil society mapping of stakeholder service provision to victims of trafficking

Quadrant: Government Departments   Low   Quadrant: Civil Society

Org 3, Org 6, Task Teams, DoHA, DOJCD/NPA, NFN, Org 10, DOEL, SAPS, DoH, DSD, Org 9, Org 7, A21, Org 2, DBE, Org 1, Org 4, CBO, FBO, Comm, Org 5, Victim, Org 8, Skills training, Supply chains, Port businesses, Agricultural & Fisheries, Embassies, International Agencies

Low / High / Low

Quadrant: Business   Low   Quadrant: International Org/Gov

In South Africa, the partnership network consists of three interdependent trajectories and several sub-trajectories, running horizontally and vertically. The quadrant illustrates these relationships between and within government and civil society. Circle positions are relative to victim: Near to or far from the victim indicates the interaction, in terms of frequency of relationship and support level provided. Circle position relevant to other quadrants shows strength of relationship and collaboration with other organisations.

Civil society partnerships are primarily focused on the victim, and generally have a lower influence on the TIP systemic response, yet a high influence on victim outcomes is dependent on a high resource base. Government departments generally have less interaction with the victim but a more significant influence on the system response. Some departments did not collaborate with the case study organisations.

Partnerships with the South African Police Service (SAPS), Directorate for Priority Crime Investigations (DPCI), Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DJCD) and the National Prosecution Authority (NPA) were most frequently cited by the organisations, followed by the Department of Social Development (DSD). These government departments were rated as having a critical role in the collaborative and coordinated responses to TIP. The National Freedom Network (NFN) and A21 were cited as crucial civil partners. The NFN is a non-profit network connecting South Africa's counter-trafficking organisations and role players, while A21 is a global NGO eradicating human trafficking through awareness, intervention and aftercare.

> **All civil society organisations noted that effective government partnership across departments was crucial to their work.**

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KNOW THE RESPONSE

A successful and effective response to TIP relies on collaboration and partnerships. All 10 organisations reported that successful partnerships with government departments were only possible if the organisation knew a committed individual within a specific government department. Without these relationships, responses and support from the government were either poor or non-existent. The organisations noted that a lack of capacity and funding prevented an adequate response to prevent, protect, prosecute, and partner to counter trafficking in persons.

Other challenges identified by organisations in providing an adequate response to TIP included:

- The length of time required for victims to access government services
- A lack of awareness by most officials of how to respond to TIP reports
- The lack of knowledge by first responders (such as health workers) to identify TIP

TIP remains a concern in South Africa. The country has progressive legislative and policy measures to protect a range of trafficked persons. However, challenges in prevention and early intervention, identification, referral, and service provision continue to be evident.

WHAT NEEDS STRENGTHENING?

A systems approach must be implemented to achieve the goals of the policy by:

1. **Developing secure funding and sustainability plans** for civil society organisations. The NPF only focuses on mobilising government resources. Civil society organisations are dependent on generating income from donors, providing services within government policies and registration requirements, and mobilising local resources. Yet, they provide essential services to victims.

2. **Jointly participating in capacity building activities** that contribute to individuals in government and civil society implementing a collaborative and connected system across the prevention, protection or prosecution spectrum. Capacity building must move beyond provision of knowledge, skills, and structural responses, to transforming organisational and sectoral attitudes and embedding effective practices.

3. **Building partnerships horizontally and vertically.**

4. **Deepening partnerships** so they are not reliant on individuals.