

# Summary of the Counter-Trafficking in Persons Working Group Meetings

## Introduction

The Countering-Trafficking in Persons (C-TIP) Inter-Agency Working Group (WG) on combating trafficking in human beings was established in October 2002 by the Republic of Armenia (ROA) Prime Minister’s Decree No 591-A.

The main mandate of the C-TIP WG is to report the progress of combatting human trafficking and exploitation activities to the Anti-Trafficking Council, as per the C-TIP National Action Plan (NAP) in the ROA.

The C-TIP WG also submits recommendations to the Anti-Trafficking Council for its comments and approval and submits semiannual reports to the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MOLSA) on their respective activities within the NAP.

## Stakeholders Who Form the C-TIP WG

The stakeholders who form the C-TIP WG are drawn from both state and non-state agencies.

Type of agency	Agency name
State Agencies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) MOLSA: Division for Anti-Trafficking and Women’s Issues (Identification Commission)</li> <li>2) MOLSA: Division of Children’s-Related Issues</li> <li>3) MOLSA: Unified Social Service</li> <li>4) Statistical Committee</li> <li>5) Ministry of Justice</li> <li>6) Ministry of Health</li> <li>7) Ministry of Foreign Affairs</li> <li>8) Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports</li> <li>9) State Migration Service (MTA)</li> <li>10) Public Defender’s Office</li> <li>11) Human Rights Defender (Ombudsman’s) Office</li> <li>12) Health and Labor Inspection Body</li> <li>13) Prosecutor’s Office</li> <li>14) Police</li> <li>15) Investigative Committee</li> <li>16) Judicial Department</li> </ol>
Non-state agencies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)</li> <li>2) Democracy Today NGO</li> <li>3) Association of Audio-Visual Reporters</li> <li>4) World Vision Armenia</li> <li>5) FAR Children’s Center</li> <li>6) Data for Impact (D4I)</li> </ol>

The C-TIP WG brief summarizes meetings from October 2021 to August 2023. D4I attended these meetings and noted the highlights, recommendations, etc. During the two years of the project’s implementation, D4I assisted in the facilitation of seven WG forums/meetings. Details are outlined in the table below.



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## **Key Highlights of the C-TIP WG: October 2021 to August 2023**

- The C-TIP WG, with the leadership of the Division of Anti-Trafficking and Women's Issues, spearheaded development of the 2023–2025 C-TIP NAP and used evidence from the assessments conducted from October 2021–September 2022 (Year 1 of the D4I project).
- The C-TIP WG conducted regular meetings that provided an opportunity for the stakeholders to review NAP progress and provided the annual report to the C-TIP Inter-Ministerial Council every year, as per the reporting timelines. With D4I's support, the Division of Anti-Trafficking and Women's Issues, together with its stakeholders who are members of the WG, realized progress in using metrics to track the NAP implementation in the last two years of the activity. The WG stakeholders were able to coordinate C-TIP NAP activity implementation, through collaboration and leveraging each other's responsibilities in responding to human trafficking and exploitation. For example, the USAID D4I activity collaborated with the U.S. Embassy's Together Against Trafficking in Persons (TATIP) project to conduct capacity strengthening in monitoring and evaluation (M&E) for social workers to undertake protection and prevention of trafficking in persons (TIP) in their day-to-day execution of duties.

## **Challenges Faced by the C-TIP WG**

- Some stakeholders, especially the civil society organizations, do not have a clear reporting mandate for the interventions they undertake, and some information is never collected.
- Resource allocation for the division to conduct the WG meetings regularly is inadequate, which will prove an issue for sustaining the consistency of the WG meetings.
- There is a high turnover of staff in the Division of Anti-Trafficking and Women's Issues. This affects the division's ability to undertake the actions and recommendations passed during the WG meetings.
- The C-TIP WG does not have a feedback mechanism on program progress from the Council.

## **D4I Recommendations to the C-TIP WG**

To ensure sustainability of the C-TIPWG, D4I recommends the following:

1. Continue regular WG meetings on at least a quarterly basis to discuss progress and planned activities amongst stakeholders.
2. During the WG meeting, share any C-TIP-related data and agree on the status of the TIP cases reported nationally.
3. Monitor the C-TIP NAP performance using the reporting tool and highlight agency-level non-performance and any actions to be taken. These actions should be reviewed in the next meeting.  
Include non-governmental organizations in reporting and data sharing within the WG activities.

## Summary of C-TIP WG Meetings from October 2021 – August 2023 (FY22 and FY23)

Date	Meeting objective	Participating agencies/ C-TIP actors	Actions taken/ recommendations
Year 1: Oct. 2021–Sept. 2022			
Dec. 10, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the C-TIP progress-registered cases in the first half of 2021</li> <li>• Introduction of USAID-funded “Strengthening Armenia’s Counter-Trafficking Monitoring Systems and Outreach” project progress (byD4I) and J/TIP-funded “Together Against Trafficking in Persons” project progress (by World Vision Armenia)</li> <li>• Dissemination of the Landscape Assessment Report conducted by D4I.</li> <li>• Proposed approach to track the NAP implementation by D4I.</li> <li>• Discussion of the upcoming media contest for journalists writing on C-TIP issues (by the Ministry of Education, Science, Youth and Sport Issues)</li> <li>• Next steps or actions for the key C-TIP stakeholders</li> </ul>	<p>19 participants representing: MOLSA, Department for Securing Equal Opportunities; MOLSA, Division for Anti-Trafficking and Women Issues (included in the Department for Securing Equal Opportunities); Health and Labor Inspection Body (HLIB); Statistical Committees; Prosecutor General’s Office; Employers’ Union; Democracy Today NGO; Association of Audio-Visual Reporters; Caritas Armenia; UMCOR Armenia; GRETA (CoE Monitoring Group); U.S. Embassy; INL, U.S. Embassy; USAID; D4I</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOLSA reiterated the role of the C-TIP WG forum and committed to coordinating the regular meetings to share C-TIP NAP implementation progress including data, plan for the subsequent quarter, as well as identifying challenges and possible solutions.</li> <li>• Status of the victims’ data in 2021: Based on annual data on victims, the participants highlighted that persons with mental health problems should be included in the risk groups when dealing with C-TIP issues. As there are cases of exploitation of these people, there should be specialized prescreening by the social workers and upskilling among the frontline workers to handle these victims. A tool to undertake screening of the victims will be developed with a targeted approach to their needs.</li> <li>• The participants agreed to hold the next WG meeting early in 2022 to undertake the C-TIP NAP reporting for the Year 2021 using D4I’s approach to measure activity performance.</li> </ul>
Feb. 18-19, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validation of 2020-2022 NAP implementation monitoring using the participatory tool results</li> <li>• 2020-2022 NAP implementation issues and recommendations for designing the next iteration of the NAP (2023-2025)</li> <li>• Introduction to M&amp;E concepts—M&amp;E framework, data sources, indicators—and their importance</li> <li>• The C-TIP M&amp;E system landscape</li> <li>• Review of the C-TIP business process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify the common anti-trafficking cases.</li> <li>▪ In groups, map the current process ‘as is’ through case studies and discussion, as well as the ‘ideal’ business process</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>30 participants representing state agencies, NGOs, USAID, D4I</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established the common types of anti-trafficking cases in Armenia—sexual exploitation, labor, and begging.</li> <li>• Evaluation of the business processes of different case categories to be tracked by the current 2020-2022 NAP. The current practices were refined, and recommendations made for the ideal processes of case management and data flow of TIP cases.</li> <li>• Established the 2020-2022 NAP implementation progress and provided evidence-based recommendations to fast-track implementation in the year 2022, such as standardizing indicators and performance measures used across the agencies.</li> <li>• Evaluation of the MOLSA and C-TIP actors’ routine data collection and use for national-level reporting and C-TIP program improvement (M&amp;E system). Ensure all stakeholders report to MOLSA, especially the NGOs supporting C-TIP NAP activities such as prevention.</li> <li>• Capacity amongst stakeholders to undertake the annual monitoring of NAP implementation using measurable performance indicators was identified as a gap. A call to conduct training on basic M&amp;E to upskill them was actioned.</li> <li>• Reporting of the NAP implementation progress to be improved and the coordinating agency/MOLSA to do further analysis when writing the report to the council.</li> </ul>

Date	Meeting objective	Participating agencies/ C-TIP actors	Actions taken/ recommendations
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A roadmap for developing the next NAP was developed with MOLSA, i.e., completion by November 2022 and disseminated to all stakeholders for planning purposes as the year starts.</li> <li>• The gap of non-reporting by the NGOs, such as UMCOR, was highlighted to the Division of Anti-Trafficking and Women's Issues.</li> <li>• Several recommendations were made per NAP activities to be considered in the next iteration of the NAP.</li> </ul>
May 12, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of findings of the Expert Assessment Brief</li> <li>• Validating the expert recommendations on the status of the 2020-2022 NAP implementation and actions for adoption for the next NAP</li> <li>• Planning for development of the 2023-2025 NAP</li> </ul>	<p>33 participants, including 27 members of the C-TIP WG and representatives from USAID and MOLSA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Participants represented national state and non-governmental agencies and international organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The WG members came to the consensus that those working on the NAP development need to strengthen their capacity in designing indicators for improved M&amp;E of the NAP implementation.</li> <li>• Recommendations from the expert assessment report will be used to develop the three-year NAP starting June 2022. The recommendations included formulating activities that are measurable, their indicators, and strengthening the C-TIP M&amp;E system to support quality reporting and overall coordination among stakeholders.</li> </ul>
July 29, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023-2025 NAP development progress and next steps with support from INL office</li> <li>• Presentation of the guidelines for journalists undertaking C-TIP activities by AAA</li> <li>• Presentation of progress of C-TIP activities by TATIP project</li> <li>• Presentation of data on C-TIP covering data from MOLSA and NGOs on victims as well as Investigative Committee statistics</li> </ul>	<p>22 participants, including but not limited to representatives of MOLSA, Minister of Justice, Audio-Visual Association, World Vision Armenia, U.S. Embassy, INL office, USAID, D4I</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The draft NAP was presented, and participants provided inputs to enrich the document. The D4I team was tasked to work on the indicators for each chapter, data sources, and the targets. The review of data sources will be based on the data mapping and templates provided.</li> <li>• Based on the M&amp;E capacity strengthening action plan, D4I will undertake M&amp;E trainings for the WG members.</li> <li>• Emphasis was placed on data collection and reporting and that all stakeholders were to report their data properly and in timely fashion, including referral of cases for the Identification Committee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MOLSA and D4I will conduct a joint visit to the center that provides services to victims, review the data collection, and provide next steps to improve the data collection and reporting thereof.</li> <li>▪ MOLSA agreed to send electronic versions of all templates for reporting to D4I to review and will present the findings in the next meeting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Year 2: Oct. 2022–Aug. 2023</b>			
Oct. 3, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidation of the draft 2023-2025 NAP inputs from stakeholders</li> <li>• Review of the formulated activities using a results-based approach, refining of the targets for the Draft NAP activities</li> <li>• Legal requirements on C-TIP reporting and formats used by agencies</li> </ul>	<p>14 participants overall, including 11 representatives of WG members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The WG participants reviewed the correct definition of activities and expected results for adoption in the next iteration.</li> <li>• There is an agreement to have an operational document to track targets to ensure routine monitoring.</li> <li>• It was agreed to enforce all obligations binding due to new legislation and share the data coming to each agency.</li> </ul>

Date	Meeting objective	Participating agencies/ C-TIP actors	Actions taken/ recommendations
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The results of the WG meeting will be reflected in the NAP draft for C-TIP 2023-2025. Also, they will be used for the upcoming M&amp;E training to better formulate training packages based on the current needs of key stakeholders.</li> </ul>
Nov. 17-18, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training of C-TIP key stakeholders/actors on foundational M&amp;E skills for improved C-TIP programming, in particular: the key M&amp;E concepts, the role of M&amp;E in tracking the implementation of C-TIP NAP (Monitoring Performance), the importance of generating high-quality data for C-TIP routine M&amp;E, a thorough understanding of theory of change, logic framework, results framework, indicators and data sources, target setting and milestones, and planning for an evaluation</li> <li>Development of a C-TIP results framework that links project activities to outcomes and goals.</li> <li>Formulation of SMART indicators to identify progress toward project outcomes, as well as proposed the respective targets and data sources for each indicator</li> </ul>	23 participants representing 13 state agencies (MOLSA, MOJ, MOH, MOESCS, MFA, Statistical Committee, Office of Prime Minister, Office of Deputy Prime Minister, Office of Human Rights Defender, Statistical Committee, HLIB, Ajapnyak Children's Social Care Center, Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs), 5 non-governmental organizations (World Vision Armenia, FAR Children's Center, UMCOR, Democracy Today NGO, Hope and Help NGO), and 1 C-TIP expert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training was successfully conducted by D4I facilitators.</li> <li>The C-TIP NAP results framework was reviewed and validated.</li> <li>The draft NAP was reviewed, and comments provided for further refinement before completion.</li> <li>A proposal of NAP indicators was formulated and D4I will continue to provide technical assistance to refine them.</li> </ul>
March 17-18, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Skill building to assist the key C-TIP actors in refining the implementation and monitoring of the 2023-2025 NAP.</li> <li>Strengthening the cooperation between the actors, who have the mandate to improve C-TIP policy planning and response.</li> <li>Review the progress and make alignments with the work plan.</li> <li>Validation of the 2023-2025 NAP monitoring tool</li> </ul>	27 participants (including D4I team), who represented 18 organizations/departments, particularly MOLSA, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, Office of the Prime Minister, Security Council Office, Investigative Committee, Prosecutor General's Office, Ombudsman's Office, Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs, Statistical Committee, National Institute of Labor and Social Research, Health and Inspection Body, Democracy Today NGO (service provider NGO), Audio-Visual NGO, World Vision Armenia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The participants reviewed the C-TIP results framework, refined indicators, targets, and data sources, respectively, for each indicator, and developed milestones/sub-activities as proposed and guided by D4I.</li> <li>Special attention was paid to the newly developed 2023-2025 NAP monitoring tool, which was introduced to the attendees and validated accordingly.</li> <li>The D4I team also presented the designed data flow graphics, as well as the data collection and reporting tools, which were reviewed by the participants. The comments and suggestions submitted by attendees were taken into consideration.</li> <li>The attendees also reviewed and agreed on the work plan implementation timeline for further activities.</li> <li>The project team also had the opportunity to assess the M&amp;E-related skill/knowledge needs of the key actors/stakeholders, which will be addressed during the upcoming training.</li> </ul>