

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL STUDIES

Policies and Implementations to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Persons in Vietnam

Dr. Mac Xuan Huong

Lecturer, Faculty of Criminal Investigation on Hot Traces,
The People's Police Academy, Vietnam

Abstract:

As similar as different countries in the Southeast Asian region, Vietnam has considered as both destination and transition hub in human trafficking in recent years. To deal with this modern slavery disaster, the Government of Vietnam had established and applied many strategies and policies from 2000 until the present. Apart from the positive contributions to prevent and combat human trafficking, Vietnam is still facing potential risks and possible threats of human trafficking, particularly with transnational trafficking in person. The paper provides the overall context of current trends and patterns of human trafficking in Vietnam with some specific characteristics of traffickers and its related victims as well as analyses primary modus operandi of this crime in domestic and international markets. The next section reviews two new national action plans, 2011-2015 and 2016-2020, with its specific objectives, targets, and activities. The paper concretizes two main projects in the national strategies, including improving prevention and combat human trafficking and enhance international cooperation to fight this battle between Vietnam and partners. Finally, some recommendation to solve trafficking in persons in Vietnam's context that also call for further discussion and exchange between scholars and policy-makers.

Keywords: *Trafficking in Persons, Crime Prevention, Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs), Victims, National Action Plan, Vietnam*

1. Introduction

In recent years, the situation of human trafficking activities in the world and the region continues to be complicated with the increasingly sophisticated nature, methods and tricks. In the Asia-Pacific region in general and the Mekong Sub-region countries in particular, including Vietnam, criminal activities of trafficking in people, especially women and children still take place; directly harm human life, health, honor, and dignity; adversely affect security and social order (UNODC, 2018a, 2018b). According to UNODC (2018b), this is where the crime of trafficking is very complicated, and the highest number of trafficked people is 11.7 million, accounting for about 70%. These areas are hot spots for crimes of trafficking with transnational and regional lines.

In recent years, Vietnam has focused on promoting the prevention of human trafficking through participating in international treaties, building and perfecting the legal system and organizing law enforcement, dissemination and propaganda to raise awareness of people to prevent forced labor trade. First of all, at the 9th Session of the XII National Assembly, Vietnam passed the Law on Human Trafficking Prevention and Combat in March 2011, it took effect in January 2012. This law provides the prevention, detection and handling of human trafficking acts and other acts in violation of criminal law referring trafficking in persons; receipt, verification and protection of and support for victims; international cooperation in human trafficking prevention and fight; and responsibilities of the Government, ministries, sectors and localities for human trafficking prevention and combat (National Assembly of Vietnam, 2011). And then, secondly, in particular, to concretize and implement policies and legal documents in Criminal Code and Human Trafficking Law, the Decree No. 62/2012/ND-CP stipulated the basis for determining victims of trafficking in persons and protect safety for their victims and relatives. Besides that, the Human Trafficking's Law deployed in combine with implementing vocational training to solve poverty reduction and gender equality; protecting children; support women and other programs on socio-economic development to effectively address human trafficking. In particular, since 2016, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 793/QĐ-TTg approving the 30th July each year will become Anti-Human Trafficking Day, which aims to strengthen activities to prevent and combat human trafficking.

Thirdly, in terms of international responses, Vietnam has joined the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UN TOC) since 8th June 2012 as well as signed and ratified Protocol on the prevention and suppression of trafficking in particular trafficking in women and children since 29th December 2011 and the International Labour Organization's Convention No. 29 on Anti-Forced Labour. Notably, Vietnam also signed the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP) together with other members since 2015 at the 27th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur – Malaysia. In Vietnam, on 13th December 2016, the President signed Decision No. 2674/2016/QĐ-CTN approving the ACTIP Convention, and the Convention officially takes effect for Vietnam from 8th March 2017. The ratification of the Convention contributes to demonstrating an active and proactive role, affirming the commitment of Vietnam and the

ASEAN region in its efforts to strengthen cooperation in prevention and control of human trafficking, especially women and children. The ACTIP is the only regional binding Convention on human trafficking outside Europe. This document also shows a strong commitment and an unprecedented shared commitment of member states in the fight against human trafficking. In addition to the Preface, ACTIP Convention consists of seven chapters, 31 articles, specifying the purpose, scope of application, rights and obligations of member states, jurisdiction and international cooperation in prevention and combat vi buying and selling people, procedures for resolving disputes through talks and negotiations between member states through diplomatic channels or other peace measures to reach agreement. The ACTIP is an essential legal basis, specializing in the prevention and control of human trafficking in the region. The purpose of the signing of the Convention is to create a lawful basis, improve the effectiveness of cooperation among ASEAN members in the prevention and control of human trafficking and protect trafficked victims.

In this research, the paper focuses on reviewing all policies and strategies of Vietnam in the prevention and combat human trafficking through building the legal documents' system since the 2000s to the present. An overall analysis of the current trends and patterns of trafficking in persons in Vietnam as well as specific outcomes of law enforcement agencies (LEAs) to prevent and fight traffickers that will provide on the below section.

2. The Current Situation of Human Trafficking in Vietnam: A Glance

Human trafficking is becoming a problem not only in Vietnam but also in many countries around the world with very complicated developments, seriously affecting human rights, causing much frustration in society. In fact, in the process of breaking up cases, finding and preventing human trafficking is a difficult task for the authorities, because the crime of buying and selling people is defined as a hidden crime, only when it is harmed to save or escape accusations with the police, will be investigated (Blue Dragon, 2018; Ngoc, 2019). In many cases, the victims returned, because of shame and guilt to everyone, so they accepted silence and let the criminals roam out of the law (Blue Dragon, 2018; Hoang et al., 2018; MPS, 2018a). Meanwhile, the development of social networks, open policies in immigration procedures, has made this type of crime more and more sophisticated and unpredictable tricks. Therefore, although in the localities, the police at all levels arranged specialized forces to carry out this task, the operation of crimes of trafficking in children is still complicated, increasing trend, nature, scale and tricks of criminal activities are increasingly sophisticated, cunning, closely organized, transnational and international.

3. Trends and Patterns of Trafficking in Persons

According to the Department of Police Crime Investigation, Ministry of Public Security, in the past five years between 2012-2017, the number of trafficked and suspicious victims was 3,090; in which 2,571 people returned, and 519 had not returned (MPS, 2018a). Also, 868 women were absent from the city for a long time, and thousands of people who were overseas had no conditions to verify, determining whether they were victims or not (MPS, 2018a). More than 90% of trafficked victims are women, children and the majority of ethnic minorities, often concentrated in rural areas, especially in remote areas (MPS, 2018a). The agency has prosecuted 1,021 cases, 2,035 accused, accounting for 97.3% of the reports and denunciations received and processed (MPS, 2018a). The trial of cases involving crimes of buying and selling people ensures timely and strict. In particular, there are at least 70% of those victims of human trafficking traded to China, the rest to Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and other third countries in the European region and beyond (Blue Dragon, 2018; Hoang et al., 2018; MPS, 2018a). However, this number is much larger, because the identification of victims is difficult because the victims and families do not want or delay the authorities.

Besides that, trafficking in children happens more and more complicated in the form of kidnapping, appropriating children to illegal trading; swapping, kidnapping and trading babies; buying and selling babies in the fetus; buy and sell children in the form of giving, adoption, hire (Hoang, 2017; Hoang et al., 2018; Nhen, 2016). Functional forces investigated, explored and tried 387 cases, arrested 749 offenders of trafficking in children (MPS, 2018a). Police forces, procuracies, and courts at all levels have coordinated to speed up and select case cases for investigation, prosecution, and trial (MOLISA, 2018; MPS, 2018b). Many localities have conducted public and mobile tests of child trafficking cases to raise people's awareness of observing laws and committing crimes, with strict judgments of punishing criminals.

According to the Criminal Police Department (MPS, 2018a), adolescent children, living in remote areas, border areas, borders, economic difficulties, or children wandering, lack of family management is always the object of trafficking. Because this group of people often have low education levels, lack of knowledge and desire to change their life quickly, so they mistakenly believe in fraudulent objects (MOLISA, 2018; MPS, 2018b). Besides, in some localities, the participation of departments, agencies and mass organizations is still formality, the efficiency is not uniform (Huong, 2015; Phuong, 2015). Low effective social preventive measures; communication, dissemination and education of laws on prevention and control of human trafficking are still spreading and formal and unfocused (Phuong, 2013; Tuan & Thanh, 2013). The process of receiving, verifying and supporting trafficked victims is still slow, mainly assisting victims through rescue or return.

From 2011 to 2015, the People's Procuracy at all levels have prosecuted 934 cases of trafficking, trafficking or fraudulently selling children (MPS, 2016). Accordingly, the People's Courts at all levels tried according to the first-instance procedure of 1,193 cases and tried 1,130 cases of offenses of trafficking. To some extent, in the period 2011-2015, around 2213 trafficked victims were supported to return to the community, accounting for 58%, in which there are 2173 female victims, accounting for 98.2%; age under 16 accounts for 9%; 51% of bilateral victims were returned; 21% saved; self-returning accounted for 28% (MPS, 2016).

4. A Various Modus Operandi in Human Trafficking

All LEAs of the Ministry of Public Security and the Border Guard Command confirmed that methods and tricks of criminals' trafficking activities have become more sophisticated and cunning, particularly most cases occur with collusion between domestic and foreign objects (MPS, 2018a, 2018b). One of the most common methods of the subjects is that taking advantage of economic difficulties, unemployment, lack of jobs, low education levels, loss of vigilance to deceive for trading in the form of forced labor, forced prostitution or forced marriage in overseas (Hoang et al., 2018; Nhien, 2016; Stockl, Kiss, Hoehler, Dung, & Zimmerman, 2017). Subjects also take advantage of loose management and lack of attention of families and schools to approach, entice and entice children, especially students to travel, shop or earn income (Nhien, 2016; Phuong, 2015). High, then put abroad to sell. According to the Anti-Human Trafficking Police Department of MPS (2018a), most potential victims are often targeted young victims who are pupils of ethnic minority boarding schools in mountainous provinces, women in remote areas, lack of legal knowledge. They are through a family network or close friend's sites to contact together without understanding any possible threats and potential risks behind (Hoang, 2017; Viet Nam News, 2016). In particular, recently, in the southern provinces, the subjects often use modus operandi of illegal marriage brokers to sell abroad. It is noteworthy that the majority of unlawful acts committed by different parties are therefore complicated in investigation and investigation.

Besides that, several new cunning tricks of traffickers also implemented as sophisticated as possible to avoid the monitor and investigation of LEAs. It is the approach and familiarization with victims instead of directly, now more and more people commit crimes through social networking sites and smart phones to reach victims (Hoang, 2017; Hoang et al., 2018). In some places, the offenders have sought up highland markets, school gates, especially ethnic boarding schools in the border areas to approach, get acquainted with women and students, get phone numbers with the purpose of making friends (MOLISA, 2018; MPS, 2018b). Through social media such as Zalo and Facebook, traffickers flirted, pretended to love, and invited those potential victims to go out look for a high-income employee's chance. By doing this, they can seduce them into involving the journey of exploring at the city before pushing them in restaurants, karaoke bars and of course, they have to follow up prostitution activities, forced labor and loan sharks (MOLISA, 2018; MPS, 2018b). Lastly, they will be traded to others after connecting to foreigners who bring victims across the border and transfer into inland for sale (MPS, 2018a).

The group of victims whose target groups are often women with challenging economic conditions, conflicts in family relations, little understanding, light-heartedness, limited knowledge, and lack of family management (Hoang et al., 2018; Ngoc, 2019). In most cases, the area where crimes occur is often in the border areas and ethnic minority areas. According to annual statistics of MPS (2018a), over 90% of trafficked victims are women and children. Indeed, it is usually concentrated in rural and mountainous regions, especially in deep-lying, remote and border areas. Notably, some victims in ethnic minority areas are often used by criminals to abide by customs and practices such as the custom of robbing H'Mong wives to seduce. Audaciously, several places occurred to be criminals who impersonate functional forces to deceive and coerce victims, who use fake names and images on Facebook and wear ceremonies as well as wear Border Guard's uniform to make friends and trick the victim (MOLISA, 2018; MPS, 2018b).

5. Policies and Strategies of Vietnam to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking

Over the past years, Vietnam has issued many guidelines and procedures. Apart from building the Law on Human Trafficking Prevention and Control (2011) and also supplement and amend the current Criminal Code of Vietnam (2015) to regulate criminalization trafficking in persons as specific as, the Government and its cabinet, approved and organized drastically the National Program on Human Trafficking Prevention and Control in the period of 2011-2015 period and being implemented in the 2016-2020 period. This section focuses on review two most famous National Program against human trafficking

6. The National Action Plan in the Period 2011-2015

The work of preventing and combating crimes of human trafficking is one of the essential tasks in the fight against crimes and is very concerned by the National Assembly, the Government and the Ministry of Public Security to concentrate on directing drastically. The Prime Minister issued Decision No. 1427/QĐ-TTg, dated 18th August 2011 to approve the National Action Plan (NAP) on prevention and control of human trafficking crimes from 2011 to 2015.

The NAP's Objectives Overall, this NAP has to substantially raise the entire society's awareness about and actions of prevention and combat of the human trafficking crime to reduce risks of any offenses related to human trafficking and assist returned trafficking victims. In particular, specific objectives include five main targets. Firstly, to intensify education to raise public awareness about and actions of prevention and combat of the human trafficking crime, making every person aware of his/her rights and obligations, proactively prevent human trafficking and actively participate in preventing and combating this crime. Secondly, to raise the effectiveness of the investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of human trafficking cases. Thirdly, to increase the efficiency of verification, receipt, and protection of and assistance for returned trafficking victims. Fourthly, to perfect the system of legal documents and raise the effectiveness of enforcement of the law on prevention and combat of human trafficking. Finally, to increase the efficiency of international cooperation in the prevention and fight of human trafficking (Government of Vietnam, 2011).

Scope of NAP.

The NAP in this period shall be implemented nationwide, with resources prioritized for critical regions and localities, major cities and provinces bordering on China, Cambodia, and Laos. There include five leading solutions to implement the NAP between 2011 and 2015. Firstly, enhancing the leadership, direction, and inspection by Party

Committees and administrations at all levels of the prevention and combat of the human trafficking crime. Improving the state administration capacity and perfecting the system of policies and laws on prevention and fight of the human trafficking crime. Secondly, diversifying modes of mobilization of and effectively using financial resources for the implementation of the Program; investing in the development of human resources and training officers to perform activities of the Program who have appropriate capabilities to perform their assigned tasks effectively. Thirdly, enhancing inter-disciplinary coordination in the implementation of the Program and specific projects and sub-projects. Mobilizing the participation of departments, sectors and social organizations to generate aggregate, consistent and synchronous efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking crime. Fourthly, intensifying international cooperation and calling for financial assistance and professional and technical consultancy for preventing and combating the human trafficking crime. Prioritizing the conclusion and inspection of multilateral and bilateral cooperation treaties and agreements with international organizations and countries, especially countries bordering on Vietnam, regional states and countries with large numbers of trafficked Vietnamese. Finally, monitoring and evaluating each project and the whole Program. Formulating a monitoring and evaluation mechanism and system based on appropriate targets and indicators, convenient and straightforward forms for information collection, and guidelines on the methods of collecting, storing and reporting information.

The Ministry of Public Security has advised the Steering Committee 138/CP to direct ministries, branches, and localities to organize drastically and synchronously deploying measures to prevent and combat human trafficking crimes. After five years of implementation, it has achieved outstanding results in multilateral and bilateral cooperation with other countries; exchange information; the coordinate struggle and deal with human trafficking crimes; build and sign international treaties. Police and Border Guard forces of 25 provinces bordering Cambodia, Laos, and China held nearly 600 three-level briefings, more than 2,000 talks, exchanging approximately 5,000 information related to prevention and purchase sell people. Particularly in the period 2011 - 2015, the authorities have investigated and discovered over 2,200 cases, arrested more than 3,300 subjects, organized rescue, received nearly 4,500 victims. Notably, five peaks were held every year, investigated and discovered 579 cases, arrested 807 subjects.

However, the situation of illegal trafficking in persons, especially women and children, is still complicated and tends to increase. The cause of this situation is mainly due to in some localities, the committees and authorities have not really paid attention to direct the fight against this type of crime; the participation of departments, branches, and mass organizations in many places is still formal, has not created a broad movement and attracted people to actively participate, so the effectiveness is not high (MOLISA, 2018; MPS, 2018b). Besides, social prevention and professional prevention are still limited as well as communication, dissemination, and education of laws on prevention and control of human trafficking are still spreading and form, not focusing on high-risk subjects (MPS, 2018a).

One of the different reasons of this limitation is that the propaganda on human trafficking prevention and control is not sufficient has not reached the people at the grassroots level. On the one hand, the criminals took advantage of open and open policies in immigration procedures, to bring illegal people abroad in the form of tourism, family visits, and illicit labour to trafficking in persons to overseas countries (MOLISA, 2018; MPS, 2018b). On the other hand, due to the difference in the level and language of ethnic minority people, while the authorities still apply the form of inflexible and massive propaganda on organizing conferences and popularization, distributing materials and leaflets in the Mandarin language makes access to information of people limited (Nhien, 2016; Stockl et al., 2017). Along with that, the moral education and cultural tradition in some families, schools and social communities are limited; state management, social management in some areas are still inadequate, loopholes for criminals to abuse their activities (Hoang, 2017; Hoang et al., 2018).

Additionally, the reception, verification, and support of trafficked victims returned to many difficulties and shortcomings, especially not yet creating a unified and synchronous coordination mechanism in the reception and verification to protect the victim (MOLISA, 2018; MPS, 2018b). Also, the system of legal documents on the prevention and control of human trafficking is still inadequate (Liberty Asia & Blue Dragon, 2018). Last but not least, a sense of vigilance and self-protection of a part of people is still limited, subjective and open to abusive subjects to commit criminal acts.

Wishing to minimize the situation of human trafficking, the Prime Minister decided to take the annual date of 30th July as the whole day for the people to prevent and combat human trafficking with the goal of mobilizing all resources and promoting the total combine the power of both the political system and the entire population to prevent, prevent and proceed to repeal the crime of trafficking in people nationwide. By doing this, the Government hopes to mobilize all people to participate and mobilize and reward in time collectives and individuals with outstanding achievements in the prevention and combat of human trafficking.

7. The National Action Plan in the Period 2016-2020

7.1. The NAP's Objectives

To pursue on the continuous Program of the NAP 2011-2015, this Plan towards to reduce human trafficking risks; reduce human trafficking crimes; effectively carry out the tasks of receiving, protecting and supporting victims in returning home. In particular, it is concretized into five specific objectives, follow as (Government of Vietnam, 2015):

- Goal 1: Enhance awareness of responsibility and capacity of individuals, families and entire society to prevent and cope with human trafficking risks.
- Goal2: Reinforce detection, inspection, prosecution, and bringing to justice any human trafficking crime.
- Goal 3: Receive, verify, rescue, protect and support victims in a timely and safe manner.

- Goal 4: Complete legislation and effectively implement policies and laws on human trafficking prevention and fighting.
- Goal 5: Reinforce cooperation and implementation of international commitments to human trafficking prevention and fight.

7.2. Key Measures and Tasks of the NAP

- Reinforce leadership, direction and inspection of Party committees, authorities on the tasks of human trafficking prevention and fighting; increase state management; complete legislation, include the Program in the socio-economic development plan; construct mechanism of intersectoral coordination and reinforce inspection and assessment of the implementation of policies and laws on human trafficking prevention and fighting.
- Direct and deploy forces, carry out professional measures consistently to increase the ratio of detection and investigation of human trafficking crimes, concentrate on destroying and wiping out organizations trafficking human beings for coercive labor; prosecute any human trafficking crime and bring it to justice; effectively implement policies and laws on reception and protection of victims.
- Diversify propagation and education about human trafficking prevention and fighting; maintain and spread effective human trafficking prevention and fighting models in communities.
- Mobilize and use financial resources effectively to implement the Program with priority placed on key localities and localities unable to balance budgets; carry out the tasks of supervision and assessment by each project and the entire Program.
- Carry out activities of scientific research and international cooperation in human trafficking prevention and fighting; take the initiative in joining and hosting international events on human trafficking prevention and fighting.

The Program for human trafficking prevention and fighting in 2016 – 2020 period shall be managed by the Government's Steering Committee for Crime Prevention, and Control (138/CP Steering Committee) under the Prime Minister's Decision No. 187/QĐ-TTg dated 18th January 2013. The NAP's period focuses on five main projects, follow as:

- Project 1: "Propaganda about human trafficking prevention and fighting."
- Project 2: "Human trafficking prevention and fighting."
- Project 3: "Reception, verification, protection, and assistance for victims."
- Project 4: "Completing legislation and overseeing implementation of policies and laws on human trafficking prevention and fighting."
- Project 5 "International cooperation in human trafficking prevention and fighting."

Within the scope of the paper, this section analyzes and assess the second and fifth project to make clear the policies and strategies of Vietnam to prevent and combat human trafficking as well as improve the effectiveness of international cooperation in this concern.

7.3. Primary Responses and Directions to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking

Under the leading of the Ministry of Public Security, project 2 - "Human trafficking prevention and fighting" focuses on five specific targets. These include 1) annually, 100% of critical routes, areas shall be supported by functional agencies in taking professional measures to prevent, detect and deter crimes; 2) 100% of the information related to human trafficking crimes forwarded to competent agencies shall be classified and handled. Any sign of misconduct shall be verified according to laws; 3) the number of cases facing charges of human trafficking over the total number of cases detected shall increase by 2% annually; 4) annually, the number of cases prosecuted over the total number of cases handled by the Procuracy shall reach 95%; and 5) annually, the number of claims brought to trial over the total number of cases dealt with by the Procuracy shall reach 95%(Government of Vietnam, 2015).

All LEAs in Vietnam, currently, estimated that the situation of human trafficking would continue to occur with several diverse modus operandi and more complicated in both domestic and international market. Therefore, this project's NAP was divided into three main sub-projects, namely 1) human trafficking prevention and fighting in inland areas; 2) human trafficking prevention and fighting in border, sea and island areas; and 3) Prosecution and adjudication of human trafficking criminals(Government of Vietnam, 2015).

The first sub-project will be led and monitored by the Ministry of Public Security and also coordinated by multiple agencies, including the Ministry of Defence, the Supreme People's Procuracy, the Supreme People's Court, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice. There are some main activities to need deploy, including 1) conduct essential criminal investigation, apply professional measures consistently with focus on critical routes, areas to prevent, detect and deter acts in violation of laws on human trafficking crimes; 2) receive and verify reports on, denunciations of human trafficking crimes; 3) investigate and discover human trafficking rings, pursue and capture criminals and concentrate on measures to rescue and protect victims; 4) intensive open attacks on and suppress human trafficking criminals across the country with a focus on critical routes and areas; 5) carry out inspection of human trafficking prevention and fighting activities from grassroots agencies; 6) reinforce cooperation among sectors, local governments, functional forces and other countries, international organizations, especially the countries having typical borderlines in investigation and handling of crimes, rescuing and protecting victims; and 7) mobilize financial resources and technical assistance from international organizations, non-governmental organizations for human trafficking prevention and fighting activities and protection of victims(Government of Vietnam, 2015).

The second sub-project in terms of human trafficking prevention and fighting in border, sea and island areas, will be managed by the Command of Border Defence Force (Ministry of Defence) with supported by the Ministry of Public Security, the Supreme People's Procuracy, the Supreme People's Court and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. To do this phrase, there are at least five main activities, including 1) conduct essential criminal investigation, deploy professional measures, combine border patrols and entry & exit control with intensification of propaganda with the aim of detecting and preventing human trafficking crimes; 2) receive and verify reports on, denunciations of human trafficking crimes; investigate, discover, pursue and capture criminals; collect evidence for human trafficking charges; carry out investigation within competence and take measures to rescue, receive, protect and support victims according to laws; 3) cooperate with police forces in opening intensive attacks on human trafficking crimes with a focus on border routes; 4) organize training for reconnaissance officers belonging to border defense force to enhance knowledge and skills in detecting and investigating human trafficking cases, receiving and protecting victims; and 5) strengthen cooperation with functional troops from Cambodia, Laos, and China in investigating, pursuing and capturing criminals; rescuing, securing and protecting victims; mobilize financial resources and technical assistance from international organizations, non-governmental organizations for the fight against human trafficking crimes and protection of victims(Government of Vietnam, 2015).

The third sub-project relates to prosecution and adjudication of human trafficking criminals that will be run by the Supreme People's Procuracy and coordinated by Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Justice and the Supreme People's Court. At least eight necessary activities will be invested and implemented in advance, including 1) exercise the rights of prosecution and supervising the tasks of receiving and handling reports on, denunciations of criminals and requisitions for criminal charges; manage investigation and adjudication of human trafficking cases; 2) adjudicate human trafficking lawsuits, coordinate organization of mobile trials of human trafficking lawsuits; 3) carry out statistical work concerning figures of human trafficking crime; 4) implement measures to protect victims during the process of prosecution, adjudication of human trafficking lawsuits, especially victims as children; 5) maintain effective coordination among presiding agencies in order to create favorable conditions for investigation, prosecution and adjudication of human trafficking criminals; 6) carry out activities of judicial assistance for human trafficking prevention and fighting; 7) organize training to enhance knowledge and skills for prosecutors, judges in carrying out prosecution and adjudication of human trafficking lawsuits, especially human trafficking for coercive labor; protection and compensation for victims; and 8) mobilize financial resources and technical assistance from international organizations, non-governmental organizations for the tasks of prosecution and adjudication of human trafficking lawsuits and protection of victims(Government of Vietnam, 2015).

Primary Responses and Directions to Enhance International Cooperation .The Ministry of Public Security leads this NAP's project with cooperated and coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, Ministry of Defence, the Supreme People's Procuracy, the Supreme People's Court, Vietnam Women's Union and relevant ministries, sectors(Government of Vietnam, 2015). To improve the effectiveness of international cooperation and also firm the role of Vietnam in preventing and combating human trafficking to a regional scale, there are four main targets established in this project. There includes 1) 100% of human trafficking cases associated with foreigners shall be handled under coordination between the country's functional agencies and law enforcement forces of other countries and relevant organizations; 2) 100% of international treaties, international agreements on human trafficking prevention and fighting to which Vietnam is a signatory shall be implemented; 3) 100% of international conventions on human trafficking prevention and fight to which Vietnam is a signatory shall be reviewed periodically and planned for implementation in the next time; and 4) to 2020, the promotion of activities of studying, surveying and defining mechanism of cooperation, agencies (as head contacts) for participation shall be carried out with at least five countries; the signing of international treaties, international agreements on cooperation in human trafficking prevention and fighting shall be executed with at least two countries(Government of Vietnam, 2015).

To do achieve these above targets, moving on 2020, there are at least six main activities need more effective implementations for Vietnam's authorities. Firstly, to implement international agreements and international commitments to human trafficking prevention and fighting to which Vietnam is a signatory, especially the TOC, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, ASEAN Joint Declaration, COMMIT Joint Declaration, Bilateral Cooperation Agreement between Vietnam and Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, China on human trafficking prevention and fighting. Secondly, to strengthen cooperation in exchange of information, settlement of human trafficking cases, pursuing and capturing criminals, rescuing victims, sharing experience and training to enhance capacity for human trafficking prevention and fighting. Thirdly, to organize study and investigation of human trafficking activities and learn about policies and laws of the countries where most of the victims are Vietnamese to identify the agencies (as head contacts), mechanism of cooperation in exchange of information, settlement of human trafficking cases, rescuing victims and capturing criminals. Fourthly, to make preliminary and summary wrap-up reports on the implementation of international agreements, international treaties or any cooperation agreements signed between Vietnam and other countries for human trafficking prevention and fighting, propose amendments and supplements to it to competent authorities if necessary. Fifthly, to study and put forward proposals to relevant authorities for construction, negotiation, accession and implementation of international agreements, international treaties or other cooperation agreements with other countries, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and individuals as foreigners for human trafficking prevention and fighting under laws of Vietnam. Finally, to organize visits from foreign delegations or overseas trips for Vietnamese delegations to learn and share experience in the area of human trafficking prevention and fighting;

organize international conferences, workshops, and forums on human trafficking prevention and fight in Vietnam (Government of Vietnam, 2015).

8. Towards on Specific Activities to Improve the Effectiveness of Prevention and Combat Human Trafficking in Vietnam

To get these above NAP's project, as the leading of National Program against Human Trafficking, the Ministry of Public Security has been focusing on directing police units and localities to perform well. There are several essential tasks should be prioritized and concretized in the next steps.

Firstly, proactively report to the Party Committee and local authorities to direct the departments, agencies, mass organizations and information, and communication agencies to promote propagation and dissemination of legal policies and methods of operation crimes violating human trafficking to prevent proactively and actively participate in the fight against this type of crime. Building and replicating advanced models and typical examples of prevention and combat of crimes against human trafficking in localities.

Secondly, take the initiative in grasping the situation, detecting and thoroughly handling the illegal brokerage centers on marriage with foreign elements, labor export, and adopting children for human trafficking activities. Strengthening the management of entry and exit, strict control of border gates, overcoming loopholes in managing foreigners, managing personnel, household registration, managing Internet services ... not letting beneficiaries benefit using criminal trafficking activities.

Thirdly, effectively deploying attack points, suppressing trafficking crimes, focusing on Vietnam-China borderline and Vietnam-Cambodia border and focusing on struggling and clarifying human trafficking cases, especially in organized and transnational matters. Coordinating with the Procuracy and the Court to make a timely trial of case cases to deter criminals.

Fourthly, directing to do well the rescue work, receiving victims; coordinating with ministries, departments, and agencies to implement policies and services to support trafficked victims returning to reintegration such as difficulty allowance, vocational training, job creation and medical treatment to help them stabilize soon. living.

Fifthly, coordinate with ministries and branches to propose amendments and supplements to the Criminal Code in the direction of adding some acts of infringing on women, children, and dangerous nature to society into the Criminal Code, such as exploiting child labor; appropriating, buying and selling tissues and organs illegally... At the same time, continuing to study and propose to amend, supplement and perfect other relevant legal documents to suit the practical situation and create a fully legal basis to strictly handle violations of law and crimes of buying and selling, mistreating women and children.

Sixthly, strengthening international cooperation with law enforcement agencies, police forces in the countries which focus through Interpol cooperation channel, ASEANAPOL in the prevention and combat of human trafficking crimes. Localities with borderlines maintain briefings, meet, negotiate and establish "hot" lines with neighboring units and areas to actively exchange information, coordinate investigations, retrieving criminals, rescuing, receiving and assisting trafficked victims in returning; organizing various communication forums on human trafficking prevention and combat.

9. Conclusions

To prevent and repel human trafficking crimes, the current core issue is to continue to have more synchronous and active participation of both the political system and the whole society. Accordingly, first of all, it is necessary to promote propaganda and mobilization of the masses to raise their awareness and understanding of the law and the dangers of trafficking in persons from all levels. Besides that, each LEAs clearly define their tasks, unify consciousness, strengthen the direction of close coordination between forces, create synergy, improve the effectiveness of prevention and ongoing struggle with transnational human trafficking syndicates. In addition, the local and central authorities should focus on improving the lives of people in border areas, mountainous, remote and isolated areas, linking with economic development programs, society, hunger eradication, and poverty alleviation, job creation with stable incomes, narrowing the gap between rich and poor, overcoming loopholes in the areas of labor export and marriage with foreign elements. Furthermore, functional forces need to work closely with each other, working well in advising the committees and local authorities to implement measures of propaganda, dissemination and legal education in association with organizations. activities to support victims of community reintegration, replicate effective operation models. To reiterate, human trafficking is a type of crime that is particularly dangerous because of long-term implications for the victims themselves and the whole society. The joining hands of organizations and forces in the synchronous implementation of solutions will be an essential basis for us to prevent and repel human trafficking crimes, ensure a peaceful life for people.

10. References

- i. Blue Dragon. (2018). Human Trafficking in Vietnam. Retrieved from Hanoi, Vietnam: <https://www.bluedragon.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Human-Trafficking-in-Vietnam-fact-sheet.pdf>
- ii. Decision on Approving the Program of Action to Prevent and Combat the Human Trafficking Crime During 2011-2015, (2011).
- iii. Decision on Approving the Program of Action to Prevent and Combat the Human Trafficking Crime During 2016-2020, (2015).
- iv. Hoang, T. L. (2017). Human Trafficking in Vietnam: Preventing Crime and Protecting Victims through Inter-agency Cooperation. (PhD thesis), Queensland University of Technology, Queensland, Australia.

- v. Hoang, T. L., Carrington, K., Hung, T. T., Phuc, T. N., Kien, T. L., & Ha, N. B. (2018). Inter-Agency Cooperation to Raise Awareness on Human Trafficking in Vietnam: Good Practices and Challenges. *Asian Journal of Criminology*, 13(3), 251-274.
- vi. Huong, T. L. (2015). Trafficking in Persons in Vietnam: the Root Causes and State Responses to Human Security. In J. Song & A. Cook (Eds.), *Irregular Migration and Human Security in East Asia* (pp. 117-135). New York: Routledge.
- vii. Liberty Asia, & Blue Dragon. (2018). Legal Gap Analysis of Anti-Trafficking Legislation in Vietnam. Retrieved from Hanoi, Vietnam:
- viii. MOLISA. (2018). Training on Prevention of Trafficking in Persons [Press release]. Retrieved from <http://www.molisa.gov.vn/vi/Pages/chitiettin.aspx?IDNews=28529>
- ix. MPS. (2016). Annual Report for Trafficking in Persons 2015. Retrieved from Hanoi, Vietnam [Vietnamese language]:
 - x. MPS. (2018a). Annual Report for Trafficking in Persons. Retrieved from Hanoi, Vietnam [Vietnamese language]:
 - xi. MPS. (2018b). Professional Forum on Child Trafficking Prevention [Press release]. Retrieved from <http://bocongan.gov.vn/tin-tuc-su-kien/hoi-thao-chuyen-de-ve-nang-cao-hieu-qua-cong-tac-phong-chong-mua-ban-tre-em-d17-t24225.html>
 - xii. Law on Human Trafficking Prevention and Combat, (2011).
- xiii. Ngoc, T. N. (2019). Human Trafficking Crime Awareness Among Remote Communities in Central Vietnam. (PhD PhD), Walden University, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- xiv. Nhien, C. P. (2016). Preventing and Combating Women Trafficking from Vietnam to China. (PhD Thesis), University of Northumbria, Newcastle, U.K.
- xv. Phuong, T. T. H. (2013). An Analysis of the Protection Regime for Trafficked Persons – From the International to Vietnam. (PhD), Monash University, Melbourne, Australia.
- xvi. Phuong, T. T. H. (2015). Protection for Trafficked Persons in Viet Nam: Another National Security Discourse. *International Migration*, 53(4), 25-36.
- xvii. Stockl, H., Kiss, L., Hoehler, J., Dung, T. D., & Zimmerman, C. (2017). Trafficking of Vietnamese Women and Girls for Marriage in China. *Global Health Research and Policy*, 2(28), 1-9.
- xviii. Tuan, A. D., & Thanh, T. D. (2013). Human Trafficking in Vietnam: Difficulties and Solutions. In C. Taylor, D. Torpy, & D. Das (Eds.), *Policing Global Movement: Tourism, Migration, Human Trafficking and Terrorism* (pp. 165-186). New York: CRC Press.
- xix. UNODC. (2018a). Countering Trafficking in Persons in Conflict Situations. Retrieved from Vienne, Austria:
- xx. UNODC. (2018b). Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018. Retrieved from New York: https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/2018/GLOTIP_2018_BOOK_web_small.pdf
- xxi. Viet Nam News. (2016). Vietnam Faces Growing Human Trafficking to China. Southeast Asia. 24 October. Retrieved from <https://www.thejakartapost.com/seasia/2016/10/24/vietnam-faces-growing-human-trafficking-to-china.html>