

Tool No. 8: Background studies



Background studies will help assess the situation in the country and allow partners to make decisions on the strategy, scope, timeframe, format and contents of the NAP to be put in place. The more knowledge regarding the situation is collected, the more likely partners are able to easily design a realistic, implementable and effective NAP on forced labour. A background study will also provide useful information in order to define the NAP's coordination and implementation set-up and its oversight mechanism, to build the cost estimate and to monitor progress and measure impact.

The following checklist provides potential elements to include in the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for background studies:

Know the situation

What information is already available regarding:

- ▶ the scope and nature of forced labour in the country;
- ▶ its causes and consequences;
- ▶ the needs and wishes of those affected by forced labour;
- ▶ knowledge about and attitudes to forced labour in the general public and among key stakeholders;
- ▶ structural issues and discriminatory practices (e.g. caste systems or ethnically based stratifications) that may underpin the perpetuation of forced labour;
- ▶ the relevant national policies and plans that may contribute to eradicating forced labour;
- ▶ the legal framework on forced labour (and related issues);
- ▶ the potential implementing partners, including those who may already be implementing interventions that contribute to eradicating forced labour;
- ▶ the types of interventions that these partners implement;
- ▶ the resources available.

The scale of the studies will vary, depending on, amongst other factors, available resources, timeframes, prior knowledge and experience.

The mapping should seek to help partners assess:

- ▶ Where there are significant gaps in knowledge, capacity, resources, legal and policy framework;
- ▶ Which of these gaps may need to be addressed before the NAP is formulated and which need to be addressed within the framework of the NAP, once formulated;
- ▶ How to best plan, coordinate and oversee the formulation of the NAP to ensure an inclusive process.

Learn from previous NAPs

The background study will be slightly different when it is not the first generation NAP on forced labour. When it builds on previous NAP(s), the studies can include some of the following elements:

- ▶ **Previous initiatives and lessons** derived from these. If these lessons are systematically collected, analysed and shared, they can become a key element of the knowledge base in the country.
- ▶ **Reports and findings from M&E** – for example, field visits, annual reviews and self-assessment. It is important to consider what worked and what did not from the previous phase and shape activities accordingly (hence the need for evaluation)¹.
- ▶ **Change analysis** – When developing a second or third generation NAP, important questions to ask include: What has changed since the beginning of the previous NAP? How much of this was a result of the NAP's strategies and which of these strategies are therefore effective and could be scaled up? What has changed as a result of external factors (outside the control of the NAP)? How much of this can be addressed in the NAP? How are these new strategies going to be implemented? By whom? Using which resources?

¹ Examples of how lessons from a previous NAP shaped current interventions can be found in Government of the United Kingdom: Human Trafficking: The Government's Strategy, Home Office (London, 2011). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97845/human-trafficking-strategy.pdf.