The International Classification Standard for administrative data on Trafficking in Persons (ICS-TIP)

Date: Thursday 31st October 2024

IOM UN MIGRATION

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Agenda

- Overview of the ICS-TIP and drafting process
- Update on the global consultation and feedback received so far
- Q&A

Overview of the ICS-TIP and drafting process

Background on ICS-TIP and drafting process

- The ICS-TIP is the outcome of a joint IOM and UNODC initiative and has been informed by:
  - Broad desk review of existing documentation including IOM and UNODC resources developed for their respective operations, Member States and other stakeholders.
  - Broad online consultation over five days in 2021 with inputs from 80 anti-trafficking experts in the field and experts in data collection in TIP from 14 countries across all regions of the world
- Conceptualised to be in line with the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS)
- Global consultation

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Back to the definition

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

Trafficking in persons is comprised of three elements:

(i) The **Act** (what is done?)

(ii) The **Means** (how is it done?)

(iii) The **purpose** (why is it done?)

Article 3 (a) "Trafficking in persons" shall mean the:
*(**Act**) recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons*

*by **means** of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person*
*for the **purpose** of exploitation.*

Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs

About the ICS-TIP

Purpose: *To enhance the quality of data collection and reporting by improving data harmonization and comparability based on standard definitions*

What the ICS-TIP does:

- Provides standard definitions, categories and format for administrative data on trafficking in persons

- Enables consistent reporting across jurisdictions, countries and regions

- Adapts to different contexts, provide broad enough categories to be used widely

- Aligns with other international standards

The ICS-TIP is not intended to:

- Be used for victim identification; dedicated procedures are needed for this prior to use of ICS-TIP

- Create highly technical operationalized definitions or for advanced statistical purposes

Classification of TIP data

Information that might be collected:

Victim sex
Victim age
Victim nationality

Perpetrator sex
Perpetrator age
Perpetrator nationality

Type of trafficking

Entity that is entering the data
Role in the process

Classification of TIP data

Information that might be collected **and how it can be classified**:

Victim sex
Victim age
Victim nationality

Victim

Type of trafficking

Event

Perpetrator sex
Perpetrator age
Perpetrator nationality

Perpetrator

Entity that is entering the data
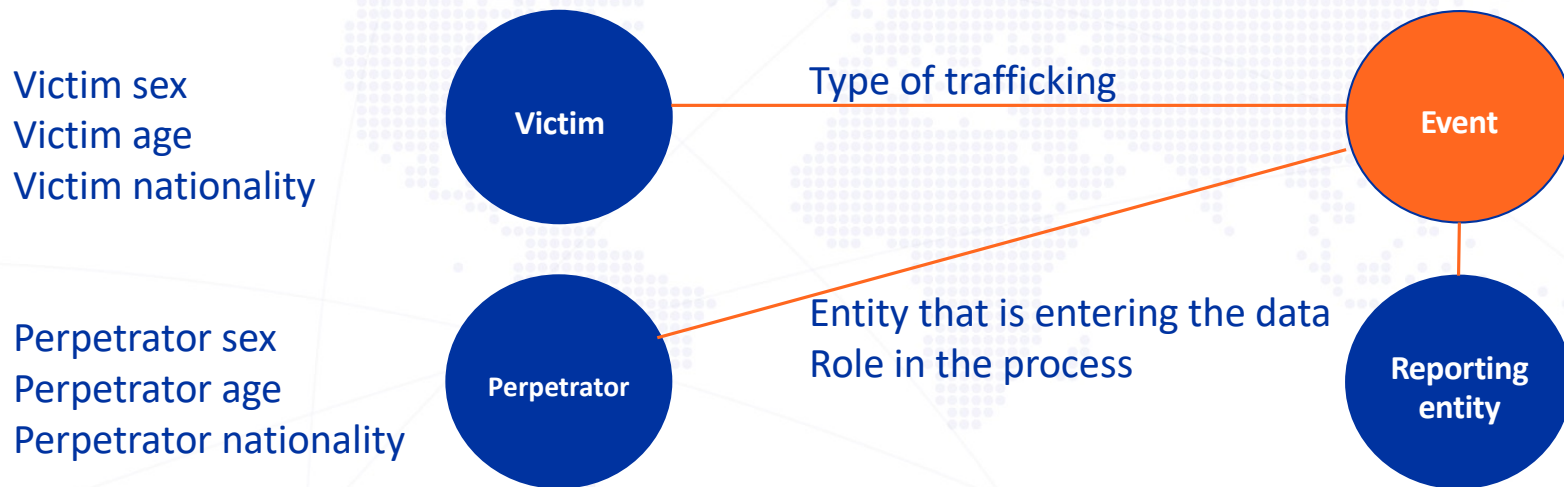Role in the process

Reporting entity

Classification of TIP data

The trafficking event is the central unit of classification

Information that might be collected and how it can be classified:

Victim, Perpetrator and reporting entity are units of description

Victim sex
Victim age
Victim nationality

Perpetrator sex
Perpetrator age
Perpetrator nationality

Victim —— Type of trafficking —— Event

Perpetrator —— Entity that is entering the data / Role in the process —— Event

Reporting entity

Classification of TIP data

Information that might be collected and how it can be classified:

Disaggregating variables	Disaggregating variables

Victim sex
Victim age
Victim nationality

Perpetrator sex
Perpetrator age
Perpetrator nationality

Victim — Type of trafficking — **Event**

Perpetrator — Entity that is entering the data
Role in the process

Reporting entity

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Classification of TIP data

Classification of TIP data

Central unit

The primary unit of classification is 'trafficking in persons' or 'trafficking event'

Trafficking events/ cases can be recorded according to the following units of description

Units of description

Trafficking events/ cases can be recorded according to the following units of description:

- The **victim** involved (i.e. data on VOTs)

Can help describe the profiles at risk of TIP and inform essential services for VOTs

- The **perpetrator(s)** involved

Can help understand the who is involved in committing the offence and on Law enforcement action

- The **reporting entity**

  (to understand organizations involved with TIP)

Can be used for statistical reporting on service provision, survivor assistance And potentially on revictimization

These can be treated as 'disaggregating variables'

Disaggregated variables (DV)

- Each DV has a unique 3-letter code, and each DV can take a few categories OR be recorded in a specific format. For example:

Table A2. Step 1 – Victim core disaggregating variables

Sxv Sexb	Agv Age of victim	Stv Age status victim	Civ Citizenship(s)
01: Female 02: Male 03: Other (O, T, X)ᵉ 04: Not specified/ disclosed	01. 0-14 02. 15-24 03. 25-44 04. 45-64 05. 65+ 06. Not known	01: Minor (17 years old and under) 02: Adult (18 years old and above) 03: Not known	(at birth/country of origin) Format: ISO 3166-1 alpha-3, including a free-form text entry for stateless

Disaggregating variables

- The DVs and their categories are organised in different levels, or **steps**. There are three steps.

- Higher steps have more specific variables and more categories, allowing for more in-depth analysis.

- This creates the potential for a more complex understanding of TIP in a given context.

Example

Step 2: *moc.01 = means of control, threat*

Step 3: *mcs.01.01 = specific means of control, physical threat*

Step 1

- Core 'must-have' disaggregating variables that should be achievable by all governments

- Standard for collecting basic evidence to enhance understanding of TIP for policy making and service provision

Aim: *"a refined set of high quality, comparable disaggregating variables on the trafficking event, victim. Perpetrator and reporting entity"*

What's included:

- Basic counts of victims and perpetrators

Step 2

Aim: *Additional information (from step 1) to enhance the national response to TIP*

What's included:

- Disaggregating variables across the **act**, **means** and **purpose** of trafficking

- Additional demographic disaggregating variables on victims and perpetrators

- Geographic information also included (i.e. where recruitment and/or exploitation took place)

Step 3

The most detailed data of the three steps

Aim:

- *Has the potential to extend TIP prevention, prosecution and protection of VOTs*

What's included:

- Individual experiences that occur before and after the trafficking event (e.g. means of contact, type of recruitment)

- More precise details on the exploitation (e.g. type of location of exploitation)

The questionnaire

Feedback - Event

- **Feasibility**: Many countries found Step 1 data collection feasible, especially for core variables like the location and type of trafficking event.

- **Capacity**: Step 1 variables are generally within capacity for most countries, though capacity building is required for more detailed Steps 2 and 3, such as capturing secondary forms of exploitation.

- **Feasibility/Need**: The need to collect data on trafficking events is significant, particularly for Step 1 variables.

- **Need**: Most institutions expressed a strong need for Step 1 event data, which includes basic details such as the type of exploitation and location.

- **Utility**: Countries intend to use the data for reporting, analyses, and shaping national anti-trafficking strategies.

Feedback - Victim

- **Feasibility**: Step 1 data collection for victims (e.g., age, gender) is feasible for most countries, though more complex disaggregation.

- **Capacity**: Capacity to collect basic Step 1 data is generally available, but expanding the system to collect nuanced information (e.g., methods of exploitation) will require further improvements.

- **Feasibility/Need**: There is a high need for detailed victim data, especially Step 1 variables like gender and age. More detailed categories in Steps 2 and 3 are useful but not as urgent.

- **Need**: Victim data is critical for tracking trafficking trends and shaping interventions. More detailed variables in Steps 2 and 3 provide useful context but are not immediately necessary for all institutions.

- **Utility**: The data will be used to track trends, identify vulnerable populations, and shape national strategies for victim protection and prevention.

Feedback – Perpetrator

- **Feasibility**: Step 1 variables (e.g., gender, age) are generally feasible to collect. However, more complex variables, such as control methods and relationships between perpetrators and victims, require system refinements.

- **Capacity**: Capacity to collect data on basic Step 1 perpetrator variables is available, but capturing more nuanced information (e.g., roles in trafficking) will require system enhancements.

- **Feasibility/Need**: There is a significant need to collect perpetrator data, especially Step 1 variables. More detailed categories (e.g., psychological abuse) provide additional depth but are less critical for immediate analysis.

- **Need**: Detailed perpetrator data is necessary for tracking trafficking networks and supporting law enforcement. However, more complex disaggregation categories are less urgently needed.

- **Utility**: Data on perpetrators will be used for developing reports and analyses to better understand perpetrator roles and activities, supporting operational and legal interventions.

Feedback – Reporting Entity

- **Feasibility**: Step 1 data collection on reporting entities is feasible for most countries. However, more detailed categories, such as specific roles in case management or collaboration between entities, present challenges.

- **Capacity**: Capacity to collect data on reporting entities is sufficient for basic Step 1 variables. However, Steps 2 and 3, which involve more complex relationships and roles, will require system improvements.

- **Feasibility/Need**: The need for data on reporting entities is significant, especially for Step 1 variables. More detailed categories in Steps 2 and 3 are useful for improving inter-agency coordination but are not immediately necessary .

- **Need**: There is a strong need to collect data on reporting entities to understand how trafficking cases are reported and managed across different sectors.

- **Utility**: Data on reporting entities will improve coordination and understanding of how trafficking cases are handled by various organizations, contributing to better case management

Key reflections from experts

- Title is confusing and not consistent with the other classifications of UNODC e.g. ICCS

- ICS-TIP seems Eurocentric/North American/developed country oriented

- Is there a maintenance and implementation plan to outline when and how updates/revisions will be made?

- Consider adding a clarification on the scope of what is considered TIP for forced labour, given that the Palermo Protocol spells forced labour and sexual exploitation separately

- Consider adding disability as a disaggregating variable

- Consider asking more detailed questions about migration routes

- Consider collecting data on outcomes in labour judicial or non-judicial mechanisms

Thank you for your attention.

Questions?