



## Summary of the 2016-17 Horizontal Evaluation of the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking (NAP-HT)

### What We Examined

- The NAP-HT was a horizontal initiative involving nine federal organizations.
- Its goal was to provide a comprehensive federal response to address human trafficking with focus on four pillars: *prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership*.
- Launched in June 2012, it expired in March 2016.
- The inception document stated that the Government would invest over \$6M annually. However, federal partners carried out NAP-HT related activities using existing internal resources.

### Why is this important

- HT is a serious violation of human rights, which occurs in Canada and worldwide.
- Victims suffer from emotional trauma, economic, physical and psychological abuse.
- Combatting HT is a shared responsibility between the federal government and the PTs.
- As part of Government of Canada's efforts to fight HT, the NAP-HT was launched to consolidate existing and new federal initiatives in one comprehensive plan.

### Evaluation Findings

- There is a continued need for a NAP-HT. HT continues to persist in Canada.
- The NAP-HT was governed by a working-level committee that was effective as a hub for federal partners to share information and report on progress. Interviewees suggested that there might be a need for a higher-level engagement structure to provide oversight and strategic direction.
- Progress was made to raise awareness, provide training for government officials and criminal justice personnel. Measures were taken to identify and protect foreign nationals. Funding was available for projects to support victims.

- Potential victims and Canadian citizens do not have access to a dedicated national hotline. The evaluation concluded that a national hotline would enhance accessibility for potential victims and Canadian citizens to report instances of HT, to seek support and will help collect data to better understand the scope and nature of HT issues.
- The NAP-HT had a limited contribution to the investigation and prosecution of HT crimes due to external factors (e.g., jurisdictional constraint, difficulty to collect evidence) that limit the ability of the federal law enforcement to investigate and prosecute HT cases.
- There is room for the NAP-HT to strengthen the partnership between the federal government and the provinces and with non-governmental organizations.
- Federal partners indicated they were unable to track NAP-HT expenditures as they did not receive any dedicated funding which made difficult to assess NAP-HT actual costs.

### Recommendations

In collaboration with the participating organizations, the ADM of the Community Safety and Countering Crime Branch of Public Safety Canada should consider to:

1. Developing and implementing a coordinated approach to address the continued need to combat human trafficking taking into account the evaluation findings;
2. Enhancing Canada's response to combat human trafficking by forging closer partnerships with other levels of government, Indigenous communities, civil society, the private sector as well as bilateral and multilateral partners;
3. Implementing a mechanism to connect victims with access to dedicated services and facilitate reporting of human trafficking;
4. Improving capacity to collect national data on human trafficking; and
5. Putting in place a mechanism to collect relevant and reliable performance information, including information on program expenditures to support program management and accountability.