

# International Standard for Counter-Trafficking in Disasters & Humanitarian Crises

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Prepared by Freedom in Disasters in collaboration with partners

THE INTERNATIONAL STANDARD FOR COUNTER-TRAFFICKING IN DISASTERS AND HUMANITARIAN CRISES PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE, OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING RISKS ACROSS ALL PHASES OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION. DEVELOPED BY FREEDOM IN DISASTERS IN COLLABORATION WITH GLOBAL PARTNERS, THE STANDARD TRANSLATES EXISTING INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND HUMANITARIAN GUIDANCE INTO PRACTICAL, FIELD-READY REQUIREMENTS. IT OUTLINES CORE PRINCIPLES, MINIMUM STANDARDS, AND SECTOR-SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO SUPPORT COORDINATED, SURVIVOR-CENTRED, AND RIGHTS-BASED RESPONSES IN DIVERSE CRISIS CONTEXTS, INCLUDING DISASTERS, CONFLICT, DISPLACEMENT, AND RECOVERY.

THE STANDARD EMPHASISES EARLY RISK ANALYSIS, SAFE IDENTIFICATION AND REFERRAL, SURVIVOR ASSISTANCE, DATA PROTECTION, AND MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, WHILE PROMOTING INTEGRATION ACROSS SECTORS SUCH AS SHELTER, HEALTH, CHILD PROTECTION, LIVELIHOODS, AND MIGRATION. IT ALSO CLARIFIES THE ROLES OF GOVERNMENTS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND HUMANITARIAN ACTORS, REINFORCING ACCOUNTABILITY, QUALITY ASSURANCE, AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT. DESIGNED FOR ADAPTATION ACROSS VARIED OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS, THIS STANDARD SERVES AS A CRITICAL TOOL TO STRENGTHEN PROTECTION SYSTEMS, REDUCE VULNERABILITY, AND ENSURE THAT HUMANITARIAN RESPONSES ACTIVELY PREVENT EXPLOITATION WHILE SUPPORTING THE SAFETY, DIGNITY, AND RECOVERY OF SURVIVORS.

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# Abbreviations and Key Terms

## Abbreviations

- CHS** – Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability
- CPMS** – Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action
- ICRC** – International Committee of the Red Cross
- IOM** – International Organization for Migration
- NGO** – Non-Governmental Organization
- OHCHR** – Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- SOPs** – Standard Operating Procedures
- UN** – United Nations
- UNHCR** – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- UNICEF** – United Nations Children’s Fund
- UNODC** – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

## Key Terms

### **Accountability**

The responsibility of organisations to ensure that humanitarian action is conducted ethically, effectively, and transparently, including the responsible use of resources and the establishment of accessible feedback and complaints mechanisms for affected populations.

### **Child**

Any person under the age of 18 years, in accordance with international law.

### **Child Protection**

The prevention of and response to abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence against children in humanitarian and development contexts.

### **Child Trafficking**

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation. For children, the presence of coercion, deception, or force is not required.

### **Community Engagement**

A continuous, collaborative process that enables affected populations to participate in decision-making, programme design, implementation, and feedback, ensuring that responses are relevant, inclusive, and accountable.

### **Coordination**

The systematic organisation of humanitarian actors, governments, and other stakeholders to ensure coherent, effective, and complementary responses, avoiding duplication and gaps.

**Disaster**

A serious disruption to the functioning of a community or society causing widespread human, material, economic, or environmental losses which exceed the ability of the affected population to cope using its own resources.

**Displacement**

The forced or voluntary movement of persons from their homes or habitual residence, including internal displacement and cross-border movement, often resulting from disasters, conflict, or other crises.

**Do No Harm**

A fundamental humanitarian principle requiring that actions avoid exposing individuals or communities to further risk, harm, or exploitation.

**Exploitation**

The act of taking unfair or unjust advantage of a person for personal or commercial gain, including but not limited to forced labour, sexual exploitation, servitude, and exploitative recruitment practices.

**Forced Labour**

All work or service exacted from any person under the threat of a penalty and for which the person has not offered themselves voluntarily.

**Human Trafficking (Trafficking in Persons)**

As defined in the Palermo Protocol (2000): the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons, by means of threat, use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, or vulnerability, for the purpose of exploitation.

**Humanitarian Action**

Actions undertaken to save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity during and after crises, guided by humanitarian principles.

**Identification (Safe Identification)**

The process of recognising potential victims of trafficking using ethical, rights-based, and trauma-informed approaches that prioritise safety and do not increase risk.

**Information Management**

The collection, storage, processing, and sharing of data in a manner that ensures confidentiality, data protection, and the safety of individuals.

**Informed Consent**

The voluntary agreement of an individual based on a clear understanding of the purpose, risks, and implications of an action, with the option to refuse or withdraw.

**Livelihoods**

The capabilities, assets, and activities required for a means of living, including income generation, employment, and access to resources.

**Migration**

The movement of persons within a country or across international borders, whether voluntary or forced, temporary or permanent.

**Protection**

All activities aimed at ensuring full respect for the rights of individuals in accordance with international human rights, humanitarian, and refugee law.

**Referral Pathway**

A structured process through which individuals are safely connected to appropriate services, including protection, health, legal, and psychosocial support.

**Survivor-Centred Approach**

An approach that prioritises the rights, safety, dignity, and informed choices of survivors, ensuring that assistance is respectful, non-discriminatory, and responsive to individual needs.

# Foreword

This Standard has been collaboratively designed by Freedom in Disasters with partners and tested since 2023. It is intended to support humanitarian organisations, governments, law enforcement agencies, and civil society partners in preventing and responding to human trafficking risks before, during, and after disasters and humanitarian crises.

Human trafficking is a grave violation of human rights, commonly occurring in relation with modern slavery or slave trade which is explicitly prohibited under Art. 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948). Nonetheless, human trafficking continues to exist and can intensify when disasters, displacement, conflict, climate shocks, and recovery-related economic disruption weaken protection systems and increase vulnerability (UNODC, 2024; IOM, 2024). Humanitarian action can reduce trafficking risk, but only if protection is integrated into preparedness, response, recovery, and reintegration from the outset (Sphere Association, 2018; UNHCR, 2024). The protection gaps progression, as illustrated in *Figure 1*, highlights how traffickers utilise disasters and humanitarian crisis to their advantage, in particular in communities where pre-existing vulnerabilities are prevalent (see *Figure 1*).

## The Protection Gaps Progression



*Figure 1: The Protection Gap Progression*

This Standard complements, and does not replace, existing humanitarian standards and protection frameworks, including the Sphere Handbook, the Core Humanitarian Standard, the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, UNHCR protection guidance, the ICRC Professional Standards for Protection Work, and UNODC trafficking frameworks (Sphere Association, 2018; CHS Alliance, 2014; The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, 2019; UNHCR, 2024; ICRC, 2024; UNODC, 2024).

## 2. Purpose

The purpose of this Standard is to establish minimum requirements and recommended good practice for preventing trafficking, reducing vulnerability, identifying risk, and supporting survivors during disasters and humanitarian crises (UNODC, 2024; IOM, 2024). It is intended to support internal policies, standard operating procedures, staff training, referral systems, coordination mechanisms, and accountability frameworks (Sphere Association, 2018; CHS Alliance, 2014).

This Standard is not a legal instrument and does not create new legal obligations. Rather, it is an international policy tool which translates current best practice into operational guidance that can be adapted by humanitarian organisations, governments, and law enforcement agencies according to context, mandate, and law (UNHCR, 2024; ICRC, 2024). Nonetheless, this document underlines the gravity of offenses to the safety and personal freedoms of individuals which human trafficking poses and strongly appeals to all states to honour the commitments they have made under international law to protect their citizens of such offenses.

## 3. Scope

This Standard applies to rapid-onset disasters, slow-onset disasters, conflict-related emergencies, displacement, mixed migration, protracted crises, and recovery periods where trafficking risks persist or intensify (UNODC, 2024; IOM, 2024). It applies to all forms of trafficking, including sexual exploitation, forced labour, forced criminality, domestic servitude, child trafficking, debt bondage, exploitative recruitment, and online-facilitated exploitation (UNODC, 2024). It aims to be a guidance for the trafficking source - and destination jurisdictions, as well as all stakeholders who can intervene along the migration routes.

The Standard is intended for use by humanitarian organisations, national and local authorities, law enforcement agencies, child protection systems, labour inspectors, health providers, camp or settlement actors, and community-based organisations. It is suitable for countries with strong institutions and for contexts where state systems are overstretched, fragmented, or partially functional (UNHCR, 2024; ICRC, 2024).

## 4. Relationship to other standards

This Standard is designed to integrate with existing frameworks rather than operate in isolation. It aligns with the Sphere Handbook, particularly the emphasis on humanitarian principles, protection, participation, accountability, and quality of assistance (Sphere Association, 2018). It also aligns with UNHCR's protection leadership approach, which

stresses rights-based, community-based, and coordinated protection for displaced and stateless people (UNHCR, 2024).

For child protection, this Standard should be read alongside the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, which provide the core child-protection architecture for humanitarian settings and address prevention, integration with other sectors, and child-specific protection risks (The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, 2019). For trafficking analysis, trend monitoring, and criminal justice coordination, it should be used alongside UNODC guidance and the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, which identifies climate, conflict, poverty, and displacement as major drivers of vulnerability (UNODC, 2024).

This Standard functions as a trafficking-specific layer across broader humanitarian, protection, child protection, migration, and justice frameworks. Its success depends on integration into existing policies, SOPs, referral systems, and coordination mechanisms rather than standalone use (ICRC, 2024; UNHCR, 2024; Sphere Association, 2018).

## 5. Normative basis

This Standard is grounded in international human rights law, including but not limited to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1949), the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others (1949), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1986), the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) and its 1967 Protocol, and the Palermo Protocol (2000) adopted as part of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000), as well as the UN Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking (OHCHR, 2002), and applicable refugee, labour, and humanitarian law (UNODC, 2024; UNHCR, 2024). It is also informed by the Sphere Handbook's Humanitarian Charter and Protection Principles, the Core Humanitarian Standard, CPMS, and professional protection standards used by humanitarian and human rights actors (Sphere Association, 2018; CHS Alliance, 2014; The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, 2019; ICRC, 2024).

Where national law provides stronger protection, actors should apply the higher standard. Where national law is weak, inconsistent, inaccessible, or creates risk of harm, organisations should apply the most protective lawful practice possible, while prioritising survivor safety, dignity, and confidentiality (UNHCR, 2024; ICRC, 2024).

## 6. Core principles

All actors implementing this Standard shall apply the following principles:

- Respect of fundamental human rights, including dignity, and non-discrimination.
- Survivor-centred and child-centred practice.

- Do no harm.
- Confidentiality and informed consent.
- Safety, dignity, and access to remedy.
- Participation of affected communities.
- Accountability and transparency.
- Localisation and respect for context.



*Figure 2: Standard Core Principles*

It is important to note that these principles should be followed in coordination with competent authorities without compromising survivor safety (Sphere Association, 2018; UNHCR, 2024; The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, 2019). Collaboration and ensuring organisational interoperability is considered essential for effective Standard integration.

These principles (as illustrated in **Figure 2**) are operational requirements, not aspirational statements. They must shape assessment, communications, referral, case handling, information management, safeguarding, and advocacy (CHS Alliance, 2014; ICRC, 2024).

## 7. Minimum requirements

The following minimum requirements (as illustrated in **Figure 3**) establish a practical and rights-based foundation for preventing and responding to human trafficking in humanitarian and emergency settings. They are designed to ensure that all actors; regardless of context, capacity, or the presence of formal coordination structures; can take immediate, consistent, and effective action to reduce risk, identify and protect survivors, and support safe recovery pathways. Grounded in established humanitarian standards and protection principles, these requirements emphasise coordination, preparedness, survivor-centred approaches,



*Figure 3: Minimum Standard Requirements*

and accountability to affected communities, recognising that timely and well-integrated responses are critical to preventing exploitation and safeguarding those most at risk.

## 7.1 Leadership and coordination

Every response should designate a counter-trafficking focal point or function within the coordination structure, regardless of whether a formal cluster system exists. Counter-trafficking should be integrated into protection coordination, disaster management, contingency planning, and relevant migration or child protection mechanisms (UNHCR, 2024; The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, 2019).

A coordination map should identify the roles of humanitarian actors, government agencies, police, child protection services, health providers, labour inspectors, and legal aid actors. In non-cluster settings, organisations should establish a practical coordination forum or referral table and not delay action because a formal humanitarian architecture is absent (Sphere Association, 2018; UNHCR, 2024).

## 7.2 Risk analysis and preparedness

Organisations shall conduct trafficking risk analysis before and during emergencies. Risk analysis should include pre-existing trafficking trends, displacement routes, livelihood disruption, documentation loss, family separation, gendered harms, disability barriers, child protection risks, and the exploitation risks emerging in recovery economies (UNODC, 2024; IOM, 2024).

Preparedness should include staff training, communications protocols, referral mapping, safe shelter considerations, data protection arrangements, and continuity planning for protection services. Organisations should integrate counter-trafficking into emergency preparedness, business continuity, and response planning wherever possible (Sphere Association, 2018; CHS Alliance, 2014).

## 7.3 Safe identification and referral

All frontline staff shall be trained to recognise trafficking indicators and respond without increasing risk. Identification should use trauma-informed, age-appropriate, and culturally safe approaches, and should never rely on coercive screening or discriminatory assumptions about movement status, work history, nationality, or gender (UNHCR, 2024; ICRC, 2024).

Where trafficking is suspected, organisations shall use a safe referral pathway to protection, health, psychosocial support, shelter, child protection, legal aid, and other relevant services. Referral must respect informed consent, except where mandatory reporting obligations for children or imminent serious harm apply under national law (The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, 2019; UNHCR, 2024).

## 7.4 Survivor assistance

Survivors shall have access to immediate safety planning, emergency shelter, food, health care, psychosocial support, interpretation, legal aid, and protection services. Assistance should be non-punitive, gender-responsive, age-appropriate, and disability-inclusive (Sphere Association, 2018; CHS Alliance, 2014).

Return, repatriation, family reunification, and reintegration should occur only when safe, informed, and in the best interests of the survivor or child. No survivor should be compelled to cooperate with criminal proceedings as a condition of assistance (UNHCR, 2024; ICRC, 2024).

## 7.5 Information management

Data collection shall be limited to what is necessary for safety, referral, and service delivery. Personal data must be protected by access controls, secure storage, retention rules, and consent-based sharing arrangements where lawful and safe (UNHCR, 2024; ICRC, 2024).

Agencies should collect aggregate information on trends, risk factors, and service gaps without exposing identity. Information-sharing agreements should be prepared in advance wherever possible, especially for cross-agency, cross-border, and government-to-humanitarian referrals (UNODC, 2024; The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, 2019).

## 7.6 Community engagement

Affected communities shall be meaningfully involved in risk communication, early warning, referral design, and service feedback. Messaging should be accurate, non-alarmist, multilingual, accessible, and adapted to local communication channels and literacy patterns (Sphere Association, 2018; CHS Alliance, 2014).

Community engagement should reach adolescents, women, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, displaced persons, minority groups, and informal workers. Mechanisms should identify harm without exposing people to retaliation, stigma, or exclusion (UNHCR, 2024; ICRC, 2024).

# 8. Sector integration

Effective counter-trafficking action in humanitarian settings requires integration across all sectors, ensuring that risks are identified and addressed wherever people live, move, and access services. The following sector-specific requirements outline how protection from trafficking should be embedded within shelter, health, child protection, livelihoods, and migration responses (as illustrated in **Figure 4**). By aligning sectoral interventions with protection principles, humanitarian actors can reduce vulnerabilities, prevent exploitation,

and ensure that survivors are identified and supported through coordinated, safe, and context-appropriate approaches across the entire response.

## 8.1 Shelter and settlements

Shelters, camps, collective centres, and temporary settlements shall be

designed and managed to reduce trafficking risk. This includes lighting, privacy, secure access, child-safe and gender-sensitive design, complaint channels, and visible but non-threatening protection presence (Sphere Association, 2018; UNHCR, 2024).

## 8.2 Health and psychosocial support

Health actors shall be trained to recognise trafficking-related trauma, injuries, malnutrition, forced labour indicators, sexual violence, and mental health impacts. Survivors must receive trauma-informed care and referral without being forced to disclose more than they wish (Sphere Association, 2018; ICRC, 2024).

## 8.3 Child protection

Child safeguarding is mandatory. Unaccompanied and separated children, children in institutional care, and children placed with unfamiliar caregivers shall be prioritised for tracing and anti-trafficking safeguards (The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, 2019; UNHCR, 2024).

## 8.4 Livelihoods and recovery

Recovery programming shall assess whether cash, livelihoods, debt, recruitment, labour schemes, or migration pathways could increase exploitation risk. Livelihood support should reduce distress and harmful coping strategies, not create new routes to forced labour, debt bondage, or unsafe migration (UNODC, 2024; IOM, 2024).

## 8.5 Migration and cross-border response

Where displacement or migration crosses borders, actors should coordinate safe referral, family tracing, documentation support, and anti-exploitation measures with competent authorities. Border measures should not be the primary anti-trafficking response unless



*Figure 4: Standard Sector Integration*

they are linked to protection safeguards, lawful screening, and referral pathways (UNHCR, 2024; ICRC, 2024).

## 9. Government and law enforcement interface

Governments should integrate counter-trafficking into disaster management law, civil protection plans, social services, labour inspection, and child protection systems. Law enforcement should be trained to use survivor-centred, evidence-aware, and child-sensitive approaches rather than purely punitive approaches (UNODC, 2024; ICRC, 2024).

Humanitarian organisations should not investigate trafficking networks unless they are specifically mandated, legally authorised, and competent to do so. Their role is to protect, refer, preserve safety, and share non-sensitive trend information through lawful channels that do not expose survivors or witnesses to harm (UNHCR, 2024; ICRC, 2024).

## 10. Accountability and quality assurance

Every organisation implementing this Standard should maintain written Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), training records, referral maps, and review procedures. Complaints and feedback mechanisms should be accessible, confidential, and safe for those at risk of retaliation (Sphere Association, 2018; CHS Alliance, 2014).

Monitoring should track activities and outcomes, including training coverage, referral timeliness, service access, survivor feedback, and the extent to which trafficking risks are reduced across the response cycle. Independent review should be used periodically in high-risk or complex settings (ICRC, 2024; UNHCR, 2024).

## 11. Implementation pathway

Implementation should be phased:

- 1. Adapt the Standard to the country context.**
- 2. Map legal, protection, and service pathways.**
- 3. Train staff and partners.**
- 4. Integrate into preparedness and response plans.**
- 5. Test the system through simulation or tabletop exercises.**
- 6. Review after each emergency or serious incident.**

Organisations should adopt this Standard internally through policy, SOPs, partnership agreements, and procurement or safeguarding requirements. Governments may use it as a

benchmark for national disaster preparedness, trafficking prevention, and protection system strengthening (Sphere Association, 2018; UNHCR, 2024; UNODC, 2024).

## 12. Review and revision

This Standard should be reviewed at least every three years, or sooner if there are major developments in humanitarian practice, trafficking trends, legal frameworks, or disaster risk. Revisions should incorporate survivor feedback, implementation evidence, and adaptation lessons from different regions and crisis types.

## Document control

<b>Field</b>	<b>Detail</b>
Title	International Standard for Counter-Trafficking in Disasters and Humanitarian Crises
Version	1.0
Prepared by	Freedom in Disasters
Intended users	Humanitarian organisations, governments, law enforcement agencies, civil society, and coordination bodies
Review cycle	Every three years, or earlier if major evidence or policy changes occur
Status	Draft for consultation and adaptation

## Annex A. Basis and related documents

This Standard is based on, and should be read alongside, the documents and frameworks below. It is intended to bridge these frameworks and translate them into trafficking-specific humanitarian action. Its purpose is integration, not duplication, and its success depends on being embedded into existing policies, SOPs, referral systems, and coordination mechanisms.

CHS Alliance. (2014). **Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability.**

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). (2024). **Professional Standards for Protection Work** (4th ed.).

International Organization for Migration (IOM). (2016). **Human Trafficking in the Context of Natural Disasters.**

International Organization for Migration (IOM). (2024). **Displacement, Migration and Protection Guidance.**

Sphere Association. (2018). **The Sphere Handbook: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response.**

The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. (2019). **Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.**

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). (2024). **Protection Leadership and Humanitarian Protection Guidance.**

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF). (2015). **Child Protection Response in Nepal after the Earthquake.**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). (2024). **Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2024.**

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). (2002). **Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking.**

United Nations (UN). (1948). **Universal Declaration of Human Rights.**

United Nations (UN). (1949). **Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.**

United Nations (UN). (1951). **Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.**

United Nations (UN). (1967). **Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees.**

United Nations (UNODC). (2000). **Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol), supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.**

## Annex B. Case studies

### Nepal earthquake response

Following the 2015 Nepal earthquake, UNICEF reported that 245 children were intercepted from being trafficked or unnecessarily placed in care homes in the months after the disaster. This case illustrates the importance of child protection coordination, early identification, and rapid prevention measures when family separation and disruption are high (UNICEF, 2015; The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, 2019).

### Haiti earthquake aftermath

Post-earthquake Haiti showed how displacement, livelihood collapse, weakened institutions, and migration pressures can drive exploitation risk. The case demonstrates that trafficking risks often emerge through secondary systems such as poverty, documentation loss, and unsafe mobility rather than through a single event alone (IOM, 2016; UNODC, 2024).

### Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan

Research on Typhoon Haiyan suggests that trafficking risk can vary significantly by location and social conditions, with peripheral or displaced communities often facing higher exposure. This supports the need for localised risk analysis rather than generic assumptions about all disaster zones (IOM, 2016; UNODC, 2024).

### Horn of Africa drought and displacement

Drought and displacement in the Horn of Africa have repeatedly created migration pressures and exploitation risks along movement corridors. This case is important because it shows that slow-onset disasters can be just as relevant to trafficking prevention as sudden-onset disasters (IOM, 2024; UNODC, 2024).

## Annex C. Global trafficking examples

The following selected examples show that trafficking is a global issue affecting diverse regions and crisis types:

- **Nepal: post-earthquake child trafficking and unsafe care placement risk** (UNICEF, 2015; The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, 2019).
- **Haiti: disaster-related displacement and exploitation vulnerability** (IOM, 2016; UNODC, 2024).
- **Philippines: disaster-linked vulnerability and localised exploitation pathways** (IOM, 2016; UNODC, 2024).
- **Horn of Africa: climate-related displacement and exploitation along migration routes** (IOM, 2024; UNODC, 2024).
- **Global trend:** UNODC reported a 25 per cent increase in detected trafficking victims in 2022 compared with 2019, with child trafficking and forced labour rising amid poverty, conflict, and climate pressures (UNODC, 2024).

## Annex D. Suggested indicators

The following minimum indicators are suggested in order to measure and progress counter human trafficking measures in relation to disasters; these include:

- **Percentage of staff trained on trafficking risk and referral.**
- **Existence of a current trafficking risk analysis.**
- **Existence of documented safe referral pathways.**
- **Time from identification to safe referral.**
- **Percentage of survivors receiving appropriate services.**
- **Presence and usage of complaints mechanisms.**
- **Number of coordination meetings that include trafficking risk.**
- **Proportion of response plans integrating counter-trafficking** (CHS Alliance, 2014; ICRC, 2024).