

# HOW TO READ A COUNTRY NARRATIVE

This page shows a sample country narrative. The tier ranking justification for each country in this year's report appears in the first paragraph of each country narrative and includes language that explicitly highlights the factors supporting a given tier ranking. The Prosecution, Protection, and Prevention sections of each country narrative describe how a government has or has not addressed the relevant TVPA minimum standards (see pages 45-46), during the reporting period. This truncated narrative gives a few examples.

The country's tier ranking is based on the government's efforts to combat trafficking as measured against the TVPA minimum standards and compared to its efforts in the preceding year.

## COUNTRY X: TIER 2 WATCH LIST

Synopsis of key developments that support the country's tier ranking.

The Government of X does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so. These efforts included undertaking awareness raising efforts and reaffirming its commitment to enact anti-trafficking legislation. However, the government did not demonstrate overall increasing efforts compared to the previous reporting period. The government did not show evidence of overall progress in prosecuting and punishing trafficking offenders and identifying victims of trafficking. Therefore X remained on Tier 2 Watch List for the second consecutive year.

Prioritized recommendations for how the government can better meet the TVPA minimum standards.

**PRIORITIZED RECOMMENDATIONS:**  
Enact the draft comprehensive anti-trafficking law to significantly increase efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenses, convict and punish trafficking offenders, and apply formal procedures to identify and protect vulnerable groups, such as those arrested for prostitution or commercial sex; and collect, disseminate, and enforce counter-trafficking law enforcement data.

Summary of the government's anti-trafficking laws and law enforcement efforts.

**PROSECUTION**  
The Government of Country X decreased efforts to investigate and prosecute trafficking offenses during the reporting period. Country X does not prohibit all forms of trafficking, but it criminalizes slavery under Section 321 and forced labor under Section 322 of its criminal law. The prescribed penalty for forced labor—up to six months' imprisonment—is not sufficiently stringent. Article 297 prohibits forced or coerced prostitution, and the prostitution of a child below age 15 even if there was no compulsion or redress; the prescribed penalty is up to 15 years' imprisonment, which is commensurate with penalties prescribed for other serious crimes, such as rape. Draft revisions to the penal code have not yet been enacted. An unconfirmed report indicates that four traffickers were charged with fraudulently issuing visas to workers who they then exploited. Two were reportedly deported, and two were reportedly convicted. The government did not confirm nor deny the existence of this case. The government did not report any investigations, prosecutions, or convictions of government employees complicit in human trafficking offenses.

TVPA Minimum Standard 4(1) – whether the government vigorously investigates and prosecutes trafficking offenses; convicts and punishes trafficking offenders; and provides data on these actions.

Summary of the government's efforts to ensure trafficking victims are identified and provided adequate protection.

**PROTECTION**  
Country X maintained minimal efforts to protect victims of trafficking during the reporting period. Although health care facilities reportedly refer suspected abuse cases to the government anti-trafficking shelter for investigation, the government continues to lack a systematic procedure for law enforcement to identify victims of trafficking among vulnerable populations, such as foreign workers awaiting deportation and women arrested for involvement in commercial sex; as a result, victims may be punished and automatically deported without being identified as victims or offered protection. The government reported that the Ministry of the Interior has a process by which it refers victims to the trafficking shelter; however, this process is underutilized in practice. The trafficking shelter assisted 24 individuals during the reporting period and provided them with a wide range of services, including full medical treatment and legal and job assistance.

TVPA Minimum Standard 4(2) – whether the government adequately protects victims of trafficking by identifying them and ensuring they have access to necessary services.

Country X commonly fines and detains potential trafficking victims for unlawful acts their traffickers forced them to commit, such as immigration violations and leaving from their sponsors, without determining whether the individuals are victims of trafficking.

TVPA Minimum Standard 4(2) – whether the government ensures victims are not penalized for the unlawful acts their traffickers forced them to commit and encourages victim participation in investigations and prosecutions, including by providing legal alternatives to their removal from the country.

Country X sometimes offers temporary relief from deportation to that victims can testify as witnesses against their employers. However, victims were generally not permitted to leave the country if there is a pending case. The government did not routinely encourage victims to assist in trafficking investigations or consistently offer victims alternatives to removal to countries where they may face retribution or hardship.

**PREVENTION**  
Country X increased efforts to prevent trafficking in persons during the reporting period. While the government made no apparent effort to amend provisions of Country X's sponsorship law to help prevent the forced labor of migrant workers, the government did start to enforce other parts of the law to the benefit of migrant workers. One provision in the sponsorship law continues to require foreign workers to request exit permits from their sponsors in order to leave Country X. Although this may increase migrant workers' vulnerability to forced labor, the law created a new process through which a laborer who was not granted an exit permit due to a sponsor's refusal or other circumstances can seek one by other means. The Ministry of Labor sponsored media campaigns and organized informational workshops for officials, NGOs, and labor recruitment agencies. However, the government did not provide anti-trafficking training or guidance to its diplomatic personnel during the reporting period. The government has a national plan of action to address trafficking in persons, but did not publicly disseminate the plan or take steps to implement it during the reporting period. The government did not implement any public awareness campaigns aimed at reducing the demand for commercial sex acts in Country X, but it convicted two of its nationals for soliciting children for sex in other countries and sentenced them to 10 years' imprisonment.

TVPA Minimum Standard 4(3) – whether the government is making adequate efforts to prevent human trafficking.

Summary of the government's efforts to prevent human trafficking.

**TRAFFICKING PROFILE**  
As reported over the past five years, human traffickers exploit domestic and foreign victims in Country X, and traffickers exploit victims from Country X abroad. Men and women from South and Southeast Asia, East Africa, and the Middle East voluntarily travel to Country X as laborers and domestic servants, but some subsequently face conditions of involuntary servitude. These conditions include threats of legal action and restrictions on freedom of movement, passports and travel documents and In some cases, arriving migrant workers are not permitted to work in their home countries. Domestic servants are particularly vulnerable to exploitation under the provisions of the labor law. The number of foreign workers transit Country X and are forced to work on farms in Country Y. Country X is also a destination for women who migrate and become involved in commercial sex, but the extent to which these women are subjected to sex trafficking is unknown.

TVPA Minimum Standard 4(12) – whether the government has made efforts to reduce the demand for commercial sex acts, and, if applicable, participation in international sex tourism by its nationals.

Overview of human trafficking in the country and factors affecting vulnerability to trafficking of the country's nationals abroad.

TVPA Minimum Standard 4(7) – whether the government has made adequate efforts to address the involvement in or facilitation of human trafficking by government employees.