



**COORDINATION CENTRE ON HUMAN
TRAFFICKING AND MIGRANT SMUGGLING
ARUBA**

Annual Report 2023

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1. INTRODUCTION

This annual report highlights the activities of the National Coordinator on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling (LCMM) and the Coordination Center on Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling Aruba (CMMA) in 2023. It contains an overview of the projects, campaigns and activities carried out by the CMMA in the year 2023 and an overview of the studies, advice and recommendations made by the LCMM in 2023. It also describes the local, regional and international developments in the approach to human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Aruba. The annual report provides a financial statement for the year 2023 and concludes with the priorities for 2024.

In 2023, the CMMA continued its activities in the fight against human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Aruba. The basis for this were the objectives as formulated in the MHMS Action Plan 2018-2022 (also applicable to 2023) and the elaboration of these in the Protocol for Strengthening Border Control Aruba 2023-2029. In addition, the recommendations of the USA Department of State in the Trafficking in Persons Report 2023 have played an important role in the activities carried out by the CMMA.

In 2023, the CMMA has been involved in formalizing the CMMA as an independent department under the Ministry of Justice, commissioning scientific research into topics in the field of human trafficking and migrant smuggling, further developing cooperation with local and regional networks, including the Humanitarian Organizations Platform (HOP), expanding the information and awareness campaign 'Habri bo wowo', providing information and training to government and citizens, realizing a shelter for victims of human trafficking and establish a comprehensive package of services for victims of human trafficking in a 'Standard Operating Procedure' (SOP).

2. THE NATIONAL COORDINATOR FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING, HUMAN SMUGGLING (LCMM)

The National Coordinator on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling (LCMM) investigates developments in the nature, extent and characteristics of human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Aruba. Based on information from many different sources, the LCMM advises the government, governing bodies (stakeholders), NGOs, international organizations, and aid professionals on preventing and combating human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Aruba.

The LCMM evaluates the effects of the policy measures taken by the government and advises on possible adjustments. The LCMM regularly publishes news items, reports on investigations carried out, shares relevant documents and information on training on human trafficking and migrant smuggling on the CMMA website (www.cmmaruba.com).



The LCMM is the representative of Aruba at the local, regional and international level and participates on behalf of Aruba in relevant trainings, meetings and conferences regarding human trafficking and migrant smuggling. The LCMM regularly reports to local, regional and international organizations on the state of human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Aruba. The LCMM ensures local, regional and international cooperation in the field of human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

In addition, the National Coordinator actively provides information on the subject of human trafficking and migrant smuggling by organizing training courses and expert meetings, participating in supervisory committees and presenting research results. The National Coordinator chairs the Taskforce Human Trafficking Human Smuggling Aruba (TMMA) and leads the Coordination Center on Human Trafficking Human Smuggling Aruba (CMMA).

The position of LCMM was held in 2023 by mw. Jeannette Richardson-Baars MA LLM. As of September 2023, she is charged full-time with the position of LCMM.

3. THE COORDINATION CENTRE FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN SMUGGLING ARUBA (CMMA)

The fight against human trafficking and migrant smuggling and the care for victims have shown a development towards further professionalization in recent years. In February 2020, the Coordination Center on Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling Aruba (CMMA) was established with financial support from the Netherlands through the 'Bestedingsplan Vreemdelingenketen 2019-2022', aimed at supporting Aruba in the implementation of tasks and projects related



to the crisis in Venezuela and the associated possible mass migration to Aruba. The CMMA provides permanent support to the National Coordinator and serves as an information point for the general public and governmental services on the subject of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. The CMMA was occupied in 2023 by Ms. Jeannette Richardson-Baars MA LLM (LCMM), Ms. Angela Niemeyer-Persad (Project Leader/Quartermaster) and Ms. Sukyen Croes BA (Consultant IOM/Social Worker).

Based on the Plan of Action on Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling (Plan van Aanpak MHMS) 2018 – 2022, attention was paid to the following topics: (1) prevention and education, (2) administrative approach, (3) criminal law approach and (4) assistance to victims. Measures have been taken in the areas of legislation, regulations, policy and operational activities to intensify the fight against human trafficking and smuggling and make them more effective. Due to the lack of agreement and approval for the 2023-2025 PvA, the PvA MHMS 2018-2022 was also declared applicable for 2023. In 2023, the proposed increase in penalties for human trafficking and two new forms of human trafficking (begging and criminal exploitation) was included in the new version of the Criminal Code of

Aruba. A provision was also included in which the consent of the victim with the exploitation was declared irrelevant.

The CMMA has received additional financial resources for the period 2023-2027 from the 'Protocol Versterking Grenstoezicht Aruba' and was mentioned separately in the Aruba Plan of Action based on the Protocol. The aim of the Protocol is to take measures in the field of border control by investing in the Caribbean countries and to improve cooperation between the governmental services. Based on this Action Plan, additional investments were made in 2023 in information sharing and training on the subject of human trafficking and migrant smuggling and marketing of the CMMA.

The CMMA carries out three tasks: Information, Education and Assistance.

3.1 Information

Within the 'Information' task, the CMMA is engaged in the following activities:

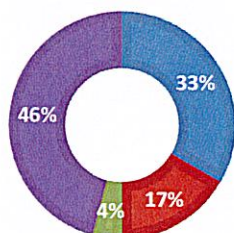
- Registering and referral of information from society about possible human trafficking;
- Conducting research into human trafficking or migrant smuggling-related topics;
- Advising on trends and developments in the field of human trafficking and migrant smuggling;
- Reporting on the state of affairs with regard to human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Aruba;
- Providing relevant information via the websites and social media.

3.1.1 Registration and referral

In 2023, the CMMA received a total of 24 notifications from society about possible cases of human trafficking or migrant smuggling. Of these, 11 cases were reported by individual citizens, 8 cases by government departments, 4 cases by an NGO/IO, and 1 case by a school. In 2023, there was therefore a slight increase in the number of citizens who made a notifications, as well as a slight increase in notifications by NGOs/IO. There were no notifications from the private sector in 2023 and for the first time there were 2 anonymous notifications by citizens.

NOTIFIER

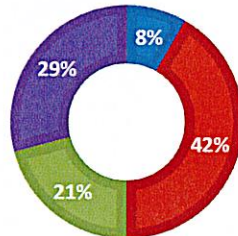
■ Government ■ NGO/IO ■ School ■ Citizen



In most cases, notifications to the CMMA were made via email (10 times), by phone (7 times), via WhatsApp (5 times) and Facebook Messenger (2 times). In 2023, the number of notifications via email and by phone increased and the number of notifications via WhatsApp and Facebook Messenger decreased in 2023, compared to 2022.

WAY OF NOTIFICATION

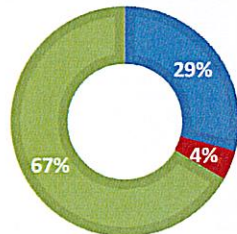
■ Facebook ■ Email ■ Whatsapp ■ Phone



The notifications concerned indicators/cases of human trafficking (7 times), cases of migrant smuggling (1 time) and other cases (16 times). In other cases, notifications were registered where it could not be sufficiently clearly deduced whether it was a case of possible human trafficking or migrant smuggling. All notifications were forwarded to the Joint Intel Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling Unit (JIUMM) for further information gathering and possible forwarding to the Human Trafficking Human Smuggling Unit (UMM) for investigation.

NOTIFICATION CONTENT

■ Human Trafficking ■ Migrant Smuggling ■ Other



In 2023, a total of 12 intake interviews were held by the JIUMM, involving women (8) and men (4) with Colombian nationality and in the age category of 30-39 years old.

3.1.2 Scientific research

The LCMM has the responsibility to provide insight into the issues of human trafficking and migrant smuggling through scientific research, and to offer options to improve the approach to human trafficking and migrant smuggling. This will also give policy officers, academics and students the opportunity to contribute to improving knowledge about and tackling human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

3.1.2.1 Research 'Guarantors'

In 2023, the LCMM, in collaboration with the Chain Manager Venezuela (KMVEN), continued the investigation into the possible link between guarantors and human trafficking. Sponsorship is a system in which a third person (the guarantor) provides financial sponsorship for (1) a foreign national who cannot meet the minimum financial requirement to gain access to Aruba or (2) a foreign national who meets the requirements to leave immigration detention with a reporting obligation.

The aim of the study is to assess the current situation of the existing guarantee procedures in the context of migration and to provide recommendations for improving these processes. In addition, the investigation should indicate the possibilities for tightening up the control and follow-up in this regard in order to exclude any links that could contribute to human trafficking and migrant smuggling. The services involved, the Department of Integration, Management and Admission (DIMAS), the Imigracion Aruba (IA) and the Guarda Nos Costa (GNC) use different guarantor procedures, which make it difficult to check, monitor and enforce these. These existing processes and procedures could in theory contribute to human trafficking and migrant smuggling. This study should be able to show whether or not this is the case.



The research is based on the following questions:

1. To what extent and in what way can the migration procedures used by Aruba with regard to guarantors, tourist extension, immigration detention, reporting obligation and asylum procedure, contribute to human trafficking and migrant smuggling (MSMH)?
2. How can these migration procedures be adapted so that they no longer contribute to human trafficking and migrant smuggling (MHMS)?

The study was completed in 2023 and presented to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice and Social Affairs. The recommendations will be further elaborated in 2023/2024.

3.1.2.2 Research 'Hidden realities on one happy island'

In 2023, the CMMA collaborated in the study 'Hidden realities on one happy island: perspectives on human trafficking, human smuggling, and irregular migration in Aruba' which Ms. Sophie Bettex was commissioned by the Public Prosecutor's Office of Aruba to complete her International Master 'Advanced research in criminology' at the University of Ghent. In addition to describing the perspectives from the government, international organizations and migrants, the research examines

the criminalization of migrants as 'profiteers'. The research describes the vulnerability of migrants to abuse and exploitation as a result of this qualification.

The researcher concludes that the government could seek solutions in: (1) regulating the status of migrants so that they can work legally in sectors that are susceptible to exploitation, (2) creating the possibility of seasonally independent work permits, (3) providing training, integration projects and recognizing already acquired qualifications, (4) ensuring adequate protection of migrants by providing information and accessible procedures and (5) ensuring for plans that reduce the likelihood of abuse of migrants.

3.1.2.3 Research 'Use of social media platforms'

In 2023, three students from the Christian University of Applied Sciences Ede, as part of their Nursing studies with a minor in Human Trafficking, conducted a study into the use of social media platforms by young people in Aruba aged 12-18 years old. The CMMA supported them in this research by providing the relevant information about human trafficking in Aruba. The results were translated into a WhatsApp Infomercial, an Instagram post and flyers about 'lover boys', 'sexting', 'sextortion' and 'grooming' in Papiamentu. These materials have been made available to the CMMA free of charge and have been used, among other things, as inspiration for and part of the awareness campaign 'No Cay Den Trampa' (Don't fall for it) which focuses on the risks of exploitation of young people through social media platforms.



3.1.3 Trends and developments



In 2023, the themes of human trafficking and migrant smuggling received renewed attention at a political level, including through the support of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Justice and Social Affairs to the activities of the CMMA, including the webinars and the National Day against Human Trafficking. There was also regional and international interest in the CMMA in 2023. In January 2023, the CMMA received a visit from Ambassador Tazelaar and was able to exchange ideas with her about improving the approach to human trafficking and human smuggling in Aruba. The Minister of Justice of Curaçao also visited the CMMA with a delegation to exchange views on further cooperation between the two countries in the coming years. In February 2023, the CMMA received a visit from mw. Simone Goosens of the Center for Undermining Curaçao in the context of the start of the Taskforce Administrative Approach Aruba, in which the subject of human trafficking and migrant smuggling also plays a role. In March 2023, the LCMM participated in the discussions with the new ambassador of the United States of America to the Netherlands, Ms. Razdan Dugal, and provided information on the approach to human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Aruba.

The fact that Aruba has an exemplary role in tackling human trafficking and migrant smuggling in the region was also evident in 2023. The CMMA has assisted various other countries within the region by, among other things, helping to develop building blocks for the regional approach to human trafficking and providing training on the subject. In July 2023, the CMMA provided basic training on human trafficking and migrant smuggling to a total of 180 employees of relevant government services in Sint Maarten.

3.1.4 Reports

The CMMA annually reports nationally, regionally and internationally on the state of affairs in the approach to human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Aruba.

3.1.4.1 United States State Department Trafficking in Persons Report



In 2023, the LCMM reported on the state of human trafficking to the U.S. State Department J-TIP Office for its annual 'Trafficking in Persons Report'. Due to the enormous efforts of the partners in 2022 and the realization of almost all objectives from the Plan of Action (PvA 2018-2023), Aruba received the Tier 2 rating in 2023 and was therefore rated better than in the previous year¹. This ranking indicates that Aruba has not yet met all the requirements, but has developed the necessary initiatives and activities to get there. The U.S. State Department judged amongst others that in their opinion, Aruba has identified and assisted more victims of human trafficking, that more screening has been done among vulnerable populations, that the capacity at CMMA and UMM has been expanded, that multiple awareness campaigns have been launched, that a curriculum for the secondary school has been developed, and that further steps have been taken to get the multifunctional shelter operational.

3.1.4.2 European Union GRETA Report

In 2023, Aruba also provided information on the status of tackling human trafficking to the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) in connection with the evaluation of the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Beings² in Aruba. This treaty entered into force for Aruba on May 1, 2015, but Aruba was not approached until 2023 to report on the implementation of the treaty. Following the provision of the requested information for the report in August 2023³, GRETA visited Aruba in the period from 24



¹ https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Trafficking-in-Persons-Report-2023_Introduction-Additional-Pagesv4_FINAL.pdf

² <https://www.coe.int/en/web/impact-convention-human-rights/council-of-europe-convention-on-action-against-trafficking-in-human-beings>

³ <https://rm.coe.int/reply-from-aruba-to-the-questionnaire-for-the-evaluation-of-the-implem/1680aca115>

to 27 October 2023 as part of a 'first site visit'. During these days, discussions were held with the various partners who have a role in tackling human trafficking in Aruba, as well as with NGOs and international organizations⁴. In 2024, GRETA will issue an initial assessment on the approach to human trafficking in Aruba and the implementation of the convention.

In 2023, the CMMA presented its first Annual Report on its activities and results in the calendar year 2022. The Annual Report 2022 can be found on the website www.cmmaruba.com.

3.2 Education

Within the 'Education' task, the CMMA is engaged in the following activities:

- Creating and implementing awareness campaigns on human trafficking and migrant smuggling for the public and visitors;
- Providing information and training on human trafficking and migrant smuggling for citizens, government departments and other organizations;
- Providing information about human trafficking and migrant smuggling in Aruba, and the work of the CMMA through the websites www.habribowowo.com and www.cmmaruba.com.

3.2.1 Awareness campaigns

The CMMA has the task of informing the population of Aruba and visitors about human trafficking and migrant smuggling and does this through awareness campaigns, among other things. In 2023, the CMMA followed up on the awareness campaign 'Habri bo wowo' through a second short film and presented a new campaign called 'No cay den trampa'.

3.2.1.1 Campaign "Habri bo wowo"

The 'Habri bo wowo' campaign continued in 2023 with the premiere of a second film, titled 'Otro banda di e cam', during the National Day Against Trafficking in Human Beings on 18 October 2023. The Prime Minister of Aruba, Ms. Evelyn Wever Croes, and the Minister of Justice and Social Affairs, Mr. Rocco Tjon, gave the introduction speeches during this premiere and many



representatives of the Aruban government, NGOs, international organizations and other partners were present in the main hall of the Gloria theater.

This film focuses on the world of 'sex cams', a growing and almost invisible form of exploitation. The film follows Camila, one of the main characters in the first film from 2021, as she thinks she can escape

⁴ <https://www.coe.int/en/web/anti-human-trafficking/-/greta-carries-out-first-evaluation-visit-to-aruba>

her situation of labor exploitation in Patrona's house. Her friend Genesis introduces her to her boyfriend who then convinces her to perform seductive and sexual acts in front of the camera. As a result, Camila finds herself in a situation of exploitation again. The 'Habri bo wowo' series will be continued and concluded with a third film, which is scheduled for release in 2025. The film 'Otro banda di e cam' can be found on the website www.habribowowo.com.

Part of the awareness campaign is an educational package, aimed at secondary school students between the ages of 12-18, to educate them on the topic of human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Young people are then better able to imagine what another person's situation is, why this person chooses to leave their country, what the situation is in which this person may end up and in what way and why other people take advantage of this situation. Young people gain a better understanding of the themes of human trafficking and migrant smuggling and know how to recognize human trafficking in their own environment. They realize that exploitation is a real risk, against which they can protect themselves and others. From January 2023, the curriculum was introduced by the CMMA in various schools. The teaching package can be downloaded free of charge from the website www.cmmaruba.com.

3.2.1.2 Campaign "No cay den trampa"



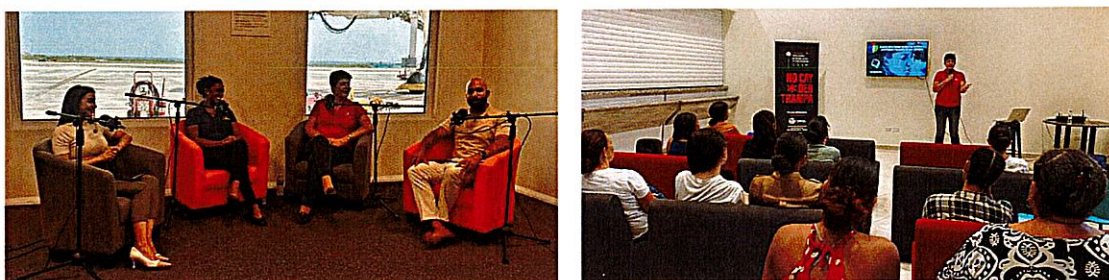
In August 2023, the new campaign titled 'No cay den trampa' (Don't fall for it) was presented to the public in the presence of the Minister of Education and Sports, Mr. Endy Croes. The 'No cay den trampa' campaign aims to inform young people between the ages of 12-18 about the risks of exploitation through social media platforms. Young people have become so accustomed to living with a mobile phone and having contact with friends through social media that they don't think about the potential dangers of it. The campaign was conducted through short clips on social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Particular attention was paid to the dangers of sharing personal information, the sharing of sexually explicit photos or videos (sexting) and the possible consequences thereof (sextorsion). The aim of the campaign was to inform both young people and parents, which is why the website www.cmmaruba.com specific information is given to both groups.

3.2.2 Information sessions and training

Professionals who may come into contact with human trafficking and migrant smuggling must be informed and trained in such a way that they can recognize signs of exploitation. They must be aware of possible exploitation in the risk sectors relevant to Aruba, such as construction, the hospitality industry and the sexual services sector. The CMMA provides these trainings, both nationally and regionally (Caribbean), through information sessions, presentations, lectures, training sessions and webinars.

3.2.2.1 Information sessions

In 2023, the CMMA organized information sessions for the general public and for specific groups or individuals. Special in 2023 were the CMMA's participation in the Aruba Airport Authority's podcast aptly named 'Buckle Up', the participation in an information evening in San Nicolas organized by WeCulture, the participation in the Christmas edition of Nos Mainta together with the Children's Helpline and the information for girls aged 12-18 as part of the Orange Campaign of the Fundación Contra Violencia Relacional (FCVR).



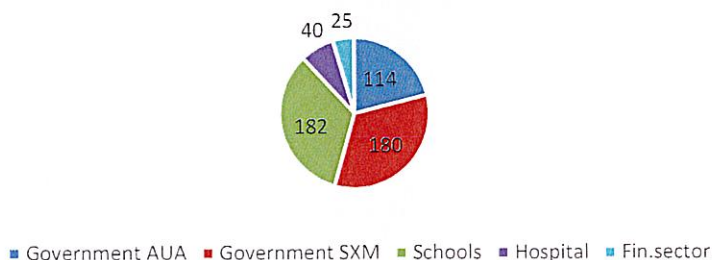
3.2.2.2 Training

In 2023, the CMMA provided various training courses to professionals (government departments and non-governmental organizations) who may come into contact with human trafficking and migrant smuggling. The training courses can be divided into (1) awareness training – aimed at distinguishing between human trafficking and migrant smuggling, recognizing indicators of human trafficking and knowing where to report it, (2) skills training – aimed at learning and practicing skills, for example interviewing a victim taking into account the trauma suffered, and (3) webinars – aimed at informing specific groups on a human trafficking and migrant smuggling related topic through expert speakers.

3.2.2.2.1 Awareness training

In 2023, the CMMA provided awareness training to several groups, including the government of Aruba (DPL 40, Border Police 8, Coastal Surveillance 18, Probation Officers 15, Guarda Nos Costa 33), the government of Sint Maarten (180), secondary schools (182), medical sector (Horacio Oduber Hospital) (40) and the financial sector (Western Union) (25). A total of 541 individuals received awareness training.

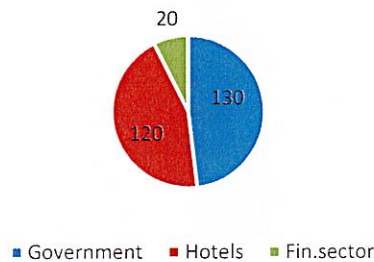
Awareness training



3.2.2.2 Skills training

A total of 270 people received skills training from the CMMA, including the government of Aruba (130), the hotel sector (120) and the financial sector (20). Specific skills, e.g. conversation techniques, are taught and practiced.

Skills training



One of the skills trainings was provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as part of the Track4TIP project, for employees of investigative services who interview victims of human trafficking. This training was a repetition and deepening of the training provided by the UNODC in 2023, focusing in particular on the 'victim-centered-approach' and the 'trauma-centered-approach'.



3.2.2.2.3 Webinars

The CMMA has an important role in the field of informational activities in Aruba, but also in the region. For example, in 2023, the CMMA organized several webinars with guest speakers from various countries. The webinars were aimed at all professionals who may be affected by human trafficking in their daily work. The topics featured in the 2023 webinars were:

- 'Criminal exploitation' (150 participants), speakers: Mr. Bote ter Steege (Attorney General Aruba), Mr. Warner ten Kate (National Coordinating Public Prosecutor Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling Netherlands) Ministry and Ms. Petra Hoekstra (Public Prosecutor)
- 'Influence of the Internet on Human Trafficking' (120 participants), speakers: Ms. Sylvie Bertrand (UNODC Regional Director), Ms. Monica Barrientos (IOM) and Ms. Lisette Reyes (UNODC Specialist)

- 'Cybercrime and human trafficking' (55 participants), speakers: Mr. Isaac Espinoza (Interpol), Mr. Matthieu Michelet (Interpol).



3.3. Assistance

Within the 'Assistance' task, the CMMA is engaged in the following activities:

- Realizing and coordinating an effective and professional reception of and assistance to victims of human trafficking;
- Cooperating with local, regional and international bodies and organizations in the field of human trafficking and migrant smuggling

3.3.1 Coordination of assistance to victims

Trafficking in human beings goes hand in hand with violations of personal and physical integrity. Victims of human trafficking have often had traumatic experiences and the right care and assistance is therefore of great importance. The need to protect victims of human trafficking is enshrined in several international conventions. For example, under the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Human Beings⁵, the country of Aruba has the obligation to provide assistance to victims and to ensure their protection (Articles 6 and 7).

In 2021, a collaboration was established between the CMMA and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to develop a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the identification, screening, protection, assistance, return and reintegration of victims of human trafficking. In 2023, more than 50 people from government departments, NGOs and IOs participated in the workshops/training for the use of the SOP and CMMA Assistance developed an implementation plan for effective assistance to victims of human trafficking. The final result was presented to the Minister of Justice and Social Affairs in 2023. The SOP can be found on the website www.cmmaruba.com.



In 2020, the CMMA entered into a partnership with a local foundation to create a shelter for victims of human trafficking. To this end, the CMMA has made part of their project budget available to this foundation to realize a shelter for 20 victims of human trafficking on their site, two offices for the

⁵ https://www.unodc.org/res/human-trafficking/2021the-protocol-tip_html/TIP.pdf

CMMA and a common room for activities and meetings. In 2023, the first phase of the renovation was completed, but unfortunately it became clear that the second phase of the shelter, which included the shelter for victims of human trafficking, could no longer be realized due to the lack of financial resources due to the huge increase in the price of building materials after the COVID pandemic. The CMMA then agreed with the foundation that the CMMA would be able to use the facilities of the first phase of the renovation, but this was not yet realized in 2023.

3.3.2 Collaboration with partners

The countries of the Kingdom have concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the purpose of intensifying cooperation between the countries and prioritizing the prevention and combating of human trafficking and migrant smuggling in each of the countries. In 2023, the 2019 MOU was evaluated by the National Coordinators of the countries and a new draft MOU was drawn up for decision-making. In the MoU, the countries agree to make efforts to



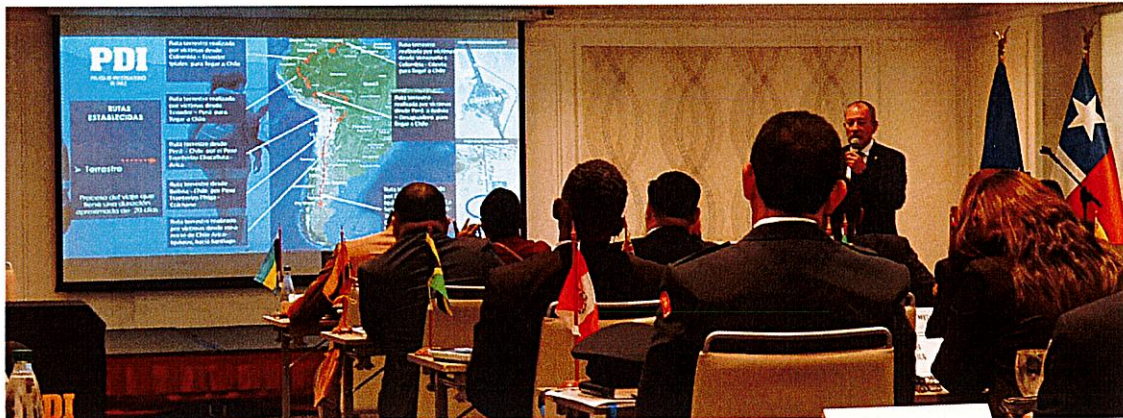
implement and comply with international treaties in laws and regulations. The MoU contains the agreements between the countries on twinning, advice, support and exchange of information. In the meeting of the Judicial Quadrilateral Consultation in January 2023, discussions were held on the new version of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding cooperation in the field of human trafficking and smuggling.



The National Coordinators of Aruba, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, the Caribbean Netherlands and the Netherlands regularly discuss the cooperation between the countries, the priorities of the countries and make recommendations for adapting the cooperation. The consultation of the National Coordinators for Human Trafficking and Human Smuggling in the Kingdom was concluded with an expert meeting in October 2023.

Since 2020, the CMMA has started a collaboration with international organizations and NGOs such as UNODC, IOM, Red Cross Aruba, HIAS, PADF and UNHCR under the name 'Humanitarian Organizations Platform (HOP)'. Regular consultations took place with these organizations in 2023 to strengthen cooperation to prevent vulnerable groups from potentially becoming victims of human trafficking.

In March 2023, the CMMA, together with representatives of the National Central Bureau of Counterterrorism, Security and Interpol, participated in the evaluation meeting in Santiago, Chile, of the multi-year 'Operation Turquesa' in which Aruba collaborated with Interpol to register signs of human trafficking and human smuggling through targeted multi-day actions and to intervene if possible.



4. FINANCING CMMA

In 2023, the CMMA, as a project organization, was funded from various financial sources. The Aruban government has borne the costs for salary, workspace, training rooms and operational costs through the national budget. Through the 'Bestedingsplan Vreemdelingenketen 2019-2023' and the 'Protocol Versterking Grenstoezicht Aruba 2023-2029', financial resources were obtained for the mainly educational and marketing-oriented activities of the CMMA, such as the website, the teaching package, the research, the campaigns and the prostitution project.

5. PRIORITIES FOR 2024

In 2024, the following spearheads, among others, will receive attention as follow-up steps in tackling human trafficking and human smuggling in Aruba and in the protection of victims of human trafficking.

- Formalizing the LCMM and the CMMA under the Ministry of Justice and Social Affairs;
- Expanding the capacity of the CMMA by recruiting an Assistance Coordinator, an Education Coordinator, an Information Coordinator and a Policy Coordinator;
- To obtain sufficient financial resources in the budget so that the fight against trafficking in human beings and smuggling of human beings can continue unabated.
- The realisation and commissioning of a multifunctional location where, among other things, victims of human trafficking can be accommodated;
- Initiating policy proposals, laws and regulations, with the aim of preventing exploitative situations in the vulnerable sectors;
- Conducting and publishing scientific research in the areas relevant to trafficking and smuggling of human beings;
- Strengthening national and international partnerships with government departments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector;

- Increasing awareness and signal recognition of human trafficking and smuggling by providing training, courses and webinars;
- Raising awareness about human trafficking and smuggling among the population through campaigns and social media;
- Elaborating the standard procedure of assistance to victims of trafficking through working arrangements/protocols with the relevant services;
- Effectively coordinating assistance to victims of human trafficking.