

**Human trafficking is an extreme human rights violation and a clear impediment to sustainable development as recognized in Agenda 2030. Achieving SDG Target 16.2 is vital to fully understanding and eradicating human trafficking, especially of the most vulnerable among us – children.**

**Target 16.2:**

**End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.**

**Adopt** an action-oriented approach to prevent human trafficking, which recognizes the systemic issues that create vulnerabilities to exploitation, especially in women and children. Respond to these vulnerabilities through gender sensitive, age-appropriate strategies throughout a person's life-course.

**Adhere** to the recommendations of the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, noting where it connects to Agenda 2030. Abide by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. Ensure universal ratification and full implementation of both.

**Attend** to the urgent need for disaggregated data on the number of victims of human trafficking by age, sex and form of exploitation, as called for in indicator 16.2.2. This is critical to understanding the full scope of human trafficking nationally and internationally, and will help certify that no victim, especially child victims, will be left behind.

**Allocate** significant resources at all levels toward prosecution strategies, which should include, at a minimum, training for police, prosecutors and judges; and investments in partnerships to track traffickers' financial flows. Furthermore, full funding must be granted to comprehensive services, including exit programs, for victims and survivors.

**Address** DEMAND. Without demand there is no trafficking in persons. Addressing this root cause is essential. Demand for high profits, cheap goods and labor, and commercialized sex is the driving force behind trafficking. Ending demand is key to eliminating human trafficking and paving the way to peaceful and sustainable societies.

