

## **Effectiveness of Combat Criminal Act of Trafficking in Persons in Border Areas**

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***Abstract.*** *Human trafficking is a crime that threatens human dignity and poses a serious challenge in border areas, particularly in the Sebatik region, which shares a direct border with Malaysia. This study aims to analyze: (1) the implementation of anti-trafficking (TPPO) measures in the border area; (2) weaknesses in countermeasures undertaken by authorities; and (3) the effectiveness of future anti-trafficking measures. This study uses a normative juridical method supported by secondary data in the form of laws and regulations, scientific literature, and official documents related to the enforcement of the TIP by the Nunukan Police and the West Sebatik Police. The results indicate that the implementation of TIP countermeasures has been carried out through prevention, investigation, inquiry, and cross-agency coordination. However, authorities in the border area face several obstacles such as limited human resources, inadequate facilities and infrastructure, weak supervision of illegal crossings (rat routes), and suboptimal synergy with the community and relevant agencies. Empirical data shows that the Nunukan Police handled 24 cases in 2024 and 18 cases in 2025, indicating that human trafficking (TPPO) practices are still ongoing despite a statistical decline. This study concludes that the effectiveness of TIP prevention efforts is suboptimal due to various structural, substantive, and cultural factors, as outlined in Lawrence M. Friedman's legal system theory. To improve effectiveness in the future, capacity building of the West Sebatik Police, improvements to operational facilities, optimization of cross-sectoral coordination, and strengthening legal awareness among border communities are needed. The results of this study are expected to contribute to the formulation of more effective TIP prevention policies based on victim protection.*

***Keywords:*** Effectiveness; Human; Prevention; Trafficking.

## 1. Introduction

In a state based on the rule of law, law is the main pillar driving the foundations of social, national, and state life. One of the main characteristics of a state based on the rule of law lies in its tendency to assess the actions of its citizens based on legal regulations. This means that a state based on the rule of law always regulates every action and behavior of its citizens based on applicable laws.

Criminal law itself is a tool or means for resolving problems in society. Criminal law can provide justice and appropriate solutions for that society. Criminal law is a set of regulations governing actions, both commanding and prohibiting actions, and prohibiting actions or doing things stipulated in the law, with criminal sanctions for violators.<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, the criminal law applicable in Indonesia can be divided into two types, criminal law known in the Criminal Code (KUHP) and Special Criminal Law which is regulated outside the KUHP.<sup>2</sup>

Criminal law not only provides an understanding of actions prohibited by a legal rule, which prohibition is accompanied by a threat (sanction) in the form of a certain penalty for anyone who violates the prohibition, but also includes matters related to the imposition of penalties and how the penalty can be implemented. The prohibition is directed at actions, a condition or incident caused by a person's behavior or actions. The threat of criminal penalties or sanctions is directed at the perpetrator who commits a criminal act, usually referred to as "whoever", namely the perpetrator of the criminal act as a legal subject, namely the supporter of rights and obligations in the legal field.<sup>3</sup> So that criminal acts are one of the parts studied in criminal law.

Human trafficking is a crime that violates human dignity and goes against humanitarian values. Indonesia, through Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of the Crime of Human Trafficking (UU PTPPO), is committed to eradicating this practice, as it is considered to undermine social order and violate human rights guaranteed by the constitution.<sup>4</sup> Despite a firm legal basis, reality shows that human trafficking practices remain rampant in various regions, particularly in border areas, which are vulnerable due to weak oversight and the complex socio-economic conditions of local communities.<sup>5</sup>

Border areas like Sebatik Island in North Kalimantan have geographic and social characteristics that make them highly vulnerable to human trafficking. Sebatik is

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<sup>1</sup>Rahman Syamsuddin, 2014, Weaving Law in Indonesia, Mitra Wacana Media, Jakarta, p. 192

<sup>2</sup>Rodliyah, 2017, Special Criminal Law: Elements and Criminal Sanctions, 1st Edition, PT. Raja Grafindo Persada, Jakarta, p. 1

<sup>3</sup>Chairul Huda, 2006, From No Crime Without Fault Towards No Criminal Responsibility Without Fault, Kencana Prenada Media, Jakarta, p. 127

<sup>4</sup>Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of the Crime of Human Trafficking

<sup>5</sup>Hukumonline, "Human Trafficking Remains a Challenge for Law Enforcement in Indonesia," 2024.

an island that shares a direct border with Malaysia, with parts of its territory separated only by a narrow sea and land route.<sup>6</sup> These conditions facilitate the movement of people and goods, both legally and illegally. Human trafficking syndicates often exploit this area to illegally send migrant workers to Malaysia, potentially exposing them to exploitation.<sup>7</sup>

As an example of a recent case, in 2024, the North Kalimantan Regional Police (Polda Kaltara) successfully uncovered 33 cases of human trafficking with 193 victims and 39 suspects operating on the Tarakan-Sebatik border route.<sup>8</sup> This case demonstrates that despite police efforts to combat the problem, human trafficking remains rampant in border areas due to economic factors, weak oversight, and increasingly sophisticated criminal methods. In this context, the role of the West Sebatik Police, as the spearhead of local policing, is crucial in ensuring the effective implementation of the Anti-Human Trafficking Law in the field.<sup>9</sup>

In addition to human trafficking cases occurring within the North Kalimantan Regional Police jurisdiction, more specific empirical data shows that the Nunukan Police, under whose jurisdiction the West Sebatik Police Sector is located, also handle a significant number of human trafficking cases. Over the past two years, the Nunukan Police have uncovered numerous cases related to the Human Trafficking Law, the Immigration Law, and the Indonesian Migrant Worker Protection Law (PPMI). The crime patterns discovered include sending non-procedural migrant workers to Malaysia, falsifying travel documents, and exploiting labor in the plantation sector.<sup>10</sup>

In 2024, Nunukan Police handled 24 cases,<sup>11</sup> Meanwhile, in 2025, the number was recorded at 18. This data demonstrates that human trafficking and the sending of undocumented migrant workers through the Sebatik-Malaysia border area continues to occur consistently, despite various prevention and law enforcement efforts.<sup>12</sup>

## 2. Research Methods

In accordance with the title and problems that will be discussed in this researchAndIn order to provide useful results, this research was conducted using normative legal research (normative legal research method). The normative legal

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<sup>6</sup>National Border Management Agency (BNPP), "Sebatik Island Border Area Profile," 2023.

<sup>7</sup>KPAI, "Portrait of the Threat of Child Trafficking in the Tarakan–Nunukan Border Area," 2024.

<sup>8</sup>Tribratanews Kaltara, "Kaltara Police Uncover 33 Human Trafficking Cases with 193 Victims," December 31, 2024.

<sup>9</sup>DetikNews, "Criminal Investigation Agency: West Kalimantan, North Kalimantan, and Riau Islands Regional Police Reveal the Most Human Trafficking Cases," 2024.

<sup>10</sup>Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of the Crime of Human Trafficking.

<sup>11</sup>Nunukan Police Trafficking Handling Report for 2024 and 2025

<sup>12</sup>Ibid

research method is legal research.literatureThis research is conducted by examining library materials or secondary data alone. This research is conducted to obtain materials in the form of: theories, concepts, legal principles, and legal regulations related to the topic.<sup>13</sup>The research specifications used are Descriptive Analytical, namely an effort to analyze and explain legal problems related to object, said to be descriptive, meaningfromThis research is expected to be able to obtain a comprehensive and systematic overview of everything related to this research.

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1. Implementation of Countermeasures Against Human Trafficking in Border Areas

Indonesia's border region is a geographical area with unique characteristics because it lies along the line that separates Indonesia's sovereignty from other countries. Strategically, this region serves not only as a gateway to the country but also as a zone of social, economic, and cultural interaction, as well as the cross-border movement of people and goods.<sup>14</sup>However, this strategic position also brings vulnerability to various transnational crimes, including human trafficking (TPPO).

Vulnerability to human trafficking in border areas is influenced by several key factors. First, the socioeconomic conditions of border communities, which generally enjoy low levels of well-being. Economic disparities between Indonesians and those in neighboring countries often motivate some border residents to seek employment illegally abroad, making them more vulnerable to exploitation by human traffickers.<sup>15</sup>

Second, border areas often have limited surveillance infrastructure. Inadequate guard posts, a lack of transportation for officers, and a lack of biometric detection facilities create opportunities for human trafficking perpetrators to exploit unofficial routes (the "rat routes"). Third, geographical characteristics such as dense forests, mountains, or vast bodies of water make surveillance efforts even more challenging.<sup>16</sup>

Furthermore, the high mobility of people in border areas, both due to kinship ties and informal economic activities, makes it difficult to effectively monitor their movements. This situation is exacerbated by the practice of undocumented migration, which is still considered commonplace by some communities, allowing

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<sup>13</sup>Soerjono Soekanto and Sri Mahmudji, *Normative Legal Research, A Brief Review*, (Jakarta: Raja Grafindo Persada, 2003), p. 13.

<sup>14</sup>Suryadi, *Border Area Security and Its Challenges* (2021), p. 14.

<sup>15</sup>Yuniarti, *Socio-Economic Vulnerability in Border Areas* (2019), p. 55.

<sup>16</sup>BNPP, *Annual Report on Border Management* (2022), p. 22.

recruiters to easily send victims without rigorous vetting.

Based on various studies, the modes of human trafficking at Indonesia's borders include illegal labor deployment, exploitation of children as workers and beggars, sexual exploitation, trafficking for forced marriage, and human smuggling by sea.<sup>17</sup> Trafficking perpetrators operate in an organized manner, have cross-border networks, and exploit weak coordination and oversight. Thus, a general overview of border areas shows that the problem of trafficking cannot be separated from socioeconomic dynamics, infrastructure weaknesses, and complex economic interests.

Sebatik Island is a border island shared between Indonesia (Nunukan Regency, North Kalimantan) and Malaysia (Sabah). This geographic location creates high cross-border mobility, making the area vulnerable to illegal activity, including human trafficking.<sup>18</sup>

The implementation of human trafficking prevention efforts in the border areas under the jurisdiction of the West Sebatik Police and the Nunukan Police is carried out through prevention, investigation, and cross-agency coordination. Data shows that in 2024 there were 24 cases, and in 2025 there were 18 cases. This decrease in numbers does not necessarily mean an increase in the effectiveness of law enforcement, as the methods of crime are increasingly covert. The West Sebatik Police are at the forefront of early detection of illegal crossing activities via sea routes and rat routes. Case handling is carried out based on Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of Human Trafficking, Law Number 6 of 2011 concerning Immigration, and Law Number 18 of 2017 concerning the Protection of Indonesian Migrant Workers.

The data shows that despite a decline in the number of cases, the vulnerability level remains high, particularly in the border area under the supervision of the West Sebatik Police. The police play a role in early detection, monitoring crossing routes, maritime patrols, and coordinating with Immigration, Customs, and other agencies. The decline in cases by 2025 cannot be used as an absolute indicator of success, as the more covert methods require increased investigative capacity.

The implementation of human trafficking prevention efforts in border areas is an implementation of Law No. 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of the Crime of Human Trafficking, various derivative regulations, and cross-sectoral policies involving the central and regional governments. The implementation of prevention efforts encompasses three main components: law enforcement, prevention, and victim protection.

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<sup>17</sup> IOM Indonesia, Trafficking in Persons Report (2020), p. 47.

<sup>18</sup> IOM & UGM, Profile of Human Trafficking in Kalimantan Border Areas, 2024. <https://indonesia.iom.int>

## 1) Law Enforcement

Law enforcement is a key pillar in eradicating human trafficking. In border areas, law enforcement is carried out through collaboration between the Indonesian National Police (Polri), the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI), the Prosecutor's Office, Immigration, the Maritime Security Agency (Bakamla), and regional agencies such as social services and labor agencies. In practice, several activities constitute standard legal enforcement processes, including supervision, investigation, and prosecution.

## 2) Border Surveillance and Patrol

Authorities conduct routine surveillance through land, sea, and air patrols. The Indonesian National Police, through the Border Police and Border Sector Police, patrol cross-border roads, including points frequently used as back-roads.<sup>19</sup> In territorial areas, the Indonesian Army (TNI AD) maintains border security through a border security task force tasked with preventing illegal entry and exit of people. At sea, the Indonesian Navy (TNI AL) and Bakamla (Laboratory Security Agency) conduct water patrols aimed at preventing people smuggling via small boats.

These patrols have been empirically proven to be effective in suppressing several human smuggling methods. However, their success depends heavily on adequate personnel, detection capabilities, and a rapid response to any indication of crime.

### a. Document Examination and Risk Profile Analysis

Immigration plays a central role through document checks. Passports, visas, and other supporting documents are checked, particularly for vulnerable groups such as young women and children. In some cases, immigration officers use profiling systems to identify suspicious travel, recruitment patterns, and potential document forgery.<sup>20</sup>

At borders with modern State Border Crossing Posts (PLBN), inspections are conducted using biometric devices and a centrally connected border control management system. However, at traditional border crossing posts or unofficial routes, similar systems are not available.

### b. Investigation and Probe of Human Trafficking Cases

When indications of human trafficking are found, authorities conduct an investigation through initial interviews, travel background checks, and tracing of the agent or recruiter. If initial evidence is sufficient, investigators from the Women and Children Protection Unit (PPA) or the Regional Police Criminal Investigation Directorate (Ditreskrim) open a formal investigation. The

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<sup>19</sup>Lestari, Border Apparatus Capacity (2022), p. 63.

<sup>20</sup>Directorate General of Immigration, Immigration Supervision Guidelines (2021), p. 38.

investigation focuses on:

- a) Identify the recruiter
- b) Network of field coordinators
- c) Cross-border network
- d) The party that facilitates documents or transportation

Coordination is carried out with Interpol or the police of neighboring countries if there are foreign perpetrators or international networks.<sup>21</sup>

c. Cross-Agency Law Enforcement Coordination

Because human trafficking (TPPO) is transboundary, coordination is key to success. The Indonesian government coordinates through the Task Force for the Prevention and Handling of Human Trafficking (GT-PPTPPO) at the central and regional levels. In border areas, the district/city GT-PPTPPO serves as a coordination point between the police, immigration, social services, the BP2MI (Indonesian Migrant Workers Association), and local governments.

However, in practice, coordination still faces obstacles such as differences in procedures, limited data exchange, and slow bureaucracy.<sup>22</sup>

3) Prevention

Preventive efforts are made to reduce the risk of people becoming victims of human trafficking by increasing legal literacy, awareness, and economic skills.

a. Community Education and Socialization

Local governments, in collaboration with the police, immigration, and community organizations, are conducting outreach on the signs of human trafficking, recruitment methods, and the dangers of illegal migration. Outreach is conducted in schools, village halls, places of worship, and fishing communities.<sup>23</sup>

Although this education has had a significant impact in increasing public awareness, the wide coverage area means that not all border villages receive the program equally.

b. Improving the Quality and Access to Information

Posters, billboards, and banners warning of the risks of human trafficking have been installed at small ports, border markets, terminals, and departure points. Furthermore, the government has developed a reporting hotline and an online

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<sup>21</sup>Interpol Indonesia, Cross-Border Crime Report (2020), p. 19.

<sup>22</sup>GT-PPTPPO, National Evaluation of Handling of TPPO (2021), p. 11.

<sup>23</sup>Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Anti-TPPO Village Program (2022), p. 5.

application to facilitate public reporting. However, utilization remains low due to limited digital literacy among border communities.

### c. Strengthening the Economy of Border Communities

One of the main causes of people becoming entangled in human trafficking is low income and limited employment options. Therefore, economic empowerment programs are a crucial part of prevention. Programs include: job skills training, capital assistance for MSMEs, entrepreneurship, Community based labor intensive program. However, many programs are not sustainable or not well-targeted, so their effectiveness is still limited.

### 4) Protection and Rehabilitation of Victims

The government has implemented various efforts to combat human trafficking (TPPO) at the border, but their effective implementation still faces various obstacles. These weaknesses are structural, technical, and cultural. Understanding these weaknesses is crucial for identifying loopholes exploited by perpetrators of human trafficking and for formulating strategies to improve future countermeasures.

In general, the weaknesses in combating human trafficking in border areas can be classified into six main aspects: limited human resources, weak coordination between institutions, inadequate supporting facilities and infrastructure, weak data collection systems, low public awareness, and the potential for abuse by officials. The following is a specific description of each aspect.

#### 1. Limited Human Resources

Limited human resources are the most fundamental obstacle in combating human trafficking. According to the National Agency for Border Control (BNPP) report, the number of border control officers is disproportionate to the size of the territory they must protect.<sup>24</sup> Official border crossing posts have a limited number of officers, while widespread rat lines require intensive supervision.

Some obstacles that often arise:

##### 1) The number of personnel is inadequate.

In some cases, a single post is manned by only two to five officers, who must monitor the movement of hundreds of people daily. This situation results in ineffective supervision, especially during peak hours or at night.

##### 2) Lack of technical expertise.

Not all officers have specialized training in human trafficking victim identification,

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<sup>24</sup>BNPP, Report on Strengthening Border Surveillance (2022), p. 44

cross-border investigations, or counterfeit document analysis. Yet human trafficking crimes are increasingly complex and require advanced investigative skills.

3) The rotation of officers is too fast.

Officers stationed at the border often undergo short-term rotations so that their experience cannot be optimally utilized.

4) Lack of psychological and logistical support.

Border deployments are often high-stress, yet mental health and logistical support for officers tends to be minimal.

The above limitations impact the effectiveness of victim identification and the slow response to suspected human trafficking.

## 2. Suboptimal cross-agency coordination

Human trafficking (TPPO) is a crime with cross-sectoral and cross-border characteristics. Therefore, coordination is vital. However, in practice, coordination between the National Police, Immigration, the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI), local governments, the Social Services Agency, the Indonesian Migrant Workers Association (BP2MI), and the TPPO Task Force does not always run smoothly.

Some forms of coordination barriers:

a. Fragmentation of authority.

Each agency has different internal regulations, so the information exchange process is often hampered.

b. Lack of real-time information sharing mechanisms.

Information regarding recruitment networks, vulnerable points, and new methods of human trafficking is not always communicated quickly between agencies.

c. There is no integrated SOP for cross-border handling.

Each agency often uses its own procedures in handling TPPO cases.

d. Constraints in relations with neighboring countries.

Cross-border cooperation in investigations, arrests, or repatriations can sometimes take a long time because they have to go through formal diplomatic

procedures.<sup>25</sup>

e. Low intensity of coordination meetings.

Regional GT-PPTPPO are often inactive due to budget limitations and minimal regional initiatives.

Weak coordination allows perpetrators of human trafficking to exploit gaps between institutions by moving from one region to another or using networks abroad.

### 3. Limited Infrastructure and Supporting Facilities

Surveillance facilities in border areas remain inadequate compared to the complexity of the human trafficking threat. Some border posts lack biometric detection devices, high-quality CCTV equipment, or satellite-based monitoring systems.

Major weaknesses include:

- 1) The development of Cross-Border Posts (PLBN) is uneven. Only a few border areas have modern PLBNs, while most other posts remain traditional and have very minimal facilities.<sup>26</sup>
- 2) Limited communication facilities. Internet networks and radio signals are often unstable, frequently hampering field coordination.
- 3) Lack of operational vehicles. Many posts only have one patrol vehicle, making them unable to cover the entire surveillance area.
- 4) The lack of an integrated marine monitoring system in coastal areas opens up opportunities for perpetrators to enter and exit using small boats without detection. This infrastructure situation prevents authorities from conducting comprehensive, real-time monitoring.

### 5) Weak Case Data Collection and Documentation System

Data collection on human trafficking cases, including victims, perpetrators, and crime routes, has not been integrated nationally. The UNODC notes that Indonesia still has significant data gaps in human trafficking cases, particularly in border areas.<sup>27</sup>

Weaknesses of data systems include:

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<sup>25</sup>Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Diplomacy in Handling Cross-Border Human Trafficking (2021), p. 12

<sup>26</sup>Ministry of PUPR, Integrated PLBN Development (2020), p. 7

<sup>27</sup>UNODC, ASEAN Trafficking Data Gaps (2020), p. 17.

- a) There is no single database that can be accessed by the Police, Immigration, Social Services, and BP2MI together.
- b) Data collection is not standardized, so data from one agency is often incompatible with other agencies.
- c) Lack of digital technology for victim documentation, especially for children who do not have identity documents.
- d) Mapping human trafficking patterns is difficult because data across provinces and countries is not linked. Incomplete data prevents prevention policies from being based on strong empirical evidence.

#### 6) Low Awareness of Border Communities

Border communities are the most vulnerable group to becoming victims because: Low legal literacy, Limited education, Weak economic conditions, Cross-border movements are considered normal

#### 4. The Potential for Official Misconduct (Petty Corruption)

Several reports indicate alleged irregularities by officials in border areas. These irregularities include:

- a. Giving "travel money" to certain officers so that victims can pass without complete documents.
- b. Tolerance of suspicious activities due to social relations between authorities and local recruiters.
- c. Collusion between perpetrators of human trafficking and private sector employees, such as travel agents or ticket sellers.<sup>28</sup>

Such deviations can undermine the integrity of countermeasures efforts and strengthen TPPO networks.

#### **3.2. Effectiveness of Combating Human Trafficking Crimes in Border Areas in the Future**

Effective future countermeasures against human trafficking require strengthening legal structures, increasing the number and capacity of investigators, improving maritime patrol facilities, strengthening inter-agency coordination, and raising public awareness. Data from the past two years shows that the threat of human trafficking remains high despite declining case numbers, necessitating a more comprehensive, community-based prevention strategy.

The effectiveness of combating human trafficking (TPPO) in border areas is

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<sup>28</sup>Transparency International, Border Corruption Risks (2018), p. 29.

determined not only by the implementation of current policies, but also by the ability of the government and other stakeholders to formulate long-term strategies that adapt to the dynamics of transnational crime. This section outlines the prospects for the effectiveness of TIP countermeasures by assessing aspects that need to be strengthened and potential improvements that can be implemented in the future.

The effectiveness of TPPO prevention can be seen from several aspects:

- 1) Decrease in human trafficking cases in border areas
  - a. Data from the West Sebatik Police shows that from 2022 to 2025, there was an increase in the disclosure of human trafficking cases of approximately 35%.<sup>29</sup>
  - b. Joint operations and routine patrols have been proven to reduce the non-procedural departure of Indonesian migrant workers to Malaysia via illegal routes.<sup>30</sup>
- 2) Success of law enforcement and prosecution of perpetrators
  - a. West Sebatik Police have succeeded in prosecuting perpetrators of illegal recruitment, with the number of suspects increasing every year.<sup>31</sup>
  - b. However, the effectiveness of the law is still limited by constraints on the court process and sentences that often do not correspond to the maximum criminal penalty.<sup>32</sup>
- 3) Protection and recovery of victims
  - a. The BP3MI shelter provides psychological recovery and social reintegration for victims.
  - b. Despite limited capacity, this approach has shown positive results in preventing re-exposure of victims to the risks of human trafficking.<sup>33</sup>
- 4) Community participation and public education

Public awareness of the risks of human trafficking is increased through routine outreach, local campaigns, and outreach by authorities.

This education program has successfully increased case reporting and reduced

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<sup>29</sup>West Sebatik Police, 2022–2025 Annual Report on Human Trafficking, 2025.

<sup>30</sup>IOM & UGM, Profile of Human Trafficking in Kalimantan Border Areas, 2024.

<sup>31</sup>West Sebatik Police, 2022–2025 Annual Report on Human Trafficking, 2025.

<sup>32</sup>Rahmat Sutiyono (2025), “Analysis of the Effectiveness of Criminalization of Human Trafficking Perpetrators in North Kalimantan.” *Journal of Legal Dimensions*, pp. 45–60.

<sup>33</sup>Tribbratanews Sampang, “National Police Uncover 9 Cases of Human Trafficking in Illegal Placement of Indonesian Migrant Workers in North Kalimantan,” 2025

public acceptance of illegal recruiters.<sup>34</sup>

5) Cross-agency coordination

The joint operation between the Indonesian National Police, Immigration, the Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI), and the Indonesian National Agency for the Protection of Human Rights (BP3MI) demonstrated synergy, although improvements in information integration and procedures between agencies are still needed.<sup>35</sup>

**Future Effectiveness Enhancement Strategies**

The effectiveness of TPPO prevention in the future can be increased through:

1) Strengthening border surveillance

Adding personnel, facilities and surveillance technology (e.g. CCTV at border crossings) to close off the rat routes.<sup>36</sup>

2) Increasing law enforcement capacity

Training of local officials regarding identification of human trafficking cases, investigations, and coordination with the courts to ensure that verdicts are in accordance with the Human Trafficking Law.

3) Expansion of victim protection

Adding shelters and socio-economic reintegration programs, and strengthening psychological services, especially for child victims of human trafficking.<sup>37</sup>

4) More integrative cross-agency coordination

Establishment of an integrated information system on human trafficking to share data between the Indonesian National Police, Immigration, the Indonesian National Armed Forces, and the Indonesian National Agency for the Protection of Human Rights (BP3MI) to ensure faster and more targeted operations.

5) Community education and empowerment

Raising public awareness about procedural migration, the risks of human trafficking, and migrant workers' rights through social media, schools, and

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<sup>34</sup>Tribratanews Kaltara, "Public Education to Increase Awareness of Human Trafficking at the Border," 2024.

<sup>35</sup>KPAI, "Portrait of the Threat of Child Trafficking in the Nunukan Border Area," 2024.

<sup>36</sup>Antara Kaltara, "BP3MI Intensifies Rat Route Patrols in Sebatik," 2024.

<sup>37</sup>Tribratanews Sampang, "National Police Uncover 9 Cases of Human Trafficking in Illegal Placement of Indonesian Migrant Workers in North Kalimantan," 2025

community forums.<sup>38</sup>

#### 6) Bilateral cooperation with Malaysia

Strengthening the MoU regarding the handling of cross-border human trafficking, including procedures for the repatriation of victims and law enforcement against perpetrators.

Analyzing the effectiveness of human trafficking (TPPO) prevention efforts in border areas must consider structural, policy, institutional, social, and technological factors that influence successful implementation. This effectiveness assessment is conducted by reviewing the extent to which current policies have reduced the number of TIPs, improved victim identification, strengthened inter-agency coordination, and achieved safer border conditions.

Overall, the implementation of human trafficking prevention efforts in West Sebatik has demonstrated moderate effectiveness, with significant success in enforcement operations, victim rescues, and community outreach. However, this effectiveness remains limited by resource constraints, inter-agency coordination, and socio-economic factors. With the implementation of appropriate improvement strategies, the effectiveness of human trafficking prevention efforts in the future has the potential to significantly increase.

#### 4. Conclusion

TIP prevention efforts have been implemented through preventive, repressive, and coordinated actions. The West Sebatik Police and related officers have conducted investigations, inquiries, sea/land patrols, legal outreach, and collaboration with local governments, immigration, and the TIP task force. However, the implementation still faces various obstacles in the field. Limited human resources and infrastructure at the border police station, including a lack of personnel and surveillance equipment, Sebatik's open geographical conditions, so that many back routes are used by TIP syndicates, the perpetrators' modus operandi continues to develop, including the use of social media and cross-border networks, Lack of coordination between institutions, both national and international, Economic factors of the community, especially poverty and low education, which make residents vulnerable to being recruited as victims.

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