



Coalition Dynamics in Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts:

Understanding the Engagement of Coalition Actors in Implementing the
Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Act of 2022 in Sierra Leone

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Abstract

This study investigates how coalition actors collaborate in implementing the Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Act of 2022 in Sierra Leone. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 19 actors from both governmental and non-governmental institutions in triangulation with 7 reports and policy documents about the implementation process. In this study, the findings suggest that coordination and collaboration are important in implementing this new act in Sierra Leone. Private-public partnership as a strategy goes beyond financial commitment, since governmental and non-governmental actors do meet and provide effective solutions to counter human trafficking through the implementation of this act. However, despite these efforts the findings further show that differences in implementation frameworks between organisations affects collaboration between coalition actors. The study concludes that private-public partnerships and well-coordinated meetings are very essential strategies used by coalition actors in their collaborative efforts to implement the act, despite their differing approaches.

Keywords: Coalition, Collaboration, Anti-human trafficking, Act, Implementation, Sierra Leone.

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Chapter One

1. Introduction

Since the early 2000s, Human trafficking as a phenomenon has raised a greater amount of public attention from law enforcement, anti-trafficking advocates, and policymakers, to community groups (Hounmenou, 2019). As a whole, governments and nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) alongside intergovernmental agencies around the globe have been working continually to put a stop to these abuses and help those who have been affected by this phenomenon (Foot et al., 2019). According to the UN Protocol to Prevent and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women, and Children (2000), “human trafficking” is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons through inhumane means like abduction, fraud, coercion for an undignified forced labour or sexual exploitation.

Various efforts have been made across West Africa to implement well-disciplined legislations to control the trafficking of persons, especially women and children. According to a report from the US Embassy in Sierra Leone (2020), in the past two decades, reports on Human trafficking have successfully upheld anti-trafficking norms and guidelines. Most importantly, positive approaches have been highlighted, new issues and patterns have been identified, and the progress of significant developments such as the adoption of well-articulated anti-trafficking laws and the advancement of victim identification efforts have been reported. This is more evident in the Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Act (2022) in Sierra Leone; which defines and criminalises various forms of human trafficking (including migrant smuggling), imposes severe penalties, provides victims support and protection as well as setting up of administrative structures to administer and implement anti-trafficking measures stipulated in this act.

Despite the efforts being made to pass and enact this new act, which enhances the prosecution of suspected criminals and increases penalties for traffickers (US Department of State, 2023), Sierra Leone remains in the limelight for trafficking activities. Both adults and children have been trafficked out of the country for different purposes such as prostitution, labour, services as child soldiers, and adoption. Therefore, civil society organisations have been remarking that

trafficking is “an emerging issue” that has long existed in Sierra Leone, even though it has taken a new frame nowadays. According to Thewell (2021), Sierra Leoneans (adults and children) are trafficked internally and abroad, primarily from rural areas to towns and cities, who are used for various exploitative purposes, such as forced labour, prostitution, and used as child soldiers.

Notwithstanding, in the fight against Human trafficking, various organisations mobilised to form a united force in advocating for stricter policy measures. Schlager (1995) asserts that advocacy coalitions completely refute the single organisation and/or programme approach common in mainstream political science and show the value of multiple organisations, programmes, and approaches from the governmental level to long-term policy formulation and implementation. Practitioners and academics use terms such as alliance, collaboration, coalition, and partnership in addition to network to characterise these types of multi-organizational formations; these terms are sometimes used interchangeably and/or separately (Pugel et al., 2020). For this thesis, these terms will be used interchangeably. According to Cockayne (2015), despite the challenges, forming a coalition with other organisations and across sectors to fight against human trafficking is openly seen as a necessity whenever there is a need to do so.

1.2 Academic and Societal Relevance

This study investigates the collaboration between government and non-governmental actors in implementing the Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrants Smuggling Act of 2022 in Sierra Leone. There is limited existing literature that specifically focuses on the coalition actors in anti-human trafficking at the national level. Most studies conducted previously on similar topics were more transnationally focused (see Foot et al., 2019; Erikson & Larsson, 2020; Davy, 2013; Foot, 2019). This research will therefore contribute to this existing knowledge by providing empirically based evidence on how coalition actors implement this new act in Sierra Leone. The Advocacy Coalition Framework will be used as a theoretical lens to better understand the collaboration between actors in this implementation process.

Furthermore, previous studies on the Advocacy Coalition Framework (ACF) were focused on Western contexts (Jenkins-Smith & Sabatier, 1994). This research therefore builds upon and extends the academic discourse surrounding ACF by looking into coalition efforts on anti-human trafficking in resource-constrained settings like Sierra Leone. Finally, this thesis provides insights into coalition actors (governmental and non-governmental) and their perceived roles, the

strategies they use and the challenges they face in implementing this 2022 Act in Sierra Leone. This therefore leads to the following research question: ***Do coalition actors collaborate in the implementation of the Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Act of 2022 in Sierra Leone, if so, how?***

To answer this research question, the following sub-research questions were asked:

1. How do coalition actors implement the Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Act of 2022 in Sierra Leone?
2. What are the strategies used by coalition actors in implementing the Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Act of 2022 in Sierra Leone?
3. What are the potential limitations and challenges faced by coalition actors in implementing the Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Act of 2022 in Sierra Leone?
4. How can the Advocacy Coalition Framework Explain Framework (ACF) explain this implementation process?

Chapter Two

Theoretical Framework

This chapter reviews relevant literature on the topic under study. The literature builds upon the research questions stated in chapter one of the thesis. It conceptualises the main theories used relating to coalition actors and their perceived roles, their strategies and the challenges they face as well as the Advocacy Coalition Framework and further introduces the gaps in the literature followed by the theoretical expectations under research.

2.1. Coalition Actors and Their Perceived Roles on Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts

The sub-chapter will contribute to the theoretical framework in relation to the first sub-research question outlined in Chapter One of the study. It will explore concepts such as collaboration between government and non-governmental actors, their motivation to collaborate and their perceived roles in anti-human trafficking efforts.

Recent studies have shown that anti-human trafficking coalitions typically bring together different actors to collaborate and work in a united force to provide the best care possible for trafficked and exploited victims. (Gerassi & Nichols, 2017; Jones & Lutze, 2016; Lagon, 2015; Yeo-Oxenham & Schneider, 2015). According to Miller et al. (2023), to minimize human trafficking, governmental, and non-governmental actors must work in collaboration to bring together a variety of experiences, opinions, abilities, and expertise. In terms of efficiently raising awareness to eradicate human trafficking, actors can accomplish more as a group than any one organisation or company could do alone (Miller et al., 2023). Trudeau (2021) in this vein, stated that anti-human trafficking partnerships are crucial for coordinating an efficient institutional, structural, and governmental response. Collaborations among coalitions have been successful in coordinating state and federal initiatives to combat human trafficking, despite the coalitions' diverse backgrounds, which include the criminal justice system, the religious community, state and federal institutions, human rights organisations, non-profits, and feminist groups (Trudeau, 2021).

Moreover, Foot and colleagues (2021) expressed that coalitions devoted to a particular social issue aim to address and bring about beneficial changes, such as a decline in human trafficking.

Also, coalitions can have advantageous effects on their member groups, such as increased sharing of resources, expertise, and knowledge. According to Foot et al. (2021), positive perceptions of actors about coalition outcomes are essential to the coalition's survival, as these actors balance the perceived benefits of coalition involvement against the related expenses. They also stated that the problem-focused results of the coalition, such as faster detection of cases of human trafficking and easier access to legal services for victims, are likely to get better with time.

Furthermore, a study on academic and policymaking has demonstrated that effective anti-human trafficking programs involve coordination and collaboration among various stakeholders and go beyond just criminalising traffickers (Gómez-Mera, 2017). This was earlier stated by Limanowska and Konrad (2010) that "coordination and cooperation are essential because human trafficking is a very complex, multifaceted problem that cannot be solved single-handedly," (p. 427).

In line with the above, recent studies have indicated that coalition actors (and their organisations) perform various roles to counter human trafficking. For instance, a study conducted by Schmitt (2017) on the functions of NGOs, identified five major roles played by non-governmental organisations in building and advancing anti-human trafficking efforts in the USA; these roles are: engage in policy and advocacy through lobbying and grassroots efforts to influence policy at all levels; provide direct services such as legal aid, victim support, housing, and health services; provide training and technical support to capacitate communities; engage communities through awareness campaigns and community initiatives; and role in awareness raising, prevention programmes, direct services and advocacy by Faith-based organisations. Gbadamosi (2021) on the other hand explores the multi-faceted role performed by government and non-governmental actors in their efforts to combat human trafficking. According to Gbadamosi (2021), whilst government actors perform roles such as law enforcement which involves conducting covert/overt operations, following up on leads, conducting surveillance and interviewing victims, the legislative role which involves setting up anti-human trafficking laws that match up international protocols and the executive role which focuses on enforcing the law, NGOs on the other hand perform roles such as raising awareness, community economic development, victims

protection support, providing legal assistance by passing on intelligence about trafficking received from communities.

In conclusion, this literature on coalition actors and the perceived roles have shown that actors must work in collaboration to combat human trafficking. In this regard, coordination and collaboration is a key tool that actors used in the past to combat human trafficking which is a very multi-faceted societal problem. This literature further shows the role played by coalition actors, stemming from both governmental and non-governmental angles.

2.2. Coalition Strategies in Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts

This sub-chapter will be discussing literature relating to the strategies used by coalition actors in their collaborative efforts to counter human trafficking. This section will be addressing key concepts such as coalition goals, engagements at both stakeholder and community level, venue shopping strategies, as theoretical foundation to answer the second sub-question stated in Chapter One of the study.

A study conducted by Foot, (2019) has shown that coalition leaders employ diverse engagement strategies in their collaborative efforts to tackle human trafficking. In this regard, Foot (2019) proposes five strategies for the enhancement and development of multisector and anti-human trafficking coalitions, they include: first, recognizing the perceived power dynamics associated with political and/or economic status as well as the demographics of the actors representing a sector in a given setting; second, reaching consensus on how these differentials can be mitigated in collaborative work; third, hold an open discussion on ways to democratise leadership structures and communication processes in a multisector coalition; fourth, reflecting as a group on the different motives and values that attract actors to engage in anti-trafficking coalitions and how these shape their goals and influence their work as well; fifth, creating common norms for multi-sector interactions.

In another study, Yeo-Oxenham and Schneider (2015) recommend the creation of private-public partnerships (PPPs), in which the private sector assumes a major financial role. This creative strategy could potentially alleviate the financial burden that coalition organisations (nonprofit organisations and government agencies) bear when implementing anti-trafficking laws (Yeo-Oxenham & Schneider, 2015).

In connection to the above strategies, Durham et al. (2014) in an earlier study conceptualised a four-level paradigm for stakeholder engagements. They thus described these levels as: The lowest level involves communication with more passive stakeholders and is merely designed to disseminate information about the project or to provide the outcomes to individuals who might be affected. At the second level, consultation is intended to address the needs of stakeholders who are canvassed for their knowledge and perspectives. At the third level, involvement is intended to satisfy the needs of more fully engaged stakeholders who can contribute data or resources. At the fourth level, collaboration happens when stakeholders actively engage with the team, set the direction of the project, and offer resources and viewpoints. Moreover, Erikson and Larisson (2020) asserted that strategies of allowing coalition actors to select the programmes and activities they want to support not only preserve variety and a range of interests but also reduce possibilities for conflict. This showcases how effective platforms perform due to their modular designs, which maintain power and accuracy despite the contested divergent goals and interests (Erikson & Larisson, 2020).

These features give insights into the kind of strategies sometimes used by coalition actors (Gupta, 2014). For example, in cases that require a high degree of decision-making, it makes it easier for coalitions to employ venue shopping strategies when there are open systems with multiple platforms. These venue-shopping strategies which are composed of legal petitions, and congressional lobbying, are much less common in a closed organisation where norms of consensus are constrained (Sabatier & Jenkins-Smith, 1999; Guiraudon, 2000; Pralle, 2003; Nohrstedt, 2011). In the case of coalitions on anti-human trafficking efforts, venue-shopping takes the form of lobbying, advocacy, and engagements such as meetings, public education, fundraising.

In their theorization about Community-based responses to human trafficking (specifically sex trafficking), Nichols et al. (2023), stated that collaboration on community-based responses was created to coordinate, streamline, and thus bolstering the responses of law enforcement, advocacy groups, and political leaders in areas like policy and legislative, prosecution efforts, social service coordination, and community education and awareness campaigns. The duty of raising awareness among the public as well as professionals who might encounter human trafficking was handled by Rescue and Restore Coalitions and Specialized task force teams.

Those efforts prioritised the identification of victims of human trafficking (Nichols et al., 2023; Allen et al., 2004; Foot 2015; Kaye et al., 2014; Yeo-Oxenham & Schneider, 2015). However, related studies focused on different elements of prevention strategies, education, and awareness campaigns, including outreach and identification (Nichols et al. 2023)

2.3. Potential Limitations and Challenges Faced by Coalition Actors in Anti-human Trafficking Efforts

Coalitions in anti-human trafficking bring not only aspirations for cooperation but also fears about working with other actors or organisations with opposing goals (Foot, 2015). According to Foot (2015), two issues are often visible when actors are involved in collaborative efforts for the first time and they are: (a) fears of seeing their organisations' autonomy being reduced, and (b) fears of spending too much money on effective coalition meetings. Notwithstanding, tensions and territorialism within anti-trafficking coalitions can be heightened by opposing values, and insufficient resources (Foot, 2015). Examples are, disagreements about human trafficking, members of coalition having different objectives and motivations, variations in the victim populations they served in terms of demographics, and competition for funding; these are all common sources of conflict that can result in fragmentation of coalition movements (Foot, 2015; Gerassi & Nichols, 2018; Gerassi et al. 2017; Hounmenou, 2012).

In nexus to this, Gerassi et al. (2017) pointed out a few of the potentially divergent frameworks in anti-human trafficking coalitions; these include conflicting opinions about concepts like sex trafficking and sex work, conflicting opinions about labour and sex trafficking, conflicting opinions about service populations (e.g., children vs. adults), and conflicting opinions about the relationship between victimization and victim agency. As a result, internal conflicts within anti-trafficking coalitions may derive from these divergent viewpoints (Hounmenou, 2019). Jones and Lutz (2016) further discovered that unclear and unachievable goals and objectives have negatively affected collaborations and that, without goal specification and alignment, coalition action would stagnate and fragment. Also, in a situation wherein a coalition fails to fulfil different organisational goals and needs, members may decide to leave since they feel their viewpoints are not appreciated (Gerassi and Nichols, 2018; Gerassi et al., 2017).

Moreover, various scholars asserted that funding could also influence the continued operation of Anti-human trafficking coalitions (see Cidade et al., 2013; Foot, 2015; Gerassi et al., 2017; Jones

and Lutze, 2016). Several studies have shown that problems with funding sources pose a threat to cohesion, action, and coalition structures (Hounmenou, 2019). For instance, Gerassi (2017) discovered that a significant alliance of anti-human trafficking became fragmented, confusing, and lost members because of changes in federal funding. Gerassi further discovered that rivalry for scarce resources could pose challenges for anti-trafficking coalitions since members of the same coalition might get aggressive and competitive for the few resources available. Therefore, challenges and tensions connected to competing priorities, ideologies, and funding could undermine anti-trafficking coalitions if not addressed (Hounmenou, 2019). Moreover, Bryson et al. (2015) state that “many external factors, including windows of collaborative opportunity; public policies and policy fields; system stability; and degree of resource munificence, environmental complexity, and dynamism” (p. 653) influence both potential and actual structures of collaboration.

2.4. Linking Advocacy Coalition Framework to Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts

According to Sabatier and Jenkins-Smith (1993), literature on policy-oriented advocacy coalitions believes that collaboration between coalition actors is brokered by external actors resulting in policy changes. A study on advocacy coalitions in recent times inserted that deep beliefs that hold for members of coalition in a variety of policy fields as well as core beliefs that concern specific policy fields are both important for advocacy coalitions (Matti & Sandström, 2013). On that note, “the defining element of coalitions” is the basic beliefs of the policies. Sabatier (1988) earlier then defined Advocacy Coalition as “composed of people from various organisations who share a set of normative and causal beliefs and who often act in concert” (p. 133)

A variety of strategies are used by coalition actors to achieve their goals and collaborate to incorporate their beliefs into public policy initiatives (Nohrstedt & Heinmiller, 2024). The Advocacy coalitions in this vein serve as a foundation for collective action among actors who share policy values and work to have those beliefs implemented into policy programmes. (Nohrstedt & Heinmiller, 2024). As asserted by Zafonte and Sabatier (1998, p. 479) "If there is no coordinated behaviour, there are no advocacy coalitions", these coalitions are more than just a descriptive heuristic to make the analysis of complex policy processes easier (Nohrstedt & Heinmiller, 2024). In this view therefore, coordination entails a range of cooperative actions to

modify strategies in the pursuit of related objectives, such as the creation, dissemination, and execution of a coordinated action plan (Nohrstedt & Heinmiller, 2024).

2.5. Gap in the Literature

From the above-reviewed literature, key gaps were captured: First, by looking at this phenomenon from a public administration lens, the literature offers limited perspectives on the processes and strategies of counter-human trafficking efforts and provides a limited view from the studies of migration governance. Second, as there has been no specific literature about coalition efforts on anti-human trafficking in Sierra Leone, by and large in West Africa, using literature that mostly covers the Global North perspective still creates a knowledge gap; as a result, creating differences in engagements between actors. Understanding collaboration between coalition actors and their organisations in anti-human trafficking efforts from an African perspective still needs empirical studies conducted in the Global South (preferably in Africa). Therefore, from a public administration and migration governance lens, this thesis contributes to the knowledge gap by unearthing the collaboration of coalition actors in implementing the Anti-human Trafficking and Migrants Smuggling Act of 2022 in Sierra Leone.

2.6. Expectations

Based on the above theoretical analysis, it is expected that:

1. Collaboration is an essential tool used by actors to implement successful anti-human trafficking laws.
2. Coalition actors employ diverse engagement strategies in their efforts to combat human trafficking.
3. Challenges and tensions connected to competing priorities, ideologies, and funding are always eminent in anti-trafficking coalition efforts unless they are addressed.
4. The advocacy coalition framework could be used to explain the deep beliefs held by actors in their collaborative efforts on anti-human trafficking.

Chapter Three

Methodology

This chapter discusses the methodology applied to answer the main research question stated in Chapter One of the thesis. It is outlined in key sections such as case selection, data collection, sampling strategy, data analysis, ethical research consideration, and the operationalization table.

3.1. Case Selection

Since this research looks at how coalition actors collaborate in implementing the Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Act of 2022, it focuses on key actors who are part of the Anti-Trafficking in Person Task Force - Sierra Leone. As such, this research was conducted on advocacy coalitions at the national level, comprising government and NGOs (national and international) alongside intergovernmental organisations.

Moreover, since the majority of these actors are based in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, this study was conducted over a one-month period. It was during this period interviews took place in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, which serve as a transit as well as a destination for human trafficking activities (Thelwell, 2021).

This thesis employs a qualitative research method in which deductive and inductive approaches are used. The reason being a careful consideration of the post-positivist paradigm since it enhances a nuanced and comprehensive approach to the topic understudy.

3.2. Data Collection

Since my research focuses on legislative implementation practices toward solving the complex problem of anti-human trafficking, a qualitative method of data collection is better equipped to do justice to the phenomena (Jacobs, 2018) as it provides contextual and in-depth knowledge necessary for understanding such actors and their organisations (Erikson & Larsson, 2020; Babbie, 2016). More specifically, semi-structured interviews were conducted to flexibility by giving the respondents the flexibility topics that emerge during the interview session (Wong et al. 2023).

However, in order to create a comprehensive analysis about how coalition actors collaborate in this implementation process, relevant documents such as policy briefs, reports on the ongoing anti-human trafficking efforts, and other relevant documents about the Act and its implementation process were collected. These documents (secondary data) were triangulated with semi-structured interviews (primary data) to capture the trends and to develop a more nuanced understanding on the collaborative effort of coalition actors, the strategies they use and the challenges they face while implementing the act.

3.3 Sampling Strategy

A purposive sampling technique was used to select cases for this study. As stated by Barghowski (2018), the purposive sampling method helps to identify samples that match certain qualities relevant to my research question. In this regard, I selected actors based on their availability, their knowledge about the ongoing implementation. Furthermore, this method fits this study well because, in qualitative studies, subjects may change as the structure of the phenomenon under study becomes more apparent and some respondents seem more key to understanding the topic than others (Babbie, 2016). In this sampling design, I targeted 20 respondents. 19 out of the 20 respondents participated in the interview; 4 from government ministries including the National Anti-trafficking in Person Secretariat, 3 from the police sector, 2 from the intelligence units, 5 from non-governmental organisations, including local NGOs, 2 from an international organisation, 2 from research and policy institution, 1 from Human Rights organisation.

A deductive theoretical sampling method was used to select documents for the content analysis. Despite the scarcity of information about the implementation of this new act 7 documents were analysed, 3 of which were pointed out by respondents. The documents included were reports about the progress of the implementation of the act, policy briefs, and other relevant documents about the ongoing implementation process.

3.4 Data Analysis

To analyse my data, I used deductive coding for both the data collected from the semi-structured interviews and the content from the documents. The reason for using deductive coding is to be able to test the theories identified in chapter two of the study. The data analysis was done using qualitative data analysis software, ATLAS.ti, and was carried into three stages based on Pearse's (2019) emphasis on iterative process for accurate reflection of the data. First, the data was coded

using a coding memo; reviewed, revisited, and recorded (Boyatzis, 1998). I also added codes that were not in the coding memo but offered insightful information for the analysis. Second, I used themes or patterns in the dataset. Third, I assessed if the themes found supported the expectations put forth in the research.

3.5 Challenges and Ethical Considerations of the Research

Since this research involved collecting data from experts engaged in implementing the Anti-Human trafficking and Migrants Smuggling Act in Sierra Leone: The following challenges and ethical considerations were carefully considered:

First, since the research investigates the coalition efforts in the fight against human trafficking, I interacted with highly positioned experts and policymakers in the field of human trafficking and migration in general. In that regard, I maintained a high-level of professionalism in terms of communication and interaction, I followed all formal procedures set to protect the integrity of my work.

Secondly, another consideration was the accessibility of actors. Since coalition actors are very busy trying to complete their day-to-day tasks (such as attending meetings, and conferences, engaging in writing memos, campaigning, etc.), getting their full participation in interviews was critical. Therefore, I ensured that my schedule was flexible enough to make myself present whenever they were available.

Moreover, all actors who participated in this research were informed for their consent before they voluntarily participated. In this consent, the research's purpose was objectively explained, and all terms and conditions involved were provided to maintain anonymity of respondents. All actors that participated in the research were anonymised and ensured that the data collected are confidentially treated and carefully stored according to the GDPR privacy rules, ensuring that actors are protected from any potential harm to respondent, be it social or legal (Zapata-Barrero & Yalaz, 2020). However, this data can be put to the public with the approval of the respondent if necessary.

To be aware that my views do not affect the research outcome, I maintained a more ethical stance by adopting the recommended approach by Ritchie and colleagues (2013) that a researcher must avoid any obvious, conscious or systematic biases and remain as neutral as possible. In this

regard, field notes were kept for further reflection and the data were carefully transcribed and systematically processed using a deductive codebook generated from the theoretical framework.

3.6 Operationalisation Table

The table operationalises the concepts captured from the theoretical framework laid in chapter two of the study.

Concepts	Definitions	Dimensions	Sub-Dimensions	Indicators	Sources
Coalition Actors	Involvement of different groups of actors in anti-human trafficking efforts	Governmental and Non-governmental collaboration (Girassi and Nichols 2017; Miller et al. 2023; Trudeau 2021; Foot et al. 2021)	Diverse actor backgrounds	- number and type of organisations involved, diversity of actor backgrounds, roles played by different actors	Interviews, policy documents, reports
		Motivations for Collaborations (Miller et al. 2023)	Coalition benefits	- the need for sharing resources and knowledge for better implementation	Interviews
		Actors perceptions towards the interaction	Different perceptions	- positive views about interactions - cordial relationships	Interviews

Perceived Roles	The functions and contributions of coalition actors in anti-human trafficking efforts	Roles of actors in Anti-Trafficking Efforts (Schmitt 2017; Gbadamosi 2021)	Policy and advocacy, Direct services, Training and technical assistance, Community organisation, Awareness campaign	- Scope of responsibilities, perceived effectiveness of roles	Interviews
Coalition Strategies	Tactics and approaches used by coalitions to enhance anti-human trafficking efforts	Coalition goals Foot (2015)	Different with divergent goals to tackle human trafficking	- a variety of objectives toward their involvement in the coalition	Interviews, documents about planned activities
		Engagements Strategies (Durham et al. 2014; Nichols et al. 2023)	Engagements through meetings	-Policy discussions, training etc.	Interviews
			Community engagement through awareness raising campaigns	-Community outreach programmes, radio talk shows, social media engagement.	Interviews
		Private-public partnership strategy (Yeo-Oxenham & Schneider	Financial Role of Private Sector	Involving the private sector to provide financial support to	Interviews

		2015)		coalitions.	
Coalition Challenges	Issues and obstacles that hinder coalition efforts in implementing anti-human trafficking laws	Inadequate fundings (Foot 2015)	Lack of financial resources to take up activities	- funding shortages to undertake prevention and protection activities for victims of trafficking	Interviews, report documents
			Competition over limited funds	- experience in terms of outsourcing funds	Interviews, report documents
		Divergent frameworks (Gerassi et al. 2017; Hounmenou 2019)	Conflicting views between actors	- disagreements about implementation goals	Interviews
		Shelter challenges	Inadequate holding centers for victims	- insufficient housing facilities for victims of trafficking	Interviews, report documents
		Logistical challenges	Lack of mobilities to conduct operations	- no sufficient vehicles	Interviews, report documents
			No equipment to	- lack office	Interviews,

			perform duties	equipment such as computers, furniture etc.	report documents
		Poor commitment from coalition members	Demotivation as cause for poor commitment	- no means to keep actors motivated to attend meetings, active participations in terms making contributions	Interviews, documents
			Changing coalition representatives influences commitment	- making transfers of actors, making new appointments	Interviews, documents
		Prosecution Challenges	Low number of conviction cases	- Fear of victims to appear in court, influence from perpetrators, socio-cultural influences	Interviews, report documents
Advocacy Coalition Framework	Groups of individuals and organisations that share a set of normative and causal beliefs and act in concert.	Coalition Beliefs (Sabatier & Jenkins-Smith 1993; Matti & Sandström 2013)	Coalition Beliefs	- shared values and policy preferences among coalition members	Interviews, documents
		Coordination and	Coalition	- coordination	Policy

		Collaboration (Nohrstedt & Heinmiller 2024; Zafonte & Sabatier 1998)	Activities (Coordination Mechanisms, Cooperation Levels)	meetings, shared platforms, and cooperative efforts	documents
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Chapter Four

Data Analysis

This chapter presents key findings through the analysis of data collected on the collaboration of coalition actors in implementing the Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrants Smuggling Act of 2022 in Sierra Leone. The findings contribute to answering the research question, **Do coalition actors collaborate in the implementation of the Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Act of 2022 in Sierra Leone, if so, how?** and they are presented in sections, corresponding with the sub-research questions, such as the socio-demographic characteristics of actors, the perceived roles of coalition actors, the strategies used by coalition actors; the potential limitations and challenges faced by coalition actors; and the effect of values and beliefs by different actors on collaboration .

4. 1 Socio-demographic Characteristics of Actors:

This section captures key socio-demographic features of respondents, such as their names, genders, and organisations they represent alongside their positions. Fourteen males and five females were interviewed. When looking into their various representations about ten are government officials, and nine of them represent actors from the NGO sector. Moreover, twelve of these respondents occupied senior-level positions and three occupied middle-level positions, whereas four occupied low-level positions. A visualization of these socio-demographic characteristics is further displayed in the appendices (I) below.

4.2 Coalition Actors And Their Perceived Roles in the Implementation of the Act

4. 2.1 Inter-organizational collaboration

12 out of the 19 respondents interviewed mentioned that anti-human trafficking efforts in Sierra Leone cut across various units and organisations in the country. Thus, the respondents stated that this inter-organizational collaboration comprised of both MDAs, government ministries, department agencies, NGOs, civil society organisations that work within the human trafficking related issues in the country. This inter-organizational collaboration is not only something of recent according to most of the respondents, but has been developed even before the bill was passed into an act by the Sierra Leone Parliament; as it was reflected.

“... before that act came into being, we had actors, state actors, we had governments and non-governmental organisations who we call coalition members. That is why (...) much of what is currently embedded in the act is not just from the government.” and “Their input is very important. And this is because of the coalition dynamics that we had in Sierra Leone, and it was not monopolised” (R11).

This showcases that collaboration across multiple institutions is crucial in counter-human trafficking efforts; as efforts are made to repeal and reenact anti-trafficking laws, protect victims, and prevent trafficking through coordination and implementation of strategies. The involvement of actors across different organisations has been instrumental in developing effective laws and policies to combat human trafficking in Sierra Leone. This was further captured in one of the analysed documents that implementing partners do engage in *“programmes to improve the outcomes for survivors and built a strong network for committed anti-trafficking actors throughout Sierra Leone society, including government officials, law enforcement, and grassroots community groups” (Combating Child Trafficking in Sierra Leone – University of Georgia).*

4.2.2 Perceived-positive interaction between coalition actors

The data revealed that 18 out of the 19 respondents interviewed perceived their interactions in implementing the Act as positive. Most of these respondents, government and NGOs, said that their relationships with fellow coalition actors are very “cordial and professional”. To them, key components of these “fantastic” interactions are regular meetings, updates, and collaboration, as it was captured from their responses.

“Our interaction has been very fantastic! I have been highly received by those other organisations. (...) we are working hand-in-glove to make sure that the national task force secretariat is well coordinated, and they have been receiving us warmly. So our interaction is very cordial and if I can rate it over 80%” (R01).

These respondents representing various government and non-governmental institutions, work in support of each other to combat human trafficking, share information, provide support to victims, and prevent further trafficking cases. As the findings indicate, their interactions are fruitful and professional, with a shared goal of combating human trafficking, protecting victims, and promoting collaboration across different sectors. The professional and committed efforts shown

by these respondents are reflected in their active participation, support, and cooperation towards the shared goal, which is to eradicate human trafficking in Sierra Leone through the implementation of this act.

“I think my interaction as an individual and representing my institution is on a professional level. We have a very cordial working relationship because we all are targeting to achieve a goal. And the goal is to ensure we combat the issue of human trafficking” (R11).

4.2.3 The Motivations for Collaboration

The majority of the respondents, particularly NGO respondents, stated that the need for collaboration and working with partners is regarded as a significant move towards the implementation of the Anti-human Trafficking Act in Sierra Leone. Bringing together different organisations and stakeholders to discuss and find solutions to human trafficking is regarded as very important by these respondents. Thus, forming a task force with various organisations has been beneficial in providing support and expertise for implementation. Regular meetings and coordination are crucial for effective collaboration. This was captured in one of their responses.

“(...)working in isolation will like, deny us the success that we want. So we see that bringing on board other partners, and other players has been successful compared to the cases that we've been having when we started initially to now” (R02).

This was further observed from two of the content documents analysed, wherein collaboration was emphasized as a key driving force for the effective operationalization of the country's national referral mechanism. In this regard, strong networks are built among actors across various organisations which has helped increase and enhance services for survivors. However, this theme did not capture the responses from governmental actors.

4.2.4 The perceived roles performed by coalition actors

In answering the question about the perceived roles performed by coalition actors in implementing the 2022 Act, respondents identified key roles. Most respondents, especially government respondents, acknowledged that coordination is one of the major functions used in the implementation process. The government through the ATIP secretariat and NGO partners has been playing a key role in coordinating anti-trafficking activities. This has been done through diplomatic means to *“encourage other partner bodies” (R11)*. Respondents have been organising

“Monthly meetings”(R05) and creating communicative platforms to develop plans and counter-trafficking strategies. Similarly, this was identified in the content documents, in which coordination has been a major role performed by government institutions charged with the responsibility to combat trafficking.

Another major role identified by respondents is the policy and advocacy role. Most respondents, particularly NGOs actors, stated that they have been playing a significant role in advocating for better anti-human trafficking law and its successful implementation. They have been researching to generate policy documents like the Trust Fund, lobbying and collaborating with government institutions and international organisations to improve anti-trafficking efforts in Sierra Leone; as they motioned:

“We advocate, we ensure that with these organisations, we put our knowledge together. We try to lobby with the government or other international agencies that we know they have a part to play...” (R02).

Moreover, 8 of the respondents mentioned awareness raising as another key role they play in implementing the 2022 Act. Key components in this role have been collective media engagements, community engagements and providing simplified educational materials that explain complex legal information within the Act: *“...we're doing more awareness-raising sessions on counter-trafficking. (...) we also did a video for the popularisation of the 2022 anti-human trafficking and migrant smuggling act. So that the least person can look at the video and understand what it means...” (R06).*

Lastly, training and capacity building, provision of classified intelligence for investigation, resource mobilisation, and victim support are roles mentioned by other respondents from both government and NGOs (R15, R09, R06, R04, R08, R17, R03, R05, R13).

4.3 Coalition Strategies in Ant-Human Trafficking Efforts

The themes captured in this section are coalition goals, engagement as a strategic approach, the private-public partnership approach, and the coordination strategy. These themes answer the research question about the strategies used by coalition actors in implementing the 2022 Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrants Smuggling Act.

4.3.1 Coalition Goals

Respondents, especially those from government institutions (R10, R01, R19, R12, R04) mentioned prevention as a goal for their involvement in the implementation process; which signifies raising awareness about human trafficking to prevent further impact on communities. Other sets of respondents (R07, R08) mentioned that their goal was to empower individuals and communities so they could independently address issues relating to human trafficking without relying on organisations. Moreover, other respondents (R18, R03, R15) emphasized that their goal is to improve collaboration by working together and supporting national strategies in partnership with government and other stakeholders. The awareness raising goal was further captured from the content documents, wherein actors particularly those from NGOs, stated that their goal was *“to better protect children by increasing community awareness about how child trafficking was happening in these communities. In turn, trafficking situations would be recognized and referred to relevant agencies and authorities”* (CEnHTRO University of Georgia).

Other goals highlighted by both government and NGO respondents are: promoting safe, orderly, and regular migration, and ensuring that migrants benefit from the process; complementing the efforts of government and its partners; fully implementing anti-human trafficking laws, and establishing a Victims Trust Fund for supporting victims; employing the 4 Ps to combat human trafficking (especially child trafficking) which involves providing comprehensive protection and support to migrants who have fallen victim to trafficking, identifying potential victims, implementing anti-trafficking measures, and ensuring referrals to appropriate support systems (R15, R02, R03, R05, R18, R12, R13, R13, R01, R16, R14, R10).

4.3.2 Engagement as A Strategic Approach

In this theme the research found two forms of engagement are dominantly mentioned in the data collected from respondents, which are engagements through meetings and community engagement through awareness raising campaigns. These forms of engagement are further analysed below.

4.3.2.1 Engagements through meetings

15 of the respondents (government and NGOs) interviewed acknowledged that they have been meeting on a regular basis to discuss how to review ongoing projects, discuss cases, and plan

strategies. Committees and task forces have been set up to “*discuss, interact and come up with achievable goals or actions that are workable (...) to make sure they combat human trafficking in Sierra Leone*” (R15). In those meetings, actors report to the coalition so that they can reflect on the successes and challenges to improve future collaborative strategies in the implementation process.(R13). In line with this, respondents from law enforcement agencies further stated that to improve investigations and prosecutions, migrant protection, and support for victims, they discuss with NGO actors on how they can access their units.

Moreover, other respondents also stated that actors from non-governmental institutions provide training such as trauma-informed training to coalition actors (actors from the police force for example) to avoid “*re-traumatizing survivors*” (R09).

4.3.2.2 Community engagement through awareness raising campaigns

11 out of the 19 respondents interviewed said that engagements at the community level have been crucial in safeguarding the people particularly for women and children who are the most vulnerable in the communities. These respondents, especially those from NGOs, stated that public education campaigns and radio talk shows have been crucial drivers to disseminate information to create awareness among local people about the new act. They engaged in drafting jingles and involving key figures in anti-trafficking messages that capture the public's audience in communities (R05, R15, R09, R04).

“...we do lots of community outreach wherein we try to raise awareness about Migrants Smuggling and Human Trafficking. We do lots of community sensitisation, most especially in the rural areas where people do not know anything about trafficking” (R08).

Other respondents (R09, R07, R05) further stated that setting up community groups, revitalising dormant groups, and working with paralegals and local radio programs help in educating and empowering communities to address human trafficking and migrant smuggling issues. Also, strengthening community systems and training groups on “*referral pathways*”(R09) aims to enhance community support for trafficking victims. Lastly, in this public education strategy, collaborating with partners, training paramount chiefs, and utilising “Village Parents Groups (VPGs)” play a role in reporting and preventing trafficking incidents.

4.3.3 Private-Public Partnerships (PPPs) Approach

Most of the respondents, both government and NGO respondents, mentioned that partnership has been a very crucial strategy in the fight against human trafficking in Sierra Leone, particularly in implementing the 2022 Act. Both public and private actors work in collaboration to advocate and implement strategies with mutual respect and clear communication. This was made clear in one of their statements that involvement in the coalition aims to encourage partnership rather than conflict, even when conflict is inevitable.

“... one of the Ps is very key in our fight, which is partnership. We prefer to partner than to fight. So, we are governments. Our job is to encourage not to fight” (R11).

This partnership strategy involves advocating, documenting progress and respecting each other's roles and limitations. Most of the respondents stated that even though most institutions and agencies have developed different strategies within different timeframes, MOUs are put in place to ensure “synergy” and effective coordination among various agencies and sectors on their targeted plans for the years ahead (R05, R17).

Furthermore, respondents, both government and NGOs, narrated that partnerships involve multiple sectors such as law enforcement, immigration, social services, and health in combating human trafficking. To enhance commitment and coordination in eradicating human trafficking, various efforts are employed, such as investigation support, fundraising, and monthly meetings with various stakeholders. Additionally, a complaint mechanism is in place for reporting human trafficking incidents, involving relevant authorities and stakeholders in a coordinated response (R03, R04, R08, R12).

4.4 Potential Limitations and Challenges Faced by Coalition Actors

In this section of the analysis, actors were asked to describe the potential limitations and challenges they faced in implementing the 2022 Act and how it impacted their collaboration. Key themes captured from their responses were: Inadequate funding to take up activities; inadequate holding shelters for victims; apprehension, prosecution, and convictions challenges; divergent frameworks in implementation approaches; lack of organisational commitment and coordination; lack of proper awareness-raising campaigns; and logistical challenges.

4.4.1 Inadequate funding to take up activities

16 of the respondents (both government and NGO) acknowledge that funding has been a key challenge in implementing the 2022 Act. One of the factors for these financial difficulties is the mismatch between planned activities and financial support provided by the government. These respondents indicated that they have been gaining the least commitment from the government to finance initiatives like the already-launched Trust Fund for victims. Despite the fact that this already-launched trust fund is in the 2022 Act to provide financial support to trafficking survivors, it has been challenging to bring this into reality. There has been a lack of clear strategies for sustainable funding sources, as *“the government has not made proper commitments to finance the trust fund”* (R13). Efforts to advocate for more budget allocation through the Parliamentary TIP Working Group are still in the planning stage and are yet to be brought into reality, which reflects a significant gap between policy and practice.

Furthermore, most respondents also stated that lack of funding to undertake solid interventions activities has been another key challenge in the implementation process. Even the government agency that is charged with the responsibility to coordinate anti-trafficking activities *“does not have the required resources needed to sustain the activities simply because a lot of financial allocation has not been given to them by the government”* (R13). This showcases the ongoing struggle for financial resources, impacting the sustainability and effectiveness of counter-human trafficking efforts. In this regard, NGO respondents acknowledged that while some of them outsource funds from international donors; it is usually not sufficient to carry out full-fledged counter-human trafficking projects. These projects do not usually provide long-term solutions, since they operate within a given timeframe. This limits actors and their organisations to consistently carry-on sustainable support services such as medical, psychosocial, and family tracing services (R19).

Moreover, the majority of the respondents, particularly government officials, highlighted that provided funds are often (or sometimes) delayed and insufficient, further heightening the financial challenges. This delay hinders timely and effective interventions in anti-human trafficking efforts. Similarly, respondents mentioned that inadequate funding also impacts the degree in which meetings can be held. The lack of funding to provide transportation allowance for agency personnel further impacting the collaboration efforts; as actors that are coming from

farther distance *“are expecting that when they come, they will be given transport allowance or transport refunds” (R16).*

Finally, inadequate fundings was also captured from the report documents analysed. Those documents indicated that the government did not financially support civil society organisations to provide services. Also, labour inspectors lacked resources to monitor and investigate labour violations, including cases related to child labour. This limited funding further impede law enforcements efforts to address human trafficking in Sierra Leone (Trafficking in Person reports, Findings on the Worst forms of Child labour).

4.4.2 Inadequate Holding Shelters to Accommodate Victims of Trafficking

Most of the respondents, both government and NGOs, acknowledged that inadequate holding shelters to accommodate victims is a big infrastructural challenge faced by coalition actors in implementing the act. According to these respondents, the only shelter available is operated by World Hope International (WHI) and is meant purposely for females with no specific accommodation arranged for males.

“... we only have one being operated by WHI. And that's one is only for I think female, there is no male shelter” (R16).

This unavailability of shelters has greatly impacted intervention activities in the provinces and border areas wherein most trafficking cases do occur. Most government organisations working in those areas do not have the required resources to establish one. Instead, they heavily rely on NGOs for their shelters (R05, R13, R02).

8 of the respondents from the NGO sector expressed that this over-reliance on NGOs to provide shelter services is problematic. Even those existing shelters are mostly overcrowded and could not meet the capacity demanded to accommodate victims. This places a great strain on NGOs who are often exhausted of cases and cannot accommodate all victims.

“I think it's a few months back, I would say there was a referral of a total of 57. We only have the capacity for 26” (R07).

In some cases when the few accommodations are occupied, these respondents would have to *“facilitate the survivor to be moved from one community to another just to ensure the safety of that survivor” (R02).* This shows the huge gap that exists between the demand for shelter and the

available capacity. The issue of overcrowding influences NGO actors operating these shelters to turn away victims or in some cases find alternative pathways like temporary solutions, that are not suitable to host victims.

This issue of shelter inadequacy was also reported from the documents analysed. The data from these documents shows that there have been inadequate shelters for adult male victims of trafficking in Sierra Leone. The reports indicated that due to this shelter challenge, some of the victims were often hosted at police stations during investigations. At times, law enforcement officers temporarily shelter child victims in their homes. In fact, even the very few shelters for children are underfunded, with limited government programmes to specifically help these children (Trafficking in Person reports, Findings on the Worst forms of Child labour).

4.4.3 Challenges in Apprehension, Prosecution, and Convictions of Traffickers

15 of the respondents acknowledged that apprehension, prosecution and conviction has been a major challenge. Particularly, all government respondents indicated that victims' and witnesses' reluctance to testify in court hinders the progression of prosecuting human trafficking cases. Victims often refuse to appear in court due to fear, shame, or because they have been bribed or coerced by perpetrators (R11, R05). These influences posed by perpetrators most times leave victims *"panicky to respond to situations and they don't show up"* (R11). Respondents attributed this challenge to the weak witness protection. Victims and witnesses are discouraged from testifying in court due to the perceived fear of retaliation from traffickers or their families.

"I know there is a body for witness protection, but I don't think it's effective" and "people are afraid to go to court and testify. They're afraid of the backlash that they might receive from the community or families of the perpetrators" (R07).

In addition, the judicial and procedural delay on trafficking cases causes low conviction rates. 2 government respondents, stated that *"the slow or snailly pace at which these particular hearings have been conducted"* (R11) and the *"delay in terms of investigations"* (R01) often discourage victims and witnesses from keeping up with their participation. This poses frustrations in some respondents as they stated that even though the number of trafficking cases is high, conviction rates are still low due to the challenges surrounding the prosecution process. (R10, R18).

Moreover, 10 respondents indicated that socio-cultural norms play a significant role in challenges relating to prosecution. Respondents indicated that most often, victims are prevented from coming forward due to this feeling of shame or loyalty to the community or family who is involved in trafficking, as stated *“We have this thing in Sierra Leone, ‘ar nor want bad name’¹, we are all coming from the same community or is a family member”* (R07). This socio-cultural factor is mostly being compounded by the lack of adequate awareness and education within communities (R02).

Lastly, data obtained from reports on the progress of anti-trafficking efforts in Sierra Leone and other policy-related documents indicate that the rate of convictions and victim identification has decreased. This was caused by key challenges such as judicial inefficiencies, corruption, procedural delays, and lack of resources hindered efforts to hold traffickers accountable further (Trafficking in Person reports, Findings on the Worst forms of Child labour, CenHTRO).

4.4.4 Divergent Frameworks in Implementation Approaches

9 of the respondents, from both government and NGOs, acknowledged that differences in implementation approaches pose a significant challenge in the collaborative efforts in implementing the 2022 Act. Respondents, particularly government actors, stated that this lack of uniformity across different organisations and institutions has hindered the implementation of anti-trafficking measures. This “disjointed approach” has created inefficiencies and gaps in the overall strategy to combat trafficking, as this was captured from their responses:

“It has been disjointed (...) in terms of implementing the act and in terms of working in a uniform matter, that has been a very big challenge” and *“conflict of interest affects us in terms of implementation in a uniformed manner”* (R11).

Respondents mentioned that public education drives which are crucial for raising awareness about human trafficking have not been well coordinated in uniform and consistent manner, this has been an impediment to the effectiveness of awareness campaigns. According to respondents, these differences in approaches could be linked to the fact that each institution involved in these anti-trafficking efforts has its own priorities in implementing the act, and this affects collaboration between them. In fact, respondents even raise doubts regarding the effectiveness

¹ This is a Krio sentence (a mixture of English and African language) means “I don’t want to be blamed.”

and intentions of activities undertaken by members in some organisations, especially local NGOs, as it was captured from one of their responses:

“There’s been this issue of doubts on some of the activities of the organisations, like, are they really offering services or is it just for their personal gains?” (R05).

Other respondents (R13, R17, R02) stated that overlapping roles between actors further add to the limitations, as they narrated that *“...everybody is trying to do whatever they want” and “different institutions want to be involved in everything” (R13)*. This is because actors and their institutions involved in this implementation often prioritise their needs which always lead to *“ring-fencing challenges”* that prevent a synergic approach between them (R17).

4.4.5 Lack of organisational commitment and coordination

Respondents from government and NGOs identified a lack of commitment as a challenge, specifically commitment in attending meetings. However, the data revealed that respondents had different opinions about this poor commitment. While government respondents think that some actors show no commitment because they are not given incentives as motivations, NGOs respondents on the other hand think that even though that might be a reason for the poor commitment, they believe that members do not need to expect compensation in return for meetings, for the fact that those meetings cover their duty stations. NGOs respondents further described this attitude as a *“poverty entitlement mentality (...) that makes it difficult for the government to respond and act because people want to be paid for everything that they do” (...)* *“If there’s no lunch, no transportation, they just come one or two meetings” (R05).*

Furthermore, regarding coordination challenges, 8 of the respondents stated that organisations do send junior staff instead of high-profile representatives to technical committee meetings which hinders the coalition from making progressive and effective steps in the implementation process.

“...most of the time, (...) there are some organisations that do not send their top cadre representatives” (R10).

When actors attend meetings, they lack consistency enough to be punctual and make meaningful contributions in terms of providing ideas to improve on the implementation. For instance, when they have already communicated beforehand that there will be a meeting at a particular hour, some would call asking *“oh are we still meeting today?” (R19).*

Lastly, the inconsistent representation of organisations within the coalition was identified as an important factor. 4 respondents highlighted that organisations constantly change actors to represent them within the coalition. This makes it difficult for collaboration, since those new representatives have little knowledge of activities that have been discussed in previous meetings and those that are yet to be discussed. This lack of consistency is linked to the constant transfers of officials (especially police officers) who are reassigned from one posting to another without considering the consequences this may have on the collaborative efforts of other coalition members in implementing the act (R08, R14, R01, R02).

4.4.6. The lack of proper awareness-raising campaigns

Half of the respondents stated that the lack of proper awareness-raising campaigns is another key challenge affecting the implementation process. Government and NGO respondents said that the public has yet to gain a basic understanding of this new act, as they stated: *"Not everybody is aware of this new act. Some people are only aware about the 2005 Act which is the Anti-Human Trafficking Act"* (R18). Also not every actor in the coalition knows the differences between anti-human trafficking and migrant smuggling which are two of the components with different provisions stipulated in the act. This is because these actors lack adequate training and capacity-building to master the act (R10, R12, R04). This was captured in one of the responses:

"Majority of the coalition members, the secretariat, they are still challenged with the capacity to understand the whole component of the act itself, because it's a new document with very complex issues" (R12).

This lack of proper awareness campaigns, the new act and anti-trafficking activities in general have raised concerns for further improvement by respondents. Human traffickers do constantly improve their tactics, targeting rural communities where there is limited information so that they could easily deceive and exploit the locals. Traffickers can easily move from one community to another with quicker and smarter adaptive strategies, as it was captured in this response that *"If you move five steps, they will double their steps to 10 steps"* (R16).

4.4.7 Logistical Challenges

9 respondents acknowledged that challenges relating to logistics are another significant problem affecting the implementation process. Respondents, especially government actors, expressed that the ATIP Secretariat, which was formed to fully enforce the 2022 Act, do not have an established

office space since it was formed. Actors have been moving from one place to another in search of an empty hall in the Ministry of Social Welfare to hold meetings. This impedes the coordination of actors for meetings and other administrative activities.

“...since the ATIP Secretariat been set up, I think it's only now that they are getting their office space. (...) There are times when we go there for meetings, we have to be moving from one place to another”(R05).

Moreover, both government and NGOs respondents further indicate that inadequate mobility or transportation systems for operational activities heightened the difficulties among coalition actors. This mobility challenge was expressed by the government officials, particularly those in the police force. They expressed that conducting operations to make arrests and moving victims from one place to another was hindered by these mobility challenges (R18).

4.5 The effect of values and beliefs by different actors on collaboration

The two major theme coalition beliefs and coordination and cooperation, were captured from the data. Coalition beliefs which refers to the values and beliefs held by actors towards policy goals and coordination and cooperation refers to the activities undertaken by respondents to put their beliefs into action. These two themes will be analysed in depth in the following sections.

4.5.1 Coalition Beliefs

The data collected from the interviews show that advocacy coalition actors involved in the implementation of the act shared a common belief, which is to eradicate human trafficking in Sierra Leone. In this regard, the respondents emphasised that they aimed to eradicate this “complex problem” by enforcing the mandates and objects that are stipulated in the act.

“Our goal is to ensure we bring to life those mandates, objectives embedded in that particular act” (R11).

Majority of these actors further emphasised that the primary goal for their involvement in advocacy coalition to fully implement the act was because *“there are instances where we have acts that are beautifully designed and then they are not implemented”* in Sierra Leone (R05). To further put their beliefs into action, coalition actors ensure that they strictly engage in prosecuting and enforcing penalties on perpetrators. Strong legal action against traffickers is an essential tool to put their beliefs into action, as it was mentioned in one of their responses that:

"There is an issue of prosecutions whereby those perpetrators of this crime may go into book, punish and enforce the full penalty of the law. The moment that is done and we start having convictions under the new act, then it will serve as a deterrent to others" (R05).

7 of the respondents further stated that advocacy coalition actors do engage in preventive measures to put their beliefs into action. Coalition actors ensure that they carefully focus on the significant aspect of counter-trafficking and ensure that the law functions as a deterrent to traffickers and their accomplices. Actors make sure that those who are found guilty of any form of human trafficking are severely punished.

"We have to look at the preventive aspect of this fight, and we have to make sure that the law is working, and it is working properly. And, we have to make sure people are punished if they are found guilty" (R15).

Other actors, particularly those from the law enforcement agencies further supported that their main belief and goal of involving into these collaborative efforts known as advocacy coalitions is to *"reduce human trafficking at a minimal level"* (R18, R01, R14). Because, for them, they cannot say they can eliminate human trafficking *"but reduce it to the lowest degree that someone cannot think that it exists."* This underscores that while the complete eradication of human trafficking remains an ambitious goal among actors, the emphasis is on significantly reducing its prevalence because human trafficking itself is a complex, multi-faceted problem that cannot be easily eliminated from Sierra Leonean society.

4. 5.2 Coordination and Collaboration

The data reveals that coordination and collaboration is a key strategy used by coalition actors to put their beliefs (eradicating human trafficking) into action. Majority of the respondents, especially those from the government sector indicated that there has been robust inter-ministerial coordination established to combat human trafficking. This coordinated effort ensures that all human trafficking related matters are carefully addressed, as actors stated that there is provision made by the act to have what they call the inter-ministerial coordination.

Other actors, particularly actors from the government sector, stated that the collaboration extends to local and international NGOs. Regular meetings allow for sharing ideas on effective response mechanisms and to have discussions on the successes and challenges they face as a coalition.

“We sit at the table and we have what we call a frank discussion. We face the meal. We look at various issues that affect us, how we have responded, whether those responses have yielded any dividends or not” (R11).

In enhancing this coordination and collaboration, 10 respondents (both government and NGOs) mentioned that the National Action Plan has been a crucial instrument used by coalition actors. This instrument involves an extensive validation meeting with a taskforce, involving diverse actors from all 16 Sierra Leonean districts and paramount chiefs. The respondents further stated that these meetings allow for careful assessment strategies and input in all the districts. 5 actors make sure that they carefully consider the success and challenges they faced, as it was captured:

“We discussed. We looked at those who had the baseline, those who do not have a baseline. They give their inputs. Probably what is working in Kenema is not working in Makeni, what is working in Makeni is not working in Port Loko. What can we do?” (R11).

Chapter Five

5.1 Discussion

5.1.1 Coalition Actors Collaborate in Implementing the Anti-human Trafficking Act:

The findings show that coalition efforts in anti-human trafficking require the involvement of diverse actors in implementing legal frameworks to combat human trafficking in Sierra Leone. In these findings, government and non-governmental actors collaborate to implement the Anti-human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Act of 2022 in Sierra Leone. These findings are in line with the literature from scholars (see Girassi & Nichols, 2017; Jones & Lutze, 2016; Lagon, 2015; Yeo-Oxenham & Schneider, 2015) that coalitions bring together diverse actors to fight human trafficking

It also affirms the assertions from Miller et al. (2023) and Trudeau (2021) on the importance of collaboration in anti-human trafficking efforts and that all actors must bring together experiences, opinions, abilities, and expertise to reduce human trafficking. This study supports the existing literature that in the context of Sierra Leone, advocacy coalition actors collaborate to implement anti-human trafficking laws and policies by bringing diverse actors across institutions together and addressing human trafficking issues.

Findings on the roles performed by coalition actors in these collaborative efforts show that coordination plays a vital role in undertaking anti-trafficking activities in Sierra Leone such as engaging in meetings, conducting awareness-raising campaigns, intercepting victims and arresting (suspect) traffickers and providing protection for victims. These findings support research by Gómez-Mera (2017) and Limanowska and Konrad (2010) on the scope and importance of coordination and collaboration in addressing a complex and multi-faceted problem like human trafficking.

5.1.2 The Private-Public Partnerships Strategy

Findings concerning the PPPs approach show that Private-Public Partnerships as a collaborative strategy in anti-human trafficking works differently in the case of Sierra Leone. In Sierra Leone, this PPPs strategy in anti-human trafficking involves more than just finances; it includes other components such as technical support, information sharing, logistical support, which were not mentioned in the literature. Although this requires further study, this could potentially be due to the fact that even though finances play a significant role in these collaborative efforts in Sierra Leone, other components also contribute to ensuring that private and public institutions uphold effective collaboration to improve the implementation process. This finding goes against the recommendation provided by Yeo-Oxenham and Schneider (2015) that private-public partnerships (PPPs) should only alleviate the financial burden that coalition organisations (nonprofit organisations and government agencies) bear when implementing anti-trafficking laws. Therefore, contrary to what research by Yeo-Oxenham and Schneider (2015) suggested, this study shows that in the context of Sierra Leone, technical support, knowledge exchange, and support on logistics. are also important in fostering collaboration.

5.1.3 Coalition Actors' Engagement through Meetings

Findings on meetings as a form of engagement for coalition actors show that although improvement such as providing transport refunds, gifts for actors who brought up innovative ideas, and refreshments during meetings are required to ensure full commitment, coalition actors in general engage in well-coordinated meetings to discuss further plans and strategies to improve collaborative efforts in the implementation of the process. These meetings are mandated by the act for coalition actors to engage once every three months. This finding affirms Durham's (2014) four-level paradigm for stakeholder engagement, whose main components involve communication with stakeholders, consultation, intention to satisfy the needs of more fully engaged stakeholders, active involvement of stakeholders by setting the direction of the project and offering resources and viewpoints. Therefore, this finding is striking for this study because despite the poor motivations for actors to be fully committed in the implementation process, well-coordinated meetings are still ongoing.

5.1.4 Divergent frameworks between actors affect collaborative efforts in the implementation

The findings show that differences in approaches between coalition actors hinder collaborative efforts in implementing the act. In these findings, it is indicated that this lack of uniformity created inefficiencies and gaps in the overall strategy to combat human trafficking and the full implementation of the act. This could be because of a conflict of interest between these organisations and their actors to gain relevance in the public view. Moreover, the findings further show overlapping roles between coalition actors because most of these institutions often prioritise their own goals. These affect the synergy between them to effectively implement the act. These findings therefore support results found in research conducted by Gerassi et al. (2017) and Hounmenou (2019), that potentially divergent frameworks such as conflicting opinions about labour and sex trafficking, conflicting opinions about service populations (e.g. children vs. adults), and conflicting opinions about the relationship between victimisation and victim agency affects collaboration in anti-human trafficking efforts.

5.2 Conclusion

This study was conducted to investigate how coalition actors collaborate in implementing the Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrants Smuggling Act in Sierra Leone. A qualitative approach was applied using semi-structured interviews to collect data from actors involved in implementing the act. Additional data were collected through analysis of available documents regarding the act and its implementation process. In this study, the Advocacy Coalition Framework (ACF) was applied as a theoretical lens to learn about the coalition beliefs between advocacy coalition actors in their collaborative efforts in implementing the Anti-human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Act of 2022 in Sierra Leone. The study concludes that private-public partnerships and well-coordinated meetings are very essential strategies used by coalition actors in their collaborative efforts to implement the act, despite their differing approaches.

5.3 Limitations and Recommendations for Further Research

This section discusses the limitations of this research and provides possible recommendations for future research. In this regard, a few limitations are identified and discussed below.

First, this study did not investigate the effectiveness of the act in terms of its implementation undertaken by advocacy actors. Since this act marks the beginning of a new era in the efforts to tackle human trafficking in Sierra Leone (Lewis, 2023), it could have been beneficial to

investigate how effective its implementation is. Further research should examine the effectiveness of this act using quantitative research methods to collect a wide range of data from actors, victims, and community stakeholders to understand their attitudes towards past and ongoing implementation programmes.

Second, the timing of the research is another limitation of this study. Since this act is relatively recent and has been implemented for only two years, it limits the investigation of long-term collaboration effects. Therefore, future research should consider the timing to fully capture the collaborative efforts on the implementation process.

Also, the sampling selection of this study was limited. This study did not capture actors from the judiciary sector who play a key role in the implementation process. In addition, gender representation was limited, with only 5 out of the 19 actors who were female. This study therefore fails to capture a full picture of diverse actors' representation in this collaboration. Further research should include a more diverse range of actors and increase the female representation to provide a comprehensive view of this collaboration.

5.4 Recommendations for Policy and Practice

This section presents recommendations obtained from the key findings of this study. They are discussed below.

The study recommends that enhancing actors' commitment would greatly improve collaboration in implementing the act. Actors, especially those from government institutions, should be provided incentives such as transport refunds, gifts for actors who brought up innovative ideas, and refreshments during meetings, to motivate them to be more involved in this implementation process. Knowledgeable actors should be retained to prevent disruptions in the implementation process. If transfers would be made, there should be replacements that are well-informed about human trafficking issues to maintain collaborative efforts.

Also, coalition actors should have a well-coordinated and uniformed framework for implementing the act. Both government and non-governmental actors and their institutions should follow the standard operating procedures (SOPs) indicated in the two major documents (the National Action Plan and the National Referral Mechanisms) as guiding tools in their

implementation process. This will enhance a more holistic and synergistic approach between actors in implementing the full implementation of the act.

Furthermore, public education drives should be improved. Robust awareness-raising campaigns are essential for the successful implementation of the act. This awareness could be achieved by improving media engagement, such as radio talk shows, social media engagement, and community outreach programs like door-to-door sensitisation, workshops, town hall meetings, etc. Doing so will help educate the public on the dangers of human trafficking, the differences between human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and the legal consequences that follow for perpetrators and abettors. In this regard, more collaboration is needed with stakeholders in other institutions such as the Ministries of Basic and Higher Education, media outlets such as radio, television, and social media influencers. Also, there is a need for coalition members to be committed to improving collaboration.

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Appendice (I): Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents

The table below indicates the socio-demographic characteristics of the interviewed respondents. To keep the anonymity of respondents, the full names of actors and their organisation's names are pseudomised are not included in this list.

Respondents No.	Respondents Code	Gender	Respondent's Organisation	Position
01	R01	M	Government	Middle level
02	R02	F	NGO	Senior level
03	R03	M	Government	Senior level
04	R04	M	NGO	Junior level

05	R05	F	NGO	Senior level
06	R06	F	NGO	Junior level
07	R07	F	NGO	Senior level
08	R08	M	NGO	Senior level
09	R09	F	NGO	Junior level
10	R10	M	Government	Senior level
11	R11	M	Government	Junior level
12	R12	M	Government	Middle level
13	R13	M	NGO	Senior level
14	R14	M	Government	Senior level
15	R15	M	NGO	Senior level
16	R16	M	Government	Senior level
17	R17	M	Government	Senior level
18	R18	M	Government	Middle level
19	R19	M	Government	Senior level

Interpretation:

M = denotes the Male Gender

F = denotes Female Gender

NGO = denotes Non-government Organisation

Appendix II: Confidentiality document



Topic: Coalition Dynamics in Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts: Understanding the Engagement of Coalition Actors in Implementing the 2022 Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrants Smuggling Act in Sierra Leone

Dear Sir/Madam,

Introduction Letter

I am Issa Kamara, an MSc. student from Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands. I am researching the topic “Coalition Dynamics in Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts: Understanding the Engagement of Coalition Actors in Implementing the 2022 Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrants Smuggling Act in Sierra Leone.” This research aims to explore the collaborative efforts and dynamics among different stakeholders involved to combat human trafficking in Sierra Leone. The data collected from this research will be used to complete my thesis, which is a partial requirement for the fulfilment of my master's in Governance of Migration and Diversity.

Since you and your organisation have been a key actor in implementing the Anti-Human Trafficking Act, I kindly request your participation in this research. Your participation will be a valuable input to my thesis; as your answers to the research questions would provide great insights into the dynamics between coalition actors involved in implementing the 2022 Act in Trafficking in Person and Migrants Smuggling. I would appreciate it so much if you participated in my research.

Yours sincerely,

Issa Kamara.

Student at Erasmus University, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

616667ik@eur.nl.

What is this project about?

Since the early 2000s, Human trafficking as a phenomenon has raised a greater amount of public attention; from law enforcement, anti-trafficking advocates, and policymakers, to community groups. As a whole, governments and nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) alongside intergovernmental agencies around the globe have been working continually to stop these abuses and help those that are affected by this phenomenon. Various efforts have been made across West Africa to implement well-disciplined policies to control the trafficking of persons, especially women and children. However, despite the efforts being made over the years, trafficking in persons remains prevalent in Sierra Leone. My aim in this research is to investigate the role performed by coalition networks, their potential challenges, and policy learning in implementing the 2022 anti-human trafficking and migrants smuggling act in Sierra Leone. However, there has been limited existing literature that specifically focuses on coalition actors in anti-human trafficking efforts in Sierra Leone and West Africa as a whole. This research will contribute to the scarce literature on Anti-human efforts in Sierra Leone. To investigate this phenomenon, the research poses the question of how coalition actors engage in implementing the 2022 anti-human trafficking and migrants smuggling act in Sierra Leone.

What does this research project involve?

Your participation will be a face-to-face in-depth interview that will be audio recorded. However, the interview will be held virtually if we cannot meet in person. This will be organised through online platforms such as Zoom or Microsoft Teams video conferencing and video recording. The audio recording of this interview will be transcribed afterward and once the transcripts have been finalised, the audio recordings will be deleted permanently.

Important Dates and Locations

I am committed to conducting these interviews in May 2024. Interviews can take place either in your office, another space of your choice, or local or regional government offices (the nearest and most suitable) in your area. To facilitate your attendance and minimize time off from work, the maximum time estimated for the interviews has been set at one hour. After the meeting, you will have the chance to debrief and/or discuss any concerns you may have with me.

Confidentiality & data protection

All the information you provide will be treated confidentially. The research findings will not contain any private or sensitive information (such as your name); instead, the data will be

combined for analysis. In this case, there will be no publications resulting from the research that include your name. In this regard, there will be no publications resulting from the research that include your name. To protect your privacy and confidentiality, I will substitute random numbers and pseudonyms for personal and organisational identities.

Even though your privacy and confidentiality will be protected to the fullest extent possible, anonymity is not guaranteed by this research. In a study (like this) when individuals might know or have some sort of relationship with other participants re-identification is possible. In most cases, this happens when a respondent is narrating an experience or circumstance that another person recognizes, or when they communicate specific knowledge about an experience or occurrence. I therefore ask you to kindly weigh the possibility when assessing the implications of re-identification. If you agree to participate, you will have the opportunity to see the transcripts of the interviews you participate in (upon request). Also, you will have six weeks after the interview to change or remove any remarks or statements you may have made. However, you will not be able to remove any more information after the interview transcript is finalized.

For this thesis, the data will be stored in a secure location at the Erasmus University Rotterdam and will be kept for 7. However, as my aim for this thesis research is not only to fulfil the requirement of obtaining my degree but to also be published online, the data will be kept for 10 years after the online publishing of the research outcome. The purpose of storing this data is to secure scientific integrity and then delete it permanently unless the researcher requests permission to re-use the data in another project, for which you will be informed to seek permission.

Although you may feel a little discomfort and anxiety while recalling certain conflictual memories or incidents, participating in this study involved minimal risk. Before consenting to participate in this research, you are urged to think about it and let me know if you have any concerns. Also, it is essential to note that, participating in this research does not force any commitment to take any further action, but it will be relevant to react to any suggested actions or results which will help in the successful collaboration between actors in the policy implementation process.

Voluntary participation & individual rights

It is important to note that your involvement in this research is voluntary and your participation can stop at any time you wish. However, while your right to decline is highly respected, I would be pleased to have you participate in full. If you decide to discontinue your participation at any moment of the interview, you may do so without any explanation. If you want to withdraw from the interview, all unapproved data will be deleted from the research. However, transcripts of individual interviews that have already been authorised will not be removed since they will have already been incorporated into the analysis.

Please contact me at 616667ik@eur.nl, should you have any questions regarding your participation or any other aspects of the project. Or, you can also contact my supervisor at ripollgonzalez@essb.eur.nl.

You have the right to request more information about the data collection, and analysis or withdraw the consent and ask for data erasure before the dataset is anonymized. You can exercise your rights by submitting an online request on the Data subject rights request portal of Erasmus University Rotterdam.

This research is conducted by a student of Erasmus University Rotterdam. If you have any complaints regarding the processing of personal data in this research, please contact the Data Protection Officer via fg@eur.nl. You also have the right to submit a complaint to the Dutch Data Protection Authority (EUR Ethics clearance number 21-013).

Data Sharing

The collected data will be used only by academics within the same research field at Erasmus University Rotterdam.

The results of this study will be published in the form of a repository in the Governance of Migration and Diversity thesis repository website (www.gmdcentre.nl/thesis-repository) and later academic journal articles. Following guidelines on open access data by the European Commission and to maximize the benefits of this research, once anonymized, the data will be made public through the Erasmus University data repository (electronically). Please note that your identity will be protected by the use of codes and pseudonyms when quoting interview data and in the aggregated data tables and analysis across all publications.

This information sheet is for you to keep and, after reading all the information contained in this document and asking the necessary and relevant questions to me. Once the interview is scheduled and before starting, you will be once again briefed about the project and important aspects related to your participation and you will be asked to state your consent by signing a consent form declaring that you have understood what the study is about and that you are ready to take part.

Thank you very much in advance for your interest in participating!

Declaration of Consent

Upon signing this consent form, I confirm that:

- I have been informed about the purpose of the research, data collection, and storage as explained in the information sheet;
- I have read the information sheet, or it has been read to me;
- I have had an opportunity to ask questions about the study; the questions have been answered sufficiently;
- I voluntarily agree to participate in this research;
- I understand that the information will be treated confidentially;
- I understand that I can stop participation at any time or refuse to answer any questions without any consequences;
- I understand that I can withdraw my consent before the dataset is anonymized or the thesis is submitted.

Additionally, I am permitted to:

	Yes	No
audio record the interview		
video record the interview in the case of an online interview		

use quotes from my interview		
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Name of research participant: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

I hereby confirm that I have informed the research participant of all the aspects of the study.

Name of researcher: _____

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Researcher copy

Participant copy

Appendix III: Question Guides

Coalition Dynamics in Anti-Human Trafficking Efforts: Understanding the Engagement of Coalition Actors in Implementing the Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrants Smuggling Act of 2022 in Sierra Leone

Introduction/ general Questions

1. What is your name?
2. What organisation are you working for? Can you describe it?
3. How does your position relate to the role you play in implementing the Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Act of 2022 in Sierra Leone?

A. Questions about coalition Actors and their perceived roles in implementing the Act

1. How do you describe your interactions with other organisations within the coalition?
2. How do you perceive the roles you played by your organisation in ensuring the successful implementation of the Act?

B. Questions about the Strategies Used by Advocacy Coalition Actors in the implementation of the Act

3. What are **your goals** with regards to the implementation of the act?
4. What strategies do you use to achieve them?

C. Questions about the potential limitations and challenges faced by coalition actors

5. Could you describe some of the key challenges your organisation has encountered in implementing the act? And how have these challenges impacted the collaborative efforts of other coalition members?
6. In what ways do these challenges affect the implementation of the act?

E. Recommendations for better collaboration and implementation

7. In your opinion, how could this collaboration be improved?
(b) Why do you think this needs improvement or do not need improving?
9. In your opinion what do you think can be done to improve the full implementation of the act?

Appendix IV: Deductive Codebook:

The table below is a deductive codebook, coded from the theoretical framework of Chapter Two of my ongoing thesis research. It captures themes, codes, subcodes, descriptions of codes, and quotes from literature and sources. This codebook would be used as a guiding tool towards coding interview transcripts and answering my research questions stated in Chapter One of my thesis.

Themes	Codes	Sub-codes	Descriptions	Quotes	Sources
1. Coalition Actors and Their Perceived roles	1.1: Actors	1.1.1: Government-Non-governmental Collaboration	Various actors collaborate to anti-human trafficking efforts, such as provide care for trafficked victims and raise awareness	“To minimize human trafficking, government and nongovernmental groups must work in collaboration...”	Miller et al. (2023); Trudeau (2021)
		1.1.2: Diverse Actor Backgrounds	Discusses the need for various sectors (governmental and nongovernmental) to work together to effectively combat human trafficking.	“Anti-human trafficking coalitions typically bring together different actors to collaborate...”	Girassi & Nichols (2017), Jones & Lutze (2016), Lagon (2015), Yeo-Oxenham & Schneider (2015)

2. Benefit of Coalition		1.1.3: Diverse Actor Backgrounds	Highlights the varied backgrounds of coalition members, including criminal justice, religious communities, human rights organisations, etc.	"Effective anti-human trafficking programmes do involve coordination and collaboration among various stakeholders..." "...coordination and cooperation are essential because human trafficking is a very complex, multifaceted problem that cannot be solved single-handedly." "	Gómez-Mera (2017), Limanowska & Konrad (2010)
	2.1: Resource Sharing and	2.1.1: Enhanced Resource Sharing	Coalitions facilitate the sharing of resources among member organisations.	"Increased sharing of resources, expertise, and knowledge."	Foot et al. (2021)

Memberships Knowledge

Exchange

		2.1.2: Improved Detection and Legal Services	Coalition efforts lead to better detection of trafficking cases and improved legal services for victims	"Faster detection of cases of human trafficking and easier access to legal services for victims."	Foot et al. (2021)
3. Perceived roles of coalition actors	2.2: Policy and Advocacy	2.21: Influencing Public Policy	Actors engage in lobbying and grassroots advocacy to influence policy at various levels	"Anti-human trafficking seeks to influence public policy at all levels; local, state, and federal."	Schmitt (2017) Gbadamosi (2021)
	3.1: Direct Comprehensive Services	3.1.1: Victim Support Services	"Providing training to allied professionals, first responders, and community groups."	"NGOs work with survivors by providing legal services, victim advocacy, case management"	Schmitt (2017) Gbadamosi (2021)
4. Coalition Strategies in Anti-Human	4.1: Power Dynamics and	4.1.1: Mitigating Power Differentials	Strategies to address power imbalances within coalitions.	"Reaching consensus on how these differentials can be mitigated in collaborative work."	Foot (2015)

n
Leadership
Trafficking
Efforts

		4.1.2: Democratizing Leadership	Efforts to create equitable leadership and communication structures.	Hold an open discussion on ways to democratize leadership structures and communication processes	Foot (2015)
	4.2: Private-Public Partnerships	4.2.3: Financial Role of Private Sector	Involving the private sector to alleviate the financial burden on coalitions.	"The creation of private-public partnerships (PPPs), in which the private sector assumes a major financial role."	Yeo-Oxenham & Schneider (2015)
	4.3: Engagements Strategy	4.3.1: Stakeholder Engagements	Process of engaging coalition actors through meetings, training etc.	"...coalition leaders employ diverse engagement strategies in these interactions."	Durham et al. (2014); Erikson and Larisson (2020)
		4.3.2: Community Engagement	Process of sharing or exchanging information, experiences through awareness	"prevention strategies, education, and awareness campaigns, including outreach and identification."	Nichols et al. (2023)

			raising, meetings etc.		
5. Potential Limitations and Challenges Faced by Coalition Actors	5.1: Internal Conflicts	5.1.1: Divergent Goals and Motivations	Conflicts arising from differing objectives and motivations within the coalition.	"Disagreements about human trafficking, members of coalition having different objectives and motivations"	Foot (2015); Gerassi & Nichols (2018)
		5.1.2: Competition for Funding	Rivalry for limited resources leading to fragmentation within the coalition.	"Rivalry for scarce resources could pose challenges for anti-trafficking coalitions."	Gerassi (2017)
	5.2: External Challenges affecting coalition	5.1.1: External Factors Influencing Collaboratio n	Factors such as public policies, resource availability, and environmental complexity that affect collaboration	"...external factors, including windows of collaborative opportunity; public policies and policy fields..."	Bryson et al. (2015)
6. The Advocacy Coalitio Framewor	6.1: Coalition beliefs	6.1.1: Shared values	A group of actors working towards a common goal	"...people from various organisations who share a set of normative	Sabatier (1988)

				and causal beliefs...”	
	6.2: Coordination and Collaboration	6.2.1: Coalition Activities (such as	A set of activities undertaken by coalition actors to combat human trafficking	"If there is no coordinated behaviour, there are no advocacy coalitions"	Zafonte and Sabatier (1998, p. 479)