

ENGAGE TOGETHER®

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

All those who learn of human trafficking, whether they are an individual, an organization, or an entire community, immediately find this question burning in their hearts and minds: *How do we end this?*

Often, the next step for many is to dive in and engage immediately. While that is an understandable and noble reaction, to truly end human trafficking, we need to walk through several critical steps *before* we engage to create a strategic plan of action.



What is a Community Assessment?

A Community Assessment is the process of researching, cataloging, and then assessing your community's efforts to combat human trafficking and to protect the vulnerable. It helps you to evaluate where your community has strengths *and* where challenges or gaps exist that need to be addressed.

What does a Community Assessment do?

Once completed, your Community Assessment will serve two very important purposes:

Inform Your Plan of Action – You will be equipped with the information you need to decide how you or your organization can effectively engage to combat human trafficking. You will be able to decide which of three approaches to take: **enhance** your existing efforts, **come alongside** others already serving in the field, or create something new to **fill a gap** in your community. You may discover ways to do all three.

Mobilize Your Community – The final product you will have created through your Community Assessment is a **resource directory** of local organizations and services. This resource directory will empower your entire community's efforts to end human trafficking and will help others **discover opportunities to engage together** on behalf of those in need.

Why is a Community Assessment Important?

Everyone in your community is uniquely positioned to make a difference, and everyone is needed. However, time and resources are limited, and you will not want to duplicate efforts unnecessarily or create resources that do not match your community's needs. Therefore, it is important to understand who is already working in your community and what efforts are already underway so that you can create an action plan that will fill the gaps that are unique to your community.



Community Assessment Resources

AFRJ® Freedom Strategy

The AFRJ® Freedom Strategy defines all the areas of focus that must be addressed simultaneously within your community to eradicate human trafficking and to protect the vulnerable. To learn more, visit engagetgether.com/endit.

Community Assessment Course

This online interactive course visually walks you through how to complete a Community Assessment.

Community Assessment Guide

This guide gives step-by-step instructions, with examples, on how to conduct a Community Assessment.

Charts and Forms

These templates help you easily catalog the data you will collect as you research your community's efforts.