

Preventing and Addressing Trafficking in Persons in Rwanda through Awareness-Raising and Capacity-Building Programmes



IOM RWANDA Country Office



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Situation Overview

From 2017, IOM has been implementing programmes aimed at assisting the Government of Rwanda (GoR) and civil society organizations (CSOs) to strengthen their capacity to respond to all forms of internal and cross-border human trafficking and to identify and protect victims. The programmes complement and reinforce the ongoing efforts by the GoR and key partners to address human trafficking.

Among other initiatives, IOM, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, commissioned the first ever research on Human Trafficking in Rwanda, undertaken by Never Again Rwanda (NAR). According to the research findings, Rwanda is a transit country, and to a lesser extent, a country of origin of human trafficking. From the research findings, it was realized that there is limited knowledge about human trafficking and the ability to distinguish trafficking in persons from related crimes such as abduction, prostitution, and migrant smuggling among numerous service providers.

Main Findings



Origin of Victims
 Burundi **62.7%**
 DRC **15%**
 Rwanda **6%**



Gender of Victims
 Females **77.67%**
 Males **22.39%**



Age
87.01% of the victims were below the age of **30**



Employment Status
55.22% of the victims were unemployed



Destination
 Middle East **38.55%**
 East Africa **37.35%**



Marital status
 Married **7.32%**
 Single **89.02%**



Domestic trafficking
 Internal trafficking primarily takes the rural-urban form.



Perpetrators
 Male **63%**
 Female **37%**

Current Activities

In support of the Government's efforts to end trafficking in persons, the IOM Rwanda Mission together with ONE UN launched the project "Preventing and Addressing Trafficking in Persons in Rwanda through Awareness-Raising and Capacity-Building" in 2020. The project aims to equip vulnerable populations and protection actors with essential information on TIP and on accessing assistance services for victims and persons at risk, with particular focus on vulnerable women and youth.

Project Outcome	Increased awareness amongst refugee camp populations, border communities, and protection actors on TIP as well as pathways for identification and referrals of victims of trafficking.
Project Outputs:	Reaching target communities through comprehensive awareness-raising programmes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute awareness material in 6 refugee camps and 2 border communities; • Beneficiaries possess information on how to access protection and assistance services and are able to refer potential victims to service providers; • Protection actors have the skills, knowledge, and resources to identify and refer potential victims of trafficking.
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct awareness-raising and sensitisation campaigns on TIP in 6 refugee camps; • Conduct awareness-raising and sensitisation campaigns on TIP in 2 border communities.
Project duration	7 Months.
Beneficiaries	Refugee camp populations, border communities, and protection actors working in refugee camps and the Isange One Stop Centre (IOSC). Particular focus on vulnerable women and youth.



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Partners

