



PARTICIPANTS AND IOM STAFF AT A TRAINING FOR SCHOOL LEADERS © IOM 2018/E.MASABO

## IOM AND COUNTER TRAFFICKING IN RWANDA

IOM in close collaboration with the Ministry of Justice commissioned the **first-ever research on human trafficking** undertaken by Never Again Rwanda. According to the research findings, Rwanda is a transit country, and to a lesser extent, a country of origin of human trafficking (NAR, 2019). Official data from the Department of Immigration and Emigration (DGIE) show that the majority of the suspected human trafficking victims identified were from Burundi (62.7%), DRC (15%), Rwanda (13.6%).

The majority of the intercepted suspected human trafficking victims were females (77.67%) while less than a quarter were males (22.3%). Regarding the destination countries of transnational trafficking, the analysis of victim cases indicates that Middle East Countries are the most frequent destination (38.55%), followed closely by East African Countries (37.35%). Other destination countries include Southern African Countries and West Asian countries.

In support of the government’s efforts to end trafficking in persons, the IOM Rwanda Mission, together with its One UN partners, is implementing two counter trafficking projects in Rwanda, titled “*Improving knowledge, enforcement and coordination in counter trafficking*” and “*Strengthening the identification and protection of victims of trafficking among refugees in Rwanda*”. These projects complement each other and work together to achieve their objectives.

### What is IOM?

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the UN agency for Migration. With 173 member states, a further 8 states holding observer status and offices in over 100 countries, IOM is dedicated to promoting humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all. It does so by providing services and advice to governments and migrants.

### What is Trafficking?

Trafficking in persons, also referred to as human trafficking, is a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights, with tens of millions of victims throughout the world. The Rwandan Counter Trafficking Law\* Article 3 defines it as:

*“(a) any act committed by a person who, for the purpose of exploitation, hires or recruits, transports, transfers, harbors, or receives another person; by means of threat or use of force, or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability, or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation;*

*(b) any act of a person who recruits, transports, transfers, harbors or receives a child for the purpose of exploitation, even if this does not involve any of the means set out in item (a) of this Paragraph”*

\*Law N° 51/2018 of 13/08/2018 relating to the Prevention, Suppression and Punishment of Trafficking in Persons and Exploitation of Others



ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION FOR BORDER COMMUNITIES

## IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE, ENFORCEMENT AND COORDINATION IN COUNTER TRAFFICKING

Implementation period	January 2017– June 2020
Implementing Partners	UN Women & UNICEF
Leading Government Partner	MINIJUST
Donor	USAID

## STRENGTHENING THE IDENTIFICATION AND PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AMONG REFUGEES

Implementation period	February 2018—June 2020
Implementing Partners UNHCR	UNHCR
Leading Government Partner	MINIJUST
Donor	U.S. Department of State

IOM Rwanda is using a comprehensive approach to strengthen the Government of Rwanda's capacity to respond to all forms of internal and cross-border trafficking in persons, and to identify and protect victims. This includes tackling the issue from all levels; from awareness raising in communities, to working with the Government of Rwanda to strengthen the policies and laws. Our activities can be summaries into five main categories:

### 1. Research

An important part of the two projects is a study on the situation of trafficking in persons in Rwanda. It's the first study on this subject in the country, and aim to determine the magnitude of the phenomenon, its characteristics and its associated factors. The findings from the study can be used to inform policies, trainings and other initiatives and will continue to do so for future programming and decision making.

### 2. Policy

Strong policies and a good legal framework is key to combat trafficking; therefore IOM assisted the Government of Rwanda in the development and strengthening of these. Amongst other, this includes a new law on counter trafficking, a National Action Plan and Standard Operating Procedures.

### 3. Coordination

Good coordination between different actors working with trafficking in persons is necessary to deliver a strong response. Therefore, a Technical Committee has been established under the projects which brings together representatives from all Government and UN agencies working with counter trafficking in different ways.

### 4. Capacity Building

Counter-trafficking efforts include a range of different actors, including Government officials, CSOs, law enforcement agencies, and other key stakeholders. Under the two project IOM conducted capacity building trainings tailored to these different groups in order to increase their knowledge on counter-trafficking policies, programs and operations.

### 5. Awareness Raising

Both projects contained activities which raises the awareness in the communities and refugee camps on the issue of trafficking in persons. Amongst other, this helps prevent trafficking in persons and enables victims and witnesses to know which services are available and how to access them.



AWARENESS RAISING CAMPAIGNS



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