

# Improving Knowledge, Enforcement and Coordination in Counter Trafficking Phase II

**IOM RWANDA**

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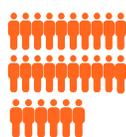
## Programme Overview

From 2017, IOM has been leading a joint program aimed at assisting the Government of Rwanda (GoR) and civil society organizations (CSOs) in Rwanda to strengthen their capacity to respond to all forms of internal and cross-border human trafficking, including trafficking of children and to identify and protect victims. Specifically, the project has been working towards enhancing the capability of government agencies and social and child protection actors to make informed decisions on trafficking in persons (TIP) programming, based on accurate data on trafficking in persons in Rwanda. The program complements and reinforces the ongoing efforts by the GoR and key partners to address human trafficking.

An important part of the program was a study on the situation of trafficking in persons in Rwanda. It was the first study on this subject in the country, and outlined the magnitude of the phenomenon, its characteristics and its associated factors. The findings from the study have been used to inform policies, strategies, trainings and other initiatives and will continue to do so for future programming and decision making.

## Study Findings

IOM in close collaboration with the Ministry of Justice commissioned the **first-ever** research on human trafficking undertaken by Never Again Rwanda. Below are the main study findings:



### Origin of Victims

Burundi **62.7%**  
DRC **15%**  
Rwanda **13.6%**



### 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 **7.35%**



### Marital status

Married **7.32%**  
Single **89.02%**



### Domestic trafficking

Internal trafficking primarily takes the rural-urban form.



### Perpetrators

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

## Study gaps

The research revealed a number of gaps that need to be addressed in order for Rwanda to combat human trafficking effectively. The gaps fall into the following areas: data limitations, capacity-building, identification, victim protection and assistance, and investigation, prosecution, and conviction. In addition, from the research findings, it was realized that there is limited knowledge about human trafficking especially domestic human trafficking and the ability to distinguish trafficking in persons from related crimes such as abduction, prostitution, and migrant smuggling among numerous service providers.



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## Summary of Achievement Phase I

The program has enabled the GoR to effectively coordinate the efforts to implement the new anti-trafficking legislation, policies and regulations and contributed towards improved understanding and application by Rwandan law enforcement institutions of best practices to identify trafficked persons, investigate trafficking cases and prosecute traffickers. In addition, IOM supported the Government of Rwanda to develop the first draft of the National Action Plan (NAP) on counter trafficking.



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## Achievements - Phase I

01

The first baseline study on this subject in the country, and outlined the magnitude of the phenomenon, its characteristics and its associated factors.



02

IOM assisted the Government of Rwanda in the development and strengthening of polices and legal frameworks.



03

Establishment of a Counter Trafficking Technical Committee with representatives from key Government agencies and UN Agencies.



04

IOM conducted capacity building trainings on counter trafficking targeting different groups to increase knowledge on the subject.



05

Awareness raising in the communities especially in the cross-border communities.





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## PHASE II

Phase II of the joint program proposes to create a basis for a wholistic TIP response by creating awareness to prevent those vulnerable to trafficking, provide protection for victims of trafficking and prosecute offenders. Further, the project aims to assist the Government of Rwanda (GoR) and civil society to further develop capacity to respond to all forms of internal and cross-border human trafficking and to protect and assist victims.

## PHASE II GOALS

Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the Government of Rwanda in finalizing the National Action Plan, utilizing the suggested roadmap.</li> <li>Conduct a series of targeted trainings on the content of the NAP.</li> <li>Provide Technical Support to the GoR in finalizing the Ministerial Order, an important step in operationalizing the legislation.</li> </ul>
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the Government of Rwanda to ensure continued coordination and partnership with key stakeholders.</li> <li>Adopt a holistic approach in counter-trafficking efforts that also involve the civil society and private sector.</li> </ul>
Capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to train law enforcement agencies, including the Rwanda Investigation Bureau, Rwanda National Police, the Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration, NPPA, and the judiciary, in dealing with human trafficking.</li> </ul>
Awareness raising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and implement comprehensive awareness raising programmes for local leaders, refugee camps staff, school teachers, and community members while putting special emphasis on the border community.</li> <li>Enhance information and awareness materials related to targeted populations at risk, disseminate these materials and develop new awareness products for specific audiences in the hotspots.</li> <li>Develop and translate information, education, and communication materials, and display them in conspicuous places after trainings, mainly in refugee camps and schools.</li> </ul>
Victim assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operationalise a rehabilitation and reintegration protocol for Victims of Trafficking (VoTs) focusing on long-term recovery of victims and their follow-up.</li> <li>Assess the feasibility of integrating management of VoTs in the existing model of Isange One Stop Center.</li> <li>Train counsellors on specific needs of managing human trafficking cases and not generalising them as GBV.</li> </ul>
Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a standardized system for collecting data of potential victims and traffickers with a gender lens and mandatory policies related to confidential data storage.</li> <li>Enhance data collection and thematic issue-based research with always gender lens to better understand the nature, prevalence, and scope of human trafficking, close the data gaps, and inform policy and programs that help victims and survivors.</li> </ul>

### Donor and Partners

