

UNDERSTANDING AND COMBATING THE TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS IN MAURITANIA



©OIM/F.Giordani Monitoring visit to a victim in her business, financed by IOM.



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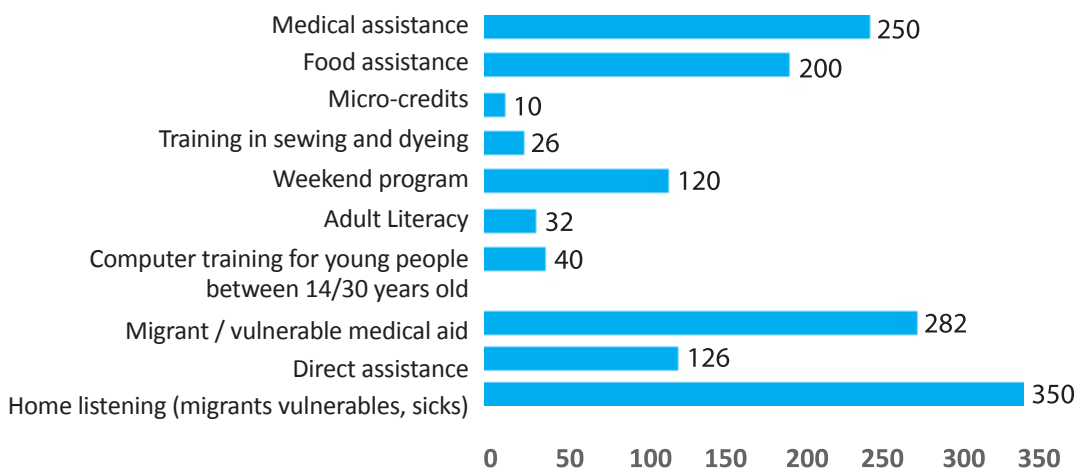
Human trafficking is the third most important illegal business after drug and weapon trafficking and every year countless victims are trapped in the hands of organized crime groups. Mauritania lies at the crossroads of the African continent. Its long and porous borders have long been the preferred route for all types of illicit movements, from the trafficking of drugs and arms, to the smuggling of migrants. These traditional smuggling routes are used by human traffickers moving innocent victims to serve as domestic servants, forced labourers, beggar, sex slaves, or “temporary wives”, within Mauritania, North Africa, Europe, and the Middle East.

Despite the adoption of an anti-trafficking law in 2003, the Mauritanian government capacity to address this multi-faceted phenomenon remains limited.

For this reason, since 2015, IOM is working in direct collaboration with the Mauritanian government and relevant stakeholders in order to improve their ability to effectively address human trafficking and to assist and protect the victims.

IOM has been working to counter trafficking in persons since 1994. Ever since, IOM has assisted approximately 70,000 trafficked persons worldwide. IOM’s primary aim is to prevent human trafficking and to protect victims while offering options for safe and sustainable return and reintegration in their home countries.

THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF ASSISTANCE CHOSEN



TOTAL OF THE BENEFICIARIES
1436

Since 2015 IOM has been implementing phase 1 and 2 of the project, which allowed to assess the prevalence, sources and impact of trafficking in persons in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania, develop a tailored sensitization campaign to increase awareness on human trafficking especially among vulnerable populations and reinforce collaboration between the Mauritanian Government, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), as well as with UN agencies and migrant communities. This third phase, building on the adopted multi-layered approach focused on prevention, protection and prosecution will continue the action carried out during the last two years, in order to tackle each phase of the complex process that constitutes trafficking in persons (recruitment, travel and exploitation) and ensure victims are protected and assisted.

Duration: 1 year (1 February 2017 – 13 February 2018)

Objective: The project will: continue the sensitization campaign started during phase 2 “Because we are all humans” in order to increase general public’s knowledge and awareness of human trafficking in Mauritania; further improve Government capacity to fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking and assist and protect the victims.

ACTIVITIES:

- > Organize trainings for journalists, diplomatic corps, healthcare specialists, air companies, CS and other relevant stakeholders
- > Develop a draft for an improved version of the 2003 Law Against Trafficking in Persons
- > Continue organizing community outreach and sensitization events
- > Organize a one week intensive simulation/training for law enforcement agencies, judiciary, CS and migrants.
- > Identify needed material for prosecutors and judges
- > Organize coordination meetings and produce a referral booklet

TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS SHALL MEAN

“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of threat, use of force or other means of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the receiving or giving of payment... to a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”

Article 3 of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; Art 1 of the Mauritanian Law No 025/2003 on Trafficking in Persons.



IOM Nouakchott

Lot 551 E Nord Tevragh Zeina - Nouakchott - Mauritania (RIM)

Tel : +222 45 24 40 81 | Fax : +222 45 24 40 81 -

Email : iomnouakchott@iom.int | Internet : www.iom.int/countries/mauritania