



RWANDA COUNTER HUMAN TRAFFICKING JOINT PROGRAMME



THE 2012 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP) REPORT IDENTIFIES RWANDA AS A SOURCE AND, TO A LESSER EXTENT, DESTINATION COUNTRY FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN TRAFFICKED FOR THE PURPOSE OF FORCED LABOUR AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION.

Findings of a joint IOM/ UNODC assessment show evidence of internal and cross-border trafficking of women, as well as cross-border movement of children for commercial sexual exploitation as well as other types of exploitative reasons.

Between November 2011 and October 2012, IOM Rwanda

implemented a programme aimed at assisting the Government of Rwanda and civil society to develop the national capacity to respond to all forms of internal and cross-border human trafficking and to protect and assist victims.

The Programme worked towards:

1. Increasing the knowledge and understanding of human trafficking amongst key stakeholders from the government and civil society.

2. Building the capacity of law enforcement officials and immigration officers to identify and

respond to cases of human trafficking.

3. Sensitising the Rwandan public and local leadership on the different forms of human trafficking and the risks associated.

4. Establishing a victim referral and assistance mechanism through training and support.

The project was funded by the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN GIFT).

Programme Objective

- To contribute to the efforts of the Government of Rwanda to enhance the national capacity to protect victims, prosecute criminals and build sustainable partnerships to prevent and combat human trafficking in Rwanda.

Programme Outcomes

- An increased understanding and awareness of human trafficking and its risks amongst key stakeholders from the government and civil society.
- Law enforcement officials and immigration officers are now better prepared to identify, effectively investigate and respond to cases of human trafficking.
- The Rwandan public and local leadership are now more aware of the different forms of human trafficking and the risks associated with it.
- Through training and support, victim referral and assistance mechanisms are now in place.

Summary of Achievements:

Raising awareness amongst government and civil society stakeholders

- In March 2012, the Programme held a one-day multi-stakeholder capacity building workshop. Participants included the immigration authorities, national police, district representatives, the media, NGOs and multilateral organisations. The workshop laid the foundation for a counter trafficking stakeholders' network.

Capacity building of law enforcement and immigration officers

- In June 2012, staff of the RNP and Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration participated in a training session on the identification, investigation and appropriate response to cases of human trafficking. The training was the first of its kind in Rwanda. The training included skills for interviewing victims, witnesses and suspects as well as crime scene management.
- In September 2012, the IOM Programme also designed and conducted a training course that specifically targeted all 30 District Labour Inspectors and all 30 District Police Commanders.

Raising awareness of Rwandan public and local leadership

- In June 2012, a workshop was organised for 34 Rwandan media professionals from print, radio, TV and the internet. All major Rwandan media companies were represented. After the workshop there was a marked increase in the number of features and stories relating to human trafficking in Rwanda.
- IOM Rwanda also developed the "Ba Maso" (Be Alert) campaign through social media, radio, televisions, print materials, community meetings and school clubs.
- The Programme also managed to reach out to two schools in Rusumo (Kirehe District, Eastern Province). Along with their teachers and staff members, primary and secondary students received presentations on the dangers of human trafficking and how to protect themselves from falling prey to trafficking syndicates. Presenters also advocated for the establishment of school clubs and debate groups.
- IOM also participated in an *Umuganda* community service project in Muhanga. After the *Umuganda*

activity, the community gathered to hear messages and ask questions about the different facets of human trafficking.

- Two 45-minute talk shows on the topic of human trafficking were broadcast by Radio Dix. The shows involved discussions with guest speakers from the Rwandan National Police, International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL), the Ministry of Public Service and Labour, and the Media High Council of Rwanda.

Establishing a victim referral and assistance mechanism

- After identifying a number of victim assistance agencies, the Programme advocated for the adoption of the Guidelines for Assisting Victims of Human Trafficking in East Africa by the identified service providers. The document, co-drafted in light of IOM's regional counter trafficking efforts, standardised an approach to human trafficking that is in accordance with international standards and which considers individuals' basic human rights.
- The Programme also involved a two-day protection and service providers' training on direct assistance for victims of human trafficking in Rwanda. Service providers included: Isange One Stop Centre, Strive Foundation Rwanda, and Handicap International Rwanda.



Activity	People Reached
Stakeholders' training on human trafficking	30 Stakeholders
Capacity building for law enforcement and immigration officers	48 officers
Workshop for national media outlets	34 media professionals
<i>Ba Maso</i> multi-media campaign	Nationwide
School presentations	903 students
<i>Umuganda</i> community meeting in Muhanga	400 villagers
Radio talk shows	Nationwide
Training of district labour officials and district police commanders	30 Officials / 30 Commanders
Service providers' training on direct assistance for victims of trafficking	15 service providers
Training for service providers' field staff	52 field staff

Contact us

IOM Rwanda, KG 632 St, Gasasa,
Rugando Cell, Kimihurura
Kigali

+250 252 586 710 / +250 (0) 786 134 270

Email: iomrwanda@iom.int

Twitter: @IOMRwanda

Facebook: IOM Rwanda

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WITH THANKS TO OUR DONOR AND PARTNERS:

