



IOM International Organization for Migration

EAST AFRICA

REGIONAL COUNTER TRAFFICKING PROJECT

“THIS PROJECT AIMS TO STRENGTHEN COUNTER TRAFFICKING PROTECTION CAPACITIES AMONG PARTNERS, PROMOTE COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION AMONG THE COUNTRIES IN THE EAST AFRICAN REGION AND DEVELOP REGIONAL GUIDELINES TO ENHANCE VICTIM PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE.”

Human trafficking is a global phenomenon, affecting every region in the world including East Africa. IOM’s experience in the East Africa region has established that victims of trafficking are mostly children, youth and women.

Victims are often trafficked for sexual exploitation and domestic work but also for agriculture, herding, hawking and street begging. As a result of the trafficking experience, victims exhibit signs of physical, sexual and

psychological trauma and difficulties in reintegration once they escape the trafficking situation.

Factors, including conflict and displacement, poverty at household level, lack of employment opportunities, and personal aspirations for a better life are some of the factors that contribute to human trafficking in this region.

In addition, porous borders facilitate cross border movements especially economically motivated irregular migration.

A cross border assessment of trends and support mechanisms available for victims in the region revealed that many cases of trafficking appear as voluntary movements

in pursuit of a better life. However victims are deceived by businessmen, women (madams), retired prostitutes, relatives,

peers, religious

acquaintances and agents with promises of money, jobs, education and professional training only to end up in exploitative situations.

Children are mainly recruited by family members or close family friends and travel across the border on foot, by bus or are transported by long distance truck drivers. Phase II of the project being implemented in 2011 aims to initiate and develop uniform standards and procedures across the region, in order to contribute to safe and dignified return and reintegration of victims in line with international victim protection and assistance standards.

IOM IN ACTION

- A regional capacity building workshop on international standards and best practices in the protection of victims was conducted in Nairobi (2010). In attendance were law enforcement agents and service providers from the East African Region (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda). A total of 51 participants attended the training workshop.
- Successful cooperation and coordination between Kenyan and Tanzanian authorities to facilitate the dignified return of Tanzanian children trafficked to Kenya for the purpose of street begging.
- A comprehensive and inclusive team of victim protection actors in the region was identified. The list will form an annex of the IOM Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking.
- A stakeholders’ network and electronic exchange forum including a coordination network group established to encourage discussion and sharing of experiences on counter trafficking issues among members.
- Increased regional information sharing, cooperation and coordination on trafficking protection issues and particularly victim assistance.

SPECIFIC PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

- To develop regional guidelines that promotes a common approach towards victim protection in line with international standards and appropriate legislation in respective countries.
- To build the capacity of service providers in both government and civil society organizations to provide victim assistance according to international standards and identified best practices.
- To establish dialogue, coordination and collaboration on victim protection initiatives among the countries in the region

DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE REGION

There is evidence of Ugandan, Tanzanian and Rwandan victims of trafficking working in Nairobi and other parts of the country as domestic labourers and in other service sectors.

Ugandan and Tanzanian children have been identified working in the domestic sector, commercial sex industry and agricultural sector. Tanzanian children have been identified in Oloitoktok town of Kenya in the agricultural sector and motorcycle repair facilities.

Child beggars trafficked from Tanzania have been identified in Nairobi and Naivasha towns. In Oloitoktok and Busia border points, the District Children Officer, the police and the Immigration Officers have been collaborating, albeit devoid of a much needed formalized framework, to facilitate the return of the children to their respective countries.

ACTIVITIES IN 2011

- Create a Regional Task Force to spearhead the drafting of the Regional Guidelines for Victim Assistance.
- Develop Regional Guidelines for Victim Assistance in line with relevant national laws and international human rights standards.
- Build the capacity of service providers working with border communities through training workshops aimed at strengthening their ability to identify and provide assistance to victims.
- Promote dialogue, coordination and collaboration to enhance victim protection mechanisms among service providers in the East African Region

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- A regional capacity building workshop on international standards and best practices in the protection of victims was conducted in Nairobi (2010). In attendance were law enforcement agents and service providers from the East African Region (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda). A total of 51 participants attended the training workshop.
- Successful cooperation and coordination between Kenyan and Tanzanian authorities to facilitate the dignified return of Tanzanian children trafficked to Kenya for the purpose of street begging.
- A comprehensive and inclusive team of victim protection actors in the region was identified and annexed to the IOM Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking that will be published and distributed to actors in the region.
- A stakeholders' network and electronic exchange forum including a coordination network group established to encourage discussion and sharing of experiences on counter trafficking issues among members.
- Increased regional information sharing, cooperation and coordination on trafficking protection issues and particularly victim assistance.
- Three regional task force meetings held in Nairobi, Kigali and Dar es Salaam culminating in the adoption of guidelines for assisting victims of trafficking in the East African Region.
- Awareness raising and capacity building activities conducted in the border areas of Msambweni district, Migori and Malaba.

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WE ASSIST:

- Trafficked persons



MANAGING MIGRATION FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL

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