



Enhancing Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Persons in Eastern Africa

Context and Objective

Every year, thousands of men, women, and children are exploited and trafficked across the globe. Trafficking in Persons (TIP) is a serious crime, a grave violation of human rights, and is affecting every region in the world. Eastern Africa has in recent years become a hub for trafficking routes, and with criminal groups and illicit traffickers operating across the borders of the region, enhancing regional cooperation is imperative.

Within the framework of the U.S.-funded programme “Enhancing Effective and Victim-Centred Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Persons in

Eastern Africa,” otherwise known as JTIP EA, UNODC is currently implementing activities across 13 Eastern Africa Member States with the objective of enhancing effective and victim-centered criminal justice responses to TIP through enhanced regional co-ordination, strengthened Anti-TIP legislation and the setup of a regional plan of action. The project is being implemented within the framework of the UNODC Programme for Eastern Africa – *Promoting the Rule of Law and Human Security in Eastern Africa* (2016-2022) and its regional Counteracting Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Programmes.

Enhancing Effective and Victim-Centred Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Persons in Eastern Africa



Countries Burundi, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania, and Uganda

Volume \$ USD 1,000,000.00

Duration 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2023 (46 months)

Donor U.S. Department of State - Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP)



Project Outputs

The project concentrates on providing technical assistance, capacity building and operational guidance to law practitioners and law enforcement to effectively respond to Trafficking in Persons:



Strengthening national Anti-TIP legislation as in line with UNTOC and the supplementary TIP Protocol and national policies.



Establishing a Regional Plan of Action for Member States to strengthen regional cooperation and coordination on countering TIP.

Partnership



In April 2019, as an agreement and partnership between UNODC and The U.S. Department of State – Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (JTIP), the *Enhancing Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Persons in Eastern Africa* project was commenced to the UNODC Project on *Enhancing Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Persons in Eastern Africa* project is funded by the U.S. Department of State – Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (JTIP) since 2019.

Achievements

Project Highlights...



Supported the Government of Madagascar in drafting their Anti-TIP National Strategy and provided recommendations on best practices as well as indicators for measuring progress in relation to prevention, protection and prosecution efforts;

Supported the Governments of Kenya, Mauritius and Tanzania in drafting and reviewing their Anti-TIP National Action plans and is currently supporting with the implementation;

Supported Governments of Kenya, Comoros, Ethiopia and Somaliland in developing & strengthening their national Anti-TIP legislation to become in line with international standards as set in the UNTOC and its supplementary TIP protocols;

Supported the review of the Somaliland TIP bill and has agreed with the Ministry of Justice to conduct consultations with the parliament prior to the passing of the bill in order to sensitise them to the importance of combatting TIP as well as to ensure the national legislation's alignment with international legal standards as set out in the UNTOC;

Supported the Government of Kenya in amending its Counter TIP legislation through the provision of technical, legislative and policy support to the National Technical Working Group and Advisory Committee that will lead the legal amendments process;

Conducted a needs assessment mission with key counterparts from the Djibouti Government to identify the government's legislative, technical and policy needs as well as how UNODC can best provide support;

Drafted and launched the Regional Legislative Assessment on Trafficking in Persons In Eastern Africa (2021), which is a comprehensive assessment identifying the legislative gaps in each of the 13 Member States to provide a baseline for upcoming interventions.

Assisted Comoros in acceding to the 3 supplementary Protocols to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC).

Conducted scenario-based legislative assessments in Tanzania & Seychelles, with one assessment planned for Mauritius in Q2 2022 to assess effectiveness of existing Anti-trafficking legislation & gaps in national coordination.

Contact Information

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