



Enhancing Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Persons in Ethiopia

Context and Objective

Every year, thousands of men, women, and children are trafficked and exploited to, from, within and through Ethiopia. Criminal groups engaging in illicit trafficking in Ethiopia are particularly active in the trafficking of domestic and foreign victims, either for forced labour or sexual exploitation and others. Scarce economic opportunities, civil unrest and poverty, coupled with familial encouragement, compel thousands of Ethiopians to transit, primarily via Djibouti or Somalia, to Yemen and onward to the Middle East and Europe.

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

UNODC is currently implementing activities in Ethiopia with the objective of enhancing effective and victim-centered criminal justice responses to Trafficking in Persons (TIP) by strengthening the Rule of Law through more accessible, accountable and effective criminal justice systems by enhancing the strategic and operational capacity of Ethiopia to respond to the crime of TIP and ensure access to justice and fair treatment for victims. The project is currently being implemented within the framework of the UNODC Regional Programme – *Promoting the Rule of Law and Human Security in Eastern Africa (2016-2022)* and its regional Countering Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Programmes.

Enhancing Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Persons in Ethiopia

Country	Ethiopia
Volume	\$ 1,500,000
Duration	July 2020 – June 2024 (48 months)
Donors	Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP) - U.S. Department of State



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:



Strengthen the capacity of the Witness Protection Directorate to effectively provide victim and witness assistance and protection in cases of TIP.



Develop specialized skills within the Organized and Miscellaneous Crime Investigation and Prosecution Directorate to effectively investigate and prosecute child trafficking.

Partnership



In July 2020, as an agreement and partnership between UNODC and The U.S. Department of State – Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP), the *Enhancing Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Persons in Ethiopia* project was commenced.

Achievements

Highlights of 2021 include...



UNODC continues to provide technical assistance for strengthening the legislative and policy frameworks for victim and witness assistance and protection including the amendment of legislative 699/2010 that is currently on the final stages. Further to this UNODC has supported the Witness Protection unit in operationalize of the office by procurement of office equipment.

Provided essential food supplies and COVID-19 protective equipment to two shelter homes that support victims of TIP.



- Supported the Organized and Miscellaneous Crime Investigation and Prosecution Directorate to effectively investigate and prosecute child trafficking by completing assessments of



- the Ministry of Justice, which included in-person and desk review assessments.
- Conducted trainings on prosecution of TIP cases.



- Supported the prosecution unit by developing the prosecutorial manual and training curriculum which will be validated.

Contact Information

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