



EVALUATION BRIEF

June 2020

FINAL EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT “STRENGTHENING THE IDENTIFICATION AND PROTECTION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AMONG REFUGEES IN RWANDA”

This evaluation brief presents a summary of the key findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as identified by the evaluator for use by key stakeholders, including internally by IOM staff and externally by project partners. More details can be found in the full evaluation report.

Evaluation type:	External evaluation
Evaluator (s):	Ruramira Bizimana Zebedee
Final report date:	30 June 2020
Commissioned by:	IOM Mission in Rwanda

Evaluation purpose: The evaluation aimed to assess the following:

- The extent to which the project: *Strengthening the Identification and Protection of Victims of Trafficking Among Refugees in Rwanda* has achieved the results against the set performance indicators.
- The outcomes of the range of capacity building interventions in efforts to identify trafficked persons, investigate trafficking cases, and prosecute trafficking offenders.
- The impact in terms of local ownership, mainstreaming human trafficking into the existing various social protection schemes, as well as synergy effects between different activities.
- Challenges and opportunities, best practices and lessons learnt to inform future counter trafficking project development and implementation. .

Evaluation criteria: Design, Relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability, and impact, as well as the extent to which the cross-cutting issues of gender and human rights were addressed by the project.

Evaluation methodology: The evaluation involved the documents review, initial reflection session with IOM project management team and interviews with project partners and stakeholders.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The objective was to raise awareness in the communities on the issue of human trafficking which enable the victims and witnesses to utilize the services provided by the government with confidence thus contributing to the pre-conditions for successful prosecution. At the time this project was designed, it brought together the technical expertise of the One UN in Rwanda through two participating agencies: IOM as the international lead agency on migration (with extensive experience in counter trafficking) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) which is an organization with a mandate to protect and provide support to refugees. The two UN agencies worked in partnership with the Government of Rwanda (GoR) through key partners: the Ministry of Justice (MINIJUST), the Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA), the Rwanda National Police, the Rwanda Investigation Bureau, the Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration, the National Public Prosecution Authority and the National Commission for Children.

The project therefore aimed to achieve the following outcomes and outputs:

Outcome 1: Assessment findings mainstreamed into the awareness raising strategy and messaging. To achieve this outcome, the following output was set:

Output 1.1: TIP vulnerabilities assessment conducted of Congolese and Burundian refugees living in six refugee camps, as well as the surrounding communities.

Outcome 2: Increased awareness on how to recognize and report TIP cases through the prescribed referral mechanism. To achieve this outcome, the following output was set:

Output 2.1: Awareness raising strategy is developed and materials on how to recognize and report TIP cases are tested, produced and distributed to the target populations.

Project information:

Geographical coverage:	Republic of Rwanda
Project code:	S-SJTIP-18-GR-0006
Project period:	01 January 2018 – 30 June 2020
Donor:	USAID
Budget:	300.000 USD

Outcome 3: Refugees, surrounding communities and stakeholders demonstrate improved awareness on TIP and take action to reduce risk. To achieve this outcome, the following output was set:

Output 3.1 TIP community sensitization events conducted in 6 refugee camps and six surrounding communities.

Output 3.2 Conduct 12 two-day training sessions on TIP referrals for a) camp leadership b) refugee community members and c) host community members.

KEY FINDINGS & CONCLUSIONS

Assessing the **relevance** and the **coherence**, findings indicated that the project was **relevant** and **consistent** to the Rwandan development priorities and needs as well as to the mandates and policies of UN agencies, namely IOM and UNHCR in counter-trafficking. There was also an integration of **gender equality** during the design and the implementation in the project.

In relation with the **effectiveness**, the evaluation found that only one out of three outcomes related to the research on TIP vulnerabilities assessment was not achieved. Indeed, the research was conducted in six refugee camps and the surrounding communities but the Government of Rwanda decided not to publish it. The project results produced by two outcomes have partially contributed, through improved knowledge, to the project objective of raising awareness in the communities on the issue of human trafficking which enable the victims and witnesses to utilize the services provided by the government with confidence thus contributing to the pre-conditions for successful prosecution. Gender and human rights were specific focus areas of the project. The project incorporated them as cross-cutting issues at the stage of its development and in the process of implementation.

Regarding the **efficiency**, the evaluation found that the project was implemented as per work plan and the inputs provided contributed efficiently to implement activities of the project. Even if there was an under-spending, the financial and human resources were optimally used. The decision-making structure has been effective to ensure efficient and timely project implementation through the National Steering Committee (NSC) and the Technical Committee (TC) as well as the management provided by IOM and UNHCR.

The project has generated one **change** that has potential long-term implication: Improved knowledge of the refugees, surrounding communities and stakeholders on trafficking in persons. However, considering that training and raising awareness are a continuous process, providing refresher courses and awareness events extended to a large audience of refugees is necessary.

The sustainability of the interventions of this project will be built on the following two (2) factors: existing Rwandan national legal, policy and regulatory frameworks and the establishment of the Technical Committee as a coordination mechanism between various stakeholders involved in counter-trafficking in refugees camps.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above evaluation findings, the following key recommendations emerged:

- Build upon the project achievements and results.
- Ensure counter-trafficking activities and funding are strategically coordinated.
- Include MINEMA and UNHCR in the coordination structures of counter-trafficking.
- Finalize the distribution of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials.
- Build counter trafficking activities in the refugees camps on the Research *“Understanding Human Trafficking in Rwanda: Causes, Effects and Impact”* conducted under the Project *“Improving Knowledge, Enforcement, and Coordination in Counter-Trafficking”*.