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**THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**

**NATIONAL REPORT  
ON  
COUNTERING  
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN UGANDA  
FOR  
2021**

**Prepared by:**

**The Coordination Office for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons  
*In Collaboration with the Stakeholder Ministries, Departments &  
Agencies (MDAs)***

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## List of Acronyms

<b>BMM</b>	- Better Migration Management
<b>CID</b>	- Criminal Investigations Directorate
<b>EU</b>	- European Union
<b>IOM</b>	- International Organization for Migration
<b>KMP</b>	- Kampala Metropolitan
<b>MDAs</b>	- Ministries, Departments and Agencies
<b>MIA</b>	- Ministry of Internal Affairs
<b>MoGLSD</b>	- Ministry of Gender, Labor & Social Development
<b>MT. MOROTO</b>	- Mount Moroto
<b>NAP</b>	- National Action Plan
<b>NGO</b>	- Non-Governmental Organization
<b>NRG</b>	- National Referral Guidelines
<b>ODPP</b>	- Office of Director of Public Prosecutions
<b>SMS</b>	- Short Message Service
<b>TIP</b>	- Trafficking in Persons
<b>U.A.E</b>	- United Arab Emirates
<b>UNDP</b>	- United Nations Development Program
<b>UCATIP</b>	- Coalition Against trafficking in Persons-Uganda

## 1.0. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. General Assessment of Trafficking in Persons for 2021

This report is generated from the data compiled, coordinated and monitored by the Coordination Office for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (COPTIP) at the Ministry of Internal Affairs; in collaboration with the National Task Force Committee for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons. **(See the list of the key stakeholder MDAs/ Membership of the National Task Force Committee in Appendix 1)**

Uganda was the main source country for victims of trafficking as well as transit and destination country for victims of domestic and transnational trafficking for both juveniles and adults.

Irregular and unguided labour migration was the most contributing factor for trafficking of Ugandans to foreign countries and foreign nationals to or through Uganda. Majority of the victims were recruited in the trafficking trap through deceptive means some of whom were aided with the use of fraudulent travel documents.

### 1.2. Counter human trafficking Interventions in 2021

There was marked improvement in the countering of trafficking in persons as a result of good strategic and operational actions taken by the various stakeholders, among others;

- i. Enhanced border management due to the deployment of security personnel at border points by the Ugandan government and other neighboring countries to control the spread of COVID-19 pandemic;
- ii. Interceptions of suspected victims of trafficking within Uganda and in the neighboring country of Kenya before the victims faced abuse and exploitation;
- iii. Prosecution led investigations enhanced convictions.
- iv. Capacity building through training and logistical support for law enforcement and key stakeholders, which improved victim identification and support; effective investigations and prosecution of offenders.

**(See detailed Uganda Government Interventions as attached in Appendix 2)**

### 1.3. Key Challenges/Missing Gaps in 2021

- i. Difficulty in implementation of the policy of externalization of Ugandan migrant labor to minimize trafficking in persons.
- ii. Difficulty in transportation of victims of trafficking in persons trapped in foreign countries due to budgetary constraints especially those who did not pass through licensed labor recruiting companies.
- iii. The COVID-19 lockdown restrictions disrupted mass community sensitization efforts and capacity building of stakeholders.

## 2.0. GENERAL CRIME ANALYSIS FOR 2021

### 2.1. Registered Incidents of Trafficking in persons

A total of **421** incidents were registered from January to December, 2021 compared to **214** incidents registered for the same period in 2020, giving an increase of **96.7%**.

Incidents of internal trafficking were highest with **278**, representing **66.03%**, transnational trafficking had **113** incidents representing **26.84%** while **30** incidents of suspected trafficking (**7.12%**) were unknown.

### 2.2. Categories of Cases of Trafficking in Persons

The categories of cases of trafficking registered during the period under review include Trafficking in persons, Aggravated Trafficking in persons, Aggravated Trafficking in children, Attempted Trafficking in persons, Suspected Trafficking in persons.

**Table 1: Cases of Trafficking in Persons by Category**

S/No.	Cases Category	Cases Registered
	Aggravated Trafficking in children	235
	Trafficking in persons	98
	Attempted Trafficking in persons	44
	Aggravated Trafficking in persons	32
	Suspected Trafficking in persons	12
	<b>Total</b>	<b>421</b>

### 2.3. Incidents of trafficking in persons by Region

In all the incidents of trafficking in persons registered, Aviation Police at Entebbe International Airport registered the highest number with **64** incidents, followed by KMP South Region with **34** incidents, CID Headquarters had **32** incidents. KMP East region registered **30** incidents while Greater Masaka registered **27**, Kidepo region registered **23**, Albertine registered **21** and Sezibwa registered **20** incidents each. See table below.

**Table 2: Incidents of Trafficking in Persons Registered by Region.**

S/No.	REGION	CASES REPORTED			TOTAL
		INTERNAL	TRANSNATIONAL	UNKNOWN	
	AVIATION POLICE	00	57	07	64
	KMP SOUTH	15	16	03	34
	CID HQTRS	04	25	03	32
	KMP EAST	29	00	01	30
	GREATER MASAKA	27	00	00	27
	KIDEPO	23	00	00	23
	ALBERTINE	21	00	00	21
	SEZIBWA	16	00	04	20
	KIIRA	18	00	01	19
	RWENZORI WEST	18	00	00	18
	KMP NORTH	10	07	01	18
	KIGEZI	16	00	00	16
	EAST KYOGA	15	00	00	15
	MT. MOROTO	14	00	00	14
	BUSOGA EAST	14	00	00	14
	BUKEDI	01	05	07	13
	WAMALA	05	01	00	06
	RWIZI	06	00	00	06
	RWENZORI EAST	06	00	00	06
	BUSOGA NORTH	02	00	02	04
	ASWA RIVER	03	01	00	04
	GREATER BUSHENYI	04	00	00	04
	KATONGA	04	00	00	04
	SAVANNAH	03	00	00	03
	NORTH KYOGA	02	00	00	02
	WEST NILE	02	00	00	02
	NORTH WEST NILE	00	00	01	01
	KIREKA SID	00	01	00	01
	SIPI	00	00	00	00
	ELGON	00	00	00	00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>421</b>

Kampala Metropolitan area, Greater Masaka, Kidepo and Albertine were the most recruitment and transit areas for human trafficking activities.

The regions of Elgon and Sipi registered no cases of Trafficking in Persons.

**Table 3: Incidents of internal Trafficking by District/Division.**

DISTRICT/DIVISION	INTERNAL TRAFFICKING
KAABONG	15
KYOTERA	14
BUGIRI	10
KAYUNGA	10
JINJA	10
NAPAK	10
KATWE DIVISION	09
KIRA DIVISION	08
KABALE	08
BUKEDEA	08
OLD KAMPALA DIVISION	07
KIRA ROAD DIVISION	07
MUKONO DIVISION	07
HOIMA	07
BUIKWE	06
BUWENGE	05
KYELEGWA	05
KAKUMIRO	05
BUNDIBUGYO	05
KISORO	05
KOTIDO	04
JINJA ROAD DIVISION	04
CID HQTRS	04
MAYUGE	04
SOROTI	04
KABALAGALA DIVISION	04
KAMWENGE	04
MOROTO	04
LWENGO	04
NAGALAMA DIVISION	03
MPIGI	03
MITYANA	03
KIRYANDONGO	03
KARENKA	03
KIBAALE	03
KYENJOJO	03
RAKAI	03

BWEERA	03
KAKIRA	03
KAWEMPE	03
ADJUMANI	02
KATAKWI	02
AMURU	02
OYAM	02
MUBENDE	02
MASINDI	02
NTUNGAMO	02
ISINGIRO	02
SHEEMA	02
RUBANDA	02
LYANTONDE	02
SSEMBABULE	02
NAKASEKE	02
HIMA	02
ABIM	01

**Table 4: Incidents of transnational Trafficking by District/Division.**

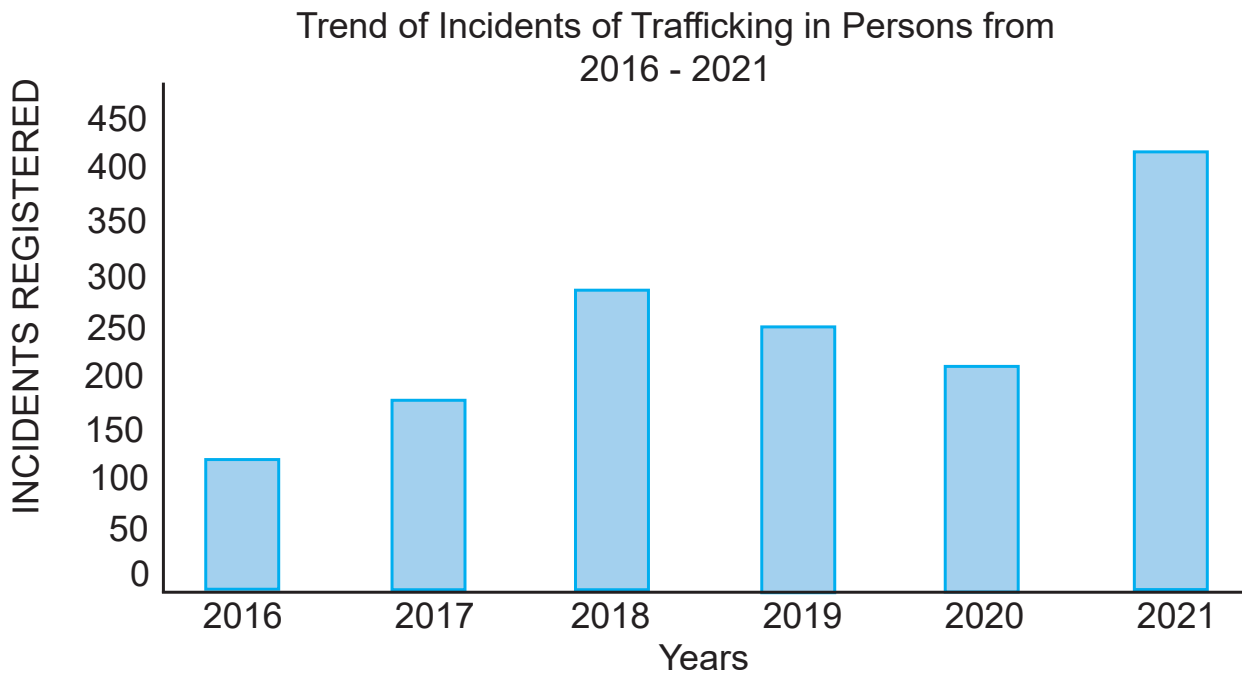
DISTRICT/DIVISION	TRANSNATIONAL TRAFFICKING
AVIPOL ENTEBBE	57
CID HQTRS	25
CPS KAMPALA	07
KATWE DIVISION	05
OLD KAMPALA DIVISION	05
TORORO	03
KAJJANSI DIVISION	02
KABALAGALA DIVISION	02
BUSIA	02
KAWEMPE DIVISION	01
KITGUM	01
WANDEGEYA DIVISION	01
MITYANA	01
KIREKA SID	01
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>113</b>



**Table 5: Comparison of incidents of Trafficking in Persons between 2016 and 2021**

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
No. of Cases	125	177	286	252	214	421

**Figure 1: Trend of Incidents of Trafficking in Persons from 2016-2021**



There has been an increase in incidents of trafficking in persons registered from 2020 and 2021. This is majorly attributed to;

- a) Enhanced capacity building, public awareness of law enforcement officers and stakeholders about the crime of trafficking, identification, protection and referral of victims of trafficking.
- b) Enhanced deployment of TIP desk investigators at several entry and exit border points to effectively investigate cases of human trafficking.
- c) The socio-economic effects of COVID-19 lockdowns.

#### **2.4. Victims of Trafficking in Persons**

A total of **1295** persons were victims of Trafficking in Persons out of whom **790** were victims of transnational trafficking, **475** were victims of internal trafficking while **30** victims were unknown.

**713** were female adults, **285** were female juveniles, and **181** victims were male adults while **86** were male juveniles.

**Table 6:** Registered numbers of Victims of trafficking by gender

Internal Trafficking victims				Transnational Trafficking Victims			
Male Adults	Male juveniles	Female adults	Female juveniles	Male Adults	Male juveniles	Female adults	Female juveniles
51	82	79	263	130	04	634	22

## 2.5. Monthly analysis of victims of trafficking

Most of the victims were trafficked in the months of November (202 victims), October (163 victims) and December (151 victims).

The number of victims increased in October, November and December as a result of reopening of air transport and most of the victims of trafficking were transnational.

**Table 7:** Number of victims of trafficking by month

MONTH	INTERNAL TRAFFICKING				TRANSNATIONAL TRAFFICKING				UNKOWN	TOTAL
	M/A	M/J	F/A	F/J	M/A	M/J	F/A	F/J		
JANUARY	01	01	01	07	00	00	26	02	02	<b>40</b>
FEBRUARY	03	00	13	22	01	00	27	02	01	<b>69</b>
MARCH	00	06	00	11	22	00	57	01	02	<b>99</b>
APRIL	15	03	12	09	02	00	79	02	03	<b>125</b>
MAY	02	04	10	19	34	00	29	00	03	<b>101</b>
JUNE	00	00	00	10	00	00	32	01	01	<b>44</b>
JULY	12	03	04	29	07	00	02	13	06	<b>76</b>
AUGUST	03	54	11	25	09	00	05	00	03	<b>110</b>
SEPTEMBER	00	01	00	28	03	00	82	00	01	<b>115</b>
OCTOBER	01	05	22	47	13	00	70	01	04	<b>163</b>
NOVEMBER	00	05	01	37	27	04	126	00	02	<b>202</b>
DECEMBER	14	00	05	19	12	00	99	00	02	<b>151</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>04</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1295</b>

S/NO		Internal Trafficking	Transnational Trafficking	
1.	Adult	130	764	
2.	Child (<18)	345	26	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>790</b>	

**Figure 2: Monthly comparison of victims of trafficking**

## 2.6. Forms of Exploitation for victims of trafficking

Labour remains the biggest form of exploitation for trafficking in persons for transnational trafficking. This is driven by the large population of unemployed youth and the increased demand for semi-skilled labour in countries like Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Oman and Jordan among others.

While sex trafficking was the biggest form of exploitation for internal trafficking. This was driven by the prolonged covid-19 lockdown.

**Table 8: Forms of Exploitations for victims of Trafficking in Person**

S/NO	Form of Exploitation	Internal Trafficking	Transnational Trafficking
	Labour	94	105
	Sexual	117	07
	Ritual	05	00
	Forced Child Marriage	47	00
	Debt bondage	05	01
	Illegal Activity	19	02
	Organ Harvest	01	00
	Servitude	00	01
	Unknown	43	00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>116</b>

## 2.7. Destination Countries for Victims of trafficking in persons from Uganda 2021.

There were **297** victims of transnational trafficking with Dubai as the leading destination country, **175** victims to Saudi Arabia, **110** victims to Qatar, **50** victims to U.A.E, **44** victims to Kenya while Oman and Abu Dhabi had **02** victims each.

Most of the victims intercepted in Kenya were in transit to other destinations in the Middle East;

**Table 9: Number of victims by destination country**

S/No.	Destination Country	No. of Victims
	Dubai	297
	Saudi Arabia	175
	Qatar	110
	U.A.E	50
	Kenya	44
	Iraq	14
	Baghdad	09
	DRC	08
	Uganda	06
	Oman	02
	Abu Dhabi	02
	Malawi	02
	Canada	01
	Cameroon	01
	India	01
	Sudan	01
	Sierra Leone	01
	Libya	01
	Thailand	01
	Tanzania	01
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>727</b>

## 2.8. Modes of recruitment of victims of trafficking in persons

Deception and Fraud were the most commonly used means of recruitment. Majority of the victims were recruited and transported to their respective destinations through deceptive promises for nice paying jobs abroad. The perpetrators use fraudulent means including forgery of travel documents, giving false information to Government authorities and using un-gazetted exit and entry routes along the porous borders of Uganda.

Some traffickers use fraud and deception to carry out illegal recruitment of migrant workers to Countries which have signed bilateral labor agreements with Uganda such as U.A.E and Jordan.

## 2.9. Common Trafficking and smuggling Routes

**Table 10: Common Routes for Human trafficking Activities in 2021**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Karamoja Sub-region to Teso sub region – Mbale – Busia / Malaba – Iganga – Jinja – Kampala for child labour, street begging and sexual exploitation.</li> <li>• Rural areas in various parts of the country to some urban centers and areas with some economic activities, for labour exploitation, sexual exploitation and use in illegal activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wakiso, Kampala, Mukono and the Eastern border districts to Kenya and several other foreign countries, including the Middle East;</li> <li>• Other parts of Uganda to Kampala and Entebbe Airport to several foreign Countries.</li> <li>• Burundi – Tanzania – through Western Uganda; to Kampala; then to Kenya and other Middle East Countries, mostly for labour and sexual exploitation.</li> </ul>
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## 2.10. Prosecution Function

The prosecution function includes detection of the crime, investigation of cases and prosecution of offenders. There was improved performance in the field of investigations and prosecution of human trafficking cases.

By 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2021, a total of **403** cases were taken to court, out of which **30** cases secured convictions, **11** cases were withdrawn from court by the DPP, **01** case was acquitted and **361** cases were still pending in court.

A total of **501** suspects of Trafficking in Persons were arrested, out of whom **279** were male adults, **116** suspects were female adults, **08** suspects were male juveniles and **04** suspects were female juveniles, 12 were companies suspected of trafficking in persons.

## 3.0. RESPONSES AND COUNTER HUMAN TRAFFICKING MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST CRIME DURING THE 2021 CALENDER YEAR

Trafficking in persons in Uganda is handled under a multi-agency coordinated system involving several stakeholder Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs); whose traditional mandates and functions relate to the key aspects of countering the crime.

Police is the lead agency in countering the crime in collaboration with other stakeholders, while the Coordination Office for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons at the Ministry of Internal Affairs Headquarters is responsible for coordination, monitoring and overseeing implementation of the various counter Human Trafficking measures in the country.

Countering the crime of trafficking in persons was carried out under four strategic areas of **Prevention** of the crime, **Prosecution** of offenders, **Protection** of victims and **Partnership** among stakeholders; which includes a number of cross cutting operational activities.

### **3.1. Preventive Measures against Trafficking in persons**

During the year under review, deliberate actions were carried out by Government Agencies and stakeholders to prevent Ugandans and other nationalities from becoming victims of trafficking. They are;

#### **3.1.1. Awareness Campaign on How to Avoid Becoming Victims of Trafficking**

There was enhanced campaign to inform the public about the existing trends of the crime and available options for safe labour migration and protection of vulnerable children. This was done through;

- i. Use of the Mass media, including Radios, Television and Print media,
- ii. General guidance on safe labour migration through Internet (email & Face book) and telephone communications (SMS, WhatsApp & direct calls).

Among the key players in the public sensitization campaign were the Ministry of Internal Affairs Coordination Office, Uganda Police Force, the Ministry of Gender Labour & Social Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and several Civil Society Organizations.

#### **3.1.2. Interceptions of potential victims of Trafficking**

The interceptions were mostly carried out at Entebbe International Airport, Border Immigration Posts, internal transport terminals and illegal recruitment offices. Intending Ugandan migrant workers were also intercepted after having been irregularly recruited by some agents/workers of some licensed recruitment companies.

Suspected victims were intercepted basing on assessment of the explanations given by the intending travelers to foreign countries, examination of the Visa documents, clearance letters from Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD), and suspicious methods of transportation to the border/Airport exit points. Some of them were got during the process of recruitment by unlicensed individuals/companies.

### **3.2. Other Preventive Measures Applied**

- i) Rescuing child victims and arrest of the culprits involved.
- ii) School children who travel out under arrangements of the school administration during school times are issued with written permission for travel by the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education and Sports, and Ministry of Internal Affairs is informed for monitoring purposes;
- iii) Ugandans who access jobs abroad on their own have been encouraged to seek clearance from the MoGLSD before they may be allowed free exit by Immigration;
- iv) Due diligence is taken by the Immigration and security officers at the various exit points before any child is allowed to exit or enter Uganda;
- v) The Local authorities in Karamoja Sub Region and the transit districts between Moroto and Kampala strengthened the implementation of ordinances to regulate movements of Karamojong children in the Sub Region;

### **3.3. Public transporters along the Moroto/Kampala highways have been mobilized to avoid irresponsible transportation of Karamojong children and to report any suspicions to the authorities for rescue of suspected victims, Protection and Assistance.**

Reports of existence of victims of trafficking were promptly followed up by the Police and other concerned stakeholders, including Civil Society Organizations and some International Agencies; through application of the existing ad-hoc victim assistance systems and practices. Majority of the registered victims were intercepted, rescued and assisted to come back from abroad by the end of the year as per the table below:-

**Table 11: Status of victims of Trafficking in 2021**

STATUS OF VICTIM	No. of Victims
RESCUED	576
INTERCEPTED	305
RECOVERED	134
NOT RESCUED	87
NOT RECOVERED	52
MISSING	36
DEAD	20
Unknown	85
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1295</b>

### 3.3.1. Nature of Assistance Offered to Victims;

Through the Coordinated Multi-Sectorial Victim Support System, several Government Agencies, in collaboration with Civil Society Organizations and International Agencies, registered victims were offered with various assistance including rescue, interceptions, transportation, temporary shelter, temporary welfare, medical support, vocational training, psycho-social counseling and organized re-integration;

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development continue to offer temporary shelter to many distressed migrant workers and victims of trafficking in Saudi Arabia and U.A.E.

### 3.3.2. Majority of the Victims Intercepted before Exploitation/ Abuse:

Most of the victims of transnational trafficking were intercepted within Uganda before being taken abroad allegedly for employment or studies, while others were rescued in Kenya and sent back to Uganda. Among those rescued in Kenya were groups of youthful Karamojong girls, who were re-integrated back with their families after psycho-social support and counseling as their traffickers face several charges under the anti-human trafficking Act 2009.



### **3.4. Coordination and Partnership Function**

During the year under review, there were a number of coordinated activities carried out including the following:-

#### **3.4.1 Stakeholder Consultation Meetings:**

Stakeholder Consultation Meetings to assess the crime situation and make further strategic and operational initiatives for appropriate response to the crime were conducted mainly through online zoom meetings because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **3.4.2 Further Development of the Policy and Legal Frameworks:**

A number of policies, regulatory and legal frameworks related to countering and response to trafficking in persons were worked on, including the following:-

- i. The process of developing the draft Kenya/Uganda Bilateral Guidelines for Victim Identification, Interception and Protection was completed pending further follow up by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the Kenyan Counterpart;
- ii. The Employment (Recruitment of Ugandan Migrant Workers Regulation 2021) was completed and launched.
- iii. Developing operational guidelines for immigration officers on prevention of trafficking in persons through proper identification and management of victims of trafficking in persons was completed and now operational.
- iv. TIP Investigations Field Guide for CID Investigators was created.
- v. Training Manual on Prevention and Response to Trafficking in Persons and curriculum for UPF training academies was created.
- vi. Police with ODPP, created the Standard Operating Procedures for Investigating and Prosecuting TIP (Police-Prosecutor Cooperation).
- vii. Created and disseminated the ODPP TIP Prosecution Guidelines, which outlines best practices for prosecutors when handling TIP cases.
- viii. Developed and distributed the Directory of Service Providers for Victims of Trafficking in Persons in Uganda (2021) for better coordinating victims to service providers.
- ix. Re-engagement and re-development of nationwide TIP database.

The above mentioned activities were realized under the direct leadership of the PTIP Coordination Office and with active participation of members of the stakeholder agencies.

Some International Agencies and Civil Society Organizations offered some financial and technical support including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and European Union (EU) and the German Government -under the Better Migration Management (BMM) project, RAHAB (U), Dwelling Places, Hope for Justice (U) and the Uganda Youth Development Link.

### 3.4.3 Enhanced Capacity building of Stakeholder Members:

Many members of the stakeholder Agencies underwent a number of specialized training related to handling the various aspects of human trafficking. They included officers from Police, Immigration, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Probation Officers, District Production Officers, Community Development Officers, District Labor Officers and Civil Society Organizations. The training included application of TIP Act 2009 and its regulations, identification, protection and referral of victims of trafficking.

Investigation techniques, adjudication of cases, victim management; enhanced the capacity of the stakeholder agencies to counter and respond to the crime of trafficking in persons more effectively.

The trainings were sponsored by the Government of Uganda as well as some Civil Society Organizations, the Human Trafficking Institute, International Agencies and Development Partners.

Training Institutions in Police and Immigration have continued to include trafficking in persons as one of the topics for all the trainees recruited for both initial and in-service training.

## 4.0. OTHER ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED BY STAKEHOLDER MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL TASKFORCE FOR PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

### 4.1. Hope for Justice Contribution to combatting trafficking in persons 2021

Hope for Justice works in partnership with government and non-government actors to bring an end to trafficking in persons. As a stakeholder in the National Task Force committee for prevention of trafficking in persons, Hope for Justice runs programmes that are in line with the four P's of Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnership.

In 2021, Hope for Justice partnered with MGLSD to support the co-development of trauma informed Standards of Care for survivors of human trafficking in Uganda. They also delivered and supported training for practitioners from UCATIP member organisations, criminal investigators and prosecutors on effective trauma informed responses to victims of trafficking. Hope for Justice continued prevention programmes aimed at empowering vulnerable individuals, families and communities to prevent, identify and report cases of human trafficking; supported investigations and targeted rescue of child victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation; provided protection services in 4 shelters to **381** children, **of which 186 were victims of trafficking**. Details of reach are indicated in the table below;

## 4.2. Hope for Justice - Activities conducted in combatting trafficking in persons 2021

Activity	Female	Male	Total	Locations
Community dialogues on TIP and child protection	4,591	1,473	6,064	Mbale, Wakiso, Kampala
Positive parenting training	346	18	364	Mbale, Wakiso, Kampala
Economic strengthening through Micro-enterprise groups	2,630	117	2,747	Mbale, Wakiso, Kampala
Children benefiting from caregiver participation in micro-enterprise groups	3,493	3,612	7,105	Mbale, Wakiso, Kampala
Child wellbeing clubs in the communities – Life skills	1,680	1,107	2,787	Mbale, Wakiso, Kampala
Strengthen Community child protection committees			72	Mbale, Wakiso, Kampala
Holistic shelter services for children -trafficked/exploited/ street connected	202	179	381	Kampala
Family reintegration of children	114	138	252	Countrywide
Vocational Skills training for Survivors of TIP/CSEC	93		93	Kampala, Jinja, Masaka
Training CSO staff			67	Kampala Metropolitan
Supported training for police criminal investigators and prosecutors			84	Kampala Metropolitan

### 4.3. Activities by Willow Uganda in combating trafficking in persons 2021

Willow as one of the stakeholders in the national task force for prevention of Trafficking in Persons carried out activities in aiding the rescue of victims, training of other stakeholders in management of victims of trafficking and restoration of survivors.

**Table 12: Activities conducted by willow in combatting trafficking in persons 2021**

No.	Activity	Total 2021
	Police trained	294 (Law enforcement & Immigration-CID,CFPU, CLO)
	DPP trained	41 prosecutors
	Community engagements	3 engagements (165 people reached)
	Stakeholder engagements	15 meetings (Including all partnership trainings held in 2021) Such as HTI, UNODC, OHCHR, Regional CSO Network, UCATIP members, Police, ODPP, MGLSD, Youth leaders, Local Government leaders, Religious leaders, TIP survivors, Media houses
	Participants served	325 (157 new, 101 continued, 67 follow up)
	Reintegration	97
	Legal Aid	127 (43 are new cases)
	Vocational skilling	87
	Formal education	109
	Start-up capital	37

### 4.4. Interventions by Dwelling Places to Counter Trafficking 2021

Dwelling Places is a Christian founded NGO that envisions a world where every child has a place to call home and is empowered to reach their full potential within a safe family and community setting, through rescue, rehabilitation, reintegration, education support services, family empowerment and advocacy for street connected children and abandoned babies. Ages 3 to 14 years old.

**Table 13: Interceptions Rescues and Rehabilitation**

S/No	ACTIVITY/INTERVENTIONS	FEMALES	MALES	TOTAL
1.	Interceptions	218	29	247
2.	Rescue	47	131	178
3.	Rehabilitation	46	44	90

## Prevention

During 2021, the following interventions were undertaken in line with countering trafficking.

- Eight (8) radio talk shows conducted at 88.7 Ateker Moroto FM creating awareness on child trafficking and unsafe migration with the local communities in Karamoja.
- Fifty two (52) community dialogues in four hotspot sub counties reaching out to 2,590 participants in Napak district, Karamoja region on the adverse effects of child trafficking.
- Engaged in trainings of two hundred (136M, 64F) Religious leaders, cultural leaders, private sector actors, child protection champions on awareness of child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children.

### 4.5. Activities by RAHAB Uganda in combating trafficking in persons 2021

Rahab is a Christian non-profit founded in 2005 on a mission to restore the self-image of girls affected by sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

Rahab conducted several activities in prevention of trafficking in persons and protection of victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation as summarized below;

**Table 14: Activities conducted by Rahab Uganda 2021**

Organization	Strategic Objective	Activities and Intended Target Beneficiaries	Numbers Reached	Areas of Coverage / destination countries.	
Rahab Uganda	Protection	Rahab Uganda provided the following aftercare services in 2021; Basic services such as pre- departure coordination, airport pick-ups, family reconciliations, and temporary shelter, skills training, psychosocial support, business mentorship, explore opportunities for job placements, reintegration back into their communities and follow up.	26	Saudi Arabia, Jordan	
		Partnership	Rahab Uganda continues to work with a number of stakeholders both formal and informal in order to fulfill her mission. In the year 2021		Local, National, Regional and International
		Rahab Uganda mainly worked with the government and civil society organizations in the repatriation, rehabilitation and resettlement of CSEC victims and VOTs.	26		
		Collaborations with Coordination Office on Prevention of Trafficking in Persons and the National Task Force through participating in various anti-trafficking interventions and engagements.	1		
		Joint collaborations in anti-trafficking interventions with UCATIP and other networks.	5		
		Partnerships with regional and international organizations in repatriation of cross borders VOTs.	3		
	Prevention	A number of anti- trafficking awareness raising sessions, capacity building training, plus lobby and advocacy meetings on TIP were conducted in the districts of Kampala Wakiso, Arua and Kyotera. A total of 30,878 stakeholders were trained in the 4 districts			Arua, Kyotera, Kampala and Wakiso
		Memorandums of Understanding were signed and secured to officiate anti-trafficking interventions in Arua and Kyotera districts.	2		
		Private Sector (UTB, UHOA)	30		
		Anti- TIP- children ambassadors of change	Upto-10,000		
		Youth- ambassadors of change	Upto-20,000		
		Anti- child trafficking clubs in both primary and secondary schools	5		
		Law Enforcement Officers(Police, Judiciary, ODP)	10		
		Key District Officials	140		
		Local Council Leaders	620		
		Survivors living in brothels, slums, lodges and bars	20		
CSOs, CBOs, Coalitions and networks	11				

#### **4.6. Activities by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) on prevention of trafficking in persons**

The office of the director of public prosecutions conducted various activities that included the following;

Trained over 200 prosecutors in best-practices for prosecuting TIP cases

Conducted 112 prosecution-guided investigations in high-profile or complex TIP cases

Filed 403 TIP cases

Prosecuted 7 public officials for involvement or corruption activities in TIP cases (pending cases)

Along with ODPP, created the Standard Operating Procedures for Investigating and Prosecuting TIP (Police-Prosecutor Cooperation)

Obtained at least 30 convictions in TIP cases, including the first reported natural life sentence in an Aggravated Trafficking in Children case (sexual exploitation)

Created and disseminated the ODPP TIP Prosecution Guidelines, which outlines best practices for prosecutors when handling TIP cases.

Implemented a mobile phone app for TIP data collection called TIPMAP for use by prosecutors to report TIP cases (country-wide)

Requested and received 50m UGX (approximately \$15,000.00 USD) for prosecution-guided investigations and TIP victim engagement and coordination (from GOU-JLOS)

Number of ODPP TIP Prosecutions (New Cases Filed): 403

2020: 202

Number of TIP Convictions: 30

2020: 11

Number of Victims Identified: 689

2020: 342

Number of Suspected Charged: 537

2020: 283

Number of TIP Victims Referred by GOU: 183

2020: 53

**Table 15: Summary of activities by ODPD 2021**

2021 ODPD / HTI TIP Case Data													
Type of Charge	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Trafficking In Persons	1	12	2	3	4	2	1	1	6	4	7	14	57
Aggravated Trafficking In Persons		2	3		4	1	1	5		1	1	1	19
Aggravated Trafficking In Children	14	28	23	20	28	13	20	14	35	29	40	31	295
Promotion/Other of Trafficking In Persons	2	1		1			1	1	3	0	0	0	9
Attempted Trafficking In Persons	1	3	5	4	4		2	3	1	0	0	2	25
<i>Total</i>													<b>405</b>
<b>Type of Case</b>													
Domestic	14	33	25	23	38	16	22	20	40	47	40	39	357
International	2	6	6	4	3	0	3	2	5	2	4	9	46
<i>Total</i>													<b>403</b>
<b>Type of Exploitation</b>													
Sex	10	21	16	16	21	11	15	15	29	42	34	26	256
Labour	4	14	12	10	13	4	5	6	7	7	8	13	103
Other	2	4	3	1	7	1	5	1	9	0	2	9	44
<i>Total</i>													<b>403</b>
<b>Number of Victims Identified</b>													
Adult	11	21	28	13	47	1	10	14	51	16	31	11	254
Child (<18)	14	57	25	30	81	16	22	27	36	55	37	35	435
<i>Total</i>													<b>689</b>
<b>Number of Suspects Arrested</b>	17	52	41	33	66	20	45	25	56	61	55	66	537
<b>Number of Suspects Convicted</b>	0	1	3	7	3	0	0	3	5	1	1	6	30
<b>Number of Police Trained</b>	0	0	0	59	60	0	0	0	75	104	157	0	455
<b>Number of Prosecutors Trained</b>	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	63	94	47	10	216



#### 4.7. IMMIGRATION RECORDS OF INTERCEPTIONS OF POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AT EXIT POINTS 2021

**Table 16:** Immigration interceptions of potential victims of trafficking 2021

Month	Entebbe Airport		Busia		Mutukula		Total number of interceptions
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
	Jan						
Feb	00	11					<b>11</b>
Mar	12	78	20	23			<b>133</b>
Apr						02	<b>02</b>
May							
Jun							
July							
Aug							
Sep	01	37	01	04			<b>43</b>
Oct	04	55					<b>59</b>
Nov	32	64					<b>96</b>
Dec							

#### Note:

Total number of intercepted suspected victims = **344**

All were adults.

#### 5.0. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND CHALLENGES FOR THE YEAR 2021

##### 1.1 Continued Push and Pull Factors Present Challenges for Effective Prevention of the Crime

The persistent poverty and unemployment remains the key push factor for trafficking in persons, while the existence of non-skilled jobs in the Middle East was the major pull factor which promoted the crime. The two factors are a big challenge to the prevention of the crime because many youths are desperate to try their luck where they think they can earn a better living.

##### 1.2 Lack of Specific Bilateral Agreements and Protocols with the transit and destination Countries on investigations of TIP Cases

In the absence of specific bilateral understanding on investigations of Cases of trafficking in persons, many criminal syndicates operating from foreign Countries have remained un-touched. This has undermined the efforts to eliminate the crime and to rescue the victims of transnational trafficking timely.

There is need for Uganda to continue initiating and strengthening bilateral understanding with neighboring Countries, especially Kenya, to promote timely interception of Ugandan victims who use such countries as transit points and the destinations Countries, especially in the Middle East.

### **1.3 Inadequate Holding Centers or Shelters for Victims of Trafficking at the Exit/Entry Points.**

Following the successful interceptions of many suspected and potential victims of trafficking during the course of the year, there was a challenge of temporary care for them at the points of interceptions as investigations were being carried out. Sometimes victims had to be kept at police for a long period, especially if they are to testify against the traffickers. This requires proper shelters and enough funds for their upkeep and transport back home. Very often, victims from foreign countries had to be repatriated hurriedly back to their home countries before providing useful information for good investigations.

### **1.4 Inadequate skills and knowledge to handle trafficking in persons appropriately by the Criminal Justice Action Bearers**

Despite the improvement in capacity building of investigators and prosecutors, there are still many inadequacies with the management of investigations of human trafficking reports. Many of the culprits involved in the chain of trafficking have not been punished and there has been an outstanding weakness in establishing the financial benefits of the exploitation and abuse to give basis for courts to order for forfeiture of such ill-gotten wealth and compensation for the victims. There is need for continued specialized trainings in management of human trafficking cases by the police, prosecutors and judicial officers.

## **6.0. WAY FORWARD FOR 2021**

- i. Conclusion of the development of the trafficking in persons database and national awareness/ communications strategy
- ii. Strengthen the capacity to respond and manage trafficking in persons through training of more police, immigration and other stakeholders on identification, rescue, protection, investigations, prosecution, referrals and support of victims of trafficking in persons effectively as contained in the NAP and NRG.
- iii. Enhanced public awareness campaigns targeting stakeholders in the local and central government first, whose mandate relates to fighting human trafficking and the general public on how to avoid becoming victims of trafficking.

## **Appendix 1:**

### **Membership of the Key Stakeholder MDAs / National Task Force Committee for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons in 2020**

1. Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA)
2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)
3. Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development (MoGLSD)
4. Ministry of Education & Sports (MoES)
5. Ministry of Local Government (MoLG)
6. Uganda Police - Criminal Investigations Directorate (CID)
7. Uganda Police - Community Policing Department
8. Uganda Police - Child and Family Protection Department
9. Uganda Police - INTERPOL
10. Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP)
11. Internal Security Organization (ISO)
12. External Security Organization (ESO)
13. Office of Prime Minister – Refugee Affairs (OPM)
14. Directorate of Citizenship & Immigration Control (DCIC)
15. Ministry of Justice & Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA)
16. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with running PTIP projects
17. Representatives of Development Partners offering support, including IOM

## Appendix 2:

### Government of Uganda (GOU) TIP Information for COPTIP Report (For Year 2021)

#### **Uganda Police Force – 2021**

Trained over 500 UPF-CID investigators in best practices for Trafficking in Persons investigations (country-wide)

Created a TIP Investigations Field Guide for CID Investigators

Created a Training Manual on Prevention and Response to Trafficking in Persons and curriculum for UPF training academies

Distributed over 500 copies of the NRG to police along with training on NRG – GOU fully funded

Acquired two vehicles for TIP investigations, including one multi-passenger van for transporting victims

Along with ODPP, created the Standard Operating Procedures for Investigating and Prosecuting TIP (Police-Prosecutor Cooperation)

Expanded the use of WhatsApp for TIP case communication between specialized TIP unit at CID HQ and field-based CID investigators

Provided temporary shelter and support for 334 TIP victims at CID Headquarters – GOU fully funded.

Referred over 183 TIP victims for shelter, support, and other services with partner NGOs

#### **COPTIP – Ministry of Internal Affairs – 2021**

Developed and distributed the *Directory of Service Providers for Victims of Trafficking in Persons in Uganda (2021)* for better coordinating victims to service providers

Trained 636 Ugandan officials (183 police) and disseminated the NRG, NAP, and PTIP Act (over 700 copies) at the sub-national level, including trainings and specific training of trainers (ToT)

## Re-engagement and re-development of nationwide TIP database

Sponsored training of 60 child helpline (Sauti 116) officials on TIP and proper data collection on calls related to TIP

Conducted multi-sector workshop for transnational TIP cases arising at Entebbe International Airport (involving ODPP, DCIC, and UPF)

Created and launched a telephone contact number for citizens to report scammers and illegal recruiters in labour exploitation schemes.

Acquired IT officer from UPF for full time data collection and analysis of nationwide TIP cases – GOU fully funded.

Conducted cross-border trainings in Busia, Tororo, and other Eastern locations (border locations) to strengthen cross-border collaboration between Uganda and Kenyan officials.

Implemented weekly media engagement through a newly designated public relations officer for increased dissemination on TIP cases, criminal justice outcomes, and related matters.

## **Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development – 2021**

Led efforts to successfully revise The Employment (Recruitment of Ugandan Migrant Workers) Regulations to include increased punishments for fraudulent and illegal recruitment of Ugandan migrant workers by export companies

Led efforts to successfully suspend, ban, or revoke the recruitment licenses of 12 labour export companies – for engaging in fraudulent and exploitative recruitment activities.

In 2021, MGLSD has formally partnered with Hope for Justice (NGO) in steering the co-development of evidence-based trauma-informed Standards of Care (SOC) for survivors of human trafficking in Uganda. The new SOC framework and associated outputs will contribute to the operationalization of the NRG, provide practical, evidence-based guidance for survivor care based on current evidence of ‘what works’, combined with insights from the support providers, survivors, and government officials in Uganda.