

Panel 1 - Identifying critical gaps in the prevention of human trafficking in Africa

The Freedom From Slavery Africa Regional Forum
Actionable Justice: Implementing Effective Strategies and Raising Awareness in
Combating Human Trafficking

Protection Division

IOM Regional Office for West and Central Africa, Dakar

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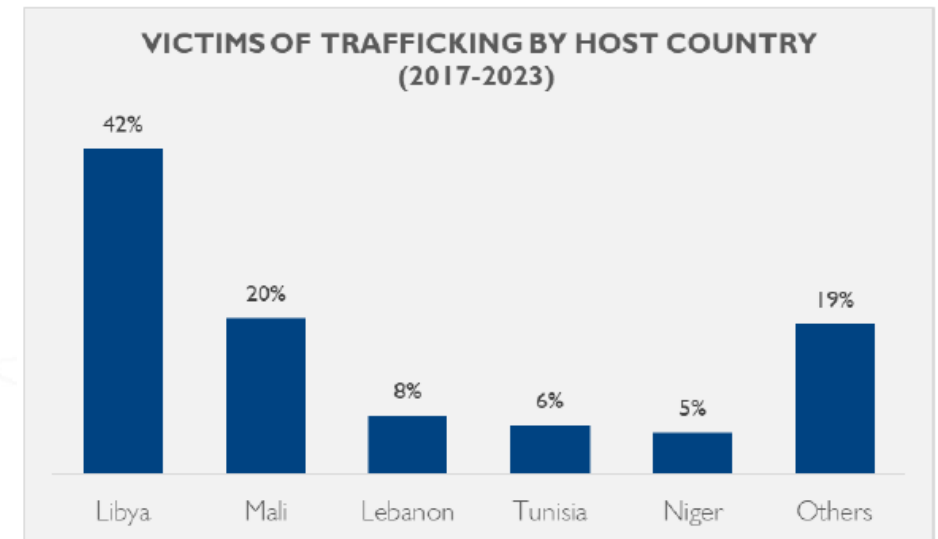
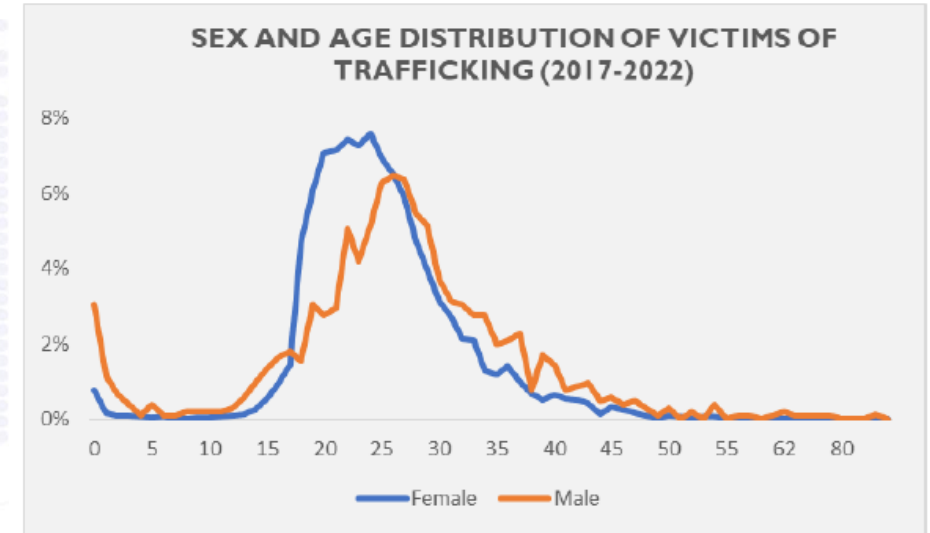
Programming priorities and gaps

Trafficking and IOM's role to protect victims

- The **world's largest provider of direct assistance services to victims of trafficking**
- **Over 150,000 victims assisted** by IOM and its partners since early 1990s, from 180+ countries
- <https://www.ctdatacollaborative.org>
- Worldwide 7,000 to 8,000 victims of trafficking assisted by IOM every year
- All victims are eligible for IOM assistance, depending on funding availability :
 - Boys, girls, men and women
 - Victims of sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, organ removal, servitude, practices similar to slavery, etc.
 - Regardless of immigration status or nationality
 - Victims of internal trafficking (under some specific programs)

Assistance to Victims of Trafficking from WCA countries (2017 – 2023)

- Over 6,000 victims of trafficking assisted with AVRR and VHR towards WCA countries between 2017 and 2023 :
 - 94% adults
 - 83% females
 - 79% of females are Nigeria nationals.
- Main host countries of victims are Libya (44%) and Mali (20%).
- A significant number assisted in Tunisia and Lebanon.



Available on:

<https://dtm.iom.int/reports/west-and-central-africa-assistance-voluntary-and-humanitarian-return-2017-2023>

CT efforts supported & programming priorities

Prevention:

- Awareness-raising efforts to sensitize on existing hotlines and tools to report cases (e.g: UNTFHS in [Gabon and Guinea](#), capitalizing on Migrants as Messengers returnees)

Prosecution:

- Strengthen the review and application of national legislations (very few traffickers investigated or convicted), in line with the Palermo Protocol: [Mauritania, Chad, Gabon](#)
- Trainings of judicial personnel and LEOs (including in coordination with INTERPOL in [Senegal, Liberia, Sierra Leone and The Gambia](#), and under US funding in [Gabon](#))

Partnerships and coordination:

- Support to **National anti-TIP agencies** through the development and implementation of National Action Plans
- Strengthening **cross-border coordination** for comprehensive victim assistance

CT efforts supported & programming priorities

Protection:

- Disseminate protection standards and best practices:
 - **NRMs and SOPs** for Victim Protection (Identification & Assistance): [Guinea, Mali, Niger, The Gambia...](#)
 - **Mappings of protection partners & SOPs** for case management of migrants: [Benin, Gabon, Togo](#)
 - **Capacity-building** on victim identification, assistance and referrals on a regular basis
 - Capacity building on Child Protection (Convention on the Rights of the Child, Family Tracing, Best Interest Procedures...)
 - **Advocacy for alternative care solutions for children** who do not want / cannot return to their family in a safe manner: [Mauritania](#)
 - Advocacy to end migration status detention and child detention: **Alternatives to Detention**
- **Data collection on possible TIP cases** to be referred to Protection teams: specific questionnaires in **Flow Monitoring Points** in [Mali, Niger and Tchad](#)
- Victim centered **direct assistance**: identification, referral and protection ([all countries](#), daily basis)
 - Mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS) to children and adults remains a major gap
 - Consequences of TIP on the well-being and mental health underestimated

Regional specificities of TiP in WCA

Similarities in terms of gaps and most prevalent forms of TIP in WCA raise need to strengthen cross-border coordination in order to:

- prosecute offenders
- and provide adequate assistance to VoTs in countries of origin, transit and destination.

Need to increase collaboration between countries of origin and destination of VoTs:

- *Between Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Nigeria*
- *Between Mauritania and Senegal*
- *Between Gabon and Benin and Togo*

Existing regional mechanisms to build on:

- The Niamey Declaration
- existing agreement on judicial cooperation between Chad, Mali, Niger
- Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)
- The West Africa Network (WAN) for child protection

Thank you for your attention !

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