



## **Counter Trafficking Capacity Building, Cooperation and Networking in West Africa**

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Project type:	Counter-Trafficking
Secondary project type:	N/A
Geographical coverage:	Burkina Faso, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Sénégal
Executing agency:	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Beneficiaries:	Law enforcement and judicial authorities, Government Ministries and agencies, and local NGOs in Burkina Faso, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Sénégal.
Partner(s):	Law enforcement and judicial authorities, Government Ministries and agencies, and local NGOs in Burkina Faso, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Sénégal. Additionally Interpol, Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).
Management site:	IOM office in Bamako
Duration:	12 Months
Estimated budget:	USD 200,000

### **Summary**

This project aims to strengthen regional institutional partnership and cooperation between Burkina Faso, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Sénégal, involving various national bodies involved in the fight against trafficking, and building relationships – which are often lacking – among government agents, NGOs and judicial institutions and law enforcement. The project also aims to harmonize the mechanisms and procedures with regards to the protection and assistance of trafficking victims and prosecutions against traffickers.

To achieve these objectives, IOM will organize a series of training workshops and develop an operational manual gathering accurate information and best practices in the fight against trafficking in the region in order to support the police, field investigators, the justice sector, government departments and NGOs active in the fight against human trafficking in the region.

## I. Rationale

The phenomenon of human trafficking is expanding on a large scale in West Africa resulting in a modern form of slavery which remains unpunished due to lack of appropriate legal provisions.

According to a UNICEF study, 90% of trafficking operations in Africa occur among countries within the same region because of strong historical, cultural and linguistic strengths.

The West African countries of Mali, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Sénégal, have a pattern of circular cross-border trafficking as these countries are both countries of origin and destination of trafficking victims. The number of child victims of trafficking in this sub-region is high due to the presence of significant natural resources, such as plantations in Côte d'Ivoire or gold and diamond mining in Guinea, which are frequently extracted with the use of child labor. Additionally, the persistence of traditional practices such as the migration of child *talibés*, particularly to Sénégal, makes them vulnerable to exploitation.

In response to alarming reports, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) signed a political declaration against human trafficking and adopted a Regional Action Plan to fight against trafficking in 2001. This initiative has spread to the States of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) with the signing of a joint action plan ECOWAS / ECCAS and a multilateral cooperation agreement in Abuja in July 2006. The Action Plan required Member States to implement specific measures to improve their capacity in human trafficking prevention measures. The measures include the criminalization of trafficking in persons for instigators and their accomplices, protection and support for victims, increased awareness, conducting research, the creation of specialized units to fight against trafficking in border checkpoints, improving mechanisms for data collection and establishment of national task forces. In addition to encouraging the establishment of various activities aimed at capacity building, the ECOWAS / ECCAS strategy also calls for strengthening cooperation among Member States in order to trigger a dynamic and full of fight against the regional trafficking.

This political will to combat trafficking can also be seen at the bilateral level with the signing of cooperation agreements, namely that between Mali and Côte d'Ivoire on September 1, 2000, between Mali and Burkina Faso on June 25, 2004, between Mali and Sénégal 22 July, 2004, and between Mali and Guinea on 16 June, 2005.

In addition to calling for capacity building of a large number of specialists in the fight against trafficking, each agreement recognizes the need to encourage cross-border cooperation and multidisciplinary emphasis on trade practices and experiences between, on the one part, judicial authorities and government agents involved in the care of victims of trafficking and punishment of the perpetrators, and, on the other, representatives of civil society, particularly NGOs working with victims. Indeed, while the judicial authorities are often the first to come into contact with victims of trafficking, civil society plays an important role in supporting vulnerable and traumatized victims. These victims often do not understand the legal options open to them. Moreover, they are often suspicious of agents embodying state authority, and are hesitant to trust and cooperate openly with law enforcement bodies in actions aimed at dismantling trafficking networks.

The collaborative approach advocated by each of these bilateral agreements, which will lead to a practical and operational effort by practitioners working in the field counter-trafficking, thus aims at harmonizing the steps for the protection and assistance of victims of trafficking on the one hand and legal proceedings to be initiated against traffickers on the other, taking into account each state's means and national realities.

The governments of Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso have identified these actions as a priority and would like to work with IOM to continue the implementation of these measures in the fight against trafficking in the region.

IOM, through the development of this project, intends to meet the needs of the governments of Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali and Senegal to support the regional effort to suppress trafficking in persons.

## **2. Partnerships and coordination**

IOM will work with governments and NGOs in Burkina Faso, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Sénégal, including the Ministries of Interior, security or administration of territory, the Ministry of Justice and family Ministries.

In each of the countries, organizations and government institutions and civil society involved in the daily fight against child trafficking, will be the target beneficiaries and partners. Specifically:

Ministerial staff involved in the care of victims and punishment of traffickers;

The police - and specialists from units fight against trafficking and / or experienced investigators;

The judiciary, including judges and prosecutors;

Non-governmental organizations, and especially those hosting and assisting victims of trafficking in their rehabilitation and reintegration.

The respective governments will have to ensure that the priorities and steps taken address national needs and are in accordance with the Joint ECOWAS / ECCAS Action Plan fight against trafficking in persons, especially women and children in West and Central Africa. NGOs, meanwhile, will assist IOM with their competencies through all phases of project implementation.

## **3. Sustainability**

With the aim of ensuring long-term sustainability, the project will be conducted over 12 months and will consist of a preparatory phase, a series of four workshops and a final validation/dissemination of the final operational tool. These steps will ultimately build the capacity of the Member States in question in preventing traffickers from committing their crimes with impunity, and will initiate increased cooperation and networking efforts among partners. The project will, in other words, contribute to the establishment of robust mechanisms to ensure sustainability of results.

## **4. Evaluation**

The IOM Regional Office in Dakar will monitor and evaluate progress at regular intervals throughout the implementation phase of the project. This will help, if necessary, to readjust the project in order to ensure optimal impact. Authorities and organizations involved in the project will also be involved in the process. A final report will be presented to donors in the two months following completion of the project.

## 5. Results matrix

	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Baseline/Target</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
<p><i>Objective</i></p> <p>The promotion and strengthening of cooperation, exchange of knowledge and dissemination of information among the states of Burkina Faso, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Sénégal for the protection and assistance of trafficking victims and prosecutions against traffickers. <sup>2</sup></p>	<p>A regional counter-trafficking effort will have come into being, indicated by improved multilateral cooperation, improved professional capacities of actors involved in counter-trafficking efforts, and improvements in the judicial sector to investigate and prosecute traffickers.</p>	<p><i>Baseline:</i> Cross-border cooperation and experience and information sharing between states in the region are low; the ECOWAS/ECCAS Action Plan not being enforced.</p> <p><i>Target:</i> Effective regional mechanisms put in place to improve counter-trafficking efforts in the region; ECOWAS/ECCAS Action Plan enforced.</p>	

	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Baseline/Target</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
<i>Outcomes</i>			
1) Improved professional skills of a wide range of practitioners involved in the fight against trafficking (including the judiciary, the police, ministries and NGOs);	1) Agents from Burkina Faso, Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Sénégal will have participated in the one of four separate training workshops to be held, each consisting of 15 different participants each time. A total of 60 agents will have been trained.	<i>Baseline: 0</i> <i>Target: 60</i>	Governments' cooperation maintained throughout project implementation.
2) Strengthened transnational cooperation, trade and the development of networks between the judiciary, the police, government officials and NGOs involved in the fight against trafficking in persons;	2) A multidisciplinary network composed of regional and national police officers, prosecutors, judges of investigation, government agents, and representatives of NGOs has been established. A list of network members has been drawn-up with each member's roles defined in view of future cooperation;	<i>Baseline: 0</i> <i>Target: List of network members drawn-up; network established</i>	
3) A practical tool for members of the judiciary, the police, ministries and NGOs has been developed, based on international standards and the most appropriate national measures to protect the rights of victims of trafficking and fight against traffickers in the region covered by the project.	3) An operational manual has been designed, with the methodologies for protecting and assisting victims of trafficking – since the initial identification to final integration – and the description of the action to be taken to against traffickers, taking into account national circumstances and capacities.	<i>Baseline: 0</i> <i>Target: Manual designed and published.</i>	

	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Baseline/Target</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
<p><i>Outputs</i></p> <p>1) Four training workshops took place in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Senegal, each the span of three days, each gathering 15 participants.</p> <p>2) A multidisciplinary network composed of regional and national police officers, prosecutors, judges, government agents, and representatives of NGOs has been established.</p> <p>3) Writing, publication and distribution of counter-trafficking operational manual.</p>	<p>1) In each of the four separate training workshops, 15 agents will have participated (three from each country, consisting of judicial agents, law enforcement officers, government officials and NGO representatives).</p> <p>2) A list of network members has been drawn-up with each member's roles and responsibilities defined in view of future cooperation.</p> <p>A validation commission is established to agree on the contents of the manual and incorporates the results of the workshops. After approval of draft manual, a final version of the manual is published.</p>	<p><i>Baseline:</i> 0 <i>Target:</i> 60 counter-trafficking agents have exchanged knowledge and experience in the fight against trafficking. Results of the workshops to included in the draft operational manual.</p> <p><i>Baseline:</i> 0 <i>Target:</i> The list includes at least four members for each discipline from the five countries.</p> <p><i>Baseline:</i> 0 <i>Target:</i> Validation commission established; 500 copies of the manual are published and distributed in the five countries.</p>	<p>Government cooperation maintained.</p> <p>Each country will send three different attendees for each of the four separate trainings (12 in total).</p>

	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Baseline/Target</i>	<i>Assumptions</i>
<p><i>Activities</i></p> <p><b>Preparatory activities</b></p> <p>1) Recruitment of a Project Coordinator and an international expert trainer (Consultant).</p> <p>2) Evaluation / research and contact with persons and resource institutions in each of the countries (Research to be based on the existing literature on the subject and meetings between the expert and international stakeholders in the fight against trafficking in five countries).</p> <p>3) Development of training workshops</p> <p>4) Selection of participants – An expert in criminal justice, a government agent and an NGO member working in the field of counter-trafficking, are selected from each of the five countries to attend the workshop.</p> <p>5) The structure of the operational manual is defined.</p> <p><b>Training workshop and networking</b></p> <p>1) Four workshops are to take place in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Senegal, each the span of three days, each gathering 15 participants to train and exchange knowledge and experience in the fight against trafficking.</p> <p>2) Partially by means of the workshop and partially through research, a multidisciplinary network composed of regional and national police officers, prosecutors, judges, government agents, and representatives of NGOs will have been established to strengthen cooperation among Member States in order to trigger a dynamic and full of fight against trafficking in the region. A list of network members will have been drawn-up with each member's roles and responsibilities defined in view of future cooperation.</p> <p>3) Designation of validation committee – Following the workshops, three practitioners from each country are selected by the participants to form a committee that will validate the operational manual.</p> <p><b>Writing, publication and distribution of counter-trafficking operational manual</b></p> <p>1) By analysing data collected during the workshops, the draft manual will consolidate the information gathered during the workshops and will be shared by e-mail within the network.</p> <p>2) Organization of a three-day validation workshop in Bamako – the draft of the manual, which includes the additional information and feedback from the network, is shared with the validation committee. The Validation Committee will then provide its comments and amended the manual accordingly.</p> <p>3) Preparation of the final operational manual in view of publication.</p> <p>4) The operational manual – approved by the validation committee – is distributed. 500 copies are distributed to parties in the five countries.</p>			<p>The Bamako office is strengthened through these activities and will be able to successfully undertake the four training workshops.</p> <p>At least 50% of participants will respond to the mail shared.</p> <p>The manual will have incorporated the comments of the validation committee.</p>

## 6. Work plan

Complete a basic work plan which includes the following information:

- (a) When are the main activities expected to begin? How long will they last? When will they be complete?  
 (b) Which partners are responsible for the implementation of each of the main activities?

See Module 2 Proposal Development (Step 8: Work plan)

Activity	Party responsible	Time frame								
		Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9
Training Workshop (4)	IOM		X	X*	X	X*	X	X*	X	X*
Regional CT network	IOM		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Operational CT Manual	IOM						X	X	X	X

- \* Training month

Activity	Party responsible	Time frame								
		Month 10	Month 11	Month 12	Month 13	Month 14	Month 15	Month 16	Month 17	Month 18
Operational CT Manual		X	X	X						

## 7. Budget

Prepare a budget using the appropriate IOM Development Fund budget template.