



Gabon

A Joint Human Security Approach to Strengthening Prevention, Protection and Empowerment in Mixed Migration to Gabon

Background information

Mixed migration to Gabon, comprising of irregular migrants for labor purposes, but also criminally organized trafficking of women and children, is a recurrent, growing and an increasingly visible challenge. From the human security perspective, mixed migration to Gabon results from the pernicious intersection between economic and political insecurity, gender-based violence, and sexual exploitation in countries of origin and destination. This has led to an increase in mixed migrants, asylum seekers and refugee influxes, including women and unaccompanied children. While Gabon has policies to support refugees and long-term migrants, new challenges have emerged with mixed migration flows and related organized crime that require a more preventive, integrated and inclusive strategy.

Goals and objectives

The key objectives of the programme are to: (i) strengthen Gabon's normative framework and implementation mechanisms on mixed migration to ensure quality identification, protection, and assistance services to victims, regardless of their status, in line with international standards; and (ii) empower refugees, migrants and their host communities through various awareness raising and sensitization efforts.



DURATION

September 2021 — December 2023



UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

UNICEF, UNODC, UNHCR, IOM



OTHER KEY PARTNERS

Directorate General of Documentation and Immigration (DGI); Ministries of Internal Affairs, Defence, Justice, Social Affairs and Women's Rights, and Foreign Affairs



BENEFICIARIES

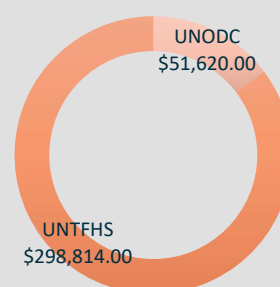
5,000 direct; 700,000 indirect



TOTAL BUDGET

US\$ 350,434

POOLING OF RESOURCES



Beneficiaries

The programme benefits over 700,000 people in the whole country, including 5,000 individuals from the mixed migrant population, irregular migrants, victims of human trafficking, asylum seekers, refugees, etc., with a focus on women and unaccompanied children.

Applying the Human Security approach

The joint programme begins from the particular context of Gabon as at once a destination and a transition point for mixed migrants. Gabon's location along the Gulf of Guinea, its comparative wealth in the sub-region, and its history of hospitality towards refugees and migrants have greatly contributed to its dual position. This context subsequently informs the programming decision to put equal weight on measures designed to prevent criminally organized and irregular migration to Gabon with actions to identify, protect, and assist those most vulnerable.

The programme envisages a whole-of-UN-response to address mixed migration and human trafficking in Gabon. By simultaneously enhancing the protection of mixed migrants and improving the normative framework and its implementation in Gabon, the programme puts in place the necessary legal and procedural requirements not only to improve the protection of mixed migrants, but also to prevent and fight human trafficking at its core.

Moreover, through empowerment of mixed migrants and their host communities, the programme seeks to create an enabling environment to change perceptions towards mixed migrants, transforming the narrative and creating the necessary awareness of the risks associated with irregular migration. This in turn helps to strengthen the protection of current and potential mixed migrants. Based on a twin focus on protection and empowerment and conceiving of them as two sides of the same coin, the programme helps shape a coherent and integrated approach towards the enhancement of human security, with significant benefits for all in Gabon and the sub-region.

Achievements

- The programme made significant strides in enhancing the protection and empowerment of vulnerable groups in Gabon. Notably, it strengthened Gabon's normative framework to address migrant smuggling and human trafficking through the conduction of a comprehensive review of the existing legal and policy mechanisms. This process led to the development of a Human Security Framework on mixed migration and the creation of Standard Operating Procedures and guidelines aimed at improving victim identification, referral, and care.
- Efforts to improve national coordination included the establishment of the Commission for the Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings and the validation of SOPs by various stakeholders. The programme also supported the training of law enforcement and judicial officers across multiple countries, including Gabon, in combating human trafficking and smuggling by enhancing their capacity to investigate and prosecute these crimes effectively.
- To strengthen the socio-economic integration of vulnerable groups, the programme provided vocational training and support to victims of human trafficking, helping them gain skills and resources for self-sufficiency. Awareness campaigns were conducted to educate the public and authorities on human trafficking, mixed migration, and the Human Security Framework, fostering a more informed and supportive community.
- The programme also focused on strengthening monitoring and reporting systems for migration and human trafficking. This included issuing quarterly bulletins on trafficking indicators, training national bodies on data collection and reporting, and codifying lessons learned to drive future institutional and policy improvements. Overall, the programme's achievements significantly advanced Gabon's capacity to protect and support vulnerable populations and enhanced regional cooperation against human trafficking.



www.un.org/humansecurity



humansecurity@un.org



[@UNHumanSecurity](https://twitter.com/UNHumanSecurity)



[@UNTFHS](https://www.facebook.com/UNTFHS)



United Nations Trust Fund
for Human Security

*The boundaries and names shown
and the designations used on the
map do not imply official
endorsement or acceptance by the
United Nations.*