



**United Nations Trust Fund  
for Human Security**

# Guinea

## Using the Human Security Approach to Empower and Protect Individuals Against Human Trafficking in Guinea

### Background information

Like many countries worldwide, Guinea is grappling with trafficking in persons (TiP), a complex phenomenon brought about by intersecting personal, societal and global factors. While personal vulnerability contributes, there are multiple underlying drivers at the national, regional and global levels – economic challenges, gaps in judicial systems and legal frameworks, social inequalities, and the impacts of crises like the recent COVID-19 pandemic – which heighten risks. Recognizing the complexity of these interwoven factors, a human security approach offers a powerful framework to enhance understanding, identify effective strategies, and strengthen cooperation among stakeholders, including affected communities, to support national efforts in preventing and responding to human trafficking.

### Goals and objectives

The programme seeks to strengthen the capacity of government counterparts in Guinea to combat human trafficking using the human security approach. Specifically, the programme aims to (i) improve the country's legal and institutional framework for combating human trafficking; (ii) strengthen the capacity of anti-TiP actors to provide comprehensive protection assistance; (iii) empower community and religious leaders through preventive interventions to build the resilience of communities; and (iv) strengthen the application of the human security approach in the work of the UN System and partners in the West and Central Africa regions.



#### DURATION

March 2023 – July 2024



#### UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES

IOM, UNHCR



#### OTHER KEY PARTNERS

Office of Protection of Gender, Children and Morals, Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Infants, and Vulnerable Persons, Ministry of Social Action, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Security, National Committee for the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons and Assimilated Practices



#### BENEFICIARIES

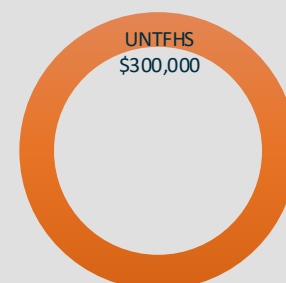
340 direct beneficiaries and various groups of indirect beneficiaries



#### TOTAL BUDGET

US\$ 300,000

#### POOLING OF RESOURCES



## Beneficiaries

The programme directly benefits police officials, local civil society and community-based organizations, local authorities, religious and community leaders, returned migrants and survivors of human trafficking. In addition, the broader communities, including potential migrants, young adults, and unaccompanied or stranded minors, will indirectly benefit from strengthened personal and community security, improved livelihood opportunities, and enhanced participation in decision-making.

## Applying the Human Security approach

The interplay of individual, societal and global factors that give rise to human trafficking requires a comprehensive and nuanced approach, combining policy measures to minimize the drivers and gaps that enable exploitation to occur with community-based strategies to raise awareness, reduce vulnerability and build resilience among people. To this end, the programme is undertaking a hybrid approach that strengthens institutional measures for protection while fostering deeper engagement between institutions and communities, and responding to some of the most critical root causes at the local level. At the institutional level, the programme convenes ministries that play a role in addressing the diverse dynamics related to TiP to identify critical policy gaps and ensure greater legal and policy coherence nationally. It builds the capacity of these stakeholders and the broader law enforcement community to uphold existing protection frameworks, promote multisectoral strategies, and better respond to the political and personal insecurities facing the most vulnerable populations.

In tandem with these institutional efforts, the programme places emphasis on inclusive and participatory processes at the community local level to incorporate the perspectives of those most affected, addressing a key reason why many previous approaches to preventing trafficking have been ineffective. Recognizing that local knowledge is essential for meaningful and sustainable results, the programme is capitalizing on this knowledge and cultivating community engagement in elaborating solutions. Initiatives such as establishing 'Migrant Ambassadors' increase ownership and provide opportunities for local stakeholders to mitigate the risk to their communities through information-sharing and participating in dialogues with faith-based leaders. The programme is also expanding livelihood opportunities through partnerships with the private sector to tackle the economic drivers that can lead to exploitation.

While the programme is national in scope, it is also targeting some of the most vulnerable regions and communities characterized by high numbers of migrant flows and returns including the borders with Guinea Bissau, Senegal, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone. As such, the programme promotes a multiplier impact within Guinea as well as its neighbors, garnering valuable lessons for future anti-TiP programming nationally and regionally.

## Achievements

- The programme conducted a review of Guinea's protection system against regional and international standards, followed by a validation workshop with 33 stakeholders to develop recommendations to improve current protection mechanisms. The resulting recommendations will continue guiding legal reforms and institutional actions to optimize the prevention, protection and care of victims of trafficking in Guinea.
- Across four regions, 100 participants from civil society and community-based organizations received specialized training on protection tools and the human security framework. This initiative has significantly enhanced local capacity to prevent trafficking and provide critical support to victims.
- The programme established a network of migrant ambassadors and community support teams, reaching over 1,500 people through interactive dialogues. These efforts have fostered grassroots commitment to the human security approach, mobilizing local actors to take an active role in anti-trafficking initiatives.
- A regional webinar brought together key partners from Guinea and Gabon to exchange experiences and best practices in combating human trafficking. This cross-border knowledge-sharing is refining counter-trafficking strategies and strengthening regional cooperation for more effective interventions.



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