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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

BMM	- Better Migration Management
CID	- Criminal Investigations Directorate
EU	- European Union
IOM	- International Organization for Migration
KMP	- Kampala Metropolitan
MDAs	- Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MIA	- Ministry of Internal Affairs
MoGLSD	- Ministry of Gender, Labor & Social Development
MT. MOROTO	- Mount Moroto
NAP	- National Action Plan
NGO	- Non-Governmental Organization
NRG	- National Referral Guidelines
ODPP	- Office of Director of Public Prosecutions
SMS	- Short Message Service
TIP	- Trafficking in Persons
U.A.E	- United Arab Emirates
UNDP	- United Nations Development Program
UCATIP	-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 labor 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
1.	Aggravated Trafficking in children	235
2.	Trafficking in persons	98
3.	Attempted Trafficking in persons	44
4.	Aggravated Trafficking in persons	32
5.	Suspected Trafficking in persons	12
	Total	**421**

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	
1.	AVIATION POLICE	00	57	07	64
2.	KMP SOUTH	15	16	03	34
3.	CID HQTRS	04	25	03	32
4.	KMP EAST	29	00	01	30
5.	GREATER MASAKA	27	00	00	27
6.	KIDEPO	23	00	00	23
7.	ALBERTINE	21	00	00	21
8.	SEZIBWA	16	00	04	20
9.	KIIRA	18	00	01	19
10.	RWENZORI WEST	18	00	00	18
11.	KMP NORTH	10	07	01	18
12.	KIGEZI	16	00	00	16
13.	EAST KYOGA	15	00	00	15
14.	MT. MOROTO	14	00	00	14
15.	BUSOGA EAST	14	00	00	14
16.	BUKEDI	01	05	07	13
17.	WAMALA	05	01	00	06
18.	RWIZI	06	00	00	06
19.	RWENZORI EAST	06	00	00	06
20.	BUSOGA NORTH	02	00	02	04
21.	ASWA RIVER	03	01	00	04
22.	GREATER BUSHENYI	04	00	00	04
23.	KATONGA	04	00	00	04
24.	SAVANNAH	03	00	00	03
25.	NORTH KYOGA	02	00	00	02
26.	WEST NILE	02	00	00	02
27.	NORTH WEST NILE	00	00	01	01
28.	KIREKA SID	00	01	00	01
29.	SIPI	00	00	00	00
30.	ELGON	00	00	00	00
	TOTAL	**278**	**113**	**30**	**421**

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
KYEGEGWA	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
KARENGA	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

KITGUM	01
GOMBA	01
KAGADI	01
NTOROKO	01
MBARARA	01
IBANDA	01
MITOOMA	01
BUSHENYI	01
KANUNGU	01
BUKOMANSIMBI	01
KALUNGU	01
LUWEERO	01
KASESE	01
KAJJANSI DIVISION	01
CPS KAMPALA DIVISION	01
BUYENDE	01
KAMULI	01
BUSIA	01
SERERE	01
TOTAL	**278**

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

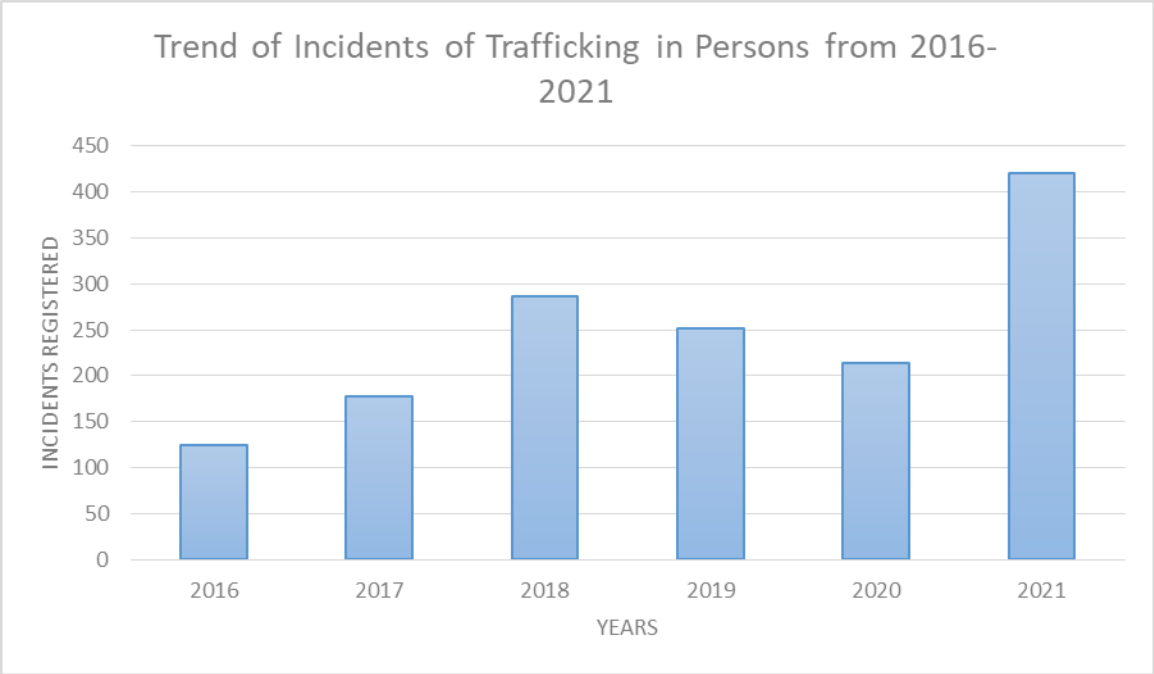
DISTRICT/DIVISION	TRANSNATIONAL TRAFFICKING
AVIPOL ENTEBBE	57
CID HQTRS	25
CPS KAMPALA	07
KATWE DIVISION	05
OLD KAMPALA DIVISION	05
TORORO	03
KAJJANSI DIVISION	02
KABALAGALA DIVISION	02
BUSIA	02

DISTRICT/DIVISION	TRANSNATIONAL TRAFFICKING
KAWEMPE DIVISION	01
KITGUM	01
WANDEGEYA DIVISION	01
MITYANA	01
KIREKA SID	01
TOTAL	**113**

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 border points to effectively investigate cases of human trafficking.

c) The Socio-economic Effects of CIVID-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	**40**
FEBRUARY	03	00	13	22	01	00	27	02	01	**69**
MARCH	00	06	00	11	22	00	57	01	02	**99**
APRIL	15	03	12	09	02	00	79	02	03	**125**
MAY	02	04	10	19	34	00	29	00	03	**101**
JUNE	00	00	00	10	00	00	32	01	01	**44**
JULY	12	03	04	29	07	00	02	13	06	**76**
AUGUST	03	54	11	25	09	00	05	00	03	**110**
SEPTEMBER	00	01	00	28	03	00	82	00	01	**115**
OCTOBER	01	05	22	47	13	00	70	01	04	**163**
NOVEMBER	00	05	01	37	27	04	126	00	02	**202**
DECEMBER	14	00	05	19	12	00	99	00	02	**151**
TOTAL	**51**	**82**	**79**	**263**	**130**	**04**	**634**	**22**	**30**	**1295**

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

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 labor 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
1.	Labor	94	105
2.	Sexual	117	07
3.	Ritual	05	00

S/NO	Form of Exploitation	Internal Trafficking	Transnational Trafficking
4.	Forced Child Marriage	47	00
5.	Debt bondage	05	01
6.	Illegal Activity	19	02
7.	Organ Harvest	01	00
8.	Servitude	00	01
9.	Unknown	43	00
Total		**331**	**116**

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
1.	Dubai	297
2.	Saudi Arabia	175
3.	Qatar	110
4.	U.A.E	50
5.	Kenya	44
6.	Iraq	14
7.	Baghdad	09
8.	DRC	08
9.	Uganda	06
10.	Oman	02
11.	Abu Dhabi	02
12.	Malawi	02

S/No.	Destination Country	No. of Victims
13.	Canada	01
14.	Cameroon	01
15.	India	01
16.	Sudan	01
17.	Sierra Leone	01
18.	Libya	01
19.	Thailand	01
20.	Tanzania	01
	TOTAL	**727**

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

• Karamoja Sub-region to Teso sub region – Mbale – Busia / Malaba – Iganga – Jinja – Kampala for child labour, street begging and sexual exploitation. • Rural areas in various parts of the country to some urban centers and areas with some economic activities, for labour exploitation,	• Wakiso, Kampala, Mukono and the Eastern border districts to Kenya and several other foreign countries, including the Middle East; • Other parts of Uganda to Kampala and Entebbe Airport to several foreign Countries. • Burundi – Tanzania – through Western Uganda; to Kampala; then to Kenya and other Middle

sexual exploitation and use in illegal activities.	East Countries, mostly for labour and sexual exploitation.

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 31st 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
TOTAL	**1295**

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 intercepted in Kenya and sent back to Uganda. Among those intercepted 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)-under the Better Migration Management (BMM) project, RAHAB (U), Dwelling Places, Retrak (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 benefitting 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

	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
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
	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	
		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	
		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, ODPP)	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 ODPP 2021

2021 ODPP / 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
Total													**405**
Type of Case													
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
Total													**403**
Type of Exploitation													
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
Total													**403**
Number of Victims Identified													
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
Total													**689**
Number of Suspects Arrested	17	52	41	33	66	20	45	25	56	61	55	66	**537**
Number of Suspects Convicted	0	1	3	7	3	0	0	3	5	1	1	6	**30**
Number of Police Trained	0	0	0	59	60	0	0	0	75	104	157	0	**455**
Number of Prosecutors Trained	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 19: 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					**11**
Mar	12	78	20	23			**133**
Apr						02	**02**
May							
Jun							
July							
Aug							
Sep	01	37	01	04			**43**
Oct	04	55					**59**
Nov	32	64					**96**
Dec							

Note:
Total number of intercepted suspected victims = **344**
All were adults.

5.0. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND CHALLENGES FOR THE YEAR 2021

5.1 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.

5.2 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.

5.3 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.

5.4 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 mange 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.

GOU ANTI-TIP EFFORTS IN 2021 (CALENDAR YEAR) THAT CORRESPOND WITH SOME OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE 2021 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE TIP REPORT:

Implement the NRG to systematically identify and refer trafficking victims to appropriate care, including by screening for trafficking indicators among vulnerable populations, such as women in commercial sex, migrants and Cuban medical professionals.

- In 2021, the Ministry of Internal Affairs / COPTIP distributed hundreds of copies of the National Referral Guidelines to stakeholders throughout Uganda and conducted training on the NRG.
- In 2021, the Uganda Police Force distributed over 450 copies of the NRG to CID investigators and trained on the Guidelines.
- In 2021, the ODPP distributed over 300 copies of the NRG to regional prosecutors and trained on the Guidelines.
- COPTIP identified and coordinated TIP cases in partnership with the UPF-CID and ODPP and made referrals of TIP victims pursuant to the Guidelines in at least 183 cases.

Increase efforts to complete judicial proceedings, while respecting due process and the rights of the accused.

- In 2021, the ODPP completed at least 42 TIP cases – resulting in at least 30 reported TIP convictions; 11 TIP cases dismissed or withdrawn, and 1 acquittal.
- Based on historical DOS data, it appears 30 convictions is the most reported in a single year?
- For the 30 convictions, the average sentence was about 10 years in prison.
- This included a Life Sentence (Life Without Parole) for one trafficker who was charged and convicted for Aggravated Trafficking in Children.
- *Of note, again in 2021, the Uganda judiciary fully shut down for at least 90 days due to Covid-19 and maintained other related staffing and capacity restrictions for much of the year.

Increase coordination between police investigators and prosecutors of trafficking crimes.

- COPTIP, in partnership with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Immigration, established Anti-TIP Desks at major boarder points and towns to specifically respond to TIP incidents and to coordinate immigration, police, and prosecutors on TIP cases.
- Both the ODPP and UPF continued to push prosecution-led or prosecution-guided TIP investigations and have seen a substantial increase in communication and collaboration in TIP investigations.
- Both the ODPP and UPF participated and completed over 25 TIP trainings this year – where best practices in prosecution-guided investigations was discussed. At these localized trainings, police and prosecutors exchanged contact information to better coordinate and communicate in TIP cases.
- WhatsApp continues to be an effective tool for the UPF and ODPP to connect and communicate in TIP cases. In 2021, over 400 police and prosecutors were added to TIP WhatsApp forums. These forums provided for resource sharing, communication, and discussed about TIP charges, investigations, and other best practices.

Expand protective services for victims, specifically through partnerships with NGOs, including by allocating resources.

- The Uganda Police Force established and operates a temporary shelter for TIP victims at CID Headquarters. This temporary shelter allows police and service providers to better identify victims, conduct screenings, and determine the best next steps for the victims, including long term placement with a service provider.
- In the districts of Mbale, Wakiso and Kampala, the local governments are partnering with Hope for Justice (NGO) in strengthening community gate keeping mechanisms for community led anti-trafficking efforts in preventing, identifying, intercepting and reporting TIP cases.
- COPTIP, through the Ministry of Internal Affairs, continues to strengthen its partnership with UCATIP (Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons – Uganda), a coalition of NGOs and CSOs working in Uganda, through quarterly task force meetings, awareness events, and referral processes for TIP victims.
- The Justice Law & Order Sector (JLOS) allocated UGX 50m (about $15,000.00 USD) to the ODPP for TIP investigations, victim protection, and police-prosecutor coordination in TIP cases.

While respecting due process of law, increase efforts to investigate trafficking cases and prosecute alleged traffickers, including allegations of official complicity in trafficking crimes.

- In 2021, the ODPP filed 403 separate TIP cases. To date, this is the most TIP cases filed in a calendar year by the ODPP. These 403 cases included 689 identified victims and 537 suspects. This was a substantial increase over last year (2020), where the ODPP filed 202 TIP cases.
- In 2021, the ODPP filed 7 cases against governmental officials for their involvement in TIP cases. These Ugandan officials included police officers, immigration officials, and local defense unit (LDU) officers). Also, a UDPF official was convicted of TIP and sentenced to 6 years in prison for his involvement in trafficking in children
- In 2021, the ODPP obtained 30 TIP convictions, the most ever in a single year. This included a Natural Life Sentence for a trafficking in front of the International Crimes Division of the High Court

Cease penalization of victims for unlawful acts their traffickers forced them to commit.

- In both ODPP and UPF trainings in 2021, participants were specifically trained on Section 12(12) of the PTIP Act – "A victim of trafficking shall be legally recognized as such and shall not be penalized for any crime committed as a direct result of his or her trafficking."
- In 2021, the ODPP TIP Focal Persons did not report any cases in which actual victims of TIP were prosecuted for offences committed as a direct result of their trafficking or under force, fraud, or coercion of their trafficker.

Where feasible, assign labor attaches to Ugandan embassies to monitor migrants abroad.

- Currently, Uganda has Labor Attaches in Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Jordan.
- In 2021, Uganda continued negotiations for Labor Attaches in Oman, Bahrain, and Israel.

Further prioritize investigating and prosecuting traffickers who exploit children, especially from the Karamoja region, in forced begging and child sex trafficking in brothels.

- In 2021, the ODPP registered 45 TIP cases in the Karamoja region. 39 of those cases were filed in the ODPP station of Kaabong. 44 of the 45 cases involved child victims – associated with sex trafficking/forced marriage (40) and forced child labor (4). There were 60 victims in the 45 cases, the average age of the victim was 14.9, and all of the victims were female. There were 60 perpetrators, 7 female and 53 male. *In 2020, only 8 TIP cases were filed in the greater Karamoja region.
- In terms of forced begging and child sex trafficking in brothels, the ODPP registered 25 cases, mostly in Kampala. There were 22 child sexual exploitation cases tied to brothels. In the sexual exploitation cases, all the victims were female with the average age of 14.6. There were 24 perpetrators: 4 female and 20 male. There were 3 forced labor cases tied to forced begging. 2 of the victims were female and one was male, with an

average age of 15. There were 8 perpetrators involved in the forced begging cases: 6 female and 2 male.

Implement strong regulations and oversight of labor recruitment companies and improve enforcement, including by continuing to investigate and prosecute those involved in fraudulent labor recruitment.

- In 2021, 12 different companies in Uganda were suspended due to recruitment, labor, and externalization of labor violations.
- In 2021, Uganda updated and revised its Employment (Recruitment of Ugandan Migrant Workers) Regulations – which upholds the dignity and rights of migrant workers by prescribing the appropriate terms and conditions of their employment and providing mechanisms for regulating activities of companies and their agents.
- These updated Regulations increased the punishment for illegal recruitment and operating an illegal recruitment agency and outlined updated procedures for operating a legal recruitment agency in Uganda.
- In 2021, Uganda established a hotline for Ugandan citizens to report illegal recruitment schemes (domestically or abroad) and other fraudulent recruitment activities related to migrant work.

Establish a unified system of documenting and collecting data on human trafficking cases.

- In 2021, in partnership with IOM, COPTIP revised and reinitiated the creation and operationalization of the National TIP Database. Several stakeholder meetings were held, and feedback was obtained for the newly designed platform.
- The database will enhance availability of reliable TIP data and strengthen case management and referrals. It will also reinforce the National Referral Guidelines.
- Full implementation is expected in Q1 of 2022.

Increase national awareness-raising efforts, specifically for teachers, parents, and community leaders.

- In 2021, the Ministry of Internal Affairs / COPTIP, in cooperation with UCATIP, held numerous radio, media, and localized TIP awareness events throughout the country.

- On World Day against TIP, COPTIP, UCATIP, and other partners planned and executed a full media campaign, reaching live TV with an increase in viewers by 10% over 2020. The TV and media campaigns were under the theme "Survivors Voices Lead the Way."
- Also, as part of these awareness events, COPTIP and partners utilized social media and with over 200 tweets (#stopthetraffickingUG), reached over 900,000 views and engagements.
- Representatives from ODPP, UPF, COPTIP, and other provided numerous TV and radio interviews as part of ongoing awareness efforts in 2021.

During these events, Facebook live engagements reached over 5,000 people. The highest engagement locations included Kampala and Dubai.

Accede to the 2000 UN TIP Protocol.

A draft cabinet memorandum together with the protocol were submitted to the attorney general Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs seeking legal opinion on the ratification of the Palermo protocol as required under Article 119 (5) of the Constitution of Uganda.