

SUCCESS STORY

Support to the fight against trafficking in persons in the countries of the Gulf of Guinea (ALTP Golfe de Guinée)



EU Trust Fund for Africa – Sahel & Lake Chad



COUNTRIES: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria and Togo



EUTF PARTNER:
Expertise France



BUDGET:
EUR 17.4M



From **01/2019**
to **06/2024**

The ALTP¹ project was funded by the EUTF with co-funding by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and took place from January 2019 to June 2024. The project intervened in six countries of the Gulf of Guinea (Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria and Togo), with the objective of combating TIP at the national, regional and international levels.

ALTP aimed to encourage an integrated approach to TIP in the six countries and to deliver holistic support for victims, by implementing actions involving national authorities and civil society simultaneously. The action was structured around four components: 1) strengthen the institutional frameworks and capacities for addressing TIP; 2) strengthen the penal chain in charge of addressing TIP; 3) improve the protection of victims; and 4) encourage regional cooperation. Project activities were tailored to each country, according to its specific context, baseline context/situation in terms of TIP, and national priorities.

How did the EUTF help?

The project successfully reinforced the institutional framework by supporting the development of national interministerial committees responsible for combating TIP and coordinating the action against it. These institutions observed the most visible results in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Ghana, through improved capacities and broader geographical coverage. In Côte d'Ivoire, the project

Objective of the project

To strengthen the institutional framework and capabilities for combating trafficking in persons at the national, regional and international levels.

Key successes

- > 1,200 social workers and staff from civil society organisations (CSO) and rehabilitation centres, trained on standard procedures.
- > Improved knowledge, thus application of the offense of trafficking in persons (TIP), through the training of 374 judges/prosecutors and 1,151 judicial and security forces officers.
- > 1,748 victims assisted and another 584 benefitting from reintegration programmes.

allowed for better structuring of the institutional landscape, helping clarify the role of the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in persons (CNLTP) in relation to other existing committees, and setting up five Regional Units² to extend its territorial coverage. In Guinea and Ghana, the National Committee for the Fight against Trafficking in Persons and Related Practices (CNLTPPA) and the Human Trafficking Secretariat (HTS), benefitted from strengthened resources and legitimacy. Staff from both committees felt empowered in their leadership to fulfil their coordinating role with various stakeholders. In Guinea, where the existence of the CNLTPPA was largely theoretical, the CNLTPPA acquired operational capabilities, enhanced capacity for dialogue with key ministries involved in the fight against TIP, and an increased role in coordinating civil society actors, during the period of the project's implementation. With ALTP's support, its budget line increased drastically, from approximately 12,600 EUR in 2021 to around 34,000 EUR in 2022, representing a 270% increase.

The project significantly strengthened criminal justice chains by enhancing the capacities of the various actors involved in the process of combating TIP. In Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo, justice staff reported that the concept of trafficking had 'permeated' among the actors of the criminal justice chain, thereby improving the detection of cases, a proper legal qualification of the facts, and better orientation of victims.



By the end of the project, 374 judges and prosecutors³, as well as 1,151 judicial and security forces officers⁴, had been trained on the criminal offence of human trafficking and existing legal tools for addressing it, which were previously unknown or poorly understood by them.

The strong combined effects of developing normative tools and providing training and support, contributed to improving access to quality care for victims. ALTP supported Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea and Togo in developing or updating standard operating procedures and referral mechanisms⁵ to promote more organised and efficient national care systems. Across these four countries, 1,200 social workers and staff from CSOs⁶ and rehabilitation centres, were trained in how to follow these new procedures. The project also rehabilitated or reinforced 14 (governmental and non-governmental) rehabilitation centres⁶, and trained 193 staff in the protection and rehabilitation of victims. Across the six countries, 1,748 potential or identified victims received assistance⁷ and another 584 people benefitted from reintegration programmes.

Keys to success

Integrated approach to combating TIP: ALTP's support targeted all of the actions needed in the fight against TIP to ensure the provision of required services for meaningful and comprehensive support to victims. This included the development of victims' and potential victims' identification mechanisms, support to assistance and reintegration programmes, as well as the reinforcement of the criminal justice chain in charge of addressing TIP cases. This relevant and innovative approach allowed for general capacity enhancement and stands out as a key strength of the project.

Formalisation and institutionalisation of the fight against TIP: The project adopted an approach aimed at ensuring the sustainability of its achievements by promoting their integration into national tools and public policies. ALTP worked closely with national actors to enhance their capabilities to act on their own and take high ownership of the subject. Illustrating this, in Côte

d'Ivoire, ALTP's support led to the inclusion of a chapter on trafficking in the 'international cooperation in criminal matters' module of the National Institute for Judicial Training⁸ curriculum. Similarly, in Benin, an ad hoc pedagogical committee was set up, involving trainers from various schools (police, gendarmerie, magistracy, etc.), alongside which the police school eventually developed its own modules, already in use today.

Building on success

Fostering sustainability: By anchoring the action within institutions and among local stakeholders, ALTP intended to ensure the sustainability of its results and empower national actors to carry forward the initiative.

Initiating new promising dynamics: Through an ambitious approach, coherent actions and cross-cutting interventions, ALTP introduced new ways of working and achieved highly positive results, laying solid foundations for continuing efforts and potential future projects to take over and build on the initiated momentum. As the end of the project approached, follow-up projects were already being discussed and dissemination workshops were led regionally to share lessons learned and capitalise on good practice.

¹ Appui à la Lutte contre la Traite des Personnes dans les pays du Golfe de Guinée (ALTP).

² Comités régionaux de lutte contre la traite des personnes (CRLTP).

³ This included 46 at the central level (training of trainers), and 328 at the regional level.

⁴ Sixty per cent more than initially expected.

⁵ Procédures opérationnelles standard (POS) and Mécanisme national de référencement (MNR).

⁶ This included five in Côte d'Ivoire, three in Guinea, two in Ghana, two in Togo, and one each in Nigeria and in Benin.

⁷ This is 43% more than initially planned. Among them 66% were girls and women, and 45% were minors.

⁸ Institut national de formation judiciaire (INFJ).



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Disclaimer

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