



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

POST-REGM REPORT

REGIONAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING (REGM)

FOSTERING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE
SECTOR TO COUNTER TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN AFRICA

24–25 june 2021 | online



CO-HOSTED BY:



THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL PROTECTION
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION

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BACKGROUND

On 23–24 June 2021, the UNODC Civil Society Unit (CSU); the UNODC Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section (HTMSS); the UNODC Regional Office for Eastern Africa (ROEA); the UNODC Regional Office for West and Central Africa (ROSEN); the UNODC Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (ROMENA), alongside the Government of Kenya, held the online Regional Expert Group Meeting (REGM) on ‘Fostering Cooperation between the Public and Private Sectors to Counter Trafficking in Persons in Africa’. The REGM involved over 70 participating experts from the African region. Participants came from a range of organisations, which included governments, private sector companies, non-governmental organisations, and academic institutions, all with a vested interest in addressing human trafficking through stronger partnerships.

The purpose of the REGM was to facilitate focused, constructive, solution-oriented, and critical discussions related to preventing and combating trafficking in persons through public-private partnerships (PPPs). Participants analysed the current challenges posed by trafficking to the private sector; exchanged good practices on how to better engage on human trafficking prevention and shared experiences on innovative approaches to addressing human trafficking at the country and/or regional level. This allowed for an opportunity to exchange on how to strengthen the engagement of the private sector in order to effectively support Member States’ implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC).

This REGM was part of a series of regional consultations forming part of the broader UNODC project ‘Public-Private Partnerships: Fostering Engagement with the Private Sector on the Implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Trafficking in Persons Protocol’ (‘PPP Project’). Insights and recommendations will inform UNODC’s Compendium of best practices on successful PPPs, which is currently under development and will be launched in late 2021.





REGM CONCLUSIONS

- * There is a need for high-quality training to be delivered to the public and private sectors across Africa to better understand the crime of human trafficking and to implement effective PPPs.
- * Increased work with youths is required to help educate them on human trafficking and its risks.
- * There should be more cross-fertilisation of information between and within regions and sectors to help collaborative efforts to address human trafficking.
- * Survivors of human trafficking are essential actors in designing and implementing responses to trafficking through the establishment of PPPs and should be brought in as equal partners from the outset.
- * More financial assistance and legitimate employment models via PPPs are required to help survivors and to break the cycle of human trafficking.
- * Technological solutions can be instrumental in the fight against human trafficking.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR UNODC

- * Facilitate capacity-building initiatives around PPPs, as well as strengthening public and private sector understanding of human trafficking.
- * Facilitate enhanced cooperation and trust-building between the private sector, NGO communities and governments and convene dialogues between multi-stakeholder groups.
- * Connect different stakeholders and provide a forum for meaningful exchange and mutual learning.
- * Find ways to ease the process of information exchange and mitigate data privacy risks that often hinder efficient transfers of data relating to human trafficking, particularly within the financial and technology sectors.



A FEW KEY MESSAGES



Marygorret M. MOGAKA
Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
Government of Kenya

“Partnerships are the fourth ‘P’ in the fight against human trafficking and help to strengthen the other three ‘Ps’, namely, prevention, prosecution and protection.”



Jan-Christian NIEBANK
Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
Government of Germany

“Behaving decently should no longer be a competitive disadvantage (...) We cannot allow trafficking in persons (TiP) to be anyone’s business model.”



Carina COETZEE
National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa

“PPPs can improve the capacity to investigate and prosecute trafficking in persons and bring perpetrators to justice.”



David WILLIAMS
Microsoft

*“Trafficking networks are very sophisticated.
It takes a network to defeat a network.”*

THE REGM PROCEEDINGS

DAY ONE



The day started with some esteemed speakers providing opening remarks to commence the REGM.

During the opening remarks, **Marygorret M. Mogaka**, Government of Kenya, explained the nature of trafficking as it related to Kenya and surrounding states. She explained that the main forms of trafficking were for forced labour and sexual exploitation and highlighted that Kenya was continually expanding their victim assistance and protection programmes. Of note was Kenya's new PPP Bill that Ms Mogaka referred participants to.

Jan-Christian Niebank, Government of Germany, emphasised the importance of the PPP Project, especially as an enabler of international and intersectional collaboration to counter trafficking in persons. He drew attention towards Germany's new law that required companies perform due diligence within the supply chain.

Following the opening remarks, **Morgane Nicot**, UNODC, presented the concept and methodology of the REGM, as well as the broader PPP Project, which would focus on PPPs as they relate to countering trafficking from within three areas: the supply chain, financial and technology sectors. She informed participants of what they should expect during the forthcoming breakout sessions, including their own contributions to the following key questions:

- i. What are the main challenges in creating PPPs to address trafficking in persons in the supply chain, financial institutions and the technology sector?
- ii. What do you believe are current best practices around PPPs to prevent and counter trafficking in persons? If you are able to, please try to draw on concrete and real-life examples of such PPPs from within your own area of work.
- iii. Based on the challenges and best practices, what lessons and recommendations are you able to make to ensure effective PPPs to prevent and counter trafficking in persons?
- iv. What role do you believe international organizations (such as UNODC) and civil society should have as far as PPPs to prevent and counter trafficking in persons are concerned?

Participants were appropriately allocated the three breakout groups, each focusing on either the supply chain, the technology sector or financial institutions. The aim of the breakout sessions was to allow participants to dig deeper into how we implement PPPs to address human trafficking in a coordinated, sustainable and innovative manner. The sessions provided each participant an opportunity to discuss their own experience of PPPs, including on lessons learnt and brainstorm towards crafting a possible way forward.

Silvie Bertrand, UNODC, moderated the first panel and acknowledged the devastating impact of COVID-19 on human trafficking levels in Africa, thus requiring collaborative approaches.

Carina Coetzee, National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa (NPA), outlined numerous PPPs in South Africa, as well as the NPA's National Policy Framework to enhance the management strategy of partnership for prevention, protection and prosecution.

David Williams, Microsoft, discussed various technology-based PPPs that have resulted in successful outcomes for the combatting and prevention of human trafficking. These included Photo DNA, ID 2020 and their automated supply chain due diligence mechanism.

Abdou Souleye Diop, General Confederation of Enterprises in Morocco, highlighted the importance of biometric ID in the African context and its usefulness to address human trafficking. He also discussed how auditors could also be whistleblowers, as they can identify all kinds of crimes.

BREAKOUT GROUP 1 — SUPPLY CHAIN



KEY POINTS:

Breakout group one focused on how PPPs could help to prevent and counter trafficking in persons from within the supply chain. The sessions began with an introductory presentation from **Florence Soyekwo**, Hope for Justice, and her organisation's experiences of PPPs on this topic. Other participants responded and contributed to the discussion. Overall, the key points from both groups included:

- * One of the key necessities to establishing best practice around addressing human trafficking generally, but also in the context of PPPs, is to collect and analyse quality data.
- * UNODC was seen to be in a prime position to create a forum for learning on PPPs and addressing human trafficking.
- * There were various ways of creating PPPs. Some of the participants suggested a global framework with a head of government and head of private sector leading. Another method was on a project space basis and its structure would be dependent on the project needs and priorities.
- * It was highlighted that the main challenge with regard to anti-trafficking legislation in Africa relates to its implementation. Experts highlighted the necessity to ensure that the law is uniformly applied and that it prioritising protecting the most vulnerable categories such as children.

- * Human trafficking risks in the supply chain in Africa was also not addressed sufficiently due to inadequate enforcement of laws that hold businesses accountable for the crime.
- * Automation was absent in Africa and this was seen as necessary for effective PPPs.
- * There should be a trauma-centered approach, where victims have access to psychological support within a PPP.



BREAKOUT GROUP 2 — TECHNOLOGY



KEY POINTS:

This session brought together participants from the technology sector to discuss how technology-based PPPs could help to prevent and counter TiP and what the challenges were in doing so. **Sylvia Musalagani** of Facebook presented her PPP work. Other key issues from the session included:

- * In order to encourage law enforcement authorities to collaborate with the private sector, strong networking must be done to highlight the potential of joint efforts.
- * Data collection and analysis on trends and patterns at the local level is vital to address human trafficking and create PPPs.
- * Private sector can also provide training to law enforcement, particularly on technological solutions.



BREAKOUT GROUP 3 — FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

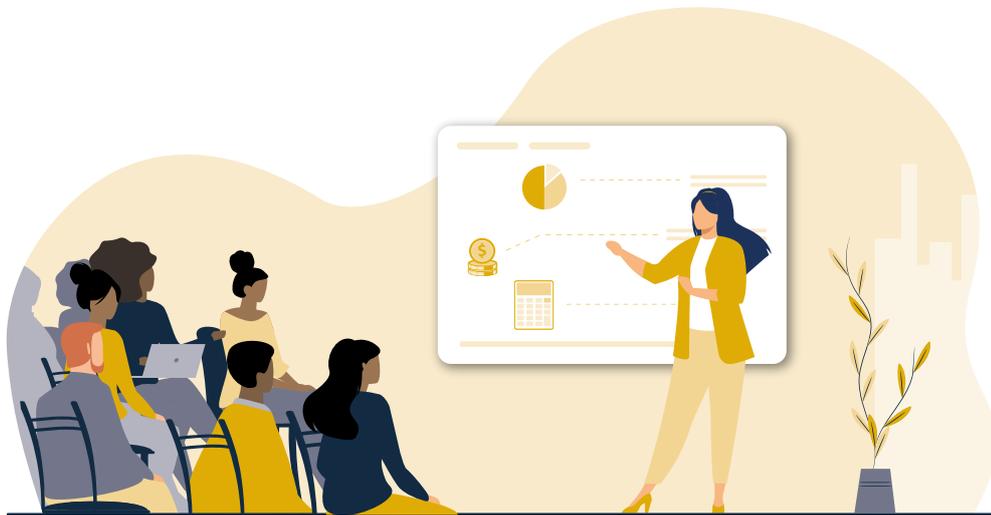


KEY POINTS:

This session focused on PPP best practices and lessons learnt from within the financial sector. **Henri Schomper** of Western Union, as well as **Rozanne Ahmed Gany** and **Wycliffe Atieli Lugonzo** of Standard Chartered Bank, discussed about PPPs in the context of their financial institutions. Other key points included:

- * PPPs such as SAMLIT can help to understand the financial flows relating to human trafficking, including on country source, destination and demographics.
- * SAMLIT is an important example of a PPP in South Africa and focuses primarily on strategic intelligence and tactical information sharing associated with different types of crime through its expert working groups.
- * Typologies intended to increase knowledge on various types of crime can help to identify and pre-empt criminal behaviour. However, there are also challenges in creating accurate typologies where banks are not experts in the crime. For this reason, PPPs can be very helpful.
- * Training from the UNODC on the substance of the crime could be very helpful for financial institutions in the region.
- * There needs to be more awareness-raising initiatives not only amongst those that combat financial crime, but also across the broader public spectrum.

- * Financial institutions in particular have to contend with tensions of addressing human trafficking/human rights risks on the one hand whilst also complying with privacy regulations such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) on the other. There needs to be a more balanced approach dealing with these tensions.
- * There is a need to provide for a robust information sharing platform which is in line with local regulations, including for what related to privacy laws. It is still important to ensure that the right controls are in place in terms of sharing information with external stakeholders.



DAY TWO



Anders Frantzen, UNODC and **Shavana Haythornthwaite**, UNODC opened the second day of the REGM. They provided a recap of Day 1 and handed over to **Billy Batware** and **Gabriele Aiello**, UNODC to moderate the presentation of breakout group discussions from Day One.

Following the presentations from rapporteurs, a panel of business and government speakers concluded the REGM. The panel was moderated by **Cristina Albertin**, UNODC. **Marygorret M. Mogaka**, Government of Kenya and **Jean-Luc Lemahieu**, UNODC, provided the final remarks.

All in all, the REGM successfully achieved its objectives and participants expressed their desire to continue working with UNODC to sustain the fight against TiP and collaborate with each other further.



NEXT STEPS

- * A **Compendium of Promising Practices on PPPs to counter and prevent TiP** is currently being compiled for launch and publication in late 2021. This will be the culmination of results from four REGMs and extensive stakeholder engagement.
- * Phase II of the new knowledge hub, named **‘WhatsOn’**, will be developed in the coming months to enhance networking, coalition-building and to facilitate PPPs to address TiP. The WhatsOn platform serves as a knowledge hub for all relevant civil society, private sector and academic stakeholders working on issues related to countering transnational organised crime and corruption. Phase I of the knowledge hub which is already in operation can be accessed [here](#) and was launched during the 30th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice 2021. Phase I provides an easy-accessible overview of non-governmental stakeholders around the world as well as a repository of useful resources, facilitating regional and/or thematical networks as well as knowledge on organized crime. Phase II of WhatsOn, which will be more interactive will facilitate further ways for NGOs, academia and private sector to network and learn from each other on all areas related to UNTOC and UNCAC.

The screenshot displays the homepage of the UNODC WhatsOn platform. At the top, the United Nations logo and 'Office on Drugs and Crime' are on the left, while the UNODC logo and 'WhatsOn' branding are on the right. A navigation bar includes links for Home, About us, Contact us, and Tools and Guides. Below this, a main heading describes WhatsOn as an online platform for bringing together stakeholders in the fight against transnational organized crime. A 'Featured Human Story' section highlights the human dimension of the fight. The 'DATABASES' section is divided into two columns: 'Multistakeholder Database' and 'Knowledge Resource Database'. The Multistakeholder Database section includes text about the role of non-governmental organizations and references to UNTOC Resolution 9/1. The Knowledge Resource Database section emphasizes access to relevant resources for informed actions.

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UNODC **WhatsOn**
Fostering partnership against organized crime

Home About us Contact us Tools and Guides

WhatsOn
Fostering partnership against organized crime

WhatsOn is an online platform designed to bring together relevant stakeholders in the fight against transnational organised crime, including non-governmental organisations, academia and the private sector.

Featured Human Story

Because the human dimension of the fight against organised crime must be put in spotlight, you can find here a featured Human Story on the impact of the work of members of the WhatsOn.

DATABASES

Multistakeholder Database

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), academics and private sector entities play an important role in providing first-hand views and solutions to transnational organized crime, educating societies about different aspects crimes, as well as support victims of organized crime.

COP UNTOC Resolution 9/1 which established the Review Mechanism provides for constructive dialogue on the review process with relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations.

This database contains relevant information on NGOs, academics and private sector entities working to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, including specific areas of work and collaborative interest and additional information.

Knowledge Resource Database

Access to relevant resources is key in ensuring informed actions by our stakeholders. This database contains relevant resources made available for all stakeholders working against organised crime, including resources on UNTOC, on corruption and on cross cutting issues.



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