

BOK AFRICA CONCERN



Statement UNTOC CD on Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons: 01 July 2022

BOK Africa Concern

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LIGHT THE TORCH: SUSTAINABLE INCLUSIVE ACTION NOW!

Trafficking in Persons (TiP) and Migrant Smuggling requires concerted effort rooted in local actors. The phenomenon of TiP and Migrant Smuggling is gradually being normalized due to the economic realities of the persons vulnerable to TiP (SDG 8). These rural community members, women, children, and unemployed youth and their families see no other real alternatives (SDG 1). TiP is being seen by the exploited as viable economic possibility.

Engagements should be multi-faceted centered on vulnerable communities and individuals, including traditional leadership, local CSOs, groups and associations (both formal and informal) (SDG 17). Actions should involve Prevention measures (awareness campaigns, education, regular information), Rescue, Legal (Prosecution), Rehabilitation and Reintegration (SDG 16). CSOs and locally rooted organizations should play key roles through participatory approach for Psycho-social, Health, Shelter, Crisis interventions, Economic, and Livelihood empowerment support measures. Attention needs to be paid to the Victims (VoTs), the Process (mechanisms and actors) and the Environment.

Capacity building of local stakeholders, fostering national and international partnerships and collaborations, recruitment integrity and prevention are essential for any sustainable action on dealing with the canker seriously. Targeting the individuals (VoTs or Potential VoTs) should be complemented by group, associations and communities' engagements for Prevention, Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reintegration process.

Active participation of deprived communities, women, youth in local, national, and international discourse and actions will be necessary to enhance awareness on such pertinent issues (SDG 10). Skill training, Start-up support and Job placement should complement a strong psycho-social support system for VoTs and potential VoTs. Source and vulnerable (rural



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communities) developments to create sustainable green jobs could aid in the successful Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration of VoTs (SDG 11 & 13).

Whether Prevention, Rescue or Aftercare, TiP and Migrant Smuggling needs to be addressed with all hands on-deck, leveraging on CSOs capacities.

Thank you.

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