

**Conference on Constructive Dialogue with relevant stakeholders
in UNTOC implementation review mechanism**

1st July 2022

Speaker Dr Ernest FOLEFACK

Executive Director FJC (NGO)

Source of information and experience: FJC an NGO working on the protection of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in a context of a Non International Armed Conflict (NIAC) doubled by academia legal background

Lessons learned in four years' experience in a single country grappling with an ongoing armed conflict,

Subject: specifics vulnerabilities of IDPs as victims of:

- Trafficking in persons both national and transnational
- Smuggling of migrants

Destinations and types of activities falling under UN Convention and protocols:

Destination Europe: this originally an activity of smuggling of migrants who for most of them individually or in groups move from sub-Sahara Africa to northern Africa countries around the Mediterranean sea (Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco). Once in these countries while waiting for smugglers to get them to Europe they get stock in huge numbers and trafficking in persons and some form of slavery set in. (reporting is abundant on the phenomena)

Destination Middle East: This is clearly trafficking in persons disguised as jobs opportunities for vulnerable IDPs. Once at the destination, their travelling documents are confiscated turning them to undocumented immigrants hunted by immigration authorities and forced to remain hidden in their masters' homes. Horrible stories of domestic slavery and even the sale of such domestic servant and many.

Destination northern America: This strict case of smuggling of migrants and asylum seekers w (IDPs) with credible narratives. Southern and Central American countries are part of the trajectory with smuggler at various entries points. Same as in the Mediterranean Sea the road have stages in the jungle is dangerous.

National of local trafficking in persons: This takes multiple forms, as children not going to school and ending up in child labor, cheap labor for adults, exploitation, blackmailing with the threat to be denounce to the defense forces of being members of non-state armed groups.

The country ratified the convention and adopted a domestic implementing law in 2011: After more than a decade, the law can be said to be lacking in many aspects and is under review. Other national law that may be used to address some aspects of the transnational crimes are rarely use in a way that hid the target of the UN convention.

More importantly the high level of impunity of smugglers is enhanced by the fact that law enforcement official can't easily identify them for the following reasons:

- The spreading of misleading information and outright ignorance, make most victims of trafficking in persons think that traffickers are their allies, that there are working in their favor for a better life.
- IDPs victims of war who have come closer to death or lost relatives and friends are trying to get out of side and start a new life.
- Illegal Migrants and smugglers seemed to be allies in crimes but migrants despite their personal intentions won't move out without smugglers.
- Once in the process, migrants are intimidated by smugglers and their network who have them under control once they leave their country of origin.

What can an NGO do to help proper implementation of UNTOC using dialogue?

- NGOs by their attitude towards victims and potential victims should not be seen as part of the law enforcement authorities
- With the specific case of IDPs, the multiple encounters in relation to humanitarian assistance should be used to deconstruct the misleading narrative of traffickers and smugglers.
- The support of initiatives of empowerment activities by IDPs as an important aspect of humanitarian assistance that gives hopes and reduce potential candidates for smuggling of migrants and victims of trafficking.
- Particular attention is paid to children, adolescent girls and women to help avoid them falling in the hands of local trafficking in persons and the chain of vices associated with.