

Human Trafficking

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES FROM PREVIOUS CYCLES

In the last review, States have recommended Botswana: to take the necessary measures, as a country of origin, transit and destination for human trafficking and sexual exploitation of children, to address and investigate such crimes; continue to strengthen measures to combat human trafficking by providing training to service providers and stakeholders working with victims of human trafficking; take concrete measures to prevent human trafficking and exploitation, especially of women and children; and work closely with civil society and non-governmental organizations in addressing human trafficking issues. The recommending States were Philippines, Syrian Arab Republic, Maldives, and Republic of Korea. The recommendations were supported. The Russian Federation recommended Botswana to take effective measures to prevent trafficking in human beings and to rehabilitate victims. Botswana had said they will examine it and provide a response. The recommendations have been partially implemented.

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

SADC Regional Anti-Trafficking in Persons Data Collection System, Anti-Human Trafficking Act (2014), Draft Anti Human Trafficking (Amendment) Bill of 2022, Anti-Human Trafficking National Action Plan (2018-2022), Section 57 of the Children's Act of 2009 criminalises inducing, coercing or encouraging a child to engage in prostitution. The Human Trafficking (Prohibition) Committee, established under the Ministry of Justice coordinated the government's anti-trafficking efforts. The Committee led implementation of the 2018-2022 anti-trafficking National Action Plan to which government devoted 1.19 million pula to support district councils' anti-trafficking efforts. The Government has signed bilateral agreements with neighbouring countries to coordinate efforts to tackle trafficking in persons (TIP). In 2021, UNODC in collaboration with the Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security (MDJS) conducted judicial training of trainers against TIP to enhance the capacity of criminal justice practitioners.

CHALLENGES

1. Lack of education / awareness raising on human trafficking.
2. Children of the indigenous Basarwa/San peoples often engage in child labour on large cattle farms in Gantsi.
3. Lack of shelters specifically built for victims of human trafficking.

IMPACTS

1. People may not know what human trafficking is and which strategies are traffickers likely to use. Lack of education makes people vulnerable to human trafficking.
2. High school dropout rates amongst San children and youth.
3. The victims may be exposed to the risk of being trafficked again and they may not feel safe.

Universal Periodic Review of Botswana

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Conduct education and awareness-raising campaigns for the public and for all stakeholders involved, including local government.
2. Train and employ additional labour inspectors and conduct inspection visits to see if there are any cases of child labour and trafficking.
3. Build shelters which will house victims of human trafficking whilst their cases are awaiting prosecution.

QUESTIONS

1. Provide information on the adoption and implementation of the Anti-Human Trafficking National Action Plan (2018-2022) and develop monitoring and evaluation systems to assess the impact of interventions.
2. When will the country operationalise the Trafficking Victims Fund?
3. Are there any plans to have a specific programme in place to reintegrate and rehabilitate victims of TIP geared at preventing victims from being re-trafficked?

SOURCES

<https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-trafficking-in-persons-report/botswana/>

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