

Migration MPTF Annual Report

PROJECT INFORMATION	
Joint Programme Title:	Strengthening the management of mixed migration and combatting transnational organized crime in human trafficking along maritime and land routes from Togo to Gabon
Country(ies)/Region (or indicate if a global initiative):	Gabon and Togo
Project Identification Number:	00140808 / 00140809
Start and Planned End Dates	Start: 03/09/2024 End: 02/09/2026
Convening Agent (Lead PUNO):	UNODC
PUNO(s) (PUNOs):	UNICEF
Key Partners: <i>(include Implementing Partner)</i>	<p>National counterparts</p> <p>Government of Togo: Ministry of Social Action, Solidarity and the Advancement of Women (unit for combating human trafficking), Ministry of Justice and Legislation (unit for combating human trafficking), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Togolese Abroad, Ministry of Security and Civil Protection, National Commission to Combat Trafficking in Persons, National Commission for the Reception and Social Reintegration of Child Victims of Trafficking (CNARSEVT).</p> <p>Government of Gabon: Ministry of Interior – General Directory of Documentation and Immigration (DGDI) Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Women and Child protection, Ministry of labor.</p> <p>Civil Society: Association Arc en Ciel, NGO Samba-Mwanas, NGO MINE, NGO SIFOS, NGO Pro-RNP (Rien n'est Perdu), and 9 regional community radios</p>

	Civil society: Network to Combat Human Trafficking in Togo (RELUTEHT), Collective of Youths Together For Change (T4C), Women, Democracy and Development think tank and action group (GF2D), Group of Traditional and Religious Leaders.
Project Period (Start – End Dates):	Start: 03/09/2024 End: 02/09/2026
Reporting Period:	3 September 2024 – 31 December 2024
Total Approved Migration MPTF Budget: (breakdown by PUNO)	PUNO 1 - UNODC: 1,343,838 \$ PUNO 2 - UNICEF: 856,712 \$ PUNO 3: Total: 2,200,550 \$
Total Funds Received To Date: (breakdown by PUNO)	PUNO 1 - UNODC: 940,686 \$ PUNO 2 - UNICEF: 599,699 \$ PUNO 3: Total: 1,540,385 \$
Report Submission Date:	28 March 2025
Report Prepared by: (Name, title, email)	Annalisa Pauciullo Regional Coordinator - Head of the Trafficking in Persons & Smuggling of Migrants Unit annalisa.pauciullo@un.org

Executive Summary

Annual (or End-of Project) Progress

1. Summary and Context

The main objectives of this Gabon-Togo MPTF program are to (i) strengthen the transnational response to mixed migration combined with human smuggling, and (ii) Prevent, combat, and eradicate human trafficking.

The MPTF program is in harmonized with the UNICEF-Gabon Country Program Document (CPD) of the cooperation agreement and same goes for UNICEF Togo that has accorded all the project activities with government's roadmap. The mixed migration outcomes and outputs match well with the implementing UN agencies planning in both countries.

By bridging MPTF program with previous results from SDG Funds and United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) for which both UNODC and UNICEF were implementing partners, the Gabonese government have started to change though its national normative frameworks, policies, capacities and mechanisms such as the National Commission of TiP and regional vigilant committees for the purpose of an effective prevention and prosecution of TiP and SOM and those are the intended kind of changes we want to indulge by further supporting Togolese government through this project and enhance both countries responses to trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants along maritime and land routes from Togo to Gabon.

Since the project was planned to officially be launched by the government in late 2024 but was postponed many times due to unavailability of both government actors, project activities implemented were delayed until January 2025.

2. Results

During the reporting period, progress was made in engaging the project in a coordinated manner following the meeting with the donor MPTF, which outlined the rules governing project implementation. Subsequently, a coordination meeting was held on September 26 with the two Resident Coordinators Offices upon which the preliminary steps necessary for the effective launch of the project, as well as the governance mechanisms and collaboration tools for project monitoring were discussed and defined. Afterwards, we initiated the development of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) tools to be used within the framework of the project.

These tools were shared with implementing agencies for their inputs and validation, ensuring a collaborative approach from the outset. Concomitantly, the UNODC project team continued to engage in coordination meetings with implementing agencies, both at the operational level—through presentations and validation sessions of the monitoring tools and the development of the work plan—and at the

strategic level as several meetings were also held to organize the project launch event, initially scheduled for December 20 but postponed due to the unavailability of the Gabonese national counterpart. It is important to highlight that as planned, the effective implementation of activities was contingent to this launch. The event was ultimately held on January 22, 2025. Also, in terms of coordination, as requested by the BRC, UNODC began exploring potential synergies with IOM, building on the continuity of other implemented projects, notably the UNHSTF project. Joint activities to be implemented were identified in collaboration with the IOM Regional Office in Dakar, fostering a cohesive and integrated approach to project execution.

Nonetheless, by using advocacy as well as awareness-raising tools, the UN entities influenced the government about ways and means of TiP victims' identification, protection, and legal assistance and both countries decision-makers mostly Gabon have moved from a defensive attitude against TiP to a more committed attitude toward the protection and care of migrants.

Outcome 1 National normative frameworks, policies, capacities and implementation mechanisms on mixed migration are strengthened and national institutional performance improved to enable effective prevention and prosecution of TIP and SOM, as well as identification, protection and assistance services for victims of TIP and smuggled migrants

Outcome 2 Vulnerable children, Migrants and victims of trafficking in Gabon and Togo are empowered and have better access to protection, assistance and reintegration services

Output 1.1 Normative frameworks and implementation mechanisms are strengthened and harmonized with the UN Protocols against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants and aligned with the Global Compact on Migration and other international instruments

During the reported period, efforts were concentrated on preparing institutional actors for the project's implementation. The United Nations Resident Coordinator and the UNICEF representative in Togo held briefing and advocacy meetings with the Minister of Social Affairs to ensure government commitment and leadership regarding the project's coordination. These meetings ensured the Government of Togo's buy-in to the project as well as contributed to the Ministry's ownership of its coordination.

Additionally, the meetings provided a platform to discuss strategic issues related to the operationalization of the cooperation agreement between the Governments of Togo and Gabon in combating child trafficking, the nomination of the project's steering committee, the establishment of technical committees and the implementation of the project's action plan.

Two information-sharing and planning sessions were also organized with the General Directorate of Child Protection and the regional directorates of child protection in the targeted regions (Maritime, Plateaux, Centrale and Kara). These sessions aimed to present the project, identify and discuss the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder and establish collaboration and information-sharing mechanisms between partners. They also provided an opportunity to define a detailed work plan for the initial field activities.

Output 1.2 Capacities of Gabonese and Togolese criminal justice practitioners to conduct effective victim-centered investigations, prosecution and adjudication of TIP and SOM cases are enhanced, in cooperation with civil society organizations

Nothing to report during this reporting period.

Output 1.3 Judicial cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination along the West African maritime and land route is increased to prevent and dismantle TIP and SOM criminal networks

Nothing to report during this reporting period.

Output 1.4 Maritime law enforcement agencies increase their capacities to prevent and detect TIP and SOM by sea, intervening on smuggling/trafficking vessels with particular regards to safeguarding human life at sea

Nothing to report during this reporting period.

Output 2.1 Victims of trafficking within mixed migration flows in Gabon, regardless of their status, have increased access to protection, in line with international standards

In December 2024, child protection stakeholders and cross-cutting sectors (education, health, social affairs, security, justice) in Togo reviewed and validated the standard operating procedures (SOP) for the integrated care of children at risk and victims of violence, abuse, and Exploitation. These SOPs include referral pathways to address trafficking and irregular migration themes and serve as a reference guideline for managing cases of child trafficking in Togo.

The regional child protection offices in the Maritime, Plateaux, Central and Kara regions identified one listening center per region. These centers are places where the identification of survivors of violence, including victims of trafficking, takes place. These centers also provide mental health and psychosocial support and subsequent referral on a case-by-case basis. The following centers have been identified: the Vogan listening center for the Maritime region, the Anié listening center for the Plateaux region, the Mô listening center for the Central region, and the Guerin-Kouka listening center for the Kara region. These centers will be rehabilitated and equipped to facilitate awareness-raising activities et transitional activities for children's victims of at risk of child trafficking.

Output 2.2 Migrants and victims of trafficking with specific needs in Gabon and Togo have access to integration, quality social services, as well as information on safe and orderly migration pathways

During the reporting period, three transit centers were identified in the Maritime, Plateaux, and Kara regions. The needs of these centers in terms of equipment and capacity building to manage trafficking cases were assessed. Consequently, the staff of these centers will be trained on SOPs for effective case management and equipped according to the identified needs.

Additionally, 100 out-of-school adolescents were identified in the four targeted regions to participate in life skills awareness-raising sessions. This training is planned for the first semester 2025 and will provide these individuals with essential information on trafficking and safe migration routes, enabling them to cascade the key messaging within their communities.

Furthermore, 16 local child protection committees were identified in the communities most affected by trafficking in the four regions. The process of establishing these bodies commenced during the reporting period and will be completed in the first semester of 2025.

Output 2.3 Government, civil society, and partners conduct strengthened monitoring and reporting of mixed migration (migration and human trafficking) to meet international obligations

Nothing to report during this reporting period.

As for the Results Reporting Framework, the delay in implementing the project activities was partly related to multiple postponements of the launch of the project. During the reporting period, exchanges and information sessions were conducted with the implementing agencies and national stakeholders. Furthermore, we are still exchanging with national counterparts to assess the relevance of certain activities that have been implemented through others project since the project proposal submission in 2021. We are working on the submission of a slightly revised project document with updated activities and Logframe based on the assessment missions made.

After the current reporting report, we will submit the revised project document with inclusion of added/amended activities and start to report results under the newly developed Logframe.

Results Reporting Framework						
INDICATORS	Baseline	Results achieved for the reporting period (only provide data for the specified year)			Cumulative Results <i>Note: For Y1 report, this will be the same; For Y2 report, it will be Y1+Y2; and for Y3 report, it will be Y1+Y2+Y3</i>	Notes
		Y1	Y2	Y3		
OUTCOME 1						
Indicator 1a: Number of prosecutions of TIP/SOM cases in the two countries that the project contributed to	N/A	0				
Indicator 1b: Number of victims (including children and youth) of TIP identified/rescued by beneficiaries of project activities	N/A	0				
OUTPUT 1.1						
Indicator 1.1a: Number of normative frameworks strengthened harmonized with the UN Protocols	0	0				
Indicator 1.1b: Number of partners trained on the legal and institutional frameworks in place against TIP and SOM	0	0				
Indicator 1.1c: % of people trained indicating an increase in knowledge on the legal and	0	0				

institutional frameworks in place against TIP and SOM and or the legal and institutional framework on protection, assistance and support of trafficked persons and smuggled migrants, as a result of the trainings						
OUTPUT 1.2						
Indicator 1.2a: Number of training activities delivered to build the capacity, knowledge and skills of criminal justice actors in the two countries	0	0				
Indicator 1.2b: Number of individuals trained, disaggregated per beneficiary categories (criminal justice practitioners, law enforcement, maritime law enforcement, etc)	0	0				
Indicator 1.2c: % of people trained responding to questionnaires that indicate an increase in knowledge and skills (especially on how to enhance the person-centered paradigm in investigations and prosecutions) as a result of the training	0	0				
Output 1.3						
Indicator 1.3a: Number of recommendations to	0	0				

improve coordination and cooperation adopted in meetings organized under the project						
Indicator 1.3b: Number of draft agreements on judicial cooperation supported by the project	0	0				
Output 1.4						
Indicator 1.4a: Number of engineering mentoring and training sessions provided to Gabonese authorities	0	0				
Indicator 1.4b: % of people trained responding to questionnaires that indicate an increase in knowledge and skills as a result of the trainings	0	0				
Indicator 1.4c: Number of SOP on evidence collection / human rights compliance developed with support of the project	0	0				
OUTCOME 2						
Indicator 2a: Number of National Referral Mechanism and related SOPs (including on child protection case management) established or strengthened for the identification,	TBC	0				

registration and referral of victims of trafficking that are aligned with international standards including gender and child sensitivity						
Indicator 2b: Number of migrants and trafficking victims including youth and children on the move accessing protection and support services through mechanisms established or strengthened under the project	TBC	0				
OUTPUT 2.1						
Indicator 2.1a: Number of government and civil society representatives trained to identify and protect TIP victims	0	0				
Indicator 2.1b: % of people trained responding to questionnaires that indicate an increase in knowledge and skills as a result of the trainings	0	0				
Indicator 2.1c: % of victims who report satisfaction with the quality of the services received at the centres	0	0				
OUTPUT 2.2						
Indicator 2.2a: Number of employees in transit centres for the care	0	0				

of children reached by capacity building activities						
Indicator 2.2b: Number of women and girls returned to Togo supported with work schemes	0	0				
Indicator 2.2c: Number of adolescents/youth specifically girls, participating in social mobilization activities and receiving prevention and care interventions to address violence, trafficking and child marriage.	0	0				
Indicator 2.2.d: Number of community mechanisms/ local child protection committees functioning and referring children at-risk or victims of violence, exploitation and abuse to Education, health, social work or justice/law enforcement services	0	0				
OUTPUT 2.3						
Indicator 2.3.a: % of increased knowledge in data collection amongst targeted Government and civil society partners	0	0				
Indicator 2.3.b: Number of reports	0	0				

3. Partnerships

Implementation Agreements			
Name & Type of Partner	Type of implementation agreement (please specify if any MOU or agreement was formally entered)	Relevant outcome and/or output; PUNO counterpart	Financial value (if any)
Local government and/or related entities			
<i>Name of partner</i> <i>Type of partner</i>			
<i>Name of partner</i> <i>Type of partner</i>			
Non-governmental stakeholders			
<i>Name of partner</i> <i>Type of partner</i>			
<i>Name of partner</i> <i>Type of partner</i>			

4. Cross-Cutting Issues

Nothing to report during this reporting period.

5. Constraints, Adjustments, Lessons and Good Practices

The delay in implementing the activities in Togo and Gabon were related to the repeated postponements of the joint project's launching ceremony, which has finally been postponed to January 2025. Additionally, the busy schedules of operational partners towards the end of the calendar year made it difficult to hold preparatory meetings.

Nevertheless, the delay was an opportunity to get engrossed on advocacy of high level and community mobilization before the official launch of the program by the two ministers of Gabon and Togo. The lesson learned revealed the importance of high-level advocacy and constant concertation with national

institutions in states with strong concentration of executive power. Negotiating with government stakeholders was key to successful preparedness of future activities.

To address these delays, a session on updating the workplan was held with various project stakeholders in both countries. This updated work plan will enable the execution of activities planned for the first quarter of 2025 and those scheduled for the remaining quarters from April to December 2025.

As a lesson learned, we also recognize that in such situations, alternative options should be considered. Such as focusing on a country-level launch to commence activities, or discussions with various stakeholders to secure an agreement to start the project prior to its official joint launch.

Conclusion and Next Steps

Going forward, after the official launch that will be held on January 22nd, UNODC will be making assessments missions together the implementing agency UNICEF to both Togo and Gabon to meet national counterparts and actors both multilaterally and bilaterally to plan on implementation with them and to make amendments/adjustments on the project activities where needed as the project has been drafted in 2021 and since many actions that were initially planned within the framework of this MPTF project have been implemented or may not be part of national priorities anymore. Hence, the funds related to already implemented activities/actions will be reallocated accordingly with the national counterparts' current needs/priorities without impact on the initial budget. Unchanged activities will start to be implemented after the launch while in parallel we will assess the changes to be made and submit the revision for validation before going forward with the newly integrated activities.

ANNEX

MPTF Funds Repartition by SDGs:

Relevant SDGs Target	Amount	Overall Percentage
SDG 5.2	174.912,67 \$	13,1%
SDG 8.7	460.135,67 \$	34,3%
SDG 16	705.780,67 \$	52,6%
TOTAL	1.340.829 \$	100%

