

**Quetzals Anti Trafficking Hub**

**Proposal of the Tunisian team**

This document is part of the implementation of an interactive online platform, intending to participate in the technological innovation competition on human trafficking in Latin America created by Pasos Libres and IBM since 2018.

The competition will have an internationalized and multilingual form and will be held online from August 29 to September 4, 2020; participation is open to young innovators and experts.

A Tunisian team was formed under the name "Quitzal Tunisia" and will participate in this competition and develop an interactive online platform to facilitate access the services available to victims of trafficking in Tunisia as well as in other countries in the African continent.

The platform will facilitate access to relevant information on referencing, protection, and prosecutions, as well as all actors involved at the Tunisian and African level in the fight against trafficking and victim protection.

The platform will promote online reporting as well as the collection of information on transnational trafficking networks in the African continent.

**Presentation of the Tunisian team**

“Quetzales” Tunisia is a group of four people:



1: Imen Naija, Ph.D. in Information and Communication Sciences, an expert in anti-trafficking in persons.

2: Amina Boukamcha, Social worker, and expert in ani-trafficking in persons.

3: Naiim Swidi, Developer Engineer.

4: Riadh Kadhi, master’s in international relations and international development studies, Communications and Public Relations Expert.

**Context**

According to US State Department Annual Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report) 2020[[1]](https://app.grammarly.com/ddocs/871829959#_ftn1), Tunisia is concerned by the implementation of the national victim referral mechanism using a victim-centered approach to ensure that officials refer all trafficking victims to appropriate protection services, and train law enforcement and judicial authorities on appropriately referring victims to care.

This includes the implementation of formal procedures for all relevant officials to screen and proactively identify sex and labor trafficking victims—particularly among vulnerable groups such as domestic workers, undocumented migrants, street children, and persons in commercial sex—and train officials on their use. The Provision of adequate protection services to male, female, and child victims of all forms of trafficking, including appropriate shelter, psycho-social, and rehabilitative services tailored specifically to trafficking victims.

Tunisia is invited to Train staff at government-operated centers for vulnerable populations to provide trafficking victims with appropriate and specialized care and increase resources for the provision of care at these centers; to use the anti-trafficking Tunisian law N ° 61- 2016 to investigate, prosecute, and convict traffickers, and sentence convicted traffickers to significant prison terms; to train and build the capacity of judicial and law enforcement officials on the application of the anti-trafficking law, investigative techniques and collective evidence specific to trafficking cases, witness and victim protection best practices during the trial, and alternatives to victim testimony; To improve coordination among government ministries to combat trafficking. Provide funding or in-kind support to NGOs that provide care to trafficking victims; and to develop procedures, especially for law enforcement, judicial, and border officials, to ensure victims are not punished for unlawful acts traffickers compelled them to commit, such as prostitution and immigration violations.

**Profile of victims in Tunisia**

According to the “The Baseline Study on trafficking in Tunisia” carried out by the IOM Tunisia and the Tunisian government, Tunisia is a source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. After the 2011 Libyan crisis, hundreds of thousands of migrants, including refugees/asylum seekers, have fled to Tunisia across the southern border. Recently, an increasing number of women and men from countries in sub-Saharan Africa, mainly from Côte d´Ivoire, have been identified and assisted as VoTs for forced labor and domestic servitude.

According to the annual report of the National Anti-Trafficking Commission in Tunisia, 1,313 cases of human trafficking have been detected by the body and its various institutional partners, international organizations, and civil society. Almost half of these trafficking cases, or 631 victims, are migrants, of which nearly 95% are from Côte d'Ivoire, especially women who have been exploited in domestic servitude in the cities of Tunis, Sfax, and Sousse. According to figures provided at the National Authorities against trafficking in persons in Tunisia's annual report for 2019, 841 people were involved in human trafficking: 434 women and 495 men. Of the traffickers 538 are Tunisians and 303 are foreigners.

Based on IOM Tunisia’s statistics (2012-2020), the countries of origin of foreign victims represent 95% of the total IOM caseload. Among the 953 VoT’s cases detected by the IOM Tunisia (2012- July 2020) 41 Tunisians victims of trafficking (5%) is Tunisian. They have been trafficked through false promises of well-paid jobs abroad, including the United States of America, the Middle East, the Gulf, and other African countries. Furthermore, there is an increasing number of young Tunisians irregularly migrating to Europe, exposing themselves to risks that implies trafficking. In 2020, 7880 Tunisians reached the Italian coast, with higher numbers recorded during the last months of 2017. Alongside transnational trafficking, internal trafficking represents a risk in Tunisia, especially for children in the informal work sector and those involved in forced begging in the streets. The situation of girls from Tunisia’s northwest regions subject to domestic servitude still needs to be addressed, since their families are at times complicit in trafficking due to lack of economic alternatives for their children.

According to the US State Department Annual Trafficking in Persons Report (TIP Report) 2020, human traffickers exploit domestic and foreign victims in Tunisia, and traffickers exploit victims from Tunisia abroad. Some Tunisian children are vulnerable to forced labor and sex trafficking in Tunisia. Some Tunisian girls working as domestic servants for wealthy families in Tunis and major coastal cities are highly vulnerable to trafficking, experiencing restrictions on movement, physical and psychological violence, and sexual abuse.

**Platform Goal**

The main goal of the platform is the Prevention of the crime, the Protection of victims, and the strengthening of prosecutions at the African level.

In fact, in line with the needs and the priorities of the Tunisian government, synergies will be created with different anti-trafficking key stakeholders in Tunisia mainly with the National Authority Against Trafficking in persons and its national and international counterparts from la Côte d’Ivoire and the African region, to ensure adequate protection to victims, to identify trends and profiles of victims and traffickers.

**Objective1:** Prevention of the crime: The platform will enable real-time identification of cases and potential cases of trafficking (internally and transnationally) through an easy-to-access interface based on trafficking information as well as the constituent elements of the crime of trafficking (Act, Medium and Purpose). General questions will allow victim users or those who would like to report trafficking situations to respond quickly, concisely, and accurately to trafficking situations. This part of the platform will be based on a victim-centered approach and immediate response to their needs. The platform will include a section on the general framework for combating trafficking in Africa and links to existing legislation.

**Objective 2:** Protection of victims: The platform will initially relate to national anti-trafficking bodies and public institutions, International Organizations (IOM and UNODC), and civil society in Tunisia and Côte d'Ivoire. Secondly, synergies will be created on the platform through partnerships with the countries of origin of other nationalities of victims exploited in Tunisia, notably Senegal and Nigeria. Real-time referencing through mapping of the various stakeholders and services through useful links will help to get in touch with key stakeholders responsible for combating this crime and the protection of its victims, whether they are in the host country or their home. Referral to the African continent/country will be done according to the services available and the needs expressed by the victims in terms of assistance and protection. The approach that will be promoted by the platform will be based on the interest of the victim and his or her optimal protection following international standards and national laws in Africa. The platform will promote optimal protection of identified cases through instant referencing and practical information online with available assistance; such as medical treatment, legal and psycho-social assistance, accommodation, vocational training, assistance involuntary return and reintegration in the country of origin, access to a residence in the host country, asylum applications and so on.

**Objective 3:** Trafficking prosecutions: The platform will collect information from African Ministries of the Interior, international organizations (IOM and UNODC), civil society, and public institutions. The data collected will cover victim profiles, trafficking networks, and the status of ongoing prosecutions in countries. For this aspect, the profiles of traffickers involved in internal trafficking and transnational trafficking will be affected. The platform will provide a focus on a comprehensive mapping of the trends and movements of traffickers in the region, as well as an interactive map of the world at which the flows of the trafficking networks will be identified. In this sense, interconnections will be carried out across the platform with trafficking-related crimes in the African region: Illegal Migrant Trafficking, Money Laundering, Drug Trafficking, and Terrorism. Similarly, any victim of trafficking who registers on the platform will be required to provide information about those involved in its operation: Trafficker, intermediary, and exploiter. For this point, data collection will be based on the following 4 points: Country of origin, age, gender, places of practice/operation. On the platform, all information shared at the reporting level will be encrypted and shared with the relevant public institutions and organizations responsible for prosecution and protection at the African continent level.

**Outputs**

Three main outputs are expected from the platform:

1. Regular contact with the national anti-trafficking TIP authority in Tunisia as well as the Ministry of the Interior and their counterparts, in the countries of origin of victims of transnational trafficking. Synergies with international organizations and civil society are involved in the fight against trafficking in the countries of origin and destination of Tunisian and migrant victims.

1. The platform will generate from all the information collected online as well as in partnership with its partners in Tunisia and abroad to carry out a mapping and interactive maps of the trends and types of trafficking that exist on the African continent.

Statistics will be available on the profiles of trafficking victims in Tunisia (migrants and Tunisians), types of exploitation, regions of exploitation as well as profiles of trafficking networks, and exploiters.

1. The platform will generate statistics on the types of referencing of victims recorded from Tunisia as well as the assistance they received in Tunisia or the country of origin. African stakeholders will be invited to register on the online platform to integrate their data and statistics.

**Approach**

*Secure data sharing*

The platform will include Solutions to address the problem of encrypting, storing, and sharing sensitive personal data to allow investigative organizations and institutions to utilize the data for the distribution of human trafficking.

The protection of these victims will be taken care of by ensuring online real-time referencing and tracking cases through synergies with national and international organizations. Identifying those who are involved in these (trafficking in persons) situations to strengthen the prosecution component.

**Links to other HUB**

Fundación Pasos Libres

<https://www.ibm.com/events/co/es/datajam/>

Polaris

<https://polarisproject.org/responding-to-human-trafficking/>

UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/data-and-analysis/glotip.html>

IOM

<https://www.iom.int/about-iom>

<https://www.ctdatacollaborative.org/>