

# Ministry of Internal Affairs



**2015**

**REPORT**

**ON**

**THE TREND OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

**IN**

**UGANDA**

**INTERVENTIONS CARRIED OUT AND WAY FORWARD**

**Prepared by  
The Coordinator Prevention of Trafficking in Persons**

**January 2016**

## Table of Contents:

## Page:

|                                                                                             |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1.0 GENERAL APPRECIATION OF THE CRIME SITUATION .....                                       | 2     |
| 1.1 Gender distribution of registered victims .....                                         | 2     |
| 1.2 Some of the victims rescued from UAE and Mityana .....                                  | 3     |
| 1.3 Comparison of registered victims 2013,2014 & 2015 .....                                 | 3     |
| 2.0 ANALYSIS OF THE TREND OF THE TIP CRIME FOR 2015 .....                                   | 4     |
| 2.1 Forms of Exploitation registered in 2015 .....                                          | 4     |
| 2.1.1 Forms of Exploitation experienced by adult victims .....                              | 4     |
| 2.1.2 Forms of Exploitation experienced by Child Victims .....                              | 4     |
| 2.1.3 Summary Information on registered victims of human sacrifice .....                    | 5     |
| 2.2 Destination Countries for the registered transnational victims .....                    | 5     |
| 2.3 Registered victims of foreign victims intercepted/rescued from Uganda .....             | 6     |
| 2.4 Registered foreign migrants smuggled into Uganda .....                                  | 6     |
| 2.6 Districts that were source, transit or destinations for internal trafficking .....      | 6     |
| 2.7 Districts that were source, transit or destinations for transnational trafficking ..... | 6     |
| 3.0 COUNTER HUMAN TRAFFICKING INTERVENTIONS APPLIED .....                                   | 7     |
| 3.1 Preventive Actions .....                                                                | 7     |
| 3.1.1 Mass awareness campaign .....                                                         | 7     |
| 3.1.2 Interception and delay of potential victims .....                                     | 7     |
| 3.1.2.1 Victims rescued/intercepted and pending by end of the year .....                    | 8     |
| 3.1.3 Licensing of more Private Labour Recruitment Companies .....                          | 8     |
| 3.1.4 Screening and Guidance by INTERPOL .....                                              | 8     |
| 3.1.5 Signing of Bi-lateral Labour Agreement .....                                          | 9     |
| 3.1.6 Consideration of Amendment of the Children's' Act .....                               | 9     |
| 3.1.7 Recommendation to suspend export of Ugandans for housemaid jobs .....                 | 10    |
| 3.2 Investigations and Prosecution of Cases .....                                           | 10    |
| 3.2.2 Statistics of number of Criminal cases registered in 2015 .....                       | 10    |
| 3.2.2 Convictions .....                                                                     | 11    |
| 3.2.3 Comments, Observations & Challenges on Investigations .....                           | 11    |
| 3.3 Rescue, Protection & Provision of Assistance to Victims .....                           | 11    |
| 3.3.1 Number of rescued victims and those pending .....                                     | 12    |
| 3.4 Capacity Building & Enhancement of Legal and policy frameworks .....                    | 12    |
| 3.4.1 Number of Trainings carried out .....                                                 | 12    |
| 3.4.2 Development of Regulations for the PTIP Act .....                                     | 13    |
| 3.4.3 Launch of the National Action Plan .....                                              | 13    |
| 3.4.4 Partnership & Coordination Activities .....                                           | 13    |
| 3.4.5 Highlights of other Partnership activities carried out .....                          | 14    |
| 3.4.6 Involvement of Uganda in Regional & International Events .....                        | 15    |
| 4.0 GENERAL OBSERVATIONS, COMMENTS AND CHALLENGES .....                                     | 16    |
| 5.0 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR .....                                                            | 16-17 |
| 6.0 CONCLUSION / PROJECTED WAY FORWARD .....                                                | 18    |

## 1.0 GENERAL APPRECIATION OF THE CRIME SITUATION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN UGANDA FOR 2015

A total of 347 victims were registered during 2015 of whom 276 were transnational trafficked victims and 71 were victims of internal trafficking. Majority of the transnational victims were female adults and they mostly suffered from labour exploitation. United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia were the destination countries for majority of the transnational victims.

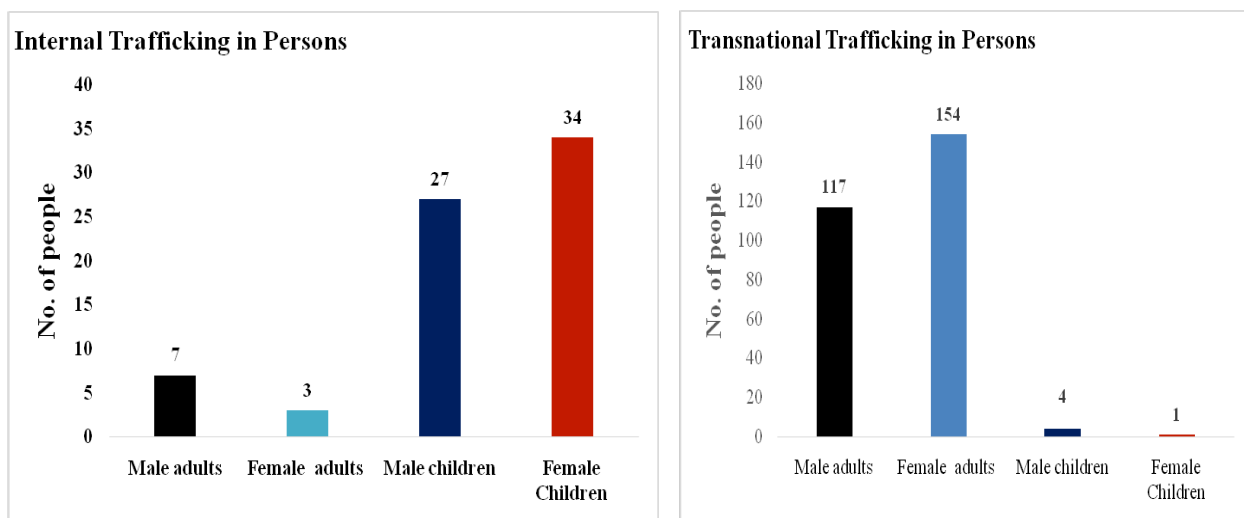
Most of the transnational victims were lured to leave the country with promises for good paying jobs. In addition, a total of 201 potential victims of trafficking were intercepted at the various boarder exits.

At the national level, a total of 61 children were rescued from people who were suspected to have intended to use them in fraudulent acquisition of wealth and training for terrorist acts through promising free education and care.

Uganda, also registered 26 victims of human (migrant) smuggling, from Bangladesh and Ethiopia who had intended to use Uganda as a transit point to other intended destination countries.

The total number of registered victims slightly increased in 2015 to 347 as compared to 293 who were registered in 2014.

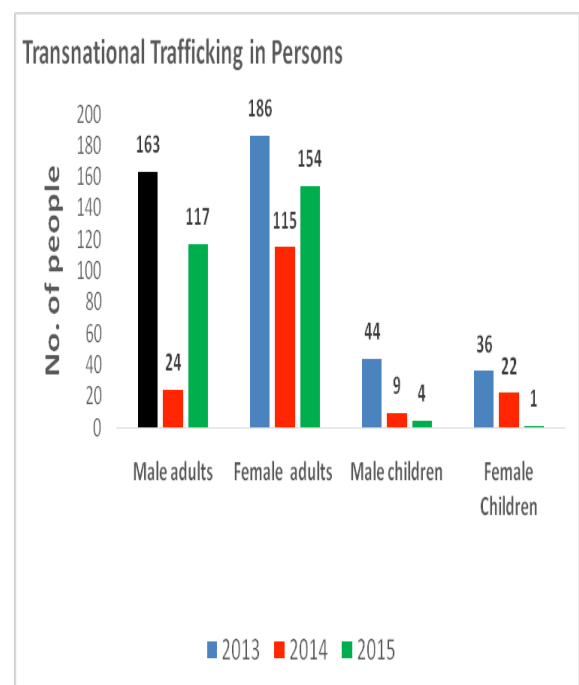
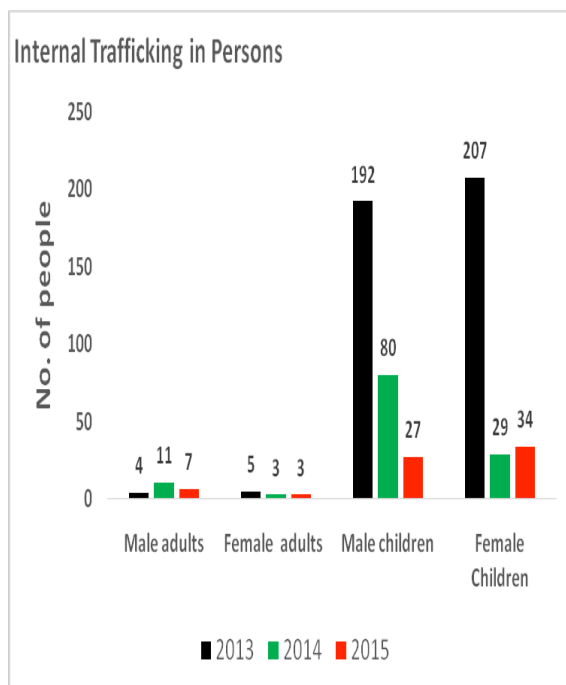
### 1.1 Bar Graphs showing the gender distribution of the number of registered victims of trafficking for 2015



## 1.2 Some of the Victims of trafficking rescued from UAE & Mityana in 2015



## 1.3 Bar Graph showing comparison of Victims registered in 2013, 2014 & 2015



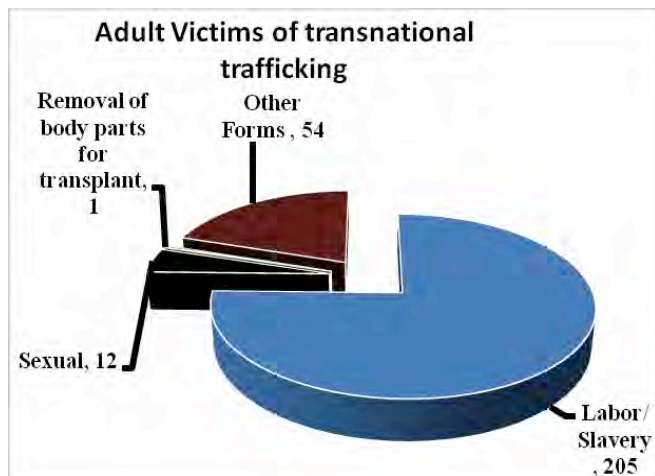
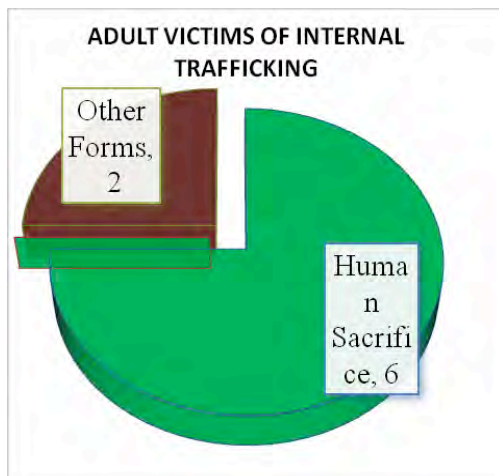
- Whereas incidents of internal trafficking in persons were fewer in 2015 as compared 2014, more transnational victims were registered in 2015.
- The increase in transnational victims is attributed to the confusion created by the controversial relaxation of restrictions on export of housemaids by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social development before putting in place proper implementation process of the bilateral labour agreement that was signed between Uganda and Saudi Arabia in July 2015.
- On the other hand, the drop in Internal trafficking cases was due to vigilance by the public and Police on suspicious movements people with children and on suspicious children charity organizations / schools.

## 2.0 ANALYSIS OF THE TREND OF THE CRIME OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS FOR 2015

### 2.1 Forms of Exploitation Registered in 2015

- Majority of the adult victims were subjected to labour exploitation followed by sexual abuse. There was one case of fraudulent organ removal for transplant and a few cases of suspected human sacrifice.
- On the other hand, majority of the child victims of internal trafficking were exploited in forms of soliciting to educate or take care of them for purposes of fraudulent acquisition of wealth and suspected indoctrination in extremism ideology for future terrorism use. Other forms of exploitation were child sacrifice, labour exploitation, sexual abuse and illicit adoption.

#### 2.1.1 Forms of Exploitation experienced by Adult victims of trafficking in 2015



#### 2.1.2 Forms of Exploitation experienced by Child victims of trafficking registered in 2015

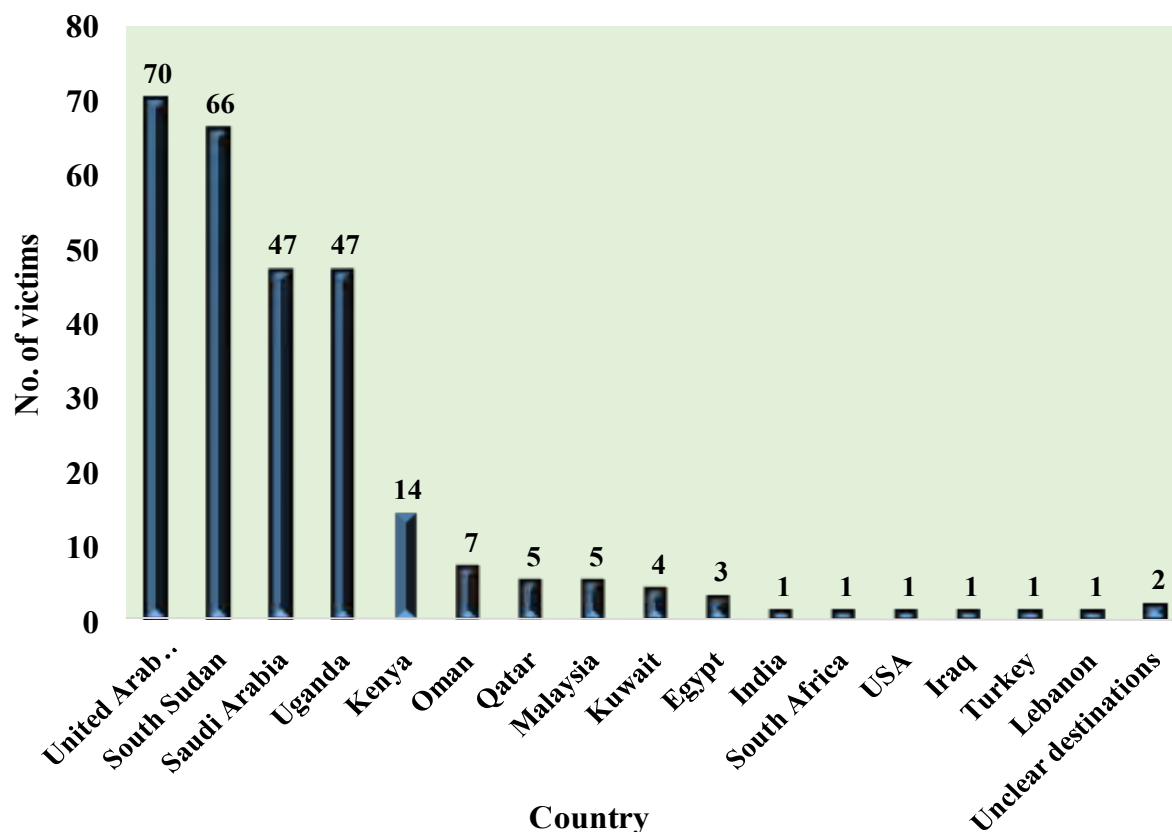


### 2.1.3 Summary Information on registered incidents of Human Sacrifice for 2015

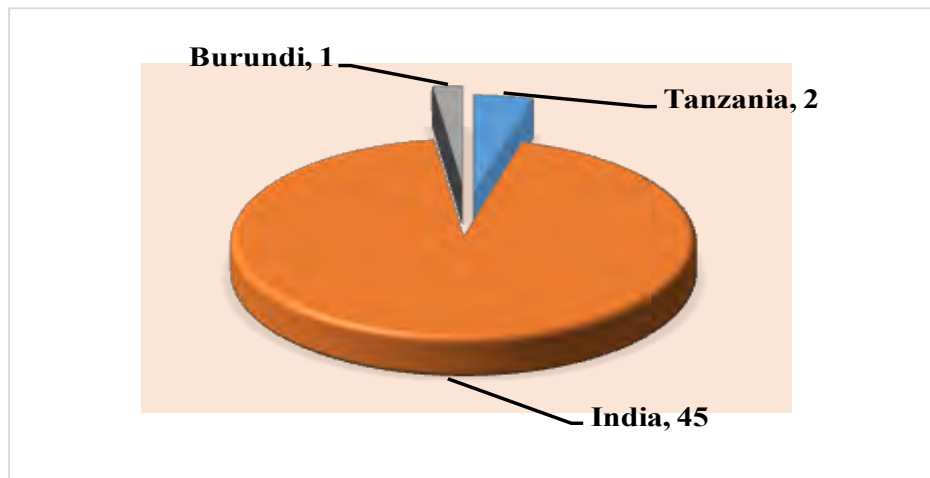
| District of Registration of Incidents | Number of Registered Cases / Victims |              |            |              | Total Registered | Parts of the body targeted |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------------|----------------------------|
|                                       | Male adult                           | Female adult | Male child | Female Child |                  |                            |
| Sembabule                             | -                                    | -            | -          | 1            | 1                | - Lips & private parts     |
| Nakasongola                           | 2                                    | -            | -          | -            | 2                | - Tongue & private parts   |
| Buvuma                                | -                                    | -            | --         | 1            | 1                | - Private parts            |
| Apac                                  | -                                    | -            | 1          | -            | 1                | - Hair                     |
| Mbale                                 | -                                    | -            | -          | 1            | 1                | - Private parts            |
| Buikwe                                | 1                                    | 1            | -          | -            | 2                | - Breasts, ear and blood   |
| Kiboga                                | -                                    | -            | -          | 1            | 1                | - Head                     |
| Wakiso                                | -                                    | -            | 1          | -            | 1                | - Head                     |
| Mubende                               | 1                                    | -            | -          | 1            | 2                | - Liver & heart            |
| Mpigi                                 | 1                                    | -            | -          | -            | 1                | - Leg & arm                |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>5</b>                             | <b>1</b>     | <b>2</b>   | <b>5</b>     | <b>13</b>        |                            |

### 2.2 Destination Countries for the Registered Transnational Victims of Trafficking for 2015:

- Middle East countries were the destination for most of the registered transnational victims.



### 2.3 Registered Victims of trafficking from foreign countries intercepted or rescued in Uganda



- Uganda was a host of 48 victims of transnational trafficking from India, Burundi and Tanzania as indicated on the left

### 2.4 Registered foreign migrants smuggled into Uganda in 2015

During the year 2015, a total of twenty six (26) foreign nationals were smuggled into Uganda, mostly as a transit point to other destination countries, of whom 22 were Bangladesh nationals and 4 Ethiopians.

### 2.5 The District which experienced Incidents of internal trafficking in persons, either as sources, transit or destinations include the following:-

Busia, Tororo, Kamuli, Mityana, Kiboga, Mayuge, Mukono, Kamuli, Kabarole, Kasese, Bundibujgyo

### 2.6 The District which were most of the sources, transit or destination points for the transnational victims of trafficking are:-

Kampala, Wakiso, Luwero, Kiboga, Tororo, Busia, Bugiri, Masaka, Kabale, Iganga, Jinja, Kamuli, Mbale

### **3.0 COUNTER HUMAN TRAFFICKING INTERVENTIONS APPLIED IN 2015**

Among the interventions carried out to respond to the above incidents were:-

- Preventive Actions
- Investigations and prosecutions
- Rescue, protection and provision of assistance to victims
- Capacity building
- Partnership and Coordination Activities

#### **3.1 Preventive Actions:-**

This was the biggest strategy applied to contain the crime of trafficking in persons in the country and it greatly contributed to the generally low levels of the registered cases. All the stakeholder Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) initiated actions to contribute to prevention of more Ugandans becoming victims of trafficking as per details below:-

##### **3.1.1 Mass awareness Campaign by the Ministry of Internal Affairs**

This has been carried out on radios, TVs and through direct address of some targeted groups people, including Secondary schools candidates and University students. Members of the public have been strongly advised to seek guidance from the Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development, Ministry of Education & Sports and Ministry of Internal Affairs on issues of accessing jobs abroad or handing in children to Charity Organizations and for foreign visits or scholarships.

As a result of the consciousness created, more than 20 people, per day, seek guidance from the Coordination Office over safe ways of accessing employments abroad and on safe scholarships for children.

##### **3.1.2 Interception and delay of potential victims of trafficking by the Directorate of Citizenship & Immigration Control**

Over 200 Ugandan intended travelers to foreign countries to suspicious destination countries were intercepted at exit points and advised to seek for proper guidance before proceeding for their foreign travels. Most of the intercepted were ladies going to Middle East countries for housemaid jobs.

This practice contributed to the low levels of registered victims of trafficking as mentioned earlier



**3.1.2.1 Table showing number of victims intercepted at Entebbe Airport, Busia and Malaba on their way to suspicious destinations as indicated in the table**

| Intended Destinations or transit Countries | Number of Intercepted Travelers |               |          | Intended Reasons for Exiting form Uganda |           |                                             |             |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|----------|------------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------------|-------------|
|                                            | Male Adults                     | Female Adults | Children | House maid jobs                          | Transit   | Carpentry/ Restaurant jobs/cleaner/ Teacher | Unspecified |
| UAE                                        | 3                               | 63            | -        | 59                                       | -         | 7                                           | -           |
| Kenya                                      | 3                               | 28            | -        | 5                                        | 25        | -                                           | 1           |
| Oman                                       | -                               | 7             | -        | 5                                        | -         | -                                           | 2           |
| Saudi Arabia                               | 2                               | 88            | -        | 80                                       | -         | 6                                           | 4           |
| South Africa                               | 2                               | 4             | -        | -                                        | -         | -                                           | 6           |
| Somalia                                    | 1                               | -             | -        | -                                        | -         | 1                                           | -           |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>11</b>                       | <b>190</b>    | <b>-</b> | <b>149</b>                               | <b>25</b> | <b>14</b>                                   | <b>13</b>   |

**3.1.3 Licensing of more Companies to export labour by the Ministry of Gender Labour & Social Development**

In order to increase better regulated and monitored ways of enabling Ugandans to get safe jobs abroad, more private Recruitment Companies were issued with Licences for Labour export by the Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development. By the end of the year, a total of 55 Companies had been Licenced to recruit and export Ugandan labour.

However, the challenge of illegal recruiters still persisted largely due to absence of a serious criminal punishment for export of labour without a licence.

**3.1.4 Screening and Guidance by INTERPOL**

The INTERPOL officials have been screening applicants for Certificate of Good Conduct to minimize chances of some people being taken abroad for jobs by illegal recruiters or under unclear circumstances. The office has also been guiding applicants on safe ways of accessing jobs abroad.

### **3.1.5 Signing of Bi-lateral Labour Agreement with Saudi Arabia by the Ministry of Gender Labour & Social Development**

On 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015, the Government of Uganda signed a bilateral Labour Agreement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia regarding employment of domestic workers from Uganda to Saudi Arabia. This was done as a way of streamlining export of Ugandan labour to the Middle East Countries to minimize activities of Illegal recruiters which have greatly contributed to the outcries of mistreatment and abuse due to lack of formal commitment to the human rights concerns of the people exported by illegal recruiters. Moderities for proper implementations of the Agreement were on by the end of the year.

Further negotiations for signing of similar Agreements is continuing with other Middle East Countries including Kuwait and Qatar.

### **3.1.6 Consideration of Amendments of the Children's Act with specific attention to strengthen the section related to Adoption of Ugandan Children**

The process to amend the Children's Act to provide for more protective measures against promoting trafficking of Ugandan children through illicit and fraudulent means was in Parliament by the end of the year and it is hoped that the same shall be concluded before the new Parliament.

However, due to the heightened advocacy against promotion of trafficking of Ugandan children through adoptions, it has been noted that fewer Guardianship Orders were granted in 2015 compared to the previous years.

### **3.1.7 Recommendation by Parliament for Suspension of Export of Ugandans for House maid jobs**

Following continued outcries of abuse and mistreatment by many young ladies who went to the Middle East countries for house maid jobs, the Parliament of Uganda made a recommendation in May 2015, that Government should suspend export of housemaids to Middle East Countries until a proper framework is put in place to ensure humanly treatment of the Ugandans who go to those countries for such jobs.

However, by the end of the year, the lead Ministry responsible for enforcing the above mentioned recommendation of the Parliament, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, had embarked on making experimentation of export of housemaids to Saudi Arabia under the new terms of the July 2015 Bi-lateral Labour Agreement.

The recommendation by Parliament for the suspension of export of housemaids to Middle East Countries was aimed at preventing further trafficking of Ugandan ladies to those countries.

### **3.2 Investigations & Prosecutions of Cases**

Human Trafficking Cases were registered at the Special Investigations Division Headquarters and at the various Police Stations of Busia, Mityana, Tororo, Wandageya, Kawempe, Kampala CPS, Kiboga, Namayingo, Fort portal, Kabalagala, Kampala Metropolitan East, and Kamuli

#### **3.2.1 Table showing statistics of number of cases registered in 2015**

| <b>Total number of Registered Cases / Incidents</b> | <b>Cases Taken to court</b> | <b>Cases pending Conclusion of Investigations</b> | <b>Cases Put away</b> | <b>Number of Suspects Arrested</b> | <b>Number of Suspects taken to court</b> | <b>Number of Cases with Convictions</b> | <b>Number of Suspects Convicted</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 108                                                 | 12                          | 68                                                | 28                    | 32                                 | 15                                       | 3                                       | 3                                   |

A total of 108 cases were registered in 2015. By the end of the year, 12 cases had been taken to court and 3 convictions secured. Investigations for many cases remained pending.

### **3.2.2 Convictions:-**

- i. On 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015; one KAVUMA ROBERT was convicted by a court in Kampala for trafficking a female victim to KUWAIT in 2013 for labour and sexual exploitation; Case reference SID GEF 349/2013; sentenced to ONE year imprisonment
- ii. On 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2015; one TAI TWAHA NGORIYO, a Kenyan national was convicted by a court in Busia – Uganda for trafficking two female adults to Nairobi for labour exploitation: Case reference Busia CRB 1051/2015; Sentenced to a fine of TWO HUNDRED THOUSANDS (200,000) Uganda Shillings
- iii. On 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015; one MISHI ARIFU MWANGATAN, a female Kenyan national was convicted a court in Busia- Uganda for trafficking one female Ugandan adult to United Arab Emirates for labour exploitation; sentenced to a fine of EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSANDS (800,000) Uganda Shillings or 3 years’ imprisonment. She paid the fine.

### **3.2.3 Comment, Observations & Challenges**

- According to the statistics above, very few of the Cases registered were taken to court by end of the year.
- Investigators had challenges to prove the nature of exploitation among the cases involving internal trafficking of children and the majority of the victims of transnational trafficking withdrew their cooperation with the Police investigations as a result of influence by the suspects, especially after they were assisted to come back or given some little compensation.

### **3.3 Rescue, protection and provision of assistance to victims**

In the absence of a clear government led victim assistance system, victims of trafficking continued to be rescued and assisted to come back to Uganda and eventually get re-integrated through contributory efforts of many parties including:- relatives of some of the victims, some of the suspects implicated, Police Officers, Coordination Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, INTERPOL, International Agencies and a number of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

By the end of 2015, almost half of the registered victims were still languishing in the foreign destination countries of exploitation. Some of them are likely to be forced to cope up with the exploitative conditions of work while a few more shall be assisted to come back through the continued combined effort.

**3.3.1 Table showing number of rescued victims and those pending rescue as of December 31<sup>st</sup> 2015**

| Victims of Internal Trafficking |               |                                 |                   | Victims of Transnational Trafficking |                                                |                              |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Total Registered                | Total Rescued | Total Pending Rescue / Recovery | Dead (Sacrificed) | Total Registered                     | Total Rescued/ Intercepted/ Assisted to Return | Total Pending Rescue/ Return |
| 71                              | 57            | 1                               | 13                | 276                                  | 139                                            | 137                          |

**3.4 Capacity Building and Enhancement of the Legal and Policy Frameworks to Counter Trafficking in Persons more effectively**

**3.4.1 Table showing number of Monitored Training of Stakeholder Members**

| Date and place of Training                                            | Nature of Training                            | Number of Participants | Category of Participants                             | Sponsor & Facilitator of the training                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 16 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2015; Kigali Rwanda            | Investigation & Prosecution techniques        | 22                     | Police Officers, MoGLSD, DPP, Judiciary, CSOs        | - USA State Dept(Vital Voices & ACQUITAS)<br>- Law (U)                 |
| Mar - Apr 2015<br>Makerere University                                 | Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking    | 5                      | Police Officers (CFPOs, SID & SGBV)                  | Makerere University, department of Social Work & Social Administration |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> July 2015<br>Masindi                 | Investigation & Prosecution techniques        | 67                     | Police Officers, MoGLSD, DPP, Immigration, CSOs      | - USA State Dept(Vital Voices & ACQUITAS)                              |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2015<br>Police Training School Kabalye- Masindi | Victim & suspect identification, & Management | 110                    | Civil Aviation Authority & CIID Officers on Training | - Uganda Police Force;                                                 |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2015; Nile Hotel, Jinja       | Handling of Child Victims of Trafficking      | 25                     | Police, CSOs, Immigration                            | - Terre’s De Homes                                                     |

The above mentioned were the key trainings related to building capacity to manage trafficking in persons in better ways that were carried out during 2015.

### **3.4.2 Development of Regulations for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act 2009**

The process of developing the Regulations for the domestic law against trafficking in persons has been going on with the partial financial support from the JLOS 2014/15 FY and additional support from FIDA (U). However by the end of the calendar year, the process had not been completed as yet. The available draft still needs further review and editing.

### **3.4.3 Launch of the National Action Plan for Prevention of TIP**

In July 2015, the Late Minister for Internal Affairs officially launched the Dec 2013-Dec 2018 National action plan (NAP) for prevention of TIP to guide further responses to the problem of the crime.

#### **The Late Gen. Aronda Nyakairima Launching the NAP**



### **3.4.4 Partnership & Coordination Activities / Consultation Meetings on better Ways of Preventing Trafficking in Persons**

During the course of 2015, Officials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, including the late Minister for Internal Affairs, the Minister of State for Internal Affairs, the Permanent Secretary and the Coordinator for Prevention of Trafficking in persons were involved in several engagements with officials from other Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Uganda Parliament, Foreign Embassies, International Organizations, Civil Society Organizations and even within the Ministry departments to discuss ways of preventing further escalation of the crime, better management of the reported cases and sourcing for continued logistical and technical support of the initiated counter human trafficking strategies.

As a result of the consultations and continued advocacy for the need to tackle human trafficking with seriousness, there were signs of enhanced sense of concern among the top government officials in the relevant key Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

By the end of the year, the Coordination Office for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons had been granted a vote function and there was a general consensus that counter human trafficking activities be given substantive funds in the 2016/17 financial year.

### **3.1.5 Highlights of Other Partnership Activities Carried between Government Agencies and Civil Society Organizations / International Agencies**

| <b>Key Participating Partners</b>              | <b>Nature of Contributions</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Federation of Ugandan Lawyers (FIDA - U)       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitation of regional meetings on regional approach to TIP</li> <li>- Facilitation of national meetings to develop the Regulations for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, the National Referral Pathway on TIP issues &amp; to promote advocacy for ratification of the Palermo protocol by Uganda</li> <li>- Facilitation of printing of the National Action Plan (NAP) for prevention of TIP</li> <li>- Training of a team of prosecutors and judicial officers on good management of TIP Cases</li> </ul> |
| Uganda Youth Development Link (UYDEL)          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitation of the development of Guidelines for management of Child Victims of trafficking</li> <li>- Facilitation of some Task Force Quarterly meetings</li> <li>- Provision of temporary shelter for victims of trafficking and supporting their re-settlements</li> <li>- Training of stakeholders in recommended ways of management of TIP cases and victims</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                              |
| RAHAB (U)                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision of temporary shelter for victims of trafficking and supporting their re-settlements and promotion of advocacy against TIP</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| APPCAN                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing and displaying IEC materials on Child trafficking</li> <li>- Development of Anti Human Trafficking Committees in Iganga, Moroto and Kawempe</li> <li>- Awareness rising on prevention of TIP through radios and community meetings</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Makerere University                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Carrying out a Mini survey on the trend and causes of TIP in Kawempe, Moroto and Iganga</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| International Organization for Migration (IOM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Donation of equipment for a data base for cases of TIP</li> <li>- Organization and facilitation of meetings with donor agencies to solicit for support of counter human trafficking activities</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| UNAFRI                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision of free meeting venue for the Task Force meetings</li> <li>- Provision of additional resource personnel to boost the technical skills of the Task Force</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Platform for Labour Action (PLA)               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitation of a min-survey on the trend and causes of TIP in Busia, Malaba and parts of Kampala</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

### 3.1.6 Involvement of Uganda in International and Regional Meetings and Conventions related to Trafficking in Persons

Many Ugandan officials participated in a number Regional and International Conferences and Workshops to contribute ideas on how to counter the crime of trafficking in persons. In my capacity as the Coordinator for Prevention of Trafficking of trafficking in persons I participated in the following regional and international workshops:-

- July 2015; I attended the launch of the USA report on trafficking in persons by the US Secretary of State, Hon John Kerry, during which I was recognized by the US Government as one of the 2015 TIP Heroes *“in recognition of my role as a driving force behind Uganda’s National Counter Human Trafficking Task Force, tireless work to increase awareness of trafficking and unwavering commitment to assisting and protecting victims of modern slavery”*

#### 3.1.6(i) The Coordinator PTIP, CP Binoga Moses being congratulated by the US Secretary of State Hon John Kerry after receiving the 2015 Award



- August 2015: I attended two consultation meetings sponsored by FIDA (U), on the need for regional approach to the problem of trafficking in persons which took place at the Regional INTERPOL offices in Nairobi – Kenya and the East African Community Headquarters in Arusha-Tanzania.
- October 2015; I attended and made a presentation on *“Responding to Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling – The Uganda Experience”* during a regional Workshop in Djibouti



#### **4.0 OBSERVATIONS, COMMENTS AND CHALLENGES**

- One of Uganda's organizational strength is the multi-sectoral national coordinated system of response, involving Government agencies, International Agencies, Civil Society Organizations and concerned individuals which is in place. Stakeholders have tried to play their contributory roles and this has contributed to the successes achieved during the year under review. However, this coordination system can do better with the formation of an Operational National Agency for Prevention of trafficking in persons.
- Application of a domestic law to prosecute offenders and protect victims is a good practice. However, it has taken long for the investigators and prosecutors to fully grasp the application of the law. It is hoped that the Regulations for the Act shall help the action bearers to interpret and apply it in more effective ways.
- Heightened awareness campaign has been one of the major preventive strategies that has contributed to the low levels of registered cases and quick detection of the crime by the victims.
- Capacity building of stakeholders needs to be heightened up due to the high mobility of staff, especially in Police caused by transfers.
- There is no clear policy on victim support and assistance in Uganda. The existing assistance system lacks a clear lead agency or referral pathway. There need therefore for development of a national policy on assisting victims of trafficking.
- The element of a deliberate regional coordination system is still lacking.
- There is need to develop further the operational capacity of stakeholder, especially the investigators and prosecutors to enhance their effectiveness.

#### **4.0 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR**

The following are the highlights among the cases registered during the year 2015:-

- Feb 2015, one of the two young girls who were lured and taken to Mombasa Kenya by trailer drivers in 2013 and subjected to sexual abuse was assisted to come back and resettled with the assistance of two Civil Society Organizations in Kenya and Uganda, respectively.
- March 2015, a report was registered concerning one male child who was fraudulently adopted by a Ugandan lady was taken to USA under disguised circumstances of providing medical care for him and effort to bring back has proved futile.

- March 2015, a group of 14 children were rescued from two homes in Mukono district where they were suspected to have been intended to be trained in extremist Islamic ideology with a plan to use them in terrorist activities later. The children were later re-united with their families.
- March 2015, five out of a group of 64 Ugandan professional teachers who were trafficked to South Sudan with promises of well paying teaching jobs registered a case of slavery like working conditions in South Sudan. Effort to rescue the remainder was futile due to lack of cooperation by the concerned authorities of South Sudan Government.
- March 2015, two groups of children were intercepted from two separate individuals operating private schools in Mityana and Tororo districts, on suspicion that they were intended to be used for getting wealth for the school proprietors in form of donations for their education and upkeep at the expense of the well being of the children. The children were later re-united with their families.
- May 2015, a Ugandan young man registered a case of fraudulent removal of one of his kidneys for transplant.
- July 2015, a group of 20 Bangladesh nationals reported themselves to the Uganda Police in Kawempe after having been smuggled into Uganda using forged invitation letters in transit to South Africa. The smuggler, also a Bangladesh national, went into hiding after having been granted Police Bond during the investigations. The victims were assisted to go back to Bangladesh with the assistance of the Bangladesh Consulate in Uganda.
- August 2015, 43 male Indian nationals were rescued in Kampala after having been lured to be brought to Uganda with promise for none existent jobs in Uganda and South Africa, by a fellow Indian national, **JAYESH DONADIA** alias **VIJAY**. The victims were later assisted to go back with the assistance of the Indian High Commission in Kampala and the victim was prosecuted for trafficking of the 43 Indians in December 2015.

## **6.0 CONCLUSION / PROJECTED WAYFORWARD FOR 2016**

Basing on the above mentioned trend of the crime the following measures shall be applied in the coming year 2016 to enhance further effort to fight the crime:-

1. Enhancement of public awareness campaign to empower members of the public with information that can enable them to avoid becoming victims of trafficking and to educate them on the available safe ways of migration for jobs or free education and care for the needy.
2. Development of a national referral pathway for victims of trafficking and an up-to date Directory for Service Providers to guide the various action bearers.
3. Development of more guidelines and regulations for management of TIP in a more effective and professional manner, ie Regulations for PTIP Act, General Management Guidelines, etc
4. Advocacy for formation of a National Agency for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons, to serve as a one stop center for all activities related to fighting trafficking in persons, including:- investigations & prosecutions; victim rescue, protection, support & re-integration; enforcement of preventive measures; national and international coordination and leading the review and development of policy, regulatory and administrative frameworks. The Agency should have a fulltime professional standby group of personnel, an independent budget and work plan. This shall enable the Agency to be able prioritize the required action against the crime and shall enhance the effectiveness of the response to the vice.
5. Further training of stakeholder members to improve on their capacity to detect and identify victims and to manage the investigations and support the victims in a professional manner
6. Further encourage partners to review or develop relevant national policies, legislations, guidelines and regulations, especially those related to labour issues, children and sexual abuse as a way of fighting TIP.
7. Mobilization of all partners who can contribute to the fight of the crime so that all the various anti human trafficking activities are harmonized and implemented according to priorities.
8. Advocacy for the Government to come up with a Government led Victim Assistance Trust Fund as a way of developing a sustainable Victim Assistance Policy
9. Encourage more research on TIP to be undertaken to provide alternative suggestions on how best the problem of trafficking in persons in Uganda need to be handled.
10. Advocacy for clear regional operational coordination systems within the East African sub region against the crime.

**The Coordinator carrying out awareness rising at Busoga University, Iganga**



**A UYDEL Social worker and Police Officers carrying out a pre-reintegration Interview in Kabarole district with relatives of children who were intercepted in Mityana**



**Concern raised by the Speaker of Parliament over labour exploitation of ladies**



**Task Force members consulting with the late Minister for Internal Affairs, Gen Aronda (RIP)**

