

# DRC COUNTERING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (C-TIP) ASSESSMENT



As of 2023, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was designated to **Tier 2** by the United States' Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). This change from the previous designation on the Tier 2 Watch List in 2022 indicates that the government of DRC has made significant efforts to bring the country into compliance with the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of TIP.

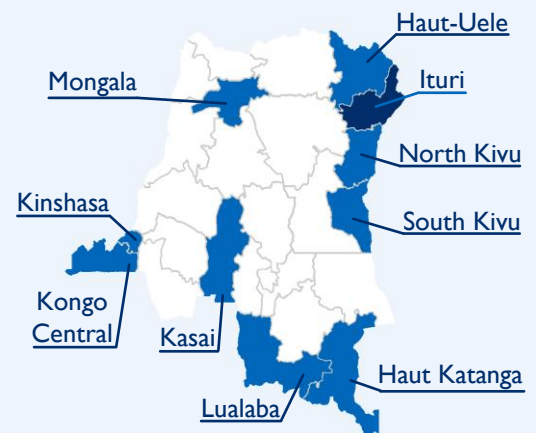
## Key Challenges to National C-TIP Efforts

An **awareness deficit** and **poor training** of government authorities, private sector, and public service providers, are primarily attributed to:

- Lack of **public data** on TIP
- Lack of **comprehensive legal framework** on TIP

## Most Common Types of Trafficking in DRC + Hotspots

	<b>Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE)</b> Goma (North Kivu), Kinshasa, conflict zones along eastern provinces, DRC-Angola border
	<b>Forced Combat</b> Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu
	<b>Forced Begging</b> Concentrated in cities across DRC
	<b>Forced Labor</b>



- **Data collection provinces + trafficking hotspots**
- **Trafficking hotspots** (based on findings from 110 NGO and government interviews and 14 focus groups with survivors)

## Most Frequently Mentioned Economic Sectors Using Forced and Child Labor



### DOMESTIC SERVITUDE

Mongala, Kinshasa



### MINING

Haut-Katanga, Haut-Uele, North & South Kivu, Lualaba, DRC-Angola border



### COMMERCIAL BUSINESS

Across DRC



### AGRICULTURE

Haut-Katanga, Kasai, North Kivu, Kongo Central

## Modus Operandi of Traffickers



**Recruiters** seek individuals in vulnerable situations to recruit for forced labor, CSE, and other forms of TIP, typically using deception



**Third-party intermediaries** are typically involved in the abduction and transport of TIP survivors, especially in conflict areas



**Perpetrators** (recruiters, families, or firms benefiting from forced labor) threaten violence, withhold documents, place survivors into debt, and restrict movement

*“The **traffickers** are people who possess significant resources. We [NGOs] want to help protect people, but the traffickers control the mechanisms, even at the borders, at the crossing points, even on the other side of the border where the victims are brought...**what can we do when they have more resources than us?**” (NGO KII)*

## Risk Factors and Vulnerabilities



**Age:** minors are more susceptible to exploitation by armed groups, pimps, and their own families



**Gender:** women in poverty, young girls, and widows



**Displacement:** internally displaced by conflict or from neighboring countries such as Uganda, Angola, and Burundi



**Socioeconomic conditions:** lack of employment opportunities and extreme poverty



**Ethnicity:** Bayakhas, Pygmies, Bakete, Chokwe ethnic groups mentioned as targets of TIP



**Location:** traffickers generally target people in peripheral communities around large cities

## National C-TIP Action

### Identification

Monitoring, analysis, and denunciations

- **NGOs** often work directly with vulnerable populations, and establish early warning mechanisms to flag potential cases to partner NGOs
- The Commission of Inquiry and Investigation within the Agency for the Prevention and Fight against Trafficking Persons (**APLTP**) is tasked with identifying child trafficking survivors.
- **INTERPOL** supports investigative training to identify cross-border trafficking

### Prevention

Awareness raising, advocacy, and information sharing

- **NGOs** target at-risk populations including children, schools, specific communities, customs authorities and the public
- **NGOs** often conduct advocacy to recruit more people to work on C-TIP and get authorities involved.
- **APLTP** focuses activities on the general public through workshops, seminars, leaflets, radio programs, and rights awareness programs.
- **Other activities:** stakeholder mapping, hotlines, monitoring, and economic support

### Protection

Legal aid, social aid, and reintegration

- Many NGOs and CSOs working on C-TIP in DRC focus on protection activities, and they **collaborate** with the Ministry of Social Affairs (**MSA**) and **IOM** to share processes and information as well as coordinate housing and victim care.
- Protection activities are targeted to the survivors based on age and vulnerability to trafficking.
- Accompaniment to legal proceedings, mental health service provision, and community mediation for survivors are important to prevent revictimization.