

IN FOCUS

by Godfrey Mpandikizi



Join the fight against human trafficking: the role of TATLI in Tanzania

Human trafficking, commonly referred to as 'modern slavery', continues to be a global issue and an industry that generates estimated annual profits of USD 150 billion worldwide.

From 2012 to 2017, 89 million people experienced some form of human trafficking. According to the U.S. Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report from July 2022, poverty human is an exacerbating cause of human trafficking in Tanzania.

Tanzania is among the countries greatly impacted by this phenomenon, and has recently witnessed an increase in trafficking crimes, predominantly involving online sexual exploitation. Tanzania is committed to preventing and combating human trafficking in and outside the country; this commitment was demonstrated by signing and ratifying the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and

According to the U.S. Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report from July 2022, poverty human is an exacerbating cause of human trafficking in Tanzania



its supplementing Protocol to Prevent, Punish and Suppress Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol) in 2000 and 2006 respectively.

Tanzania went further in the implementation of the International Protocol by enacting the Anti Trafficking in Persons Act (Act No. 6 of 2008). Apart from criminalizing all acts amounting to the trafficking in persons, this legislation aims to provide care, assistance, and treatments for victims of human trafficking. Furthermore, it establishes an institutional framework for effective coordination of all efforts by state and non-state actors in combating human trafficking in Tanzania. There is an obvious need to prevent human trafficking from happening. However, preventing human trafficking is compromised by a huge lack of resources - ranging from legal to psychological, the latter to address emotional issues - and by insufficient data-based evidence. Tanzania is affected by human trafficking as a source, transit and destination country.

Based in Dar es Salaam, TATLI (Tanzania Anti-Human Trafficking and Legal Initiatives) is committed to fighting human trafficking and providing legal assistance to trafficked survivors. Collaboration with other stakeholders in implementing various initiatives like capacity building to frontline officers,



© Jessica Hatcher/IRIN

Tanzania is affected by human trafficking as a source, transit and destination country



awareness raising, and capacity building to investigators and prosecutors is also one of the TATLI's pillars.

Focusing on promoting and respecting the rights of trafficked survivors, TATLI works to bring about legal and social transformation. The organisation does this in four main areas: legal aid and assistance; research for spotlighting key systemic failures that enable trafficking; advocating for legislative reform; and raising awareness to end human trafficking.

TATLI employs the "4Ps approach" of the United Nations, which stands for prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnership. This four-pronged approach includes the implementation of education and training programmes within local communities and human trafficking stakeholders such as judges or immigration officers.

A large basis of its work lies in advocacy and lobbying focusing on national politics, as well as on generating data-driven research and publications.

In monitoring and documenting as many incidences and cases of human trafficking as possible, the organisation is tackling the issue on a nationwide scale. This means interrogating and bringing a structural shift to Tanzania's legal systems to "bridge the disparities between the legal sys-

tems and trafficking survivors." Identifying good practices and critical issues to be addressed with respect to victims' support policies and practices and ultimately focusing on building

resilience is fundamental to prevent and counter trafficking in persons.

TATLI is also committed to working with survivors on

an individual level, whether through counselling, logistical issue (including) transportation, medical assistance, or economic empowerment.

To support victims of human trafficking and to help prevent it, familiarise yourself with TATLI's educational resources and campaigns within Tanzania, and learn how to identify trafficking in your local area and report it to the organisation please visit our website: <http://www.tatli.or.tz/>

Alternatively, you can share the NGO's work and help raise awareness on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to help reaching people at risk and victims.

ABOUT THE THE AUTHOR

Godfrey Mpandikizi is the Executive Director of Tanzania Anti Human Trafficking and Legal Initiative (TATLI) which is a Non-Governmental Organization operating at national level to fight, deal and combat human trafficking in Tanzania, with a focus on defending and promoting the rights of survivors.



Focusing on promoting and respecting the rights of trafficked survivors, TATLI works to bring about legal and social transformation

