

# TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN GABON: AN OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION

Gabon signed the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in 2004 and Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in 2010. It is also a party or signatory to numerous international, regional and community instruments that prohibit all forms of trafficking and guarantee the dignity of individuals.

## CURRENT SITUATION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN GABON

### *Key Data on Trafficking in Persons*

In Gabon, most cases of trafficking are detected in Libreville, the political capital, and Port-Gentil, the economic capital. These data were collected by IOM from the Directorate General of Documentation and Immigration (DGDI), Ministry of Justice through the Directorate General of Human Rights, Ministry of Labour and CSOs including Arc-en-ciel and SIFOS, as outlined in the report “Data Collection on Trafficking in Persons” (*Collecte de Données sur la Traite des Personnes*), IOM Gabon 2022.

#### Most victims are young and from foreign countries:

- In 2022, girls (42.86%) and boys (35.27%) accounted for the most cases of trafficking in Gabon. Adults accounted for 21.87% of these cases, including 16.07% of men and 5.80% of women.
- The victims reported are mainly foreigners from West and Central Africa. However, trafficking also affects Gabonese victims, although these cases are not well documented.
- The main forms of trafficking found in Gabon are forced labour, which includes domestic servitude, commercial exploitation, and sexual exploitation. In addition to these forms of trafficking, there is also begging, which particularly affects children.
- Poverty and precariousness are the main factors of vulnerability that lead to victims being exploited by their perpetrators. In addition to this factor, there are sociocultural factors, political instability, and military conflicts, as well as security risks in West and Central African countries such as the DRC, the Central African Republic, Cameroon, and Nigeria.
- The majority of traffickers are women. In fact, 61% of trafficking perpetrators identified in 2021 are women, compared with 39% men. Of all perpetrators, 17% are of Gabonese origin and the majority, 61%, are from Togo.

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