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# TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS RESEARCH

## CHALLENGE

South African research on Trafficking In Persons (TIP) tends to be fragmented, small-scale, narrative-driven, low-impact and based largely on anecdotal evidence. The lack of trafficking prevalence data has made it difficult for the South African policymakers to meaningfully deliberate on TIP policy. Thus, new, and better research on TIP is a high priority in South Africa to support the South African government in the effective implementation of the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Act 7 of 2013 (5).

## BACKGROUND

The \$800,000 research is co-funded by the South African Government (SAG) to collect robust and empirically based qualitative and quantitative data on the nature and magnitude of trafficking in persons in South Africa. The data will be used in public-policy dialogues with relevant government departments (Department of Justice, Home Affairs, Social Development, Labor, Public Communication).

## PURPOSE

The purpose of the research is to make a step change in scale and impact by focusing on robust, empirically driven evidence and policy and socially relevant studies which are aimed at revealing the nature and magnitude of trafficking in persons in South Africa. The research will provide the SAG with evidence to improve the collaboration and implementation of their National Policy Framework to Prevent and combat Trafficking in Persons.

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It is envisioned that evidence-based studies will create a baseline and shed light on the complex characteristics of trafficking and will target the underlying drivers of exploitation. The systematic collection and analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data on human trafficking will be prioritized. Generating statistically sound estimates of the prevalence of human trafficking in South Africa is one of the greatest challenges facing researchers; and if resolved, it has the greatest potential to affect policy and practice in South Africa.

This will provide the SAG with the means to successfully implement their commitments under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Supplementing Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish trafficking in persons, Especially Women and Children; African Charter on Human and People's Rights (also known as the Banjul Charter); Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; SADC Protocol on Gender and Development; and the Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, especially Women and Children.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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