

## Algeria's Legislative Advancement in Combating Human Trafficking: An Analysis of Law 23-04 and Its Implementation Framework

التقدم التشريعي في الجزائر في مجال مكافحة الاتجار بالبشر: تحليل القانون 04-23 وإطار تنفيذه

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### Abstract:

The enactment of Law 23-04 in 2023 represents a landmark achievement in Algeria's legal and institutional development, underscoring the critical importance of a robust national framework to combat the complex, transnational crime of human trafficking. This legislation signifies a major step forward, transitioning Algeria's approach to align with the highest international standards, notably the Palermo Protocol. The significant outcomes of this legislative effort extend beyond the text of the law itself. Institutionally, Algeria has demonstrated commitment by establishing specialized anti-trafficking units within the national police force and designating courts to handle these serious crimes. The law also formally enshrines a rights-based approach, creating statutory provisions for victim protection, including access to shelters and compensation. This holistic strategy—combining a strong punitive dimension with a focus on victim support—provides a solid foundation for a coordinated national response. The implementation of this law is a key component of Algeria's broader strategy to maintain security and stability, addressing the challenges posed by organized criminal networks within its region.

**Keywords:** Human Trafficking, Law 23-04, Legal Framework, Victim Protection.

### ملخص:

يُمثل إصدار القانون 04-23 عام 2023 إنجازاً بارزاً في مسيرة التطور القانوني والمؤسسي في الجزائر، مؤكداً على الأهمية الحاسمة لوجود إطار وطني متين لمكافحة جريمة الاتجار بالبشر المعقدة والعابرة للحدود الوطنية. يُمثل هذا التشريع خطوة هامة إلى الأمام، إذ يُحوّل نهج الجزائر لمواءمته مع أعلى المعايير الدولية، لا سيما بروتوكول باليرمو. تتجاوز النتائج المهمة لهذا الجهد التشريعي مجرد نص القانون نفسه. فعلى الصعيد المؤسسي، برهنت الجزائر على التزامها بإنشاء وحدات متخصصة لمكافحة الاتجار بالبشر ضمن قوات الشرطة الوطنية، وتعيين محاكم للنظر في هذه الجرائم الخطيرة. كما يُرسي القانون رسمياً نهجاً قائماً على الحقوق، مُنشئاً أحكاماً قانونية لحماية الضحايا، بما في ذلك توفير الملاجئ والتعويضات. تُوفر هذه الاستراتيجية الشاملة - التي تجمع بين بُعد عقابي قوي وتركيز على دعم الضحايا - أساساً متيناً لاستجابة وطنية منسقة. ويُعدّ تطبيق هذا القانون عنصراً أساسياً في استراتيجية الجزائر الأوسع نطاقاً للحفاظ على الأمن والاستقرار، ومواجهة التحديات التي تُشكلها شبكات الجريمة المنظمة في منطقتها.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** الجزائر، الاتجار بالبشر، القانون 04-23، الإطار القانوني، حماية الضحايا.

## **1. Introduction**

Algeria occupies a critical geographical position within the dynamics of North African mobility, functioning as a central corridor for irregular migrants and as a significant destination and origin area in its own right. The country is integral to the route structure for migrants originating from Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East, with many utilizing the Central Sahara route as they move northward toward Europe. The geopolitical environment surrounding Algeria has drastically amplified security concerns since the 2011 "Arab Spring" uprisings. The instability stemming from the collapse of the Muammar Gaddafi regime in Libya and the eruption of conflict in northern Mali created significant challenges for Algeria along the southern and eastern frontiers. The government's core response to these security threats has been overwhelmingly heightened vigilance, border closures, and the construction of barriers against illicit economies and organized crime. Algerian authorities view the complex migratory flows from the Sahel primarily as a threat amplified by regional instability and criminal activities, requiring a robust response. Despite this security posture, Algeria has undertaken a substantial normative pivot in its legal response to human trafficking. The enactment of Law No. 23-04 on May 7, 2023, marks the country's most comprehensive legislative shift, designed to align national standards more fully with international requirements and institutionalize a multidimensional response to human trafficking.

### **Significance of the Study**

This research holds substantial importance for several reasons. Firstly, it examines Algeria's most comprehensive legislative response to human trafficking through Law 23-04 of 2023. Secondly, it addresses the critical intersection between migration management and anti-trafficking efforts in a geopolitically sensitive region. Thirdly, the study contributes to understanding how nations balance international legal obligations with domestic security imperatives in addressing transnational organized crime.

### **Research Objectives**

The primary objectives of this study are:

- To analyze the normative evolution embodied in Law 23-04 and its alignment with international standards
- To assess the institutional mechanisms established for law enforcement and victim protection
- To examine the implementation challenges within Algeria's security-migration framework
- To evaluate the effectiveness of victim protection provisions in practice
- To propose evidence-based recommendations for enhancing anti-trafficking efforts

### **Research Problem**

How does Algeria's comprehensive legislative framework, as established by Law 23-04, function alongside the nation's pre-existing security and migration

management strategies to address human trafficking within its specific regional context?

### **Research Questions**

1. How does Law 23-04 represent a normative advancement in Algeria's anti-trafficking legislation?
2. What institutional structures have been established to implement the law?
3. How do geopolitical and security considerations influence enforcement practices?
4. What gaps exist between legal provisions and practical implementation?
5. How effective are victim protection mechanisms in the current framework?

### **Research Hypotheses**

- Law 23-04 represents significant normative progress but faces implementation challenges due to institutional and geopolitical factors
- The security-migration nexus substantially influences operational enforcement priorities
- Victim protection mechanisms require enhanced institutional coordination and resource allocation
- Regional cooperation is essential for addressing transnational trafficking networks effectively

### **Methodology**

This study employs a mixed-methods approach combining:

- ✓ **Descriptive-Analytical Method:** Systematic examination of legal texts, policy documents, and institutional frameworks.
- ✓ **Comparative Legal Analysis:** Contrasting pre-2023 legislation with Law 23-04 provisions and international standards.
- ✓ **Case Study Approach:** In-depth analysis of specific exploitation patterns, including organized begging rings and forced labor sectors.
- ✓ **Inductive Reasoning:** Deriving general conclusions from specific observations of implementation practices.
- ✓ **Deductive Analysis:** Applying theoretical frameworks to assess practical enforcement outcomes.
- ✓ **Historical Method:** Tracing the evolution of Algeria's anti-trafficking policies and regional engagement.
- ✓ **Survey Research:** Compilation and analysis of statistical data from official reports and international monitoring mechanisms.

### **Study Structure**

The research is organized into six main sections: introduction and methodological framework; analysis of normative developments; examination of geopolitical contexts; case studies of exploitation patterns; assessment of implementation challenges; and conclusion with policy recommendations

## 2. The Normative Shift:

### Analyzing Algeria's Anti-Trafficking Legislation and International Obligations

#### 2.1. Algeria's Accession to International Anti-Trafficking Regimes

Algeria has formalized its commitment to the global anti-trafficking regime through the ratification of key instruments. The nation ratified the Palermo Protocol against Trafficking in Persons in 2004, having signed the instrument in 2001<sup>1</sup>. Demonstrating its engagement with international organizations focused on human mobility, Algeria was also the first Arab country to join the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in 2009<sup>2</sup>.

These commitments establish a binding international legal obligation for Algeria to criminalize trafficking, ensure victim protection, and cooperate across borders. The successful normative alignment achieved with Law 23-04 follows significant international scrutiny, including reports issued by relevant United Nations agencies and the annual U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Reports<sup>3</sup>.

#### 2.2. Critical Analysis of Law No. 23-04: Definitions and Punitive Strength

Law No. 23-04 of May 7, 2023, represents a decisive step in strengthening Algeria's legal defenses. The law provides a comprehensive and broadened definition of trafficking, fully aligning with the Palermo Protocol by covering acts committed "by means of threat, use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of authority or vulnerability... for the purpose of exploitation in any form". Crucially, the law explicitly targets specific exploitation mechanisms identified within Algeria's regional context. It specifically criminalizes child trafficking, whether or not coercion is involved, and enumerates diverse forms of exploitation: sexual slavery, servitude, forced labour, organ harvesting, illegal adoption, **forced begging**, and the exploitation of children in criminal activities<sup>4</sup>.

The specific inclusion of "forced begging" and the "exploitation of children in criminal activities" is a critical legal response to documented local and regional exploitation patterns affecting sub-Saharan migrants, such as the organized begging rings operating from Niger<sup>5</sup>. This specificity moves the law beyond generic definitions to directly target the known operational reality of trafficking in Algeria.

The legislation also substantially increased punitive measures, demonstrating the state's primary legal focus on deterrence and retribution. Penalties prescribed for offenses involving adult victims range from five to 15 years' imprisonment and fines of up to 1.5 million Algerian dinar. For offenses involving child victims, the sentences are notably more stringent, ranging from 10 to 20 years' imprisonment and fines of up to two million dinars. These penalties are considered sufficiently stringent and commensurate with those prescribed for other grave crimes, affirming the state's intent to treat trafficking as a serious transnational organized crime<sup>6</sup>.

This significant increase in penalties demonstrates that the state's primary legal focus is deterrence and retribution.

**Table 1:** Comparative Analysis of Key Elements in Algerian Anti-Trafficking Legislation (Pre-2023 vs. 2023)

Feature	Law No. 09-01 (Pre-2023)	Law No. 23-04 (2023)	Significance
<b>Scope of Definition</b>	Narrower, potential gaps in forced labor/sex trafficking enforcement.	Broadened definition, explicitly including forced begging, forced labor, organ harvesting, exploitation of children in crime.	Full compliance with Palermo Protocol definitions; addresses specific regional exploitation methods (e.g., forced begging).
<b>Penalties (Adult Victims)</b>	3 to 10 years imprisonment and fines up to 1 million dinars.	5 to 15 years imprisonment and fines up to 1.5 million dinars.	Increased punitive severity, commensurate with grave crimes.
<b>Victim Protection</b>	Less defined statutory framework.	Explicit provisions for compensation (Art. 26) and shelter access (Art. 15); establishment of a national committee.	Normative shift toward a comprehensive and rights-based framework.

**Sources:**

Boulaares Mokhtar; Kihel Kamel (2025) Op.cit, p. 1429-1439.

U.S. Department of State (2024) Trafficking in Persons Report: Algeria - , accessed Nov 15, 2025, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-trafficking-in-persons-report/algeria/>

U.S. Department of State (2025) Trafficking in Persons Report: Algeria, Op.cit.

### 2.3. Statutory Provisions for Victim Protection and Institutional Framework

The 2023 law mandates a rights-based approach to victim care, introducing key provisions such as victim compensation (Art. 26) and access to shelter (Art. 15). The law also provided for the establishment of a national committee to ensure coordination<sup>7</sup>.

Institutionally, specialized structures have been established to enforce the law. The General Directorate of National Security maintains a central office dedicated to combating both human trafficking and illegal immigration, supported by 61 specialized units across each *wilaya* (state). Law enforcement efforts have measurably increased, with reports of heightened investigations and prosecutions initiated under Law 23-04. Furthermore, the maintenance of four dedicated courts for transnational organized crime, under which trafficking cases are categorized, underscores the institutional commitment to prosecution<sup>8</sup>.

### **3. Geopolitical Drivers and the Migratory-Security Complex**

#### **3.1. The Central Sahara Instability and Intensified Flows**

The Sahel and North Africa regions remain critical corridors for human movement, smuggling, and trafficking, with the dynamics of these illicit economies closely linked to regional political, economic, and security developments. Protracted conflict, governance crises, and economic uncertainty across the Sahel are identified as fundamental drivers accelerating migratory movement and simultaneously fueling the evolution and adaptation of transnational trafficking and smuggling networks<sup>9</sup>.

The trafficking phenomenon is understood within a context where vulnerability is intensified by regional factors, including the existence of prolonged conflicts, large displaced populations, and the impact of climate change on livelihoods<sup>10</sup>.

In North Africa, these migratory movements often engender the perception among parts of the host population that migrants pose a threat, particularly regarding competition in the informal labour market and perceived threats to societal norms and values<sup>11</sup>.

#### **3.2. Algeria's Security Paradigm**

Algeria's policy response to instability in the south has been anchored in a deeply ingrained security rationale since 2011, characterized by the massive militarization of its borders and a concerted effort to curb migrant settlement within the country. This approach aims at preventing sub-Saharan migrants from settling. This strategy is designed to manage internal stability and prevent regional crises, specifically aiming to avoid a humanitarian or administrative crisis akin to the complex migrant scenarios witnessed in Tunisia<sup>12</sup>.

This policy prevents the accumulation of complex humanitarian cases that would challenge the resource capacity and integrity of Law 23-04's victim protection mechanisms. This process ensures that the state maintains internal stability and control over the migration narrative, even when this operational approach conflicts with international anti-trafficking obligations.

#### **3.3. Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) and the Security Feedback Loop**

While security crackdowns along the Central Sahara route are intended to suppress TOC, the operational reality is that smuggling networks have demonstrated a high capacity for adaptation. They routinely use off-roads, raise prices, and alter their cross-border strategies, which invariably makes the journey more difficult and perilous for migrants. This heightened cost and risk associated with irregular migration pathways have a crucial, destabilizing consequence for human security. The increased expenses make migrants significantly more

dependent on smugglers, increasing the likelihood they will incur greater debt. This debt, in turn, directly exposes them to the mechanism of debt bondage, a primary tool used by traffickers to enforce forced begging and labor<sup>13</sup>, paradoxically intensify a mechanism of debt bondage that actively fuels human trafficking.

Trafficking activities operate within the broader frameworks of illicit economies in the Central Sahara. These activities can sometimes intersect with conflict financing, as some members of armed groups in northern Mali have been reported as directly engaged. However, the immediate challenge lies in addressing specialized rings that exploit migrants' economic desperation, such as those responsible for organized begging<sup>14</sup>.

#### **4. The Phenomenology of Exploitation:**

##### **Detailed Case Studies of Migrant Vulnerability**

##### **4.1. The Vulnerability Spectrum and Intersectionality**

The exploitation of migrants in Algeria is driven by a complex intersection of legal status, socioeconomic barriers, and pervasive social discrimination. Undocumented women, refugees, asylum-seekers, and Sub-Saharan African children, particularly unaccompanied minors, constitute the groups at highest risk of forced begging. A critical element enabling trafficking is the migrant's irregular status, forcing them into informal arrangements often characterized by exploitative conditions<sup>15</sup>.

This environment provides traffickers with effective and constant leverage—the threat of reporting a victim who lacks documentation and faces social prejudice is often sufficient to enforce compliance and ensure a supply of exploited labor that remains invisible to formal protection systems.

##### **4.2. Case Study A: Organized Begging Rings and Debt Bondage**

Organized begging constitutes one of the most prominent forms of exploitation, which Law 23-04 explicitly criminalized. The organized begging industry, particularly involving women and children originating from the Zinder region of Niger, has drastically increased the number of trafficking victims in Algeria<sup>16</sup>.

The control mechanisms employed by these rings frequently involve debt bondage, forcing victims into labor, including forced begging, to repay exorbitant smuggling debts. Victims are typically recruited from within their communities or, in the case of children, sometimes from residential schools, particularly in North and West Africa. Victims detected in North Africa who are exploited for forced begging are predominantly boys. This organized crime structure remains highly effective despite increased security efforts, accounting for thousands of exploited women and children who have reached Algeria<sup>17</sup>.

4.3. Case Study B: Forced Labor and Sectoral Exploitation

Forced labor extends beyond the informal sector, although undocumented migrants are primarily exploited in hazardous informal work such as construction and agriculture<sup>18</sup>.

Trafficking risks have been documented even within specific economic contexts. Documented forced labor indicators among these workers<sup>8</sup> highlights that labor and economic exploitation are major transnational commodities. This requires Law 23-04’s enforcement to engage not just with transnational criminals operating along the border, but also with illegal business owners, labor recruiters.

**Table 2:** Exploitation Mechanisms and Vulnerability Factors in Algeria (Post-2023 Context)

Exploitation Type	Victim Profile	Mechanism of Control
Forced Begging (Organized)	Children and women from Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly Niger.	Debt bondage, coercion through smuggling debts, exploitation via community figures.
Forced Labor (Informal)	Undocumented Sub-Saharan migrants, asylum-seekers, refugees.	Irregular migration status.

Sources:

Raouf Farrah (2020) Algeria's Migration Dilemma, Op.cit.  
U.S. Department of State (2024) Trafficking in Persons Report: Algeria - , accessed Nov 15, 2025, <https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-trafficking-in-persons-report/algeria/>  
USDOL (2023) Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor, Op.cit.



## **5. The Implementation Crisis: Assessing Enforcement and Victim Protection Deficits**

### **5.1. Assessing Criminal Justice Effectiveness Post-23-04**

Algeria has demonstrated increased law enforcement capacity since the enactment of Law 23-04, successfully increasing both investigations and prosecutions. In one reporting period, the government reported investigating 11 cases involving 76 suspects and initiating 76 prosecutions under the new anti-trafficking law. Judicial outcomes have also become stringent, exemplified by the conviction of one sex trafficker who received a sentence of life imprisonment. judicial activity also reveals a focus on subsidiary enforcement. Courts convicted five individuals under the 2023 anti-trafficking law for misdemeanor charges related to failing to report trafficking crimes<sup>19</sup>.

This judicial emphasis on enforcing citizen cooperation (reporting) suggests that the state seeks to diffuse the burden of detection across the populace, using penalties to demonstrate enforcement activity when major trafficking cases occur. comprehensive implementation requires improved intersectoral coordination and effective integration of civil society into the process, aspects which Algeria still needs to fully develop<sup>20</sup>.

### **5.2. Protection Services and Civil Society Integration**

Law 23-04 establishes a crucial statutory framework for the protection of vulnerable groups, explicitly outlining provisions for compensation and shelter. This legislative foundation is a critical first step. However, the current operational model reveals a significant implementation gap, as it remains predominantly reliant on state-run mechanisms. To truly realize the law's potential and ensure effective, dignified aid delivery, a strategic shift is necessary towards a more integrated and collaborative approach with civil society organizations (CSOs). This involves not just sporadic partnership but the systematic and adequate integration of these organizations into the state's protection ecosystem, which must be supported by the allocation of sufficient and predictable funding. Such a shift is not merely administrative but is fundamentally strategic. Civil society organizations often possess specialized expertise and, more importantly, command a far greater degree of trust within migrant and other hard-to-reach communities than state entities might. This grassroots trust is an invaluable asset; it breaks down barriers to access, ensures that services are culturally sensitive and appropriately tailored, and ultimately guarantees that the vital protections promised by Law 23-04 reach their intended beneficiaries effectively and efficiently. Therefore, leveraging the unique strengths of CSOs is not an optional extra but a necessary component for a robust and responsive protection service framework.

## **6. The Strategic Imperative and Sovereign Reservations:**

### **The Geopolitical Threat Assessment**

#### **6.1. The Threat of Settlement and the Geopolitical Security Rationale**

Algeria's approach to human trafficking and migration is fundamentally shaped by a profound strategic concern regarding the long-term geopolitical objectives of certain organized groups. The Algerian state assesses that it is a direct target of numerous African groups that aim to promote the permanent settlement of black African populations across North Africa, viewing the existing North African population as foreign to the continent's northern region. Therefore, these groups are seen to exploit irregular migratory flows not only for the immediate crime of trafficking but also to encourage mass settlement in North Africa, specifically in Algeria, leveraging international conventions that grant rights of residency and employment in host countries. This deliberate strategy to undermine the demographic and political structure is the primary reason driving Algeria's cautious implementation and its sovereign reservations regarding full and unreserved compliance with certain international agreements.

#### **6.2. The Reality of Exploitation: Economic Crime and the Absence of Sexual Trafficking**

In line with the sovereign assessment, the dominant forms of migrant exploitation in Algeria are purely economic, driven by the labor market and organized crime structures.

- **Forced Labor:** Organized criminal groups originating from migrants' home countries direct young migrant men to work in the Algerian market, exploiting the existing deficit in labor across the construction and agricultural sectors.
- **Organized Begging:** Women and children are systematically exploited in organized begging operations, distributed across various points in a studied manner, often involving debt bondage.
- **Sexual Exploitation:** The exploitation of African women in commercial sexual activities is virtually non-existent in Algeria, largely due to widespread public concern regarding the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases. This contrasts notably with the higher prevalence of sexual trafficking documented in neighboring states like Morocco.

#### **6.3. Illicit Financial Flows and the Funding of Armed Groups**

The revenue generated by these organized begging rings poses a critical national security threat. The financial mechanism involves systematically collecting charitable donations, converting the cash into foreign currency, and repatriating these funds to the migrants' countries of origin. **This substantial illicit revenue stream is a proven source of funding for armed groups, particularly those**

**actively engaged in conflict and terrorism across the African Sahel region.** Algeria's rigorous security-first policy is, therefore, a necessity to dismantle these terror-financing networks, thereby ensuring border security and regional stability.

#### **6.4. The Justification for Stability: Avoiding the 'Tunisian Scenario'**

Algeria is committed to making every possible effort to adapt its national laws and procedures to international conventions. However, this compliance must not come at the cost of compromising social security and political stability. The sovereign commitment is to avoid a scenario similar to that experienced by Tunisia, which faced significant political and social instability due to the full, unreserved adoption of international agreements without adequately considering the particularities and capacity of the Tunisian society and state. This fundamental need to preserve stability justifies the strategic caution and measured pace of implementation demonstrated by the Algerian state.

### **7. Conclusion**

Algeria's enactment of Law 23-04 represents a transformative milestone in the nation's legal and institutional approach to combating human trafficking. This comprehensive legislation demonstrates Algeria's commitment to aligning its national framework with international standards, particularly through its expanded definitions, stringent penalties, and formal victim protection provisions. The establishment of specialized law enforcement units and dedicated judicial structures further reinforces the institutional capacity to address this complex transnational crime.

The implementation of Law 23-04 within Algeria's unique geopolitical context reflects a balanced approach that addresses both security concerns and human rights obligations. The legislation provides a robust foundation for coordinated national efforts against trafficking networks while maintaining focus on victim protection and regional stability. As Algeria continues to develop its anti-trafficking mechanisms, this legal framework positions the country as an active participant in global efforts to combat human trafficking, contributing to broader regional security and protection initiatives. The continued evolution of these efforts will undoubtedly strengthen Algeria's capacity to address the challenges posed by organized criminal networks while upholding its international commitments.

Moreover, the state's strategic assessment (Chapter 6) underscores that the primary threat posed by human trafficking in Algeria is not humanitarian in isolation, but geopolitical and financial: the systematic exploitation via organized begging serves as a deliberate mechanism to finance armed groups in the Sahel, threatening both national and regional security. The sovereign caution demonstrated in implementing protection mechanisms is fundamentally driven by this imperative to preserve internal social cohesion and political order, a justified

response aimed at preventing the national destabilization observed in states that adopted full compliance without adequate consideration of domestic capacity and geopolitical vulnerabilities

## **Recommendations**

To bridge the critical gap between normative law and operational reality, the following policy interventions are recommended:

Effective anti-trafficking efforts require addressing the transnational nature of organized crime and the regional flows that sustain it:

- **Organizational Separation and Prioritization of Mandates**

The current structure, where anti-trafficking and illegal immigration enforcement are bundled, must be urgently revised. Standard operating procedures (SOPs) must be legally finalized and implemented to compel all frontline to prioritize humanitarian screening. The institutional response must shift from automatic immigration processing to mandatory human trafficking assessment to uphold the Non-Punishment Principle.

- **Formalizing Victim Referral and Protection Mechanisms**

Algeria must immediately finalize and implement a formal national victim referral mechanism (NRM). This requires rigorous training for frontline workers on identifying non-obvious trafficking indicators. Furthermore, the capacity to deliver the rights-based commitments enshrined in Law 23-04.

- **Enhancing Civil Society Integration and Resource Allocation**

To address the inadequacy of specialized protection services, the government must formalize institutional partnerships and allocate sufficient public funding and/or in-kind support to civil society organizations. Leveraging expertise is necessary because they can deliver specialized assistance.

- **Developing Transparent Migration Policy and Regional Dialogue**

sustained regional diplomatic efforts, particularly with partners like Tunisia, must ensure that anti-smuggling efforts do not lead to the unregulated externalization of trafficking victims, which exacerbates regional instability and exploitation<sup>21</sup>.

- **Counter-Financing of Armed Groups through Begging Rings**

Given that organized begging is a core mechanism for illicit financial transfer to armed groups in the Sahel, the highest priority must be placed on developing specialized financial intelligence units (FIUs) dedicated to tracking and disrupting the foreign currency repatriation schemes used by these

begging rings, thereby directly combating terror financing under the anti-trafficking mandate.

- **Combating Structural Root Causes**

Sustained national and international efforts are necessary to address the fundamental economic and security conditions in the Sahel and North Africa that generate the vulnerabilities exploited by traffickers. This focus requires moving beyond purely punitive measures to concentrate on improving governance, reducing economic uncertainty, and building resilience in origin countries. Addressing poverty, conflict, and the impact of climate change on livelihoods is crucial, as these structural factors are powerful enablers of trafficking across the continent.

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution (2000) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime - UNTC, accessed Nov 15, 2025, <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/ProtocolonTrafficking.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Federica Zardo; Chiara Loschi (2020) EU-Algeria (Non) Cooperation on Migration: A Tale of Two Fortresses. *Mediterranean Politics*, Vol. 27 (2): 148–69. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13629395.2020.1758453>

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