MPF
Migration Partnership Facility

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS; SECURITY COOPERATION

# Common Operational Partnership (COP) France-Italy-Nigeria

## About the Project

Migration routes pose deadly risks and migrants are particularly vulnerable to exploitation by smugglers and criminal organisations. Annually, thousands die attempting to cross the Mediterranean, with many others subjected to abuse. A significant number of those victims originate from Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly West Africa and the Sahel. Nigeria remains a source, transit, and destination country for trafficking of human beings and smuggling of migrants, notably towards Europe. The EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, along with related strategies, underscores the necessity of a comprehensive global response, focusing on dismantling criminal networks while safeguarding migrants' fundamental rights. Against this background, this initiative aims to actively combat trafficking and smuggling networks in Nigeria and the sub-region through two specific objectives: (a) enhancing the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) capacity to effectively dismantle trafficking and smuggling networks while protecting victims; and (b) strengthening regional and international cooperation against migrant smuggling and human trafficking.

### Partners

This MPF project is implemented by CIVIPOL (France) in collaboration with the International Security Cooperation Directorate (DCIS) of the French Ministry of Interior and the Italian Ministry of Interior.

### Countries

France, Italy, Nigeria

### Time frame

**June 2025 – June 2027**

### Budget

**EUR 1,430,000.00** (93.71% from ISF Fund)

# Activities

## Capacity Building

This component will employ a mentoring approach to deliver tailored solutions for training and equipment needs through joint assessments with the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP). The project encompasses on-site mentoring, a customised training program, and close coordination with relevant NAPTIP departments. Its objectives include enhancing the investigative capacity of specialized services, both at central and decentralized levels, while strengthening victims' identification, referral capacities, and the judicial response.

## Operational Cooperation

Given that human trafficking and migrant smuggling are inherently transnational crimes requiring a coordinated response across borders, this initiative aims to establish strong operational relationships between Nigeria and key transit countries such as Ivory Coast, Senegal and Guinea, as well as destination countries like France and Italy. By developing efficient information-sharing mechanisms and fostering operational cooperation, the project seeks to implement a comprehensive transnational strategy to combat Nigerian human trafficking and migrant smuggling networks.

Implemented by:

CIVIPOL

DCIS
Direction de la Coopération Internationale de Sécurité

# The Migration Partnership Facility

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This project is awarded and contracted in the framework of the Migration Partnership Facility (MPF), an EU-funded initiative implemented by ICMPD in support of the external dimension of the EU migration policy. Through its grants, the MPF facilitates the execution of projects to strengthen dialogue and cooperation on migration and mobility between Member States and partner countries outside the EU.

Funded by the European Union

Implemented by ICMPD

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ICMPD
International Centre for Migration Policy Development