On Thursday the 26th of September 2019 the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the American Refugee Committee (ARC) conducted an awareness raising campaign on Trafficking in Persons (TIP), Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and child abuse in Gihembe Refugee Camp. The activity consisted of information sessions, performances by drama groups and discussions with the refugee community. Approximately 800 people who attended the event are now aware of the implications of trafficking in persons.

In support of the government’s efforts to end trafficking in persons, IOM Rwanda, together with its One UN partners, is currently working on a counter trafficking project in Rwanda, titled “Strengthening the identification and protection of victims of trafficking among refugees in Rwanda”. The project, funded by the US Department of State’s Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, aims to contribute to increasing awareness on trafficking in persons, identification, and referrals of victims of trafficking among the refugee community in Rwanda and staff operating in refugee settings, including in the six camps in Rwanda and their surrounding communities (see table). The project activities can be divided into three main parts: research in refugee camps and surrounding communities, capacity building and community sensitization.

Apart from IOM and ARC, the campaign in Gihembe Camp was also supported by the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA), the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Plan International and the Legal Aid Forum (LAF).