

Regional Training Facility on
Prevention and Suppression of Sexual
and Gender Based Violence
in the Great Lakes Region



Centre Régional de Formation sur
la Prévention et Suppression des Violence
Sexuelles Basées sur le Genre dans
la Région des Grands Lacs

FACT SHEET ON ICGLR-RTF

20 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ICGLR-RTF

1. What is ICGLR-RTF?

ICGLR-RTF stands for International Conference on the Great Lakes Region - Regional Training Facility on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual and Gender Based Violence.

It is a decentralised organ of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Secretariat and is based in Kampala, Uganda.

The ICGLR-RTF is a regional centre of excellence established in 2014. The ICGLR-RTF researches, trains and sensitises relevant stakeholders and the general population in ICGLR Member States on sexual and gender based violence (SGBV).

The work of the ICGLR-RTF is guided by international and regional instruments, standards, and norms that aim to promote accountability and end impunity for SGBV in the Great Lakes Region.

2. What is ICGLR?

ICGLR stands for International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. The ICGLR is an intergovernmental organisation comprising twelve (12) Member States. It was formed by the African Union, the United Nations and the Member States of the ICGLR. The ICGLR is a regional mechanism with a Secretariat based in Bujumbura, Burundi and is the technical arm and coordinating body of the Conference.

It is headed by an Executive Secretary and its mandate is to promote peace, security, stability and development in the Great Lakes Region. The ICGLR Secretariat coordinates, facilitates, monitors, and ensures the implementation of Pacts and other initiatives in order to attain peace, security, stability, and development in the Great Lakes Region.

3. How is ICGLR-RTF linked to the ICGLR-Secretariat?

ICGLR-RTF is a decentralized organ of the ICGLR Conference Secretariat based in Kampala, Uganda. ICGLR Secretariat remains the headquarters of ICGLR-RTF and is guided by rules and policies of the ICGLR Secretariat. A Host Agreement was signed between ICGLR Secretariat and Government of Uganda further clarifying the diplomatic status of the RTF in Uganda.

4. What is the mandate of ICGLR-RTF?

To train and equip stakeholders with skills to effectively promote accountability and fight impunity for sexual and gender based violence; generate knowledge about the challenges of sexual and gender based violence; and sensitize stakeholders to change stereotypes and attitudes from marginalization to empowerment of women, girls, men and boys to live in dignity respect and freedom at all times and in all situations.

5. Where does the ICGLR-RTF derive its mandate?

The ICGLR-RTF derives its mandate from ICGLR instruments, including:

(i) Article 11 of the Pact on Security, Stability and Development For the Great Lakes Region, December 2006 Amended November 2012 (the Pact); that commits Member States undertake, in accordance with the Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression Against Women and Children, to combat sexual violence against women and children through prevention, criminalizing and punishing acts of sexual violence, both in times peace and in times of war, in accordance with national laws and international criminal law."

(ii) Article 6(9) of the Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children, 2006 (SGBV Protocol); that commits Member States to set up a special facility for training and sensitizing judicial officers, police units, social workers, medical officers and other categories of persons who handle cases of sexual violence in the Great Lakes Region.

(iii) Resolution 14 of the Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, 2011 (Kampala Declaration), recognizes Uganda's offer to host the Regional SGBV Training Facility and directs the ICGLR Secretariat to prepare the financial requirements (budget) for the establishment of the Facility and present it to the next meeting of Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee (RIMC) for decision.





10. What is the link between the ICGLR-RTF and the Special Envoy for the Great Lakes?

The Special Envoy for the Great Lakes complements the work of the ICGLR and the ICGLR-RTF. During the the visit of the Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region to the ICGLR-RTF on 27 April 2018, Djinnit Said stated, *“Very happy to be back to the Regional Training Facility to reiterate my support and encouragement to the Director and his team on the good work they are doing in servicing the cause of preventing and suppressing sexual and gender based violence in the GLR.”*

6. Who are the ICGLR Member States?

The Member States of ICGLR constitute 12 countries: **Angola, Burundi, Central Africa Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia.** The ICGLR Member States are legally bound by the ICGLR instruments.

The ICGLR has also co-opted Member States that border the Great Lakes Region. The co-opted ICGLR Member States are seven and include: Botswana, Ethiopia, Egypt, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Whereas co-opted Member States are not legally bound by the ICGLR legal instruments; they are however expected to support the implementation of the ICGLR Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region (2006).

11. Who are in the ICGLR Group of Friends?

In the context of partnership in addressing SGBV, twenty-seven (27) countries and ten (10) international organisations in December 2003 constituted a Group of Friends of the ICGLR (GoFs). The Group of Friends provide political, diplomatic, technical, and financial support to the ICGLR.

The Group of Friends include: Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Holy See, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The international organisations are: the European Commission, African Union Commission, African Development Bank, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA), and Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank.

7. Have all ICGLR Member States ratified the ICGLR instruments?

Yes. All the 12 Member States of the ICGLR have ratified the ICGLR Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region and the 10 Protocols of the Pact and the 2006 SGBV Protocol. The 12 Member States of the ICGLR are therefore legally bound by the ICGLR instruments.



8. Where does ICGLR-RTF operate?

The ICGLR-RTF works in the 12 Member States of the ICGLR. The ICGLR-RTF also works closely with the African Union and the United Nations to prevent sexual and gender based violence; promote accountability, end impunity for sexual and gender based violence.

9. How is ICGLR-RTF linked to the Africa Union and the United Nations?

The ICGLR was established by Member States with the support of the United Nations and the African Union. Resolution 1291 and 1304 by the United Nations Security Council and the Dar es Salaam Conference supported by the United Nations and the African Union in 2004 provided a foundation for the signing of the Pact on Security, Stability, and Great Lakes Region in Nairobi, Kenya in 2006. In 2009, the ICGLR was granted “Observer Status” with the United Nations at the United Nations General Assembly. The ICGLR has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the African Union Commission (AUC). The ICGLR is under consideration for admission as a Regional Economic Community (REC). See link to African Union Report on the ICGLR-RTF: <https://www.icglr-rtf.org/publication/view/assessment-mission-to-the-icglr-regional-training-facility-rtf-on-the-prevention-and-suppression-of-sexual-violence-gender/>

12. How have the Group of Friends and Special Envoys supported the ICGLR-RTF?

The Group of Friends and Special Envoys provide technical and financial support to the ICGLR-RTF in implementing the ICGLR instruments and ICGLR-RTF activities aimed at combating sexual and gender based violence in the Great Lakes Region.



13. What activities are currently being executed by ICGLR-RTF?

- (i) The ICGLR-RTF organizes regular sensitization and training events, including workshops, colloquia, symposia, and conferences. Since its establishment in 2014, the ICGLR-RTF has organised thirteen (13) sensitization and trainings events, including workshops, colloquia, symposia, and conferences. These events have led to training of over 700 experts on how to effectively handle cases of sexual and gender based violence.
- (ii) The ICGLR-RTF is developing and finalising standardized training manuals, including curricula and facilitation guides for training police, judicial officers, social workers, medical officers, and other categories of persons on how to effectively handle sexual and gender based violence cases. These manuals are always ‘work in progress’, adapting their contents on recent and relevant developments in the field. Moreover, the manuals are customised for every target group of professionals (or: trainers) that are being trained.
- (iii) The ICGLR-RTF has recruited and trained 12 Master Trainers and has so far recruited more than 40 National Trainers from Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, and Zambia.
- (iv) The ICGLR-RTF aims to recruit at least 10 National Trainers per each Member State of the ICGLR and to have over 120 Experts in the Great Lakes Region by December 2018. The National Trainers will further cascade the training model by training groups of professionals in country, such as medical staff, police officers, judicial officers, and psychosocial workers.

15. Who implements the activities of ICGLR-RTF?

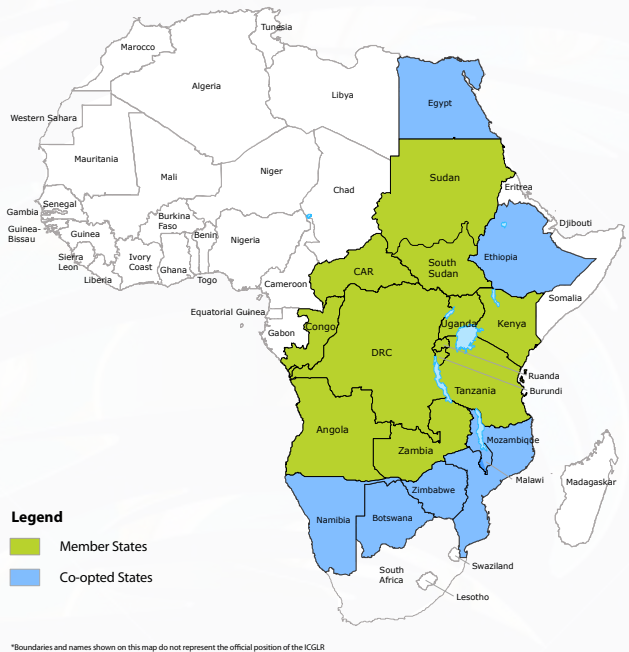
The activities of the ICGLR-RTF are implemented by staff, National Trainers, Master Trainers, affiliated trainers, consultants, the Member States of the ICGLR, and ICGLR Secretariat.



16. What are the achievements of ICGLR-RTF?

So far, the ICGLR-RTF has:

- (i) Acquired permanent office premises in Munyonyo with potential for expansion.
- (ii) Developed standardised manuals and curricula on SGBV for police officers, judicial officers; psychosocial workers; and medical officers.
- (iii) Trained Master and National Trainers in the 12 ICGLR Member States to strengthen and improve capacity to respond to and prevent sexual and gender based violence. The Master Trainers and 10 National Trainers (in each ICGLR Member State) further cascade training to professionals at national levels. By July 2018, National Trainers had been trained in Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, and Zambia. Training in Angola; Burundi; Tanzania; Sudan; South Sudan; Central African Republic; Democratic Republic of Congo; and the Republic of Congo will be completed by December 2018.
- (iv) **Trained over 700 personnel, including judicial officers, security forces, and social workers on effective prevention and response to cases of sexual and gender based violence.**
- (v) Increased media coverage on sexual and gender based violence in the region.
- (vi) Conducted advocacy for legislative and policy reforms in Member States to address impunity and promote accountability for sexual and gender based violence.
- (vii) Conducted successful advocacy for expedited establishment of special courts dedicated to prosecuting sexual and gender based violence in some Member States, such as Uganda.



14. What other categories of persons are trained and sensitised by the ICGLR-RTF?

The other categories of persons targeted for training and sensitisation by ICGLR-RTF include but are not limited to: service providers in refugee settlements, camp commandants, teachers, media practitioners, lawyers, prosecutors, prison officers, policy makers, military officers, and other professionals handling SGBV.



17. Who funds the ICGLR-RTF?

The ICGLR-RTF is supported by contributions from Member States of the ICGLR and Partners of the ICGLR.

The ICGLR-RTF has also received funding and technical support from: the World Bank, the Dutch Government (Netherlands Initiative for Capacity Development in Higher Education (NICHE), African Union Peace and Security Department, British High Commission, UNWOMEN, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Office of Special Envoy of the Secretary General on the Great Lakes Region, Population Council –Kenya, GIZ, FIDA-Uganda, AkinaMamaWaAfrika.

(iv) Strengthen the expert circle of Master Trainers and National Trainers.

(v) Conduct continuous fact-based, credible, and reliable research on sexual and gender based violence in the Great Lakes Region.

(vi) Establish an E-Learning platform to provide skilled trainings on sexual and gender based violence.

(vii) Expand training sessions to other categories, such as service providers in refugee camps, prisons, and teachers.

(viii) Recruit more staff and engage experts/consultants to execute the ICGLR-RTF mandate.

(ix) Operationalise national coordination mechanisms;

(x) Strengthen Institutional Capacity and Partnerships for effective implementation of ICGLR-RTF mandate.

18. What are the future plans of ICGLR-RTF?

(i) Cascade training of professionals, judicial officers, police, psychosocial workers, medical officers, and other categories of persons at the national level.

(ii) Sensitize particular target groups that influence public opinion, including media practitioners, policy makers, and change agents.

(iii) Implement quality assurance of training, including supporting creation and implementation of monitoring and evaluation training outcomes.

19. What can I do for ICGLR-RTF?

To achieve its goals, the ICGLR-RTF relies on partnerships and collaborations with people and organizations that support its mandate and objectives.

If you are interested in being part of this partnership and collaboration, please contact the ICGLR-RTF.

20. Where are the offices and what are the contact details of ICGLR – RTF?



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