



AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 4 - APRIL 2014

INTRODUCTION

We welcome our readers to our newsletter for April 2014! April was a busy month although with less workshops than the previous months. We carried out 23 workshops in Nairobi, Narok and Kajiado counties. The reason for the decline in workshops was that our first programme with Mensen met een Missie has come to an end. With them we have carried out 40 workshops since the start of 2014. We are happy to announce that they have approved funding for a new programme that will start in May and go until December 2014. Our main story this month features subject of human trafficking among refugees who have come to Kenya seeking refuge from neighbouring countries. However, being in a foreign country with few opportunities to improve their livelihoods they are vulnerable to the tactics of traffickers. HAART was approached by Tushirikiane Africa, an organization supporting refugees in Nairobi, and asked for training for their beneficiaries. At HAART we were happy to oblige and Rehema and Winnie's story is about their encounter with the refugees. We expect the next month to be busy with reporting and proposal writing. Furthermore, HAART has been invited by International Rescue Committee to work in a new network to advocate on behalf of forced migrants. We will share more about our experience with that in next months' newsletter.



In late April HAART was contacted by NTV Kenya who want to highlight the issue of human trafficking internally in Kenya. In the picture the cameraman is filming a victim of human trafficking together with Rozalia, a journalist from NTV. We expect the story to air sometime in May.

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We are in the process of building a new website. haart-kenya.org is therefore not available at the moment. We are sorry for the delay, but it should be back soon. We have been very busy lately.

Our Experience with Refugees

By Winnie Mutevu and Rehema Baya

HAART is fully committed to ending human trafficking in Kenya and assisting victims suffering from its diverse effects. One of the main target groups that we have encountered in Nairobi are the refugees who have run away from the neighbouring countries in search of security and stability.

This month we were approached by Tushirikiane Africa, an NGO that assists refugees from Rwanda, Burundi and Congo. They invited us to educate the refugees on human trafficking and preventive measures. With great interest we visited three of their groups, on different days from Dagoretti Corner, Kayole and South B, working with approximately 300 refugees in total. This was quite a good number to work with.

To start off we asked about their knowledge of human trafficking and if it exists in their community. Knowledge of human trafficking exists but mostly as a western element, and not something they would point out as happening to them. We began by showing them a video depicting how human trafficking takes place, and they were very attentive. We went on to discuss the story in the film and to breakdown human trafficking in a way they would understand. We also educated them on common scenarios of trafficking and how they can best protect themselves. What was most important to us was to make them understand how their vulnerability as refugees is of great advantage to traffickers.

Multiple questions came up, such as how to eradicate poverty as one of the major factors fueling human trafficking. Others also asked how were they to identify a possible trafficker, especially amongst family and friends. It was clear to us that most of them lived in unfavourable conditions in terms of sustainability. Some would send off their children to work in places just to earn money for survival without knowing the conditions under which they worked. Some would try and ignore any signs of trafficking, all in bids to survive financially.

We answered most of their questions but what was evident is poverty made them receive the news on human trafficking half-heartedly. They felt we should help them find means of survival so as to avoid being trafficked and that our word was not good enough if we were not helping them out with their livelihood. They feel they have to survive in Kenya whichever way it may be. Despite it all, we tried to push them to understand their rights as human beings and how they should most importantly protect their children. Our aim was to make them be aware of what can happen to them and their children if they are not care-

ful with whoever they are dealing with.

We received many requests from these groups to educate their children. They were persistent that we educate them on the sex industry and forced labour as types of trafficking. This to us showed that the message was delivered. One of the participants in these groups even requested us to contact him once we have a set date for the children's workshop. This was so that he could get his two daughters from Morocco to come and attend the session. This to us showed the value of our work.

The greatest lesson from interacting with refugees is that they mostly experience a specific type of trafficking where children from their native countries are sold to older men in Kenya as brides. There were also cases of children brought in for cheap labour. To them Kenya is a destination country as opposed to how many Kenyans view it as source. Amongst the refugees, there were traffickers who took advantage of those in Kenya and also kept travelling to their countries of origin to bring more children. That is what the refugees needed to look out most for. They needed to realize that amongst themselves, amongst the people they trusted, some were traffickers. Their language barrier also makes them very vulnerable. They pointed out that they have had such experiences several times, but only one person was able to share his story. The faces of the rest of the team reassured us that such a crime existed and only lacks identification. Tension and fear was also very evident in the team.

So, what is the way forward for our refugees? They need to watch out for such scenarios, be more inquisitive when people approach them for assistance, and as their NGO advised, return to their camps where they have more security. We are not certain of the practicality of this move as they do need to find jobs and try to stabilize their lives with their children, but what is most important is that they are aware of human trafficking and preventive measures. More caution and care is to be used with such vulnerable groups.



An attentive listener at one of the workshops.

Human Trafficking Scenarios #3

By Tom Young

Over the next few months HAART will present a series of human trafficking scenarios which we hope will educate our readers about how easily trafficking can occur from everyday situations. At the end of each scenario we will apply trafficking screening questions to determine if the subject of scenario has been trafficked.

Scenario 3

Lillian is a 10-year-old girl who lives near Ngong town. She helps her sick mother and younger brother at home and cannot go to school. Her father abandoned the family when she was very young. Over time a woman notices Lillian going to and from her family home. The woman approaches Lillian and asks her why she is not in school. Lillian explains her situation. The woman says she works for an organisation that helps young people stay in school and wants to help Lillian, who says she will ask her mother. They next day the woman approaches Lillian in the street who advises she and her mother are interested in the offer of assistance. The woman comes to Lillian's house to meet her mother and arrangements are made for Lillian to be taken to school by the woman, who now introduces herself as Ms Kamau. Lillian goes with Ms Kamau thinking she will start school. However, Lillian is not taken to school. She is put in a van in a nearby town and driven for a few hours to an undisclosed location. She gets out of the van, sees tea fields and is told she will pick tea leaves all day. She asks about going to school and is told she can go to school later if she first picks tea leaves for a few months. Lillian doesn't know where she is, doesn't know her mother's

mobile number, and is stuck. She knows the woman known as Ms Kamau knows where her family home is and that her mother is vulnerable. She is extremely upset, is stuck picking tea leaves, now can't help her mother and younger brother, and is still not going to school. Her situation has become much worse. After a few months she asks again about going to school, but it told that is not happening anymore and to stop asking questions.

1. Was Lillian lured into this situation and deceived? – Yes.
2. Did Lillian agree to do what she is being forced to do? – No.
3. Is Lillian free to leave the work site and talk to family and friends? – No.
4. Is Lillian physically, sexually or psychologically abused? – Yes, physically and psychologically. She may be at risk of sexual abuse without a trusted guardian present.
5. Does Lillian have valid identification and is she in possession of such documents? – No.
6. Is Lillian paid and are there any conditions of employment? – No.
7. Does Lillian fear that something bad will happen to her, or to a family member, if she leaves the job? – Yes.
8. Has Lillian been trafficked? – Yes.



Pictures from the refugee workshops.

To the left is shown participants from one workshop.

To the right is shown Sr. Mary speaking to a group of refugees.



Awareness Against Human Trafficking

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WE ARE ON THE WEB!!!

PLEASE VISIT US AT:

HAARTKENYA.ORG

Follow US ON FACEBOOK

FACEBOOK.COM/HAART.KE

Upcoming events

- 16 workshops at the grass root level organized by our volunteers
- Assistance to victims' of human trafficking (VOTs)
- Anti-trafficking campaign in social media
- Story about internal trafficking to air on NTV Kenya
- HAART to participate in new network to combat trafficking.

HAART in social media:

Please visit us on our new Facebook account:

facebook.com/HAART.Ke

If you click LIKE, you will receive daily news feeds.

You can also get our daily tweets if you follow us on twitter:

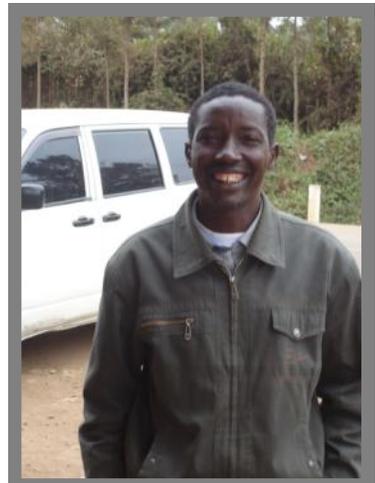
[@HAARTKenya](https://twitter.com/HAARTKenya)

Volunteers of the month



Nairobi South C

Pascalia



Ngong Diocese

Joshua Limpaso

Loitoktok Deanery