



AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 8 - JULY 2015

INTRODUCTION

August was a busy month especially now that we had finished with Arts to End Slavery, we had to reembark on the things that had put on hold. For one, we started doing the workshops that we have in our project with HopeNow at the same time as we are continuing with the workshops from Misereor. In total we had more than 20 workshops and had a great reach. In the HopeNow workshops we are experimenting with new approaches that are very exciting but also makes the workshops more work intensive. Next month we expect to do about 20 workshops on the HopeNow project alone and the usual 10 workshops for Misereor.

We were also approached recently by GIZ about a concern about human trafficking in Western Kenya. Our project consultant, Sophie Otiende, therefore made the trip to do a needs assessment. She made some very interesting discoveries that we will share with you soon. We also had many meetings with our partners where discussed and made new plans. Among others, we met Mensen met een Missie, PAWA254, Youth Career Initiative, Mixed Migration Task Force and HopeNow.

This month you can read a new research that we did together with a former intern, Anni Alexander from Aalborg University, Denmark. She wrote it for her Master's thesis and she was awarded an A for it. The study was done using qualitative methodology and revealed interesting new information regarding human trafficking and especially gender perspectives. Moreover, you can also read the story of Almasi from the blog, where she through Art therapy explains what she went through.



From Fences to Freedom

HAART was recently asked to write a guest blog on 'From Fences To Freedom' a blog from End immigration Detention of Children. Find the blog post here endchilddetention.org/from-fences-to-freedom/

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Forced Labour in Kenya

By **Anni Alexander**

A new study has been written by HAART Kenya in cooperation with Anni Alexander as a Master's thesis for Aalborg University in Aalborg. See abstract below:

Human trafficking is the recruitment and exploitation of a person often involving deception or coercion. People are trafficked for three main reasons: (commercial) sexual exploitation, forced labour, or organ removal. Sex trafficking has been researched extensively in the past two decades and has also received a lot of attention in the media, and so this research focuses on human trafficking for forced labour.

The study is geographically limited to Kenya, which has a high unemployment rate and struggles to deal with human trafficking. The research question is: why are men and women being trafficked for forced labour in Kenya and what are their experiences? The research focuses on experiences of human trafficking and the issues with prevention, and uses gender as both a methodology as well as a theoretical framework to guide the research planning and analysis. In addition, there is a special focus on intersectionality.

20 people were interviewed for this research. This includes 12 victims of trafficking (VoTs) and eight key informants. Out of the 12 VoTs, eight are female and four are male. Key informants include staff from organisations that work on human trafficking and/or migration as well as people that work on the grass roots.

It was found that VoTs are motivated to migrate for labour due to the high unemployment rate in Kenya and low wages; they felt unable to earn enough money in Kenya to support themselves and their families and sought out opportunities elsewhere. VoTs showed agency in the migration decision and made the decision to migrate either by themselves or with their family.

While the VoTs made the decision to migrate, they did not consent to being trafficked. They were deceived by recruiters to accept offers of work who used the VoTs' lack of knowledge to lure them. VoTs were most commonly deceived about the amount of salary but at times also about the type of work and location of work. There is some evidence that those with higher education levels, especially women, are more likely to be deceived about the type of work available.

It was also found that VoTs suffer from different types of exploitation once trafficked. This includes lack of food and rest, being overworked, coercion and threats, and physical and sexual violence. Female VoTs are more likely to face sexual harassment and violence than male VoTs. There is evidence that Kenyan women who migrate outside of the region to the Middle East might suffer from sexual violence not only because of their gender but also because of their race; their experience of sexual violence is thus an intersectional one.

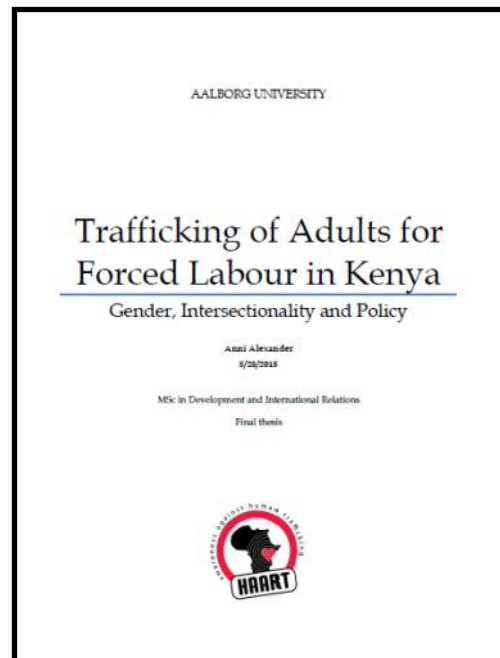
VoTs reported issues with distrust with their families and the community. Other people did not believe VoTs had returned from working abroad without money. However, women reported this issue less, and there is evidence that the fact the local media reports cases of women being trafficked to the Middle East helps families believe female VoTs. VoTs themselves showed distrust towards authorities and were reluctant to report their cases to the police. They cited corruption and inac-

tion of the police force as reasons for this. Those that did try to report their case to the police were turned away.

There is evidence that gender plays a role in the experiences of VoTs. In addition to female VoTs being more likely to suffer from sexual violence, they experienced more control. Furthermore, gendered norms and cultural practices dictate what type of employment VoTs are recruited for; women are generally recruited for house work and men for manual labour such as construction work.

It was found that lack of access to information contributes to human trafficking; victims are unaware of the dangers. Furthermore, as people from the lower classes have less access to media and to information and women in that social group are generally less educated than men, lower class women might be at a greater danger of being trafficked. An awareness campaign that takes into consideration issues with access to information, gender, and intersectionality is needed to curb human trafficking.

Certain policy changes could reduce human trafficking for forced labour in Kenya. Regulating out-migration could reduce human trafficking without reducing labour migration. This could include monitoring employment agents or suspending them. Also, a single entity that either handles out-migration or monitors employment agents should be created. Additionally, bi-lateral agreements between Kenya and destination countries or a regional (East-African) agreement similar to that of the Colombo process could reduce human trafficking by regularising labour migration.



**You can download the full research
on www.haartkenya.org**

In her own words

By Almasi* - edited by Sophie Otiende and Xavier Verhoest from Art2Be

This post covers the story of Almasi*, a survivor of sex trafficking. Through her own words and the art she created we understand her experience and expectations. It was created using art therapy and exhibited during the Arts to End Slavery project.

Who am I?

I know I'm pure, I'm beautiful, someone can see my heart from far. I am a mother of three that is two girls and a boy.

My Story

In 2009 I was married and when my youngest son was very young and that's when we separated with their father and he went until today I have never seen him. I don't know if he's alive or dead. I went through hardships, I went through hard times with the kids and one was just young so I was going asking for work like washing clothes for people, doing cleaning and I became a very good cleaner and I survived. What I was earning was very little. Before when I was still a girl I had a friend. We used to play and share a lot when we were still girls, I did not have kids at that time and she disappeared for a long time. One day she appeared very beautiful, very different and changed. She came looking for me, I told her I have three children and then told her, "Your life, you have changed. What happened, what are you doing nowadays?" she told me "I'm staying in Mombasa and I go to work and I earn very good money. And you?"

I explained to her that I am doing cleaning, that I go wash for people. I told her that now I was worried because my son will be going to class eight and I needed money to pay for education."

She told me no problem. "I will, if you want there is work which is paying very well in Mombasa. And that's what I am doing and that's why you see my life is changed. I'm not the one you had seen before." Because she was a friend, I trusted her and decided to go to Mombasa. I left my children with my mom who I told I had found work in Mombasa. I had hope that maybe I could change something in my home because even my parents have that good life.

We then travelled that day, I can't remember when but it was in 2009 at night. We reached Mtwapa at night. She then took me to a very private house with no neighbors. She called they opened the gate and we went inside. I was told that I would be given an interview because I said I am a good cleaner. While I was cleaning the house I found there were some other girls there. I did a good job, I was accepted. In that house there was no going out and there was no cleaning job again. I was employed there but not as a cleaner, it was another job...

Every evening men used to come there and pick up girls We were there, it's a big house but I think some were used to do that job by now. I also had no clothes so they brought me clothes, short clothes. I was not drinking alcohol but I had to drink there. You are forced, you must do what they want you to do because the owner of the house would be paid, there is nothing you can do because you don't know where you are. Even now if I am told to say where I was staying, I can't tell.

One day I asked the other girls, "When I was coming here I was told that I'm coming here to do a cleaner job. I wanted to ask that person." One girl told me don't ask anything here, if you ask, you might just disappeared. "

One day a customer came and that customer just picked me. He was a white man but he said he wants to go out with me. For the first time in 6 months, I was allowed to come out from that house with him. When we reached town on the road some commotion happened. Something happened and I always say it was maybe an angel that God sent for me on the road. People were fighting on the road and we stayed there, there was a lot of traffic. He did not close the door so I saw that and looked at him, I opened the door and walked out. He didn't follow me and I always said that was just an angel that God sent to me to take me out of there.

From there I went through hell because I had to look for a way to come out of there and come home. I don't have a relative in Mombasa and maybe that person might be looking for me. I had to look for a way so I begged in the streets, asking for fifty shillings there until I found transport to come home.

I am a Wing

I chose a wing because it helps creatures like birds to fly. It gives them energy and I feel that I have a wing to fly too. I put different colors there, there is yellow, there is blue, there is red, blue, red and yellow. And this is white. Yellow, for me it gives me courage to go on with life and blue, this is the color that makes me feel like I have been liberated from jail. Somehow I was being jailed and I am free. Red, for me it shows the pain that sometimes I feel through my body. Sometimes I go through a lot of pain, I just feel pain. I feel sick sometimes. This red shows how sometimes I feel inside me. The pain in my body. White shows the purity of my heart and soul. How to accept and take everything easy and say there and we have to accept it. Yeah, I have to accept it.

The Future and my strength inside

I see myself as a tortoise. The tortoise means determination because a tortoise is always determined even if he's going ten miles. A tortoise is always ready to encounter anything that will come in front of him. He is just going maybe even hidden his head but he is ready to encounter anything.

I want to work hard to provide a good education for my children so that they can be able to live a better life. I don't have a land or something they will inherit but I can give them education that will be their future.

I am passionate about working in my community to create change so that other people will not have to go through what I went through. I expect a beautiful future and a future that is truthful. A future that everyone will be able to find greener pastures in their own home. A future with no lies, a great future indeed.

**Almasi is a fictional name to protect her identity.*



Awareness Against Human Trafficking

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Upcoming events

- 30 workshops at the grass root level organized by our volunteers
- Assistance to victims' of human trafficking (VOTs)
- Anti-trafficking campaign in social media
- Internal capacity building

Donate

We would be very grateful if you would support our work to end modern slavery.

With your contribution we are able to prevent more people from being trafficked and to assist more victims of trafficking.

HAARTKENYA.ORG/DONATE

MPESA PAY BILL NUMBER:

823258

Volunteers of the Month



Volunteer/intern

Dorothea Gauland



Volunteer/intern

Stephanie Falzon