



AWARENESS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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INTRODUCTION

In January the work with rehabilitation and reintegration of the group of victims from Libya continued. Since the last newsletter another two women and an infant arrived. We were at the airport to receive them and we took them to a shelter before they returned to their families. In January we had a workshop for them on safe migration that taught them about human trafficking and how to migrate safely. We also invited a group of young women who have been subject to child trafficking. They had considered to travel, so we thought it was a good opportunity to also train them since we had the training anyways. January was also a month where we started a new project with our partner Misereor and we held 10 workshops for awareness in Nairobi, Ngong and Machacos. In total we conducted 10 workshops at grassroots level in both rural and urban settings. In this month we also met with several partners and attended meetings and seminars with different partners; we attended a meeting with the Mixed Migration Task Force, a dissemination on human trafficking in Somaliland by Danish Refugee Council and we also received visitors from the American Embassy and the American Ministry of Labor who came to discuss child labor and child trafficking. We are also proud to announce that Sophie Otiende, who is a Project Consultant with HAART has been selected for Vital Voices' VVLead Fellowship Program which is a very prestigious program. Here she will represent the work that she has done for HAART, including the rescue of the women from Libya which she coordinated.

In February the work continues with raising awareness in grassroots communities using workshops, working with counseling and training of the victims of trafficking from Libya and other groups. HAART has also been invited by UNESCO to participate at an **international conference in Mauritius called Resistance, Resilience and Adaptation in Slave and Postslave Societies**. HAART's Programme Manager, Jakob Christensen, will represent HAART and he will speak about modern day slavery and the work of HAART in the context of old slavery. This month features the second part about the evacuation from Libya and an International declaration of young people against prostitution and human trafficking from a Symposium at the Vatican in Rome last year.



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Home from Libya in time for Christmas (Part 2)

By Sophie Otiende

The women had to stay at the embassy for another week before the route that they would take was decided. They had lost hope; most of them because of the abuse they had suffered in Libya needed psychosocial support. One of the ladies had a broken leg and needed immediate medical attention but could not access it because of the prevailing conditions.

Finally, IOM Libya and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs chose to use a small airport in Libya called Matiga to take the women to Khartoum in Sudan and Addis Ababa in Ethiopia and finally to Nairobi on 12th December 2014. The flight from Libya departed late and as a result, the women missed the connecting flight in Khartoum. There was a lot of confusion since the women were traveling unescorted. They were harassed by the immigration in Sudan. It was lucky that the airport had free WiFi so that the women were able to inform HAART of their situation through WhatsApp. After HAART informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the situation, it was reported to the Consulate in Khartoum who went to the airport to deal with the issue. To make matters worse, one of the women were in severe mental distress and refused to cooperate with any instructions.

Eventually, 20 women were given tickets to Kenya based on availability of tickets. They arrived on 13th December at 6.20pm from Addis Ababa and were met by an IOM official in Jomo Kenyatta Airport immediately after landing. She helped them through immigration and filing baggage claims. HAART was on-site with a team of six staff and volunteers working hand in hand with three staff members from IOM Kenya to debrief the 20 women after they all had been escorted to arrivals.

The women were informed of HAART and IOM Kenya's intent to assist them with reintegration and rehabilitation, but also told that all services were strictly voluntary. Since they were now back in Kenya they were free to leave with friends or relatives or make their own way. To be assisted by HAART and IOM Kenya each woman had to sign a consent form for receiving reintegration and rehabilitation services. It took a long time for HAART to explain the consent forms to the women, but eventually all 20 women signed the form and were transported to a secure shelter at Centre for Domestic Training and Development (CDTD).

HAART staff tried confirming the departure of the remaining nine women who had been left in Khartoum. No time of arrival was however confirmed. So when the nine women arrived early in the morning on 14th December, HAART and IOM Kenya was completely unaware. The staff had already met at the shelter and some had to rush to the airport to meet the nine women.

The women were taken through the same process and were allowed to make their own way home if they so chose. **Eight of the nine women accepted HAART and IOM Kenya's offer** and were reunited with the 20 women at CDTD where the women celebrated their successful evacuation from Libya.

One woman and her infant child were not able to travel together with the women due to issues with ticketing and at the same time another woman had arrived too late for acquiring tickets. They were expected to arrive at Jomo Kenyatta Airport a few days later through the same route. IOM Kenya have warned that the flight from Libya to Khartoum may be delayed and cause a similar situation to what happened. However, whenever the remaining two women arrive, HAART Kenya and IOM Kenya will meet them at the airport provided the information is passed in time for planning.

After reaching the shelter the women went through a screening for human trafficking following IOM methodology. All the women that have so far gone through the screening have been confirmed as victims of human trafficking. Many have gone through severe emotional, physical, psychological and sexual abuse in Libya. For instance, one woman had to jump from the third floor to escape from her boss. HAART, facilitated by IOM Kenya, has taken the women through initial psychosocial support and medical checkups. Some of the women went home a day or two later and most of the other left later that same week. One pregnant woman is homeless and HAART and IOM Kenya are currently looking for a temporary solution for her.

The women are now rescued, but that is only the first step in their long process of reintegration and rehabilitation. HAART will be there with the women through every step and we will keep you informed on the progress of this case.

International declaration of young people against prostitution and human trafficking

By Winnie Mutevu among others

The following is a declaration that was made by youth at the symposium on “Young People Against Prostitution and Human Trafficking: The Greatest Violence Against Women” at the Vatican in November 15th and the 16th, 2014 in which HAART participated:

We, young people from different countries, have mobilized ourselves to have our voices heard in condemnation of the system that has allowed people to fall into prostitution and any other type of slavery, and we have mobilized ourselves as active defenders of Human Rights, promoters for the protection of fundamental Human Rights and [some] as survivors of Human Trafficking.

The words spoken by the Holy Father Pope Francis during his visit to Rio de Janeiro for the 28th World Youth Day, on 25th of July 2013, have accompanied, guided and touched the hearts of the young people who have taken part in this symposium and who have fought for diverse social and political causes. At World Youth Day the Pope said

“I hope there will be noise. Here there will be noise, I’m quite sure. Here in Rio there will be plenty of noise, no doubt about that. But I want you to make yourselves heard in your diocese, I want us to resist everything globally, everything static, everything comfortable, everything to do with clericalism, everything that might make us closed in on ourselves.”

We, as human beings, are not objects that can be commercialized. We have rights and duties and we want to exercise them on a stage of equal opportunities. We condemn slavery because it brings about crimes against humanity and dignity of human beings.

We are in solidarity with those who have been and are still victims. From here we will begin to send our message to the world, calling all young people together to break the cultural paradigms that condemn people to all kinds of exploitation. We shall not relent, we shall unite and organize ourselves, because we are convinced that by taking into account the task that each young person carries out in his or her country, by renewing our hope through this symposium, which has been a guiding light on our path, by reaffirming our commitment to empower citizens who have become vulnerable, by listening to them and helping them we are convinced that we will be able to keep them from falling prisoner to the network of Prostitution and Human Trafficking.

We, the young people, declare that:

- The State must implement training programs for different types of public employees and must make people who work in both justice and security aware [of these issues].

- The State must protect the Human Rights and must provide all necessary assistance to the victims of Prostitution and Human Trafficking.
- It is fundamental that States provide the economic means to prevent and fight against Prostitution and Human Trafficking in a concrete and effective way.
- The creation of an observatory and/or an alert system is necessary to demonstrate the normalization of violence against women which originates from the over-eroticization of violence and its orientation towards women in the media.
- Education is a means of social and cultural transformation. For this reason creating training campaigns for teachers and professionals is of fundamental importance for giving them the tools to provide young people with an adequate knowledge of sex, because sex covers a wide and complex field, of which they are ignorant. It is this lack of knowledge that provides exploiters with one of their modes of control. Another core objective of education is to make sure that young men do not purchase sex, because this makes these same men part of the objectification of human beings and the merchandizing of their bodies.
- It is of primordial importance to create safe spaces for women who are at risk and to create spaces where they will find adequate support and that these spaces respect the individual progress of every woman.
- It is essential to criminalize those who purchase sex and criminalize Human Trafficking in all its forms. Due to acceptance of Human Trafficking, in whatever form it might take, it has become possible for traffickers to exploit human beings. We should not condemn victims, but condemn the chain of exploitation in its entirety.
- We should urge States, Institutions, civil society and all citizens of the world to promise to continue investigating and fighting Human Trafficking.

We, the young, maintain the promise that all men and women of the world are equals and are free, and we maintain that we must join forces to rescue and empower those who have been victims of Trafficking or any other type of slavery and join forces to restore their human rights.

** The statement of the youth is the product of many youths from different parts of the world at the symposium and the opinions shared in the statement are not necessarily the opinions of HAART.*



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PLEASE VISIT US AT:

HAARTKENYA.ORG

Follow US ON FACEBOOK

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Upcoming events

- 10 workshops at the grass root level organized by our volunteers
- Assistance to victims' of human trafficking (VOTs)
- Anti-trafficking campaign in social media
- HAART to evaluate awareness programme

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



Volunteer
Daniel Mutua



Volunteer
Safrique Mutindi