Kenya’s Child Market – Lure, Sell and Dispose
Child Trafficking by Awareness Against Human Trafficking (HAART)

“In the portrait of the boy’s face I explore the nonphysical parts of the kids trafficked, while they remain the same physically, they are never the same at the emotional level.” - Onyis Martin

The portrait was made for HAART’s Arts to End Slavery project in 2015.
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![Misean Cara](image1.png)  
![HAART](image2.png)  
![VMM](image3.png)
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Abstract

The following research is a first phase within a wider project that focuses on the prevention of child trafficking in Kenya. The research findings are to guide HAART’s prevention efforts that aim at reducing the vulnerability of children towards human trafficking, the research also provides recommendations for public and private sector of tackling the problem of child trafficking. The research questions are: What is the current state of child trafficking in Kenya?, What is the level of awareness in Kenya on child trafficking in schools and orphanages, together with institutions capacity to prevent the children being victims of human trafficking?, What is the desider content of educational manuals on human trafficking in Kenya? Data for this research was collected from various stakeholders located in Nairobi and its environs in late 2014 and during the year of 2015.

Highlights

- Children are trafficked to exploitative practices mostly from low-income and rural areas to urban areas and the coastal region
- Children are most often recruited through deception by someone known to the child
- Labour and sexual exploitation and early marriage are the most common forms of child trafficking in Kenya
- Children are also trafficked for begging and selling items on streets, organ removal and illicit adoption. There are also incidents of children being trafficked for terrorism and trafficking of drugs
- Marginalized children are categorized as risk groups; such as orphans, street children, children lacking educational opportunities and children living in poverty
- Awareness - a key component in counter-trafficking. Lack of awareness of human trafficking and children’s rights in communities, among children and their guardians, raises the risk of children being trafficked remarkably
- Government should, with the support of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), provide training for stakeholders and staff in every institution that cares for children regardless of the potential risk of the children
- Human trafficking should be included into the National Curriculum of Kenya
- Teacher’s Manual and Handout for children should ensure the children are made aware of child trafficking, children’s basic human rights, how children can protect themselves and what to do if suspecting trafficking and/or being trafficked
Background

HAART

Awareness Against Human Trafficking (HAART) was founded in 2010 by a passionate group of lawyers, missionaries and humanitarians under the leadership of Radoslaw Malinowski. These people from multiple nationalities sought to bring peace and awareness to Kenya to end the criminal activities of human traffickers.

Since then, HAART has worked to prevent human trafficking through a multidisciplinary approach. The founders had observed that Kenya had become a hub of human and child trafficking in East and Central Africa and sought to find a way to stop that. They adopted the 4Ps approach and started to work on Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, Policy and cooperation. First step was creating awareness to prevent people from being trafficked and later in 2013 HAART developed capacity to assist victims of trafficking. Since its inception, HAART has reached more than 20,000 people at grassroots workshops and assisted more than 250 victims of human and child trafficking.

HAART works to prevent child trafficking by focusing on the children, and their communities, who are most vulnerable and at high risk of being trafficked, specially targeting orphans and children living in slums and areas of low-income.

The research

This research is the first phase within a wider project that focuses on the prevention of child trafficking in Kenya. The research findings are to guide HAART’s prevention efforts that aim at reducing the vulnerability of children towards human trafficking. In order to achieve this HAART has collected and analyzed data on various types of child trafficking in Kenya with the intention of deepening the understanding of the phenomena.

The goal is to protect vulnerable children through awareness-raising on human and child trafficking among children and educators and to incorporate human trafficking and children’s rights into their curriculum and/or training programmes. The results from the study are aimed at supporting the development of two educational manuals: A Teacher’s Manual and a Handout for children on child trafficking in Kenya.
The following research introduces key findings of the collected data, provides guidelines for the educational manuals and recommendations for public and private sector of tackling the problem of child trafficking. This research studies child trafficking in Kenya and is limited to its geographic context.


**Methodology**

In order to obtain the necessary data, the researchers used qualitative methodology. The data was collected from relevant stakeholders involved in various projects that aim at children’s well-being. Data collected consisted of 34 qualitative research interviews from staff members of various children’s institutions including schools (both primary and secondary), children’s department, humanitarian and human rights lawyer involved in the protection of children’s rights, children’s homes, children’s rehabilitation centers, orphanages and NGOs. Interviews were structured in order to establish:

- Current state of child trafficking in Kenya specifically:
  - Size and forms of child trafficking
  - How and by whom the children are recruited
  - Main factors which put children at risk of being trafficked
  - How child trafficking can be prevented

- Level of awareness on child trafficking in schools and orphanages, together with institutions capacity to prevent the children being victims of human trafficking

- Desired content of the Teacher’s Manual and the Handout for children

The data was collected from various stakeholders located in Nairobi and its environs in late 2014 and during the year of 2015. Interviews were conducted with the use of
structured and semi structured questionnaires. Obtained data was analyzed with content analysis technique.

HAART arranged an evaluation seminar for this research 30th of October 2015. The purpose of the seminar was to review the draft of the research proving and/or disapproving the facts found and to discuss the educational manuals and their contents. The seminar had around 20 participants drawn from various organizations and institutions working with children both in the public and private sector.

What is child trafficking?

Counter Trafficking in Persons Act (2010) defines human and child trafficking as a situation where:

1. A person commits the offence of trafficking in persons when the person recruits, transports, transfers, harbours or receives another person for the purpose of exploitation by means of— (a) threat or use of force or other forms of coercion; (b) abduction; (c) fraud (d) deception; (e) abuse of power or of position of vulnerability; (f) giving payments or benefits to obtain the consent of the victim of trafficking in persons; or (g) giving or receiving payments or benefits to obtain the consent of a person having control over another person.

2. The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation shall not be relevant where any of the means set out in subsection (1) have been used.

3. The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purposes of exploitation shall be considered “trafficking in persons” even if this does not involve any of the means set out in subsection (1).

4. An act of trafficking in persons may be committed internally within the borders of Kenya or internationally across the borders of Kenya.

By the Counter Trafficking in Persons Act a child shall mean any person under eighteen years of age.

International Organization of Labour (2008) estimates that 1.2 million children are trafficked every year worldwide, but there are no exact numbers of trafficked children. Child trafficking is a widespread and rampant problem in Eastern Africa where Kenya is a source, transit, and destination country for children subjected to trafficking (U.S. Department of State, 2013). Kenya is affected by both internal and international child trafficking, but internal (within borders) trafficking is more rampant (Cradle 2014).
Trafficking violates human rights standards as defined by international law, like the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (United Nations 1989). Trafficked children are usually denied education and salary, but they are also physically, psychosocially and sexually exploited, exposed to harmful working conditions, diseases and early pregnancy (U.S. Department of State, 2007). They are exposed to inhumane living conditions, poor sanitation, inadequate nutrition, poor personal hygiene, occupational hazards and general lack of quality health care (Department of Health and Human Services 2011).

Hence, child trafficking is extremely harmful for the children and their human development. Trafficked children suffer from physical and psychological health issues such as fear, depression, low self-esteem and self-worth, poor social skills, anger and hostility, inability to trust and build meaningful relationships in later life, blurred roles and boundaries, pseudomaturity, sexualized behaviour, guilt, shame, substance misuse, self-harm (including suicide), post-traumatic stress disorder and physical disabilities (ECPAT 2005).

The impacts of child trafficking are also wide-ranging and long-lasting on the community and on the country’s development as a whole. There are severe social and economic impacts on national level, on the community, as well as on the child and her/his family. Trafficked children lack of education and even if they are rescued they have physical and psychological injuries or diseases and they may be unable to study and develop their skills for their later life. Potential productive workers are lost from economy retarding the development of the nation and communities. The children also need health care and rehabilitation which needs resources and funding from their communities and the government.

Child trafficking is also linked to youth unemployment. Victims of child labour are more prone to become less skilled, poorly paid workers, or alternatively remain unemployed. In countries like Kenya unemployed youths are also subjected to radicalization and thus child labour might negatively correlate also with security. (ILO 2015.)
Key Findings

Child trafficking in Kenya – an overview

The results of the data revealed that child trafficking is a significant problem in Kenya and happens across the country. Children, both boys and girls, are trafficked into exploitative practices mostly inside Kenyan borders, but also internationally, from low-income and rural areas to urban areas and the coastal region, usually by someone known to the child. In other cases the children are abducted and trafficked into exploitative practices.

Destination

According to the data children are mostly trafficked nationally. Internal trafficking mainly occurs from low-income and/or rural areas to urban areas and the coastal region, especially to cities like Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Malindi, Diale and Kuale. Although, especially depending on the form of exploitation, children are also trafficked from one rural area to another or internationally. Participants most likely came across internal rather than international trafficking due to the more complex dimensions of international trafficking, which may distort these findings.

Recruitment

Sixteen participants were asked how children are recruited to trafficking. Most of them, 15 out of 16, answered that children are recruited mainly through deception; for example by offering gifts or by promise of better life, education or work opportunities. Kidnapping was also mentioned on 3 occasions and it was seen highest among albinos who are sold mainly for organ harvesting. Traffickers lure children most commonly by manipulation and lies, but also by force and threats, exploiting their vulnerabilities and life situations.
Recruiter

Most often the recruiter, a man or a woman, is:

- Someone known to the child and/or parent(s), such as a:
  - Family member or a relative (mentioned on 13 occasions)
  - Friend, neighbour or someone the parents(s) or the child trust (mentioned on 7 occasions)
  - Parent(s) (mentioned on 6 occasions)
  - Respectable individual in the society or religious leader (discussed at research’s evaluation seminar)
- Member of a gang or a stranger (both mentioned on 2 occasions)
- Staff member of an employment agency or service provider (mentioned on 1 occasion)

The recruiter can be any gender, though most likely men recruit boys and women recruit girls. Often the recruiter is a family member, neighbour, friend or someone the parent(s) or the child trust. Parents may perceive their children as assets and sell their children to bonded labour, sexual exploitation or as brides. Respectable individuals in the society and religious leaders are also possible traffickers, which complicate reporting suspects and rescuing since they pose higher social and/or economical statuses in the community. Service providers may engage to trafficking especially to informal adoptions; most likely by an individual staff member who unpremeditatedly uses the appeared opportunity.

In addition to this, strangers, gangs and employment agencies were mentioned as possible recruiters. There might be an increasing role of criminal groups intertwining with trafficking in Kenya, as gangs were also seen as possible traffickers. Gangs may be formed by local youths engaging to criminal activities and/or adult or child recruiters used to recruit children and youth to be trained by radicalized gangs and militias.

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Amani*, was a sixteen-year-old girl when she dropped out of school because her family didn’t have money for her school fees. Amani’s cousin invited her to travel to Nairobi where the cousin would arrange everything so that Amani would be able to attend hairdressing classes.
When Amani arrived in Nairobi she started studying to become a hairdresser, but her cousin told her she would also have to support them by selling sex to men she would bring to their house. On Friday night the cousin brought a man to their house. While Amani was asleep the cousin and the man entered Amani’s bedroom, trapped her and the man raped Amani. The following morning Amani was threatened by her cousin not to tell anyone.

Fortunately Amani was able to tell what had happened to community workers who took her to hospital, police station and found her a shelter to stay in.

* the name was changed to protect victim’s identity
Types of Exploitation

Sixteen participants were asked what the forms of child trafficking in Kenya are establishing that children are trafficked into different exploitative practices including:

Labour exploitation

Labour exploitation is one of the most common forms of child trafficking in Kenya. Girls, and also younger boys, are mainly trafficked to domestic work. Older boys are trafficked to work on agriculture for example to work in khat and tea farms. Children are also trafficked to collect scrap metal or to work in service industries; small shops, matatus or restaurants.

Sexual exploitation

This type affects mainly girls, but also boys, who are trafficked for sex work and in order to produce pornographic materials throughout Kenya, including in the coastal sex tourism industry.

Marriage

Girls are trafficked as brides inside their own community or to other regions nationally and internationally. Early marriage (marriage of children and adolescents below the age of 18) is still a common cultural practice in Kenya. Girls are trafficked as brides especially from communities where female genital mutilation (FGM) is practiced.

Begging

Children are trafficked to earn money for others by begging or selling goods on the street in urban areas, for example in Nairobi.

Organ removal

Children, especially albinos, are trafficked for organ removal. The organs are used for transplants or for ritual purposes.

Illicit adoption

Children are trafficked for illicit adoption usually informally, adoptions take place nationally and internationally.

Labour and sexual exploitation (both mentioned on 10 occasions), early marriage (mentioned on 6 occasions) are most common forms of child trafficking in Kenya. The data established that children are also trafficked for begging and selling goods at the
streets (mentioned on 5 occasions), organ removal (mentioned on 4 occasions), illicit adoption (mentioned on 3 occasions), terrorism (mentioned on 1 occasion) and trafficking of drugs (mentioned on 1 occasion).

Baraka* was a twelve-year-old boy at the time he was trafficked. Baraka got lost at the streets at Nairobi and he asked for directions from an elderly man.

The man took Baraka to Meru and forced him to work in his khat and maize farm during the days, during the nights Baraka was raped by the elderly man. The exploitation lasted for three years.

Finally Baraka was able to escape from the farm by help of a neighbour who paid his ticket back to Nairobi. Fortunately Baraka met his mother by accident when he was wandering at the streets of Mukuru slum. Baraka was taken to hospital and he is now receiving counselling and therapy. He is also attending school and waiting his case to be processed by the police.

* the name was changed to protect victim’s identity

Almost all participants mentioned that during the process of trafficking, children are not only exploited physically, psychosocially and sexually but they are also denied an education and salary. They may also be trafficked for multiple forms of exploitation.

**Rescue**

Few participants mentioned that many children “just disappear” or are found dead as a result of trafficking. Only few children are rescued from trafficking as most of the victims are not identified as victims of child trafficking by the society and/or by the child. This is one result of lack of knowledge on human trafficking and children’s rights in all levels. Negative attitudes and ignorance towards children and no action against the traffickers also complicate and prevent rescues. Those trafficked by gangs, respectable individuals or religious leaders pose higher risks when it comes to rescuing.

There is also a lack of rescue and recovery services (or knowledge of them), leaving victims and witnesses vulnerable to threats by the traffickers. Some of the traffickers are wealthy, therefore making it easier for them to ensure the law case is thrown out or postponed. Generally corruption facilitates trafficking in Kenya by complicating, disabling and/or preventing rescues and prosecution. The traffickers are likely to know this. Assistance to victims in some instances can also be problematic since child trafficking cases can drag in court, which can prompt the victim to withdraw as a material witness in the case proceedings.
Rescues, when they do happen, commonly start when a member of local community or media reports a suspect to an NGO, chief, church, police or children's officer.

**Secondary Exploitation and Victimization**

*Secondary exploitation* is physical and/or psychosocial exploitation during trafficking or rescue process conducted, usually unplanned, by bystanders (by persons present at some point but not directly involved to trafficking). Secondary exploitation is a part of a wider problem, *secondary victimization*, which encase secondary exploitation, but also victim-blaming and negative attitudes and behaviors engaged by communities and service providers, which impact on the victim’s well being and recovery.

The data revealed the existence of secondary exploitation towards trafficked children; especially trafficked children living on the streets are in risk of being sexually exploited and pushed by bystanders. Pushing occurs especially if the child is trafficked to forced begging. The data also revealed that there are incidents of secondary exploitation of rescued victims, especially in the form of sexual exploitation, committed by service providers.

Secondary victimization was also identified since victim-blaming attitudes towards trafficked children were mentioned on 3 occasions. The children may be blamed for their own situation as one participant stated “you should have known”, though trafficking is never the child’s fault, even if he/she showed consent to it. Negative attitudes and ignorance from the general population towards children was also mentioned on 4 occasions, which may lead to secondary victimization.
Esther*, is a thirteen-year-old girl who was confined for months and raped by a man nearly three times her age. She was held as a prisoner in the abuser’s home for months and she became pregnant with her abuser. To make matters worse it was her own father who had handed her over to her abuser in exchange of monetary compensation.

Esther escaped when a local priest discovered her at the house where she was being held. The priest reported the matter to the police, who came and arrested her captor, but they also arrested Esther. She had to spend three nights in police cells before she was transferred to one of Kenya’s few crisis centers for pregnant teens.

Now Esther is in a slow and painful process of filing a lawsuit against her abuser and suffers from psychological health consequences of trafficking. Though she is under eighteen years old, she has to go through rape exam. Even if her abuser is convicted, there is no promise that Esther and her unborn child, also a victim of trafficking, will see any reparations.

Esther is allowed to stay in the teen crisis centre for only a few weeks after the birth of her baby. Her older sister had been abused by the same man who assaulted Esther, and she is also pregnant for her abuser.

* the name was changed to protect victim’s identity

What makes children vulnerable to trafficking and what are the potential risk groups?

Participants were asked what makes children vulnerable to trafficking besides poverty, the data revealed that participants focused to so called push factors as:

- Lack of parental care and guidance, abandonment and abuse of the child (mentioned on 13 occasions), which is linked to:
  - Single-parenthood (mentioned on 5 occasions)
  - Parent’s being infected with HIV if leads to single-parenthood or orphanhood (mentioned on 1 occasion)
  - Parent’s misuse of alcohol (mentioned on 1 occasion)
  - Large family size (mentioned on 1 occasion)
- Cultural factors, such as:
  - FGM (mentioned on 8 occasions)
  - General ignorance and negative attitudes towards children (mentioned on 4 occasion)
- Lack of awareness of child trafficking and children’s rights (mentioned on 11 occasions)
- Lack of education and opportunities (mentioned on 5 occasions)
- Lack of combat against human trafficking:
  - Lack of prevention, protection and rescue mechanisms and cooperation (mentioned on 2 occasions)
  - Lack of governmental, systematic, data collection and follow up (mentioned on 1 occasion)
  - Lack of Government’s combat against child trafficking (mentioned on 1 occasion)
  - Corruption (discussed at research’s evaluation seminar)
The participants were also asked who are the most vulnerable children to trafficking. The answers were:

- Orphans (mentioned on 10 occasions)
- Both girls and boys; girls (mentioned on 8 occasions), boys (mentioned on 1 occasions), both boys and girls (mentioned on 3 occasions)
- Street children (mentioned on 6 occasions)
- Disabled children (mentioned on 2 occasions)
- Children left to care of others (mentioned on 2 occasions)
- Albinos (mentioned on 1 occasion)
- Children living in refugee camps (mentioned on 1 occasion)
- Children living near highway (mentioned on 1 occasion)

The answers to these two questions are closely linked to each other. Besides poverty, lack of parental care and guidance, abandonment and abuse of the child makes children especially vulnerable to trafficking. These children more likely search for opportunities elsewhere or runaway and end up fending for themselves in very dangerous environments, as orphans and street children are especially vulnerable to trafficking. Most of the vulnerable groups mentioned, are somehow linked to lack of parental care and guidance and may face ignorance and negative attitudes more likely than other groups since they are left without proper care and protection.

Lack of awareness in communities, among vulnerable children and their guardians, raises the risk of children being trafficked remarkably. Lack of combat against human trafficking seems also to put children at risk, though this finding may also relate to lack of knowledge of actions taken. Corruption facilitates trafficking in all levels; complicating, disabling and/or preventing rescues and prosecution but also by weakening the county’s rule of law and development.

Lack of education also impacts on the child's vulnerability towards trafficking. Children, or children whose parents, lack of education are more likely to not fully understand their rights and seek opportunities elsewhere. In addition to this, these children more likely come from low-income backgrounds and might be encouraged to work to support their guardians.

**Gender**

The data revealed that gender-based factors also impact on children’s vulnerability to trafficking. Cultural practices such as FGM (mentioned on 8 occasions) and ignorance towards girls’ education (mentioned on 2 occasions) and general negative attitudes
towards girls heightens girls’ vulnerability. Negative attitudes were also present at some interviews, for example one participant stated “boys and girls are both at the same risk, but girls more often come back and complain”. Girls may also flee their families and communities and end up in vulnerable situation if FGM or early marriage is practiced in their community or if they face other forms of gender based violence.

Though girls were mentioned repeatedly, boys are also vulnerable to trafficking; boys are especially vulnerable being trafficked to work in agriculture and service industries, but also for sexual exploitation and other forms of exploitation.

Maria*, comes from a polygamous family. Her mother is the youngest among the three wives, Maria has 7 siblings from her mother.

At the age of eleven Maria was forced to undergo circumcision and she was to be married off by her parents on the same month and the dowry negotiation started right away. Maria was denied to move from her parents’ house, because her parents were afraid she would run away. She wanted to commit suicide because she felt her parents were denying her to achieve her dreams of becoming an engineer. After one month her alleged husband along with four other men came to pick her up and took her against her will.

When Maria and the men were on their way, Maria spotted a van of World Vision and she ran and went to seek help from them. Maria got help and her parents were told to allow her go back to school or face the law. Maria’s parents allowed her to continue her studies, but she moved to stay with her sister. Her father paid for her school fees only for the fear of being jailed. Every time he sold a cow for her school fees, he counted the cow as one died in the forest or eaten by a lion, because he thought that educating a girl was a waste of resources.

After finishing high school, Maria’s father told her that she was forgiven by her father and she could go back home to stay with them. When Maria went back home she was kept inside the compound against her will and she was under her mother’s watch all the time. She heard her father talking with relatives about the plans of the man who was supposed to marry her before. The man was coming to pick her up again very soon.

Fortunately one day Maria’s parents attended a dowry party in the neighbourhood and Maria got the chance to run away. She had saved 300 KSh and borrowed 200 KSh from her brother so she had enough money to take a bus to Nairobi, where she sought help from her cousin who took her to his house. Maria’s cousin didn’t feel that Maria was safe at the house so later Maria was taken to a shelter. Now Maria is waiting to go back to school and she is safe from her family.

* the name was changed to protect victim’s identity
Prevention

When asked the best ways to prevent children from being trafficked, the responses were profound, but nearly all participants mentioned awareness in some form. “Awareness” (mentioned 10 times) encompassed the need to educate parents, children and members of local communities on the issues surrounding human trafficking. Participants suggested workshops and counseling sessions to generate a greater awareness.

The second most frequently mentioned preventative measure was “creating opportunities” (mentioned 5 times). “Opportunities” referred to the need to create opportunities for accessibility to education, sponsorship, training and activities which keep young people engaged and busy, thus preventing them from engaging in risky behaviour and becoming vulnerable.

“Empowerment” was the third most mentioned preventative measure and it is closely linked to opportunities and education. By educating young people and creating opportunities within communities, we empower them by giving them the chance to make something of themselves and escape the cycle of poverty which is often the driving force for many children becoming victims of trafficking.

Level of awareness and institutions capacity to prevent trafficking

Unfortunately the study revealed that some participants interviewed had a very limited understanding of the concept of child trafficking. Many participants gave responses like “selling human beings or using them for selfish purposes”, “stealing of human beings”, “when you take a child from one place to another without the knowledge of the parent” or “I don't know the purpose of buying children”.

This finding establishes that the institutions dealing with children do not have adequate capacity to prevent children from being victims of human trafficking, since there is a lack of knowledge with staff either responsible for managing those in direct contact with potential risk groups or staff working directly with potential risk groups.
Teacher’s Manual and Handout for children

Participants interviewed were asked what should be the content of the Teacher’s Manual and the Handout for children and how the manuals should be constructed. The answers revealed the Teacher’s Manual and the Handout for children should ensure that the children are taught, in a child friendly form:

- Children’s basic human rights
- What is child trafficking:
  - Forms of child trafficking
  - How and by whom the children are recruited
  - How child trafficking affect children
- How to protect yourself
- Process of rescue and where to get help

To ensure the children have:

- Critical abilities to identify dangerous situations and possible traffickers
- Abilities to decline orders set by adults if those orders violate children’s human rights

The manuals should also focus on giving children life skills through interactive activities and address the general misunderstanding in the use of terms trafficking and abuse. The importance of sharing the information and raising awareness against child trafficking among (other) children, officials and local community, should be highlighted in both manuals.

Teacher’s Manual

The teacher’s manual should contain activities (for example case studies, drama, role-play, group discussions and debates) and lesson plans of human trafficking for different age-groups. The possible presence of traumatized and/or trafficked children in the classroom as well as factors influencing children’s participation, for example gender norms - should be taken into account when developing the educational tools and activities.

The Teacher’s Manual should also contain the following information for teachers:

- Potential risk groups
- How to protect children from trafficking
- How to identify a trafficked child and a child who may be at immediate risk being trafficked
How to confront and communicate with a trafficked and often traumatized child
What to do when suspecting trafficking
List of rescue centers

Handout for children

The handout for children should contain information of child trafficking for the children and their guardians. It should be constructed in a simple and child friendly form and the information addressed to children should be in forms such as:

- Art/pictures
- Poetry
- Cartoons

The Handout should also contain relevant information of child trafficking for the guardians; where to report suspects and what to do if your child has been trafficked. Guardians also need to be educated on children’s rights to ensure they have the knowledge to protect their children.

Conclusion

The data collected reveals that child trafficking in Kenya is alarmingly widespread and there is a lack of preventive and protective measures against it. Albeit all children, from all different backgrounds, can be trafficked to all forms of exploitation by different recruiters; the groups mentioned in this research are in higher risk and more vulnerable to trafficking and some of these groups are more vulnerable to certain forms of recruitment and exploitation. There might be differences in the weight and power of vulnerability between members of the same vulnerable group, especially when multiple risk factors accumulate to group members in different levels.

Child trafficking seems to be an intersectional problem where children occupying the marginal positions in the society are considered potential risk groups; such as orphans, street children, albinos, children lacking education and opportunities and children living in poverty. Risk factors and preventive actions are closely linked to vulnerable groups. It seems that besides forms of exploitation, risk factors and preventive actions taken accumulate in vulnerable groups. As Figure 1 illustrates, also risk factors determine current vulnerable groups, vulnerable groups identified effect on
Besides poverty, lack of parental care and guidance, cultural practices such as FGM, negative attitudes towards children and other cultural norms such as raising children always to obey adults heightens children’s vulnerability to trafficking. Children who lack of knowledge about human trafficking, their basic human rights and critical abilities to protect themselves, are also in higher risk of being trafficked. Though girls were mentioned repeatedly as more vulnerable to trafficking than boys, are boys also vulnerable to trafficking and they shouldn’t be, in any form, forgotten in protection mechanisms and actions taken. Harmful gender based cultural norms and factors impact on children’s, both boys’ and girls’, vulnerability towards trafficking significantly.

Other cultural factors, such as ignorance and negative attitudes towards children, also heighten children’s vulnerability to trafficking and secondary victimization. These factors also prevent rescues and complicate re-integration of rescued children. Culture is also linked to form of recruitment and exploitation, for example girls from communities where FGM or early marriage is practiced, faces greater risk of being trafficked for marriage by their own parents.
Vulnerable groups and form of exploitation are linked to form of recruitment. Children from low-income families, who lack of parental care and guidance, are more likely trafficked by their parents, relatives or someone known to them. If they flee from home, they may face different dangerous situations living on streets, making them vulnerable towards other recruiters as strangers and towards different forms of exploitation. The purpose of trafficking, the form of exploitation, and the targeted group often determine the form of recruitment as Figure 2 illustrates. For example albinos, who are mainly recruited for organ harvesting, face greater risk of being kidnapped by a stranger.

The children are trafficked to various exploitative practices, most often by someone known to the child, causing serious consequences to the child's and his/hers community's development and future. There might also be increasing role of criminal groups intertwining with human trafficking in Kenya, which may pose trafficking even more dangerous and life threatening to children. Once the child is trafficked, it is likely that the child is never rescued. Even if the child is rescued, problems and dangers in the rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration processes may occur leaving the child even in a more vulnerable situation.

The study reveals that raising awareness among children and their communities is fundamental in preventing child trafficking and protecting the most vulnerable children and in increasing the number of identified and rescued victims. The quality of the teaching and training provided for children and local communities is not sufficient especially as most of the participants who worked directly with potential risk groups could not properly define and explain child trafficking. It is fair to assume that if staff in these institutions are not adequately trained and informed about issues around human
trafficking, the children in their care may not fully understand their rights. There is thus a need to provide quality in-depth training to staff who work with children as well as the children and also to ensure information about human trafficking and children’s rights are incorporated into their curriculum and/or training programmes.

**Recommendations**

**Awareness**

Awareness of child trafficking should be increased besides children, guardians and local communities, but also among staff working in institutions dealing with children to ensure they are able to protect and empower children and identify victims of child trafficking. The Government, with the support of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), should ensure that all children are made aware of child trafficking and their rights to ensure children have critical abilities to identify dangerous situations and to protect themselves. Researchers recommend that human trafficking is included into the National Curriculum of Kenya.

**Capacity Building of service providers**

Government should provide training for stakeholders and staff in every institution which cares for children regardless of the potential risk of the children. The training should be regularly conducted in order to ensure staff is up to date and aware of current changes in law and policy. General training of staff in institutions dealing with orphans and other vulnerable children is needed on the complex issues surrounding human trafficking; victim protection, including case management, referral, physical & psychosocial rehabilitation (including counseling) and monitoring & reporting.

They also need to be trained on how to spot the signs of trafficking and exploitation and be able to work alongside and in cohabitation with other organizations and local authorities for example social services, victim support networks, rehabilitation centers and the local police to ensure victims are given the best possible support available. The staff should also be trained in order to prevent tolerance towards gender based discrimination, violence and abuse, which put children from all genders in risk of being trafficked.
Cooperation and information sharing

Because human trafficking is complex and multi-dimensional phenomena, cooperation between central and local government agencies, NGOs and local community organizations is vital in combating human trafficking and for the well-being of trafficking victims. As the various sectors of providers have gained more knowledge of the necessary elements of meeting the needs of trafficking victims, a concurrent recognition has occurred that no agency can do it alone. It is due to reasons such as this that collaboration among various service providers must increase to meet the multiple needs of trafficking victims.

All public and private, national and international, central and local agencies working in the area of anti-trafficking, education, children, health care, child protection, social work, migration, law enforcement, prosecution, human rights, social and economic development and labour and employment services should be involved in the combat against child trafficking.

Further Research

Further research should explore the rescue of child trafficking victims and the process of the rescue; factors influencing why many of the victims aren’t rescued, what should be done to enable rescues of children and how to make the rescue process safe for the child.

Further research should also be done to examine various differences according to the criteria of gender. The following questions should be asked; What are the differences of girls and boys in relation to vulnerabilities, forms of trafficking, exploitation and consequences of trafficking? What actions should be taken to combat the cultural gender based practices which make children vulnerable to trafficking? Why there was disparity in the number of boys and girls entering the children’s homes, children’s rehabilitation centers and orphanages interviewed? Do institutions find it easier to work with and rehabilitate girls versus boys? If more institutions are in fact more willing to take on girls, what then happens to the young vulnerable boys? Do they then become more at risk being left to fend for themselves? Will we begin to see the demographics change and witness an increase in the number of boys being trafficked? All these are questions we must consider when looking at the causes and preventative actions in the future.
References