



Newsletter

Issue #16

October – November 2020 review

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Upcoming events

- 25th November 2020 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- 2nd December 2020 - International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

editorial

Welcome to the 16th issue of our Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking newsletter. This edition champions trauma-informed, victim-centred, multi-agency approach in line with the national regulation. We highlight operational review and partnerships that we embarked on; as first responders in the month of October and November.

Please Enjoy Reading our Newsletter!

Nimo Ali
Director, Candle of Hope Foundation

TOWARDS REPUTABLE ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING LAWS

Organ harvesting: Inside Somalia’s new illegal organ trade

MOGADISHU: Fatiya* is a 13 year old who goes to work every day as a house help in a rich suburbs of Mogadishu but lives with her mother in one the most impoverished shantytowns of Mogadishu. She doubles up as one of the ‘children hunters’ who roam around streets to snap up children. What she does is unlawful but she is coerced into it by agents of a new organ trade syndicate. They have taken advantage of the cruel poverty that defines lives of people in the shantytowns. In many countries, her action constitutes human trafficking for organs removal, a serious crime that could land her more than 30 years in prison. But at her age she might not understand the risk of spending decades behind bars.

Fatiya works on an order basis. Each time she manages to take a child to the agents, she gets 1000 Somali shillings, that's approximately US\$1.74. The “reward” is enticing enough to make a young, unsuspecting girl like Fatiya help the dealers of the illegal organ trade.

The latest order was botched after she “mistakenly” told her mother who got extremely shocked and reported the matter to the police. The police raided the house of the syndicate and managed to rescue 12 children who were reportedly going to be trafficked to Kenya for other destinations through the Mandera border. Although the victims were later transferred to a safe house and the family tracing exercise launched, the perpetrators are still scot free. In

Somaliland, there is no comprehensive legal framework to address human trafficking. The law enforcers, prosecutorial personnel, and judicial officers remain understaffed, undertrained, and lack capacity to effectively enforce anti-trafficking laws. On October 30th, COHF shepherded a capacity building sitting involving the Government of Somaliland to develop a training regime for police and judicial officers to help in identifying and intervening on issues of human trafficking.

COHF is also continuously petitioning the Government of Somaliland to sign and ratify international conventions on counter-trafficking

**This personal story has been published with the consent of the victim. The name has been changed to protect the victims’ identity.*

PROTECTIVE TECHNIQUES & AWARENESS

Why well trained care givers have the capacity to support survivors to avoid future exploitation

Shelters provide safe accommodation for victims who have been or are at risk of being subjected to exploitation. In addition, they contribute to far more essential aspects of protection rather than just a safe place to stay. These are the services and resources which enable victims who have experienced abuse to recover from exploitation, to re-establish self-esteem and to take steps to reintegrate back into the society. With proper resources and

well trained caregivers, shelters have the capacity to provide the range of protection and support services necessary to help survivors to avoid future exploitation.

On October 8th, we visited 2 shelters; to offer psychosocial support to victims and training care givers on practices that would assist survivors acquire protective skills, enabling them to detect and identify perpetrators and as a result, avoid future exploitation.

TRAININGS \$ TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Weekly virtual Trainings on information management

COHF is currently participating in weekly virtual trainings facilitated by GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft Für Internationale Zusammenarbeit). The trainings and interactive exercises began on October 21st and run on every Wednesday until December 9th. The sessions cover victim information management and are aimed at improving data protection practices among various stakeholders in CTiP; in their collective capacity to assist human trafficking victims and survivors.

MIGRATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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Human trafficking is always an exploitation of vulnerability and hopelessness is a main determining factor in victims' recruitment. Migrants are among the most vulnerable population. This vulnerability can arise in an instant, as a result of conflict escalation or after a natural disaster. The journey of a refugee is based with vulnerabilities at every stage and people forced to migrate usually need money, food

The trauma they experience may dispose them to be less-self protected and enable them to be easily coerced as victims of trafficking. Perhaps more importantly people forced to migrate lack community and social structure and network; if they are trafficked nobody will miss them and nobody would look for them.

Traffickers also exploit the drive of people who want better life for themselves. COHF establishes that hopelessness as a determining factor in victim recruitment. There is a need to supplementary civic education on migrants, refugees and asylum seekers on opportunities and risks involving relocation and migration

TRENDS & INTELLIGENCE GAPS NOTED

Trends:

Human Trafficking has continued throughout the Covid 19 pandemic

- Criminals have increased online sexual exploitation.
- Criminals moving sometimes in the guise of essential service providers
- There is an increase in forced begging, domestic servitude and prostitution

Intelligence Gaps:

- More intelligence is required around the threat of child trafficking.
- The prevalence of child trafficking across Kenya and Somalia
- Awareness of human trafficking signs, indicators and ways to report to the local authorities

The Girls for girls' campaign initiative



During one of the Girls for girls' awareness in Berbera where we facilitated safe spaces for women and girls to have conversations on how to avoid sexual and other forms of exploitation

We facilitated 4 **Girls for girls' awareness campaigns** in Berbera in November. Through the girls for girls' model, COHF is creating a safe space for women, young women and girls to discuss private subjects without fear or judgment. These spaces are also designed to discuss realities facing women in the society and how to make informed personal decisions. The sessions create an enabling environment that provides training for women, and particularly young women, to engage in direct dialogue with experienced women in matters concerning reproductive health, sexual exploitation as well as global women's human rights

“ I am confident that we will one day end the scourge of modern slavery, because I believe in those committed to this issue.”

— Barack Obama.



Thanks

for reading this issue of our newsletter

Partners



Directorate of
Criminal Investigations



Republic of Somaliland
Ministry of Employment
Social Affairs and Family

STOP THE TRAFFIK
PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE BOUGHT & SOLD



LIBERTY SHARED

CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT
SAFE FROM TRAFFICKING

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