Candle of Hope Foundation

Gender equality and Justice
Campaign against human trafficking
Candle of hope foundation engaged in prevention, protection and partnership activities in September.

**PREVENTION**

Since initiation, we have covered quite a large area with our; **Girls’ for Girls** and **Hope for the horn** awareness campaigns in both Kenya and Somaliland.

We are targeting potential victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation and educating the community on: How to identify victims of trafficking, how to differentiate between human trafficking and human smuggling, the importance of their role in combating human trafficking and how and where to whistle blow.

We are encouraging the essence of safe migration and are targeting potential vulnerable migrants.

**CHALLENGES**

Among the challenges we encountered are:

- **Lack of penetration** – Due to the poor road infrastructure of areas we are targeting especially in Somaliland, we were not able to reach most of our targeted areas. This has also been further aggravated by the ongoing rains.

- **Insecurity** – Due to the impassable roads also, security patrols particularly in Marsabit District in Northern Kenya have reduced making our movements also challenging.

- **Lack of motivation** – Lack of enough funds have made our champions to concentrate on other economic activities for their sustainability ahead of the campaigns.
PARTNERSHIP

We participated in a regional CSO network call where we discussed among others:

1. Ways of improving communication nationally and regionally within the network.
2. Accepting and assimilating best practices in better migration management so as to protect the vulnerable victims.

PROTECTION

We intercepted victims who were illegally transported from Somalia to Kenya and in partnership with the offices of the Director of Public Prosecution (ODPP) in Kenya and Director of Criminal Investigations (DCI) in Kenya; we were able to secure a safe house for them.

The 10 victims (2 adults and 8 minors) were accommodated at a safe house awaiting court hearing to ascertain as to whether they were smuggled or trafficked.

The two adults were released on bail while the minors are still in legal custody awaiting the next case process on 18th of October 2019. We are liaising with the ODPP and DCI’s office to ascertain the welfare of the remanded children.

OUR IMPACT

i. We were able to raise alarm, coordinate and collaborate with the relevant authorities so as to assist the victims.

ii. We supported the victims with provision of basic essentials such as food items and clothing.

iii. We also offered moral and psychosocial support through giving them advices.

CHALLENGES

During the ordeal, we encountered challenges such as:

- **Lack of adequate safe houses** - The number of safe houses in Nairobi is limited and very congested.

- **Prejudiced safe houses** – Most of the safe houses we contacted were unwilling to accommodate the victims due to the fact that they were foreigners and termed them as being “too demanding” in terms of their types of food, language barrier and many more reasons that sounded vague.

- **Expensive safe houses** – Some available safe houses ask for colossal upkeep fees.