Candle of Hope Foundation

Monthly bulletin – issue 11
(February, 2020)

Gender equality and Justice
Campaign against human trafficking
Impact of our partnership on an ongoing repatriation process

A case of Aisha * 12 who was trafficked to Kenya from Uganda and sexually assaulted by her father who was convicted

When her mother died, Aisha lived with her grandmother but longed to spend more time with her father, who abandoned them when she was still very young. She told a heartbroken courtroom.

She was transported to Kenya to reunite with her father who had remarried. “When I heard that I was going to live with my dad I was very happy,” she said. “I would finally be able to see my dad more and also be able to live with the only remaining parent. I wish I hadn’t had such high expectations since I was greatly let down.”

In a heartbreaking testimony, she recounted how her father, (who is supposed to protect her) repeatedly raped her and threatened to kill her if she disclosed the happenings to anyone.

But through the responsiveness of a neighbor, who had become increasingly worried by Aisha’s low-spirited attitude, she was able to reveal her predicaments. It is then, when the neighbor decided to seek intervention. With assistance from COHF, other CSO’s, and the Directorate of Criminal Investigation, Aisha was able to be rescued and taken to a safe house as the father, who turned to be her tormentor was pursued and apprehended.

Through collaboration and partnership, COHF and other CSOs helped the victim to seek justice. We were also able to assist Aisha overcome trauma by offering moral and psychosocial support as efforts to trace her family members was underway.

“I have started to value my life again and am looking forward to a better future,” says Aisha. Conveying appreciation for her counselors and psychotherapists, she adds, “It is through them that I came to realize my rights.”

Last year, Aisha testified in court against her father. Demonstrating tremendous courage, she told her story and stood her ground amidst threats from her aunts.

Currently, through the Ministry of immigration, we are finalizing her repatriation process as we are liaising with our Ugandan partners to assist in tracing Aisha’s family member so that she may reunite with her grandmother.
Prevention

Girls for girls’ initiative

This is a campaign whose focus is reducing child exploitation and sex trafficking rates in the marginalized areas. It was initiated to provide training, technical assistance, and resources to volunteers engaged in anti-trafficking efforts by COHF as well as community awareness and public policy support.

This initiative is supported by well-wishers and friends of candle of hope foundation.

Our objective

This campaign will increase awareness in the trafficking routes and restore dignity to humanity in the horn of Africa.

Outputs to deliver by Dec 2020

- 100,000 residents are fully able to identify victims of human trafficking in the targeted regions.
- 100,000 residents are aware of where and how whistleblowing is done. Cases reported to authorities should increase
- 100,000 residents understand the difficulties which victims undergo after being trafficked

Feb results

More volunteers have joined us in the 5 regions we are targeting both in Kenya and Somaliland. We have been able to reach out to more individuals through our meeting held at bus terminuses and other areas we are targeting.

Through a post activity survey that we conducted:

I. More people are now able to identify potential victims of human trafficking and prevent the victims from being trafficked.

II. More People are now aware of where and how whistleblowing can be done in case they suspect an issue.

III. More people understand the predicaments victims undergo if trafficked