Report on World Day against Trafficking in Persons event held 30th July 2019 at Imperial Royale – Kampala, Uganda.

The Uganda Coalition against Trafficking in Persons (UCATIP) is a network of CSOs involved in anti-trafficking or similar field. It comprises of over 30 CSOs and aims to increase the collective impact to end trafficking in persons, advocate for system reform and provide best aftercare and legal services to survivors.

You and Me, lets help set them free - Working to Eliminate Human Trafficking

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Sarah Kakayi, Coalition Coordinator – Uganda Coalition against Trafficking in Persons (UCATIP): August 2019

INTRODUCTION

The most recent estimate suggests that the government reported identifying at least **276 victims in 2017**, as compared with **270 in 2016**. Of the **276 trafficking victims**, **82 children and 134 adults were victims of forced labor, and two children and 38 adults were victims of sex trafficking *(Source: 2018 Trafficking in Persons Report – US Embassy in Uganda)*.** 30th July 2019 World Day against Trafficking in Persons commemorations were held in Imperial Royale – Kampala. Each year, international days adopt a different theme which is meant to address different aspects of the particular issue. This year's was focusing on the importance of government action in the interest of victims of human trafficking. As Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Uganda involved in tackling issues of anti-human trafficking, we partnered with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and other international organisations like Terre des Hommes (TDH) and International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to conduct activities centered on the enhancement of government engagement in anti-trafficking efforts.

The event:

The World Day against Trafficking in Persons event was attended by over 400 people. It was graced by judges, media houses, members of parliament, government agencies, development partners, academia, foreign embassies, CSOs, Private Sector, survivors of the crime of human trafficking, children, religious leaders and the public at large. Delegates had the opportunity to hear from key experts and frontline workers to refresh their knowledge and share best practice to ensure that victims are identified quickly in the local community and get the best possible support.

It has and continues to be sickening watching images of young men, women and children shown on national media showing signs of exploitation, torture and abuse as a result of human trafficking. Human trafficking remains a reality. This abhorrent crime takes place across the globe and behind closed doors. It is happening under our noses and in Uganda at large. Women and children are being exploited in our towns, villages, cross boarder and communities every day. The victims are hidden from view and many people may never know this cruel practice is taking place on our streets, hotels, schools, and means of transportation among other places

and in all forms. Anybody, no matter the sex, gender, age, religious affiliation and nationality can become a victim of trafficking. However, traffickers usually target people who are desperate and vulnerable. Poverty, unemployment, lack or minimal family support and to some extent peer pressure and emotional vulnerability can all cause being targeted by human traffickers.

It is against this background that we joined forces with UNODC to stage an event on 30th July which is world widely known as **World Day against Trafficking in Persons**. The global theme by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was focusing on highlighting the importance of government action in the interest of victims of trafficking. This call for action was not only to governments but encouraging everyone to take action to prevent this crime.

The program for the event included speakers; Judge Margret Mutonyi, representative from the Permanent Secretary – Internal Affairs office, development partners from IOM, Terre des Hommes and GIZ-BMM, CP Moses Binoga –Coordinator PTIP, Ms Annette Kirabira from Rahab and UCATIP Chairperson and Damon Wamara from Dwelling Places. The moderator was Ms Mildred Tuhaise - NBS Television.

The event was attended by several dignitaries including key stakeholders such as government officials from Foreign Consulates; Ambassadors, Ministry of Internal and Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Gender, Office of the Director of Public Prosecution(ODPP), Labour and Social Development. About 10 Ugandan Members of Parliament also attended. The event was graced by members of the public, CSOs, media fraternity and some survivors of human trafficking.

Objectives of the day

1. Create more awareness on the achievements and gaps identified in the implementation of the PTIP since it was passed into Law.
2. To rally more government support in the enhancement of the implementation of the PTIP law.
3. Share information on safeguarding and also how to access services within already existing structures.

One of the speakers; the Executive Director, Rahab and the Chairperson of Uganda Coalition against Trafficking in Persons (UCATIP) – Mrs.Annette Kirabira reminded people that this is a day that is commemorated globally. Trafficking in Persons (TIP) is a global issue and Uganda has not been spared. Most people in this room have heard of domestic or cross-border

trafficking. We're not celebrating the day but we're commemorating it. UCATIP brings together over 40 CSOs involved in anti-TIP work of Protection, Prevention, Partnership, and Prosecution. We raise awareness, trainings, offer aftercare care services like medical, shelter, counseling, skills training, job placement and start-up businesses. We sharpen each other, share best practices and refer cases to one another. We have a law that mandates the COPTIP headed by Mr. Binoga Moses - the Ministry of Internal Affairs and has the national taskforce. This brings together government agencies and CSOs. We work together to prevent, provide services for victims.

Below are some of the remarks/excerpts from the Keynote Speaker Judge Margaret Mutonyi:

It's a very important day although very sad that we are gathered here to discuss issues that shouldn't be happening in this century. It's barbaric and immoral. As the world recognizes the heinous crime, that is a crime against humanity, we believe the ambassadors gathered here will come up with a holistic solution. The enactment of the PTIP was a step in the positive direction, but there're gaps left. Legislation should inform this discussion. I would like to thank the government for creating a conducive environment for CSOs to work towards fighting these challenges and trying to fill in the gaps created.

In 2003, the Palermo Protocol established a universal definition for TIP and set an agenda for countries to combat. TIP thrives in darkness, fraud, coercion and deception. The majority of victims are women and girls who are trafficked for sexual exploitation and labor. We focus too much on sex and not enough on labor and child sacrifice. Trafficking within the country and across borders is mainly caused by poverty and political instability. In Uganda, most affected areas include labor externalization. Some have not survived this vice. Human trafficking within Uganda involves recruiting children under 16 as house laborers and street children for begging and sexual exploitation. Getting children from Karamoja to Kampala's streets is one of the vivid examples. There's child sacrifice, which involves taking body parts (spiritual healers) to facilitate their rituals. The Uganda government has embraced the international framework and passed the PTIP Act, 2009. It is the role of the government to ensure its citizens are protected from trafficking by putting in place safeguards and ensuring victims are rehabilitated and protected. Labor externalization involves sending Ugandans to foreign countries to provide labor. Lately

the focus has been on the Middle East where some housemaids have been subjected to horrendous issues.

Trafficking into Uganda from foreign companies and investors also happens. As a chief magistrate in 2005 in Nakawa, we presided over a case where two Ethiopian girls were charged for illegal entry. Their bosses removed their passports and subjected them to strip for the rich Indian community in a pub along Kampala road. This is exploitation. They tried to use the law to force them into submission. We didn't have the law, but we knew something was wrong. We knew they were victims rather than perpetrators. The Indians who brought them disappeared. We wrote to Internal Affairs to make sure the girls could go back to India. However, the girls disappeared and nothing much is known about this case.

When boys and girls go for employment, they enter into a contract between the foreign employer and the Ugandan recruitment agency. However, their passports are removed when they get to the country which means they're already enslaved because they don't have freedom to leave the job. They can't get a plane ticket. The government needs to set up more strict majors to curb this vice. How do you get the victim whose movements are restricted?

We need the government to sign treaties with recipient countries laying out the terms of settlement for Ugandan citizens and standard measures if a citizen is to be repatriated.

The government should follow the treaties mentioned above and restrict citizens from working with countries without such treaties.

The ministry of gender should take on the direct responsibility by creating a specialized unit under the ministry of gender and ensure the following.

1. Set terms and conditions of employment.

2. Avail that information to the employee before any sort of negotiations can be entered into and fully involve the employee in these discussions.

3. Coordinate all documents needed both here and abroad. The foreign investors should not come in if there are people in Uganda who can do the work. Creating jobs for Ugandans should reduce the numbers of desperate people. Foreign companies should pay Ugandans the same as they pay in their own countries, not less.

4. It's a glaring fact that the government acknowledges the inadequacy of jobs for its youth population which leads to them being trafficked to foreign countries. The government should appreciate the efforts of other countries that create jobs for its citizens by having an established framework. This should exclude exploitation of Ugandans between villages to be casual laborers in factories and paid little money.

5. The government should set a minimum wage, which would reduce human trafficking because people would be empowered to provide for themselves.

6. Ugandans need to work here in their country rather than suffer in a foreign country. We have Ugandans in servitude. Then we have children from the villages trafficked and employed here.

7. The government should ensure measures to make sure there is permission with clear identification documents before a child is allowed to travel from place A to B. Document should confirm the ages of these children and create stricter safe guarding measures for children under 16.

8. Because of security, we all have houses with walls. We can't know what is happening behind them, but we have law enforcement agencies which should be empowered to launch campaigns for ad hoc inspections of premises, bars, restaurants, disco halls, so we can rescue children employed in insidious employment. We think we don't have the power, but they do have the right to go to homes and find out.

9. Human sacrifice: It's unbelievable that people still believe in child sacrifice. Children are kidnapped and murdered. The practice is common in this country because people still believe in witchcraft. There is a group of people who disguise as traditional healers with the sole purpose of continuing this vice. On Child sacrifice, the witch doctors once imprisoned live peacefully in prisons like normal people; the Government should regulate their operations and not allow them to operate in bushy areas for people to know their operations which would eliminate human sacrifice especially affecting children.

10. Regarding the issue of adoption. A child can easily be taken for exploitation and government may never know. The government has regulations within the country but we

don't have a system in place for following up on the child. The government hands it over as if it's the biological parent but they're not Ugandan parents. We need to follow up and make sure the adoption was in the BI of the child. We have a child from Uganda taken to SA and the child was killed and organs taken but the case died in December mysteriously. The person adopting the child did a medical test to find out the organs of the child. That should have been a sign to a judge that they were interested in the functionality of the organs of the child. Protection and rehabilitation of victims and section 12 of the 2009 act provides for this. And section 15 provides for restitution and compensation. Some of the offenders are poor so, the provisions are futile with no legal effect. Some of them self-harm as mental anguish cannot be solved with money. The government needs to come in. We had an incidence of a child who was taken for ritual sacrifice and survived. Efforts to try to get help from the government to go for reconstruction were futile. He went for reconstruction in California on private funds.

11. The need for specialized courts and trauma centers: Survivors are more traumatized and mutilated. They're affected mentally, physically, psychologically. They don't think there is any punishment that can atone. They may not want to be reminded of the ordeal. Specialized courts would minimize the pain. We presided over a tip case under defilement. A man from the neighborhood tied her legs apart when she was 10 and raped her. She went home shattered. The trial went on for four years. She was 14 when she appeared before a court case. The perpetuator was a male and the defense was a male. The girl kept crying because she had to bring out that truth. She kept on pausing. The advocate requested to adjourn the case for the girl to compose herself, but I thought that was not wise since it had already been 4 years. I told the advocate we have to be patient, so she doesn't have to come back and repeat it. Eventually she finished. She was the last witness. Her evidence was confirming what the others had said.

    The defense then came in with cross examination. The first question to the victim was why she was crying. In my capacity as a judge I told him not to raise his voice. He was heartless and ignorant. He ought to understand why the child was crying, reminding this child of her agony. She said, "I fear this man". Defense asked "Why do you fear him?" She kept quiet for some time and said "because of what he did to me". Defense asked "what did he do to you?" As a judge I had to interfere by saying he'd already heard. I

don't expect questions that will make her repeat. Defense said "but I'm at liberty to try to get her to contradict herself". Not mindful of the effect of the questions on this girl, Defense again asked "How did you feel when he was defiling you?" I as a judge was mad inside of me but how could he ask such a question.

12. If we have a specialized court, I believe we shall have trained peoples specialized in this and a friendly to create an environment where victims can feel free to testify. There is need for Trauma Informed personnel from judiciary and prosecution and develop special rules of procedure without affecting the rights of the accused persons when it comes to such cases. The conduct of the victim such as taking long to answer questions should not be mistaken in telling a lie and crying should not be mistaken as uninterested in her own case. We need timely trials.

13. Investigations: the police need to be sensitized. If the investigators in the Ethiopian girls' case study were trained, they would have recognized they are victims, not perpetrators. We therefore need a team of experts so that when we're sitting in courts, all the major actors appreciate the trauma. These courts should have enough officers to ensure there is no backlog. We need enough time to hear cases as they happen - because any reminder of what happened can break down a victim. Therefore, the victims should testify as soon as possible and close that chapter and go on to rehabilitation, restitution and compensation.

14. Human trafficking happens in a syndicate, especially when it involves externalization of labor or child sacrifice. It involves victims that may not be able to afford a single payment. How can the government come in? CSOs alone can't fill the gap. The crime is so sophisticated that detecting it is a problem. There is need to give the same audience to the vice as they've advertised for externalized labor so they can make an informed decision. What minimum standards has the Ugandan government put in place for the elimination of TIP? Has it done enough? Who's responsible? Is it the income we get from labor exportation companies worth the risk involved that Ugandans suffer? Together we can break the chain of bondage as long as we operate together. Yes, we can! - To use the words of former US President Barrack Obama.

Some of the highlights from Commissioner Moses Binoga's speech looked at the Uganda Government efforts to counter and manage trafficking in persons and addressed achievements, challenges and the way forward:

1. The Government of Uganda has been at the forefront in confronting the crime of trafficking in persons through development of national systems and structures to counter and manage the negative consequences of trafficking in persons; guided by five strategic functions:-
    i. Development, improvement and strengthening of the national policy and legal frameworks, in accordance with the International best practices
    ii. Establishment of coordinated counter human trafficking structures and systems
    iii. Detection, investigation and prosecution of offenders
    iv. Reduction in the levels of vulnerability to trafficking in persons
    v. Provision of protection and assistance to victims of trafficking
2. Some commendable achievements have been made in spite of a number of challenges; and there are plans to carry on with the struggle by building on the foundation already in place.

NATIONAL POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

1. Enactment and implementation of the Prevention of Trafficking in persons Act 2009;
    i. Provisions for the Offences & punishments, protection of victims, extraterritorial jurisdictions, compensation of victims of trafficking and the Prevention of trafficking in persons Office.
    ii. Stakeholder capacities developed to implement the Act through training, benchmark studies, creation of specialized desks; and provision of specific budgets
2. Enhancement of the implementation of the Recruitment of Ugandan Migrant Workers Abroad Regulations, 2005; led by MoGLSD
3. Amendment of the Children's Act, to prevent illicit child adoptions

NATIONAL CORDINATED STRUCTURES AND SYSTEMS

1. A Coordination Office for prevention of trafficking in persons was set up at the Ministry of Internal Affairs as per Section 21 of the PTIP Act 2009;
2. A multi-sectoral National Task Committee for prevention of trafficking in persons was established from membership of the key stakeholder Ministries, Departments and Agencies(MDAs), plus members of relevant Civil Society Organizations and International Agencies;

3. An adhoc National coordination system has been developed with the Coordination Office at the center to facilitate stakeholder information sharing, data collection, training and collaboration; both at national and transnational levels;
4. Harmonized collaboration tools have been developed including Standard Operating Procedures for the National Task Force Member Organizations, Guidelines for Assisting victims of trafficking, Bilateral Kenya/Uganda Guidelines on Victim Interception, National Awareness Tool on prevention of TIP, Guidelines for Investigations of TIP Cases
5. Some of the Stakeholders have initiated strategies to enhance their respective operational capacities, i.e.
    i. CID Department for Investigations
    ii. TIP Desk at ODPP
    iii. Coalition of Civil Society Organizations against trafficking in persons

DETECTION, INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF OFFENDERS

1. Deliberate steps have been carried out to train and sensitize the key action agencies, including Police, Intelligence Agencies, Immigration, prosecutors and Judiciary on how to identify victims and criminals of the crime; and the required skills for successful investigations and prosecutions. There has been improved general performance in this respect , each successive year, as per the table below:

Year	No of Registered Cases	No of Cases Taken to Court	No of Cases with convictions
Jan-Jun 2019	92	16	6
2018	286	82	23
2017	177	52	18
2016	119	26	12

1. There have been also many other cases of illegal recruitment and obtaining money by false pretence's handled.

REDUCTION IN LEVELS OF VULNERABILITY TO BEING TRAFFICKED

1. Awareness campaigns on the existence and dangers of human trafficking; and how to avoid it; Development of an awareness tool for further use in the sensitization
2. Public sensitization on child protection against trafficking; development of Ordinances by some of the affected districts and engagement of transporters on Karamoja to Kampala route;
3. Enhanced supervision and monitoring of Children's homes
4. Enhanced detection and action against illegal recruitment of migrant workers by Police, Immigration and security Agencies in collaboration with MoGLSD; and dissemination of updated lists of Licensed Labour recruitment Companies
5. National campaign to popularize vocational training
6. Youth and Women empowerment national programs
7. Signing of bilateral labour Agreements with Jordan, Saudi Arabia and UAE; to facilitate safe labour migration

PROVISION OF VICTIM PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE

1. Victims of trafficking identified in Uganda; be it nationals or foreigners, children or adults; are legally recognized as such and have been protected from prosecution for offences committed during the process of being trafficked as provided for in the International Conventions and domestic law;
2. The Government has teamed up with some International Agencies and Civil Society Organizations to provide the required physical assistance to identified victims of trafficking, including temporary shelter, return air ticket, psychosocial counseling, rehabilitation, skills training and re-integration;
3. The Police, MoGLSD, MoFA(*Some Uganda Embassies*) and a number of Civil Society Organizations have established shelters for temporary care of victims of trafficking
4. Key stakeholders have been trained and sensitized in ways of professional handling of victims of trafficking;
5. Guidelines for Assisting victims of trafficking have been developed to guide the action agencies;
6. An adhoc coordinated referral system has been developed involving Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), some International Agencies and Civil Society Organizations to facilitate the required assistance to victims of trafficking.

SOME OF THE CHALLENGES

1. There are some inadequacies and challenges with implementation of the PTIP Act and the labour externalization policy, including limited appreciation of the PTIP Act and lack of provisions of a serious punishment for illegal recruitment ;
2. The national multi-sectoral coordinated system is based on stakeholder good will and not enforceable by law. Some MDAs have better priorities to invest in than contributing to countering TIP;
3. The levels of detection, investigation and prosecution are still low; due to insufficient training and logistical support;
4. Given the big magnitude of the push and pull factors, there have been limited success in reducing the levels of vulnerability to trafficking;
5. Lack of sufficient facilities for shelters for victims, limited budgets and challenges in harmonization of diplomatic issues related to Ugandan migrant workers abroad have led to challenges with the provision of timely protection and assistance to many of the registered victims of trafficking in foreign countries.

WAY FORWARD

1. Strengthen and streamline the existing counter human trafficking structures and systems for improved outputs;
2. Develop National Referral Guidelines on issues of trafficking in persons to guide future collaboration and partnership against the crime;
3. Enhance training on effective implementation of the PTIP Act and other related legislations to increase on the number of criminals prosecuted successfully;
4. Continue with diplomatic efforts to implement the signed bilateral labour agreement and also sign more others;
5. Step up the war against illegal recruitment and the strategy of intercepting Ugandans at all our exit points before reaching the destination areas of exploitation, and through bilateral collaboration with the neighboring countries;
6. Complete the process of ratification of the Palermo protocol to enhance international compliance on protection of Ugandan victims of trafficking abroad;
7. Engage concerned groups of people to avoid acts that promote human trafficking and enhance awareness campaign to guide the public on how to avoid becoming victims of human trafficking;
8. Appeal to the public to follow the advice and guidance given to them.

CURRENT COMPOSITION OF THE NATIONAL TASK FORCE COMMITTEE

1. Ministry of Internal Affairs

2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA)

3. Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development (MoGLSD)

4. Ministry of Education & Sports (MoES)
5. Ministry of Local Government (MoLG)
6. Directorate of Criminal Investigations (CID)
7. Community Policing Department
8. Child and Family Protection Department of Police
9. Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP)
10. Internal Security Organization (ISO)
11. External Security Organization (ESO)
12. Office of Prime Minister – Refugee Affairs (OPM)
13. Directorate of Citizenship & Immigration Control (DCIC)
14. Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MoJCA)
15. INTERPOL
16. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with running PTIP projects (8)
17. Representatives of Development Partners and International Agencies

SOME OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES WHICH HAVE SUPPORTED COUNTER HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN UGANDA

1. Uganda Youth Development Link
2. Platform for Labour Action(PLA)
3. Rahab (U)
4. Willow International
5. Samaritan Purse
6. Dwelling Places
7. Retrak (U)
8. FIDA(U)
9. The Human Trafficking Institute
10. Make a Child Smile
11. Kyampisi Child Ministries

12. IOM
13. UNDP
14. UNODC
15. GIZ
16. European Union
17. Expert France
18. “The Uganda Association of External Recruitment Agencies (UAERA)”

Some of the highlights from Mr. Damon Wamara – Country Director Dwelling Places included:

1. Uganda is Tier II according to international standards. Tier II means we are doing better but we have a little way to go. Part of the reason is we have not ratified the Palermo Protocol. We are sending, transit, and receiving country (because of refugees and recruitment agencies). The highest number of victims recorded were from Burundi transiting out and Uganda was a transit point and receiving point. We have both internal (housemaids, children from Karamoja for forced begging or selling of things) and external.
2. Our work as CSOs revolves around four ps. We’ve seen many success stories. We will produce a CSOs status report in the next three months. So, this is just the tip of the iceberg. CSOs have been received warmly by the MIA, creation of referral mechanism, harmonized materials so that when we go to speak, we are not speaking different messages and it’s clear and precise. We’re empowering through schools and community activities. We’ve supported the COPTIP in coming up with the national plan for TIP and a key element following up and being a thorn in the bush to make keep COPTIP accountable. And every time, the task force picks it up and the issues are addressed. We’ve intercepted over 300 children who are victims of human trafficking since 2017. We’ve engaged local governments, religious leaders, stakeholders, RSAs, judiciary teams, police, and all these key stakeholders, we’ve supported in capacity building so they can identify victims of trafficking and they’re not prosecuted/they’re treated correctly under the law.

3. We've gone ahead to unpack who are the traffickers and who is engaging them. Can we get to them to stop the trafficking? Such as the transporters. We therefore engage in these elements, like the Uganda licensing board for transporters. Are you being a careless parent/citizen? We should be able to support and ID victims and report them to police. Recently in Soroti 6 children were intercepted on their way to Kampala and the bus operators were arrested and are in prison. Different stakeholders are getting involved to end this crime. We continue to pledge to the government for us to speak with one voice. Men are also trafficked, not just women. Each and every one of us here is a potential victim. We've gone ahead to give victim support. Over 1, 223 registered victims have been reported.

4. 27 victims have come seeking for criminal or civil support. In total, 11, 290 survivors (Ugandans) to who have received support. Support is not less than 3,000.000 UGX per victim. If you're going to spend that, it's way cheaper to do prevention. Traffickers continue to change their methods, routes, pull factors, etc. But we will continue to fight until the trafficking game is over. We have the laws and support from honorable MPs, but the challenge is implementing. There is need for financial support in the COPTIP. It is a one-member team. The law is good. We've identified the shortfalls and we're going to push for an amendment at the next task force meeting. We need more resources to work with the victims. It costs at least $3,000 to bring back the victim. So, we're limited. This is a request to the MPs to ensure we have funding to implement. Investigators have to throw out cases due to funding challenges. Cases should be fast tracked because victims don't want to stay too long for they give up.

5. In Uganda, few cases are prosecuted compared to how many are reported. This is due to lack of investigation and need for specialized court. As CSOs, we are working to ensure:

    - We have robust reporting by having a CSOs status report highlighting the impact of our work.

    - We are aware CSOs exist to support government work, not do our own. Continue with awareness raising activities within the community

- As CSO we are requesting an expedited amendment to the PTIP. We are ready to present it by strengthening of our PTIP Act 2009 to close up those gaps.

- We are asking the government to fast track and quickly ascend to the Palermo Protocol to help us coordinate and learn from other countries so we can ask countries to return identified victims and they're able to receive necessary support.

Hon. Esther Anyakun: MP for Nakapiripiti District sighted challenges of Karamoja as lawless. They used to have inter-clan issues and they thought it was insecurity that was a push factory, but it is still the same issue after disarmament. After conflict regions got into peace, there are common issues like poverty and orphans that are push factors. As MP for the area, we work with Dwelling Places and others to try to stop the trafficking. There are people using this as a business. They tell people it's free education for the children in Kampala and they'll also work. "I wish I was a trafficker. I would go for the child of a trafficker first so they could see what it feels like." We want kids to go to school so they don't end up in the streets of Kampala. They don't go willingly. Systems are not working. Traffickers need to be prosecuted *in* Karamoja. We don't have rehabilitation centers in Karamoja. These children need to be taken off the street so they need to go rehabilitation that can keep them for three to six months. The problem is they run out of these centres and get back on the streets. There's food insecurity in Karamoja as well. Most come from one district in Karamoja - actually just three sub-counties. Let's not leave this with the CSOs or IOs. We should all play our part.

Remarks from Development Partners

James Yasiga, Terre Des Hommes Netherlands

First, this is the first time we area commemorating this day. As an International Child Rights organization, we are dedicated to ending child exploitation, including trafficking. We work with Rahab and Dwelling Places and UYDEL. Three points I wanted to share:

1) Are we investing enough in prevention as much as we're investing in response? Focusing more on prevention could be more efficient.

2) International trafficking has a bigger spotlight, but the bigger number is internal. Where is the balance and how are we going to redirect the efforts to equally focus on internal trafficking?
3) Have we done all we can do? Or are we doing the basic minimum?

Harriet Kerwegi, Technical Advisor, GIZ-Better Migration Management

GIZ-BMM came into being because of the migration and refugee crisis that we're all aware of. It's funded by the EU Trust Fund and German Government. BMM was launched in July 2008. Then two years later in other countries in Djibouti, Eretria, Kenya, Somalia, and other countries in the northern part of Africa. BMM has built a lot of partnerships with a lot of stakeholders to address TIP and externalization of labor. The two go together. If a person is promised a job and the person is deceived or abused, he or she becomes a victim of trafficking. BMM pledges its commitment to work together with all stakeholders to support the elimination of TIP. Let's give everyone a chance to live a full work life, then we can say we've done it. We join our hands together and not work in small silos; we can achieve more.

Erika De Bona, BMM Coordinator, IOM

We're shattered by the stories we hear every day, but are we doing enough? It's not about numbers we're able to pile up. It's also about just one person. As far one person is outside this room without support, we've failed. Our work is just at the beginning. We have a role to play, but we can also be brothers and sisters, members of a community. We all have somewhere we can raise awareness. IOM since 1994 has supported more than 90,000 victims of trafficking globally. It's a joint effort with partners.

Remarks from the Guest of Honor: Major General Kasita Gowa, Director of Directorate of Immigration and Citizenship Control

Everything I and the PM wanted to say has been said. Government intervention, who else is involved in the fight, etc. Rahab has been at the forefront of this. Rahab Country Director made me and my wife walk all the way from Kampala to Entebbe to raise awareness for child trafficking. Children what is the target: Stop human trafficking. And who does it start with? The Government has put in place Universal Primary Education so that you can all go to school where you can learn how to develop your country. Parents, give your children that opportunity.

Government is also working hard to put up vocational education. All of this is related to having opportunities in the country. Work towards going to those vocational jobs so you don't look for so-called white-collar jobs. Government is working on Operation Wealth Creation. Many of us don't want to use our hands but this is what will bring wealth. How do we sensitize the community to stop this vice? Children are brought up by communities, so leaders let's address this at the grassroots. Children, remember, there are a lot of bad people in life who are only interested in how much money they can make.

The Director of Directorate of Immigration and Citizenship Control launched the Harmonized Awareness Raising Curriculum

This curriculum was developed and adopted by the MIA National Task Force. The Director then went on sign on our commitment board to end Human Trafficking. The audience was all encouraged to sign making a Commitment to End Human Trafficking.

Based on the attendance list we had:

Institutions	**No of people**
Media Fraternity	81
Judiciary	3
Faith Leaders	3
Foreign Embassies including Development partners	8
School Children	81
Civil Society Organisations	174
University students	40
Government Officials	16
Teachers	6
Unspecified	24
Total number	**436**

Note: Of those people who attended 108 were children and 328 were adults

A copy of evaluation form was distributed during the event. Please see Appendix A

DATA analysis from the EVALUATION FORMS

- **Number of people who attended the event based on the attendance list was 436. Among those that attended were 108 children and 328 Adults**
- **Number of adults that filled in the evaluation form was 154.**

Evaluation Form Q1: Objectives of the event being met:

	:TIVES	**MET**	**Y MET**	**ET AT ALL**
1.	te more awareness on the existence of the PTIP Act, 2009.			
2.	e achievements from the PTIP Act, 2009 since it was passed into law, gaps identified in the implementation of the PTIP Act, 2009 and the opportunities available for exploration to improve implementation of the PTIP Act, 2009.			
3.	ɔcate to the Government for more support for implementation of the PTIP Act, 2009.			
4.	nformation on safeguarding and how to access services within already existing structures			

Evaluation Form Q2: After attending the event, how confident did the people feel about the following?

GAINED INCREASED KNOWLEDGE ABOUT….	**T ALL CONFIDENT**	**QUITE CONFIDENT**	**COMPLETELY CONFIDENT**

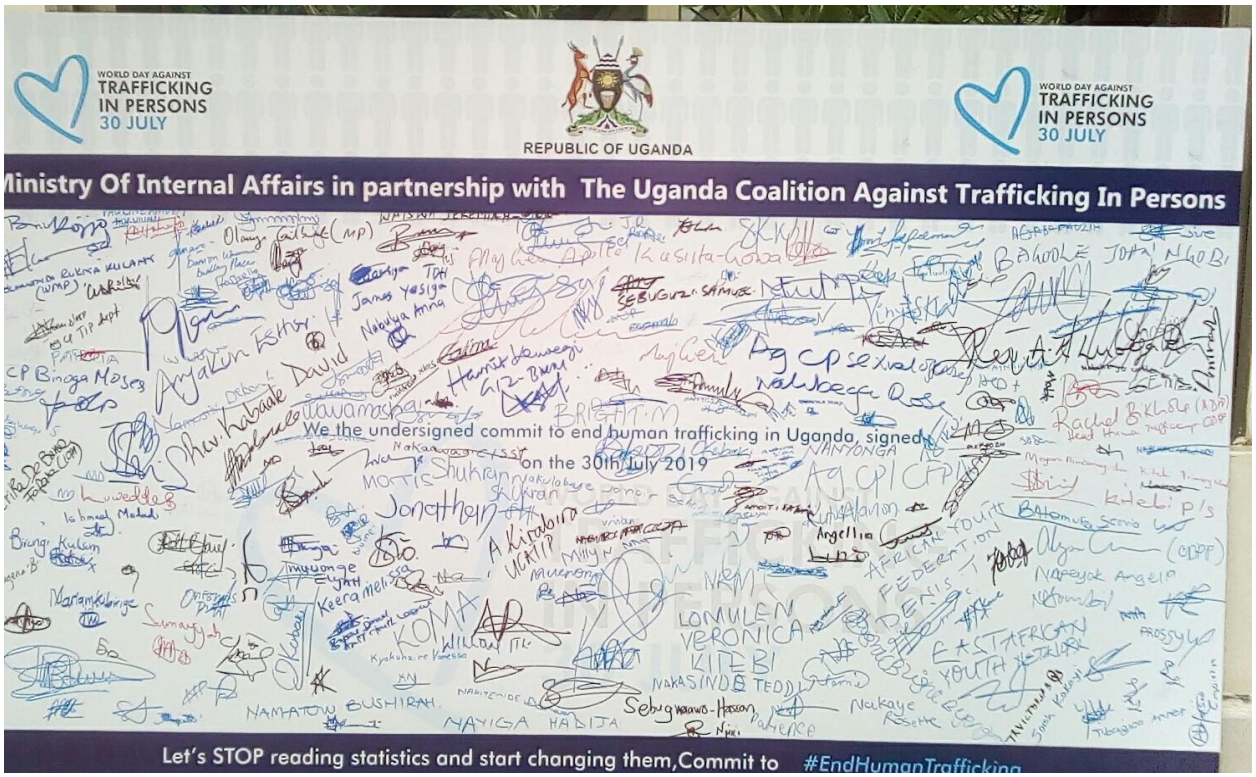
s available for victims of human trafficking		91	50
ng a victim to service providers to access required assistance/ support.		66	69
information on various support services available to victims of human trafficking		60	82

Evaluation form Q3: Out of the adults who filled in the evaluation form, how many said they were:

		NO
man trafficking service providers		
of human trafficking		
tes against human trafficking		

Some of the highlights of the event in pictures





Sarah Kakayi, Coalition Coordinator – Uganda Coalition against Trafficking in Persons (UCATIP): August 2019





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Some of the other comments/questions about the event included:

Mildred Tuhaise, NBS Television: *It takes less strain and effort and has less hazards if we prevent before it happens. The other three Ps are important as well. If someone traffics, they ought to face the law. Do we really have TIP cases? Are they ever reported? Is it happening? How much? How easy is it for our justice system to handle it?*

Alex, Make a Child Smile: *What has the government done about corruption that's encumbering TIP? When does labor externalization turn into trafficking?*

Lady Justice Elizabeth Nahamya, Love Justice: *Mr. Binoga, you talked about the cases that have been handled by the courts. Do you have disaggregated data of the convicts; how many women have been trafficked. What are the demographics of traffickers? What are the most prone areas for internal, cross border, and international trafficking?*

Rachel Bikhole: *I head the HT unit in the ODPP. A lot has been said about prosecution. Maybe we haven't had as many convictions as there should be. But we're doing a lot. Success is a partnership between police, judiciary, prosecutions, and CSOs. We rely on quality investigations by the police and have prosecution-led/guided prosecutions. We also have disclosures in court so that we don't ambush any party in court. So, before trial, we disclose to defense so we know the case against them so they can plea bargain. When we bring up the issue of full disclosure, we can also assess how the victims will react to certain disclosures, they may not be ready for court so we have to fall back on CSOs. Important to note is that a good witness is a victim who's been fully rehabilitated. We're looking at the best interest of the victim before we commit the case for prosecution. Is justice the immediate need? It's a work in progress and it's a partnership for all of us, but we keep hoping we get more cases reported. Most of the high up prosecutors are abroad so we take out the middle man.*

National Spoke Person for the Alliance of National Transformation of Youth: *Labor exportation, we're aware some of the companies are owned by people in the government so if they're among the perpetrators, shouldn't we push to have a fair ruling?*

Martin, Dignified: *Does the MIA and gender have a budget for rehabilitation or shelter? If they don't have, what plans do they have? One of the myths traffickers use is to say they're going to pay so much money. Is that a point in the sensitization materials?*

Man: *What does criteria government uses to control immigrants to prevent TIP?*

Child: *What do we do with girls who are poor who traffic themselves to be maids?*

Binoga: *The girls don't traffic themselves. They're deceived. The crime is the abuse. The abuse is the trafficking.*

MP: *There has been money designated for this rehabilitation center but there is a gap and the funding hasn't gotten to it. They designated 9 billion UGX for children to be taken back to Karamoja for rehabilitation*

Annette - Rahab Country Director & Chair UCATIP: *We should be vigilant about our own vulnerabilities. Organ harvesting is a real issue. Maybe, don't be an organ donor. Make sure to put a next of kin down when you go to the emergency. Educated people find themselves*

trafficked. We're not sensationalizing. Also, internal trafficking is much higher than we hear about.

Damon – Dwelling Places Country Director: *MIA let us expedite and sign the Palermo Protocol. MPs, please expedite the amendment of the PTIP and close up the gaps. CSOs, let us not work independent from each other. Community, this is not a government problem, it's a Ugandan problem.*

Rose Nalubega – Acting Commissioner of Police & Head of SGBV: *What we have done as police is to struggle for a department to make sure investigations are properly done by the Ugandan police and it's our duty because if you say the cases are more but investigations are few, it means there was a gap, which was to get the perpetrators and taking them to justice. So, our role is to make sure we do our best to partner with CSOs for victim services. They need justice at the same time. There needs to be a holistic approach. We have created a desk that is a department. And we're going to establish desks at all stations. At HQ we'll doing the monitoring and partnership but in Karamoja there will be some who can handle the cases in Karamoja. We want people to come and report cases without fear.*

Other comments from Evaluation forms included:

- Create more awareness on PTIP Act, 2009
- Sensitization on PTIP
- Sharing information and access to services
- Solution manual fundamentals
- Efforts in the international Affairs and at the Airport.
- Immediate action against PTIP
- Diverse topics were tackled
- Change audience and place
- Should be celebrated every year
- More partnership and collaboration
- PTIP Act, 2009 should be amended
- The PTIP Act, 2009 is not spread out
- Inexperienced presenters
- The Government is inactive. Should monitor agencies that deal in exportation of labour Create jobs, Reduce on retirement age

- Table human trafficking in the parliament
- Need to show victims as examples
- show the life of the victims before and after
- Demonstrate the law by apprehending perpetrators
- Human trafficking has many types or forms
- Attendants were not told how or where they can exchange information
- The government should support and provide victims with needs
- Some stake holders were missing for example some Embassies were not represented
- More support and a technical team is needed
- Issue of underfunding was not tackled

Respondents on the evaluation form regarding impact of attending this event included:

- Gives hope
- More awareness
- Understanding on areas of channel funding
- Visibility
- Continued collaboration
- Networking
- Partnership
- Connections
- Strategies laid on agents exporting labour
- Acquire intelligence using interceptions

Respondents of evaluation form on whether there was any parts of the event that could have been done or made better. Feedback included:

- Do a clarity walk
- Sensitize more churches and parents
- Lean enterprise Institute
- Involve victims to talk (encourage them to give testimonies)
- Involve stake holders in improving the Act
- Provide more information through books, charts among others
- Play videos on human trafficking Res
- Change audience

- Early preparation to put everyone on board
- Poor time management
- Limited time to share key notes
- Make it a whole day
- Involve youths mainly, 15+
- MGLSD should put up a body to monitor externalisation of labour
- Not enough breakfast
- Provide lunch
- More media coverage
- Reach out to rural areas
- Set up strict laws
- Use of local languages for example (Luganda)
- Invite all occupations
- Provide specific contacts and process of seeking help
- To the community through the Osama Show
- Introduce the organisations that provide services to trafficked victims
- Music, dance and drama
- Thanks to the UCATIP coordinator
- Ministry of gender, and labour as well as the ministry of Defense wasn't represented
- Issue in objective 3 was not specified
- What would be the efficient way in handling cases of Human Trafficking
- Create a legal team to help in PTIP
- Inspect companies exporting labour
- Pick children from the streets and take them back to their home districts.
- More reference to the referral pathways (contacts too)
- Karamoja
- Provide knowledge on how to start-up businesses and vocational skills
- Provide youths with jobs in the government
- Touching moments or cases could be screened to bring out the theme of the day
- Explain how victims are recovered and rehabilitated
- Bring on board people dealing in labour export
- Put more pressure on the courts to work on cases
- Elaborate more on the provisions of the law and forms of trafficking

- UCATIP members missed getting shirts
- Stop organisations that take labour in the Middle East
- Everything was perfect
- Venue should be in an open place such that anyone can attend
- Should have made the participants to identify, suggest, and formulate achievements,

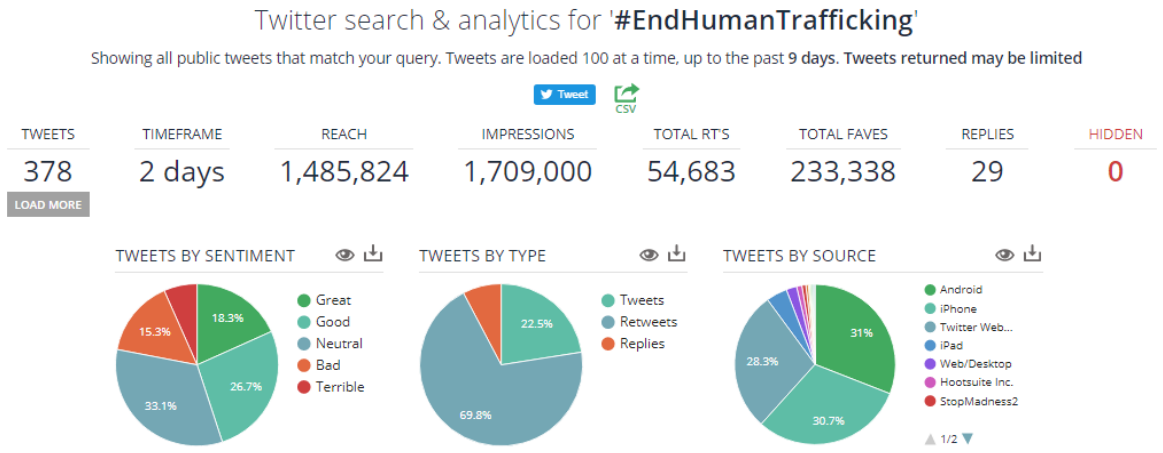
Challenges and way forwards for ownership

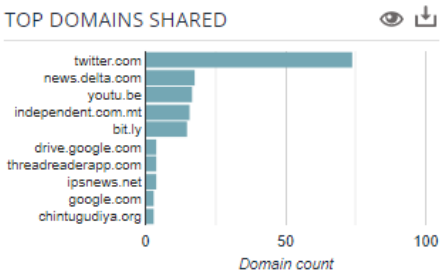
- Provide information in soft copy
- The law against traffickers is not strong enough
- Prioritize on the fight and campaign against the rise of Human Trafficking
- Involvement of school children was deserving

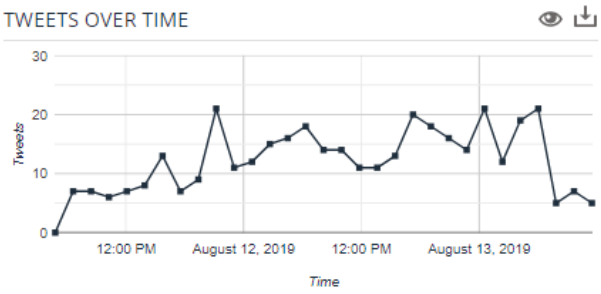
Social Media Report

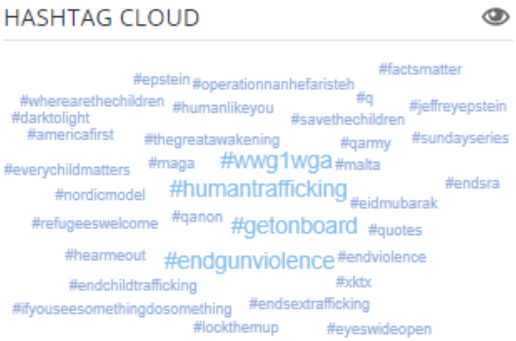
As a way of raising more awareness on the achievements and gaps identified in the implementation of the PTIP since it was passed into Law and Sharing information on safeguarding and also how to access services within already existing structures, a social media team led by Policy Uganda was brought on board that day to disseminate information online using the hashtags the UCATIP tailored **#StopTheTraffickUg** and the International hashtag **#EndHumanTrafficking.**

Below is a social media report on how many people were reached through social media;

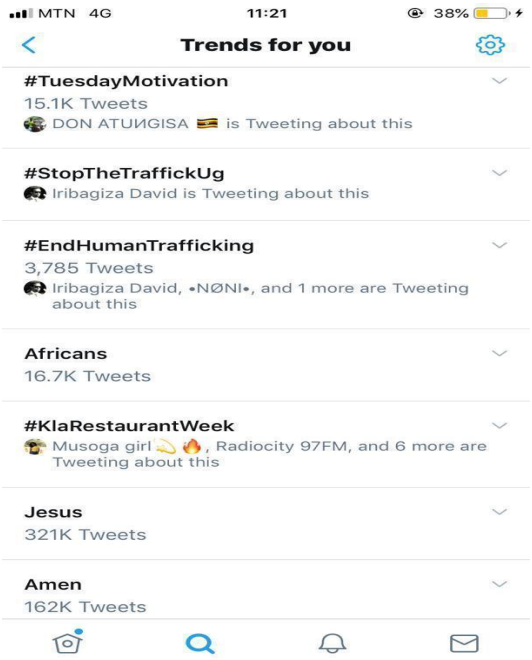














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ACRONYMS

MoGLSD – Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

MIA – Ministry of Internal Affairs

PTiP Act 2009 – Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act of 2009

MDAs – Ministries, Departments and Agencies

CSOs - Civil Society Organisations

TIP – Trafficking in Persons

ODPP – Office of Directorate Public Prosecutions

CID – Directorate of Criminal Investigations

MoFA – Ministry of Foreign Affairs

UCATIP – Uganda Coalition against Trafficking in Persons