

SUMMARY OF COLLABORATIVE TRAININGS UNDERTAKEN BY WILLOW INTERNATIONAL AND OTHER IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

Despite the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic early in 2020, Willow International has continued in partner with Ministries, Departments and Agencies to implement activities across the country, working towards ending trafficking in persons. Stakeholders in collaboration include: CSOs, Government stakeholder, community leaders, the youth in and out of institutions of learning amongst others. Below are some of these initiatives undertaken.

Trafficking in persons training at CID Headquarters in Kibuli

On 20th and 21st February 2020, the Human Trafficking Institute together with Willow International and Uganda Police organized an induction training for the new police personnel at the CID Headquarters in Kibuli. A total of 32 investigators from the various regions of the country were trained during this workshop.

The training aimed at enlightening the new CID officers on how to to conduct TIP investigations, how to identify and differentiate TIP and Non-TIP cases and the various referral pathways. Willow case managers shared on victims perspectives and how the partnership between CID and the TIP related CSOs works.

The training also focused on training investigators how to conduct victim centered investigations in line with the trauma informed approach. A panel with Case Managers was held with willow international to give, more insight on survivor perspective and what has gone well and wrong during the investigations by officers and what they need to change while taking initial statements from survivors.

An over view was given on the concept of Trafficking in Persons. Officers were urged to embrace the trauma informed approach such that less damage is done during the investigations



A group photo of facilitators of the TIP training from Willow International and The Human Trafficking Institute at the CID Headquarters in Kibuli

Training for the Government stakeholders (Police) in Tororo, Mbale and Jinja districts on how to respond effectively to TIP cases on 21st – 25th September 2020

Willow International in conjunction with Police conducted a 1 week training workshop for Police officers in the Eastern region of Uganda; in the districts of Tororo, Mbale and Jinja respectively. This project is targeting to train at least 500 police personnel across the country in handling victims of trafficking in persons, utilizing the victim centered approach and implementation of trauma informed protocols. The training engagements were organized regionally such that all officers in a specific region are engaged at the same time.

The training aimed at enhancing the capacity of Government stakeholders (Police Officers) to respond effectively to cases of human trafficking as Police officers are amongst the 1st responders to victims/ survivors of human trafficking.

Also, the training aimed at enhancing the ability of the law enforcement officers to provide a victim-centric and trauma informed approach and provide the necessary support for survivors of TIP towards attaining justice. In the previous years, it has been noted that there has been a limited understanding on the general handling of TIP cases within the country which has led to the frustration of hundreds of victims/ survivors in their plight to access justice and traffickers continuing to operate with impunity.

A total of **127** Police personnel attended these 3 trainings with 44 in Tororo, 43 in Mbale and 40 in Jinja. Amongst the attendants included police officers from Immigration officers, Child and Family Protection Unit (CFPU), Criminal Investigation Department amongst a few.

Below are images of Law enforcement officers during the various TIP trainings in the 3 districts: Tororo, Mbale and Jinja respectively in Eastern Region of Uganda.

Training in Mbale region



Training in Tororo region



Training for ODPP and Police prosecutors of TIP and Trauma Informed care for Gulu, Arua and Lira regions from 19th - 22nd October 2020.

Willow international organized a training workshop for state attorneys and prosecutors. The Project is targeting to train at least 200 ODPP staff in handling victims of trafficking in persons utilizing the victim centered approach and implementation of trauma informed protocols. The training engagements have been organized regionally such that all officers in a specific region are engaged at the same time.

The training started with Northern Uganda in Arua Region which has stations in Arua, Nebbi, Paidha, Yumbe, Moyo and Adjumani. The training also covered the regions of Lira and Gulu covering the stations in Lira, Apac, Kole, Amolatar, Oyam, Alebtong, Dokolo, Otuke, Gulu, Kitgum, Pader, Patongo and Amuru.

The purpose of the training was to increase knowledge on classifying cases and provide a guide on how to deal with victims of trauma and incorporate Trauma Informed care protocols in the Prosecution's work in order to lessen the risk of re-traumatization and encourage victims to seek justice. The sessions were facilitated by Willow staff together with ODPP – Anti Trafficking Department and The Human Trafficking Institute.

A total of **35** state attorneys and prosecutors were trained about the concept of the crime of trafficking in persons, trauma informed care protocols, prosecution led investigations, witness and trial preparation, charging of TIP cases and Victim's Counsel program among others. Majority of the participants had limited knowledge on the right procedure of handling survivors and cases of TIP and did not know where to get support for TIP Victims.

Training in Arua Region



Report on Training for ODPP and Police prosecutors of TIP and Trauma Informed care for Soroti, Mbale and Jinja regions from 02nd to 06th November 2020.

Willow international organized a training workshop for state attorneys and prosecutors. The Project is targeting to train at least 200 ODPP staff in handling victims of trafficking in persons utilizing the victim centered approach and implementation of trauma informed protocols and has previously conducted trainings in the Northern regions of Arua, Gulu and Lira. The training engagements have been organized regionally such that all officers in a specific region are engaged at the same time.

This phase of the trainings was conducted in the regions of Soroti, Mbale and Jinja covering the stations in Mbale, Busia, Tororo, Malaba, Butaleja, Budaka, Palissa, Bududa, Manafwa, Kapchorwa, Sironko, Bukwo, Moroto, SKotido, Amuria, Kumi, Kaberamaido, Ngora, Abim, Katakwi, Nakapiripiriti, Kaabong, Bukedea, Serere, Jinja, Iganga, Kaliro, Mayuge, Kamuli, and Bugiri.

The purpose of the training was to increase knowledge on classifying cases and provide a guide on how to deal with victims of trauma and incorporate Trauma Informed care protocols in the Prosecution's work in order to lessen the risk of re-traumatization and encourage victims to seek justice. The sessions were facilitated by Willow staff together with ODPP – Anti Trafficking Department and The Human Trafficking Institute.

We were privileged to have the newly appointed Director of Public Prosecutions Lady Justice Jane- Frances Abodo present to open the second phase of workshops in Soroti region. She noted the increasing cases of child offenders and the concept of forced criminality which is a classification of trafficking in persons/children. In her remarks the DPP highlighted the following:-

- a. The role of the media in processing the cases and how media attention impacts on cases and highlighted the need and commitment to work together to train the media in Uganda on trafficking in persons.
- b. Defense counsels also need to be educated on TIP and its effects on a community as a whole
- c. In order to root out forced criminality, investigations should be conducted on the defense /accused person as well as they may also be victims.
- d. Utilize all laws currently in force including the PTIP Act
- e. Embrace and participate in prosecution led investigations for better cases and increased convictions
- f. She also urged prosecutors to forward TIP cases to High Court for proper management.
- g. Understand the perspective of the victim and his/her expected outcomes for pursuing a criminal case. Honor their wishes as far as possible without compromising public safety.

- h. Urged prosecutors to embrace the Victim Counsel which is in place to assist prosecutors as they pursue the cases and bridge the gap between the prosecution and the victim

A total of 45 state attorneys and prosecutors were trained about the concept of the crime of trafficking in persons, trauma informed care protocols, prosecution led investigations , witness and trial preparation, charging of TIP cases and Victim's Counsel program among others. Majority of the participants had limited knowledge on the right procedure of handling survivors and cases of TIP and noted limited support in their regions for victim services.

Training in Soroti Region



Trafficking in persons training at CID headquarters, Kibuli

On 11th and 12th November 2020, The Human trafficking Institute in partnership with ODPP and Willow International organized a two-day training on Trafficking in Persons

identification and investigation for police officials, medical personnel and Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development officials and medical personnel at CID Head Quarters in Kibuli.

The meeting was attended by a total of **31** participants. The objective of the training was to induct and train new officers in the above mentioned fields on how to investigate Trafficking in Persons cases, how to identify and differentiate Trafficking in Persons and Non-Trafficking in Persons cases, as well as referral pathways.

The training also highlighted the importance of victim centered approach while handling investigations of TIP cases as many of these victims have undergone tremendous trauma. The participants also had an opportunity of learning about collaborative and intelligent investigations and re-active and pro-active investigations. Case file documentation was discussed as well.

A panel discussion was held on victims' perspectives and how the partnership between CID and the CSOs working on TIP cases works. An over view on the services provided by Willow, referrals pathways and how the aftercare program was discussed as well by Case Managers. More insight was given on current achievements and challenges during the investigations by officers and what they need to change while taking initial statements from survivors. Case Managers from Willow International discussed more on the national cases of TIP due to the current rise in Internal trafficking within the country and the different forms of trafficking involved in Domestic Trafficking. Also, the different tools and approaches used in building survivors' trust and rapport were also discussed.

An insight by a health worker was given especially on sexual exploitation cases for example how the examinations should be carried out, a descriptive meaning of results given by health workers, different reactions of victims and how much time it may take while carrying out these investigations such that they are not hurried or rushed when the health worker is doing the investigation.

In conclusion, officers were urged to embrace the trauma informed care approach in order to cater for clients emotional needs during the investigations and to be empathetic as much as possible while carrying out the investigations.

Online webinar hosted by Nkumba University & Kampala International University (KIU) student alliance leaders against human trafficking

WILLOW INTERNATIONAL

STUDENT LEADERS ALLIANCE AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Topic:
PREVENTION ADVOCACY AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SSERUNJOGI XAVIER
STUDENT LEADER
(Student Leaders' Alliance Against Human Trafficking) P.R. Director Hawyiro (NGO)
Rotator - Moderator - Panelist

AKAIJAGYE SONIA
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RUTEBEMBERWA SMITH
STUDENTS LEADER
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Email: info@willowintl.org
Wetase Toll Free: 0800202600

Time: 2:00pm
Date 19.02.2021

Meeting ID: 8272532889
Passcode: 51617

Nkumba University | Rotaract Club of Nkumba Univrsity | Human Rights Club | Nkumba University Law Socieity

Students' leaders' alliance against human trafficking Nkumba University and Kampala International University in partnership with Willow International hosted a webinar on 12th February 2021 from 2:00pm to 4:30pm.

Specific aims of the webinar was to create awareness of the existence of human trafficking amongst youth in institutions of learning.

The audience was the general public and university students who are the targeted groups and victims of human trafficking.

The central proposition of the awareness was to give information about human trafficking to the target audiences to make more awareness, to be equipped with knowledge about human trafficking, to understand what human is and help report cases of human trafficking.

Panelists presented on various sub-topics which the participants reacted to by contributing through asking questions and airing their reactions and recommendations.

Survivors training on their legal rights and legal procedures of tip cases in court at hotel triangle

On Friday 26th March 2021, Willow International, in partnership with Rahab Uganda organized a one day training for survivors on their legal rights at Hotel Triangle. This project is targeting to train at least 175 survivors on their legal rights in efforts to increase access to justice. The training was centered on equipping survivors with knowledge on the law and their rights concerning cases of trafficking in persons so as to apply this knowledge to support other communities faced with TIP.

The training aimed at increasing the knowledge of survivors on the TIP Act and the court procedures while handling a TIP case. In the previous months, it was noted that many survivors lacked this information and therefore did not see the importance of

taking their cases to court in efforts to attain justice hence letting perpetrators continue living free with impunity.

A total of **31** survivors were trained about the concept of the crime of trafficking in persons, legal procedures involving TIP cases and understanding the concept of resilience for TIP survivors. This training attracted survivors from different parts of the country. Majority of the participants had limited knowledge on the right procedures TIP cases ought to be handled while in court, as well as knowing their legal rights. This comes as a 2nd training for TIP survivors after the 1st training, held on 4th October 2021, reaching a total of 27 survivors.

Highlight / Significant outcome:

A total of **05** survivors declared after the training to their case managers that they were currently in the process of processing their documents to go back and work abroad despite the situations they went through. They had learned a lot from the training and agreed not to go back and instead work to look for decent work opportunities within the country.

Below is an image of survivors attending a discussion and a group picture with Willow International staff at Hotel Triangle in Kampala



Vulnerable persons and youth in institutions of learning training for refugees and asylum seekers in partnership with Refuge and Hope and Willow International



On Friday 12th March 2021, Willow international in partnership with Refuge and Hope organized a 1 day training for vulnerable persons/ youth in institutions of learning at the Refuge and Hope Education centre in Kansanga. The training aimed at creating awareness on trafficking in persons amongst asylum seekers and refugee communities within the urban population of Kampala in efforts towards supporting them attain decent work opportunities. This training attracted a total of **65** refugees and **5** teachers living in the urban areas of Kampala in areas that include: Kansanga, Mbuya, Bunga, Soya, Kitalanga to mention a few places.

These Refugees originated from countries neighbouring Uganda that include: Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Eritrea, Somalia, North Sudan and South Sudan. However, the majority of the participants were of Congolese origin. The following were the topics of discussion during the training:

- Understanding the concept of human trafficking
- Potential TIP red flags and tactics of traffickers
- Safe migration tips and helpline
- The law in relation to trafficking in persons (PTIP Act 2009)
- Available support systems for TIP survivor

Recommendations:

- The participants attending the training were different levels of English learning and this came in as a challenge as many of the students could hardly participate fully in the discussions on TIP. Also, challenges were experienced while feeling in the community stakeholders' survey. It was recommended for the information to be translated to different languages such as Arabic, Lingala, French, Kiswahili and Armeric.
- More videos and pictorials are to be incooperated in future trainings as visuals create a lasting impact for the participants even long after the training.
- The participants mention they are more interested in learning more about their legal rights and are looking forward to more discussions Willow International in regards to that.

