



2017 Anti-Trafficking & Gender-Based Violence Annual Report

Opportunity. Dignity. Hope.



2017 Anti-Trafficking & Gender-Based Violence Annual Report

Opportunity. Dignity. Hope.

www.WorldHope.org

World Hope International (WHI) recognizes that in order to combat issues of trafficking in persons and sexual and gender-based violence, it is necessary to work at all levels of society—from raising awareness at the household-level, to education of law enforcement officers and social workers, to advocacy at the highest level of government. We believe in God’s desire for freedom and justice for the oppressed, the downtrodden, the abused and exploited. That is why we continue to work toward healing, recovery and restoration for victims—and why we are committed to preventing such crimes from happening in the first place.



Liberia

Anti-Trafficking Hotline

In 2017, WHI continued to operate Liberia’s first governmental anti-trafficking hotline. Based out of Liberia’s Ministry of Labor, this hotline provides free, confidential help to callers who report suspected trafficking cases and/or ask questions about human trafficking. The hotline received more than 1,500 phone calls in 2017. To educate people about trafficking and the existence of the hotline, WHI staff facilitated a radio talk show for the first half of 2017. This talk show garnered much attention and allowed for lively dialogue between listeners who called in and WHI staff. Due to reports from the hotline, some survivors of trafficking were liberated from their abusers. Other survivors were referred by partner organizations, government agencies and the police. In 2017, WHI placed a total of 59 survivors into shelter care and reintegrated a total of 62 survivors back into communities.

Sierra Leone

Protection Work

WHI’s Sierra Leone Recovery Centre, set up in 2012, provides comprehensive and safe residential care for survivors of human trafficking. In 2017, the center provided residential care for 40 survivors, while providing psychosocial, physical, and social support to 53 survivors in total. In addition to internal cases of trafficking, the center also sheltered young women being trafficked to the Middle East for exploitation. Four teenage female survivors safely delivered their babies while residing at the shelter.

Critical to the emotional healing process of trafficking survivors is their engagement in therapeutic care, including group and individual counseling, as well as life-skills training. Following the initial recovery period, an assessment—done by a social worker—determines whether each survivor is transferred to ongoing care through partner organizations or is reintegrated to their

.....

Sundaymar was brought to Monrovia, Liberia after the death of her mother. Her aunt immediately registered her in school, and everything was going fine. One year later, Sundaymar's aunt's husband died. After the burial, family members of the deceased came and put her aunt and her children including Sundaymar out of the house built by her aunt and her late husband. Life became very difficult for her aunt, who decided to send the children to other relatives so she could find means to make some money to rent a place.

Sundaymar was sent to live with her aunt's oldest son's girlfriend who promised to send her to school. For the two years she was not sent to school, but was rather used as a caretaker for her cousin girlfriend's two children. She cleaned up, washed dirty clothes, and fetched water from a far end of the community and kept watch on the outside room in which they lived. She hardly ate and had no one to care for her. Most food she got came from a neighbor. Sometimes, Sundaymar was badly beaten and put out of the room to sleep outside when the woman came home very drunk.

A neighbor informed WHI about the girl's situation. WHI and the neighbors removed the girl and she was placed in a safe home where she underwent medical care, counseling and other therapy. She was later reunited with her aunt. During the reunification, WHI provided start up money that Sundaymar's aunt used to start a small business. WHI post-reunification follow up visits show that Sundaymar is performing very well in school. Her aunt uses profit gained from the fish sale to support Sundaymar in school and to provide food and other necessities.



home. Either way, they are offered monitoring to ensure they remain physically healthy, emotionally stable, in school or with jobs, and away from traffickers. Through this process, WHI assesses a survivor's family and community to gauge the viability of a successful reintegration. In 2017, WHI successfully reunited 33 survivors with their family members and provided income generation support to 33 survivors and their family members.

Our model is built upon the guiding principle that people are harmed in relationship and are also healed in relationship. This is the foundation of the important work that happens at the Recovery Center.

Prevention Work

WHI's legacy of trafficking-prevention work was recognized this year when the European Union Delegation to Sierra Leone approached WHI to facilitate a prevention and recovery project for the country. This new project began in November, and will build upon previous work done by WHI to increase awareness and advocacy through Village Parent Groups, as well as train new community members and review the country's current Anti-Trafficking Act. This project will be implemented with two other NGO partners.

Through funding provided by the organization Vital Voices, two anti-trafficking films were screened in December along with discussion facilitated by WHI. This took place in six communities in Bo District, where WHI has identified significant amounts of trafficking in recent years. These events raised awareness of the need for increased child protection against human trafficking and exploitation.

Additionally, WHI responded to the mudslide and flooding crisis in Freetown in part by providing psychosocial support to those affected. WHI also attended multiple government pillar meetings and made recommendations on how to provide care and support to mudslide survivors, and advocated for trafficking prevention during this crisis.

In 2018, WHI will continue to promote awareness of human trafficking and provide services to victims. WHI is committed to strengthening the systems and structures of the Government of Sierra Leone so it is able to respond to the needs of victims of trafficking and combat this grave issue on a national level. The Government, through the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's

Affairs, provided monetary support to cover a portion of the center's budget in 2017. The Government has expressed desire to continue contributing to the budget in 2018, as well as supplying some of their staff to work at the center, learn best practices, and continue using those skills to care for survivors of trafficking.



.....

Dominic Kama-Gbao is a catalyst in his community. In places where most abusers are male, men can play pivotal roles in helping women and girls realize their full potential. Dominic has been working at the shelter since its inception in 2012. His role as the only male caregiver on staff impacts the lives of the survivors by demonstrating the positive characters of the male figure. Due to the training he has received from WHI, coupled with his commitment to help the survivors and his strong faith, Dominic has been able to influence the survivors, his family and his own neighborhood in a positive way.



Philippines

In October, WHI launched a new project called Protecting At-Risk Children Vulnerable to Exploitation (PAVE) to offer shelter-based support to child survivors of online sexual exploitation, and to train social workers, counselors and shelter caregivers on therapeutic interventions to aid in their recovery.

WHI will be working in partnership with The Salvation Army through a grant from the U.S. Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. This project is a part of the Child Protection Compact Partnership—a partnership between the Government of the U.S. and the Government of The Philippines—to combat cybercrime, which has horrific consequences for children. This compact is only the second of its kind in the world in which the U.S. government has been involved.

In October, WHI anti-trafficking leadership participated in kick-off events with the Child Protection Compact Partnership's directors and NGO partners. In November, WHI social workers and other social workers serving survivors of online exploitation participated in an in-depth training on trauma-informed psycho-social processing. This was the beginning of many trainings the PAVE project offers social workers and counselors. WHI believes that more practitioners will be equipped to care for survivors of online sexual exploitation as a result of the trainings they receive through this project.

This year, WHI developed a prevention curriculum for pastors and congregants on Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (OSEC). This training will provide people with the tools needed to protect children from OSEC, recognize OSEC in their communities, and to be equipped to make appropriate referrals.



Cambodia

Raising awareness of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)

At the community level, outreach events offer opportunities for women and girls to learn about SGBV, their rights to live free from violence and services available to survivors. During outreach events, teams use creative drama, pictures and information sessions to share. In 2017, WHI carried out 65 outreach events.

As a result of government restriction on public engagement during the elections in May and June 2017, only six of the 65 outreach were carried out in high schools. Still, WHI made the most of these opportunities and worked with the Department of Education, Youth and Sport to engage with high school students (the future generation of spouses and parents), and raise their awareness on women and girls' rights and gender equality. Additionally, this adjustment in the location of the outreach events proved also beneficial to WHI during the rice season, as villagers were busy working in their rice fields and had previously found it difficult to attend our community outreach events.

Similarly, five outreach events were held in garment factories with the aim of reaching more young women who work in the factories and are not able to attend in their villages. Thus, WHI has built a good connection with the Department of Labor and Vocational Training, which is now providing us the permission to conduct more events in garment factories.





Providing care to survivors of SGBV

In 2017, WHI reached 2817 women and girls through Enhancing Responses project, including a total of 212 survivors of violence who received either full counselling and case management services, individual counselling, or were provided information about their rights and the services available to them. Out of the 212 survivors, 77 received direct services through trained staff from the Department of Social Affairs Veterans and Youth and Department of Women's Affairs, including one 9-year old girl, a victim of sexual violence.

Compared to 2016, WHI saw an increase of 159 survivors receiving services through Enhancing Responses project. This increase was caused by a more active engagement of the WHI staff with the Commune Committee of Women and Children, and the local community's increased ability to identify more victims.

Government social service providers respond to SGBV

In 2017, WHI trained 31 social service providers, 16 from the Department of Social Affairs Veterans and Youth and Department of Women's Affairs, and 15 from the Commune Committee of Women and Children. Additionally, in order to encourage 2016 trainees to keep working with their clients, 16 trainees received a report card showing the results of their evaluation on case presentation and applied skills that is assessed during supervision.



Malis shared how WHI's group therapy helped her recover from 30 years of domestic violence and abuse: "We have become stronger in sharing and asking for help." Malis, a 49-year old Cambodian and loving mother of six, is a brave woman who fought against her country's cultural norms and raised her voice against the threats, abuse, and control that her husband imposed on her for years. After her husband started drinking and spending their limited income in brothels, the violence began. He wouldn't even let her work as a village teacher because he was jealous. He believed she was seeing other men. However, Malis built her courage and reported it to the local authorities, who informed WHI's newly trained government social workers. Some months later, Malis' husband was arrested by the police and she started receiving counselling and support to help her recover from her trauma. "When I started working with her she didn't trust me. I tried to apply the skills I was taught by WHI and this helped me gain her trust. Now she is more confident and brave" says Sopheap, Malis' government social worker, as she shares the change she saw in her new client.



World Hope International is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations are tax deductible.