

**Awareness Against Human Trafficking  
(HAART)**



**The Scope of Human Trafficking in Nairobi and  
its environs**

**HAART Report on Survey Findings**

**November, 2012**

*Please Note that the findings presented in this report are the property of Awareness Against Human Trafficking (HAART)*



## Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
Survey Methodology.....	2
Profile of Survey Respondents, Data Collection and Analysis.....	2
Fig 1: Number of Respondents to Questionnaire and breakdown of the distribution of questionnaires amongst different stakeholders. ....	3
Key Survey Findings.....	3
1. What is the nature of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs?.....	3
Fig 2: What is the extent of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs?.....	4
Fig 3: Patterns of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs .....	5
Fig 4: Cross tabulation-Type of Respondent who answered the question, 'Have you witnessed/encountered a case of human trafficking personally?' .....	5
Fig 5: What is the most common way of exploiting victims in Nairobi and its environs?.....	6
2. What are the main characteristics of victims of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs?.....	7
Fig 6: Are trafficked victims mainly Kenyans or foreigners? .....	7
Fig 7: Are trafficked victims mainly men or women?.....	7
Fig 8: The level of awareness among the victims of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs.....	8
Fig 9: Number of trafficked victims disaggregated by adults and children.....	8
3. What are the main characteristics of traffickers (who traffics) in Nairobi and its environs? .	9
Fig 10: The gender breakdown of human traffickers in Nairobi and its environs .....	9
Fig 11: The frequency distribution of the origins of human traffickers .....	9
Fig 12: Are traffickers members of organized criminal groups? .....	10
Fig 13: Cross tabulation: Type of the respondents by Are traffickers members of organized criminal groups .....	10
Conclusion .....	11
Appendix A: The Questionnaire used in the Survey/Research Instrument .....	12
Appendix B: List of key stakeholders from whom the data was collected.....	15



## **Introduction**

This study was conducted by HAART in order to create a foundation for the future, more in-depth research. It is important to note that the information contained within this report does not represent results from an academic research study rather it is a preliminary survey on the scope of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs . Due to scarcity of resources and the time constraints, HAART was unable to conduct a full-scale investigation that would reveal certain patterns concerning human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs. The small data sample which was used in this report is one of the shortcomings of this survey.

Nevertheless, taking into account the scarcity of data about human trafficking in Nairobi and its surrounding area, the results presented in this report are still useful and can be utilised by policy makers and practitioners. It is hoped that the results from this preliminary survey will help HAART and other organizations to design and conduct scientific research on the scope of human trafficking in Nairobi.

## **Survey Methodology**

The aim of the survey was to attempt to answer three underlying research questions:

- What is the nature of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs?
- What are the main characteristics of victims of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs?
- What are the main characteristics of traffickers (those who engage in trafficking) in Nairobi and its environs?

In order to answer these questions, a simple data collection tool was constructed (Please see the Appendix A).

It was decided to use cross-sectional survey design for this particular survey. Cross-section survey design involves collecting data from people at one point in time. The instrument of data collection chosen was questionnaire interview.

The data collection process took a total of three weeks to conduct. Data were collected from key stakeholders (Please see Appendix B for a full list of stakeholders), representatives of the Government of Kenya and from HAART's volunteers, who have been involved in past training conducted by HAART. These volunteers are have also play a fundamental part in HAART's Awareness Campaigns and have been assisting victims of human trafficking for at least one year.

## **Profile of Survey Respondents, Data Collection and Analysis**

The total number of respondents to the questionnaire was forty two. Fig 1 below gives a breakdown of the distribution of questionnaires:



<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Key stakeholders	15	35.7
Government of Kenya	3	7.1
HAART's network	24	57.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100</b>

*Fig 1: Number of Respondents to Questionnaire and breakdown of the distribution of questionnaires amongst different stakeholders.*

From Fig 1, it can be seen that the HAART volunteers comprised of over 50 % of the survey respondents. These volunteers have experience of addressing issues of human trafficking at the grass roots level and many of them have encountered victims of human trafficking (some having even lost members of their families to human trafficking). However, it must be highlighted that many of them lack theoretical knowledge about human trafficking. In order to address this issue, two way Figs statistical analysis was used on selected variables.

Data were collected on twenty seven variables. Most of these variables included in the survey were designed in such a way to ensure that answer given were not the opinions of the respondents rather were related to matters of fact.

The statistical analytical technique which was applied to the data collected from this survey were frequencies, analysis of variance and central tendencies as well as two way Figs for selected variables.

Through the application of these techniques to the data collect from the survey, a number of key results was highlighted.

## **Key Survey Findings**

The key survey findings can be delineated by each of the three research questions.

### *1. What is the nature of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs?*

To answer this question, the following variables were selected:

- What is the extent of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs?
- What are the most common patterns of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs?
- Witnessing the case of human trafficking personally
- Areas of Nairobi where human trafficking takes place
- Situations in which one can find a victim of human trafficking
- What is the most common mean of trafficking people in Nairobi and its environs?
- What is the most common way of exploiting victims in Nairobi and its environs?



As can be seen from Fig 2 below, the respondents of the survey perceive that Human Trafficking is a prevalent phenomenon in Nairobi.

<b>Extent</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
very large extent	11	26.2
large extent	25	59.5
neither to a large extent nor to a small extent	5	11.9
small extent	1	2.4
very small extent	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100</b>

*Fig 2: What is the extent of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs?*

From Fig 2, it is clear that human trafficking is widespread in Nairobi and its environs. If two of the response categories (very large and large extent) are combined, we get a figure of 85.7 %. This represents the percentage of respondents who believe that human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs is widespread.

The respondents were asked to estimate the number of people involved in three different patterns of human trafficking- whether Nairobi represented a source of human trafficking, a transit point for human trafficking or as a destination place.

Below the compared answer categories are presented (respondents who answered that very high number of people and high number of people were involved in each of the three categories) for the above patterns.



Pattern of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs	Very high number of people involved - Frequency	Very high number of people involved - percentage	High Number of people involved - Frequency	High Number of people involved - percentage	Total
Nairobi as a source	16	38.1	17	40.5	78.6
Nairobi as a transit	23	54.8	12	28.6	83.4
Nairobi as a destination	16	38.1	14	33.3	71.4

*Fig 3: Patterns of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs*

Fig 3 shows all three patterns of human trafficking are present in Nairobi and its environs however Nairobi is slightly more significant as a transit point (83.4 %) rather than as a source (78.6%) or destination place (71.4%). This finding can be supported by the fact that 78% (33) of the respondents have witnessed cases of human trafficking personally. This finding was cross tabulated with the type of respondents. The results of the cross tabulation are presented in the Fig 4 below.

Type	Have you witnessed/encountered a case of human trafficking personally	
	Yes	No
<b>Key stakeholders</b>	8 57.1%	6 42.9%
<b>GOK</b>	3 100%	0
<b>HAART's network</b>	22 95.7%	1 4.3%

*Fig 4: Cross tabulation-Type of Respondent who answered the question, 'Have you witnessed/encountered a case of human trafficking personally?'*

What is interesting in Fig 4 is the fact that volunteers, working at the grass root level have more encounter on human trafficking than representatives of key stakeholders. While this could be a function of sampling error or the fact that these results are a matter of chance, it shows the extent of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs at the grass root level. Nevertheless, the future research should correct/ specify the above finding.

Finally, the respondents selected a deception (26 respondents which makes 61.9 % of the total population) as a common mean of trafficking people.



In response to the question; *Name areas of Nairobi where human trafficking takes place*, most of the respondents chose their own locations (or the locations where the interview took place). This provides a certain degree of evidence that human trafficking is quite widespread. A high number of respondents highlighted low income settlements like Kibera and number of slums in the Eastern part of Nairobi as particular areas where human trafficking takes place.

Reponses to the question: *What is the situation in which one can find a victim of human trafficking* the most common responses were:

- Work places (in the case of forced labour)
- Night clubs
- Brothels

Fig 5 below displays the findings to the question: *What is the most common way of exploiting victims in Nairobi and its environs?*

Type of exploitation	Frequency	Percentage	Total
Sexual exploitation	17	40.5	
Forced labour	23	54.8	
Removal of organs	1	2.4	
Other	1	2.4	
<b>Total</b>			<b>42 (100%)</b>

*Fig 5: What is the most common way of exploiting victims in Nairobi and its environs?*

It is interesting to note that contrary to many media reports respondents in this survey highlighted forced labour as the dominant form of exploitation in Nairobi and its environs. This study has not examined the gender distribution between these two forms of exploitations, i.e: whether men or women experience are more likely to face a specific type of exploitation (forced labour or sexual exploitation). This should be a subject for future study.



**2. What are the main characteristics of victims of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs?**

The study tried to provide key information on who are the main victims of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs.

	Frequency	Percentage	Total
Are trafficked victims mainly Kenyans	38	90.5	
Are trafficked victims mainly foreigners	4	9.5	
<b>Total</b>			<b>42</b>

*Fig 6: Are trafficked victims mainly Kenyans or foreigners?*

Fig 6 presents that the victims of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs are mainly Kenyans, rather than foreigners. In addition, the victims can be seen to mainly be women rather than men as shown in Fig 7 below.

	Frequency	Percentage	Total
Are trafficked victims mainly men	3	7.1	
Are trafficked victims mainly women	38	90.5	
<b>Total</b>			<b>42</b>

*Fig 7: Are trafficked victims mainly men or women?*

This finding may seem to point to that fact that women are the main victims of human trafficking however the study found, as can be seen from Fig 8 that self awareness among victims of human trafficking is very low. Neither common knowledge nor traditional approach have usually associate men with human trafficking. For example: if number of media reports devoted to men as victims of human trafficking is compared with a number of media reports devoted to women





as victims of human trafficking it is clear that the vast majority of articles depict women as the primary victims of human trafficking. It is also worth noting that the titles of the Palermo Protocol and other international Conventions and studies related to human trafficking focus almost exclusively on women and children as victims of human trafficking. HAART believe that the number of men involved in human trafficking is higher than reported and it is only that they are not acknowledged or self aware as that they are victims of human trafficking.

Level	Frequency	Percentage	Total
Victims are aware that they are victims of a crime	9	21.4	
Victims think that they are law-breakers	3	7.1	
Victims believe that they are neither law-breakers nor victims of a crime	27	64.3	
<b>Total</b>			<b>42</b>

*Fig 8: The level of awareness among the victims of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs*

Fig 8 shows that many victims are not aware about their status as victims of human trafficking. Fortunately, they also tend to believe that they are not law breakers. This should mean that they will not be afraid to seek help or approach law enforcement agencies. However, reaching out to them still constitutes a major task.

Finally, Fig 9 shows that number of mature victims of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs to children victims of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs is close to equal.

Are trafficked victims mainly	Frequency	Percentage	Total
children	22	52.4	
adults	19	45.2	
<b>Total</b>			<b>42</b>

*Fig 9: Number of trafficked victims disaggregated by adults and children*



### 3. What are the main characteristics of traffickers (who traffics) in Nairobi and its environs?

The last component of this study analyzed the profile of a human trafficker. In Nairobi and its environs, the following variables were selected in order to explain the most common characteristics of trafficker:

- The gender of a trafficker
- The origins of trafficker
- Whether traffickers are act alone or members of organized criminal groups

This study identified that traffickers in Nairobi and its environs are both men and women. Fig 10 below presents the findings. The higher number of women in comparison to men may be an outcome of view that women also traffic people as it was often associated in the past only with men (more specifically white men).

Gender	Frequency	Percentage	Total
Men	3	7.1	
Women	15	35.7	
Both men and women	24	57.1	
<b>Total</b>			<b>42</b>

*Fig 10: The gender breakdown of human traffickers in Nairobi and its environs*

When examining the origins of the traffickers, it appeared that it should be expected that Kenyans rather than foreigners are more likely to be a trafficker in Kenya and is verified by Fig 11 below.

Origins of traffickers	Frequency	Percentage	Total
Kenyans	37	88.1	
people from other Sub - Saharan African countries	2	4.8	
others	2	4.8	
<b>Total</b>			<b>42</b>

*Fig 11: The frequency distribution of the origins of human traffickers*



Finally, Fig 12 shows the results from the survey of whether traffickers in Nairobi and its environs act as single actors or are members of organized criminal groups.

<b>Origins of traffickers</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Total</b>
Traffickers are single people	15	35.7	
Traffickers are members of organized criminal groups	25	59.5	
<b>Total</b>			<b>42</b>

*Fig 12: Are traffickers members of organized criminal groups?*

Literature on human trafficking and media reports emphasis that human trafficking in Kenya was primarily done by single people, in contrast to Europe and the USA.

As can be seen from the Fig 12 above, this pattern has changed as more gangs and other forms of organized crime are beginning to become involved in human trafficking. This emerging pattern demands further examination in future research – for example to determine what types of criminal organization (hierarchical or horizontal) tend to dominate the phenomenon of human trafficking.

However, taking into account the fact that this is specialized knowledge, the answers given above were cross tabulated with the type of the respondent. The results are presented in the Fig 13 below

<b>Type</b>	<b>Are traffickers members of organized criminal groups</b>	
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Key stakeholders	5 38.5%	8 61.5%
GOK	2 66.7%	1 33.3%
HAART's volunteers	18 75%	6 25%

*Fig 13: Cross tabulation: Type of the respondents by Are traffickers members of organized criminal groups*



Fig 13 above shows that while most people at the grass root level, together with the government workers perceive traffickers as a members of the organized criminal groups, the key stakeholders still see them as single people. This difference in perception between the three types of respondents should be a subject of future research.

## Conclusion

Since this report does not represent results from a research study rather is merely a preliminary survey of the scope of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs, the following findings found in this study can be said to be that:

- Human trafficking is widespread in Nairobi and its environs.
- Nairobi is slightly more significant as a transit point rather than as a source or destination place.
- A deception is a common mean of trafficking people.
- Forced labour can be seen to be the dominant form of exploiting victims of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs.
- The victims of human trafficking are mainly Kenyans, rather than foreigners
- Many victims are not aware about their status.
- The traffickers in Nairobi and its environs are both men and women.
- Traffickers are mainly Kenyans rather than foreigners.
- Traffickers are usually members of organized criminal groups.

The above findings will serve as an entry point to further research and study, which when conducted, will provide more accurate data on the scope of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs.



## Appendix A: The Questionnaire used in the Survey/Research Instrument

Code

1. To what extent human trafficking is widespread in Nairobi and its environs?

Very large extent	Large extent	Neither to a large extent nor to a small extent	Small extent	Very small extent
1	2	3	4	5

2. What is the most common pattern of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs?

- People are trafficked from upcountry/other countries to Nairobi (Nairobi as a destination place)
- People are recruited and transported from Nairobi to other countries/places in Kenya (Nairobi as a source)
- People pass through Nairobi en route to another destination (Nairobi as a transit point)
- People recruited in one settlement and exploited in another settlement in Nairobi (Trafficking within Nairobi)

3. Explain why do you think so

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**4. Please estimate the number of people trafficked in each pattern of human trafficking**

	Very high number of people trafficked	High number of people trafficked	Neither high nor small number of people trafficked	Small number of people trafficked	Very small number of people trafficked
People are trafficked from upcountry/other countries to Nairobi (Nairobi as a destination place)					
People are recruited and transported from Nairobi to other countries/places in Kenya (Nairobi as a source)					
People pass through Nairobi en route to another destination (Nairobi as a transit point)					
People recruited in one settlement and exploited in another settlement in Nairobi (human trafficking within Nairobi)					

**5. Have you ever witnessed/ encountered the case of human trafficking personally?**

Yes  No

**6. If yes; as far as you can recall this year, how many times would you say that you saw, were told about, or heard that people were trafficked within Nairobi?**

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Over 12
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**7. Describe the case/ most common patterns of human trafficking in Nairobi**

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**8. Estimate the number of each group involved in human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs**

	Very high number of people trafficked	High number of people trafficked	Neither high nor small number of people trafficked	Small number of people trafficked	Very small number of people trafficked
Children - females					
Children - males					
Men					
Women					

**9. Specify the most common age range of trafficked victims within Nairobi**

**10. Are trafficked victims mainly:**

- Kenyans                       Foreigners

**11. Are trafficked victims mainly:**

- Men                               Women

**12. Are trafficked victims mainly:**

- Children                       Adults

**13. What are the most common means of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs**

- Victims are recruited through threat or use of force
- Victims are recruited through coercion
- Victims are recruited through abduction
- Victims are recruited through fraud
- Victims are recruited through abuse of power or vulnerability
- Victims are recruited through deception
- Victims are recruited through giving payments or benefits



14. Name the three locations in Nairobi and its environs where human trafficking takes place

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15. What is the most common pattern of exploiting victims in Nairobi and its environs

- Sexual exploitation       Forced labour (including child labour)  
 Removal of organs       Others (please specify)

16. Name the most common place/situation you can encounter a victim of human trafficking in Nairobi and its environs

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17. Who are the traffickers in Nairobi and its environs?

- Kenyans       People from other Sub-Saharan African countries  
 Arabs       Europeans  
 Asians (other than Arabs)       (Other) please specify

18. Are the traffickers in Nairobi and its environs mostly

- Men       Women       Both

19. Are the traffickers in Nairobi and its environs members of organized criminal groups

- Yes       No

20. What is the level of awareness among the victims in Nairobi and its environs?

- Victims are aware that they are victims of a crime  
 Victims think that they are law-breakers  
 Victims believe that they are neither law-breakers nor victims of a crime

## **Appendix B: List of key stakeholders from whom the data was collected**

- Eurphasia Women Shelter
- International Organisation Migration (IOM)
- KAARDS
- Kituo Cha Sharia





- KLC
- Red Cross
- Riruta Youth CBO
- St. Marian Children shelter
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)