

COGICHIS - INTERIM REPORT

TITLE	SUPPORT TO YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS VICTIMS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION/ HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN WESTERN KENYA
	SUBMITTED BY: CONCERNS FOR THE GIRL CHILD SOCIETY (COGICHIS)
CONTACT PERSON:	ELIZABETH AKINYI PROJECT LEADER
PROJECT DURATION:	12 Month
IMPLEMENTATION AREA:	TESO NORTH
BUDGET:	9.906,86€

Introduction:

Support for young women and girls victims of sexual exploitation /human trafficking in Western Kenya started in November, 2018. The project is being implemented in Amagoro, Teso North Sub County and working with 3 schools mainly St Mary's Osajai, Kororuma and Malaba township primary schools. The schools are in areas along the Kenya Uganda border where most women, girls and children are vulnerable to human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Children are trafficked along the border for domestic servitude and sexual exploitation across borders by relatives and other perpetrators in pretense of offering support to the victims.

The project is being implemented by Concerns for the Girl Child Society – COGICHIS with technical support from Solwodi Deutschland e.V. and funding from Good Water Foundation. So far, a number of activities have been carried out in the project sites and they entail the following:

1.1 Psychological counseling for victims of sexual exploitation and human trafficking

A total of 70 women and girls have been counseled. The most presenting problems include being sexually molested by relatives, being promised education by relatives and then end up being exploited, early marriages and teenage pregnancies leading to dropping out of school. Parents have been found not to be very supportive and this is as a result of ignorance and poverty.

1.2 Resettlement of survivors of sexual exploitation/human trafficking

During the reporting period, a total of 2 cases have been resettled. One was a case of trafficking from Lwero in Uganda. She was brought to Kenya to work as a house help by a relative in the name of education but ended up in sexual exploitation in the bars. COGICHIS was able to call her relatives and was resettled back home with support for starting up a business.

The other case was the case of young women who came to Malaba in the presence of being married from North Eastern part of Kenya. The man who brought her was a truck driver who later abandoned her. This situation rendered her homeless and very vulnerable to sexual exploitation. For her to eat she was begging on the streets. She was spotted by the mentors and referred to COGICHIS. She was given transport and money to start a business.

1.3 Facilitation of access to health care:

In the project area, most people are very poor and access to health care is not easy especially for those who have been abused due to their vulnerable situations. A total of 5 girls have been supported during the project to access medication. These are among those who came for counseling and their problems established. This includes consultancy fees and buying of medicine that has been prescribed by the doctors.

1.4 Training of mentors in mentorship

1.4.1 Identification and mobilization:

Identification of mentors was done by the schools in collaboration with parents of the schools. Each school nominated 5 women to be trained mentors.

1.4.2 Orientation of mentors:

After the identification and mobilization of 15 mentors, 1 day orientation was done for the mentors. During the orientation exercise, they were informed about the project details and their role as mentors. It was also very important to mention that the mentorship was voluntary without expecting any pay at the end of the month. They all agreed to support the children who really require their support.



Orientation meeting of mentors at COGICHIS office in Amagoro

1.4.3 Training of mentors:

During the reporting period, a total of 15 mentors were trained in mentorship. They were drawn from 3 schools thus Osajai, Kororuma and Malaba Township. The training took a total of 5 days conducted in Amagoro. The topics covered included:

1. What is mentorship
2. Roles and expectations
3. Do's and Don'ts of a mentor
4. Skills development
5. Cultural awareness
6. Crisis management
7. Dealing with adolescent behavior
8. Building self esteem
9. Confidentiality and liability issues
10. Support and feedback

The training was an eye opener for the selected mentors. They were able to identify the skills which they need as mentors and how to go about their roles in their respective schools and their communities as mentors.



Photos of Mentors training sessions



Mentors working in groups during the training sessions

4.1.5 Identification of mentees:

After the mentorship training, each mentor identified 10 mentees bringing a total of pupils to be mentored per school to 50 pupils. However, in some school, they identified 50 girls and 10 boys bringing the number to 60 pupils per school. The mentors and mentees will be sensitized on issues of sexual exploitation and human trafficking together in June - July 2019 school season.



Picture of mentees posing for a photo with the Education Officer, the school Head teacher at Osajai and COGICHIS Project Leader during the launching of the program at Osajai.

1.4.6 Launching of the mentorship project:

The launching of the mentorship project was done in the 3 participating schools in collaboration with the sub county education officer Amagoro sub county. The event was attended by both parents, pupils and the teachers concerned in each school. It was an eye opener to most parents, pupils and teachers concerning their roles on mentoring the children.

The sub county of Education officer, Amagoro Sub County, pointed out the roles of parents and even children when growing up. He was very impressed by the role of COGICHIS in the society and promised to give his full support for the project. He wished the project could be implemented in more schools.



Project leader posing for a photo with Malaba Township Mentors.



Amagoro Sub County Education officer addressing parents, mentors and mentees during launching of the program at Malaba Township



*Launching at Osajai Primary School Mentors program(left)
The five mentors are joined with the school head teacher for a photo (right)*

1.5. Counseling training for mentors:

3 mentors, 1 per school and 1 staff member of Cogichis were trained in counseling skills for 5 days by Everest Training Centre. The training covered the following:

Day One:

- Introduction and leveling of expectations
- What is counseling
- Joharis window
- The role of a counselor
- Qualities of a good counselor
- Basic counseling model
- Practicing professional counseling sitting position and role plays as a counselor

Day Two:

- Setting up a counseling room

- Privacy and confidentiality as a counseling practice
- Communication, Verbal and Non verbal
- Understanding Empathy Vs. Sympathy
- Acceptance- Unconditional Positive Regard

Day Three:

- Active listening
- The stages of counseling process
- Challenging skills
- Principles for counseling things to keep in mind as a counselor

Day Four:

- Core Skills – Professional Counseling Skills
- Summarizing – client issues
- Reflection as a core skill
- Termination of a professional counseling session

Day Five:

- Practical role plays – real issues from start to the end of the session.
- Closing and awarding of certificates

The four who were trained were issued with certificates. They appreciated the skilled learnt. The skills will help them attend to cases that will be referred to them for counseling.



Pictures of counseling training sessions

1.5 Vocational training:

During the reporting period, 18 young women and girls were identified for vocational training and have already been counseled ready to join vocational training centres in May/June, 2019. It was very important for the identified young women and girls to be counseled so that they deal with their issues before being enrolled for the courses.

Other achievements:

The Mentors have been actively involved in community sensitization regarding Sexual Exploitation and Human trafficking in the project sites. COGICHIS partnered with SOLWOGIDI, Gesao Foundation and the Giant to sensitize the community in Amagoro and Malaba on sexual exploitation and human trafficking during football tournaments organized by SOLWOGIDI on 13th April 2019 and tournament organized by the Giant and Gesao Foundation in Malaba on 25th April, 2019. Another event will take place in June in Malaba and COGICHIS will collaborate with the said organizations to sensitize the community again.

Conclusion:

The project is on course and the remaining activities have been planned for the next reporting period. Continuous monitoring is ongoing and the mentors are doing well and working in collaboration with the schools.