Awareness activities

HAART Kenya staff and volunteers are progressing with work from their homes due to the current COVID-19 pandemic precaution measures put in place. Few staff members access the offices depending on the task at hand as they observe the prevention measures put in place. The awareness department has been able to engage with HAART’s community mobilizers and Youth team- Young@haart among other organizations connected through phone calls and the WhatsApp chat platforms. The department has also been actively engaged in some of the activities indicated below.

Day of the African child 2020

In the month of June, HAART Kenya held an online webinar conversation on the day of the African child 2020. The theme to this year’s celebrations was “access to child friendly justice systems”. The event was commemorated by a 2-day interaction on 15th and 16th June 2020 with the online community on HAART Kenya Facebook page. In these two days, selected experts in the field of child trafficking, child rights and protection were engaged in the conversation.

The sessions were streamed live via the HAART Kenya Facebook page. The facilitators, panelists and the audience discussed why the day is commemorated, understanding child rights and child trafficking, forms of child abuse and where to seek help. Panelists were able to inform the audience on the child friendly justice systems in Kenya, challenges faced in accessing the systems and how they can be streamlined to ensure effectiveness in offering services. The links below are the virtual discussion for the two sessions:
Community Radio Awareness program

In the month of July 2020, HAART Kenya reached out to a few community radio stations in Nairobi County for airplay awareness sessions. HAART Kenya had in the past conducted awareness projects with the three community radio stations that agreed to offer their platforms for free during the current COVID 19 pandemic period. The stations were KOCH FM, Ruben FM, and Mtaani radio FM.

Transmission to the shows was live in all radio stations. The discussion was open to the audience who were provided with contact numbers to call or send short messages for comments and or questions. Ruben FM shared a live stream to its audience on the station’s Facebook page. HAART Kenya also shared the Ruben FM Facebook page link to its page shared below: -


The radio stations have an audience reach of 240,000 to 300,000 listeners from Dagoretti, Korogocho slum and Mukuru slum in Nairobi County. The three shows received a total of 15 short messages listeners, 146 views and 3 comments from the live stream on HAART Kenya facebook page.

The discussions in all radio station sessions commenced by the interviewee (Louis- HAART Kenya) sharing brief introduction about HAART Kenya and its work. The audience were sensitized to understanding human trafficking and how it manifests in different situations affecting victims of human trafficking. The presenter and representative from HAART Kenya shared community experiences that relate to forms of exploitation victims of trafficking encounters. The discussion revealed that a majority of the population in Kenya understand more about external human trafficking mostly experienced by migrant laborers in the Gulf states.

The interviewee expounded the discussion explaining more on internal human trafficking and shared case scenarios happening in communities for ease of the audience understanding.

The discussion further introduced the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on trafficking in persons and agencies working on combating the crime. Towards the end of the sessions, the interviewee explained about the ongoing HAART Kenya “Let us have a future” fundraising campaign to the audiences. He also shared HAART Kenya’s social media platforms for the audience to get more information on the fundraising. The audience were involved in the fundraising by them sharing the initiative with their
networks and also being part of the donors through the website and the Mpesa donation platform.

Finally, the sessions ended by sharing HAART Kenya's contacts to the audiences for more information follow up and knowledge about HAART Kenya’s work or reporting trafficking cases.

**World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2020**

HAART Kenya organized a virtual concert in commemoration of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on the 30th of July 2020. During the earlier weeks of July 2020, posters and messages with information about the virtual concert were being displayed on HAART Kenya social media platforms. The virtual concert information was being shared together with “Let us have a future” fundraising campaign messages. HAART staff volunteers, the youth team and other affiliate networks shared the same information on their social media platforms. The artist to perform in the show (H_ART the band and Tetu Shani) also shared information about the concert in their media pages through video presentations. The information was to introduce the virtual concert scheduled on the 30th of July 2020 and also continue the fundraising campaign until the day of the concert starting at 8 pm.

The day started with two representatives from HAART Kenya engaging in media interviews in the morning. They were hosted by KTN and K24 television stations. The shows interviewees explained the importance of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, the milestones realized by HAART Kenya and its networks in combating human trafficking and interventions to realizing a world free from trafficking in persons.

The links to some of the media interviews are shared below: -

- KTN news- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qILOtzuYYY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qILOtzuYYY)
- K24 news- [https://www.kenyamoja.com/tv/k24-tv-live](https://www.kenyamoja.com/tv/k24-tv-live)
Representatives from HAART Kenya were the Masters of ceremony during the virtual concert. They introduced the reason for HAART Kenya commemorating the day by acknowledging and appreciating all frontline workers who have been dedicating their lives to curb human trafficking and support victims of trafficking.

The virtual concert was transmitted live from HAART Kenya Facebook page and Youtube channel. The recording of the concert is shared in the links below:

- YouTube- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQlwPWCDkVQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQlwPWCDkVQ)
- Facebook- [https://www.facebook.com/haartkenya/videos/312986319754826](https://www.facebook.com/haartkenya/videos/312986319754826)

The HAART Kenya Facebook live stream to the virtual concert generated 5,400 views, 98 comments, and 71 likes. On the other hand, the HAART Kenya YouTube channel had 264 views and 24 Likes. This totaled to **5,664 views, 98 comments, and 71 likes**

The virtual concert represented brief speeches from key leaders within Kenya and the diaspora with the United States ambassador to Kenya and the Polish ambassador to Kenya being among the main speakers. There were also encouraging statements shared by representatives from affiliate organizations like the Kenya National Commission on Human rights and the Stop the Traffic Kenya and individual artists who are in support of the fight against human trafficking. The key message from the leaders and other representatives explained the importance of all stakeholders collaborating in the fight against human trafficking globally.

There were performances conducted by two well-known Kenyan artist groups. One solo artist by the name Tetu Shani graced the stage with his mellow voice that carried uplifting poetry messages through singing. H_ART the band group were also inspiring in their well-sung pieces and poetic talks within their singing. All artists performed as they also reminded the audience to support the fundraising campaign explaining the importance of it to the survivors of trafficking. The Young@haart team also performed two enriching and entertaining dance acts to which the audience enjoyed.
Kenyan artists performing during the virtual concert. Tetu Shani (left) and H_ART the band (right)

The Masters of Ceremony (MCs) also interacted with the audience by reading their comments and answering some of the questions and remarks. The MCs engaged the audience in encouraging them to support the fundraising campaign by donating as the concert commenced.

HAART Kenya community mobilizers and youth team (Young@HAART) progress

Community Mobilizers activities

Several HAART Kenya community mobilizers have been actively engaged in providing support services to communities in responding to the COVID 19 pandemic within their localities since the outbreak in Kenya. Some of the mobilizers are providing training and support for infection prevention and control measures. This includes making sure community members are wearing the correct masks, and that there is a constant supply of water for handwashing at stationed water points. They also visit water stations and households, educating people on handwashing techniques, social distancing and the steps to take if they suspect they have contracted the virus. Other mobilizers have also been trained by the Ministry of Health to deliver the same behavior change messages.

Esther, a mobilizer in Mathare location in Nairobi County

sensitizing the community on proper hand washing methods (Left
Joseph, a mobilizer in Machakos County (Right side of the pictures) is involved in corona virus mass testing exercise (right picture below), appointed by the Ministry of Health as a community health worker. He has also been engaged in meetings of a few members of Machakos County Civil Society Network with an aim of establishing a County Health Forum to help in responding to COVID19 Pandemic by promoting health and hygiene practices at the community level. The other key thematic areas of the meetings include advocacy on child rights and the fight against Gender Based Violence in Machakos County. He explained that he will use the opportunity to push for the fight against human trafficking.

Most mobilizers are staying at home and keeping safe and also monitoring the community by observing and identifying human trafficking situations. Dickson, mobilizer from Kitui County explained that he is working closely with the area chief to sensitize and report cases of community members who are exposing children to work in sand and stone mining areas. Due to the pandemic situation, children are not attending school. Some of the parents and caregivers are using the opportunity to involve children in labor.

4 trafficking cases were reported by three mobilizers in the month of June and July 2020. The cases were referred to HAART Kenya victim department for follow up

Steve, a mobilizer and teacher from Makueni County is working with the education and area administration office to monitor child rights violation cases during the current pandemic period. Majority of the cases arising are of child pregnancies. He is also sensitizing parents in his location on child rights and behavior change communication in relation to children.

Elizabeth, a mobilizer from Kajiado County is working with the Deputy County commissioner office to identify most COVID-19 affected families in her location. The exercise is the government response to the pandemic which supports the families with basic food supplies.

Young@HAART activities

In the month of June, the youth team was introduced to the Young@HAART online engagement plan
through an online zoom call organized by the youth coordinator. This work guideline indicated activities that the youth can engage in online to create awareness against human trafficking during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The team will continuously use the Young@HAART social media Platforms-Twitter and Facebook pages to enlighten the public about human trafficking, collect human trafficking stories, identify victims, and showcase their talents. The selected team leaders will manage the Social media pages in rotation. Moreover, the team at large has been sharing the campaign posters on their social media platforms since the commencement of the campaign, as advised by the youth coordinator.

This method will encourage content creation, consistency, and participation of all the members. The pages’ links are as follows:
https://www.facebook.com/youngathaart/
https://twitter.com/YoungatHAART

Besides the social media engagement, the team was introduced to CV and Cover letter writing. They were encouraged to come up with samples of their resumes, and follow-up training on this will be done. The training will include life and social skills that will improve their professionalism and employability in the Job Market.

In the month of July, the team had training on social media management which was conducted by HAART’s social media manager. The training offered a platform for the youth to learn and engage in social media awareness-raising campaigns. The facilitator introduced three social media sites and how they function. These sites included Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. In the presentation, she mentioned that social media sites work differently and have different audiences. The facilitator encouraged the team to be creative and share their videos on the Young@HAART social media platforms. She also suggested that the youth come together in teams and generate the contents. The scripts for the skits will be shared out to them.

The young@haart dance team of 8 was involved in a series of rehearsals for two dance skits that were to be performed on the day of commemorating the World day against trafficking in persons on the 30th July 2020 event for HAART Kenya. The dance team was also involved in posting about the upcoming virtual concert through their social media pages. They generated short messages explaining the virtual concert and the ongoing “Let us have a future” fundraising campaign.
Community mobilizers and Young@HAART wellness checkup and care support package

All HAART Kenya community mobilizers and the Young@HAART team have reported being safe and are spending much time with their families as they stay home and keep safe during the COVID 19 pandemic period. The two teams have been engaged in wellness follow up phone calls and daily check ups through the WhatsApp media platforms.

To support our volunteers through this time all the 13 community mobilizers and 20 Young@HAART members were supported with a care package. The package helps take care of their basic necessities and updates their National Hospital Insurance Fund for ease of access to medical support during the COVID 19 pandemic period. However, the support came to a close in the month of June 2020 as the funding ended.

Victims’ Assistance

HAART Kenya has continued to support survivors of human trafficking, we have focused on victim rescue, provision of basic needs and health care, home tracing and visits, education support, economic business set up, and reintegration/ repatriation. These services were extended to all beneficiaries in the program.

Numeric overview

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We were all hopeful that the COVID-19 curve would have reached the peak and flattened over the period between June and July. On the contrary, the number of infections has increased making it difficult for people to go back to their ways of living. Survivors of trafficking are still struggling economically, their businesses remain closed and getting employment during this period has proved impossible. The victims department catered for over 100 adult and minor victims in this period. This birthed a campaign with its main goal being to raise $50,000 to support survivors of human trafficking and their families through the Covid-19 pandemic. The campaign ran from 18th June 2020 to 31st July 2020. We were successful in raising $44,583.29 within this period. This will support 89 survivors of human trafficking and their families with food, rent and basic necessities for the next 5 months. We would like to thank everyone who supported this cause. Thank you, for letting our survivors have a future. We can still continue supporting the work that HAART does by following this link https://haartkenya.org/donate/

HAART Kenya is offering support to 46 survivors who are abroad, in July we received a case of 20 victims in Dubai who were recruited to showcase cultural dances at Global Village. They arrived in Dubai at different times between October 2019 and November 2019. They have not received any payment for work from Dec
2019 to March 2020 when the country closed down due to COVID-19. When this happened, their recruiter set them up in a house and took their passports soon after. They were made to work in warehouses which was not part of the agreement. We also have a group of 11 Kenyan women stuck in Saudi Arabia.

On the upside of the 20, one gentleman from the Dubai group was repatriated after he was able to raise the amount for his ticket. We are working towards getting the rest of the 19 repatriated back to the country. A survivor from Bahrain was also repatriated with the assistance of the Migrants rights organisation and LMRA. 5 women in Saudi Arabia were rescued by the Anti-trafficking task force from their perpetrator to a safe place awaiting repatriation back to Kenya. We still have a group of 4 from Saudi Arabia awaiting rescue.

The legal department currently has 14 ongoing legal cases as of the end of July, no convictions have been given since the beginning of the year. The courts were opened but the magistrates courts where all our matters are currently being heard have not become fully operational.

The ministry of education announced that schools would reopen in January 2020, HAART Kenya is still supporting them while with their families by offering basic needs support like food and rent.

The HAART Shelter was closed in October 2019 due to serious incidents encountered which threatened the victims’ safety, security and privacy. We have been working on setting up the new shelter that was donated to us. It is located in the safe environs of Karen, Nairobi on spacious grounds for the girls to play and carry out various activities. In this period, we have been focusing on renovating the buildings so that they are child friendly and meet the needs of the shelter in general. We have managed to expand some sleeping rooms to accommodate more girls and converted other rooms to accommodate other activities such as therapy room, computer room, an administrative office, and a multipurpose room (board meetings, training etc). We have also been doing an audit of shelter items and have a comprehensive list of items that need repair vs those that need replacing. We have been reviewing our policies and procedures and updating them accordingly to meet global standards.
From one of the survivors who was supported to start a makeup and nail business: she is one of the success stories of the survivors who has held on to the hope of making their lives better even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic

“I sacrificed and saved for a foot spa machine and a ring light for makeup with your support. I bought them and my focus and aim is on opening up my own shop because then I will be sure of a daily income and growth financially. I don't even know how I will ever thank HAART I swear.”

More images from the concert