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KENYA'S HUMAN- TRAFFICKING ROUTES:

NEW DATA INSIGHTS INTO HIGH ACTIVITY LOCATIONS AND REGIONAL RISK



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NEW DATA INSIGHTS INTO HIGH ACTIVITY LOCATIONS AND REGIONAL RISK

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Counter Human Trafficking Trust East Africa (CHTEA)
Candle of Hope Foundation (COFH)
Consolation East Africa
Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW)
East African Civil Society Organizations' Forum (EACSOF) Kenya
Awareness Against Human Trafficking (HAART)
Love Justice International
Okoa Sasa
The Salvation Army Kenya
Terre de Hommes
Trace Kenya

A special thanks to Michelle Koinange, Coalition Coordinator of Stop The Traffik Kenya for once again leading and coordinating the data collection effort.

Foreword

This data exercise goes to the heart of our work at Stop the Traffik Kenya (STTK). Our launch in February 2018 brought together stakeholders from different backgrounds with the aim of improving the collective fight against human trafficking and we have endeavored to empower our network ever since – but no other activity better benefits our membership than this data collection project.

Our members have internal data collection tools that have informed their programming over the years and have been an important part of this upscaling exercise as well as last year's pilot. However, we noted the lack of a centralized data hub that could inform the human-trafficking situation across the whole country.

This upscaling brings together data from African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN RO), Awareness Against Human Trafficking (HAART), Candle of Hope Foundation (COHF), Counter Human Trafficking Trust-East Africa (CHTEA),

Consolation East Africa, Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW), East African Civil Society Organizations' Forum Kenya (EACSOF), Love Justice International, Okoa Sasa, Terre des Hommes Netherlands (TdH-NL), The Salvation Army, and Trace Kenya. We are grateful for their ongoing support, trust and motivation.

By conducting this upscaling exercise, we hope to equip our members with the statistics to back up their operations at different levels. They now have data to justify their continued operations in a given area, with a specific target audience and partners. We hope our members can look at their project implementation with confidence through this new data-informed lens, expand their operations to the areas that need them, seek out new partners, and dare to challenge their norms.

Sincerely,
Michelle Koinange
Coordinator, Stop the Traffik Kenya

About the contributors



ANPPCAN

African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect (ANPPCAN) is a Pan-African network that promotes child rights and child protection in Africa.



CHTEA

Counter Human Trafficking Trust East Africa (CHTEA) is a sub-regional non-state agency registered as a trust in Nairobi; it was founded in 2006 as a response to the human trafficking dynamic in Kenya and East Africa.



Candle of Hope Foundation (COHF)

Candle of Hope Foundation was formed to address pertinent issues affecting vulnerable communities in Kenya and Somaliland, ensuring access to justice and support services for women, youth, and people living with a disability, as well as victims of trafficking and GBV survivors.



Consolation East Africa

Consolation East Africa exists to promote and build the capacity of activities to Counter Human Trafficking and Gender Based Violence among East African Grassroots Communities, Faith Based Organizations and Community Based Organizations.



Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW)

Coalition on Violence Against Women is a not-for-profit women's rights organization that is committed to working towards a society free from all forms of violence against women and girls



East African Civil Society Organizations' Forum (EACSOF) Kenya

EACSOF is an autonomous umbrella body of NGOs and CSOs in East Africa, and aims to strengthen the institutionalization of the relationship between East African CSOs and the community (EAC). and East Africa.



HAART Kenya

Awareness Against Human Trafficking (HAART), an NGO, was founded in 2010 and is dedicated to ending all forms of human trafficking in Kenya and East Africa.



Love Justice International

Love Justice is an international NGO that aims to stop human trafficking by training and placing monitors at borders and transit points to identify and stop trafficking as it occurs.



Okoa Sasa

Okoa Sasa is a rescue and rehabilitation center for children and is based in Mombasa.



The Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is deeply committed to fighting and responding to modern slavery and human trafficking and works in more than 130 countries worldwide.



Terre des Hommes

TDH is an international childrens' rights organization that provides assistance to more than four million children and their families every year, in around 40 countries.



Trace Kenya

Trace Kenya, an NGO based in Mombasa, is focused on counter trafficking and aims to rescue, rehabilitate and reintegrate women, youth and child victims of trafficking.

Introduction

During the third quarter of 2019, the CSO contribution to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) – the peer review of the human rights records of all 193 UN member states – cited the lack of comprehensive, consolidated and credible data and information on trafficking in Kenya as one of the main challenges in current anti-trafficking work. The gaps identified in legal and policy frameworks are exacerbated by the lack of a unified system to collect, document, analyze, and share data.

In August 2019, Stop the Traffik Kenya (STTK) and Freedom Collaborative (FC), a project operated by Liberty Shared, had conducted a data collection exercise with civil society organizations (CSOs) in Kenya, to report on known human trafficking and high-risk migration routes based on their work with survivors and at-risk populations. The data that was gathered contributed to the strategic planning of more targeted interventions by several CSOs. After this initial exercise was conducted, various organizations approached STTK with requests to be included in any follow-up activity and it was agreed that an upscaling of the previous study would be implemented in 2020.

This new effort has been conducted with the aim of contributing to national human-trafficking data collection efforts, as well as supporting STTK in establishing a formal mechanism in which its anti-trafficking network can support the government in collecting and sharing data in order to provide an accurate picture of the scale of human trafficking in the country.

The following data expands on the information previously collected and builds on the lessons learned from this initial process and data analysis. The data was gathered using Freedom Collaborative's Victim Journey Tracker tool, which has been adapted to collect additional data on the modes of transportation and recruitment methods used for each route.

This report provides an analysis of the data collected, maps specific migration corridors in which organisations have encountered a high number of cases of exploitation, and analyses ways in which the data can be used to build influence and cooperation in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and government agencies. For the purposes of clarity, the report is divided into individual sections that summarize the data findings along regional lines, and also includes chapters focused on identified transportation and airlines used, as well as methods of recruitment and coercion.

Even as the report is divided into these chapters, it is crucial to understand the complex nature of migration to and from Kenya. Capturing all the nuances and changing characteristics of the movement of migrants is beyond the scope of any agency or organization. It is, therefore, our endeavor to bring together the information and insights that are available in an attempt to map and document trends. The data contributed, unlike the previous data set, provides details on specific cities and counties that Kenyans migrate from – a gap identified in the previous report.

However, the most important achievement that we want to highlight is the collaboration of civil society organizations on this initiative. It is important to recognize that there is no centralized system for depositing data and sharing information widely for CSOs in Kenya. This means there is very little access to evidence-based data on human trafficking in the region that can support strategic decision-making. Data collections are believed to be costly and human resource-intensive, preventing CSOs from initiating and working together on such efforts.

We are very pleased that this project provides a positive example of how national networks are able to facilitate collaborative action and cooperation to build an improved evidence base and guide data applications, which in turn will strengthen the anti-trafficking response of their network members and relevant stakeholders.

Methodology

The data was gathered using Freedom Collaborative's Victim Journey Tracker tool, and included the following data points (when known):

- Victim city and country of origin
- City and country of exploitation
- Transit points
- Mode of transportation used
- Industry and type of exploitation
- (Estimated) number of cases
- Details on recruitment
- Additional information

In addition, organisations specified the source of this information to distinguish between data from cases of trafficking and exploitation on which they had worked, and routes they knew/heard about through their work. Except for two submissions, all the data submitted comes from actual cases that the CSOs worked on during 2019.

The following chapters provide an analysis of the data that has been collected during this data collection, and set out some recommendations for further action.

Data application case study - Candle of Hope Foundation

Candle of Hope Foundation (COHF) is a local Non-Governmental Organization registered in Kenya and Somaliland, formed and led by women to address the most pertinent issues affecting vulnerable community members in partnership with government agencies, donors and stakeholders. The organization has been operational in Somaliland and Kenya since 2016, implementing humanitarian and development initiatives through community-initiated programs that enhance empowerment, sustainability and resilience.

As a STTK network member, COHF contributed to the 2019 human trafficking and risky migration data collection exercise. More importantly, the organization actively discussed the data insights that were gained, in order to identify how data could support its work and strategic planning.

As a result, Candle of Hope Foundation has applied the knowledge on routes and trends gained from the data to inform its project development, in particular to help identify the hotspots to target for future interventions and activities.

The exercise has helped to build greater awareness of data, which supports strategic decision-making among team members and has contributed to a greater familiarization with data collection processes for its staff.

In addition, COHF has strengthened its relationships with other CSOs through collaborating on this project, and has seen increased opportunities to engage with relevant government officials to discuss the collected data and insights.

Data summary

In total, the contributing organizations submitted 84 routes that relate to 34 countries as origin, transit, and destination locations. From the submitted data 12 countries have been identified as countries of origin, and 22 countries have been identified as destinations in which victims have been exploited. Three countries – Egypt, Jordan, and Zambia – have been mentioned only as transit locations in this data set.

The illustration below displays all the routes that have been mapped based on submissions made by the contributing civil society organizations.

The following were the most commonly reported origin and destination combinations:

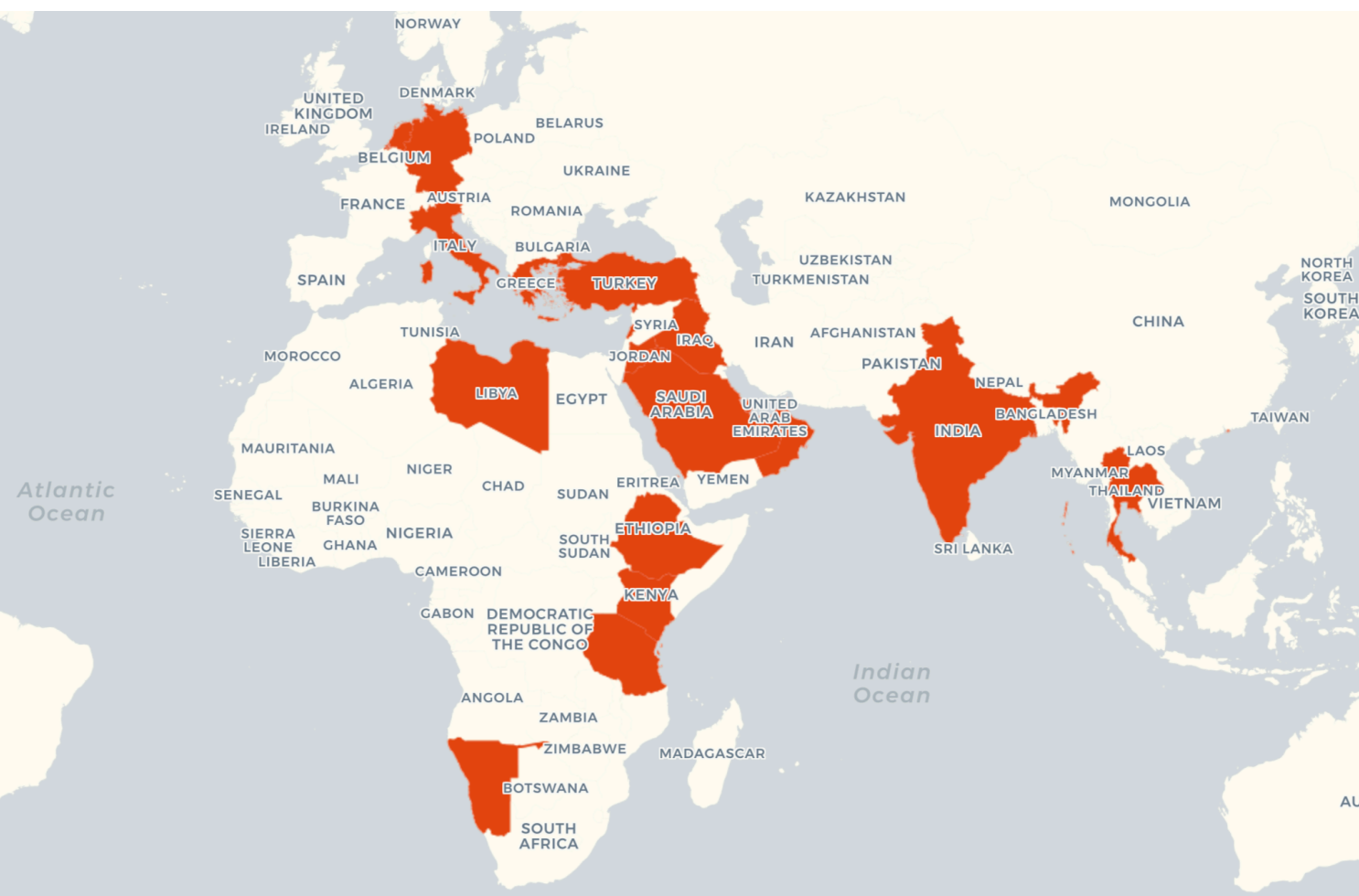
- Kenya to Saudi Arabia (11 submissions / 814 estimated cases)
- Uganda to Kenya (7 submissions / 561 estimated cases)
- Ethiopia to Kenya (6 submissions / 564 estimated cases)
- Kenya to Germany (6 submissions / 86 estimated cases)
- Tanzania to Kenya (5 submissions / 151 estimated cases)



The interactive version of the map provides details on the location of origin, actual destination, transit points, modes of transportation and industry of exploitation at the destination for each route.

The identified destination countries include Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Ethiopia, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Namibia, Oman, Qatar, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, and Rwanda.

In comparison to the previous data set from 2019, a number of additional locations of relevance for migration to, through or from Kenya have been identified. These include Finland and Somaliland as countries of origin, as well as the destinations of Ethiopia, Namibia, Thailand, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, and Rwanda.



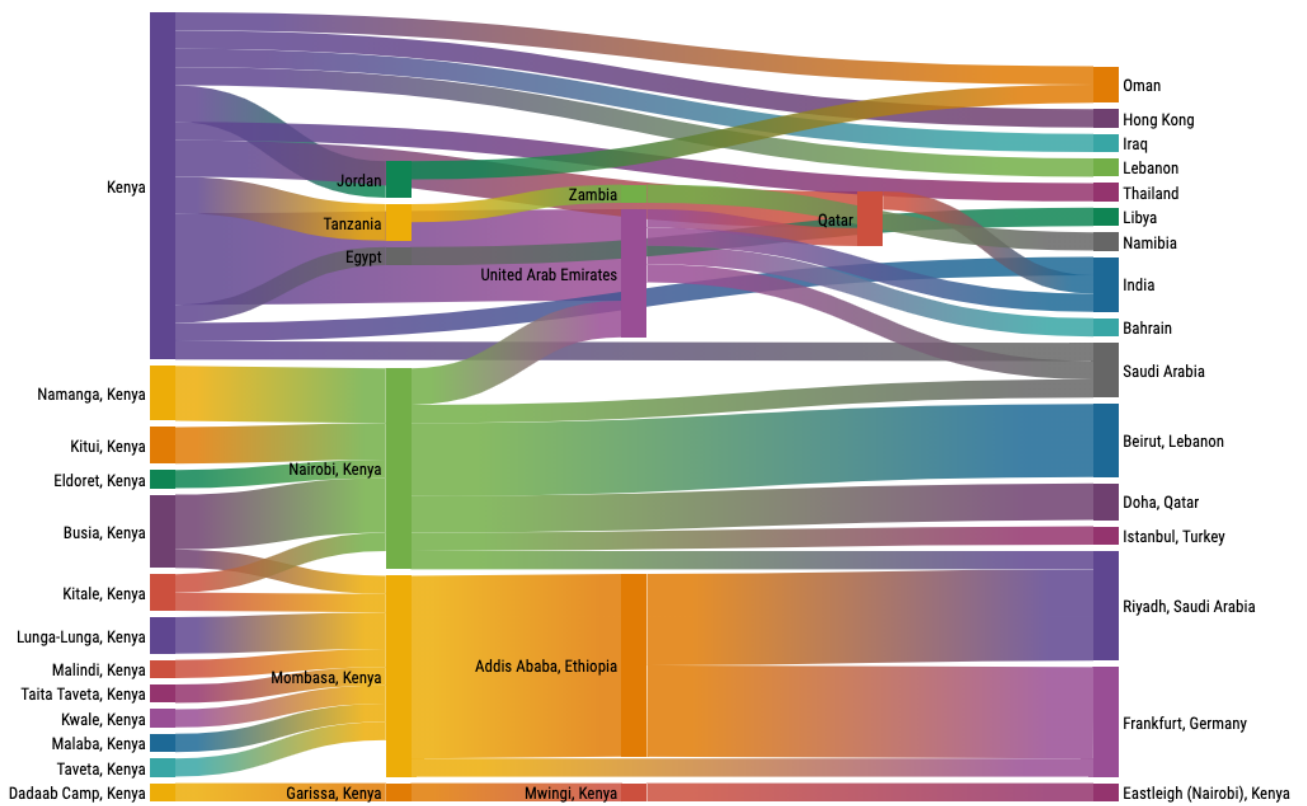
Kenya

Kenya as a country of origin

In total, 43 of the submissions made relate to Kenya as the country of origin. The most submissions have been made for the following destinations: Saudi Arabia, Germany, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, and India.

Busia, Dadaab Camp, Eldoret, Kitale, Kitui, Kwale, Lunga Lunga, Malaba, Malindi, Mombasa, Nairobi, Namanga, and Taita-Taveta have been mentioned as locations of origins of Kenyan victims of human trafficking and vulnerable migrants.

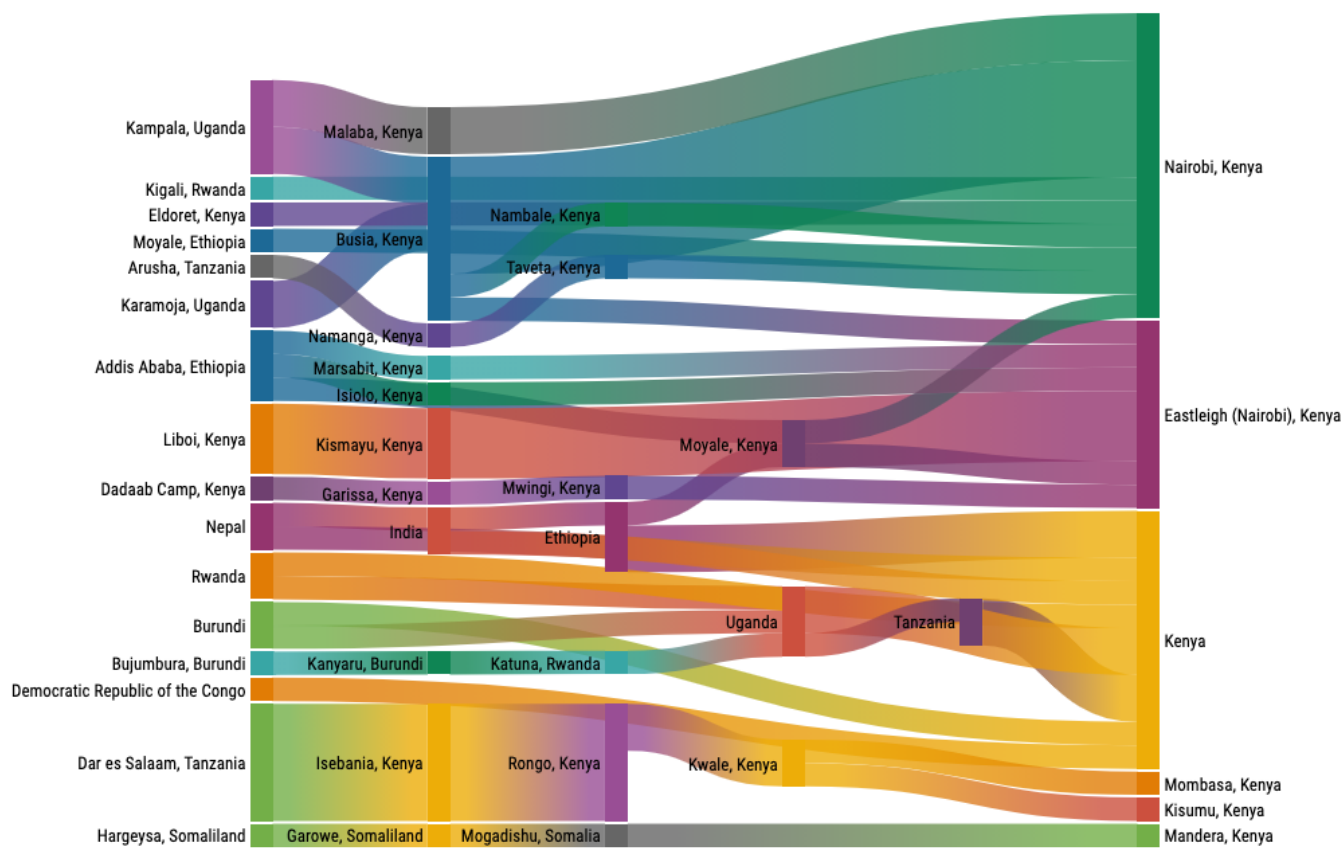
While some of the routes included country level information only, other submissions included specific city details.



Kenya as a destination country

Thirty-one submissions referenced Kenya as a destination country for migration from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Ethiopia, India, Nepal, Rwanda, Somaliland, Tanzania, and Uganda. Identified locations in Kenya include Nairobi, Eastleigh (Nairobi), Kenya, Mombasa and Mandera.

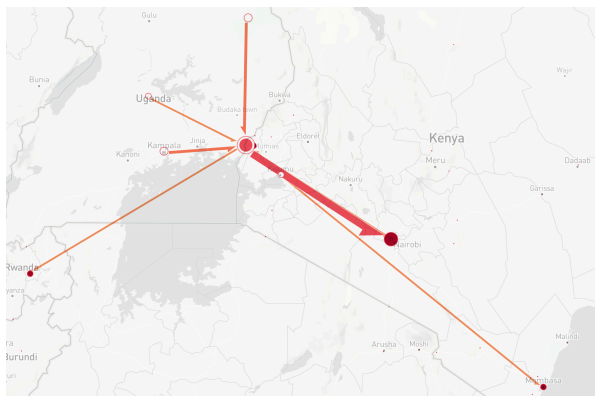


Transit locations and border crossings

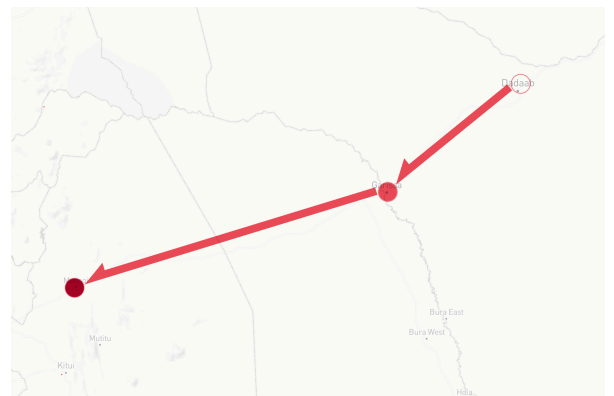
A number of transit locations and border crossings can be identified as those used by victims and vulnerable migrants to enter Kenya and make their way to their final destination. As noted in the data submissions, corruption at border points is common with officers complicit in preparing and providing fake documents for victims, which allow them to cross.

The following cities have been mapped in at least one route as a point of transit: Busia, Garissa, Isebania, Isiolo, Kismayo, Kwale, Liboi, Malaba, Marsabit, Mombasa, Mandera, Moyale, Mwingi, Nairobi, Namanga, Nambale, Rongo, and Taveta.

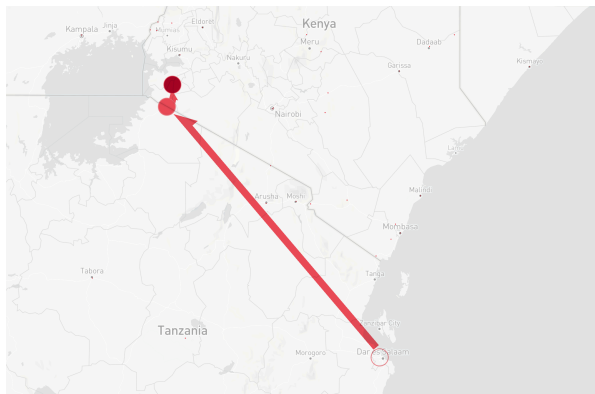
The diagrams below provide an overview of routes from and to these transit points.



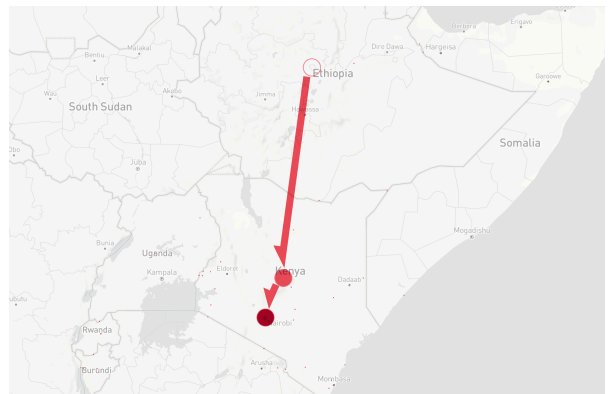
Busia



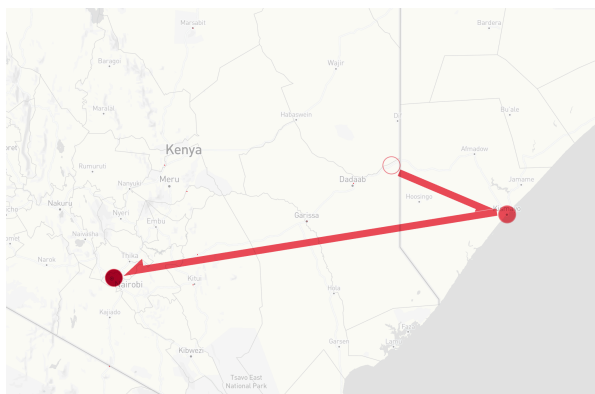
Garissa



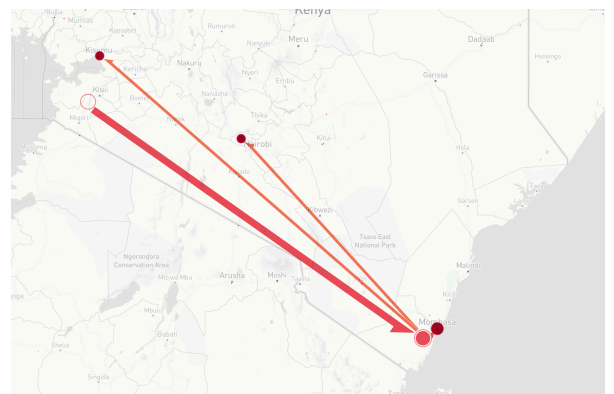
Isebania



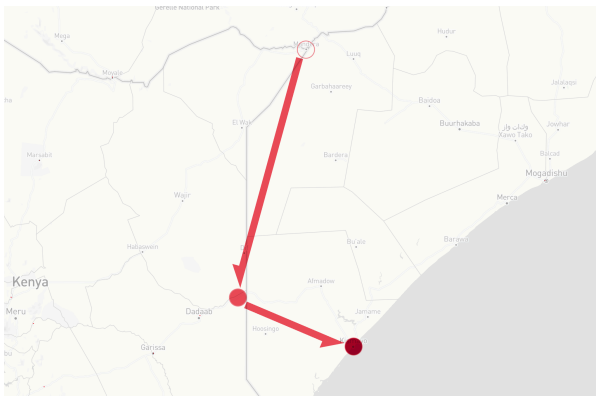
Isiolo



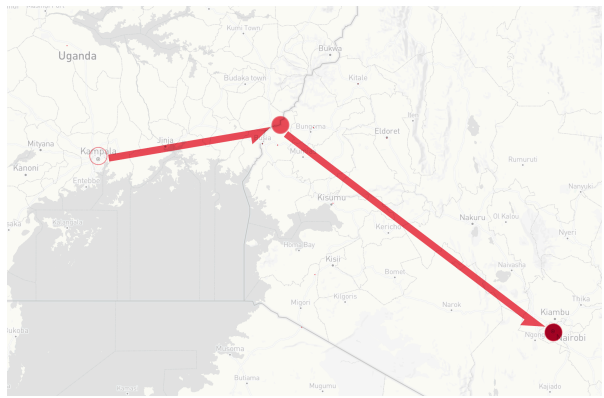
Kismayo



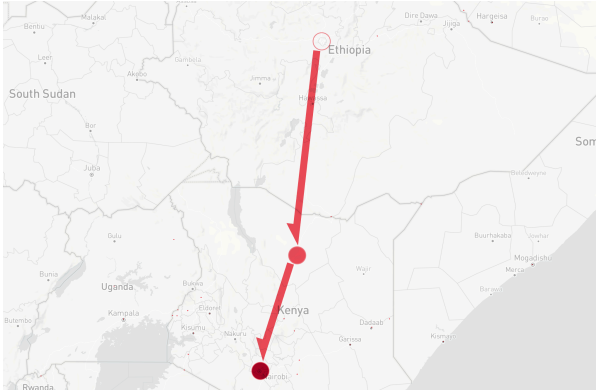
Kwale



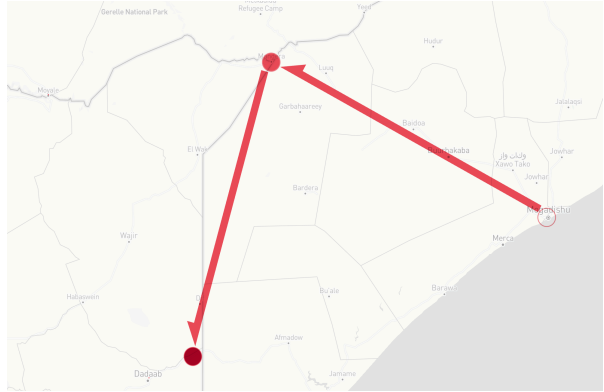
Liboi



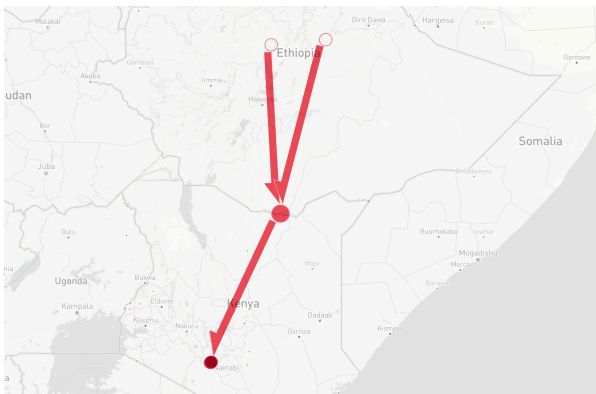
Malaba



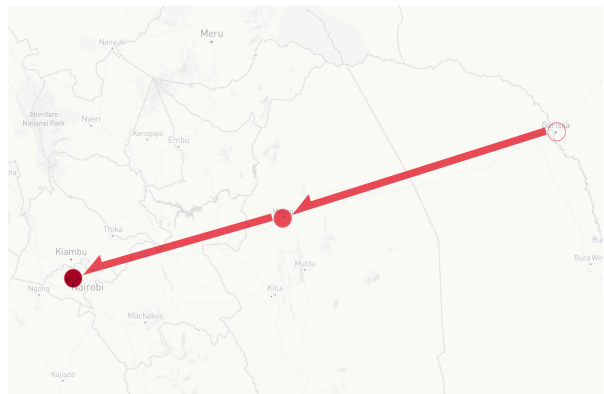
Marsabit



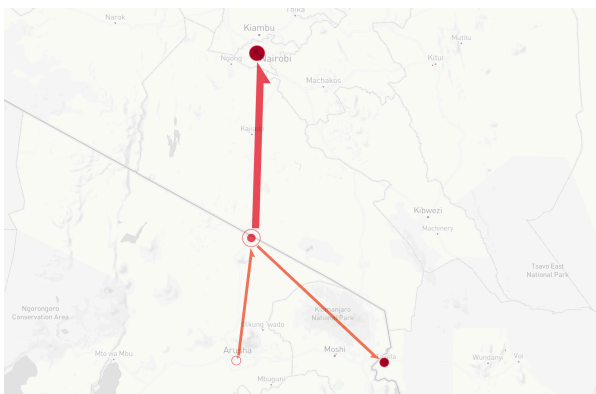
Mandera



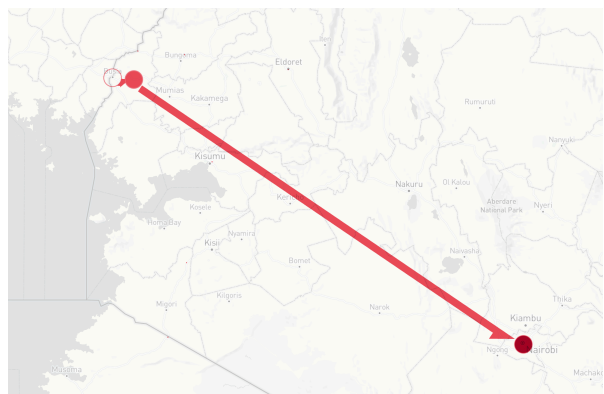
Moyale



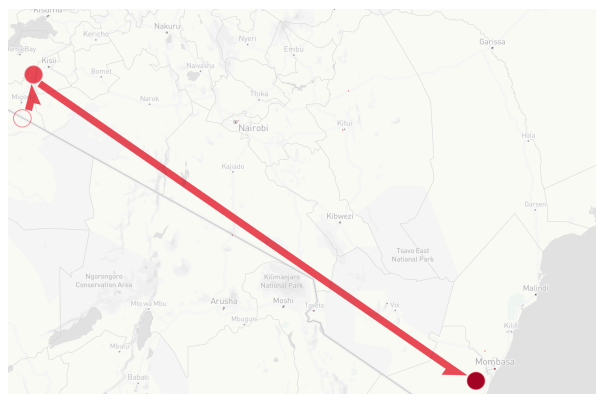
Mwingi



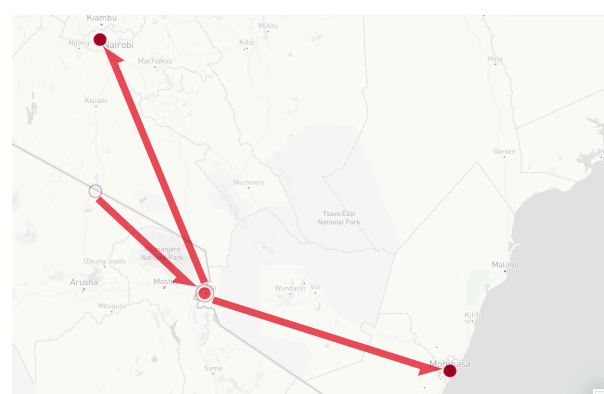
Namanga



Nambale



Rongo



Taveta

Cross-regional routes

Regional Migration (East Africa)

A total of 32 routes from and to regional countries in East Africa have been made by the contributing organisations. These include routes from Burundi to Kenya, the Democratic Republic Congo to Kenya, the Democratic Republic Congo to Ethiopia via Kenya, Ethiopia to Kenya, Kenya to Tanzania, Rwanda to Kenya, Somaliland to Kenya, Tanzania to Kenya, Tanzania to Rwanda, and Uganda to Kenya.

East Africa to the Middle East

29 routes on migration from East Africa to the Gulf States have been identified. The routes mapped include Burundi to Saudi Arabia, Kenya to Lebanon, Kenya to Saudi Arabia, Kenya to United Arab Emirates, Kenya to Qatar, Kenya to Oman, Kenya to Iraq, Kenya to Bahrain, Kenya to Jordan, and Uganda to the United Arab Emirates.

Migrants are primarily traveling by road to one of the airports to board plans to their final destinations in the Middle East.

East Africa to Europe

The submitted data included 10 submissions for routes from East Africa to Europe, including from Kenya to Germany, Kenya to Turkey, Somaliland to Italy, Somaliland to Greece, and Tanzania to the Netherlands. Again, migrants are primarily traveling by road to one of the airports (see map below) to board plans to their final destinations in European countries.

East Africa to Asia

Five submissions referenced routes from Kenya to Hong Kong, Kenya to Thailand, and Kenya to India. Unfortunately these submissions did not include any city level information on the specific points of origin and final destinations within the referenced countries. According to the data, all journeys have been made by plane.

Asia to Kenya

Three submissions referenced routes from India to Kenya, and Nepal to Kenya.

East Africa to North Africa

Two submissions referenced routes from Kenya to Libya via Egypt, and from Somaliland to Libya via Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan.

Europe to Kenya

The data submissions included a route from Helsinki, Finland to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. While this may seem unusual, the contributing organisation confirmed that this information comes from cases they are currently working on.

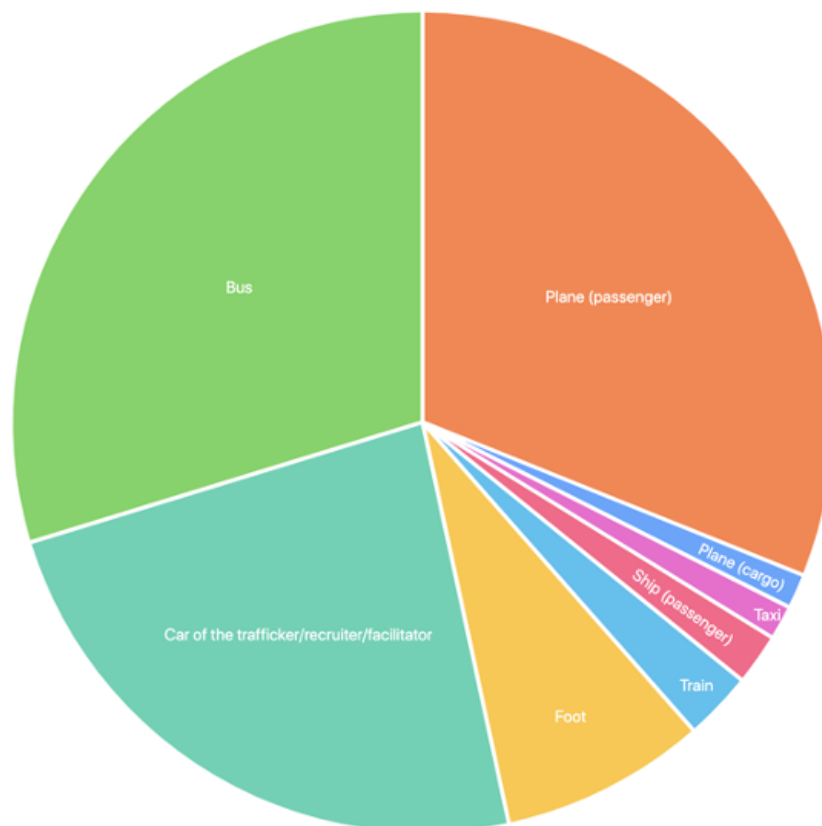
In these cases, recruiters pose as husbands but they end up abusing the victim once they arrive at their destination in Ethiopia. The Kenyan CSOs is aware of the current case as they are providing support in border crossing and transportation of the victim to the Finnish Embassy in Nairobi.

Transportation

Following the 2019 data collection, the data collection instrument has been adjusted to collect data on the specific modes of transportation used. This data can help CSOs in identifying the airlines that are commonly used by perpetrators and recruiters to transport victims and vulnerable individuals to the countries of exploitation.

This data is valuable in particular to engage the transport sector in establishing effective mechanisms to identify potential victims of trafficking and refer cases to trained immigration and security personnel at the airport and relevant CSOs for further investigation and assistance.

The analysis shows that victims frequently travel by bus and passenger planes, as well as in the car of the trafficker/recruiter/facilitator. The majority of victims use multiple modes of transportation and are often taken by the facilitators to the airports to fly from.



Airlines used by victims

As also noted in the 2019 report, Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi, but also Mombasa Airport, are major transit hubs for migration from East Africa to the Middle East, Europe and Asia. Migrants from the region, as well as different counties in Kenya, travel by road to Nairobi or Mombasa to board a flight for their onward journey.

A number of airlines have been mentioned in the submitted data and are listed below. We also provide an overview of the routes traveled by victims using particular airlines:

Emirates, Kenya Airways, Qatar Airways, Turkish Airlines:

- Busia, Kenya to Beirut, Lebanon via Nairobi
- Busia, Kenya to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia via Nairobi
- Namanga, Kenya to Beirut, Lebanon via Nairobi
- Namanga, Kenya to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia via Nairobi

Saudi Arabian Airlines:

- Kitui, Kenya to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia via Nairobi

Ethiopian Airlines:

- Taveta, Kenya to Frankfurt, Germany via Mombasa and Addis Ababa
- Mombasa, Kenya to Frankfurt, Germany via Addis Ababa
- Malamba, Kenya to Frankfurt, Germany via Mombasa and Addis Ababa
- Busia, Kenya to Frankfurt, Germany via Mombasa and Addis Ababa
- Lunga-Lunga, Kenya to Frankfurt, Germany via Mombasa and Addis Ababa
- Helsinki, Finland to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

KLM:

- Nairobi to Saudi Arabia (unknown transit location)

Lufthansa:

- Kitale, Kenya to Frankfurt, Germany via Mombasa (unknown transit location)

Turkish Airlines:

- Nairobi, Kenya to Istanbul, Turkey (unknown transit location)

Recruitment

The submitted cases show that recruiters are often relatives or close friends of victims. It might be a family member taking the victim from a rural area to the city under the pretext of a place at school, or a known agent facilitating a “good job”. The promise of a better life and profitable opportunities remain the main motivation for victims to put their trust in recruiters and agree to migrate, as they seek to provide for their families and children.

Organizations noted that recruitment techniques vary between jobs/industries and that recruiters use different means, e.g. deception, threat and fraud, to lure their victims.

Other known details on recruitment include a method in which traffickers target aid workers in the Dadaab camp for information on potential victims to be trafficked or smuggled; they then pick vulnerable young girls looking for better opportunities in cities such as Nairobi.

In other cases, recruiters visit villages to identify disabled persons; they falsely promise them corrective surgery in Nairobi and a better life.

On the route to Libya, traffickers also identify victims for organ harvesting.

Industry spotlight: domestic work

In the 2019 report, domestic work was by far the most common form of exploitation reported and, given its isolated nature, it is also a uniquely challenging issue to address. As part of the upscaling exercise, we added recommendations for further data collection on this matter including the gathering of additional data on the methods of recruitment used.

From the data submitted it be noted that recruitment into the domestic sector is most commonly done through word-of-mouth by agents who operate across different locations in Kenya. Most of the recruiters are regular members of the community who are known by the victims or who are, in many cases, their relatives. Kenyans are also recruited through bureaus and registered recruitment agencies.

Family pressure is one of the main factors that contributes to the decision to seek and/or accept a job as a domestic worker abroad.

In recent years, there has been a significant increase in labour migration from Kenya to the Gulf Countries. A shortage of manpower in the destination countries, coupled with a lack of adequate employment opportunities in Kenya and the larger East African region, makes it easy to recruit semi-skilled and low-skilled workers, who are also largely vulnerable to illegal recruitment agencies.

Most recruiters don't disclose the type of work they are recruiting for, and migrants are fed with falsehoods about pay, hours, the working environment, and risk management mechanisms.

Despite the mechanism and policy frameworks that exist to enhance the protection of East African migrant workers, there is a need for a far more comprehensive strategy that addresses the current gaps in the recruitment process and provision of assistance to identified victims of trafficking stranded abroad.

DATA APPLICATIONS

During both data collection exercises – the pilot in 2019 and the upscale in 2020 – Stop the Traffik Kenya (STTK) urged its members to share data in order to improve project implementation. As we await the centralized data collection system defined in the Counter Trafficking in Persons Act (2010) we intend to empower our members with a better understanding of the human trafficking situation in the country as well as the impact they are having in their fight against it. The report that is developed from the data submitted will be shared widely within the network and will be made available on our website in the hope that members and organizations use the data when applying for funding, planning their project implementation, in advocacy, and for growing their partnerships as well as in evaluating their impact.

The initial data collection (2019) was conducted with the aim of establishing a better understanding of patterns of movement, human trafficking activity, and potential risks to vulnerable groups seeking work abroad. It became clear that continuous data collection was critical to identifying new trends and providing more clarity around the industries into which Kenyans are recruited as forced labour.

The following sections provide recommendations for practical applications of the data collected.

IDENTIFICATION OF EXPLOITATION 'HUBS' AND LOCATIONS OF ACTIVITY

The data set provides an overview of locations that function as a gateway for the movement and trafficking of victims and vulnerable individuals. This includes in particular Nairobi and Mombasa airports, as well as identified land border crossings. This data can be used to investigate existing efforts and activities to combat trafficking in these locations, including by immigration, border and airport personnel.

BUILDING COMPREHENSIVE CIVIL SOCIETY COLLABORATION

A great number of origin and destination countries have been identified through the data. This information can guide partnership-building efforts by STTK, as well as CSOs themselves, to identify suitable organizations in relevant countries which can provide support with case referrals and repatriation.

STRENGTHENING AND COORDINATION OF PREVENTION EFFORTS

An effort has been made to collect more details on the cities and counties of origin within Kenya. The data set now shows a number of locations from which victims were recruited and from where they departed. This data should be used to evaluate current prevention and outreach activities, identify gaps, and coordinate CSO services for these locations.

FINANCIAL SECTOR INVOLVEMENT AND RISK

Income and profits do not trickle down to benefit workers, rather they move in the opposite direction, funding criminal trafficking networks and those who support them. At a local level such payments are made in cash, but, when money crosses borders, banking services, money service providers and informal value transaction systems come into play. It is widely agreed that such transactions constitute money laundering, and the financial institutions that provide these services would be well advised to monitor and analyze their data, in order to understand if and how they are involved, and the extent of their potential risk.

INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

Data collected with regard to the airlines used on migration routes can support NGOs in effectively engaging the Kenya Airports Authority, as well as the airline industry actors, in being actively involved in identifying victims of trafficking and referring cases to trained immigration and airport security staff for further investigation and onward referral to NGOs.

STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE

STTK will share this document with STTK's membership as well as with relevant government representatives such as: Transnational Organized Crime Unit (TOCU), Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Protection Unit (AHTCPU), Counter Trafficking in Persons Secretariat, Counter Trafficking in Persons Advisory Committee, Border Management Secretariat and National Coordination Mechanism for Migration, among others.

Freedom Collaborative was launched in 2016 by Liberty Shared as an online platform to facilitate cross-border cooperation between anti-trafficking service providers in Asia. The first forum of its kind, and now in its fifth year, Freedom Collaborative continues to support collaboration between a wide range of civil society, government, and private sector stakeholders from around the world, through tools and services for data and information sharing. It is the largest community of professionals and other activists working to end human trafficking, forced labour and exploitation globally. By providing our frontline partners with accessible data collection and analysis tools, Freedom Collaborative brings together data sets on exploitation activity, contextual factors, and the existing response landscape. The team provides anti-trafficking organizations with free support for the development and implementation of data collection that can be adapted to local contexts and implemented quickly.

STOP THE TRAFFIK Kenya (STTK) is an affiliate of STOP THE TRAFFIK Global (STTG) which is a movement that aims to prevent human trafficking. The founding members of STTK are The Salvation Army, Awareness Against Human Trafficking (HAART) Kenya, Trace Kenya, Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA) and Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA). The current steering committee members are CAPA, HAART Kenya, The Salvation Army and Trace Kenya. Stop the Traffik- Kenya was officially launched in February 2018. STTK seeks to prevent trafficking by engaging in community transformation, gathering and sharing knowledge as well as through global campaigning. The membership is open to individuals, civil society organizations and the private sector.