



Unveil the Hidden Presence: Trafficking in Women and Children A Leadership and Innovation Lab

Insight Report 1

Lab meeting 1: Nairobi in Kenya, from 25th to 28th June 2018

In June 2018 the Lab Unveil the Hidden Presence: Trafficking in Women and Children kicked off with a meeting in Nairobi. Participants from governments, academia, media and civil society of 25 countries around the globe met in person for the first time. Over the course of four days, participants opened up to a mixture of interactive co-creation and self-reflection methods, including amongst others journaling and exploring ones social atom, speed dating, peer-counselling methods, small and large group work as well as open spaces.



“Coming from a field where I am used to power point presentations, I learned just to immediately change my training delivery approaches.”

Many of the participants did not have intensive experience with the self-reflective and open co-creative nature of the Lab process. Nevertheless, the carefully selected participants brought an electric energy to the dialogue. “Coming from a field where I am used to power point presentations, I learned just to immediately change my training delivery approaches.” stated one participant already on the second day.

Everyone connected on personal and professional levels, explored the different experiences and challenges in the fight against trafficking in women and children and learned about the conditions and synergies in connecting the different sectors and professions. “My greatest challenge now is going back as a single person.” was one of the reactions after the deep experience.

Central to “unveiling the hidden presence” was, furthermore, the conversations on social media, on understanding the role of media and journalism, on identifying fake news and crafting messages. One participant working at Kenya’s Ministry of Interior and Coordination, reflected: “I realize now that we can no longer ignore the media!” Facing local reality through learning journeys contributed a lot to stimulating reflection on the topic. Part of the group went to HAART (<https://haartkenya.org>), currently the only organization that works exclusively on eradicating human trafficking and modern slavery in Nairobi including prevention, protection and prosecution services. The other half of the group visited the informal settlement Mathare where HAART conducts prevention work. Struggling to bring food on the table and to keep a roof over their heads, families often find it difficult to prioritize their basic welfare and safety. These precarious living conditions provide a fertile ground for traffickers. “We did not choose to come here but we ended up here.” explained one of the inhabitants.

Ahead of the learning journeys, participants were briefed on how to approach the visits, including re-examining the challenges they had identified, and keeping these in mind during the field visit. The briefing furthermore included how to identify specific story angles and campaign threads that they could incorporate into their own work. The field visits were a very intense experience; everybody was deeply moved by the work done by HAART.

The meeting in Nairobi concluded with thoughts about joint future project ideas and proposals as well as next steps to develop ideas further, to collect and publish stories and setting up communication and collaboration channels.



Back home, participants already started to collect stories, stimulate conversations and organize meetings in the local communities sharing also the stories of other countries as well as the experience of the Lab.

The vibrant energy and strong commitment continues. The following actions evolved after the Nairobi meeting:

- Nurturing the strong Facebook and WhatsApp community developed by the participants, by regularly sharing information, news stories, messages, interviews, journalism guidelines, and other materials
- Research on information gaps (mini funds)
- A webinar series each month or bimonthly, open to all participants to ask questions and seek advice
- Joint project development
- Social media campaigning on the World Day against Trafficking in Persons (30th June)
- Specific, tailored coaching and mentoring



More impressions and information about the Lab:

www.we-do-change.org/what-we-do/trafficking-in-women-and-children