



FUND FOR NON-STATE ACTORS

PROJECT PHOTOBOOK



PROJECT:
"Combating Human Trafficking and Protecting the Rights of Children, Migrants and Women Victims through Community Engagement Action in Sierra Leone"



The photos presented in the photobook are those of the project, “Support to Free Movement of Persons and Migration in West Africa” (FMM West Africa) and the NGO Advocacy Movement Network (AMNet) in Sierra Leone and depict the activities of the NSA Fund project, “Media Training and Public Sensitization on ECOWAS and Migrant Rights.”

The FMM West Africa project aims at maximizing the development potential of free movement of persons and migration in West Africa. To this end, it supports migration data management, border management, labour migration and combating trafficking in persons in West Africa.

This photobook was made possible through the support provided by the European Union and ECOWAS Commission within the framework of the FMM West Africa project

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PROJECT SNAPSHOT

1 **NGO**

Advocacy Movement Network (AMNet)

2 **PROJECT DURATION**

1 January 2019 - 31 March 2020

3 **GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE**

Northern Region: Kambia and Koinadugu Districts
Eastern Region: Kailahun, Kono and Kenema Districts
Southern Region: Pujehun District
Western Area

4 **FUNDING GRANTED**

92,700 Euros



PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Presentation of the Baseline Study

The baseline study on transnational and cross-border trafficking across the seven targeted region was presented to the Project Steering Committee and the Sierra Leone National TiP Task Force. A key finding of this study is that the low levels of education, especially among youth, leaves the youth unqualified for various jobs therefore propelling them to seek socio-economic prosperity elsewhere.



Training workshop for Magistrates, Prosecutors and Parliamentarians on Trafficking in Persons

Among the various trainings conducted by AMNet, the two-day training workshop for Magistrates, Prosecutors and Parliamentarians on TiP took place from 2 -3 December 2019 at the Country Lodge Complex in Freetown. 35 Magistrates, prosecutors and parliamentarians were trained.



Art and Essay Competition on Trafficking in Persons

The art and essay competition on Trafficking in Persons targeted secondary schools in Freetown to further address problem of human trafficking among school-aged children and create and enhance the understanding and awareness of human trafficking to stimulate the need to prevent and respond to varied cases of trafficking. An awards ceremony was conducted at the end of the competition. 8 schools were targeted, and 980 students participated.





AMNet trains Magistrates, Prosecutors and Parliamentarians on Combating Human Trafficking

By Foday Moriba Conteh

In its quest to enhance adequate capacity building for Magistrates, Prosecutors and Parliamentarians in dealing with issues relating to the trafficking of persons in Sierra Leone, Advocacy Movement Network Sierra Leone (AMNet) on Monday 2nd December, 2019 held a one day training for Magistrates, Prosecutors and Parliamentarians on combating human trafficking and protecting the rights of child migrants and women victims, through community engagement action, at Country Lodge in Freetown.

In his address Head of Programs, Advocacy Movement Network Sierra Leone (AMNet), Samuel Bangura, extended appreciation to the trainees for attending further highlighting how the training will create a better understanding of the concept of human trafficking and its related regulations.

He said that AMNet, through the project, is committed to ensure that positive, meaningful and proactive support to end human trafficking through speedy judicial processes in reporting and prosecuting perpetrators, adding that at AMNet their task is to make it possible and their mission is to build strong cooperative networks for CSOs,

MDAs, community structures and other actors to enhance an understanding of their respective roles, relationships and become motivated to act.

He also extended appreciation to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Free Movements of Persons and Migrants (FMM), West Africa through whose agencies the project is funded by the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) and the European Union (EU). He also thanked the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Project Steering Committee, the Office of the National Security, the Trans-National Organized Crime Unit and the World Hope International etc. for their supervisory roles.

He said they are honored to have distinguished Magistrates, Prosecutors, and parliamentarians in their midst, adding that all these three categories are esteemed specialists in enacting regulations and dispensing justice relating to human trafficking.

State Prosecutor at the Law Officers Department and the lead in Human Trafficking matters, who also doubled as the facilitator, Adrian Fisher, disclosed that the training is geared towards discussing issues relating to trafficking of persons in a bid to enhance adequate capacity building

for Magistrates, Prosecutors and Parliamentarians in dealing with such issues in Sierra Leone and how they impact upon Sierra Leoneans and the country as a whole.

He pointed out that human trafficking issues are very key as it is on the increase in the country. He added that the Magistrates, Prosecutors and Parliamentarians are very key in combating human trafficking in the country maintaining how the training will increase awareness of the relevant legal provisions, increase awareness on the dangers of human trafficking on women in Sierra Leone, adding that Sierra Leone is currently seen as a country where trafficking takes place stressing that the training will help to re-define Sierra Leone.

He assured Sierra Leoneans of their commitment in combating human trafficking saying much has been accomplished in combating trafficking but said with the current measures been taken he believes such will yield positive outcomes, noting that one of the measures is the aspect of taking trafficking matters directly to the High Court for trial.

He called on Sierra Leoneans to report issues of trafficking of persons to the Transnational Organized Crime unit as a matter of urgency for urgent investigation assuring that the



perpetrators will be prosecuted. Legal Adviser and Senior State Prosecutor (CID) Joan M.S Bull disclosed that the training is not only timely but important to them as State Prosecutors pointing out that for the past eight years they have been prosecuting such cases but there had been no conviction of perpetrators of human trafficking.

She said that human trafficking has been causing a lot of problems for Sierra Leoneans.

Underscoring the importance of the training she said that such will empower them as prosecutors in order to draft their charges which will help them to convict perpetrators.

She called on victims of human trafficking to report cases in order for them to bring the perpetrators to book.

Concord Times

AMNet seeks support to end human trafficking

By Ibrahim Tarawallie

The Advocacy Movement Network (AMNet) yesterday engaged Magistrates and prosecutors of the Judiciary of Sierra Leone, as well as members of parliament to discuss in detail ways of ending human trafficking in the country.

The training at Country Lodge in Freetown was centered around the concept of trafficking in persons and its related regulations under the project titled; "Combating human trafficking and protecting the rights of children migrants, and women victims through community engagement action in Sierra Leone".

Sierra Leone has done very little in combating human trafficking over the years and as such, the country is under

the tier two watch lists by the United States since 2016.

According to the facilitator, who doubles as State Prosecutor, Adrian Fisher, countries like Sierra Leone need to do more in tackling the issue in all its forms as other nations are making progress.

He stated that Sierra Leone used to be under tier two but because the country was not doing anything to fight human trafficking, they were placed on the tier two watch lists and risk being placed on tier three come March 2020 if nothing is done.

By going a step backward to tier three because of non-performance in fighting human trafficking, the former Magistrate noted that the US and other countries will have nothing to do with Sierra Leone.

He added that the country stands to lose in excess of \$500million and will not attract investors to come and invest if they are placed on tier three.

"The United States department report on trafficking for 2018 and 2019 says Sierra Leone is not serious as we have loads of investigations into trafficking without any conviction," he said.

"It cost the international community a huge sum of money to deal with trafficking in persons and they are not happy about it. We all have an obligation to make sure we deal with the issue now," he urged.

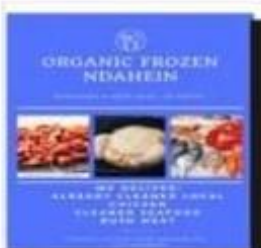
AMNET Head of Programs, Samuel Bangura said the project they are implementing seeks to ensure positive and proactive support to end human trafficking through speedy

judicial processes in reporting and prosecuting perpetrators.

He stated that they hope to build strong cooperative networks of civil society organizations, ministries, department and agencies and community structures to enhance understanding of their roles and relationships to act.

"The Magistrates, prosecutors and parliamentarians in our midst are esteemed specialists in enacting regulations and dispensing justice related to human trafficking," he said.

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See details in next edition

"If you are emotionally attached to your tribe or political leaning to the point that truth and justice become secondary considerations, your education is useless. Your exposure is useless. If you cannot reason beyond petty sentiments, you are a liability to mankind."- Dr Yusuf Bala Usman(Late)



The Guardian

Motto: AHEAD OF THE PACK

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AMNet trains local authorities on human trafficking



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