



Divine Foji Ndungana
Diaconia University of Applied Sciences
Bachelor Degree in Social Services
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COMBATING LABOUR AND SEX TRAFFICKING IN CAMEROON:

The Role of NGO in rescuing women and young girls from labour and sex trafficking in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon

ABSTRACT

Divine Foji, Ndungana.

Combating labour and sex trafficking in Cameroon: The Role of NGO in rescuing women and young girls from labour and sex trafficking in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon.

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Despite the growing efforts by global and local actors to fight against human trafficking, this trade is still booming even in recent times. Women, young girls and children as victims of trafficking, are peculiarly vulnerable, as children are completely dependent on adults for a livelihood and while women and young girls are faced with discrimination against them. In present-day debate, couple of studies treat trafficking as an issue in its own right. The purpose of this research is to correct this situation by examining the root causes of trafficking. To be precise, the study seeks to find the role of NGOs in rescuing victims of sex and force labour trafficking in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon.

The research uses previous literature on trafficking to form a theoretical framework, by constructed categories. Qualitative interview methodology is used to extract data, with regular and open ended questions. During the study, four interviews were carried out with an NGO in Cameroon. The findings that which studies generate are compared and analysed, in relation to each other and the modern day global debate on trafficking. Through the interviews it was found that, the root causes of sex and forced labour trafficking in Cameroon are gender inequality, internal displacement, poverty, low level of education, socio political atmosphere. Poor implementation of legislation was found to be the reason of the discrepancies in Cameroon's legal framework.

It became clear from the research that theoretical framework of trafficking is not enough to conceptualize and defeat complex problems which calls for the need of a comprehensive approach towards sex and forced labour trafficking. There is a need for clearer legal definition in Cameroon. There is the necessity to direct educational efforts to all the stakeholders as well as the population as whole. There is an urgent need for the government to work in collaboration with NGOs. The trafficking of women, young girls and children is deep rooted in Cameroon, so unless large and concrete efforts are made to repair this situation, trafficking in women, young girls and children for sexual and forced labour exploitation will surely last more longer.

Keywords: Sex trafficking, forced labour trafficking, child labour in Cameroon.



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1.INTRODUCTION

Human trafficking is a growing phenomenon with an increasing body of literature. It has created a controversial debate regarding the uncontrolled growth of the recruitment and procurement of individuals for profit (Bernat 2011). Human trafficking is a trade prohibited by the Protocol to Suppress, prevent and Punish Trafficking in Persons, with emphasis on women and children (United Nations Office on Drug and Crimes 2008), and most often involves the movement of people across frontiers as well as from their domicile or villages to bigger cities. It composed of the smuggling of women and children for the aim of sexual exploitation, it also involves trafficking of victims who are searching for jobs, the trafficking of asylum seekers who are in search of safe refuge. Besides the commodification of humans, human trafficking is also defined to include the trafficking of some human organs or materials for medical reasons (United Nations Office on Drug and Crimes 2008).

Trafficking in person takes on many forms today such as domestic servitude where employees are confined into private homes forced or coerced to work with no opportunity to escape, bonded labour where individuals are compelled to work for debt repayment and not allowed to leave until debt is been repaid. Trafficking for sexual exploitation and forced labour remain the most prominent detected forms (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime 2016).For the purpose of this study, the focus will be on sex trafficking and forced labour. Sex trafficking is a highly lucrative aspect of human trafficking and at the same time originated from cultural practices (Cree 2008). Women and children are more vulnerable to sex trafficking because of experiences of gender-based discrimination, poverty and the history of physical violence (Cree 2008).

It is difficult to get reliable statistics in regard to how many women and children are trafficked for sexual exploitation. According to UNODC (2016), 54% of the total victims of trafficking in person recorded in the year 2014 were for sexual exploitation. In the year 2010-2012, women made up 97% of the total victims of persons who were trafficked for sexual exploitation (The European Union Parliament 2016). The share of sex trafficking in global trafficking can only be followed by forced labour which is another predominant form of trafficking in term of victims.

As for force labour, it is all work or services obtained from any person under the threat of a penalty and for which the said person in question has not voluntarily offered themselves (Office of International labour 2008). Forced labour exists everywhere and the trend is rap-

idly growing globally as compared to decade ago. In 2012, The international labour organization reported that an estimate of 14.2 million people globally are victims of labour exploitation (EU parliament 2016). According to data from 71 countries recorded in 2014, 63% of men were victims of forced labour as compared to 37% for women (UNODC 2016).

Even though the recent fast growth of human trafficking (which also includes trafficking for the purpose of forced labour) has been associated with the end of the Cold War era, the African continent has a history of forced labour and slavery. Colonial masters organized and implemented different forms of compulsory or even forced labour on the ruled population that lasted for many years (Caritas International 2016). . However, contemporary victims of forced labour in Africa are mostly exploited in the private economy – often within the informal sector. The most easily identified form of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation are for those members of African societies trafficked away from the continent: to places like the Middle East, Europe, Asia and other destinations (Caritas International 2016). Trafficking for forced labour exploitation has been a difficult reality for many African societies for decades. Women, men and children are exploited in domestic servitude, the agricultural sector (including the cocoa industry), fisheries, and construction sites, among others. Africa has the second highest prevalence rate (number of victims per thousand inhabitants) of forced labour victims in the world, estimated at 4.0 per 1,000 inhabitants (Caritas international 2016). An estimate from The International Labour Organization put it that the total number of victims of forced labour in Africa is 3.7 million people – the second largest number after South-East Asia . However, these are only estimates and, taking into consideration that many victims are exploited in the informal sector, the real number could be even higher (Caritas international 2016).

Within the context of Cameroon human trafficking is a practice that predates even colonial rule when labourers were moved from the hinterlands to meet up with the demands for plantation work by the colonial masters. While such practices might have ended at independence, Cameroon continues to face new forms of human trafficking (Fouthe 2017.). According to US State Department Traffic in person Report (2016), Cameroon is a country that produces victims, serve as a passage for traffickers and victims and also a final stop for women and children enslaved to force labour and sex trafficking. The reports note that child traffickers who often pose as intermediaries usually lure parent in rural areas to connect their children to wealthy individuals in bigger cities for better education and job prospect but end up selling them into forced prostitution and forced labour. Children in Cameroon are exploited in domestic services, restaurant, begging or hawking on the streets and highways,

agriculture, artisanal gold mining and fishing and few others(US State Department Trafficking in person reports 2016).Children are subjected to sex trafficking within the country.

Beyond national frontier men and women are lured to Morocco and Algeria, The Middle East and Europe by fraudulent internet marriages proposals or offers of well -paying jobs but afterward they become victims of forced prostitution or forced labour especially domestic servitude(Fouthe 2017). Cross sections of the intermediaries are often Cameroonian. Cameroon is placed on Tier two watch list in the trafficking in person report, this is because the government does not adequately meet the minimum standard for the eradication of trafficking which comes from the fact that the government does not provide enough funding or resources to the anti-trafficking social unit or inter -ministerial anti trafficking committee (US State Department trafficking in person reports 2016).

This paper is based on the literature of human trafficking in a global perspective but focus will be on sex and forced labour trafficking in Cameroon and particularly in the two Anglo-phone regions. This thesis is descriptive in nature and emphasis will be on ‘what’ rather than looking at the ‘why’ of the research topic. To add more to this research and paint a clear picture of the aim, this thesis is further supported with a case example of Survivors network Cameroon. A non-governmental organization that is fighting against human trafficking in Cameroon.

Trafficking according to Mishra & Veeranda (2013) is a 32 billion dollar industry and these are only accounted cases. An estimated 21 million person and over are victimized through human trafficking (International Labour Organization 2008).There is an urgent needs to put possible measures in place to prevent, protect and prosecute offenders in the strongest term because this trade is against all forms of human trafficking. With the current global political atmosphere many countries are in political turmoil. With war, conflict, and displacement being major factors causing human trafficking, traffickers are using the unstable atmosphere to prey on vulnerable persons like in the case of Cameroon which will be discuss in the subsequent chapters. There is an urgent need for social workers and other actors to team up and strategize on the best methods to use in combating human trafficking and also safeguard human rights and dignity of victims.

1.1Target group

Since the founding of the United Nations in 1954, equality between men and women has been among the most fundamental guarantees of human rights. Adopted in 1945, the United Nations human rights charter sets out as one of its goals to reaffirm faith in the fundamental

dignity and worth of human as well as the equality in the rights of men and women. In 1967 the UN member states adopted the declaration that targeted the elimination of discrimination against women which highlighted that the discrimination against women is an offence to human (UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women 2010).

As an exponential part of the globalization process, the United Nation has made provisions to protect the rights of women globally. However, the condition of African women has been terribly low. African womanhood is at the bottom of the scale because ‘she is oppressed by her African brother, she is oppressed by other women who are not African, she is oppressed by her non -African man, she incarnates the mass of the poor and oppressed (Orabueze 2015).It is conspicuously clear that the bad conditions of African womanhood arises from the non-compliance to the humanistic legislation of the United Nations, the denial of basic rights of women such as the denial of rights to education, freedom of movement, breach of the dignity of females are prevalent in most African countries(Orabueze 2015).

A large portion of identified victims of human trafficking are female. Although historically this trade has been a crime affecting women and girls, men and boys are also vulnerable to trafficking which the current trend in trafficking among men and boys is high.

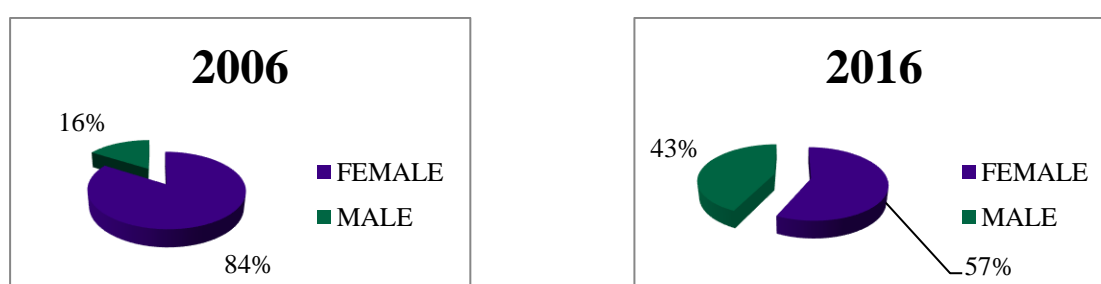


Figure 1. Source: IOM victims of trafficking data 2016.

Demographic of victims globally (Proportion of female and male victims from 2006-2016)

The term ‘discrimination against women’ in this research *shall mean any distinction, exclusion, or restriction made on the basis of sex which has effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercises by women irrespective of their marital status on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms or political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field* (UNODC 2016)

1.2 Stakeholders

The governments of Cameroon, NGOs, churches, international partners are all putting immense efforts to tackle human trafficking in Cameroon (Fouthe 2017). The battle against human trafficking in Cameroon is still having a long way to go just like in many other Sub-Saharan African countries. According to The Trafficking in persons reports No 16 of the year 2016 it states that the government of Cameroon is still doing very little to contain this trade as compared to the percentage of the number of cases of trafficking in her country (UNODC 2016). For these reasons there are other private actors such as NGOs, churches and several international partners that are working day in and out in the national territory to stamp out this trade. A couple of NGOs such as Nkum fed fed, survivors network are strongly into this social ills. This research will help the survivors' network which is currently championing the fight against women and girls trafficking and also winning lots of local and international recognition and award for this course.

The survivor network is a female led non-governmental organization made up of survivors of human trafficking from within Cameroon, Africa the Middle East and the world at large. It has been working hard in combating human trafficking and modern day slavery specifically focusing on women, young girls and children in sub-Saharan Africa since 2015. It was founded by Francisca Mbuli who originated from Cameroon and happens to have been a victim herself. Since the NGO was created, it has rescued about 250 women from the hands of traffickers in Cameroon and the Middle East (Survivor network Cameroon 2016).

1.3 Laws and legislations against human trafficking in Cameroon

The Cameroon government has signed and rectified the following international convention; the Convention for the eradication of all types of discrimination against women, the Palermo protocol for the trafficking in person, International Convention against all forms of racial discrimination, International labour convention 138 minimum age, African charter on human and people's rights, Convention concerning the banning and immediate action for the eradication of the worst form of child labour (University of Minnesota Human rights library 2018). A 'convention' is a formal accord between States. The 'convention' therefore is equivalent with the term 'treaty'. Conventions are normally open for participation by the global community as a whole, or by a large number of States (UNICEF 2001). There are also national laws in place to protect the victim and prosecute traffickers such as Law No.

2011/024; Law Project Relating to the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons and Slavery (1, 4, 34, 36, 37); Labor Code (31, 33-36) for the prohibition of forced labour, Article 343 of the Penal Code; Article 76 of Law No. 2010/12 (33, 34, 38 which are all for the prohibition of Commercial Sex Exploitation of Children(US Department of Labour 2015) .

1.4 Why the need to combat human trafficking

The battle against human trafficking is something that every country is struggling to contain. It is not a crime that is rare even though not easy to detect but it is very predominant in most region around the world as well as in Cameroon. There have always been discrepancies in the reports about the extent of trafficking. There is an estimate of over 21 million persons who are victimized through human trafficking (International Labour Organization 2008), and also it is an industry worth more than 32 billion dollars of which these are only accounted cases(Mishra,Veerenda 2013). There is an urgent need to put possible measures in place to prevent, protect and prosecute offenders in the strongest terms because it is a trade which is against all forms of human rights and also a social plague in the society. The Palermo protocol was the first international instrument which called for the criminalization of all acts of trafficking. This protocol represents significant conceptual advances in three major areas; it recognizes that everyone can be a victim of human trafficking and trafficking is not exclusive to just women and children, trafficking can occur in all labour sector not just sex work, it emphasizes that force, coercion or deception must be present. *The term 'protocol' is used for an additional legal instrument that complements and add to a treaty. A protocol may be on any topic relevant to the original treaty and is used either to further clarify something in the original treaty, fix a new or emerging concern or add a procedure for the operation and enforcement of the treaty, such as adding an individual complaints procedure (UNICEF 2001)*

One should understand that people who have been trafficked are victims and not criminals thus it is important that stakeholders should come together and stamp out these social ills. This trade leaves behind the following effect to their victims;

Physical: This can come as a result of force labour or physical exploitation which caused the victim to end up with broken bones, burns, traumatic brain injury, sexually transmitted diseases, and other related problems as a result of working in bad and malnourished conditions.

Emotional: Psychological effect such as isolation, low self -esteem, trust issues, guilt and shame.

1.5. Causes and effects of human trafficking

Factors that cause human trafficking as a result of the vulnerability of the victim can be divided into push and pull factors (Mishra 2003). Since trafficking is essentially the exploitation of a victim's vulnerability, both factors function differently on victims with different intensity and at different places. There is no framework in place to suggest which of these factors if dealt with properly will solve the problem. The push and pull factors could be elaborated further as; push factors are particularly origin based factors because it exists at the point of origin and includes social problems which arise from divorces, child abandonment, and gender base discrimination. Also cultural problems could be another factor that pushes people out of their homeland and comprises of early marriages and the forcing of girl child into sex as an occupation. Economic reason can also be a reason for people to be vulnerable to trafficking. Some examples of these economic reasons arise from the slow or no economic growth, lack of rural-areas development and poverty as a result of joblessness. Political problems arising from the uneven distributions of national wealth, poor representation of women in the political sphere, crisis and war, discrimination of ethnic minority are also possible push factors that could drive people away from their homeland or caused them to be victimized for trafficking. In many parts of the world, environmental problems which is as a result of famine, drought, flood and earthquakes are possible push factors which forcefully makes people to leave their homes (Mishra, Veerendra 2013.).

To add to the above push factors, there are also pull factors which are destination base and very common in luring victims where they will be exploited. These factors are usually the reasons while victims are moving to the destination of exploitations or what their traffickers used in convincing them to move there. Pull factors are real or perceived factors in developing or developed countries for job freedom, safety better living conditions, better working conditions and more, the possibility to gain access to modern means of communication, high standard of living and better earnings. The victims are easily convinced due the high level of industrialization, modern houses and good road network as result of urbanization, and also communication and technological advancement (Misshra, Veerndra 2013.). All forms of human trafficking, as a result of the abusive and exploitative nature of the crime, produce damaging effects on trafficked individuals.

The effect of human trafficking can still be attributed under the same topic as the push factors. These effects have peril on the political, cultural social and economic situation of the

victim. The psychological, emotional, physical and economic exploitation of the victim is enormous. Physical effects of trafficking on the victim includes; broken bones, burns, sexual transmitted diseases, undetected and untreated diseases such as diabetes and cancer, substances abuses and malnourishment. Psychological effect includes; guilt and shame, post-traumatic stress disorder, alcohol or drug abuse, sexual disfunctioning, trust issue and low self-esteem (office of the United Nations on Drugs and Crimes 2008.)

1.6. Purpose of study and Research question

This thesis attempt to diagnose the role a non-governmental organization plays in the rescue and support of women and young girls from labour and sexual exploitation in Cameroon and specifically in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon. It aims further to find out what are the necessary tools that non-governmental organization uses to educate their community in preventing them from falling victims into the hands of human traffickers.

From the above aims this study has finally settled on the research question which is ‘What role do NGO play to rescue women and young girls from sex and force labour trafficking in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon?’. The study is based on human rights approach.

2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND CONCEPTS

2.1 Theoretical framework

Human and sex trafficking according to Benart (2011) explains how getting to know the causes of this trade required attention while global condition and responding to it required local laws and policies. He further explains that sex trafficking is the prostitution of person by force, coercion or threats. Cross sections of the victims are female, and they find it almost impossible to escape once they are in it. There are five important features of the international definition of human trafficking (UNODC 2008). It gives the new international legal understanding about trafficking which says;

Trafficking impacts men, women and children and involves an array of exploitation, also it says trafficking does not requires the crossing of an international boundary, trafficking is not the same as migrant smuggling, also it says trafficking does not always requires movement

and finally it is not possible to consent to trafficking (United Nation Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner 2014).

Furthermore, reports estimate that there are more than 12.3 million persons who are victimized through human trafficking annually and this trade is a more than 32 billion industries (Mishra & Veerendra 2003). Also Mishra & Veerendra (2013) explains that human trafficking is not a crime limited to a particular region, it is very high and common thus every country is struggling to cope with this problem. The Palermo protocol was first the international instrument that called for the criminalization of all acts of trafficking. One of the limitations of the Palermo protocol is that human trafficking is discussed on the last component of the trafficking chain which is destination. It does not absolutely notice the origin and transit portion of trafficking network. Under this protocol, trafficking is understood to occur if the three main constituents are present which are; Process which involves enlisting, movement of victims, transferring of victims, keeping or reception of persons, Means which comprises threatening the victims, use of force coercion against the victim, abduction persons, corruption, deception abuse of powers and vulnerability; and Purpose which is about Exploitation of the victims (Mishra 2003).

There are two perspective to combat human trafficking which are according to Mishra & Veerendra (2013) are; Law enforcement problem (accused oriented).The focus here is to punish the trafficker and prosecution is the matter of concern. Added to law enforcement problem, there are also human rights violation which is victim oriented. It is the gross violation of human rights and the approach is concentrated on rescue and rehabilitating victims with no much concern for prosecution (Mishra & Veerendra 2013).

Most of the practices affiliated with modern trafficking are clearly interdicted under international human rights law. The link between human rights and the fight against human trafficking are well connected. Human right law has banned discrimination on the basis of race and sex, it has asked for equal or at least some important rights for non-citizens, it has publicly denounced and made arbitrary detention illegal, force labour, debt bondage, force marriage, the sexual exploitation of women and children and it has vigorously support freedom of movement and the rights to move out and come back to one's own country (UNHR of the high commissioner 2014.).

It is not only the states and international bodies that are taking the lead in stamping out this trade; NGOs are also championing the cause in many communities as in the case of Cameroon. Many NGOs have taken initiative to address these critical issues of human trafficking either by collaborating with the state or they operate independently (Ramesh 2017). They function either through monetary support allocated to them by the government or finance

their activities themselves. Their aim is to provide service to the unprotected section of the society and elevate them in order to make them physically and mentally fit for the battle against exploitation of all kinds in the world. NGOs are competent and skillful in the areas they operate. They have played major roles to fight against human trafficking either through organizing seminars, conferences, publishing articles and journals, encourage research on the violation of human rights (United States department states 2018).

2.2 KEY CONCEPTS

An understanding of the key concepts in this study is important because through that one could see how the concepts are interrelated but also different. The concepts would also help the reader to understand what is going on in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon. Also, it is almost impossible to talk about human trafficking in Cameroon without driving through the following words:

2.2.1 Forced labour trafficking

According to the International labour organization forced labour convention, 1930 (No.29) forced or compulsory labour is 'all work or services obtained from any person under the threat of a penalty and for which the person has not gratuitously offered him or herself. This definition consists of three main elements which are; Work or services referring to all types of work occurring in any activity, industry or sector, Menace or any penalty referring to a wide range of penalties used to compel someone to work and Involuntariness which refers to the free and informed consent of a worker to take a job and his or her freedom to leave at any time (International Labour Organisation 2008).

Forced labour and its outcomes of human trafficking are becoming increasingly important issue of employers' organization and businesses (International Labour Organisation, 2008) Employers organization are strategically well placed to provide institutional engagement and sustainability to the success of ILO's campaign to stamp out forced labour. For International labour organisation, it is important to clarify that not all forced labour is the result of human trafficking and not all human trafficking related activities necessarily result in forced labour (Office of International labour 2008). Some examples where forced labour can be found today includes;

Traditional form of bonded labour which can be found in agriculture, rice mill, brick kilns and other economic activities in South Asia and Africa. It can affect an entire family especially in a case where the family head pledge both himself and the rest of the family members labour to receive advanced payment or credit from his employer when in need.

Debt bondage is another form of forced labour, and it is a complex system where contractors or subcontractors take cuts from indebted workers and which some of the workers end up working for years without receiving any substantial income (US State Department TIP reports 2016.).

Forced child labour is another form of labour trafficking and it is predominant in many parts of Africa. It is link to traditional practices of placing children in foster care with relative in distance cities. The children are often ruthlessly exploited as domestic servants. This practice is not limited only in Africa, the International labour organization estimates that at least 40% of forced labour victims globally are children (ILO 2008). According to ILO (2008) at least 12.3 million people are victims of forced labour globally. From this total, 9.8 million are exploited by private agents in addition to more than 2.4 million in forced labour as a result of human trafficking. Forced labour exists in advanced or developed countries as well as it is also present in poorer nations.

This concept is very relevant to this study because of the unprecedented cases we are experiencing today in Cameroon in general and the conflicts affected part of the two Anglophone regions and the Far North regions in particular (Survivor network Cameroon 2016) .On any day in 2016, there were likely more than 40 million men, women and children who were being forced to work against their will, under threats or who were living in forced marriages (Alliance.87 2018). Twenty five per cent (25%) of the victims globally are children who could indirectly reflect the percentage of child labour trafficking going on in Cameroon.

This concept will focus on child labour which is one of the most prominent form of labour trafficking in Cameroon due to it weak legislation and little government intervention to control and contain the trade (Enfants, Jeunes et Avenir, ECPAT International 2017).

About half of Cameroon's population is under the age of 18, and the country is home for nearly eleven million children of which only 2/3 of children are registered at birth (Enfants, Jeunes et Avenir, ECPAT International 2017). The Republic of Cameroon is at the nucleus of one of the poorest regions around the globe and noted for regular conflicts. The United Nations Development Program classified Cameroon 153rd in the world on 188 countries on the human development index of 2015, with 29% of the population living below the international poverty line of USD 1, 90 per day (Enfants, Jeunes et Avenir, ECPAT International

2017) .Child labour is an accustomed practice in Cameroon with 47% of children estimated to be exploited in child labour (Enfants, Jeunes et Avenir, ECPAT International 2017)

Children are victimized in domestic work, farming, mines, street vending and in other businesses. Street kids are also visible in big cities. Children living or working on the street are more susceptible to fall victim to sexual exploitation (Enfants, Jeunes et Avenir, ECPAT International 2017)

Due to the current conflict in The West of the Mungo in Cameroon, schools and normal livelihood of children have been interrupted and almost completely come to an indefinite stop. Traffickers posing as middle men lured parent on a daily base to send their children to wealthy relatives or strangers in big cities to help them accommodate and educate their children but unfortunately those children ends up hawking the streets selling and working in farms and bars for their masters and mistresses (Survivor network 2016).

In the year 2011, the government of Cameroon made a minimal advancement in efforts to eliminate child labour. In that year the Cameroon government enacted the law relating to the fight against trafficking in person and slavery, which criminalize human trafficking, slavery and debt bondage. However, the state of Cameroon has not adopted comprehensive policies on the worst form of child labour and thus there is still leakage in the enforcement of its child labour laws(Fouthe 2017).

The Cameroon labour code set the minimum age for hard work at 18years.Law No. (A077/17) prohibits children from working underground, in restaurant, hotels or bars or in any job that exceeds their physical capacity or longer than 8 hours a day in the industrial sector. Law No.98/004 mandates compulsory education of which children are required to attend schools until the age of 12 (US Department of labour 2018), this makes children in Cameroon between the age of 12-14 particularly vulnerable to child labour trafficking as they are not required to be in school and also falls below the minimum age to work. The English-speaking regions appear as areas of preferred recruitment of children. This is because in these regions, the domestic help is very much present in the household, in contrast with what can be observed in south and littoral regions of Cameroon, a region that receive much of the said children.(Intergrated development foundation 2009).

2.2.2 Causes of force labour trafficking

The causes of forced labour could be categorized into two groups and spread into different dynamics. These categories are based on dynamics from the demand perspective as well as dynamics from the supply perspectives. On the supply position, the three dynamics we look

at, all contribute to create a pool of workers vulnerable to exploitation. These include: Poverty, which entails the legally-created dispossession of material and social resources; Identity and discrimination, by which we consider it the denial to some people of the rights and status of full personhood, e.g. along lines of race and gender; Limited labour restriction, which create pools of unprotected workers outside the remit of state safeguards, who face serious limitations to acting collectively and apply rights (LeBaron,Howard 2018)

Also each of the elements we have considered to look at on the demand side either exert pressure within the market for highly exploitable forms of labour or create spaces within which that labour can be exploited. All of these dynamics are important to the nature of global supply chains as they are currently constituted. They includes :Concentrated corporate power and ownership, which fabricates huge downward pressure on the conditions of work, in part by lowering the share of value available to workers as wages; Outsourcing, which breakup responsibility for labour standards and makes oversight and answerability very difficult; Irresponsible sourcing practices, that put heavy cost and time pressures on suppliers, which can lead to risky practices like unauthorized subcontracting; Governance gaps, which are intentionally created around and within supply chains, opening up spaces for bad practice.(LeBaron,Howard 2018.)

2.2.3 Some risk factor exposing children to labour trafficking in Cameroon.

Within the context of Cameroon, there are hosts of risk factors that are exposing children to be trafficked for forced labour. Some of these factors are very uncontrollable and these risks could explain as follows: Moral factors which arose from the maltreatment and negligence of a child (Integrated development foundation 2009). In certain homes, children are very often maltreated and others neglected by their parent which caused these children to easily fall prey into false promises (Integrated development foundation 2009).Also socio-economic reasons such as poverty push parent to send their children out for work and which they ends up suffering from exploitation (Integrated development foundation 2009). In most cases it is done out of ignorance and the parent didn't know the consequences as explained by the parent. Furthermore, the cultural or historical factor is playing a role to swell the rate of child labour trafficking in the North West region of Cameroon (Integrated development foundation 2009). .In most traditions, children is a symbol that commands respect and dignity which goes along to add to your status in the community. This believes, produces large families and gives them responsibility they cannot bear. Culture favours the use of force and child labour trafficking as they perceived labour as a traditional means for a child to learn.

Another worrying factor that pushes child labour in Cameroon is early school dropout (Integrated development foundation 2009.).Most children after the completion of primary school remain at home and have no alternatives than to work no matter the age. In addition to the factors above, weak legal and regulatory environment is a call for concern. The text No. 205/015 of 29/12/2005 relating to the fight against child labour trafficking and slavery in Cameroon is still awaited (Integrated development foundation 2009). Reliable official statistics to know the extent of child trafficking do not exist.

There is a call for concern regarding labour trafficking during this period of political instability in the Anglophone regions and the fight against Boko haram in the Far North regions of Cameroon especially child labour trafficking which is very conspicuous in neighboring cities. . Both conflicts in the Far North and Anglophone regions of Cameroon produced a total of 239,000 internally displacement in Cameroon in the year 2017(IDMC 2017). Some of the negative impacts borne by internal displacement are factors that promote human trafficking.

2.2.4 Consequences of forced child labour.

Victims of child trafficking are goes through the same dangerous treatment as adults. Their age makes them even more susceptible to the harmful effect of abusive activities (UNODC 2008). Continued abuse in children, such as sexual and physical abuse, hunger and malnutrition, may lead to permanent growth prevention (UNODC 2008). Trafficked children may suffer from poorly formed or decayed teeth and may experience at a later stage reproductive problems. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has documented that children in some tropical regions are at high risk of sunstroke, increased irregular heart functioning, poisoning from chemicals, dust inhaling in sawmills and, machine malfunction accidents, burns and bruises, road accidents, and general fatigue that makes them less resistant to some tropical diseases because of their exposure to very bad working conditions (UNODC 2008). Trafficked children have very little or accurate knowledge about the transmission and prevention of sexual transmissible infection. Sexual transmitted infections most often have long term consequences and girls are particularly vulnerable (UNODC 2008). The state of being comfortable, confident and ability to draw goals in life and form good relationships of these younger victims of trafficking will be particularly altered. Trafficked children find it difficult to belief authority figures (UNODC 2008). If the trafficking was arranged by a member of their family, or if they were very young, they may be subsequently unable to go back to

their families or re-connect with them (UNODC 2008). They may develop addiction, lack of attachment, anti-social behaviours, and sexualized behaviour. If they have the opportunity to study, they may suffer developmental slowness, language and cognitive challenges, low verbal and memory skills, and poorer academic performance.

2.3 Sex trafficking

A general phenomenon to identify if a person has been trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation include whether they are kept in prostitution or any exploitative or slavery like situations that they find it impossible to escape, they are under threats and coercion, deception, fraud and forced (Healey 2012).Sex trafficking is a highly lucrative aspect of human trafficking(Cree 2008) .It has an estimated worth of about 91 billion dollars annually(Equality now 2018), 54% of trafficking victims are for sexual exploitation and women and girls constitute up to 96% of the victims for sexual exploitation(Equality now 2018). At the same time it originated from cultural practices. Women and children are especially vulnerable to sex trafficking because of the experience of powerlessness, poverty, gender-based discrimination and the history of physical violence (Cree 2008).It is not easy to get reliable statistics in regards how many women and children are trafficked for sexual exploitation.

The sex trafficking of men and boys is largely under –reported which may be due to the hidden nature of the practice as well as cultural and gender stereotypes. In several cases, women and girls who are lured to go and work as domestic servant and bar attendants ends up being forced into indirect or direct sex work .Also in some other case other cases, they chose to work in sex industry but end up finds themselves trapped in exploitative position that they did not agreed earlier (Survivors network 2016).

Sex trafficking can take place anywhere and in every country around the world. It is mostly common to people who have little or no access to education, opportunities to make ends meet, protection which in essence makes them to be vulnerable and exposed for exploitation. Many victims could be traced from countries with high rate of unskilled labour and weak labour legislation (United Nations Human Rights office of the High commissioner 2014). Also they could be found in advanced countries where they travelled for work, studies but end up being trafficked or forced into exploitative situations. The desperate effect of globalization, poverty, wars, political instability and lack of sustainable livelihood comprises conditions favourable for sex trafficking (Malloch,Rigby 2016).

The international community has singled out women and children as the two groups that are particularly vulnerable into sex trafficking. Sex trafficking is better understood by reference to patriarchal gender orders predicated on women's subordination to men albeit as this manifest itself within different social context (Malloch,Rigby 2016). Prostitution is distinction from the sale and purchases of other goods and services in that it involves women selling particular kind of sex that is premised on gender inequality(Malloch,Rigby 2016).This practice is socially construed out of male domination and women's subordination(Malloch,Rigby 2016).

The trafficking victim protocol(TVPA) was signed into law by President Bill Clinton in October 28, in the year 2000.The objective of this law was to accomplished the prevention of human trafficking by; prevent victims , prosecute traffickers rescue victims and the rehabilitation and integration of victims(Chin, Ko-lin,Finkenauer,James 2012).In accordance with TVPA, the U.S department of states is required to submit to the U.S congress annual reports (the Trafficking in person reports) on foreign government efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in person. All countries are grouped into Tiers and based on the extent of their efforts to fight against human trafficking. Tier I countries are those whose government fully comply with trafficking victim protection act minimum standard. The tier II countries are those whose government do not fully abide by the trafficking victim protection act minimum standard but are making considerable efforts to bring themselves into conformity with those standards. Tier III government are those which do not fully meet up with the minimum standard and are not making a major efforts to do so (Chin et al. 2012).

Despite the attention and resources, there remain a number of unanswered or at least not completely answered question about trafficking in person. Good answers to these question are key ultimate success of preventing and combating trafficking in person (Chin et al.2012). The first set of question is how big human trafficking is?, how many victims are there?, and how long does anyone know that at the centre of this big question and its answers is the reality that big problems commands big solution and getting big breakthrough require resources(Chin et al.2012). When the big problem includes sex, violence and the victimization of young innocent women, it has key ingredients for attracting media and political attention. Africa is chiefly a region where victims of trafficking originate from. Western Europe and Western Africa are documented to be the main destination or sub-regions for African victims. West Africa involvement in the sale of people has a long history from the 10th century to the 14th century when the was active slave trade in people across the Sahara which in turn let to the transatlantic slave trade (Campbell,Elbourne 2014).Now called human trafficking, it is a multibillion industry across this continent which is facilitated by inequality, poverty,

crime, corruption, violence, conflicts together with low cost of transportation and communication (Campbell, Elbourne 2014). In West Africa, Human trafficking usually takes the form of child trafficking within local borders and across the region for labour and sexual exploitation; forceful recruitment of children into armed conflicts; and women and young girls being trafficked internally and out of the region for sexual exploitation (UNODC 2008).

2.3.1 Stages of sex trafficking

According to the prevailing trafficking paradigm, sex trafficking can be divided into the following stages: (1) The recruitment of potential victims by recruiters (2) Transportation of victims, (3) selling of victims to brothel owners by stakeholders be it recruiters or traffickers (4) the control victims (5) the subsequent victimization of victims by sex ring operators (6) the use of debt bondage as a form of control and (7) the exploitation of victims primarily in financial terms (Campbell, Elbourne 2014)..

2.3.2 Sex trafficking in Cameroon

Cameroonians are progressively acting as intermediaries in forcing other Cameroonians into trafficking in other countries and also Cameroonian women who often transit Morocco to Europe are forced into prostitution by European trafficking networks (US State Department TIP reports 2016). Trafficking for the aim of sexual exploitation occurs partially due to the demands for prostitutes and other forms of commercial sexual practices which traffickers seek to supply, and definitely transform individuals into commodities which dehumanizes them (Healey 2012).

In 2016 the parliament of Cameroon adopted Penal Code that bans exploitation in prostitution with double sentences if the victim is below the age of 21. There is no proper definition of 'child prostitution' nor does it stop 'sexual exploitation for commercial purposes' clearly (Enfants, Jeunes et Avenir, ECPAT International 2017). In 2011, the Government adopted Anti-Trafficking Law No (A2011/024) which also embodies the trafficking of children for sexual exploitation. However, the 2011 law is not on the same line with the international norms and definitions. The use of force, threat, deception, corruption, or other forms of coercion is required for a child to be likened to victim of sex trafficking, which is different to international standards (Enfants, Jeunes et Avenir, ECPAT International 2017). The Came-

room constitution and law No. 15 both prohibit slavery and servitude, forced labour, slavery, prostitution and the corruption of youth and kidnapping (US Department of labour 2018).

Due to very little tools in place and slow implementation of policies and legislation signed by the Cameroon government to fight against sex trafficking, it is very certain that the number of victims who are trafficked for sexual exploitation during this conflict West of the Mungo is skyrocketing.

2.3.3 Factors influencing the trafficking of women and young girls for sexual exploitation.

Trafficking of humans for the purpose of sexual exploitation is a global problem which caused by a number of factors which include the prevailing nature of poverty, lack of means to support the necessities of life, gender discrimination due to of cultural believes, displacement, the demand for young girls for exploitation, the disruption associated with natural disasters and conflict in some parts of the country and the realization of profits (UNODC 2016). There are situations where socio-cultural and religious practices have an impact on child trafficking, as where religious leaders have put their position into use to traffic girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Trafficking is regularly achieved through the deception of young girls and their families. (Abdul Basit Naik 2018). Majority of the cause of human trafficking are synonymous in every part of the world which serves as a source country for victims. Cameroon which is also a source and transit country for women and young girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation also faced the following root cause of sex trafficking as explain below just like every other sex trafficking production country (UNODC 2016).

The following factors such as displacement, socio-political and natural disaster, porverty, gender inequality and disparity, lack of awareness and illiteracy influences trafficking of women and young girls for sexual exploitation. These factors will be clearly describe below and were retrieved from different literature by comparing the ideas before selecting the ones closely related to situation in Cameroon. The different sources are cited under individual factors as described in the next paragraphs.

Displacement: There is an estimated 1.3 million people in need of protection assistance; 2.6 million people in need of food assistance while a further 1.4 million people are in need of wash assistance (IDMC 2017). Also host communities are a target group for assistance programs as influx of internally displaced persons strain already personal resources and social

services. This factor is very significant because displacement is a process of impoverishment (Norwegian refugee council 2018). It impoverishes individuals, families and communities as seen in the case of Cameroon. Joblessness, marginalization, food insecurity, loss of education opportunities are all factors that could increase the vulnerability of internally displaced persons and thus they are liable to become available for human traffickers.

Socio-political problems and natural disaster: Civil and military conflicts push people to flee their countries. Out of the 25 million refugees globally, 80% are women and children. They become an easy prey in the hands of the traffickers ((Abdul Basit Naik 2018).). Weak law enforcement procedure and channels to prosecute offenders, corruption by police and law enforcers, officials and peacemakers

Poverty: is one of the prime determinant factors of women and young girls trafficking. Furthermore, poverty denies these women from resources which further aggravate the issue. Poverty circumvent various dimensions which includes lack of access to basic services, insecurity in daily life, disempowerment as human agency, and the inability to speak out with dignity. As a result, poor parents are forced to sell their daughters into domestic servitude, prostitution, or forced marriages. (Abdul Basit Naik 2018).

Gender inequalities and disparities: There are lots of international agreements ratified by many countries in the world to promote the notion of ‘advancement of women’. The main international instrument which backs this is The UN convention on the eradication of all types of discrimination against women (Cheng 2000). Moreover, many societies still favour sons over daughters as they view them as an economic burden. Likewise, in countries like Pakistan early marriages and traditional dowry practices also augment the financial burden; hence, forcing parents to sell their daughters. (Abdul Basit Naik 2018). Women and girls constitute up to 96% of the victims for sexual exploitation globally (Equality now 2018) and one of the root causes of this problem is the discrimination against women.

Like in the case of Cameroon women are lowly represented in many social sectors and also poorly represented in decisions making levels that could impact the life of girl’s child. Traditional believes and the poor implementation of local and international legislation to uphold women’s right and fight discrimination has created lack of education for girls children (Fouthe 2017)

The Convention for the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) which was entered into force in the year 1980 defines the discrimination against women ‘*as any distinction ,exclusion, or restriction made in the basis of sex which has the effect of purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on the basis of equality of men and women, of human*

rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, civil or any other fields”. Every state that conform this convention is bound to undertake couple of measures to stop all types of discrimination against women and also put forward reports at least every four years on ways they have undertook to conform with the treaty.

In the year 1994, Cameroon effectively ratified the convention on the elimination of all types of discrimination against women as well as fully support all international instrument in general and particularly those that promotes human rights (UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women 2000). The current family code discriminates against women and girls in several points, especially as stipulated that girls can legally marry at 15 while boys at 18 (Fouthe 2018). Cameroon has a national strategy to prevent and combat violence against women, however there is lack of active measures to eliminate violence against women although CEDAW urges states to ensure effective implementation (Fouthe 2017). Over 40% of adolescent girls have reported that they have had experience physical violence since their 15th birthday, 1/3 of seats in the national assembly and 1/5 of members of the senate is held by women but these two law making bodies are all headed by men and also only 15% of councilors across the national territory are women (Fouthe 2017).

Lack of awareness and illiteracy are other major causes related the trafficking of women and young girls for sexual exploitation. According to data taken in the year 2010 In Cameroon, females from 15 years and older literacy rate is only 64.8% against 78.83% among males (Fouthe 2017). Hence, gender discrimination is also observed in terms of educational opportunities. Moreover, lack of education reduces the chances of women from getting better earning opportunities, making them even more susceptible for exploitation. Furthermore, in poorer regions of the world, lack of sex and health education in the curriculum can also lead societies into crime like human trafficking (Abdul Basit Naik 2018).

The above narratives are all major causes for sex and other form of trafficking. Some victims of sex trafficking often suffer dire and irreparable effects after rescued such as infectious diseases, trauma and stigma and so on. Some of this effect of sex trafficking will be explained in the next paragraph.

2.3.4 Effect on victims trafficked for sexual exploitation.

At the moment human trafficking is a global issue affecting men, women and children across 130 countries all over the world. Trafficking is a crime against individuals; as such the impacts are most directly felt by victims. As well attested, trafficking activities are

against fundamental human rights, depriving people basic and largely accepted individual freedoms. Trafficking for sexual exploitation also has wide economic, social and cultural impacts. As a criminal act, trafficking violates the rule of law, threatening national jurisdictions and international law. This section identifies some of the most notable consequences of human trafficking (UNODC 2016).

Physical effects on sex trafficking: All forms of trafficking, because of dangerous and exploitative nature of the crime, generate harmful effects on trafficked individuals. Victims of human trafficking may be intentionally selected for their specific physical feature, which are then used in specific labour conditions. These trafficked women may develop physical symptoms such as fatigue and weight loss, skin and ear problems, vaginal pelvis and chest pain. A lot of victims regularly reported genealogical infection which in many cases stays without treatment. This goes to tie with their earlier job and estimate on the level of health impacts expected to be experienced by sex victims (UNODC 2008)

HIV/AIDS: Increased likelihood of HIV infection is often pointed out as a risk among women trafficked for sexual exploitation owing notably to a lack of bargaining power concerning condom use and other potentially dangerous sexual practices. A recent research focusing on the commonness and predictors of HIV infection among girls rescued from brothels in a South Asian country and women trafficked found that 22.9 per cent of trafficked individuals tested positive for HIV (Abdul Basit Naik 2018).

Mental health consequences: Constant anxiety, uncertainty, fear and physical pain and injury will have remarkable effects on the state of the minds and well-being of trafficked victims. Some symptoms of psychological trauma reported by victims include post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, depression, alienation and disorientation. These victims give account of feelings of extreme sadness and hopelessness about what life holds for them in future. They may be suicidal, have memory loss and cognitive impairment, and may be withdrawn. The more victims spent more time under the captivity and exploitation of their trafficker, the more serious and long-lasting are the effects of their trauma. The symptoms may carry on for a long time after their victimization unless support and appropriate counseling is provided (UNODC 2016.).

Substance abuse: Trafficked victims may be put through to excessive substance abuse by their traffickers. Some trafficked women have rendered account on how they were coerced to use drugs or alcohol to make sure they comply and to help them not to resist on taking more clients, put in more hours or perform unacceptable or risky acts. Trafficked persons may also hang on to substance abuse to ease the pain of their condition, often ending in ad-

diction, organ disfigure, malnutrition, needle-induced infections, excessive consumption and death (UNODC 2016.).

Stigma: The way the community and family member's response to victim will have an impact upon their recovery process. Even though a lot is known about the stigma faced by trafficked victims for sexual exploitation, all victims usually faced social dislike if they come back home without promised riches no matter what the victim went through. In many countries, the effect of trauma is controlled significantly by victim's imagination on how their culture will embraced their experiences. Victims know that cultural conception about prostitution could deprive them from being accepted by their family in particular and community at large. In some cultures the entire family could be sidelined due to the victim's past (Abdul Basit Naik 2018.).

Recovery/ re-integration: Coming back home and reintegration for a sex trafficking victim is a long-term and composite process with little or no guarantee of recovery. Even in condition where physical complication can be accommodated and stigma address, trauma and psychological injury render recovery a hard task to render even more so by the complication in accessing necessary resources and in keep close contact with support persons and family (UN Human rights office of the high commissioner 2014). A handful of exploited victims may not balance to a lifestyle that they had earlier view it "normal". If later on a trafficked person finds employment, their behaviour, which originated from the experiences of severe trauma, may cause it hard to remain employed.

To wrap up with this with section, I will explain that this concept was chosen for the following reasons: There are lots of internally displaced persons in Cameroon currently and especially in the two conflict Anglophone regions of Cameroon. With an estimated over 160,000 internally displaced persons in these region(Centre for Human rights and democracy in Africa 2018).Lack of proper functioning of educational institution as a result of this conflict that has plagued this region for over two years, lack of income opportunities for adult and families to meet up with their livelihood, weak legislation and poor law enforcement, harmful social practices, corruption and other factors have made people become exposed and vulnerable to sex trafficking.

3. METHODOLOGY

The qualitative research method is suitable for this study because it seeks to explore and understand its subject matters or people from a perspective of those who are seeking to study and from where they are currently located (Carey 2012). Furthermore, this study is basically qualitative with the focus on a review of the recent body of literature and some scholarly works on human trafficking as well as analyzing primary data from the administration of interview.

Qualitative research is a many-sided approach that examines behavior, culture and society through an analysis and combination of people's words and actions (Hogan 2009). Unlike quantitative research, it does not try to change oral symbols into numerical ones; the data stays at the level of words, either the words written in documents, research participants' own words, or the words used by the researcher herself or himself to describe the activities, images and environment observed (Hogan 2009). It lay emphasis on the 'why' rather than the 'what' of social phenomena and relies on direct experiences of human being as meaning making agents in their everyday lives. The purpose of using qualitative research is that it increases the capacity to use our imagination by stimulating thoughts and new ideas, and it helps us better understand the context and circumstances in which we practice (Carey 2012).

3.1 Research process

This study consists of two phases which are: phase one which will consist of surveying relevant literature such as books and journals that pay attention to the subject matter and the purpose of this research. Phase two will follow with interviews, using open-ended questions and transcription.

Phase I . This phase comprises surveying existing literature and relevant literature such as journals and books with focus on human trafficking with focus on sex and forced labour. As noted by Carey (2012) researching and revisiting existing literature addresses present issues and also latest thinking and practice. This method helps to provide the researcher with current or past development that link them up with the topic they are working on. This approach helps the researcher to look at how other researchers designed or drove through similar topic as well as how to stimulate ideas about your own method (Carey 2012). In connection with

the points previously mentioned, reviewing literature in this study gives an in-depth knowledge and understanding of current situation of how man-made and natural factors in Cameroon are fanning a new wave of human trafficking and what role do NGOs play to contain human trafficking during conflicts.

3.1.1 Research design

Phase II of this research consists of interviews. Interview is the most popular method used across social research and questionnaire (Carey 2012). Even though interview originated from quantitative research, it is currently a widely used method applied within qualitative research. This is basically because it is a cheap, convenient and uncomplicated means to carry a rich amount of data within a reasonable period of time. Qualitative interview may take many forms which range from formally structured to the less regulated and unstructured. The most common form of interview constitutes a face to face verbal interview, a self-administered closed or open ended questionnaire and so on. In this research, semi-structured open ended questions were employed through a telephone conversation. Before employing that form of interview the researcher made sure he would be able to gain access to enough participants who were willing to be interviewed, also the researcher would take into consideration the time it might take to get permission to interview people and the cost involved (Carey 2012).

The interview the researcher conducted was not recorded because some of the participants were former victims who are now working to change the course so they have had really bad experience with recording and thus find recording intimidating. The researcher opted to make notes during the interview because it is a cheap alternative to recording. It is fairly straightforward and effective. Also there were cases where notes were only taken after a response from the interviewee as not to distract them.

3.1.2 Categories of respondents

The interview comprises of 4 staff members from the survivor network with some of them holding executive positions in the organization. Some of the workers happen to be trafficked victims themselves. The researcher sent a couple of emails to the founder and shares the theme of the research. We signed a thesis research agreement and later the participant gave approval for their personal contact to be shared for interviews. All the participants were females and all adults. The interview with each participant lasted for 45mins and all were in-

interviewed on different days in the autumn of 2018. The intention of the researcher was to also interview some current victims but due to the sensitive nature of the topic and the current state of mind of the victims, the researcher was advised by his supervisor to pay attention mainly with workers of NGOs. The interviewees were active unsalaried workers of Survivors network who have earlier benefited from loans and grants to operate their private businesses which is helping them to generate income while working with survivors network Cameroon. They have gained knowledge about human rights and human trafficking from international partners who occasionally comes to Cameroon to help NGOs in different social and community spheres.

3.1.3 Open-ended questions

It is the most common procedure in qualitative research due to the fact that interviewees are free to answer and explore question in their own words and style (Carey 2012). The researcher tried to limit the number of question asked and also created some order so as to cover the various topics which were relevant for the studies .The questions were brief, simple and clear, simple language was use and words drawn from everyday speech. The researcher tried not to use sensitive and offensive questions. The above technique permits a researcher to compare their feedbacks to earlier findings on some subjects as well as gives information about how victims of human trafficking are making use of NGOs during this conflict in Southern Cameroon.

3.2. Data Analysis

Analysis presents a systematic expression beyond descriptions that identifies key factors and relationship among them to explain how things work (Saldana 2011). The researcher is essentially attempting to better explain and understand their findings and also exact meaning (Carey 2012). The aim of this study is to find out what role do NGO play to rescue women and young girls from sex and labour trafficking in the Anglophone region of Cameroon. After collecting data from interviews, the researcher sort through the amount of information to bring order and meanings to theme.

The researcher used descriptive analysis to interpret the data and report findings. Descriptive analysis is central to almost every project, it can be used in education and practice, it can be used to do plan research rationale, design and method and also to diagnosed real world prob-

lems(Loeb 2017) .To carry out this, the researcher identified every fact or situation collected from participant and group them into different social indicators or heading, This was grouped according to the interrelation of subjects such as roles participants played in the organization and what tool they used to educate the community of victims.

Furthermore, after every facts were taken down and grouped, the researcher picked out features which were most relevant to the research question such as rescue method, preventive measures, protection measures and reintegration measures employed by the NGO. To get meaning from the collected and identified relevant information, the researcher interpreted every information that was absorbed as the basis of the feedbacks of this research and present them into writing which could be found in chapter five of this paper. The idea is to showcase survivors network (NGOs) as a role model in fighting human trafficking in Cameroon. Finally, some of the data is compared with existing theoretical literature to be in accordance or in rejections of the theories.

3.3. Ethical Issues

Researchers even those with action research or investigative journalism agendas do not have complete free reign to do what is necessary to achieve their goals, there are moral and legal codes in place regarding ethical treatment and the care of people involved with research studies (Saldana 2011). The researcher was ethically respectful to every issues and the participant to the research were made aware of the purpose for this research, what the result of the research will be used for and also the confidentiality treatment of every conversation between the researcher and participant. As a male researcher conducting the interviews, it was necessary to emphasize about the needs for their free will to participate and also necessary to create a friendly and conducive atmosphere over the phone before starting the interview. Every participant was very narrative and point out every details given to the researcher given the fact that most the traffickers are male and it was interesting to get a male researcher on a topic that is dominated by females in their community. I think this gave the researcher and upper hand in getting clear responses

The aim of ethics in the study is to prevent the researcher and participants from wrongdoing, to improve good practices. Ethics need to be considered throughout the research process (Gothoni2018).Every participant was well educated about the objectives of the study, their right to access every information that were collected about them during the research, their right for an automatic stop and withdrawal from the interview in case they feel offended by the researcher or the questions became too personal and sensitive, since these are all areas of

research that raises ethical issues (Oliver 2010). Every participant and especially the founder of survivor network was very happy because it serves as an opportunity for them to air out information about their work, role they are playing to safeguard human rights and dignity during this crisis in Southern Cameroon and their plight to save humanity.

Furthermore every data collected from the research is based on facts and narrative answers given by the respondents about what role they have been playing for the past two years to rescue victims of human trafficking especially in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon

4. FINDINGS

The previous chapter provided the procedure used in carrying out this research. Attention was paid on various tools that were used to carry out the research, the time frame, participants and the process as a whole. This chapter thus presents the outcomes with an attempt to interpret the collected information. Furthermore this chapter centered on giving answers to the research question and objective of the paper which was to find out the role NGOs are playing to rescue women and young girls from sexual exploitation and labour trafficking in Cameroon. The results are based on feedbacks from interviews compared with previous literatures.

The survivor network is a non-governmental organization led by female and made up of survivors of all forms of human trafficking and modern day slavery from the Middle East, Cameroon, African and the world at large. It has been working hard in combating human trafficking and modern day slavery specifically focusing on women, young girls and children in Sub Saharan Africa since 2015. It was founded by Francisca Mbuli who originated from Cameroon and happens to be a victim herself. She is a survivor of human trafficking and the founding director of Survivors' Network, a Cameroonian NGO consist of trafficking survivors that raises awareness, assist victims escape their trafficking location, and provide temporary housing, vocational training, and other necessary services that survivors need for successful reintegration (U.S. Department of States trafficking in person reports 2018.). She has won numerous award and nominations such as The United State department trafficking in person hero award of 2018. Since this NGO was created, it has rescued about 250 women from the hands of traffickers in Cameroon and the Middle East (Survivor network Cameroon 2016).

A cross section of the workers of this NGO are former victims who took the plight based on ordeal they went through as victims of human trafficking to fight against this ill with emphasis on the on-going crisis in the Anglophone regions.

I had the opportunity to interview four workers of survivors' network who openly collaborated with me to make this research successful. All participants were former victims themselves of human trafficking from Kuwait which were sold by Cameroonians intermediaries. The aim of this NGO is to combat human trafficking in Cameroon as a whole and specifically to curb the current trend of human trafficking amongst women, young girls and children in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon with prevention and protection method.

The international labour Office (2008) estimates that at least 40% of forced labour globally are children and according to equality now(2018) 54% of the trafficking victims are for sexual exploitation, and women and young girls constitute 96% of these victims of sexual exploitation. The above statistic could indirectly relate to what is on the ground for women, young girls and children in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon. As responded by the participant, the rate of child labour trafficking during this conflict between The Anglophone separatist and the central government is alarming as well, as young girls are been trafficked to the Gulf States such as Kuwait for domestic servitudes sexual exploitation is very high.

The survivor network is working in close contact with the internally displaced persons during this crisis. The global reports on internal displacement put it that the year 2016 recorded 31.1 million internally displaced persons, and out of this total 6.9 million new cases of internal displacement were caused by violence and conflict round the world(Internally displaced monitoring centre 2017). Cameroon wrapped up about 239,000 internally displaced persons in the year 2017 due to the conflicts in both the Far North regions of Cameroon and the Anglophone regions of Cameroon.

The survivor networks focuses on internally displaced persons and visit them on a daily base at their various locations to educate them and guide them from falling into the hand of traffickers as a result of their vulnerability. Some of the causes of human trafficking are already felt by them. Also feedbacks from the interview pointed out that their focus which were women, young girls and children are not only monitored during this crisis to prevent them from falling into the hands of traffickers but also liaise with other partners, well-wishers and donors to provide them with any forms of support which could enable them to run their daily lives easily. With these points, the researcher noted that the NGO is focused on every means available to prevent sexual exploitation and forced labour from women, young girls and children trafficking from taking place. This NGO braces all odds during this political unstable period in Cameroon to advocates for the rights of women, young girls and children in

every part of the Anglophone regions. The universal declaration of human rights proclaims the entitlement of everyone to equality before the law and to the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedom without differentiation of any kinds, and proceeds to include sex among the ground of such impermissible distinction (United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women 2000).

Cameroon is bound to respect the treaty for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) treaty it signed in 1994. Discrimination of women in the social system of Cameroon is high (Fouthe 2017).

4.1 How does the Survivor network rescue and support victims?

As most of the participants were former victims themselves, they possess some skills and knowledge on how to spot out victims or identify them with the experience they have from previous rescue operation. Their main focus is to prevent human trafficking and also extend hands to rescue victims and then integrate them. The main approach is to respect the rights of victims and help them to regain their dignity in the society. Workers of Survivor network use sights as their first tool to identify victims locally especially young girls and children. As narrated by participants, the location of a child or children and a girl or girls at during odd hours of the day, the activities of which they are involved with, their physical health helps them to approach for further investigation and intervention. The workers move from one location to the other, contact people in the community and share their hotline for the public to share information.

Internationally, they advertise their web page especially in human trafficking hotbed like the Gulf countries (Middle East) where most of their international rescue occur. When contacted by victims, they direct them on means to escape from captivity, link them up with local partners at the victim's location where they are provided with immediate shelter and paper works to enable them travel out of their captors' country. Furthermore, they also contact women shelters in those countries to find out reasons why they are hosted here. Prevention method is their main strategy to combat this trade.

Formal legal actions don't necessarily result in public awareness of the problems trafficking or protection (Bernat 2010). Prevention comprises education campaigns, community and national actions plans, information exchange among authorities and cooperation with other NGOs (Cho Dreher & Neumayer 2011a).

4.2 Form of supports provided by Survivors network to victims of human trafficking.

The Survivor network provides a wide range of assistance to the community to prevent human trafficking, assist victims of human trafficking and also helps to prepare the new life of victims. Their methods are explained below;

They organize several education campaigns against human trafficking with their target being women, young girls and children. They move from one community to the other, villages to villages as well as the national territory as a whole to educate women against the disadvantages of trusting their children into family members and strangers to work as domestic servants. They use leaflets and handouts specifically prepared to explain the dangers of human trafficking, do video presentation to illustrate dangers of trafficking, local radio and TV stations to educate the national territory about human trafficking and specifically educate women about their rights.

Cameroon has a national strategy to prevent and combat violence against women, however there's lack of active measures to eliminate violence against women even though CEDAW urges states to ensure effective implementation (Fouthe 2017). Women are not well represented in many social sectors in Cameroon and are also poorly represented in decision making positions in Cameroon that could impact the life of a girl child. The above reasons make it easier to recruit girls for sexual exploitation and domestic servitude as narrated by the participant. The Survivors network uses the above mentioned tools to educate women and young girls about human trafficking and its consequences by forming anti-human trafficking clubs in the community as well as in schools. They target churches and women only groups with their education campaigns, personal experiences and illustrative videos. Aside focusing on prevention measures, the Survivors network also extend hands to help rescue victims and also integrate them back into the society.

When victims are identified locally, they use community leaders, local forces of law and order, and the social welfare to aid in their rescue operation in cases where captors shows resistance to let go their victims. After the identification and rescue stage, workers of the NGO volunteer to shelter victims and protect them until measures are drawn to rehabilitate them.

It also encompasses government efforts to give protection and assist victims of human trafficking (Cho et al. 2011a) but majority of these in Cameroon is left in the hands of NGOs. Anti-

cle 6(3) of the trafficking protocol calls on states to ‘examine application’ measures to protect victims of trafficking but unfortunately, they have been cautious in embracing victims’ rights and the corresponding objectives (Gallagher 2010). The role Survivors network plays in assisting victims is very enormous. After freeing victims from captivity, they provide transportation means to victims both locally and internationally, provide victims with temporal shelters, assist them to connect them back with their loved ones, provide them with business training and other relevant skills, provide them later on with capital to start a business to cater for their economic needs and improve their living conditions which was the major cause of them being trafficked. Also they provide them with education about human rights, women’s rights and the fight against human trafficking.

From their responses, they care so much about the wellbeing of vulnerable women and children and also victims of human trafficking that is why their main areas of focus are basically on prevention and protection methods as well as partnering with other organizations. All these methods show that they are more concerned about the rights and human dignity of victims rather than the prosecution of traffickers. One of the heroes of this year United States Department trafficking in person reports is from Cameroon and precisely the founder of survivor network Cameroon. She won this prestigious award based on the role her organization is fighting human trafficking (United States Department trafficking in person reports 2018).

The 2018 trafficking in persons report *‘focuses on sustainable ways local communities can address human trafficking before it occurs and on how states can support and empower them. Local communities are the most affected by this barbaric crime and are also the first line of defense against human trafficking. By bringing in and training law enforcement, religious leaders, teachers, tribal elders, business executives, and communities, we become more watchful and learn to identify and address vulnerabilities rapidly’*

Source: (United States Department trafficking in person reports 2018)

As of date, Survivors network Cameroon has rescued about 260 victims (majority being women, young girls and children) locally and they have carried out over 20 victims from the Gulf states especially in Kuwait and the Middle East as a whole.

4.3 Some challenges the Survivors network faced in carrying out their jobs

The efforts of Survivors network in combating human trafficking in Cameroon and especially in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon cannot go without some hindrances. The Anglophone regions of Cameroon cover 43,000 km² with roughly 6-8 million inhabitants (Unrepresented Nations and People’s Organization 2018). Firstly as noted by participants, it is

quite risky to work under the current political atmosphere in that part of the country due to the regular fighting between Southern Cameroonian separatist and the military from the central government. There are gun battles on a daily base which makes it difficult to access victims and internally displaced persons. The government troops have burnt down over 80 villages, many civilians as well as soldiers are murdered on daily bases, there are cases of torture and extra-judicial execution (Centre for human rights and democracy in Africa 2018). There are others actors who work with same goals as the Survivors network such as 'nkum nkum fed fed', churches and the states.

Furthermore, as responded by participant, they are not getting any form of financial supports from the government which makes their operation to be slow at times, especially when the deportation of victims is concern as well as the provision of temporal training and other education. Their only financial donor has come from the organization 'www.freedomforall'.org. They operate small business and crafts shops to sustain themselves. Their self-sponsored nature coupled with their limited sources of finance hampers lots of rescue operations. The few supports they get from the government come as the provision of occasional for forces of law and order in collaboration with the local department of social welfare during rescue missions. Also their knowledge about local and international laws regarding human rights and human trafficking ranges from average to good for local laws and good for international laws so this makes it at times difficult for them to know the scope of their activities, their rights and work jurisdiction.

To conclude with this chapter, participants has listed some effects of this social ill on their community as a whole and to the victim as a person since their operation begun. To the victims as an individual, some threaten to go back to where they were held captives especially in situations where little is done to integrate them back home. The rate of sexual exploitation has increases in the Anglophone regions of Cameroon, where poverty is very rampant due to the destruction of family livelihood and thus giving rise to series of sexual transmissible infections. The process of recovery is not the best due to lack of enough resources and support from the government to help integrate rescued women and young girls. There is a high rate of guilt on the victims and also rejections from their love ones after rescued which goes a long way to add more problems to some of their mental health conditions, mass exodus of young girls to other bigger cities and high rate of unwanted pregnancies, contraction of various forms of unwanted diseases such as tuberculosis. The participants rounded up by emphasizing that the above effects are the driving force behind their fights against human trafficking in this part of Cameroon embroiled in political crisis.

5. DISCUSSION

Chapter four has been on the presentation of what the research found and this current chapter will be to interpret and described the significant of the findings from chapter four with respect to already established facts and also explain new understanding of this research. This chapter will therefore discuss findings with previous literature. The researcher compared findings from different literature sources to pick out the most relevant points which are closely related to the situation in Cameroon such as factors influencing the different types of human trafficking as discussed in this paper.

One of the aim of this research has been to use the result to create awareness about the role NGOs can play in combating human trafficking and also to show case what tools are in place for NGOs to use in creating awareness about the dangers of sex and labour trafficking in Cameroon. An important figures of the organization made it clear that their main focus is to employ every measure in their capacity to prevent human trafficking, protect victims and partner with other NGOs in safeguarding the human rights of Cameroonians especially women, young girls and children. As earlier articulated in chapter two, due to the conflict in the Anglophone regions and the Far North regions schools and normal livelihood of children have been interrupted and almost completely come to an indefinite stop. Traffickers posed as middle men lure parent to send kids to wealthy individuals in urban areas but end up pushing those kids into forced labour.

The recent cause of the current conflict in the Anglophone region of Cameroon could be traced back to May 2015 when government failed to properly respond to Common Law lawyers memorandum sent to the president of the republic asking him to review the Southern Cameroons position in the union. The common law lawyers in October 2016 called for an unspecified peaceful strike.

The strike was met with heavy suppression from the central government. Lawyers were beaten and professional emblems seized. The people were still observing and were very disappointed with the treatment that was passed on to lawyers. By November 21st t 2016, after a series of warnings, the teachers of the English Educational subsystem decided to ground their activities for an indefinite strike. With no respond from the government and the in-

volvement of teachers and lawyers into protest, this finally involves both Anglophone regions of Cameroon as a whole (Centre for human rights and democracy in Africa 2018.)

Since the start of the crisis, several activist and leaders of the movement have been arrested with some of them facing jail terms already. Over the last 13 months, the armed conflicts between both Southern Cameroon self-defense group and the government soldiers have provoked the increase of several human rights abuses. While the government of Cameroon bears a huge responsibility including several crimes considered against humanity, armed groups have also committed several crimes such as kidnapping for ransom (Centre for human rights and democracy in Africa 2018).

The US Ambassador to Cameroon Peter Henry Barlerin confirmed that the government has burned entirely burned roughly 87 villages, burned down houses with many old people burnt to death inside, shot civilians, targeted killings, torture and many cases of extrajudicial execution (Centre for human rights and democracy in Africa 2018). Also armed groups have kidnapped may administrators and traditional rulers, destroyed administrative buildings and schools, killed several people in revenge killings for allegedly collaborating with the government, collected ransom in exchange for freedom and killed government soldiers (Centre for Human rights and democracy in African 2018). This conflict has given birth to over 160,000 internally displaced persons (UNICEF 2018) which is now a breathing ground for human traffickers.

The Cameroon labour code sets minimum working age for hard at 18 years old and law No. (A017/1969) prohibits children from working underground, in hotels bars, and restaurants or jobs that exceeds their physical capacity and also longer than 8 hours a day in industrial sector (US Department of labour 2018). Also, participants to this research revealed that young girls who are trafficked to bigger cities are for sexual exploitation. The Cameroon constitution law No.A15/1996 prohibits slavery and servitude, forced labour, prostitution and the corruption of youth (US Department of labour 2018).

Furthermore, the participant to the research highlighted the rate of trafficking among women and young girls were as a result of the low implementation of the rights of women and the fight against discrimination of women. As noted by equality now (2018) earlier in chapter two 54% of trafficked victims worldwide are for sexual exploitation and women and young girls constitute 96% of the total victims for sex trafficking. Cameroonians are increasingly posing as middle men in subjecting their fellow compatriots into trafficking especially

through Morocco into Europe and later forced them into prostitution by their European network (US Department of State Trafficking in person reports 2016).

The African charter on human and peoples right which Cameroon is a signatory to it was adopted in 1981 by the defunct Organization for Africa Unity. Its prohibits the discrimination on any group including sex and the enjoyment of rights guaranteed by that charter (United Nation Commission for Human rights 2014). Cameroon has also ratified CEDAW in the year 1994 and also supports all international instrument in general and in particular those that promote Human rights. Even though Cameroon is a signatory member to to most international treaties against human rights, discrimination against women is still high (Fouthe 2017). Cameroon has a national strategy to prevent and combat violence against women, there is lack of active measures to eliminate violence against women although CEDAW urges states to ensure effective implementation (Fouthe 2017).

A top ranking worker of the Survivors network Cameroon clearly explain to the researcher that they are focus about the human right of people and therefore all their efforts in fighting human trafficking is centered around prevention, protections measures and also partnering with other actors such as the government, churches, education institution and local groups to fight this human trafficking battle. There is a significant relationship between human rights and human trafficking as explain in the upcoming paragraph.

As already mentioned in chapter two, most victims of labour and sex trafficking faced a lot of problems caused by their experienced or by their community. Most victims ends up with sexual transmissible infections, substance abuses, mental health issues, rejection from their community and worst of if still languish in poverty if they failed to get proper integration back into the society. In a case like Cameroon where the government gives little or no support to rescued victims, they risk running back to their trafficker since one of the root cause of trafficking which is poverty has not been addressed.

5.1 What are the link between human rights and human trafficking?

The bridge between human trafficking and human rights are well connected. Human rights law from it conception till date has without any doubt demonstrate the basic, illegal, and immorality of one person seizing the legal personality, labour or humanity of another (United Nations Commission for human rights 2014). Human rights law has banned discrimination on the basis of sex and race, decried and forbid arbitrary detention, debt bondage, force la-

bour, the sexual exploitation of children and women and also demand equal or certain major rights for non-citizens (UNODC 2016).

Some of the human rights most pertinent to human trafficking are the right to life, the rights to be free from gendered violence, the rights to freedom to just and favourable conditions of work, the prohibition of the discrimination on the bases of race, colour, sex, language, religion and so on.(United Nations Commission for human rights 2014).. Many of the practices in connection to modern-day slavery are clearly forbidden under international human rights law such as forced labour, enforced prostitution and so on.

5.2 Limitation of the study

It was the intention of the researcher to interview 5 or more workers from NGOs which are on the same line of duty with the Survivors network but due to the current political atmosphere in Cameroon, most workers of NGOs have relocated away from their post and are not willing to participate in interviews regarding their jobs but finally workers from the Survivors network volunteered to participate in the interview.

Furthermore, it was the wish of the researcher to extend the interview to current victims of human trafficking but after consulting with the supervisor of this paper the researcher was advice to stick to workers only for the interview and avoid interviewing victims due to the sensitivity of this topic. Also, the interview was done without recording as accepted by most participants which was due to their past experiences with recording as former victims. The interviewer took down all information provided by participant in writing but slowly took every detail and recalled by participants.

5.3 Professional developments.

As an aspiring social worker, this theme and research has helped to further develop my understanding about the relationship between human rights and human trafficking. It has also helped me to understand what trigger a situation that could lead to the unprecedented rate of human trafficking such as conflicts, displacement and gender discrimination. I have learned what measures and roles other civil society actors do to contain human trafficking and what areas to lay emphasis on when using human right based approached to combat trafficking in persons.

In addition to the points above, this study has groomed me professionally in the area of conducting an interview for research and for the purpose of academic consumption. I have de-

veloped the ability to gather data, search literature for academic purpose. Overall the process was very educative, and my knowledge to conduct academic research has really improved.

6. CONCLUSIONS

To close this subject, I will make some recommendation to the Survivor network (NGO) and, other NGOs in Cameroon as well as the state based on the findings of from this research.

6.1 Recommendation to Survivors network Cameroon: I would recommend that in order to supplement the great job they are currently doing in the community, they will require a better knowledge and understanding about human trafficking and human rights both local and international legislation. More efforts should be put on the training of workers, attend more education programs to expand their grip in labour laws of Cameroon, human trafficking laws of Cameroon and other related laws that ensure the peace and comforts of people in their locality. They should also pay some attention to the trafficking of men and boys for sexual exploitation which is a phenomenon that is often gone unnoticed. They also form parts of the vulnerable population, and lots of them are internally displaced persons as well.

6.2 Recommendation to the government: I will recommend that the government makes in mandatory to teach young people about their human and fundamental rights. Also implement a national program across the territory to educate young people about the dangers of human trafficking since Cameroon has been identified as a trafficking hub. The government should also provide financial assistance to NGOs and other actors fighting against this trade so as to enable them carry on their activities successfully.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Name: (Optional).....
2. Gender(Optional).....
3. Name of Non-governmental organisation:.....
4. Number of persons in your organisation:.....
5. What is the purpose of the NGO to which you belong?.....
6. How would you rate your knowledge about human trafficking?
7. How would you rate your knowledge about human rights?
8. What aspect(type) of human trafficking is your organisation most involved in?.....
9. What specific role do you play in the organisation?.....
10. How does your N.G.O identify and locate victims of human trafficking?.....
11. How does your N.G.O rescue victims of human trafficking?.....
12. How does your N.G.O provides support to victims of human trafficking?.....
13. Which groups of people forms the majority of of trafficking victims in your community?
14. How many victims has your organisation rescued during this period of conflict in the Anglophone region regions of Cameroon?...
15. Could you list two consequences of human trafficking in your community as a result of this conflict?
16. Does your N.G.O offer any education to the community about human trafficking?
17. If your answer to question number 17 is YES, what tool do they use in educating the community?
18. Do you get any form of support from the government?.....

19. How would you rate your knowledge about National and international legislation guiding human trafficking?