

Malawi Parliament pass the Trafficking in Persons law in March, 2015, after lobby and advocacy efforts from Norwegian Church Aid and it's partners.

PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Extreme poverty and harmful traditional practices still puts a large number of girls, boys and women in Malawi at risk. Girls, boys and young women are victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and slavery, both inside Malawi and between Malawi and neighboring countries. One major issue in Malawi has been the lack of anti-trafficking legislation and subsequent prosecution of offenders.

RESULTS:

From 2008 NCA and its partners have worked on influencing the Malawian authorities to pass the Trafficking in Persons Bill, which was later passed into a law in March 2015 by the Parliament. In addition, NCA's gender programme officer was instrumental in drafting of the Bill as a special law commissioner.

The new law signifies a huge step towards protecting people from one of the worst human rights violations. It seeks to prevent, fight and eliminate human trafficking in Malawi. Among others, a human trafficking offence attracts 14 years imprisonment (or 21 years if trafficked person is a minor) without the option of a fine. NCA and partners' work has already contributed to an increased number of offenders of trafficking being identified and prosecuted. Now, the law will need to be disseminated and made known to the public. UN Women has asked NCA to be their implementing partners in the follow up of the implementation of the law, and NCA will ensure the development an implementation plan together with partners and other stakeholders.



The result was achieved through partners' engagement with key duty bearers, advocacy with MPs and line ministries through interface meetings, public debates, press releases, community campaigns and network support. Moreover, awareness raising of community members and capacity development of Parliament members, police and judiciary have been key approaches to reach the goal. The establishment of a stakeholder advocacy platform has also been a critical factor for accelerating achievement of project results.

LESSONS LEARNED:

One of the successes of the advocacy work has been due to foundation of the advocacy work on ongoing work at community level, hence the advocacy efforts has been the advocacy component of a holistic and integrated project. The other components has consisted of support to victims of trafficking and provision of information to community members and victims.

The technical expertise has been critical in this project. The fact that NCA staff has had legal competence and as such has been instrumental towards partners and government

One of the billboards to fight against human trafficking.
Photo: Callisto Sekeleza/Norwegian Church Aid, Malawi



has been important. In addition, the project has provided new knowledge about new forms of GBV.

One challenge experienced is the long term nature of advocacy. Changes in Parliament and Government offices, has required continuous capacity development on the topic and has delayed the advocacy process.

PROJECT SCOPE:

Approximately 21 million NOK over 8 years has so far been allocated to NCA's trafficking project in Malawi from the Norwegian embassy of Malawi. These are total project costs including in addition to the costs of the advocacy work care and support for victims, support to the children's helpline, development of IEC materials like posters, bill boards, training manuals for the judges and magistrates, capacity development of Parliament members, police and judiciary, and awareness raising of community members to encourage monitoring and reporting of trafficking cases in their local communities.

PARTNERS:

NCA's trafficking project has been part of NCA's thematic programme on Gender Based Violence, focusing on girl's and women's rights. The partners implementing NCA Malawi's trafficking project has been Centre for Human Rights Rehabilitation (CHRR), Salvation Army, Chisomo Children's Club, Youth Network and Counselling (YONECO) and Ecumenical Counselling Centre (ECC), Women Judges Association (WOJAM), Rights Advice Centre (RAC), and the Malawi Network Against Child Trafficking (MNACT).

SOURCES:

NCA Malawi annual reports, report from the "Regional conference on trafficking" held in 2012, 2012 evaluation of the trafficking project.



Community participants speaking about trafficking in Karonga, Malawi.

Photo: Callisto Sekeleza/Norwegian Church Aid, Malawi



www.nca.no



NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID
actalliance