



## **Dialogue for Development**

**(D for D)**

**First Quarter Report:**

**January- June 2014**

### **Background to the Programme**

Dialogue for Development (D for D) is a peace- building Programme under the Religious Sisters of Charity that aims to secure human rights through dialogue. The Programme is a response to addressing the issues the 2007 General Chapter identified as issues that needed attention at global level, but also taking into consideration the burning issues at national levels wherever the Sisters of Charity minister. Among the issues identified were human trafficking, the environment and the protection of vulnerable groups such as women and children from abuse and exploitation.

Although issues of the environment and child protection received attention in the Zambian Region in 2007, the issue of human trafficking became prominent in the work of the sisters considering that it was relatively new and in many ways unfamiliar even among the sisters. Thus, with regard to human trafficking, the Zambian Region constituted a team of four sisters to coordinate the counter-trafficking activities under the Anti-trafficking Project. Areas of focus among the four pillars of counter trafficking work (Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnerships) were prevention and building partnerships. Under the Anti-Trafficking Project, the sisters raised awareness mainly among pupils in the six schools run by sisters of Charity (Roma Girls' Secondary. and Primary Schools and Mary Aikenhead /Primary School (Lusaka), Caritas Secondary School (Kabwe), Shimungalo Basic/Primary School (Mazabuka) and Chikuni Girls' School (Monze) and local communities within these areas. Partnerships were also built with NGOs such as Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA), Religious Congregations through the Zambia Association of Sisterhoods (ZAS), Government Ministries and Departments such as the Ministry of Home Affairs and Zambia Police Force's Victims Support Unit and UN agencies such as UNICEF and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). One significant area of building partnerships was the provision of a human trafficking training in 2012 in which all the above stakeholders participated which has seen participants carrying on the work of prevention especially the ZAS members.

Zambia continues to be a source, transit and destination for victims of human trafficking. Considering that most trafficking is internal and mainly involves women and children mainly from rural areas exploited in domestic servitude, small business such as bakeries and in prostitution in Zambian cities and some transported to other countries like the USA and South Africa for sexual exploitation, D for D in 2014 contributed to addressing the problem under the following objectives:

**OBJECTIVE ONE: To raise awareness on human trafficking in the Six Schools run by Sisters of Charity and the surrounding communities**

Under this objective, the activities conducted included musical performances and talks by the Zambian Musician, Winston Moyo, using the theme song “Let Us Rise as One, Fight Human Trafficking” in Mary Aikenhead School (Lusaka), Shimungalu (Mazabuka), Chikuni Girls and Canisius Boys Schools (Monze), Shitima School and Caritas Girls Convent Secondary School (Kabwe). The Programme also gave talks to Women and Men Councils and the youth from Roma Parish (Lusaka). Through these activities, the Programme empowered 3,100 people with information on human trafficking which serves as a tool for prevention for would –be victims of human trafficking.

**OBJECTIVE TWO: To promote dialogue on child protection**

As part of the needs assessment on child protection, D for D held dialogue meetings with teachers at Roma Girls Primary and Secondary Schools, Mary Aikenhead and Shimungalu Basic/Primary Schools to share the vision of the Religious Sisters of Charity with regard to child protection as provided in the Strategic Plan 2012-16. Teachers’ response stressed the importance of capacity-building for them to respond effectively to the issue of protection.

In January, D for D also worked closely with Roma Primary and Secondary Schools, and Mary Aikenhead School to conduct classroom discussions with children to assess their knowledge of their rights and if they had come across incidences of child abuse of any form. Twenty (20) classroom discussions were conducted with all the classes in Roma Primary School (7 classes), Roma Girls Grades 12 and 8 (6 classes (3 each Grade) and Mary Aikenhead (7 classes). About 700 children took part in the classroom discussions aged between 7-16 years.

All the children were aware of many of their rights and were able to articulate the abuse they see at school, at home and generally in community. Seventy percent (70%) of the children identified child marriages, physical abuse (beating), sexual abuse (being used for prostitution) to support the family and being used to sell on the street after school, as being common within communities. Mary Aikenhead School which has many children who come from very poor

households indicated that nearly every term about 10 or more children stop school to marry and they encourage the girls that remain to learn as delaying having children. Girls from Roma Primary and Mary Aikenhead Schools told stories of being exposed to abuse because they are sent alone to buy food at the market around 7 pm when it is dark. Roma Girls Grade 8s stated that it was almost impossible to report the issue of sexual abuse to parents when it happens or when someone attempts to abuse someone because of the culture that sees discussions on sexual matters between parents and children a taboo. They also complained that young girls (Grades 8 and 9) at Roma Girls Secondary School are bullied by older girls, who for instance, ask them to buy food for them using the young girls' money and to polish their shoes. If they do not do so, the young girls are threatened with beating outside school. Grade 12 pupils of Roman Girls School complained of verbal abuse by teachers, but no abuse by teachers and bullying by older pupils were reported in Roma primary and Mary Aikenhead Schools. The participants in the discussions recommended the need to engage parents so that they too have the knowledge of human rights and a forum is provided for teachers, pupils and parents to hold dialogue on child protection. The pupils also suggested that there should be Human Rights Champions among older girls to serve as watch-dogs so that the younger girls are not bullied at Roma Girls Secondary School.

The engagement with pupils was followed up with two dialogue meetings with parents of the Roma Girls Primary School to share the vision of the Sisters of Charity on child protection and the findings from the classroom discussions with pupils of Roma Primary School. One meeting took place at Roma Secondary School on Saturday, 1 March, 2014 and 90 parents attended it and the second meeting took place at the same venue on 12 April with 30 parents in attendance. Some parents shared at the meeting how they are not alert to abuses and admitted having not sometimes provided the environment for their children's safety. The following were the recommendations from the meetings:

- Formation of Human Rights Community Action Groups (HRCAGs) to work in community to sensitize communities on child abuse, human trafficking and domestic violence since these often happen in communities
- Parents to meet twice a year to learn more about the above human rights violations and to share about the efforts they are making to provide a safe environment both at home and in school
- Identify people for training so that they can encourage conversations at community level
- The school to work with parents and D for D in the value formation for children as some children put themselves at risk when they go to the bars to drink with older men against their parents' advice
- Parents to provide an enabling environment for a child to disclose the abuse being done to them
- Schools should set up a Programme for continuous awareness raising on children's rights

### **OBJECTIVE THREE: To build partnerships with stakeholders on human trafficking and child protection**

To strengthen partnerships, D for D conducted a five- day child protection workshop for staff from the Christian Brothers institutions within Zambia. There were twenty participants for this workshop conducted in conjunction with the Regional Psycho-social Initiative (REPSSI).

D for D also worked with ZAS to conduct a workshop on human trafficking at House of Chiefs. More than forty (40) chiefs participated in the workshop held on 12<sup>th</sup> June. The traditional leaders welcomed the message and encouraged ZAS to work closely with them to address the issue especially with regard to raising awareness among their people. Chief Chipepo of the Tonga people saw the issue as needing immediate attention and invited D for D under the umbrella of ZAS to conduct the same workshop among his people in Chirundu being a border area between Zambia and Zimbabwe, thus more prone to risks of trafficking.

Working with IOM, the Programme rescued a 14 year old girl internally trafficked for domestic servitude. The girl who is in Grade 8 was reunited with her family with the help of the Regional Leadership team. However, no follow up has been done since D for D has no contact information. Otherwise, her case was assessed by IOM as a human trafficking case.

The Programme also participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Human Trafficking organized by the UN Joint Programme on human trafficking (The UN Bodies (IOM, ILO, UNICEF and the Government of Zambia) under the theme: *Zambia @50: Protecting Migrants from Human trafficking and Exploitation*.



The two-day event took place from 25-26<sup>th</sup> June, 2014 opened by the Zambian Vice President, Dr. Guy Scot who emphasized that there should be a balance between protecting migrants and national security. Participants in the Symposium, included Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Embassies, UN agencies, Government Ministries and Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs). IOM' presentation highlighted Southern Africa as a springboard which is "sometimes used as staging ground for onward regular and irregular migration to Europe, Asia & the Americas". They also indicated that there is a rise in cases of unaccompanied & separated minors, who have specific protection needs. According to IOM, push factors range from, poverty, unemployment and job insecurity, conflict & political instability, natural disasters, climate change to orphanhood and fractured family structures while pull factors include improved standards of living and perceived better life elsewhere, demand for cheap labour, porous borders, low risk, high profit for traffickers/ smugglers and restricted movements.

Sharing on the protection of migrants that include victims of human trafficking, the Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) reported that they run five (5) protective shelters for women in four (4) districts. Between 2009 and 2013, they received 65 cases, nine (9) of which were male and the rest (56) were female. Forty(40) were standard migrants while 25 were human trafficking cases. The victims included 28 Congolese, 12 Zambians, 10 Malawians, 7 Rwandese, 3 Zimbabweans, 2 Ethiopians, 2 Germans, 1 South African, 1 Ugandan and 1 Mozambican. It was clear from YWCA's presentation that having no shelter for men is a big protection challenge. They also indicated that the five shelters are not enough to accommodate victims. Limited shelter means that sometimes victims of human trafficking have to share accommodation in prisons with traffickers.

With regard to prosecution of human trafficking cases in Zambia, the Zambia Police Force highlighted the challenges involved while giving statistics of the reported cases and those prosecuted. One such challenge is that the 2008 Anti-Trafficking Law is fairly new, thus some investigators and the Prosecutors are unfamiliar with some provisions of the Law. Therefore, when faced with a case that is purely a human trafficking one in nature, they are compelled to look at other pieces of legislation they are familiar with and when they do not find provisions consistent with the facts, they conclude there is no offence. In some cases of human trafficking, victims are not willing to cooperate and help the prosecution because the perpetrator is someone familiar to them for example relatives and friends, so they influence them. In cases where the victims are the major witnesses, they tend to be afraid of the abusers, therefore unwilling to give full details. This situation sometimes results in insufficient evidence or lack of reliable witnesses and compels "Prosecutors to indict the perpetrators of Human Trafficking for much lesser offence under other pieces of Legislation such as the Immigration and Deportation Act." Below is the table showing the cases reported and those taken to court.

### Statistics of Human Trafficking Cases (Zambia Police Force June, 2014)

YEAR	NUMBER OF CASES REPORTED	TAKEN TO COURT
2009	01	01
2010	00	00
2011	11	05
2012	07	03
2013	164	13

### General Challenges Highlighted at the Symposium

1. Most organizations are based in Lusaka making it difficult for victims in other districts to access help
2. Lack of shelters especially for men
3. Limited resources to effectively address human trafficking cases
4. Persons of concern withhold information at times
5. Lack of sensitization on the Information on referral system to both the general public and the victims
7. Lengthy court cases do not help to address the issues of limited space in shelters (consider fast-track courts with specialized magistrates and judges)
8. Porous Zambian borders making it easier for traffickers to traffic their victims in and out of the country
9. Limited financial, human and logistical resources for investigation and protection
10. Limited capacity for investigation and prosecuting trafficking cases

11. Language barriers and limited specialized interpreters
12. Inadequate early identification of Victims of Trafficking (VOTs) (often leading to detention – with traffickers)
13. Lack of response to requests for criminal assistance from other countries

## **Key priorities to address Human Trafficking in Zambia from the Symposium**

### **A. Prevention**

- I. Ensure wide spread awareness of internal trafficking (people in the villages need to make follow up on their relatives who go towns for schools using drama, music etc)
- II. District and community level interventions and government should spearhead
- III. Full implementation of national communication strategy
- IV. Inclusion of people with disabilities especially when developing materials
- V. Inclusion of traditional and Religious leaders and all Faith Based Organizations in the fight
- VI. Streamlining anti-human trafficking into the school curriculum from the beginning
- VII. Screening of employment agencies
- VIII. Consolidate pieces of legislation to effectively counter human trafficking

### **B. Protection:**

- I. Information dissemination- victims are usually unaware they are being trafficked; Need to intensify awareness raising
- II. Construction of more shelters/ find alternatives to detention
- III. Language training of law enforcers e.g. in French or Swahili (for victims from outside the country with a Language unfamiliar to Zambia) and on other important legislation to do with human trafficking.
- IV. Strengthening of the referral system regarding mixed migrants (Prohibited Immigrants) in incarceration

### **C. Prosecution**

- I. Dedicate more resources (financial, human and logistical resources) to the investigation & prosecution of trafficking cases
- II. Strengthen capacity of investigators and prosecutors (including training)
- III. Introduce fast-track courts with specialized judges
- IV. Identify and train foreign language interpreters (including court interpreters)
- V. Improved effective & consistent implementation of mechanisms for timely identification of Victims of Trafficking (VOTs) and protection of witnesses

#### **D. Partnerships (strengthening)**

- I. Strengthening the existing partnerships and creating new ones
- II. Hold workshops to discuss specific matters relating to trafficking
- III. Increase awareness on the human trafficking hotline. referral mechanism
- IV. Putting focal point people in all Organizations Regular meeting of Inter-Ministerial Committee on Trafficking
- V. Strengthen National Secretariat on Trafficking
- VI. Consider decentralization of response
- VII. Enhance cross-border cooperation
- VIII. Improve coordination between protection and prosecution actors
- IX. Better utilization of cross-border mechanisms to ensure human trafficking is on the agenda

#### **Forward Steps for D for D**

Considering the identified challenges and priorities in addressing human trafficking in Zambia, D for D can contribute by continuing raising awareness for the general public and in targeted areas. This, however needs to be complemented by developing materials and translating basic messages in local Languages like Tonga, Nyanja and Bemba and training for identified community leaders like teachers and pastors so that these groups can join in the sensitization. Beyond working towards prevention, D for D should consider providing shelter and related services (food, counseling etc.) even for 5 girls per year especially for those in transit working closely with stakeholders such as IOM and YWCA. All this work however needs both human and financial resources. It would be important for the Region to mobilize resources for this purpose.

The activities in the first quarter were enabled by financial contributions from the Sisters of Charity General Leadership Team (2000 Euro (K16,000) and from the Regional Leadership Team (K5,000). Contributions from ZAS Peace and Justice Committee (K12,550) and the Mother Cabrini grant from UNANIMA (\$1,500) will enable the activities for the second half of the year be implemented.

#### **Some Highlights for the Second Half of the Year**

- Talks and musical performances in Ndola (Divine Mercy Parish, Suburbs and Perseverance Schools (12-14 July) reaching about 1,500 people
- Talks and musical performances in 3 Schools, training of 30 teachers and a Road Show in Maamba (16-20 July) reaching about 6,000 people

- Training for Sisters, students at Kalundu Study Centre in child Protection and human trafficking (September)
- Development of materials ( brochures and cartoons etc) for sensitization
- 2 Dialogue meetings with parents in Roma Girls Primary School and Mary Aikenhead School
- Dialogue meetings with traditional leaders in Maamba

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