

Community Stories



CM4K team at Cham gi Wadu

A series of community-based participatory research planning meetings discussed the meaning of modern slavery in their communities and how the 2 studio community radio station that the Community Media 4 Kenya (CM4K) partnership is building can assist in raising awareness of the dangers of modern slavery whilst advocating for policy change. CM4K is a partnership between students and staff at the Universities of Brighton (UK) and Rongo (Kenya) and the remote rural community of Cham gi Wadu in Migori County.

The community determined that in Migori County, where life, culture and identity revolve around agriculture, modern day slavery focuses on the exploitation of subsistence farmers by large companies as well as the mistreatment of local labour by 'foreign' land owners who pay very low wages with no regard to the health, welfare and rights of their workforce because they know the workers are desperate and have little power to do anything about it. The community meeting all agreed that women and children suffered the worst from slavery - citing forced and under-aged marriages and child and forced labour on farms, sugar plantations, gold mines, domestic service and fishing industry as being among the worst examples of slavery. Poverty, familial deaths, mistaken hope for a brighter future, running away from domestic violence and sexual abuse, as well as outdated tribal customs often lead victims to end up in slavery. Damaging tribal customs were also identified as being the cause of another form of slavery - female genital mutilation. This is not often identified as being part of the modern-day slavery discourse but there were strong feelings among the community participants that it should be.

Drawing on community media tools and practices this project aims to coproduce, document and archive survivor stories about child slavery in Migori, Kenya in order to build public awareness; influence policy development; and facilitate change that combats modern slavery.

The objectives are:

- i) Conduct community-based participatory research mentoring and media practice training for students and community members
- ii) Co-produce, record, analyse and archive community stories from survivors of child labour and child marriage for use by the Antislavery Knowledge Network, local radio stations and policy makers;
- iii) Establish effective community based anti-slavery groups;
- iv) Publish, disseminate and archive research findings for the Antislavery Knowledge Network;
- v) Evaluate the impact of the project.

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Project title:

Stories of modern day slavery from Mogori County, Kenya - Empowering voices and sharing knowledge for change through community media.

Duration:

18 months

Country:

Kenya