

## CHURCH WITNESS WITH MIGRANTS-AFRICA (CWWM-A)

### BACKGROUND

CWWM-Africa (CWWM-A) is the Africa Chapter of CWWM International. CWWM works for advocacy and forthright action focused on global migration, particularly forced migration in all its forms. The platform is organized as a tripartite body of equals that includes migrants and representatives of migrant-serving, ecumenical and faith-based organizations from various faith traditions. In their tripartite practice and arrangement, they have come to value working together and inclusively on acts of mercy, accompaniment and justice<sup>1</sup> as a general framework for analysis, theological reflection, advocacy, and movement building. The CWWM-A membership consists of migrant advocates, Churches, Ecumenical bodies, and Civil Society organizations working on migration and Human Trafficking (HT).

CAPA's reach to individuals, communities and groups through over 40 million dedicated Church members in different communities in Africa is noted as a significant strength in the fight against human trafficking and providing support to migrants. In response to the growing cases of human trafficking and plight of migrants, CAPA joined forces with The Salvation Army, Awareness Against Human Trafficking (HAART) and Trace Kenya to set up Stop the Traffik Kenya in addition to accepting the call to host CWWM-Africa.

#### Vision

A world where all migrants are treated with dignity, which empowers them to realize their full God given potential.

#### Objectives

- To advocate and advance forthright action on global migration, particularly forced migration in all its forms and human trafficking;
- To advance critical research-based counter-narrative that portrays migration as a tool for development;
- To foster partnerships that strengthen a movement and builds infrastructures of welcome, hospitality, advocacy and solidarity;

#### Core principles

Freedom of movement of people is a human right. Forced migration however is a violation and denial of that basic right. Therefore, migrants' rights are human rights. Human beings cannot be reduced to mere commodities. Every person bears the inherent gift of the likeness of God. As such their dignity cannot be taken away-not by anyone, any government, or any public or private entity.

**Values:** dignity, justice, compassion and mercy for a stranger, hospitality and accompaniment.

### PROGRAM FOCUS

**1. Migration** is both voluntary and forced.<sup>2</sup> The program is designed to address both the push and pull factors of migration and Human Trafficking (HT). The program focuses on the drivers and triggers of migration and analyses the trends and patterns of voluntary migration within and outside national borders; the growing economic disparities and widening inequalities. The thematic initiatives, pillars and priorities for action are:

- Research, documentation and evidence-based advocacy;
- Networking, cohesion, growth and resilience of members;
- Accompaniment through acts of mercy and justice and safe spaces; resourcing routes with information and services
- Strategic organizing and membership support;
- Communication/media and narratives;
- **P**revention, **P**rotection, **P**rosecution, **P**articipation and **P**olicy engagement;
- Strategic partnership and innovative resource mobilization

**2. Human Trafficking (HT)** Trafficking in persons is the act of recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons through threat, use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, of deception, abuse of power, or a

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<sup>1</sup> CWWM-Philippines

<sup>2</sup> African Union (AU) Migration Policy Framework for Africa and Plan of Action (2018 – 2030).

position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits.<sup>3</sup> Human trafficking is a market-driven criminal industry run by organised cartels. It is fuelled by a demand for cheap labour or services; commercial sex and demand for body parts and organs. Trafficking is the highest and worst form of abuse, physically, emotionally and psychologically. It is modern-day slavery. It is organized crime.

### **Some of the Push and Pull factors in HT**

- i. Lucrativeness and low risk as a trade.
- ii. Communities that are unaware of it and governments that are often ill-trained/prepared to respond.
- iii. Ineffective, dormant or no laws to address, enforce, investigate and prosecute the crime; no
- iv. safety nets for victims;
- v. An industry with high Profits.

### **3. Climate/environmental Migration**

The impact of environmental and climate disasters are a migration trigger in locations that suffer perennial droughts, famine, flooding and are prone to hurricanes and cyclones. The impact of climate change causes a combination of 'climatic hazards' and vulnerability, both of which trigger migration. Environmental consequences of extractive industries are the major cause of air and water pollution. They are the major cause of land displacement and enforced migration. Developing economies are projected to face the most brunt of climate disasters that has been described by John Kerry as the world's most fearsome weapon of mass destruction.

#### **Climate interacts with migration and Human Trafficking (HT) in two typical ways:**

- i. **As a migration trigger** for example pastoralists from West Africa to Central Africa or those around the Turkana basin and Horn of Africa; Human trafficking out of East Africa to the Gulf States.
- ii. **As a threat multiplier** for Youth unemployment; ethnic conflicts, tribal and political tensions for example those in South Sudan. However, sometimes climate hazards have de-escalated conflict as is the case in Somalia.

#### **Activities and on-going Engagements**

1. Mobilizing resources and convening 2 regional consultations on migration and HT: 2017 and 2019.
2. Establishing a regional and 5 sub-regional platforms and a CWWM-A Strategic Plan -2019.
3. Participating in the Global consultation on Diaspora convened by Asia Pacific Mission for Migrants (APMM)-2019.
4. Participating in the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) Conference on Trafficking-2019.
5. Participating in the Global consultation "Beyond Labels, Beyond Borders: International Solidarity Conference on the Rights of Climate Migrants" organised by Rosa Stiftung-2019.
6. Convening an Anglican Community of Practice in partnership with Anglican Alliance 2019.
7. Making a presentation on CWWM-A at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Consultation of CWWM- 2019.
8. Partnership Building: APMM, IBON Foundation and ILO-2020.
9. Participating in the Anglican Alliance consultations on COVID-19 and Churches-from March 2020.
10. Developing Talking Points, Fact sheet on Migration and HT-2020.
11. Participating in the monthly KARIBU Space on Themes related to Migration and impact/analysis of COVID- and post- COVID-19-from March 2020.
12. 30<sup>th</sup> July: Webinar on ***Faith Communities Standing in Solidarity with Migrants in the Middle East.***

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<sup>3</sup> The UN Definition: Article 3, paragraph (a) of the [Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons](#)