

## BRIEF HISTORY OF WORLD RELIEF

World Relief Sierra Leone started operations in Sierra Leone in 1998 and has successfully implemented various projects including:

- Relief work



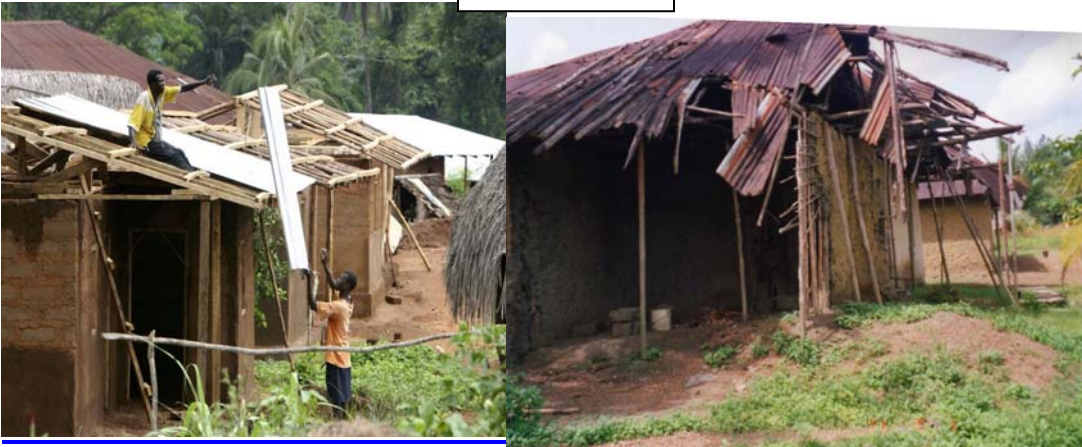
- Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp management.

- IDP camp management, apprenticeship skills training for ex-combatants in collaboration with the National Commission for Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (NCDDR) Program, seed and tool distributions, preventative health care training



- Reconstruction

BEFORE



AFTER



○ After the war, World Relief implemented the largest reconstruction program between 2002 and 2006, which included 2,380 shelter, 3 six-class roomed schools, 853 latrines, 11 court barriers and 2 markets. These projects were funded by the US government, Netherlands Reformed Churches and HABITAT for Humanity.



HOPE RESTORED



- **Child Development**

- Along side Shelter WR also had the child development program.

We had a whole generation of children who lost their childhood to the war. They were kidnapped and forcefully conscripted into the war. They were forced to commit horrible atrocities. They were drugged, misused and abused. To say the children were traumatized is an understatement so the CDP came to bring healing.



- Bringing joy and laughter again to the children after many years of traumatic experience.

This program is holistic in nature; it addressed the child's physical, cognitive, spiritual and psycho-social/emotional needs. It was an informal type of education through community children's clubs. The Child Development Program was funded by Church Partners in USA.

## **Anti-Human Trafficking**

Sierra Leone is a source and destination country for trafficking in persons (TIP). It suffers from both domestic and international trafficking; its citizens are bought, sold, and tricked into domestic servitude, labor, sexual servitude and more.

For four years World Relief has been in partnership with World Hope International in Anti-Human Trafficking activities. World Relief and World Hope International are part of Faith Alliance Against Slavery and Trafficking (FAAST) made up of four organizations, including Salvation Army and Project Rescue. We are very thankful for the commitment that both organizations have demonstrated in continuing the project. We have been able to make a lot of progress in the fight against human trafficking in Sierra Leone. There had been nothing done before 2004 in the country so we were starting at point 1.

It has been important to collaborate with governmental and non-governmental organizations, churches and Christian ministries, educational institutions, and civil society groups. We have developed good relationships with the Sierra Leone Police, the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs, UNICEF, the National TIP Task Force, Evangelical Fellowship of Sierra Leone, and numerous NGOs – both national and international.

## **Public Awareness**

Public awareness has been a strategic component of the program. It is through public awareness that some possible trafficking cases have been prevented. People have come to us after hearing our messages saying that they or someone they know changed their plans to go with someone into a "too good to be true" situation. It is through public awareness programs that victims have been identified.

Someone has heard the message, seen a trafficking situation, and then reported it.

### Community leaders

Public awareness has been carried out by meeting community leaders – chiefs, business people, youth groups, educators, religious leaders, etc.;

- **Drama**

Presenting dramas depicting typical trafficking situations has often been very effective.

- **Educational Roundtable Discussion**

Educational Roundtable Discussions – gathering people together and teaching them about trafficking.



- **Schools**

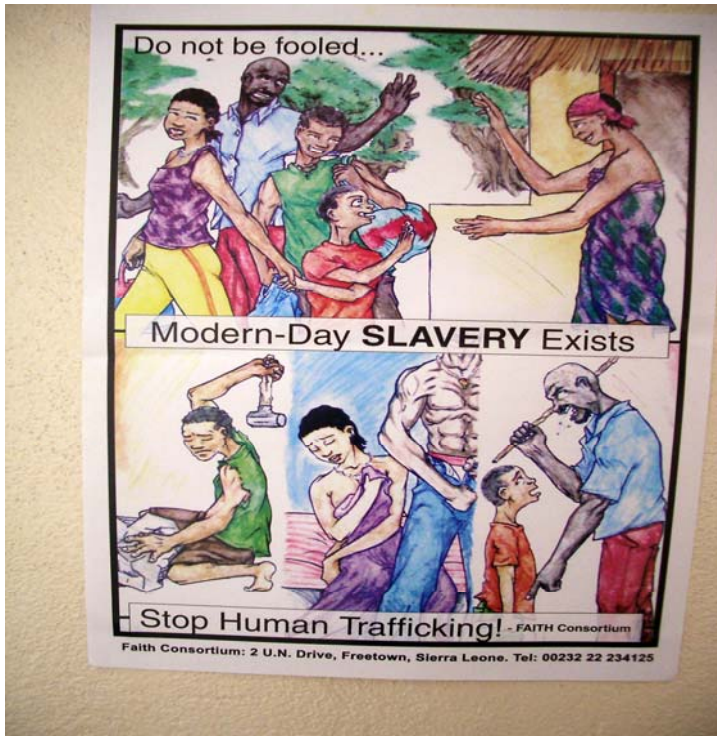
School presentations; we visit schools and make presentation. In 2008, we decided to form Anti-human trafficking school clubs, which is proving to be a very effective way of reaching the young people with the message. We have launched clubs in five schools in the Western area, five in the Northern Province and four in the Eastern Province; with a total membership of 280 students.

- **Radio**

- radio programs– panel discussions

- **Art and media**

- soap opera, public service announcements, song; moral paintings; posters; bumper stickers; comic book;



- Churches
- We also do Church presentations.
  - It is through presentations targeting Christians that we are challenging followers of Jesus Christ to minister to survivors of trafficking physically, emotionally, and spiritually. We believe that Christ through His Church will bring freedom to those held captive.
- Village Parent Groups
  - Village Parent Groups have been established in 25 communities. These are groups of 6-10 members we have trained and then they become the eyes, ears, responders, monitors, and advocates in their own communities.

### Legal Affairs

- Anti-trafficking Acts
  - The government of Sierra Leone enacted the Anti-Human Trafficking Act in August 2005. We were instrumental in lobbying some improvements to the draft bill and in getting the law passed.
- Training of Law enforcement Officers
  - Training police officers has been a significant activity. Even before the law came into effect, we were training police officers using the UN definition and showing them how to identify victims.
- Training of Trainers
  - We were able to facilitate a training of trainers which included SL Police, Immigration Officers, the Office of National Security, and the Law Officers Department. More than 750 police officers, magistrates, prosecutors, and justices of the peace have been trained to understand the law and how to respond to trafficking cases.
- Training Manual
  - A training manual has been written and is now available for use in the Police Training School for new recruits and for in-service training of current officers.

### Rapid Response

- IOM safe house (International Organization for Migration)
  - It has also been within the last year that IOM has opened a Safe House for survivors of trafficking.
- Referral System

- A referral system has been established through the Ministry of Social Welfare Gender and Children's Affairs, and FFAST has been one of the main referring agencies. When we find out about a probable trafficking victim, the Rapid Response Officer goes to meet the victim, interviews, documents, gives immediate counseling and basic assistance. If the individual is a trafficking victim, referrals are made usually to IOM. If it is not a trafficking case, the individual receives counseling and referrals to agencies that can respond to the situation.

## FUTURE

- ***More public awareness***
- Conduct ERTs and other awareness raising activities to inform the general public on trafficking matters including CSEC and the links with HIV/AIDS. Target – WHI and WRSL operational areas, Koinadugu, Bo, Bonthe, Gbangbatok, Pamlap, Kasiri, Mambolo, and Jendema
- ***Holistic response to victims of trafficking***
  - Equip pastors and other community leaders with education and training on trafficking so that they can respond adequately to trafficking situations.
  - *Vocational training for victims, especially those that are not able to reconcile with their families.*
  - Christian community trained to minister to victims of trafficking and PLWA
- ***Encourage effective Christian volunteerism to respond to trafficking situations.***
  - Educate Current Target Beneficiaries in Christian Volunteerism
  - Educate VPGs, Church congregations and Bible Schools on volunteerism based on the CDP model of using volunteers
  - Equip Current CDP Volunteers with Anti-Trafficking Education
  - Provide CDP leaders with anti-trafficking training and materials so that they can be anti-trafficking activists in their groups and communities.
  - Equip and refresh Volunteers with counseling skills and psychosocial care of victims.
  - Provide additional training in counseling for volunteers (with VPGs, congregations, pastors, Bible Schools) willing to assist victims in their communities.

## Conclusion

World Relief Sierra Leone is surrounded by challenges of many kinds. The desire and the willingness are there to assist, but the resources available to us are limited. I am therefore appealing to donors to come to our aid by providing for us the finances and the equipment needed which will enable us to meet the challenges and to be able to bring hope to the people in our country.