

## **Eradicating modern slavery in the Post(?) Covid-19 Era**

As HAART Kenya is a non-governmental organization, working at the grass-root community level, we observed several important developments concerning human trafficking in Covid-19 Era:

1. Initially Covid – 19 had a mixed impact on CT: some streams were even suppressed by lockdowns
2. Overall some streams experienced increase in numbers. Those are:
  - a. Domestic HT increase
  - b. Gender sensitive HT increase
  - c. HT used as a way of mitigating poverty (child labour)
3. Covid-19 exposed the gaps in protection policies:
  - a. Lack of coordination of rescue and identification of VOTs
  - b. Lack of proper support such as shelters, quality psychological and legal support
  - c. No information on who how and when rescues or provides protection support
4. New “humanitarian” role for organisations involved in CTiP.
5. New form of revictimisation of survivors of HT: turning survivors into victims due to increase in poverty

### **What should be our focus from now on:**

1. Addressing the root causes of HT: what is the root cause? How do address? Can safe migration solve the problem? Is no migration safe migration?
2. Adding HT protection into humanitarian response, next to other forms of responses
3. Making survivors voice heard: Survivors are not voiceless. It is us who are not ready to listen to them! Or rather: we did not do enough to include them in our programs and our structures
4. We need them present in our programs, evaluate our work, advice not only on Protection but on Prevention and Management
5. We need to move ahead with Eradicating human trafficking and implement policies that are sensitive to local cultures and local needs. Cultural relativism does not go against international human rights standards