

## CHILD TRAFFICKING

Child migration is quite common in East Africa - sometimes forced, sometimes 'voluntarily' (seduced by false promises), children migrate from the poor rural areas to the urban centres, in search for a better life. Migrating children are extremely vulnerable to child trafficking and other forms of child exploitation, such as (forced) child labour and child prostitution. Moreover, during their trip children on the move are exposed to many dangers, against which they are barely protected.

Children are primarily trafficked for the purpose of child labour (mainly domestic, farm labour and increasingly in artisanal mining and oil fields), street begging and sexual exploitation. All four countries in East Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda) are source, transit and destination areas for trafficked children. Trafficking and migration happens internally as well as cross-border across the region.



### WHAT IS CHILD TRAFFICKING?

Child trafficking is defined as the illegal recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring and/or receipt of a child, for the purposes of exploitation.

Our strategy includes intercepting children on the move and safely reunifying them with their families. We help victims of child trafficking by taking them away from the situation and by offering them a safe haven where they receive counseling and education. Ultimately, we want to reunite children with their families and reintegrate them into society.

We provide support to children at great risk in the source areas. We work on strengthening the home situation, to make sure that children will not leave their safe environment. Here, our focus is on education and increasing family income.

The dangers and risks of child migration are issues that we want to make entire communities aware of. In all source, transit and destination areas we build upon existing local child protection structures.

We closely cooperate with duty bearers such as the police to ensure the protection needs of children are safeguarded and to support them in law enforcement and prosecution of perpetrators.

We also encourage civil society to collaborate with other actors to effectively engage governments on policy and legislation related to prevention of and response to child trafficking.



## "They kicked and beat me"

Across East Africa, children (mostly girls) are lured to the urban centres under the false promise of getting an education. In reality they end up being exploited as child domestic workers. Azmera Emohay, now 10 years old, was trafficked from rural Amhara Region to Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa when she was only 7 years old.

"My father told me to go with his cousin. She would take care of me and send me to school. In exchange for getting an education, I would have to do light household work after school. But once I had arrived in Addis Ababa, I never got to see the school. I had to do all the housework, including fetching water in heavy jerrycans five times per day. I was working seven days a week, from early morning until late at night. The family I worked for had one child, a 6 year old girl. Their daughter was not even allowed to talk to me. They constantly yelled at me, and abused me. They would kick me and beat me with a stick. If it got really bad, I would run to the neighbours' house where I was given some food to comfort me.

My father had agreed that I would get some money for my work, about € 6.50 per month (150 Ethiopian Birr). But they refused to pay me, claiming I had stolen a mobile phone and some cash from them. I was only getting food and shelter. During the three years I was away, I never heard from my father. Only after I had just arrived, they told me that my father had called. But all this time I knew my father was not forgetting about me."

Azmera's father continues: "I was calling my cousin regularly, to see how my daughter was doing. But I never got to speak to her. They lied to me that she was out, in school, and that she was doing well. Every time I asked about the money, they said that they were keeping it for us in a safe place, and that one day we would be given the lot."

After three years, Azmera was rescued by concerned community members, who informed the police and our partner ANPPCAN Ethiopia. Azmera stayed in a shelter while they were tracing her father. Once her father had been found, she travelled back to Wogera Woreda in Amhara Region to be reunited. Her father is delighted: "I will protect her. And send her to school." Azmera is equally happy, since all her life she has never been to school: "When I finish my education, I want to be a medical doctor." As part of the reunification process, Azmera and her family will be followed up regularly by our partner, to ensure she is doing well.



## who we are

WE BELIEVE THAT EVERY CHILD HAS THE RIGHT TO GROW UP IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT WITHOUT EXPLOITATION

**T**erre des Hommes Netherlands is a Dutch organisation dedicated to stopping child exploitation. We work towards a world where all children have a decent life and can grow up to be independent adults.



We offer help without discrimination against race, religion, gender or political inclination.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) forms the cornerstone of our work. We aim to have children's rights, as laid down in this convention, protected and assured.

Terre des Hommes Netherlands was founded in 1965 as a non-profit organisation and is based in The Hague.

### OUR MISSION

Terre des Hommes Netherlands prevents child exploitation, removes children from exploitative situations and ensures these children can develop themselves in a safe environment.

### OUR VISION

A world in which children are no longer exploited. We will continue our work until this is accomplished.



### Terre des Hommes Netherlands

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## our focus

CHILD EXPLOITATION IS ABOUT SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Our definition covers:

- worst forms of child labour (according to Convention 182 of the ILO);
- child trafficking;
- sexual exploitation of children;
- child abuse.



OVER 45 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN EAST AFRICA

**T**erre des Hommes Netherlands can boast of an extensive experience and an expansive network in East Africa. We started our work in East Africa in 1968. Our first permanent base on the continent was set up in Nairobi in 1984.

Terre des Hommes Netherlands currently works in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Our work in Kenya first started with a single project in 1968. Over the years, this programme has gradually expanded. Concurrently, we have been active in Uganda since the inception of our East Africa programme in 1968.

We expanded our work into Ethiopia in 1978. Our Tanzania programme started in 1994. In 2012, after a few years outside the country, we restarted working with Ethiopian civil society organisations.

Terre des Hommes Netherlands is proud to cooperate with a wide range of East African civil society organisations committed to the wellbeing of children and championing the realisation of their rights. Over the years, we have partnered and intensively collaborated with over 100 civil society organisations.

Around 24 employees in East Africa are dedicated to stopping child exploitation. They are, in turn, supported by tens of thousands of donors (institutional donors, foundations, corporates as well as individuals). Together they aim to accomplish one dream: a world free of child exploitation.

## how we work

OUR APPROACH

**B**ecause we want to stop child exploitation in a structural manner, we do not only help victims but also tackle the problem at its roots. Our approach consists of the five P's: Prevention, Provision, Prosecution, Promotion of children's rights and Partnership/Participation.



### PREVENTION

To prevent child exploitation, we invest in education, but also in raising awareness among children and adults. And because poverty is the main reason for child exploitation, we also offer parents the opportunity to increase their incomes via savings and credit groups.



### PROVISION

Children who are victim of exploitation, need protection. We provide shelter, health care, counselling and education and help them build a new future. We also offer help to family members and involve the community in protecting children.



### PROSECUTION

It is important that victims can stand up for themselves and perpetrators are not allowed to escape justice. We thus help children to report cases to the police. They can also count on legal assistance and help during the criminal prosecution. We also train local police and justice.



### PROMOTION

We stand up for children's rights. We campaign to raise awareness of children's rights and conduct research to identify and call attention to trends and developments in child exploitation. Furthermore, we follow and influence decision-making of local and national governments, businesses and international organisations (like the UN) and advocate for the implementation of these decisions. To prevent children from being exploited and to ensure victims of exploitation receive adequate help.



### PARTNERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

We engage and strengthen civil society in the promotion of children's rights to ensure children are protected. Meaningful participation of children is enshrined in all our programmes.